



The Technical Assistance and Training Program for Mentoring System Involved Youth welcomes you to our monthly *E-Newsletter*.

We hope the information provided will be useful to you and we encourage you to share this newsletter with other staff and agencies that are also mentoring system involved youth. If you find a particular Web site, research article, or helpful fact, we encourage you to send them to us and we will disseminate to all.

Quote of the Month:

Never discourage anyone...who continually makes progress, no matter how slow.

~ Plato



Announcements from TATP

The Technical Assistance and Training Program (TATP) for Mentoring System Involved Youth (MSIY) is currently conducting site visits for the grantees. One has been completed with Boys and Girls Aid Society in Portland, Oregon and another is scheduled with Lutheran Family Services of Virginia March 3-4. We are anxious to schedule the other two within the next couple of months. The purpose of these visits is to gain a better understanding of your program so we can create a TA plan for the next several months. We think this is a great opportunity to develop our relationship and improve our TA services for you.

Announcements from PIRE

The PIRE evaluation team has been very busy during the first two months of 2008. As Brent Garrett's workload increased over the past year, he has transitioned to serving as a project consultant, and his colleague, Matt Courser, has taken over his role as principal investigator. Matt has been busy learning about the project and is looking forward to meeting all the grantees by telephone and in New Orleans in April. More importantly, the final outcome evaluation packages have been delivered to all programs. These packets contain everything needed to implement the project evaluation, including detailed instructions, consent forms for parents or guardians, youth, and mentors, and evaluation surveys for both groups. PIRE hopes that programs will begin to use the evaluation surveys over the coming weeks and will be working collaboratively with each program to help ensure that the evaluation process gets off to a smooth start. Finally, the SharePoint Web site is up and running and we wish to congratulate Philip Day of Lutheran Family Services, who was the first to upload his program data. We encourage all the other programs to get started on this task as well. Please do not hesitate to call Hilary (301-755-2713) or Matt (502-634-3694, ext. 7381) for help or directions. Your feedback is *always* welcomed by the PIRE team.

Useful Resources

Time for Reform: Investing in Prevention: Keeping Children Safe at Home

This brief describes the prevention and reunification services needed in child welfare programs to reduce abuse and help families stay together. It also recommends changes to the child welfare financing structure to allow states to lower the need for foster care. It proposes that a stronger array of services could decrease the incidence of abuse and neglect; reduce short- and long-term trauma to children; lessen the need to remove children from their families; and lower the costs of care per child. To view the entire report, please see

http://www.preventchildabuse.org/about_us/media_releases/pew_kaw_prevention_report_final.pdf.

The Silent Epidemic of Male Suicide

This story features information on the disproportionately high suicide rate among boys and men aged 15–34. Potential barriers for men seeking care are discussed along with possible interventions to reduce male suicides, including lethal means restriction, expanded mental health services, and increased public awareness of the problem. For the full article, please see

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7219232.stm.

Equity Project Examines Treatment of LGBT Delinquent Youth

Legal Services for Children, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and the National Juvenile Defender Center are working in collaboration on the Equity Project, a national initiative to examine how lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth are treated in delinquency and status offense cases. One of the Equity Project's core activities is the collection of information from juvenile justice practitioners about the experiences of LGBT youth in juvenile delinquency courts. Please visit <http://www.equityproject.org/> for more information.

President Bush Establishes Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs

On February 7, 2008, President Bush signed an executive order establishing the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs, a coalition of federal agencies that will help support communities and organizations working on behalf of our nation's youth, particularly at-risk boys. As the leader of this Initiative, First Lady Laura Bush has hosted and participated in many Helping America's Youth activities in 24 states and the District of Columbia to promote the efforts of youth-serving organizations. She commended the [Community Guide to Helping America's Youth](#) as "a terrific online resource" that "allows caring adults to use the Internet to learn more about the challenges facing children." For access to the president's executive order, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/02/20080207-15.html>. For more information on Helping America's Youth, visit <http://www.helpingamericasyouth.gov>.

Conferences and Events

Date: March 17–19, 2008

Location: Denver, Colorado

Title: Blueprints Conference

Sponsor: Blueprints for Violence Prevention at the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence

Description: The goal of the conference is to disseminate science-based information on youth violence, delinquency, and drug prevention programs that are effective. This conference will motivate the prevention field to adopt evidence-based programs and provide support, guidance, and tools by program

experts to help practitioners implement these programs successfully in their own communities.

Web site: <http://www.blueprintsconference.com>

Date: April 11–15, 2008

Location: Seattle, Washington

Title: Seeds of Compassion

Sponsor: Seeds of Compassion

Description: An unprecedented gathering to engage the hearts and minds of the community by highlighting the vision, science, and programs of early social, emotional, and cognitive learning. Anchored by the deep wisdom of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, this community-focused event will celebrate and explore the relationships, programs, and tools that nurture and empower children, families, and communities to be compassionate members of society. Each of the five days will provide parents, educators, and business and community leaders with an opportunity to better understand the real benefits of compassion, and concrete steps on how to bring compassion into their lives.

Web site: <http://www.seedscompassion.net/event>



Title: Drug-Free Communities Support Mentoring Program Grants

Funder: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)

Description: Up to 15 grants will be awarded under the Drug-Free Communities Support Mentoring Program, which supports peer mentoring by community anti drug coalitions taking part in the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) program.

Award: \$75,000

Eligibility: Only DFC grantees or applicants in existence for five years or longer may apply for mentor grants.

Deadline: April 18, 2008

For more information: http://samhsa.gov/Grants/2008/sp_08_003.aspx

Title: Reclaiming Futures Dissemination Project

Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Description: Under its Reclaiming Futures: Communities Helping Teens Overcome Drugs, Alcohol and Crime program, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will be selecting up to six new communities to receive technical assistance worth up to \$180,000. Winning communities must match this commitment by hiring a half-time project director. These grants focus on dissemination and taking the lessons learned in the 10 Reclaiming Futures pilot sites about using juvenile courts to help teens with alcohol and other drug problems and applying them in other communities. This goal will be accomplished through a learning collaborative that shares resources, improves data collection and utilization, and promotes new standards of practice.

Award: Technical assistance worth up to \$180,000

Eligibility: Juvenile courts, public and nonprofit treatment agencies, and state, local, and tribal juvenile-justice and alcohol and other drug treatment authorities may apply.

Deadline: April 1, 2008

For more information: <http://www.reclaimingfutures.org/?q=cfp>