



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:***

Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them. ~ *Lady Bird Johnson*



When developing orientation and training of mentors to work with system involved girls, it is important to be aware of the characteristics of this population. The following list provides examples of the challenges facing system involved girls:

- System involved girls often have social and linguistic deficits; these deficits may be associated with outward displays of aggression and decreased social competence.
- This population often experiences academic and behavioral problems, including aggression and antisocial behaviors.
- System involved girls are likely to internalize their problems, which can result in symptoms of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and other mental illness.

**Some Developmental Needs and Challenges Faced by System Involved Girls**

From <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/principles/contents.html>, *Guiding Principles for Promising Female Programming: An Inventory of Best Practices*:

- Need for physical safety and healthy physical development
  - Challenged by poverty, homelessness, violence, inadequate health care, inadequate nutrition, and substance abuse.
- Need for trust, love, respect, validation from caring adults to foster healthy emotional development and form positive relationships
  - Challenged by abandonment, family dysfunction, and poor communication.
- Need for positive female role models to develop healthy identity as a woman
  - Challenged by sexist, racist, homophobic messages, and lack of community support.
- Need for safety to explore sexuality at own pace for healthy sexual development
  - Challenged by sexual abuse, exploitation, negative messages about female sexuality.
- Need to belong, to feel competent and worthy
  - Challenged by weakened family ties, negative peer influences, academic failure, and low self-esteem.

## Useful Resources

### **Reclaiming Futures: Juvenile Justice Officers Call for a New Response**

This resource discusses lessons learned in implementing Reclaiming Futures, a program that aims to improve treatment outcomes for system-involved youth with drug and alcohol problems. Reclaiming Futures promotes improved screening; assessment; treatment and related services that address the specific needs of adolescents; and greater access to services, including community supports such as mentors. It is written for juvenile justice professionals, justice system partners, treatment providers, family service agencies, policymakers, and community leaders. It includes prescriptive techniques to improve treatment outcomes for youth in juvenile placement. To view the entire document, please click [http://www.reclaimingfutures.org/documents/RF\\_Juvenile\\_Probation\\_web\\_r3.pdf](http://www.reclaimingfutures.org/documents/RF_Juvenile_Probation_web_r3.pdf).

### **Policy Options to Better Serve Adolescents Who Age Out of Foster Care**

*Time for Reform: Aging Out and On Their Own* briefly discusses the history of permanency and federal child welfare policy, presents the latest state-by-state data on the number of adolescents who have aged out of foster care, and offers recommendations for public policy reforms to decrease the number of adolescents who age out of care each year. The report, published by the Pew Charitable Trusts, draws on findings from focus groups conducted with adolescents who aged out or expect to age out of foster care, and research studies and interviews to document the adverse long-term effects of aging out of foster care. The appendix contains charts depicting the number and percentage of adolescents aging out and length of stay by state, describes the characteristics of focus group participants and methodology, and presents selected outcomes for adolescents who age out of foster care. The full report is available at [http://www.pewtrusts.org/pdf/Aging\\_Out\\_May2007.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/pdf/Aging_Out_May2007.pdf).

### **Brief Reviews Trauma among Youth in Juvenile Justice System**

The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice has published *Trauma Among Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: Critical Issues and New Directions*. This research and program brief provides an overview of trauma among youth in the juvenile justice system, including its scope and effect, and reviews tools, curricula, and approaches for addressing trauma among system-involved youth. Issues related to implementing trauma services within the juvenile justice system context are also discussed. The full brief is available online at [http://www.ncmhjj.com/pdfs/Trauma\\_and\\_Youth.pdf](http://www.ncmhjj.com/pdfs/Trauma_and_Youth.pdf).

## Conferences and Events

**Date:** August 13–14, 2007

**Location:** Washington, D.C.

**Title:** 2007 Symposium on Juvenile Information Sharing

**Sponsor:** Center for Network Development and OJJDP

**Description:** This event will focus on discussing the issues, challenges, and solutions in Juvenile Information Sharing (JIS) efforts. Workshops and discussions will show how agencies can collaborate and streamline their youth services by developing and improving their JIS partnerships. Participants will learn how to maximize the efficiency of their information sharing, implement confidentiality and privacy protection standards, assess their JIS needs, and measure the performance of a JIS system. The latest data sharing models will be introduced, and the conference will showcase the new National Guidelines for Juvenile Information Sharing.

**Web site:** <http://www.juvenileiis.org/symposium.asp>; and for registration information see <http://www.edjassociates.com/jis2007/home.asp>

**Date:** September 9–12, 2007

**Location:** Albuquerque, New Mexico

**Title:** Annual Juvenile Probation and Justice Management Conference

**Sponsor:** National Council of Juvenile and Family Courts Judges

**Description:** This national conference is designed to help juvenile probation officers meet growing challenges in the field. Participants can specialize in the following areas: case management of juvenile sex offenders; dispositional alternatives and mental health issues in the courts; juvenile probation officer institute; and the management development institute. The OJJDP-funded conference will include sessions on methamphetamine, mental health and drug abuse, youth suicide, tribal youth, juvenile sex offenders, programming for girls, and detention alternatives.

**Web site:** <http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/980/315/>.

**Date:** September 6–8, 2007

**Location:** New Orleans, Louisiana

**Title:** Youth, Education, & Law: Current Issues, New Directions

**Sponsor:** The American Bar Association

**Description:** Participants in this conference will focus on the intersection of law-related education, civic engagement, and public policy as they relate to empowering and preparing young people for effective citizenship. Keynotes and workshops will highlight current research, best practices, and successful intervention and training strategies. There will be sessions on youth rights, the links between immigration policy and education, the future of juvenile justice, educational changes in Katrina-affected areas, and civic learning as a national education priority. There will also be workshops on youth in transition, and school and community violence prevention.

**Web site:** <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/conference/lre07.html>

**Date:** September 30–October 2, 2007

**Location:** Atlanta, Georgia

**Title:** “It’s My Life” Conference

**Sponsor:** Casey Family Programs

**Description:** This foster care focused conference will bring together foster care youth, alumni chaperones, caregivers, and advocates. Participants will come together to share ideas about how to best support youth as they move from foster care into adulthood. The participatory structure of this event encourages youth and families to be involved as partners and experts in foster care policy and practice. Topics include the challenges foster care youth face in school; surviving personal and emotional trauma; housing for transitional foster youth; designing job training programs for foster youth; recommendations to service providers of youth with incarcerated parents; and foster care youth in the juvenile justice system.

**Web site:** <http://www.casey.org/Resources/Projects/ItsMyLife/registration.htm>

**Date:** October 29–31, 2007

**Location:** Washington, D.C.

**Title:** Safe Schools and Communities Conference

**Sponsor:** Hamilton Fish Institute on School and Community Violence

**Description:** This conference will be a forum for debate about youth development and making schools safer. The program will highlight partnerships between public, private, and non profit agencies and exchange the findings of the most recent outcome-based research. Participants will be able to choose from several tracks, one of which will focus on best practices for mentoring programs. The program features sessions on bullying prevention, mentoring, program evaluation, and community programs, with special sessions on youth courts and mental health. Additional sessions will address gangs, juvenile and restorative justice, and protective factors and resilience.

**Web site:** <http://gwired.gwu.edu/hamfish/AnnualConference/2007/>



Here is one grant opportunity that might be of interest to you or your partners.

**Title:** CSAP Prevention and Prisoner Reentry Program

**Funder:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (SAMHSA's CSAP)

**Description:** SAMHSA's CSAP is announcing a request for proposals for reentry programming. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding to 12–15 faith- and community-based organizations that have existing prisoner reentry programs that could benefit by incorporating collaboration with existing crime prevention efforts and receiving funding support to build their capacity to be more efficient and effective in their social service delivery.

**Award:** \$50,000 (12–15 awards)

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be a 501(c) (3) organization; faith- or community-based organization; in existence for at least 3 years; linked to prisoner reentry; and have an annual budget less than \$800,000. Their proposal must create a Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS Prevention Community Outreach Strategy and link with a Weed and Seed, CADCA coalition, community-based prevention coalition, or a parole and probation community initiative that is doing some prisoner reentry work.

**Deadline:** September 4, 2007 (Letter of Intent due August 10, 2007)

**For more information:** [link to PDF](#)