

March 2007

## Welcome Family Centers

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Family Centers Connection!* We are really pleased that a partnership is being forged between the state-funded Family Centers and the University of Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program (CWTP.)

In this issue and in future editions, we will bring you information submitted by your colleagues, updates from the Department of Public Welfare/Office of Children, Youth and Families (DPW/OCYF) and the CWTP; as well as best practices, curricular and funding resources and professional development and training opportunities.

If you have any questions, please contact your specialist from the CWTP. Contact information is on the last page of this issue.

## Upcoming Events

**March 15, 2007**, and **May 3, 2007**: STAR-Center 2007 conferences in King of Prussia and Pittsburgh. This year's conferences have an array of new presentations and speakers. Some of the topics include:

- Educating Troubled Children and Youth: Innovative Approaches and Multidisciplinary Collaboration Resulting in Positive Outcomes
- Helping Adolescents Who Don't Want Help: How to Engage Resistant Youth
- Involving Teens with Serious Behavior Disorders in Their Own Functional Behavioral Assessments and Planning
- Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Adolescents with Behavior Disorders
- Promoting Resilience in the Classroom

Locations: **King of Prussia (March 15)**: Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge, 1160 First Avenue, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Information at: (610) 337-2000. **Pittsburgh (May 3)**: William Pitt Student Union, 3959 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Information at: [www.wpic.pitt.edu/research/star](http://www.wpic.pitt.edu/research/star).

**April 26, 2007**: "Engaging Fathers to Promote Permanency: The Other Part of Me," an annual training event sponsored by the Diversity Task Force of the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program. Workshops are designed to raise awareness of the safety, permanence, and well-being issues that must be planned for when ensuring permanency for children and to stimulate dialogue on the critical issue of permanency for children of color. 8 am to 4:30 pm. University of Pittsburgh Child Welfare Training Program (CWTP), 403 East Winding Hill Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

There are three sessions being presented:

"The Paternity Puzzle," presented by Eleanor Bush, Esq., which examines the legal implications of fatherhood in the child welfare system

"Fatherhood: A Cultural Perspective," presented by Robert Brinker. Different cultural viewpoints on fatherhood are explored and discussed during this session.

"Engaging Fathers: A Youth Perspective," presented by the PA Youth Advisory Board.

Hear directly from youth in the child welfare system about their experiences.

The cost for this event is \$12. Lunch is included. To register, please contact Amy Holmes at (717) 795-9048 ext. 265.

**April 24-27, 2007:** "How Does Your Garden Grow? Cultivating Cross-System, Family-Driven, and Youth-Guided Partnerships," the 19th Children's Interagency Training Conference, which will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College. More than 100 workshops and institute topics will be offered in addition to three general sessions featuring nationally known speakers, a youth track planned by and for youth and a first-time poster session featuring more than 25 presentations on current research and innovative programming in children's human services. Many cross-systems partners were involved in planning the conference, which represents a true interagency partnership. This year areas of concentration include school-based behavioral health, early childhood mental health, transition, trauma and family issues. Information at: <http://pacassp.psych.psu.edu/docs/2007conferenceoverview.htm> or <http://pacassp.psych.psu.edu/docs/2007program.pdf>

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**May 16-17, 2007:** "Continuing Family Support -America's Spirit," the 2007 Allegheny County Family Support Conference, which will be held at the Westin William Penn Convention Center Hotel in Pittsburgh. Conference highlights include: two nationally recognized keynote speakers, a "Speak Out" session, Family Support Awards, 22 workshops, an exhibit area and a Chinese Auction. There will be a pre-conference event on May 16 which will include a luncheon, networking opportunities by area of interest and tours of several family support centers.

Conference Objectives:

- Increase the awareness of "family readiness" in school readiness and success.
- Enhance families and schools, services and communities knowledge on the importance of each others' role in school readiness and success in children reaching their fullest potential.
- Expand understanding of how to prepare both children and families for school readiness and success using a strength-based family development model.
- Enhance partnerships between families, schools, services and communities so that children can be successful.
- Promote policies, approaches and services so that schools, services and communities work together to support families and children for school success.

Registration Fee: \$75 for May 17 (with lunch on your own). For more information contact Kathy Rudy at [rudy@pitt.edu](mailto:rudy@pitt.edu).

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**July 11-13, 2007:** 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennsylvania 2007 Permanency Conference at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg. Keynote speakers will be George Duvall of the University of Kentucky and Dr. Robert Brooks of Harvard Medical School. More information at [www.diakon-swan.org](http://www.diakon-swan.org) or call (888) 793-2512.

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**SAVE THE DATES:**

**2007 Behavioral Health and Aging Forums: Collaboration at the Crossroads**

- **April 19, 2007** at Drexel University College of Medicine, Queen Lane Medical Campus, 2900 Queen Lane, Philadelphia
- **May 2, 2007** at the Nittany Lion Inn, 200 West Park Avenue, State College

- **Oct. 18, 2007** at Cranberry Wood, Cranberry Township. Topic: **Focus on Late Life Depression, Regional Learning Alliance.**

### Funding Opportunities

The Foundation Center is an online resource with searchable databases, information on how to write grants and a wide array of valuable resources to help with fundraising. To learn more about **free** access to the Foundation Center's resources at a location near you, visit:

<http://foundationcenter.org/collections/ccpa.html>.

### Help Families Get a Break on Their Taxes

The National Women's Law Center and state child care advocates are conducting a Tax Credit Outreach Campaign to inform millions of families about the federal and state tax benefits for which they may be eligible, with special emphasis on reaching families through child care services networks. As part of the campaign, "*A Toolkit for Child Care Advocates*" is now available online at [www.nwlc.org/pdf/TCOCToolkitTY06web.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/TCOCToolkitTY06web.pdf). The publication helps the child care community conduct tax credit outreach during the 2007 tax filing season. It explains why tax credits matter to families, provides tips for conducting an outreach campaign and includes sample fliers.

According to the [National Women's Law Center](http://www.nwlc.org), when families file their 2006 tax returns during the 2007 tax season, eligible families can claim up to:

- \$2,100 from the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- \$1,000 per child from the federal Child Tax Credit
- \$4,536 from the federal Earned Income Tax Credit

### Ask DPW

At a recent meeting of Family Center directors, questions were raised regarding the use of data collected throughout the year. Below are answers to some of those questions.

**Q:** Does the Office of Children, Youth and Families use the reports from the Parent Satisfaction Surveys?

**A:** Yes. The data from Parent Satisfaction Surveys are used for the Family Center Annual Report that is submitted to the federal Administration for Children and Families. It is also used to respond to the reporting requirements of the federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention funding stream.

**Q:** What is done with the data and reports submitted by family centers to the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF)?

**A:** With the transfer of data management responsibilities from the Center for Schools and Communities to OCYF, the surveys are mailed to the OCYF for data entry. The reports are hand entered into an Excel spreadsheet for use by the evaluator.

**Q:** Is it possible for the Family Centers to review data which are specific to their center and the populations that they serve?

**A:** Not this year. However, this feature will be one of the system enhancements incorporated in the future.

**Q:** Can the Family Center directors use the information on the Parent Satisfaction surveys from the comment sections to help them in planning activities? Is it allowable for the directors to review the surveys before submission to OCYF?

**A:** The Parent Satisfaction surveys are confidential, so Family Center Directors may not see individual surveys. However, OCYF does see a value in reporting back to Family Centers the overall information. For more information, contact David Derbes at (717) 705-2911 or [dderbes@state.pa.us](mailto:dderbes@state.pa.us).

**Q:** Parents are reported as being resistant to completing the MIS Outcome Supplement and the Parent Satisfaction survey. Can the forms be combined so that parents only have one form to complete?

**A:** The forms are still relatively new to OCYF. Based on feedback from the Center for Schools and Communities, best results will be had from separate surveys. The goal is to complete the Parent Satisfaction survey prior to the MIS Outcome Supplement.

## Curricular Resources

**"Fatherhood and Your Child's Education; A Parent's Handbook" (EM99780)** This interactive handbook teaches fathers that parents are a child's most important teachers and role models, and encourages them to play an active role in their child's education. To learn more or to place an order, go to: [go.channing-bete.com/wa/promotion?p=1&code=G3017](http://go.channing-bete.com/wa/promotion?p=1&code=G3017)

### **"Promoting Healthy Families in Your Community": 2007 Resource Packet**

The Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, along with Child Welfare Information Gateway and the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, are pleased to invite you to order bulk quantities of this resource packet for service providers and others who work to promote healthy families and prevent child abuse and neglect. More information at: [www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preorder](http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preorder).

### **Booklets on Successful Youth/Adult Relationships**

Youth On Board is offering these downloadable booklets on youth engagement and involvement, as well as an organizational assessment checklist to help you assess your organization's progress toward youth involvement and pinpoint areas where you may need help. More information at:

[http://www.youthonboard.org/site/c.ihLUJ7PLKsG/b.2046675/k.8ABD/How\\_We\\_Can\\_Help.htm](http://www.youthonboard.org/site/c.ihLUJ7PLKsG/b.2046675/k.8ABD/How_We_Can_Help.htm)

### **"Reframing Child Abuse and Neglect: A Practical Toolkit"**

This toolkit from Prevent Child Abuse America and the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention shares the theory behind the FrameWorks Institute's strategic frame analysis, key findings and recommendations from research on reframing the issue of child abuse and neglect, as well as some of the obstacles advocates face in communicating about prevention. The toolkit contains practical information, materials and guidelines on how to best implement this research to increase public understanding of child abuse prevention. More information at: <http://www.friendsnrc.org/reframing/index1.htm>

### **Tools to Conduct a Workshop on Community Resource Mapping**

This workshop model and tools from Kelli Crane, Ph.D., and Marianne Mooney, Ph.D., of TransCen, Inc. and the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition were developed with input from states and communities around the country engaged in the community resource mapping process. This process can help you link community resources with shared visions, organizational goals, strategies or expected outcomes. A great way to work with community partners around issues of services and supports. More information at:

<http://www.ncset.org/tacomunities/levresources/workshop.asp>

## Web Resources:

Family Center information has been added to the Child Welfare Training Program Web site at: [www.pacwcbt.pitt.edu/FamilyCenters/Default.html](http://www.pacwcbt.pitt.edu/FamilyCenters/Default.html)

To view a map of the Pennsylvania counties with links to census information, visit: [quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/maps/pennsylvania\\_map.html](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/maps/pennsylvania_map.html)

## Trends:

### **New Research Spotlights Low Contraception Use Among Hispanic Teens**

More teen females are using condoms the first time they have sex than in the past. But Hispanic teens reported the lowest levels of all racial and ethnic groups to use any contraceptive method the first time they have sex, according to Child Trends' most recent research brief, [Trends and Recent Estimates: Contraceptive Use Among U.S. Teens](#).

The brief examines these and other trends, using data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics and supplemented with original analyses by Child Trends. The good news in the brief is that most sexually active teens are using contraception. In 2002, 83 percent of sexually active teen females reported using contraception the last time they had sex, compared with 71 percent of females in 1995. Among sexually active teen males in 2002, 91 percent had used contraception the last time they had sex, compared with 82 percent in 1995.

"One reason we are concerned by the lower numbers of contraceptive use at first sex by Hispanic teens," says Kerry Franzetta, lead author of the brief, "is that research shows that contraception use during the first sexual relationship is associated with subsequent contraceptive use. And consistent contraceptive use is a key factor in preventing unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections."

## Policy Questions:

### **Building Bridges Between the Healthy Marriage, Responsible Fatherhood, and Domestic Violence Movements: Issues, Concerns, and Recommendations**

This brief from the Center for Law and Social Policy explores how the healthy marriage, responsible fatherhood and domestic violence prevention communities can work together to promote the well-being of families and children. The brief explains some of the barriers to building bridges between the three communities and suggests issues around which cooperative work is possible. View the brief at: [www.clasp.org/publications/buildingbridges\\_brief7.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/publications/buildingbridges_brief7.pdf).

### **The Activation Point**

As state and national organizations roll out their action agendas, one thing everyone is asking is, "What's the best way to motivate people to get involved?" This new, free publication from Spitfire Strategies and the Communications Leadership Institute has ideas at: [www.activationpoint.org](http://www.activationpoint.org).

### **Undocumented Immigrant Youth: Guide for Advocates and Service Providers**

Undocumented foreign-born children face many of the same issues as their peers but there are unique challenges to protecting and supporting these young people, including ensuring adequate representation in immigration and justice proceedings. This brief gives juvenile justice advocates, immigration advocates, and youth-serving agencies background on the complex issues and risks facing these youth and best practices for collaborating. It includes a policy and action section. View the brief at: [www.nassembly.org/ncy/documents/ImmigrationBrief.pdf](http://www.nassembly.org/ncy/documents/ImmigrationBrief.pdf).

### **Child Advocacy Primer, Updated**

Whether you are new to the field or a veteran advocate, Voices for America's Children's updated Advocacy Primer can help you hone your communications efforts, create your legislative agenda, engage your community and more. Each chapter focuses on an advocacy skill and profiles how member organizations have used the skill to improve the lives of children. There's also a section for your feedback at: [www.voicesforamericaschildren.org](http://www.voicesforamericaschildren.org).

### **Family Volunteering: Nurturing Families, Building Community**

Volunteering together can strengthen family bonds over time and is one strategy for boosting low-income families' quality time together. This new 20-page brief from the National Human Services Assembly Family Strengthening Policy Center looks at family volunteering activities, impacts, and ways local organizations can engage low-income families and communities to work together in volunteering programs. More at: [www.nassembly.org/fspc/practice/documents/Brief17.pdf](http://www.nassembly.org/fspc/practice/documents/Brief17.pdf).

### **Enhancing Youth Development**

Research has shown that the following "Five Promises" affect the development and lives of America's youth: caring adults, safe places and constructive use of time, a healthy start and development, an effective education, and opportunities to make a difference helping others. This report from America's Promise Alliance presents and analyzes the results of three new studies. It finds that when youth are provided with at least four out of these five fundamental resources, their life chances for success dramatically increase and damaging gaps separating low-income and minority youth from other youth are significantly reduced. For more information, visit: [www.americaspromise.org/ECEP.aspx?id=208](http://www.americaspromise.org/ECEP.aspx?id=208).

### **Spanish Child Welfare Terms**

To help support cultural relevance and consistency in the child welfare field, Child Welfare Information Gateway now offers a list of more than 130 Spanish/English child welfare terms on its Web site. The list was developed with the assistance of professional translators and bilingual child welfare professionals from many different regions. Wherever possible, a preferred term along with several acceptable options is offered. Consistent with priorities set forth by the Children's Bureau, a special effort was made to select or create new language that is family positive and strength based. For more information visit: [www.childwelfare.gov/glossary/terms\\_english\\_spanish\\_a-b.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/glossary/terms_english_spanish_a-b.cfm).

### **Update from OCYF: New Family Center Grant Program Manager**

Holly Kuch (pronounced "cook") has accepted the position of Family Center Grant Program Manager. Holly fills the vacant position formerly held by Donna Bostick-Knox. She started on March 12 and will work under the supervision of Dave Derbes. Holly's contact information is:

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