

Supporting Families, Fostering Healthy Development

Promoting Healthy Families in Your Community: 2008 Resource Packet

Here's a toolkit to help service providers strengthen families by promoting key protective factors that prevent child abuse and neglect. The packet includes tip sheets in both English and Spanish to share with parents.



www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/res_packet_2008/

FEMA for Kids

On this site, children can play games, enjoy stories, do puzzles, go through mazes, and watch videos. Underneath all the fun is a lot of good information that makes kids and their families better prepared in the event of a disaster.

<http://www.fema.gov/kids/index.htm>

Rensselaer County Foster Care Enrichment Team Report

This report describes a multi-system collaboration that achieved remarkable improvement in placement stability in a New York county. The project team, including the local public child welfare, mental health and health agencies, and private child placing agencies met regularly to address the needs of specific children as well as system-level issues. During the four-year period (1999-2002) covered by the report, the rate of unplanned placement changes in the county fell from 22.6% to 2.7%. The report provides extensive information regarding the background and operation of the program and detailed recommendations for replication.

http://www.clmhd.org/UploadedFiles/Resources/MHI_0404_FCETreport.pdf

EARN – Connecting Employers and Job Seekers

The Employer Assistance & Recruiting Network (EARN) is a free service that connects employers looking for quality employees with skilled job candidates. Earn is funded by ODEP. Attached below is a link to EARNWORKS. <http://www.earnworks.com>

Healthy People 2020

Healthy People 2020 will be the guiding document for public health activities for the next decade. The planning and preparation phases are underway, which include open PUBLIC meetings. NOTE that the agendas include time for "public comment from the audience," breakout work groups, and breakout group reports. The intended audiences for these meetings include: State and Local Health Departments, Academic Institutions, Professional Associations, Public and Private Health Organizations, Public Sectors: Business, Faith, Non-Profits, and the General Public. Pre-registration is encouraged at the link above. <http://www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020/default.asp>

The Effects of Childhood Stress on Health Across the Lifespan

This document from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention summarizes the research on childhood stress and its implications for adult health and well-being. Of particular interest is the stress caused by child abuse, neglect, and repeated exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV). This publication provides violence prevention practitioners with ideas about how to incorporate information on childhood stress into their work. http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/effects_of_childhood_stress.htm

Home Alone: Is Your Child Ready?

One of the tough decisions that parents have to make is gauging when their child is able to be left home alone or in charge of younger children. And, as children mature at different rates, this decision must be made on a case-to-case basis. As a guide for parents, the Department of Human Services, the CYF Advisory Board, and other organizations that interact with children and families have developed a booklet to help them determine if their child is ready to be left alone at home. The booklet, "Home Alone: Is Your Child Ready?", also includes a reference page of child-care resources for parents who decide that their child is not ready to be left home alone.

The booklet, a list of all partners who assisted in its development, and a page of additional resources are listed on the DHS website www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/homealone.aspx

If you would like hard copies, please call 412-350-3428 or email cprendergast@county.allegheny.pa.us.

Positive Parenting Activities for Home Visitors

Home visiting by professionals and paraprofessionals is an important component of many prevention programs for families at risk for child abuse and neglect. A new manual, *Your Guide to Nurturing Parent-Child Relationships: Positive Parenting Activities for Home Visitors*, offers activities that visitors can use to strengthen parenting capacity and the parent-child relationship. Each chapter focuses on a parenting competency that can be supported through specific home visiting activities. These parenting competencies are:

- Empathy and caring
- Coping and resilience
- Problem solving
- Social competence

The manual's final section describes ways that the home visitor can help parents strengthen the relationship with their children at each developmental stage, up to age 5 years.

Your Guide to Nurturing Parent-Child Relationships was written by Nadia Hall, Chaya Kulkarni, and Shauna Seneca and is available from the Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company: www.brookespublishing.com/store/books/hall-69070/index.htm

Family Preservation Programs

Since the term "family preservation services" was coined in the 1980s, there has been considerable confusion about the essential elements of these services and which types of programs fall into this category. Although family preservation programs share many common characteristics, they vary considerably with respect to auspices (public or private agencies), theoretical orientation, target population, identified problem, and primary location of service. Programs also vary dramatically in terms of intensity, duration, caseloads, and teaming with other professionals or paraprofessionals. Few of these programs have undergone strenuous evaluation, and it is therefore difficult to compare them on the basis of proven results. However, we can provide some points of comparison, along with information that can help public and tribal child welfare agencies seek out additional material that may be of interest to them. Neither the Children's Bureau nor the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning endorses any of these programs. We present this information for you to use in developing your own understanding of these services. Please note that this list of programs is not intended to be comprehensive, and evidence-based and evidence-informed family preservation programs are not limited to those models listed here.

http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/Family_Preservation_Programs.pdf

Collaborative and Empowering Practices with African American Families

This article from the Michigan Child Welfare Law Journal addresses the role that culture plays in devising and implementing a family-centered treatment plan that meets the individualized needs of African-American families. In addition, practice implications, including the use of family-based services, are explored as a means of working collaboratively with African American families.

http://chanceatchildhood.msu.edu/pdf/CWLJ_winter_1.pdf

Pathway to the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

This document assembles a wealth of findings from research, practice, theory, and policy about what it takes to improve the lives of children and families, particularly those living in tough neighborhoods. By laying out a comprehensive, coherent array of actions, the Pathway informs efforts to improve community conditions within supportive policy and funding contexts. The Pathways framework does not promote a single formula or 'silver bullet.' Rather, the emphasis is on acting strategically across disciplines, systems, and jurisdictions to reduce the costs of abuse and neglect and to promote thriving children, families, and communities. The Pathway provides a starting point to guide choices made by community coalitions, services providers, researchers, funders, and policymakers to achieve desired outcomes for children and their families.

<http://www.pathwaystooutcomes.org/>

Trends

Rise Magazine: Immigration

In this issue of a magazine written by and for parents who have been involved in the child welfare system, immigrant parents write about protecting and strengthening their families while struggling to understand an unfamiliar system and culture.

http://www.risemagazine.org/issues/Issue_9/issue_9.html

Family Friendly Checklists

The Family Support Council of Ohio has produced these checklists to help families and agencies assess whether agency practices are family friendly. Together, families and agencies can use these check list to help make an agency family friendly.

<http://olrs.ohio.gov/other/checklistfamily.pdf> or <http://olrs.ohio.gov/other/checklistagency.pdf>

Funding Opportunities and Sustainability

On-line Sustainability Planning Resources

The Finance Project has launched the online Sustainability Planning Information Resource Center to provide information about financial sustainability for community programs. The website at: <http://www.financeproject.org/index.cfm?page=28> lists resources and information related to seven elements of sustainability:

- Vision-how to craft and share a vision statement
- Results orientation-improving effectiveness through ongoing evaluation
- Strategic financing-including diversifying funding, creating flexibility in funding, and generating new sources of funding
- Broad-based community support-how to effectively communicate and collaborate with stakeholders
- Key champions-engaging powerful advocates
- Adaptability to changing conditions-monitoring trends and knowing the community
- Strong internal systems-implementing effective management strategies



The Foundation Center: Resources for Grant Applicants

The Foundation Center's cooperating collections are a good place to start to research funding. They are free (with free access to very expensive subscription systems) and located all over the state. Here's the link - <http://foundationcenter.org/collections/ccpa.html>. As long as applicants are a 501(c)3 they can apply for the grant funding. Grant makers encourage public-private partnerships, such as those between Family Centers/Family Support Centers and Children and Youth agencies.

Grant: The Mazda Foundation – For education and literacy, cross-cultural understanding and other projects.

Funder: The Mazda Foundation.

Eligibility: Nonprofits.

Deadline: July 1.

Amount: About \$400,000 is distributed annually.

Contact: www.mazdafoundation.org/grantguidelines.html.

Grant: Community economic development – For job creation and business projects that stop financial dependency, chronic unemployment and community deterioration in both urban and rural areas. Beneficiaries include at-risk youth.

Funder: U.S. Administration for Children and Families.

Eligibility: Private, nonprofit community development corporations.

Deadline: June 25.

Amount: \$29 million for 41 to 45 grants.

Contact: www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2008-ACF-OCS-EE-0024.html

Grant: Oral health – For oral health promotion programs that improve and maintain children's oral health through community education and outreach programs, especially to young people whose socioeconomic status adversely affects their dental care.

Funder: The ADA Foundation.

Eligibility: Community-based nonprofits.

Deadline: July 17.

Amount: \$325,000 total for grants of \$5,000 each.

Contact: www.ada.org/ada/adaf/grants/harris.asp#rfp.

Grant: The LEGO Children's Fund – For grants in early childhood education and development, technology and communication projects that advance learning opportunities, and sports or athletic programs that concentrate on underserved youth.

Funder: LEGO America.

Eligibility: Nonprofits.

Deadline: Quarterly.

Amount: \$500 to \$5,000.

Contact: www.legochildrensfund.org/Guidelines.html

Grant: Corning Incorporated Foundation – Supports youth-related projects and organizations, including community-service programs for students, YMCAs and youth centers in company locations.

Funder: Corning Incorporated Foundation.

Eligibility: Nonprofits in company communities. (For company locations, go to www.corning.com/locations/index.aspx <<http://www.corning.com/locations/index.aspx>> .)

Deadline: Open.

Amount: About \$3 million annually.

Contact: http://www.corning.com/inside_corning/our_commitment/community.aspx

Assessment

Assessment Tools in Spanish

Three assessment tools to help link case planning, services, and outcomes are now available in Spanish from the National Family Preservation Network (NFPN). The NFPN tools include the North Carolina Family Assessment Scale for General Services (NCFAS-G), the North Carolina Family Assessment Scale for Reunification (NCFAS-R), and the North Carolina Family Assessment Scale (NCFAS). Each tool also includes a training package containing definitions, sample ratings, frequently asked questions, a PowerPoint presentation, and the case plan. To learn more about these new resources in Spanish, visit:

www.nfpn.org/news/news-for-2008/resources-for-2008.html

(Scroll down to "Resources for 2008")

Pediatric Developmental Screening: Understanding and Selecting Screening Instruments

This tool from the Commonwealth Fund helps providers choose and apply the structured screening method that is most appropriate for their practice setting. The manual is based on an extensive review of scientific research on available developmental screening instruments.

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=614864

Preschoolers Benefit from Early Childhood Mental Health Screening

Preschoolers can benefit when early childhood programs use a simple and inexpensive mental health screening process that flags emerging socio-emotional problems that can affect future school success, according to research by FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. www.fpg.unc.edu/snapshots/snap.pdf



Resources – Outcomes Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) Newsletter

CASSP resources and updates are now available on line. Go to www.dpw.state.pa.us <<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/>>, and then click on the link on the left corner of the page for "publications, forms and reports" (third item down); then choose "newsletters and bulletins," then "Child and Adolescent Service System Program Newsletter (CASSP)" (fourth item down). That will take you to the home page for the newsletter.

Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative Updates

To help to keep people informed of all that's happening across the state in early childhood mental health (and there is a lot!), a new "periodic update on early childhood mental health initiatives in Pennsylvania" has been created. The first edition was recently published and is available online at: http://www.parecovery.org/documents/ECMH_Initiatives_in_PA.pdf.

Helping Low-Wage Workers Persist in Education Programs

"Lessons from Research on Welfare Training Programs and Two Promising Community College Strategies," this working paper, prepared for a conference sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, reviews what is known about education acquisition by low-wage workers and highlights promising strategies being tested at several community colleges. www.mdrc.org

How to Communicate Effectively About the Early Years

When you hear terms like "self-regulation," "reflective supervision" and "early intervention," do you know what you're hearing? The people you most want to move -- state legislators, staffers, the media and funders -- probably don't. ZERO TO THREE has a new communications series to help early childhood professionals understand good communications and why it matters.

www.zerotothree.org

Early Math – Why it Matters, How to Promote Its Development in Children

Mathematics ability on entry to kindergarten is a strong predictor of later academic success, better even than early reading ability, according to the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). You can access the report and two other SRCD studies (below) on related topics about early math and how to encourage it at:

http://srcd.org/documents/policy/sprbrief_early_childhood_math.pdf

- Improving Early Childhood Mathematics May Enhance Academic Success
- Mathematics Education for Young Children: What It is and How to Promote It

Resource: The Evaluation Exchange: Early Childhood Programs and Evaluation Spotlight - at the Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP)

<http://gseweb.harvard.edu/hfrp/eval/issue26/spotlight4.html>

OCYF Update

Suicide Prevention Conference

The Department of Public Welfare, along with a number of other partners, is sponsoring the Second Annual Suicide Prevention Conference on September 9-10, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, Grantville, PA. The theme is "Outreach to Diverse Populations: Finding What Works." Program and registration information is now available online at:

www.parecovery.org/documents/Brochure_Suicide_Prevention_2008.doc



University of Pittsburgh Sponsored-Training

Upcoming Training Topics of Note to Family Centers and Family Support Centers:

207: Introduction to Family Group Decision Making: Part 1

This one day overview introduces the foundations of the FGDM practice and prepares participants to begin planning for implementation and participate successfully in FGDM. It describes the process, the steps of an FGDM Conference, how to prepare participants for meetings, and how to establish FGDM in the community. It is important to stress that this one-day training alone is not sufficient to implement FGDM successfully. This practice emphasizes family empowerment. Families should be given the opportunity and responsibility to make decision for themselves. This workshop introduces participants to a new way of doing business that challenges the dominant practice, but results in lifetime benefits for the families with whom they work. Training Dates and Locations:

June 5, 2008 -- Montgomery County Training Room

Montgomery County Human Services Center

1430 DeKalb Street

1st Floor

Norristown, PA 19404

Trainer: Patricia Hackman

June 20, 2008 -- Altoona Training Room

222 Lakemont Park Blvd

The Village at Lakemont

Altoona, PA 16602

Trainer: June Fisher

June 25, 2008-- Williamsport Training Room

Park Place LLC, 1st Floor

800 West 4th Street

Williamsport, PA 17701

Trainer: Patricia Gadsden

Please register the following ways: (registration is due 3 weeks prior to the scheduled workshop)

Phone: 1-877-297-7488

Fax: 717-795-8013

Email: cwtpreg@pitt.edu

Please remember that Family Center staff members are welcome to attend any training offered by the University's Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program (CWTP.) If you have any questions about the workshops and training above or those that are listed in the six-month training directory, please contact your county's liaison listed below.

Family Centers Program Contact Information

Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program
403 East Winding Hill Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717.795.9048

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