



## California Adolescent Health Collaborative

### AHC NEWS

MARCH 2007

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**Welcome to the Spring AHC News!** In this edition, AHC continues to bring you useful and important updates on adolescent health in California.

#### In the News

#### **The Adolescent Sexual Health Workgroup (ASHWG) Survey Coming Your Way!**

The Adolescent Sexual Health Workgroup (ASHWG) has drafted Core Competencies for Staff Providing Sexual and Reproductive Services to Adolescents (to our knowledge, the first in the nation). Keep an eye out for a survey coming to assess the utility of the core competencies. We want to be sure they will meet your needs.

The Core Competencies are an outline of the basic knowledge, attributes, abilities, and skills necessary to be an effective and qualified educator or provider in the area of adolescent sexual health. The Core Competencies are intended to apply to all staff and professionals who interact with youth, including health clinic workers, test counselors, case managers, clinicians, classroom teachers, community

educators, and health outreach workers, to name a few.

Core Competencies might be used across various programs of adolescent sexual and reproductive health in several ways: Self Assessment, Performance Appraisal, Recruiting and Hiring Staff, Staff Development and Training, Curriculum Development, Program Implementation.

### **The National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) is pleased to announce the launch of [www.TeenHealthRights.org](http://www.TeenHealthRights.org)!**

As part of NCYL's Teen Health Rights Initiative, this new website is designed to help California adolescent health care providers understand the many laws that impact their work, with a focus on reproductive health. The site contains information produced by NCYL as well as other organizations specializing in adolescent health care, such as the San Francisco Adolescent Health Working Group (AHWG), the ACLU, MCHAccess and Planned Parenthood.

It includes guidebooks, charts and wallet cards on minor consent, confidentiality, and child abuse reporting laws; an "Ask the Experts" section; articles and briefs on adolescent health issues; information on upcoming trainings and events; and links to additional outside resources. It also includes information on adolescent health laws in many other states. Please take a look and let NCYL know what you think!

### **The Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing released an "Open Letter to Religious Leaders on Adolescent Sexuality."**

It is the first multi-faith theological statement that affirms adolescent sexual rights. It calls for "a new faith-based approach to adolescent sexuality grounded in developing the moral agency of teenagers." You can read (and download it) at: [www.religiousinstitute.org/AdolSex\\_OpenLetter.pdf](http://www.religiousinstitute.org/AdolSex_OpenLetter.pdf)

Also, the Center for American Progress published an editorial by Rev. Debra Haffner on adolescent sexuality on their web site. You can read it at: [www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/02/beyond\\_a\\_bstinence\\_only.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/02/beyond_a_bstinence_only.html)

### **Federal Appeals Court Reverses Preliminary Injunction in Katie A. Case; Remands to Lower Court for More Findings on Mandated Services**

A federal appeals court Friday reversed a preliminary injunction requiring intensive mental health services for tens of thousands of foster children. However, the appeals court affirmed California's obligation to provide effective services to foster children, and upheld the lower court's finding that these children face the grave harm of unnecessary institutionalization without the injunction. The appeals court remanded the case on the narrow issue of whether the lower court rightly

mandated specific types of services.

“This is a victory in all but one respect,” said Robert Newman, plaintiffs’ lead counsel and an attorney with the Western Center on Law and Poverty. “We demonstrated to the district court that existing services do not meet the needs of foster children, and that wraparound and Therapeutic Foster Care(TFC) are medically necessary. On remand, we simply have to connect the dots between the present lack of individualized services and the demonstrated effectiveness of wraparound and TFC.”

“Our greatest concern,” said Patrick Gardner, co- counsel in the case and deputy director of the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL), “is that the decision will delay the day when foster youth will receive the mental health care they need and deserve. Sadly, as a result of this decision, more children will be removed from their homes because of unmet mental health needs.” AHC will continue to follow this important case and keep you posted on updates as they become available!

## Resources

### **Minor Consent and Confidentiality Rights in Adolescent Mental Health Training DVD Now Available!**

California Adolescent Health Collaborative (AHC) partnered with staff at the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) and Children’s Hospital Oakland to develop a training curriculum on confidentiality rights and minor consent issues in adolescent mental health care.

The training covers practice standards and guidelines, policy issues, and laws on minor consent/confidentiality, including an overview of HIPAA. Case scenarios are presented for discussion and questions.

This DVD is a great resource for mental health professionals and anyone working with adolescents. \$19.99 plus shipping and handling. Buy it online at our website: [www.californiateenhealth.org](http://www.californiateenhealth.org)

### **The National Adolescent Health Information Center (NAHIC) at UCSF is updating its series of Fact Sheets.**

NAHIC’s Fact Sheets provide the latest data, with breakdowns by age, gender, and race/ethnicity, as well as trends. NAHIC recently released updated versions of its Mortality, Suicide, Unintentional Injury, and Violence Fact Sheets on adolescents and young adults.

Upcoming fact sheets include Reproductive Health and Substance Use. The Fact Sheets are available on the NAHIC web site at: [http://nahic.ucsf.edu/index.php/data/article/briefs\\_fact\\_sheets/](http://nahic.ucsf.edu/index.php/data/article/briefs_fact_sheets/). Please contact NAHIC (phone: 415-502- 4856; email: [nahic@ucsf.edu](mailto:nahic@ucsf.edu)), with any questions about our Fact Sheets.

### **The San Francisco Adolescent Health Working Group (AHWG) is thrilled to announce that the fourth and final module in the Adolescent Provider Toolkit series covering the topic of Behavioral Health is close to being finalized.**

The module, geared for busy front line health providers that work in offices, clinics and schools, includes the following: Screening and assessment tools, Twelve mental health and substance use issue briefs, Evaluation and treatment algorithms for general behavioral health concerns, depression, and Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Brief office interventions and counseling guidelines, Behavioral health information, tip sheets, and worksheets for providers, Health education materials for teens and their adult caregivers, Online resources and hotlines.

For more information on downloading a FREE copy or purchasing a hard copy of the Behavioral Health Toolkit, please visit the AHWG website at [www.ahwg.net](http://www.ahwg.net).

### **The Maternal,Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning (MCAH/OFP) Branch Adolescent Family Life ( AFLP) Report is out, hot off the press!**

The Adolescent Family Life Program: (AFLP) Program Overview and Profile of Clients, published in February 2007, outlines the latest status of adolescents in this important state program.

To download a PDF of the report please go to the Maternal,Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning (MCAH/OFP) Branch website: <http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/documents/AFLP/AFLP%20Program%20Overview%20Feb%2007.pdf>

### **Zero Breast Cancer is pleased to announce the debut of the Breast Cancer and Environment Peer Education Tool Kit for use in high school health education programs.**

The Tool Kit may be used as a resource for a single lesson breast cancer prevention education module. The lesson module was created with input from teen peer educators, teachers, parents and breast cancer specialists in Marin County and the San Francisco Bay Area.

The module addresses the need for breast cancer information and preventive education that is targeted and relevant to teens.

The program goals are: •• To create developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive breast cancer preventive messages to inform adolescents about breast cancer risk. •• To motivate girls particularly to reduce potential breast cancer risk by practicing healthy behaviors and by minimizing exposures to known and suspected environmental carcinogens. The objective of the Tool Kit is to disseminate science- based information to address students' and teachers' questions about breast cancer, an issue that affects many families directly and is also a source of frequent media attention.

The Tool Kit contains peer education activity templates that were developed during Zero Breast Cancer's pilot study conducted in partnership with the Tamalpais Union High School District in 2006. The independent program evaluation showed that the pilot project was highly effective.

Zero Breast Cancer invites you to examine this Tool Kit at [www.zerobreastcancer.org/education.html](http://www.zerobreastcancer.org/education.html)

### **Trauma Among Homeless Youth Brief Published**

The Community Trauma Treatment Center for Runway and Homeless Youth, a collaborative effort between the Division of Adolescent Medicine at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and agencies of the Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership-- Covenant House California, the Los Angeles Free Clinic, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, Los Angeles Youth Network, and My Friend's Place -- recently collaborated with the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress to publish Culture and Trauma Brief (Vol. 2, N. 1): Trauma Among Homeless Youth.

This publication includes information about trauma and homeless youth, the consequences of trauma and homelessness, and

considerations for treatment.

The Trauma Brief can be found at the National Traumatic Stress Network website: [http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn\\_assets/pdfs/culture\\_and\\_trauma\\_brief\\_v2n1\\_HomelessYouth.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/culture_and_trauma_brief_v2n1_HomelessYouth.pdf) You will also find a lot of other useful information and resources in the area of children and adolescents and trauma.

## Policy Briefs

### **The California School Health Centers Association (CSHC) is excited to announce that they are sponsoring two new bills that will support, enhance and expand the capacity of school health centers to provide care to California's most vulnerable children and youth!**

CSHC is sponsoring SB 564 (Ridley-Thomas), the School Health Centers Expansion Act of 2007, that would provide resources to support existing school health centers, start new school health centers, and provide technical assistance. Co-sponsors of SB 564 are the California Primary Care Association and the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California.

In addition, CSHC is co-sponsoring AB 898 (Saldaña) with the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California and the National Council of La Raza. AB 898 would provide nutrition, physical activity, and other obesity prevention information to high-risk communities by establishing pilot programs using promotores (community health workers) at three to five school health center sites.

For more information on how to support CSHC's efforts please go to the CSHC website: <http://schoolhealthcenters.org/policy.asp>

### **AB 629 Sexual Health Accountability Act (Brownley)**

Last year Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoed SB 1471, which would have set basic requirements for state-funded community-based sex education programs such as the Community Challenge Grant program.

The Sexual Health Education Accountability Act would expand the important protections currently provided in public schools to the community health context. This bill provides needed guidance to state agencies funding or administering community-based programs or public education campaigns, in order to ensure that California has a consistent and effective approach for preventing unintended pregnancy and STDs. The first hearing is March 27.

### **Legislation Introduced to improve services for foster care youth in juvenile justice system**

California counties currently have the option to choose simultaneous or "dual" jurisdiction for youth who move between the juvenile dependency and delinquency systems. *Welfare and Institutions Code Sec. 241.1*. However, few counties have chosen to use this option to better serve youth. Those counties that do utilize dual jurisdiction frequently do so only to transition cases between systems, and do not provide critical child welfare services for foster youth that enter the juvenile justice system.

AB 638 would allow county child welfare departments to retain jurisdiction to provide services to foster youth who enter the juvenile justice system. It will allow foster youth who enter the juvenile justice system to receive child welfare and independent living services, even when the youth is placed in a juvenile justice facility. Services would include: child welfare case management services focused on permanency, sibling and family visits, independent living services, education assistance and eligibility for transitional living and housing programs. To find out more on how to support this legislation please go to the California Youth Connection (CYC) website: <http://www.calyouthconn.org>

## **AB 589 Teen Dating Violence Prevention Bill**

One out of three teens will experience abuse in a dating relationship. This type of violence is impacting the safety of school campuses and the academic success of students: victims of teen dating violence are more likely to be truant, have lower grades, and are more likely to bring weapons onto campus. Assembly Bill 589, authored by Assemblymember Lloyd Levine (40th – D) and co-sponsored by the California Women's Law Center, Break The Cycle, and Peace Over Violence, would provide standards for school response to dating violence on campus, and would provide training to school employees and education for students.

The bill would require school districts to collaborate with local dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual assault victim services organizations, which ensures that response and prevention of teen dating violence is tailored to the needs of each community.

For information on how to support this bill please go to the California Women's Law Center: [www.cwlc.org](http://www.cwlc.org). AB 589 will be heard in the Assembly Education Committee as early as April 10th.

## **Youth Development Tips**

As youth development becomes an increasingly accepted model of policy and program development, a core set of hypotheses have emerged which inform the defining characteristics of successful youth development.

The Search Institute has compiled a fact sheet outlining seven core hypotheses and their implications which illustrate the continuing emergence of youth development as model increasingly validated by research as well as practice.

**Below are three of the seven hypotheses: we strongly encourage you to check out the complete list!!**

Hypothesis 1: Changes in contexts change young people, and we can intentionally change young people's context(s) to enhance their developmental success.

Hypothesis 4: Increasing the number of developmental nutrients across settings is what matters most, not increasing specific strengths or combinations of strengths in any single setting.

Hypothesis 7: Community-level interventions to build developmental supports and opportunities will benefit all or almost all youth.

Search Institute Insights and Evidence. Nov 2006 Vol. 3, No. 1 Copyright © 2006 by Search Institute, Minneapolis, MN; 800-888-7828; <http://www.search-institute.org>. Search Institute is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth, and communities.

## **AHC wants to hear from you--do you use youth development in your work?**

Success stories you'd like to share? Challenges in trying to engage young people? Tell us your stories so we can share them with the Collaborative and harness the collective knowledge and inspiration of California's adolescent health community!!

## **Upcoming Conferences and Events**

## **State of Latinos Issue Briefing and Advocacy Day April 10-11 2007**

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC), Latino Issues Forum (LIF), Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and National Council of La Raza (NCLR) are coming together to host the 2007 State of Latinos Briefing and Advocacy Day.

The State of Latinos Issue Briefing will be held on April 10 at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, 300 J St., Sacramento, CA, 95814. At this event you will have an opportunity to learn about some of the important issues facing the Latino community in California such as education, healthcare, immigration among many others.

On April 11 you will have an opportunity to visit your legislators and talk about the importance of these issues for California and the Latino community.

This two-day event held in Sacramento, CA is an important opportunity to come together with leaders and community members from all over the state to present the legislature with an issue agenda that serves the needs of the Latino community and all Californians.

Registration is FREE!! Registration deadline is WEDNESDAY, April 4, 2007. Please contact Katrina Mendiola with questions at [kmendiola@nclr.org](mailto:kmendiola@nclr.org) or (916) 448-9852.

## **Be the Change In Health Care Conference**

May 1-3, 2007. Houston, TX. For more information please visit <http://www.apha.org/programs>

## **Graduate Student Summer Institute in Adolescent Health: Engaging Youth: Working Together with Parents and Families**

July 30 - August 1, 2007. St. Paul, MN. For more information please visit [http://www.nursing.umn.edu/img/assets/15662/CAN\\_Summer\\_Institute.pdf](http://www.nursing.umn.edu/img/assets/15662/CAN_Summer_Institute.pdf)

**Please note: the links cited in the newsletter are not "live" links. In order to access the webpages cited, you will need to cut and paste the address into your address bar. We apologize for the inconvenience.**

**If you have an item you would like to include in AHC's newsletter, please contact us at: [robink@californiateenhealth.org](mailto:robink@californiateenhealth.org)**

**Sincerely,**

**AHC  
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