



California Adolescent Health Collaborative

AHC NEWS

SUMMER 2007

IN THIS ISSUE

- Get Involved
- In The News
- Resources
- Policy Briefs
- Youth Development Tips
- Upcoming Events
- Funding

Sign Up

SIGN-UP!

QUICK LINKS

- California Adolescent Health Collaborative
- National Center for Youth Law
- National Adolescent Health Information Center (NAHIC) at UCSF
- Adolescent Health Working Group

California Adolescent Health Collaborative Summer 2007 Newsletter

Get Involved

The California AHC 2008 Conference will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 2 & 3, 2008 in Los Angeles. The theme of the conference is "Youth Issues 2008: Transforming Services, Transforming Community." A conference committee is being assembled to help plan this event.

Volunteers Are Needed To Help Plan the Statewide AHC Conference 2008

We're looking for a few good people who:

- Are creative
- Like to plan
- Get excited about training and educational events
- Get energized working with others
- Have lots of ideas for a fantastic conference in 2008.

The commitment for this committee will include a monthly conference call of about 60 minutes, to help organize outreach and recruitment, plan and select workshops

and events, and coordinate special sessions, activities, speakers, etc. Committee members will receive a complimentary conference registration.

The work of the committee will begin in late summer of 2007.

If you are interested, please contact Sharon Kosch, Conference Coordinator at skosch@californiateenhealth.org

Looking for a few committed people for the AHC Steering Committee

Are you committed to improving the health adolescents in California? Are you interested in collaborating with some of the best "thinkers" in adolescent health? Do you have a few hours a month to devote to this cause? If so, the California Adolescent Health Collaborative is seeking to expand our Steering Committee, particularly to include more members from Southern California, the Central Valley and Northern California. Please fill out and submit the "[Self-Nominating](#)" form on our website at: <http://www.californiateenhealth.org/download/self-nominating-form.pdf>

In The News

Report Identifies Policy Options to Better Serve Adolescents Who Age Out of Foster Care

A report on foster care youth aging out of the system has been recently published by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Not only does the report contain data from each State for the number of children that "age out" every year, but it offers strategies and recommendations, including public policy reform, for reducing poor outcomes for emancipating youth.

The full report is available at: http://www.pewtrusts.org/pdf/Aging_Out_May_2007.pdf and more information on the subject can be found at Kids Are Waiting: Fix Foster Care Now at <http://www.kidsarewaiting.org>

Report Profiles Exemplary Adolescent Health Programs

Despite adolescents' high risk for serious health problems, they tend to slip through the cracks of the health care delivery system. Minority teens are particularly unlikely to receive adequate care. "Under One Roof: Primary Care Models That Work for Adolescents" profiles three successful adolescent health programs in different settings that offer comprehensive, interdisciplinary models of physical, behavioral, and reproductive health care in a teen-friendly setting. The authors of the report discuss the collaborative model of adolescent health care and the need for a new model of care, present data on program effectiveness and identify financing challenges of various adolescent-health-care arrangements. The report is available at: <http://www.incenterstrategies.org/jan07/Report1.pdf>

Analysis Examines the Relative Importance of Alcohol Sources Among Young Adolescents

A recent article focuses on the effect that a youth's social sources of alcohol has on their drinking patterns and the prevalence of alcohol use. Prevention efforts to date have largely targeted commercial access among underage drinkers (adolescents ages 20 and younger). One strategy to reduce alcohol use by adolescents focuses on reducing or eliminating the primary sources of alcohol access. Compelling but limited evidence exists that social sources of alcohol are important. [Click here for an](#)

[abstract of the study.](#)

Report from the Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls

A recent report of the American Psychological Association's (APA) Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls found evidence that the proliferation of sexualized images of girls and young women in advertising, merchandising, and media is harmful to girls' self-image and healthy development. This report examines and summarizes psychological theory, research, and clinical experience addressing the sexualization of girls. The report (a) defines sexualization; (b) examines the prevalence in our society; (c) evaluates the evidence suggesting that sexualization has negative social, psychological and physical consequences for girls and for the rest of society; and (d) describes positive alternatives that may help counteract the influence of sexualization. For the full report visit: <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/sexualizationrep.pdf>

Resources

Tools and Training

Behavioral Health Adolescent Provider Toolkit & Trainings

After three years of development, the Adolescent Health Working Group is ready to unveil the Behavioral Health Adolescent Provider Toolkit. Developed by and for health care providers, this toolkit takes a closer look at common adolescent mental health and substance use problems and includes:

- 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
- Brief office interventions and counseling guidelines
- Health education materials for teens and their parents/adult caregivers
- Online resources and hotlines

The Adolescent Health Working Group is partnering with the San Francisco Health Plan, Blue Cross of California State Sponsored Business, and PAC/LAC to provide FREE Behavioral Health Toolkit trainings for primary care providers on July 19th 2007. Registration is now open. To register or for further information call Betsy Price, RN, MPH at (415) 615-4205 or e-mail her at bprice@sfhp.org

You can download a FREE copy or purchase a hard copy of the Behavioral Health Toolkit by visiting the website <http://www.ahwg.net>.

For Youth

Grants for Youth to Start Sustainable Social Ventures

Youth Service America and Youth Venture are offering micro-grants of up to \$1,000 to youth ages 12-20 to lead socially conscious campaigns that are a lasting asset to their communities. YSA Youth Venture teams are required to plan a Global Youth Service Day Project on April 25th-27th, 2008, and will receive resources from both of the sponsoring organizations.

For more information visit: <http://www.genv.net/en-us/region/ysa>

Teen Resource Directories

The Planned Parenthood website offers information for teens, educators and providers. The health education tab should be of special interest as it provides a lot of information on topics ranging from classes and presentations to information on sexual health. For more information visit: <http://www.plannedparenthoodsbcc.org>

California Youth Crisis Line 1-800-843-5200

The California Youth Crisis Line (CYCL) is a statewide, toll free, 24-hour, confidential phone line available to young people between the ages of 12-24, and concerned friends and family members. The CYCL provides crisis intervention counseling on many issues including family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. The CYCL offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth needing assistance or in crisis situations.

In many instances, the Crisis Line is the first resource a young person in crisis has for assistance outside of law enforcement. The Crisis Line is an immediate, reliable and free phone link between young people and their local services. Counselors locate services for callers from a database of more than 5,500 providers in California. Speaking with a crisis counselor provides youth and parents with a confidential and nonjudgmental forum to discuss their concerns.

Sex, etc Magazine

This publication is written by youth for youth. The magazine addresses the many sexual, social and psychological issues that adolescents as well as teens face on a daily basis. The magazine's website offers a variety of information for youth that covers all aspects of sexual health and touches on various other health issues affecting this population. For more information visit: <http://www.sexetc.org>.

Publications

Fact Sheet: Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in Adolescent Health Care

This fact sheet is based on data from the National Health Interview Survey of Children's Health. It examines how race and ethnicity affect access to care and service utilization in African American, Hispanic and Caucasian populations ages 12-17 years old.

The fact sheet can be found at: <http://www.intercenterstrategies.org/jan07/factsheet1.pdf>

Fact Sheet: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine State Website

The California Department of Public Health has compiled a useful website containing basic information on the Human Papillomavirus and the new vaccine HPV vaccine (Gardasil®). The site is divided into sections for the general public, health care providers and educators. Also posted is the recently released fact sheet "The HPV Vaccine: What Health Care Providers Need to Know" To visit go to <http://www.hpvvaccine.org> or <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/dccdc/izgroup/diseasesbrowse/hpv.htm>

Fact Sheet: Parents Perspective on Sex Education

This fact sheet discusses the results of a survey conducted by the Public Health Institute in the summer of 2006 on parent's attitudes about sex education. For the results of the survey findings and summaries of the key issues visit: <http://teenbirths.phi.org/2007PressKit.pdf>

TAPESTRY/HCOE

This organization has created a new growth and development curriculum called "Look Out! It's Puberty," developed by Wynona Nash, Health Mentor Teacher for Eureka City Schools. The curriculum is for three grades levels (4th-6th) with developmental sequencing. For a link to TAPESTRY/HCOE website please visit: <http://internet.humboldt.k12.ca.us/ciss/ssp/index.php#tap>

Financing Programs for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care

The Finance Project recently developed three strategy briefs that explore the players, funding sources, and financing strategies that can support entrepreneurship opportunities, asset-building and financial education programs, and workforce development programs and services for youth in or transitioning from foster care.

For more information visit: http://www.financeproject.org/pubs/all_pub.asp?c=9&pageid=1

Policy Briefs

Policy Update

The Sexual Health Education Accountability Act- AB 629

This bill requires that any program providing education to prevent unintended pregnancy or to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STI's) must adhere to a certain criteria to ensure that the information is medically accurate. AB 629 has passed the Assembly Health Committee; the next step for the bill is the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

For more information visit: <http://teenbirths.phi.org> or the [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\)](http://www.aclunc.org) at <http://www.aclunc.org>

SB 564: School Health Center Expansion Act of 2007

SB 564 would create a state grant program for school health centers. The bill was heard in the Assembly Health Committee on July 3rd. For details visit: <http://www.schoolhealthcenters.org>

Senate Bills Address Child Mental Health

- Two bills were introduced in the United States Senate on May 8th, 2007: The Mental Health Schools Act, S. 1332 functions to "assist local communities in developing comprehensive school mental health programs that provide a continuum of services for students." Status: This bill has been referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
- S. 1337 which would function to stop the restrictions on mental health care in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). More specifically, the bill would require that youth covered under SCHIP receive mental health and substance abuse services equal to the same level of care that they receive for other medical services. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

For the full report visit: http://www.healthinschools.org/2007/may9_alert.asp

To read the specific bills visit: <http://thomas.loc.gov>

Restructuring Medicaid to Promote Adolescent Health

This brief examines what Medicaid and payment policies do for youth. It concludes that they are insufficient in providing the types of care adolescents may need. It proposes a set of primary care benefits specifically for adolescents that may be offered during early or periodic screenings as well as diagnostic and treatment visits. The brief makes suggestions for potential payment policies to support primary care and preventative service for adolescents.

For the full policy brief visit: <http://www.incenterstrategies.org/jan07/issuebrief1.pdf>

Youth Development Tips

A continuing series from our last newsletter

The Search Institute has compiled a fact sheet outlining seven core hypotheses related to youth development. The youth development model is increasingly validated by research as well as practice.

Hypothesis 2: When youth themselves take action to improve their contexts, their efforts are empowering and also improve the contexts for themselves and their peers. In the same way that young people's contexts affect their development, their actions change their environment.

Hypothesis 5: Building developmental nutrients can have an impact at the time of intervention as well as later in life. When young people gain developmental strengths, those strengths protect them at the time and also contribute to their future development.

Hypothesis 6: Community-wide efforts to build developmental nutrients are as important as those on the organization, family, and individual levels. The largest improvements in positive youth development will occur more in response to interventions at the community level than those aimed at individuals.

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>.

Upcoming Events

California Alliance Concerned with School and Pregnancy Prevention (CAC SAP) Conference September 26th-28th, 2007 in Burlingame, CA.

This conference offers many educational opportunities for adolescent serving professionals to learn useful information that these individual may use with a variety of individuals from families and teens to community members and funders. For more information visit: <http://www.cacsap.org/>

School Wellness Conference October 1st-2nd, 2007 at the Anaheim Marriott.

The California School Boards Association, California Department of Education and the Department of Health Services are partnering to present a two-day event highlighting what school districts need to know about creating a healthier school environment. For more information visit: <http://www.csba.org/apps/swc/>

Alliance for Children and Families National Conference October 17th-19th, 2007 in Anaheim, CA

This conference is geared towards professionals who are interested in expanding their peer connections and gaining pertinent knowledge about the nonprofit human services sector. For more information visit: <http://www.alliance1.org/Conferences/National2007/natl-conf.html>

California School Health Centers Association National Conference October 29th, 2007 in Los Angeles, CA.

This conference is for individuals who work in school based health centers or are interested in starting a school based health center. For more information visit: http://www.schoolhealthcenters.org/Annual_Conference_07.asp

Centerforce and The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice: Critical Juncture - Innovative Solutions for Addressing the Impact of Youth and Adult Incarceration in Our Communities October 22nd and 23rd, 2007 in San Francisco

The Summit is geared toward social support services and community based organization personnel, ex-prisoners, public health & healthcare professionals, prison reform advocates, government officials and corrections personnel from around the country. The Summit seeks to collectively discover positive solutions to crucial issues surrounding incarcerated populations. For more information visit: <http://www.centerforce.org/summit/>

The Second National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care October 29th-31st, 2007 in Oakland

The purpose of the conference is to “focus on strategies the national recommendations to improve women’s health, preconception care and pregnancy outcomes.” For more information visit: www.marchofdimes.com/california

Symposium 2008: A Blueprint for the Future

Every child needs a 'place to call home' and National Network for Youth (NNY) would like you to share your 'blueprint for the future' of our youth with others as a workshop presenter at Symposium 2008! Complete the Call for Abstracts form and return it to NNY by August 1, 2007 so that you can share your dynamic, innovative, and successful program, practice, or curriculum with over 500 youth workers, advocates, policy makers, decision makers, and youth at Symposium 2008, January 27-30, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. The form can be accessed at: <http://www.nn4youth.org/site/PageServer>

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

Sincerely,

**AHC
California Adolescent Health Collaborative**

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