



YTAT NEWSBLAST

Youth Transition Action Teams Initiative Leveraging Community Resources to Ensure Successful Transitions for Foster Youth

If you are unable to read this email please visit: www.newwaystowork.org/initiatives/ytat/news2/07.pdf.

March 15, 2007

Welcome to the YTAT Newsblast, a timely update on events, legislation, and resources for Youth Transition Action Teams and your partners working with youth in the child welfare system. Click on the links in the table of contents for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [1. Cross-System Collaboration & Partnerships—Content Conference Call—March 27th](#)
- [2. It's My Life Conference—Call for Presenters—September 30-October 2](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [3. Foster Youth Transitions Presentation—April 27, 2007](#)
- [4. Independent Living Program Institute: A New Vision for ILP—April 18-19, 2007](#)
- [5. Audio Conference on Dropout Recovery—March 22](#)
- [6. National Summit on Your City's Families—Sept. 30-Oct. 2](#)
- [7. 2007 THP-Plus Institute: Effective Practices to Successfully House Former Foster and Probation Youth](#)

RESOURCES

- [8. Youth Programs Resource Center](#)
- [9. Youth Homelessness and the Child Welfare System](#)
- [10. Youth Work Coalition Bulletin 4](#)
- [11. Improving the Child Welfare Workforce: Lessons Learned from Class Action Litigation](#)
- [12. Medicaid Access for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care](#)
- [13. National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy](#)
- [14. Governor Expands Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Budget](#)
- [15. Guide for Media: Ten Recommendations for Journalists Interviewing Young People from Foster Care](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Cross-System Collaboration & Partnerships—Content Conference Call—March 27th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Pacific Time**

Youth serving organizations and community teams are striving to develop coordinated and connected youth-serving systems. Increasingly, funders are asking for evidence that communities and organizations are coordinating services and collaborating effectively. Practitioners and decision-makers are frequently in search of strategies for successfully partnering across systems – child welfare, workforce, mental health, and education.

We are pleased to announce a content conference call on the topic of **Cross-System Collaboration & Partnerships**. New Ways to Work is partnering with the [California Institute of Mental Health](#) to host this call as part of their Transition Age Youth Collaborative and our [Youth Transition Action Team Initiative](#). Using the nationally-recognized framework, ***Elements of a Comprehensive Youth-Serving System***, New Ways to Work will discuss how organizations and communities across the country have used this framework and other tools to guide their cross-system collaborative work and to support partnerships.

This call will also feature a facilitated discussion with several panelists who will share strategies and experiences with cross-system collaboration and partnerships between workforce, child welfare, and/or mental health agencies and providers.

Please RSVP to [Lucha K. Olguin](mailto:Lucha.K.Olguin) of CiMH via email at lolguin@cimh.org, or phone her with your questions at 916.556.3480, EXT. 144. ***Specific information about the call, including directions for accessing the call, will be sent to you after you register.***

Additional information, including names of panelists, and materials and resources will be posted on the New Ways to Work website at: www.newwaystowork.org/initiatives/ytat/current.html.

For questions or comments, contact Heidi Peyser, New Ways to Work Project Associate at hpeyser@newwaytowork.org or call (707) 824-4000 x. 31.

[Return to announcements ↑](#)

2. It's My Life Conference—Call for Presenters—September 30-October 2

Plans for the 5th Annual It's My Life Conference in Atlanta, GA, sponsored by Casey Family Programs have begun! Each year the conference brings together youth in foster care, alumni, caregivers, practitioners and advocates to create synergy in sharing innovative practices designed to guide preparation for adulthood services for youth aging out of foster care. Do you know youth in foster care or alumni who have a workshop they would like to present? Casey is strongly encouraging youth and foster care alumni to submit proposals. Complete the proposal form available online at

www.casey.org/Resources/Projects/ItsMyLife/.

[Return to announcements ↑](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

3. Foster Youth Transitions Presentation—April 27, 2007

The "Youth Transitions Program" collaborators received great reviews at the CWA Youth Conference in January and have been asked to share their successes with other organizations. The "Youth Transitions Program" is located in Visalia, which is in Tulare County between Bakersfield and Fresno California.

The session will include information on:

- Collaboration and developing relationships
- Agencies working together
- Youth focus groups and feedback
- On-the-job individual mentors program
- Employment opportunities within Tulare County
- Youth presentations with questions and answers
- and much more!

For more information contact Sylvia Castelle at scastelle@cset.org or (559) 732-4194 or Mary Rodarte at mrodarte@cset.org or (559) 732-4194.

[Return to Upcoming Events ↑](#)

4. Independent Living Program Institute: A New Vision for ILP—April 18-19, 2007

The theme of this year's Institute is "A New Vision for ILP". The conference will provide invaluable information for participants in the areas of permanency, housing, education, and employment. The following three people will be the keynotes at the conference: Charlie Applestein, Youth Care Specialist and Author of Appelstein Training Resources; Jaiya John, Founder and Executive Director of Soul Water Rising; and Terry Sand an improvisational expert and television personality. For more information and to register for the conference visit: www.cce.csus.edu/conferences or for more information call 1-800-858-7743.

[Return to Upcoming Events ↑](#)

5. Audio Conference on Dropout Recovery – March 22

City efforts to stem the dropout crisis will be the focus of a free, hour-long audio conference on Thursday, March 22, at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time, sponsored by the YEF Institute. "Dropout Recovery: What Cities Can Do to Get Students Back on Track" will feature municipal leaders who are working to re-connect high school dropouts to education and support services. Local officials who are concerned about their city's dropout rate will not want to miss this call!

To register for this free call, send complete contact information (name, title, department/organization, address, city, state, phone, fax, and email) to iyef@nlc.org or via fax to (202) 626-3043 by close of business Tuesday, March 20. No phone registrations can be accepted. If you wish, gather a group of people around a speaker phone and use the call as a springboard for brainstorming or training. One day prior to the call, each registrant will receive an email or fax providing a toll-free, dial-in number.

[Return to Upcoming Events ↑](#)

6. National Summit on Your City's Families– Sept. 30-Oct. 2

City officials and their school and community partners can register early for the 2007 National Summit on Your City's Families, which will take place Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in San Antonio, Texas. The Summit is the nation's largest gathering of city officials and community partners who are working to improve the lives of the children, youth, and families in their communities. Local leaders who participate will learn about innovative strategies in a wide range of areas. Significant discounts are available to participants who register before July 16. This is also a great opportunity to begin organizing a city-led team of local elected officials and senior municipal staff, school district leaders, community groups, and youth, and to begin planning for the Summit. For more information, contact Sharie Wood at wood@nlc.org or (202) 626-3087.

[Return to Upcoming Events ↑](#)

7. 2007 THP-Plus Institute: Effective Practices to Successfully House Former Foster and Probation Youth

The THP-Plus Statewide Implementation Project will be hosting a full-day educational conference in late July, the 2007 THP-Plus Institute. The goal of the conference is to share effective practices with the many new THP-Plus practitioners that will be implementing programs in the 07-08 fiscal year. Workshop highlights include: harm reduction in housing, domestic violence, promoting permanency in the context of THP-Plus, promoting youth leadership, and supporting parenting youth. The final date and location will be announced in early spring. For more information please contact Michele Byrnes at michele@johnburtonfoundation.org.

[Return to Upcoming Events ↑](#)

RESOURCES

8. Youth Programs Resource Center

The Finance Project's Youth Programs Resource Center offers information and resources for supporting and sustaining youth programs and policies. Check out the latest publications:

- [A Guide to Successful Public-Private Partnerships for Youth Programs](#)
- [Creating Dedicated Local and State Revenue Sources for Youth Programs](#)
- [Finding Funding: A Guide to Federal Sources for Youth Programs](#)
- [Thinking Broadly: Financing Strategies for Youth Programs](#)
- [Profiles of Promising Practices](#)

For more information please visit: www.financeproject.org.

[Return to resources ↑](#)

9. Youth Homelessness and the Child Welfare System

Audio files from a February 8 Urban Institute panel on youth homelessness and what works to prevent it -- especially among young people "aging out" of foster care and runaways not eligible for child welfare

services are now online. To view the entire article visit: [Youth Homelessness and the Child Welfare System](#).

[Return to resources](#) ↑

10. Youth Work Coalition Bulletin 4

Youth workers are a varied group, but one thing they often share is a notable absence of training and advancement opportunities. This Next Generation [Youth Work Coalition Bulletin 4](#) has the lowdown on new research by the Forum for Youth Investment and the National Afterschool Alliance, as well as an action agenda and tools for building a strong workforce of youth workers that is stable, prepared, supported and committed to the well-being and empowerment of young people. To get involved, contact Pam Garza at pam@nassembly.org.

[Return to resources](#) ↑

11. Improving the Child Welfare Workforce: Lessons Learned from Class Action Litigation

This report from the National Center for Youth Law and Children's Rights, Inc., examines the experiences of 12 jurisdictions following child welfare litigation settlements or consent decrees requiring workforce improvements -- and finds improvements in caseloads, training, and retention. The research includes recommendations based on interviews with child welfare agency representatives, judges, advocates, and more.

To view the entire report visit: www.childrensrights.org/site/PageServer?pagename=workforce_report.

[Return to resources](#) ↑

12. Medicaid Access for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

A new report finds that the cost of providing health care coverage to former foster youth is affordable. The study provides state policymakers with a "how to" guide on covering youth after leaving state custody. The report finds that since 1999, 17 states have enacted the "Chafee Option" to extend Medicaid to former foster youth up to age 21 and five are planning to do so. The study finds that the cost of providing such care is only \$110 to \$350 per month. To view the entire publication visit:

www.newwaystowork.org/publications/fosteryouth/MedicaidAccessforYouthAgingOutofFosterCareRpt.pdf.

[Return to resources](#) ↑

13. National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Teens get lots of advice from adults, but they usually aren't asked to offer their own. That's why the National Campaign asked teens growing up in foster care to tell us what they wanted to know about teen pregnancy prevention and what advice they would give to their peers. This handy, magazine-style brochure tells what teens have to say in their own words. You may download copies of *Our Story, Our Words: Youth Speak Out on Sex, Love, and Teen Pregnancy* at www.teenpregnancy.org or purchase copies [here](#).

If you work with foster parents, you may find [Ten Tips for Foster Parents](#) helpful. This brief, user-friendly guide offers some ideas to help foster parents strengthen their relationships with foster youth and how best to communicate about sex, love, and relationships. It reflects input from foster parents as well as practitioners who work with them.

[Return to Resources](#) ↑

14. Governor Expands Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Budget

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year includes good news for the over 4,000 youth who "age out" annually from California's foster care system when they turn 18 and are no longer eligible for services. It more than triples the State's investment in the Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Program (THP-Plus) from \$4.8 million to \$15.5 million. Additionally, it provides an \$11.9 augmentation for the current fiscal year. To view the THP-Plus Budget visit:

www.dss.cahwnet.gov/localassistanceest/2007/EstimatesMethodologies.pdf.

[Return to Resources](#) ↑

15. Guide for Media: Ten Recommendations for Journalists Interviewing Young People from Foster Care

FosterClub, the national network and advocate for young people in care, developed a guide that highlights ten recommendations for interviewing young people from foster care. To view the ten recommendations visit: www.newwaystowork.org/publications/fosteryouth/FC_Media.pdf.

[Return to Resources](#) ↑