



YTAT NEWSBLAST

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

June 1st, 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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Cross-System Collaboration & Partnerships

New Ways to Work partnered with the [California Institute of Mental Health](#) (CIMH) on March 27th to host a content conference call on the topic of [Cross-System Collaboration and Partnerships](#). The call was part of the CIMH Transition Age Youth Collaborative and the Youth Transition Action Team Initiative at New Ways to Work.

Using the nationally-recognized framework, [Elements of a Comprehensive Youth-Serving System](#), New Ways to Work discussed 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. Also featured was a facilitated discussion with practitioners from the following counties who shared information about their successful partnerships and the programs or products they created as a result.

- Orange County Partnership between Workforce & Mental Health
- Los Angeles Cross-System City & County Partnerships
- Shasta County Cross-System Partnerships & Youth Resource Fair

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2. Casey Family Programs Says Urgency Needed When Addressing Child Welfare Challenges

William C. Bell, President and Chief Executive Officer of Casey Family Programs, testified in front of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support to discuss ways to improve the lives of vulnerable children in America. He detailed seven specific challenge areas that must receive focused attention and resource investments in the near term. View a full copy of [Bell's testimony](#).

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3. Ready by 21 Hits the Air Waves

On the Iowa public radio show "The Exchange", Karen Pittman, director of the Forum for Youth Investment, shared information on the Ready by 21 approach and recent Children's Cabinet roundtable. She also announced the success of the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development, which has instilled the core ideas of Ready by 21 into the work of state and local Iowa agencies focusing on young people. You can [listen online](#). You can also read a [case study](#) highlighting the Ready by 21 work in Iowa.

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4. Coalition to Congress: Act Now to Improve Child Welfare

At a May 15 House Ways & Means Income Security and Family Support [Subcommittee hearing](#), a coalition of organizations called on Congress to renew its commitment to protect children. The full [recommendations](#) to Congress are posted on the Voices for America's Children site.

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5. Innovative Blended Funding

The County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services (the County), and the San Diego Workforce Partnership (Workforce Partnership) share a commitment to assisting current and former foster youth as they transition to independence. Therefore, to integrate programs, promote seamless service delivery, eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort, and maximize available resources, the County and SDWP are collaborating to issue a [joint Request For Proposals \(RFP\)](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

6. Foster Youth Immigration Issues Training

Date: June 8, 2007 (Sacramento, CA)

Reservations: PLEASE RSVP TO: Karen Grace-Kaho at 916-653-4296 or karen.grace-kaho@dss.ca.gov.
Space is limited and attendee names are required to be submitted to security.

Description: This training will present information on the Immigration issues that impact Foster Youth and Children, including, how you may be able to help a Foster Youth. We will also discuss information

about Special Immigrant Juvenile Status paperwork, and other forms of immigration relief. At the end of the meeting we hope to have the beginnings of a Handbook that you can use in working with Foster Youth with Immigration problems.

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7. Foster Youth Alliance Professional Development Training: CalWorks Training

Date: June 12th, 2007 (Oakland, CA)

Reservations: Melinda Clemmons at 510-428-9821 or email mclemmons@acfya.org.

Description: The next Foster Youth Alliance professional development training will focus on the topic of CalWorks Eligibility and Benefits Clarification. This training is a joint project of the Foster Youth Alliance, Seneca Center, and the Chabot FKCE. You may also view a complete listing of upcoming [FYA trainings](#). To RSVP for this training or for more information,

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8. Interdependent Living Summer Institute: Continuing the Conversation

Date: August 6-10, 2007 (U.C. Davis Campus)

Reservations: Nora Gerber: norajoanne.gerber@att.net.

Description: You are invited to participate in the Interdependent Living Summer Institute where you can help develop a vision for a new ILP Program. At this institute, we will have time for in-depth discussion, brainstorming, and problem solving on this topic.

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RESOURCES

9. The Casey Family Programs 20/20 Initiative

The Casey Family Programs [20/20 Initiative](#) aims to cut the number of children in foster care by 50 percent by 2020, improve education, mental health and employment support for children in care. (Scroll down on the [site](#) for this info.) Also: Casey Family Programs President William Bell describes the initiative in a May 11 *Philanthropy News Digest* commentary, "[Beyond Optimism: Success in Our Lifetime](#)."

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10. New Site: Education Leadership Policy Toolkit

Want to improve your school district? Use this [toolkit](#). Spin the wheel, and find real stories, lessons learned, and interviews covering eight key areas: Vision, Governance, Relationships, Culture, Human Development, Instruction, Evaluation, and Resource Allocation. Published by the Education Commission of the States and MetLife.

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11. Recommendations for Reauthorization of Title I of the Workforce Investment Act Adult and Youth Programs

These [recommendations](#) for reauthorization of Title I of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) focus on both the supply and demand sides of the labor market, in order to address the long-term needs of workers and employers in the new competitive economy. 7 pages

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12. Recommendations to Strengthen Title I of the Senate WIA Reauthorization Bill Passed by the 109th Congress

This paper focuses specifically on [recommendations](#) to strengthen the bipartisan Senate WIA bill that passed in the 109th Congress (HR 27 EAS, which incorporated S 1021), which the Senate may use as a starting point for a new bill. 13 pages

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13. Negotiating the Curves Toward Employment: A Guide About Youth Involved in the Foster Care System

Building upon the [National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability/Youth](#) organizing framework, [Guideposts for Success](#), which details what research says all youth, including youth with disabilities, need to successfully transition to adulthood, this publication applies the Guideposts to meeting the needs of youth in foster care with and without disabilities.

NCWD/Youth will soon be posting on its website a companion piece to the Guide, A Guide for Partnership Development: Blending and Braiding Funds to Serve Transition-Age Youth in Foster Care, which shows how the Guideposts for Success for Youth in Foster Care can be addressed under several pieces of legislation affecting youth in the foster care system. [Order this guide](#). [Download the entire guide in PDF](#) (36 pages, 3.51 MB). [Download the entire guide in MS Word](#) (45 pages, 336 KB) .

*Please note: This is a large document; download time will be longer for users with slower connections.

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14. College Matchmaking Online

Two new Web sites promise to help students find colleges that match their interests. Along with the [article](#) and an update of current industry events, you'll find a link to the EdFund Service of the Week.

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15. Educational Terms in Everyday Language

Education, like all professions, has a specialized vocabulary that parents and others may have a difficult time understanding. ASCD's online glossary, A Lexicon of Learning, provides clear definitions of educational terms in everyday language. View the [Lexicon of Learning](#).

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16. New Tool: "Graduation for All" Newsletter

The Intercultural Development Research Association has launched a monthly [e-newsletter](#) with information on national and local efforts to improve schools and graduation, and toolkits for action in schools and communities. In English and Spanish. You can subscribe [online](#).

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17. Ready by 21 Initiative

The Forum for Youth Investment believes the country can ensure that significantly more young people are [Ready by 21](#)[™] by encouraging alignment of ideas, resources and stake holders. As such, we deliberately look for opportunities to work with states and cities interested in seeing the forest (the overarching vision) and the trees (the specific policies and programs). We have found that the more decision makers take time to define the total set of child and youth outcomes the more it becomes clear that these outcomes are interlinked and cannot be achieved without coordination across systems, across policies, across programs.

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18. THP-Plus News

The THP-Plus Implementation Project now has a quarterly news bulletin which provides timely information about THP-Plus, California's only housing program targeting former foster youth. To sign up for this free bulletin, email Michele Byrnes at Michele@johnburtonfoundation.org.

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19. Legislative Updates

The Assembly Select Committee developed a [matrix](#) outlining legislative proposals related to child welfare issues that have been introduced by members of the Select Committee and are moving through both houses of the Legislature.

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20. Guidance on Dropout Prevention for Students with Disabilities

The National High School Center has released an issue brief, [Dropout Prevention for Students with Disabilities: A Critical Issue for State Education Agencies](#), providing guidance to states as they respond to requirements presented in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 in the area

of dropout prevention for students with disabilities. Considerations and recommendations for states in providing a consistent method for tracking dropout data for all students are also included.

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21. Young Families Initiative

Earlier this year, Healthy Teen Network launched a [Young Families Initiative](#) to promote the educational, financial, and professional success of young families and their children by targeting improvements in policy, research, and effective programming.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

22. Union Pacific Foundation Offers Funding for Community Programs

Organization: Union Pacific Foundation

Deadline: August 15, 2007

Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10007365/up>

Description: The foundation will dedicate the majority of these grants to help nonprofit organizations build their capacity, increase their impact, and operate more efficiently and effectively. The foundation will be particularly receptive to proposals that fall within the following categories: Health and Human Services; Community and Civic; Fine Arts. Visit the Union Pacific Web site for complete program guidelines, funding restrictions, and an online application form.

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23. National Child Welfare Leadership Institute

Organization: U.S. Administration for Children and Families

Deadline: July 2, 2007

Link: www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2007-ACF-ACYF-CT-0028.html

Description: To develop leaders among mid-level managers/administrators in public child welfare agencies to improve outcomes for children, youth and families. The amount of this grant is \$1.175 million (one cooperative agreement).

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24. Improving child welfare outcomes

Organization: U.S. Administration for Children and Families

Deadline: June 25

Link: www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2007-ACF-ACYF-CA-0023.html

Description: To demonstrate the implementation of the Comprehensive Family Assessment Guidelines through a series of actions. \$2 million will be awarded through five grants of around \$400,000 each.

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25. Focused Monitoring of Facilitated Districts

Organization: California Department of Education

Link: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fq/fo/profile.asp?id=963>

Description: Funds are available for local assistance grants to improve outcomes for students with disabilities and to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations governing special education. The California Department of Education (CDE) is expanding this capacity building model to eight additional sites.

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26. Are you making a difference in the lives of teens and/or young families?

Organization: Healthy Teen Network

Link: Outstanding Emerging Innovation Award.

Description: Healthy Teen Network invites you to submit your organization's program/services for consideration to be included in a new resource currently in development - Working with Young Families:

A Compendium of Promising Practices - as well as in nomination of the [Outstanding Emerging Innovation Award](#).

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