

# NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

## NEWS FLASH

January 2007

Welcome to the January issue of the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition's  
**NEWS FLASH**

If you would like to be removed from the **NEWS FLASH** list, please use the connection at the end of this issue to communicate with us.

### MESSAGE FROM SYLVIA RUIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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### MESSAGE FROM SYLVIA RUIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year from the Board of Directors and Staff at the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition.

On March 7, 2007 the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition will be hosting Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Day at the Roundhouse.

Please join us in advocating for increased funding to prevent teen births. Meet your legislator, exhibit your program – tables are first come, first serve. Please call Cathy at 505-254-8737.

Warm regards,

Sylvia Ruiz  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition

505-254-8737  
fax-505-254-8741  
Mil Gracias

## **NATIONAL RESOURCES**

### **1. New from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**

#### **National Campaign E-Gram**

#### **Terms of Engagement: How to Involve Parents in Programs to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**

*Terms of Engagement* offers practical advice on how to involve parents in programs to prevent teen pregnancy.

The publication identifies four common challenges for programs ---

1. reaching parents in the first place
2. motivating parents to participate and keeping them involved
3. knowing what to say to parents and how to say it
4. paying for programs

--- and provides corresponding strategies for addressing them.

[Download a Copy](#)

[Purchase a Copy/ Copies](#)

For more information for parents, we invite you to visit our newly redesigned [Parent Portal](#).

*This publication was made possible with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.*

#### **10 Tips for Foster Parents**

*10 Tips for Foster Parents* is a brief, user-friendly guide offering ideas to help foster parents strengthen their relationships with foster youth.

The guide also covers how best to communicate about sex, love, and relationships and reflects input from foster parents as well as practitioners who work with them.

[Download a Copy](#)

[Purchase a Copy/ Copies](#)

For more information and resources on foster care and teen pregnancy, please visit the Campaign's [Foster Care Initiative page](#).

## 2. New from Advocates for Youth

### **Rights. Respect. Responsibility. Condom Campaign**

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If you work with young people between the ages of 15-24, they could win \$500!  
Please forward the following message to the young people you know:



### **YOU COULD WIN \$500!**

If you are between the ages of 15-24, you could win \$500 (first prize)! Enter the Rights. Respect. Responsibility. Condom Campaign. It's a fun, creative way to learn about condoms.

And while you are working on your "winning" entry, read more about the war on condoms and send a letter to your Congressional representative supporting comprehensive sex education.

**Just go to <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/condom> to get started.**

And we are proud to announce the winners of the last condom campaign round:

<p><b>Stop. Drop.</b></p> <p><b>And Roll.</b></p>  <p>Advocates for Youth SEX, ETC.</p> <p><b>Respect yourself. Protect yourself.</b></p>	<p><b>Hardware Virus Protection</b></p>  <p>Advocates for Youth SEX, ETC.</p> <p><b>Respect yourself. Protect yourself.</b></p>	<p><b>Rubber Band</b></p>  <p>Advocates for Youth SEX, ETC.</p> <p><b>Respect yourself. Protect yourself.</b></p>
<p><b>FIRST PLACE</b> Jesse, age 17 Maryland</p>	<p><b>RUNNER-UP</b> Andi, age 18 Colorado</p>	<p><b>RUNNER-UP</b> Shelby, age 20 Texas</p>

**[ENTER TODAY!](#)**

### ***New Research: Nine out of ten Americans have sex before they are married***

A new study published in the journal Public Health Reports shows that the vast majority of

Americans have sex outside of marriage. Analysis of data from the [National Survey of Family Growth](#) shows that even among Americans born in the 1940's and those who remained abstinent in their teens, premarital sex is the norm.

These findings further call into question the federal government's massive financial commitment to abstinence-only-until-marriage programs for 12-29 year olds. The study's author, Dr. Lawrence Finer, recommends instead, "providing young people with the skills they need to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases once they become sexually active."

Read the full study here:

[http://www.publichealthreports.org/userfiles/122\\_1/12\\_PHR122-1\\_73-78.pdf](http://www.publichealthreports.org/userfiles/122_1/12_PHR122-1_73-78.pdf)

### **3. New from the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)**

#### **Out of Order? Factors Influencing the Sequence of Marriage and Childbirth Among Disadvantaged Americans**

**by Paula Roberts.** This brief explores the attitudinal, experiential, economic, and social contexts in which disadvantaged parents have children and decide to marry or not marry. It also discusses the public policy implications of research on this topic. (8 pages)

#### **Congress Should Take Action to Restore Flexibility Lost in 2006 Welfare Reauthorization and HHS Regulations**

**by Elizabeth Lower-Basch.** The 2006 TANF reauthorization substantially increased effective work participation rates on states, and it limited state flexibility to individualize work requirements. HHS's interim regulations implementing this law included narrow definitions of the countable work activities, definitions that further restrict state flexibility to use a range of effective work-related activities. This paper outlines a series of changes that Congress should make to restore flexibility and encourage states to allow low-income families to participate in a range of activities that will improve their self-sufficiency. (3 pages)

#### **Partnering to Promote Guardianship: The Federal Outlook**

**by Rutledge Q. Hutson.** This presentation provides an overview of the needs of children being raised by grandparents and other relatives because their parents are unable to do so. It highlights key provisions of several federal legislative proposals to address some of the unique needs of these families, and it offers an overview of the current federal policymaking environment. (34 pages)

#### **Audio Conference:**

#### **Opportunity At Work Audio Conference:**

#### **Getting the job quality picture right: What's the problem? What's the solution?**

Thursday, February 8 at 3 p.m. (EST). Speakers include:

*Jared Bernstein*, Director Living Standards Program, Economic Policy Institute  
*Anthony Carnevale*, Senior Fellow, National Center on Education and the Economy, and Education Center  
*Laura Dresser*, Associate Director, Center on Wisconsin Strategy  
*Evelyn Ganzglass*, Director of Workforce Development, Center for Law and Social Policy, moderator

There is strong evidence that those with more education do better in the labor market than those with less education. Yet, educational attainment is no guarantee of economic security, and greater investment in education alone cannot solve the problems faced by low-wage workers in today's labor market. Where should state and local policy makers and advocates place their priorities? How should they better coordinate workforce and economic development policies to expand opportunity and create good jobs? The first 75 registrants will participate in the LIVE call. Click [here](#) to register now!

### **Showcase Your Job Quality Innovation!**

All around the country, employers, unions, nonprofits and public agencies are taking action to improve job quality in the low-wage labor market. Through our new initiative, *Opportunity At Work*, CLASP wants to draw attention to these promising innovations and we need your help to find them. We have picked four topics and each month we will provide details on one. Please nominate innovations that you have underway, know about, or are a gleam in your eye.

For more information: [http://blog.clasp.org/opportunityatwork/2007/01/showcase\\_your\\_j.html](http://blog.clasp.org/opportunityatwork/2007/01/showcase_your_j.html)

## **4. New from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

### **February Training Promotes Mentor Recruitment**

On February 26-28, 2007, in Los Angeles, CA, OJJDP will host a [National Mentor Recruitment Training](#). The session will equip mentoring programs to explore new avenues for finding and recruiting mentors, particularly through faith- and community-based collaborations.

Keynote speakers include [Alison Fritz](#), White House Liaison and Director, Faith and Community Based Initiatives, Corporation for National and Community Service; [Dr. Susan Weinberger](#), President, Mentoring Consulting Group; [Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.](#), Director, Amachi Program, and [Lynn Ziegenfuss](#), Mentor Youth Project Director, National Network of Youth Ministries.

The registration deadline is February 16, 2007.

Resources:

For further information about the Mentor Recruitment Training and to register online, visit [www.mentoryouth.com/training](http://www.mentoryouth.com/training) or call 1-877-500-MENTOR.

## **Grants Support Maximizing Protective Factors Against Youth Violence**

The [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) is soliciting investigator-initiated researchers to conduct secondary analyses of existing data to identify potentially modifiable protective factors against youth violence.

The research will inform the development of youth violence prevention programs and policies by identifying promising protective factors that reduce the likelihood of violence in the lives of young people. Approximately \$400,000 is expected to be available.

The application deadline is February 28, 2007.

Resources:

To obtain further information about this funding opportunity, including an application form, visit <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?opId=11352&mode=VIEW>.

## **5. New From Center for Health Training**

### ***Nearly 30 Years of Service!***

The [Center for Health Training \(CHT\)](#) provides training, technical assistance, and support to organizations and programs that deliver health care and related services to underserved populations, especially women and children. In so doing, CHT serves its clients by improving the quality and effectiveness of these programs.

Recognized for its expertise nationwide, CHT provides customized assistance to administrators, managers, directors, clinicians, and patient and community educators who work in a variety of health and human service settings.

Founded in 1977, CHT is a non-profit corporation with its main office in **Oakland, California**, and regional offices in **Austin, Texas**, and **Seattle, Washington**.

### **UPCOMING TRAININGS**

March 21-23, 2007 Portland, OR

#### **RH2007 Reproductive Health Conference**

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Reproductive Health Conference will be held in beautiful, downtown Portland, Oregon on March 21-23, 2007. In addition, we have scheduled three exciting pre-conference workshops on Monday and Tuesday, March 19 & 20.

Download a complete PDF version of the brochure ([RH2007 brochure](#)) or just the registration form ([RH2007 registration](#)).

New Date TBA Portland, OR

#### **Risk Reduction: Assessing risk and Clients' Readiness for Change**

This one-day workshop focuses on the "Stages of Change" theory that identifies the stages

through which people move as they work to change behavior. This training is designed to assist health care providers in assessing their clients' readiness for change as well as offer strategies for appropriate risk reduction interventions.

*This session was originally scheduled for December 1. Check back for a new date.*

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Region VI Chlamydia Challenge Newsletter New Winter 2007 Issue!**

This is a biannual publication of the DHHS Region VI Infertility Prevention Project. The newsletter, aimed at clinicians, counselors, legislators, STD program administrators, laboratory staff and other public health providers, contains feature articles on issues relating to Chlamydia and gonorrhea screening and treatment, at risk populations, counseling technology and clinical services. Also included are Region VI Chlamydia prevalence data, websites of interest, clinical questions and answers, upcoming meeting dates and a listing of the five states membership on the project.

[Chlamydia Challenge Newsletter](#)

## **6. New From Faces and Voices of Recovery**

For too long those most affected by the disease of addiction have been absent from the public policy debate. **Faces & Voices of Recovery** is a national campaign of individuals and organizations joining together with a united voice to advocate for public action to deliver the power, possibility and proof of recovery. Faces & Voices of Recovery is **governed by a diverse group of recovery advocates** from around the country and supports local recovery advocacy by increasing access to research, policy, organizing and technical support; facilitating relationships among local and regional groups; improving access to policymakers and the media; and providing a national rallying point for recovery advocates.

### **Mark your calendar for our audio/web conferences in 2007**

Faces & Voices will be hosting a series of one-hour recovery advocacy audio/web conferences in 2007. All audio conferences will be held on Saturdays at 1:00 pm Eastern. Details to follow. Here are the topics for the series:

February 3: Editorial Boards – Media Outreach Nuts and Bolts

February 24: Restoring Rights for People with Drug Convictions

March 24: Peer Recovery Support Services

April 21: Recovery as Prevention

The audio conferences will be available live, with call-in opportunities for participants from around the country and then available online afterwards so that recovery advocates can access them for downloading or listening.

The website is [www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org)

*Each month the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition provides a review of the research and policy reports distributed by National and Local Resources for your information only. The information, and comments expressed in this News Flash as well as any of the information distributed do not necessarily reflect the position of the NMTPC or its funders. Therefore, NMTPC assumes no responsibility for the concepts expressed in this [NEWS FLASH](#).*

## **LOCAL RESOURCES**

### **Evaluation of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program 2005-2006**

#### **Summary Findings and Recommendations**

The bulleted points below summarize findings from the 2005-2006 evaluation of projects funded by the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program (APP) of the Family Planning Program, New Mexico Department of Health. The findings are based on pre- and post surveys of APP projects' participants and comparison students. A list of recommendations follows the findings.

By post-survey, **APP participants --** in contrast to comparison students – were:

- More likely to have been exposed to important pregnancy prevention topics
- More likely to have adopted attitudes that favored postponing childbearing
- Less likely to have had vaginal sexual intercourse
- Less likely to have had oral sex
- Less likely to have used no method or a less effective method of birth control
- More likely to have used contraception every time they had sex in the last 6 months.
- More likely to know where to get condoms and other birth control methods
- Less likely to have been pregnant
- More likely to report resiliency behaviors and less likely to report risky behaviors

**Key findings for APP participants and comparison students** at post-survey:

- Most teens reported that they *had not ever had sex* (76% of participants and 68% of comparison students).
- Minority (21-26%) but not unimportant percentage of teens initiated sex at a young age, under 13.
- Very small percentages of teens (3-5%) reported that they have ever been forced to have sex. Some of these teens do not consider that they have ever had sex.
- Minority of teens (13-17%) have engaged in two potentially risky behaviors at the same time: drinking/using drugs and having sex.
- Oral sex in the absence of vaginal sex is rare (8%).
- Large minority of teens (41-43%) reported ever having 2 or more partners.
- Some 25-26% of teens, who had ever had sex, also reported that they did not have sexual intercourse in the last 6 months.
- Most teens have reported using some method of birth control at last sex to prevent pregnancy (86% of participants and 89% of comparison students).
- Of students reporting that they had sex in the last 6 months, 51% of participants and

57% of comparison students said they did not use birth control every time.

- One common reason for not using birth control was: “Didn’t know I was going to have sex so we didn’t use anything.”
- Few teens reported having been pregnant: only 7 (1.3%) of APP participants and 7 (2.6%) of comparison students. Looking at just the students who reported they were sexually active, 5.5% of APP participants and 8.2% of comparison students reported having been pregnant.

### **Conclusions**

- APP projects in New Mexico appear to have had a positive effect on teens’
  - Attitudes toward delaying sex and childbearing,
  - Sexual and childbearing behavior, and
  - Contraceptive knowledge and behavior.
- APP projects appear to have strengthened resiliency behaviors of teens and protected them against risky behaviors.

### **Recommendations**

1. NM DOH/FPP should continue to support the five APP projects based on the evaluation results for the 2005-2006 school year.
2. APP projects should include some discussion of “forced sex” in their curricula and provide information on available counseling services given that some teens have had such an experience.
3. While most comprehensive sex education curricula include discussion of risky behaviors such as drinking alcohol and drug use, APP projects should add this topic to their discussions if it is not already incorporated.
4. APP projects should address risks associated with multiple sexual partners if they are not already doing so.
5. APP projects should continue to provide information on birth control methods as well as the importance of consistent use of condoms and birth control (i.e. use every time) to prevent sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) and pregnancy.
6. APP projects should continue providing comprehensive sex education including contraception so that all teens will be prepared for unanticipated sexual experiences and will understand their responsibility in preventing STDs and pregnancy.
7. As recommended in 2004-2005, parents, grandparents, schools, communities, the NM Teen Pregnancy Coalition, and DOH/FPP should continue efforts to promote a culture in New Mexico that encourages teens to wait to have sex, to prevent pregnancy and STDs, and wait to have children.
8. Staff of the APP projects and the APP evaluators need to give greater attention to ensuring that respondents complete the identification code correctly.
9. Staff of the APP projects need to give greater attention to ensure that students absent on the days that surveys are administered have an opportunity to complete the survey.

## **Dona Ana Adolescent Pregnancy Project**

On November of 2006 the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition was contracted by the Health and Human Services Department of Doña Ana County to assist the alliance of local agencies (HHS Alliance) in finding or developing prevention curriculum that can be implemented in the area. As requested by Silvia Sierra, Director, a literature review of best practices curriculum has been compiled and additional information from Border States including Mexico is being gathered to insure that all strategies are considered. GIS Mapping, or geographical information is also being gathered so as to determine where implementation of the program can be initiated effectively. Demographic information as to poverty, culture and other pertinent information is also being collected to help in selecting the best approach to help reduce teen pregnancy. The goal is for the Alliance to select a strategy and that it is presented to the community for evaluation at a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Summit scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>. The summit will serve to evaluate the program or programs and inform the community of a plan that eventually will be implemented throughout the county. A minimum of 100 youth, 50 providers, and 75 parents are being recruited to attend this all important summit that will determine how teen issues will be managed to effectively reduce teen pregnancy and the costs associated with it. This is a bold and needed step being taken by Doña County Commissioners and the Health and Human Services staff and the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition is proud to be able to contribute to this effort.

Ramon Arroyos  
Prevention Director  
Dona Ana Adolescent Pregnancy Project  
New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition  
1190 Foster St.  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001  
505-556-1559

## **The Life Link**

***Recharge your prevention batteries and take advantage of this month's free workshops!:***

### **February 8**

#### **Compassionate Communication™: A Tool for More Effective Professional Interactions**

Effective Communication is at the source of all productive relationships. Preventionists who possess effective communication skills can be instrumental in bringing about positive change within their agency, prevention program and community.

In this workshop, you will learn the fundamentals of Nonviolent Communication™, a simple, powerful and practical process useful in all interactions to create greater clarity, understanding, and cooperation. You will learn to identify the roots of misunderstanding and effectively address them without creating further misunderstanding or antagonism. You will increase your accuracy in identifying what prevents people from making choices that are less costly and less likely to lead to getting what they really want.

In this workshop, through theory and practice, you will learn:

Listening skills and nonjudgmental assertive honesty.

Communication that fosters mutual understanding.

How to evaluate situations that inspire people to make changes without stimulating distrust or resentment.

How to create and sustain a deep sense of community in your workplace

Facilitator: Jorge Rubio, Certified Trainer in Nonviolent Communication TM

9 am – 5 pm • Albuquerque

## **February 9**

### **Demystifying Anger and Conflict**

Anger and conflict can lead to a breakdown of desired prevention outcomes within agencies, coalitions and communities. In this workshop you will learn assertive alternatives to the language of blame, judgment, demands and coercion, and learn to stimulate cooperation instead of resistance. You will learn to identify the inherent harmony in conflictual interactions through the practice of the techniques of Nonviolent Communication™.

In this workshop, you will:

- Use real examples to practice how to get the outcome you want
- Learn how to remove emotional obstacles that prevent productive discussions and actions
- Learn language that awakens good will and increases the motivation to cooperate

Facilitator: Jorge Rubio, Certified Trainer in Nonviolent Communication TM

9 am – 5 pm • Albuquerque

## **February 14**

### **Strategic Prevention Framework: Step 2 – Capacity Training**

This course focuses on developing the skills and knowledge needed to mobilize the community and build capacity to address the needs identified during the assessment phase. Activities provide strategies for determining community resources and gaps, and community readiness.

Facilitator: Christina Lopez

9 am – 4:30pm • Albuquerque

## **February 22-23**

### **Substances of Abuse: The Overview (ATODA)**

During this two-day course, participants will be introduced to substances of abuse according to their drug classification: narcotics, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, and steroids.

Participants will learn:

- The history of drug use and abuse in the United States
- About the neurological process of addiction including how drugs mimic the brain's natural chemicals, the brain's reward system, and how addiction is distinguished if from tolerance and dependence
- About individual substances of abuse, including their drug classification, background information, forms of administration, street names, and side effects.

Facilitator: James Gilson, MA

9 am – 5 pm • Farmington

### **TO REGISTER:**

To download the Life Link/BHSD brochure and registration form for this semester, including descriptions of this month's offerings, please go to :

<http://thelifelink.org/prevention.htm>. Print pages 10 and 11 for the registration form.

For more information, please contact Laura Feldberg at 505-438-0010 x31 or [lfeldberg@thelifelink.org](mailto:lfeldberg@thelifelink.org)

### **The Life Link is an Associate RADAR site**

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### **Message from the Young Fathers' Project**

The New Mexico Young Fathers Project announces the addition of two new staff. Gary Madrid has joined the staff in Las Cruces, and Carlos Balladares is the new staff member in Santa Fe.

**Gary Madrid** was born and raised in Las Cruces, NM. He received a Bachelors degree in Business Management from New Mexico State University in 1996. Gary began working in the male involvement field in the year 2000. He has found that working with young fathers has opened and extended his knowledge about parenting, not only as a facilitator, but as a father as well.

**Carlos Balladares** is 24 years old and has many goals in his life at this time. He was born in San Jose Costa Rica, but raised in Santa Fe, NM. He became a young father at the age of 17. During that time he faced many challenges growing up as a young father. One of the biggest challenges he has had to face is coping with the stress that comes with being a young father, but he has been blessed over the years.

Carlos graduated from Capital High School and recently completed his Associates Degree in Human Services. One of his goals is to keep pursuing his education. He believes that educating yourself is important in life. When he started the Young Fathers Project he was unsure of his place there, but knew that he wanted to help young fathers.

For Carlos, the Young Fathers Project has improved his life and has helped him find out who he is. One of the important things he wants to do at the Young Fathers Project is help young fathers understand how important it is to be a part of your family and child's life. He wants to help young fathers also understand how to make the right choices in life and show them that a good education is essential in their life. He is glad to have a job that brings meaning to his life and others. He believes god will keep blessing him to help these young fathers in the future.

For information on the Young Fathers' Project please call:

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Albuquerque  
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(505) 254-8741 Fax

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Santa Fe Site Coordinator  
(505) 310-0310

Carlos Balladares  
Santa Fe Site Case Manager  
(505) 930-4578

Ramon Arroyos  
Las Cruces Site Coordinator  
(505) 556-1559

Gary Madrid  
Las Cruces Site Case Manager  
(505) 480-2781

Gilbert Ramirez, MSW  
Community Group Facilitator  
Sequoyah Adolescent Treatment Center  
Psycho Educational Male and Young Father group  
(505) 254-8737

Father and Family Center  
Clinical Oversight  
(505) 266-6334

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