

NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

NEWS FLASH

September 2006

Welcome to the September 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.

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MESSAGE FROM SYLVIA RUIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NMTPC has had a busy month! We are pleased and honored to welcome Leticia Serecerez-Murphy to our Board of Directors! Leticia comes to NMTPC with experience as a Health Education Coordinator for La Clinica de Familia – Healthy Start Program in Las Cruces.

Congratulations to Nina Tsethlikia, our new Board President! Nina is an RN from Cibola County who has served on our board for many years. Her contributions over the years have been invaluable! We look forward to an exciting year with Nina as President of our Board.

We also want to offer our sincerest gratitude to outgoing board president Dave Breault. Dave

has served on our board for about 8 years! His contributions to our organization will continue to impact generations to come!

Good news according to the KIDS COUNT data recently released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation...teen pregnancy is at a recent low in the United States.

HOWEVER...

New Mexico continues to experience over 4,500 births to teens every year. The numbers sadly still show a disturbing disparity by race.

Teen Pregnancy is by far highest in Hispanic/Latino populations. Not surprisingly Hispanics also experience high rates of poverty and low high school graduation rates. What's not so obvious is: poverty is not just a result of adolescent pregnancy; it's also a direct cause.

Please, consider becoming a member of the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition so that we can continue to impact generations to come.

JOIN TODAY!

NATIONAL RESOURCES

1. New from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

National Campaign E-Gram

Science Says #26 Now Available for Download

Despite the fact that adolescence is commonly a period of robust health, teen boys have particularly low rates of primary care use. As a result, many teen boys do not form the effective patterns of behavior that will guarantee them a healthy future.

Using data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, the National Campaign's latest Science Says issue brief Adolescent Boys' Use of Health Services explores this issue.

General Hospital Deals With Teen Pregnancy

Last month on General Hospital, 18-year old Lulu Spencer revealed that she became pregnant after losing her virginity to Dillon Quartermaine. Like most teens, Lulu didn't think it would happen to her.

Keep following Lulu's story on General Hospital each weekday at 3 PM ET on ABC to see how her pregnancy affects her family and her relationships. For more, visit: www.ABC.com

The Real Truth Available in Paperback

The Real Truth About Teens & Sex, written by former Seventeen magazine editor Sabrina Weill, is now available in paperback. The book contains exclusive results from a nationwide survey conducted by the National Campaign.

Campaign Director, Sarah Brown, says of the book: "By separating hype from reality, this book provides parents with a snapshot of what teens are really thinking and - doing."

The Real Truth About Teens & Sex is available in bookstores and online.

2. New from Advocates for Youth

FDA PLACES AN UNDUE BURDEN ON YOUNG WOMEN Age Restriction for Plan B Over-the-Counter Not Based on Science

On August 24, 2006, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved over the counter (OTC) status for Plan B emergency contraception for women 18 years and older. The decision leaves young women 17 and under with the extra burden of obtaining a prescription when time is of the utmost importance.

"We applaud the FDA for finally making a decision after nearly three years of stalling," said James Wagoner, President of Advocates for Youth, "but we are gravely concerned that, once again, politics, rather than science, is at play and the most vulnerable women--young women--will suffer."

To read the full press release, please visit:

www.advocatesforyouth.org/news/press/082406.htm

2005 Results of Sexual Behavior Survey Released: Improvements in Teen Sexual Risk Behavior Flatline

On August 10th, the CDC released in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), an analysis of the latest survey on sexual behaviors of high school students (grades 9 through 12) from 1991 to 2005. The report, "Trends in HIV-Related Risk Behaviors Among High School Students - United States, 1991-2005," found that much-touted improvements in adolescent sexual risk-taking behavior actually took place from 1991 to 1999, and that fewer additional improvements occurred after 2000.

To read the full press release, please visit:

www.advocatesforyouth.org/news/press/081006.htm

Advocates for Youth Attends the XVI AIDS Conference in Toronto

Advocates for Youth attended its 3rd International AIDS Conference this year in Toronto, Canada. Advocates staff were heavily involved in planning activities for the both the Toronto YouthForce Pre-Conference (August 9-12), and youth activities for the main Conference (August 13-18).

The staff and youth activists at Advocates were on the forefront of addressing issues pertaining to youth and HIV at the conference. You can read blogs by Naina, Beth, Kayley, and Mimi at RH Reality Check, MTV's Staying Alive site and TomPaine.com.

For news on the conference, please visit: www.advocatesforyouth.org/aids2006.htm

Job Opening at Advocates! Program Coordinator, GLBT Initiatives

The Program Coordinator for GLBT Initiatives will expand Advocates' work on GLBT youth issues and sexual health. Activities include conducting trainings, workshops, and presentations to national, state, and local audiences; providing technical assistance; collecting information and preparing materials; developing resources on ongoing and "model" projects, particularly those focusing on African American/black and Latino/Hispanic youth; maintaining an internet intervention for GLBT youth and youth service providers; and recruiting, training, and supervising an online peer education program.

To read the full job description, please visit:
www.advocatesforyouth.org/about/employment.htm#glbt

New Publications at Advocates!

In preparation for the XVI International AIDS Conference, Advocates for Youth completed three new publications: a discussion of PEPFAR, information about the new PATHWAY Act, and a report on the social conservatives' war on condoms. You can download the materials by clicking on the following:

Policy Brief on the ABC Strategy for HIV Prevention
www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/policybrief/pbabc.htm

The Facts: The Protection Against Transmission of HIV for Women and Youth
(PATHWAY) Act of 2006
www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fspathway.htm

Policy Brief on the War on Condoms
www.advocatesforyouth.org/aids2006/policy_brief.htm

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3. New from the Center for Law and Social Policy

Comments to the Children's Bureau, ACF on the Proposed Rule to Implement the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)
by Tiffany Conway and Rutledge Hutson. These are CLASP's official comments to ACF

on the proposed rule to implement the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), published in the Federal Register on July 14, 2006. These rules implemented the data collection requirements, of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. (4 pages)

Head Start Participants, Programs, Families, and Staff in 2005

by Katie Hamm. This fact sheet reviews the 2005 Program Information Report (PIR) data for all Head Start programs, including preschool, Early Head Start, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, and American Indian and Alaskan Native programs. Data show that while Head Start helped more families access social services in 2005, the number of children served decreased. In addition, Head Start teacher education levels continued to rise, while salaries remained stagnant. (2 pages)

Child Care and Development Block Grant Participation in 2005

by Hannah Matthews. This fact sheet provides a snapshot of Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) participation in 2005, noting the great variability in child care assistance programs among states. CCDBG provides child care assistance for low-income working families. In 2005, CCDBG served a monthly average of 1.78 million children. While 30 states increased the number of children served, 20 states and the District of Columbia served fewer children in 2005 than in 2004. Overall, the number of children receiving CCDBG-funded assistance nationally has stayed relatively flat since 2000. This fact sheet reviews data including the ages of children receiving assistance, the types of child care settings used, and the reasons families receive assistance. (2 pages)

Targeting Poverty: Aim at a Bull's Eye

by Jodie Levin-Epstein and Webb Lyons. Forty years after the war on poverty and a year after Katrina struck, commitments to tackle poverty are beginning to come back onto political and policy agendas. The report identifies efforts around the nation to set poverty targets -- numerical goals and timelines -- for the reduction or elimination of poverty. For example: In California, a 2006 bill calls for child poverty to be eliminated by 2026; in Connecticut, state law already establishes that child poverty is to be reduced by 50 percent by 2014. Among the reasons why poverty may be gaining attention is the increasing concern among many Americans that at some point they and their families may experience poverty. These and other issues are explored. (15 pages)

More than Meets the Eye: Head Start Programs, Participants, Families, and Staff in 2005

by Katie Hamm. This policy brief examines the latest data from the Program Information Reports (PIR) that all Head Start programs must submit to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2005, Head Start served fewer children than in previous years. At the same time, PIR data show that Head Start is increasingly a provider of last resort for low-income families. Despite a decrease in the number of families served, there was an increase in the number of families accessing an array of services through Head Start, including services for substance abuse, child abuse or neglect, mental health, and English as a Second Language courses. As in previous years, teacher education levels increased, but salaries remained stagnant. (8 pages)

Early Head Start Participants, Programs, Families, and Staff in 2005

by Katie Hamm. This fact sheet reviews the 2005 Program Information Reports (PIR) data for the Early Head Start program, which serves children under age 3 and pregnant women. In 2005, Early Head Start continued to provide vital services to a diverse group of low-income children and families, most of which included at least one working parent. Most children received medical, dental, and disability screenings and follow-up services when necessary.

Families also accessed services at high rates; 80 percent of families accessed at least one social service. However, just 2.5 percent of eligible children receive Early Head Start services. (2 pages)

Realistic Child Support Policies that Support Successful Re-entry

by Vicki Turetsky. These slides describe 8 child support strategies to improve employment and long-term child support outcomes for parents leaving prison. (28 pages)

Comments to HHS on the TANF Interim Final Rule

by Elizabeth Lower-Basch, Rutledge Hutson, Amy-Ellen Duke, and Julie Strawn. These are CLASP's official comments to ACF on the interim final rule published in the Federal Register on June 29, 2006. These regulations implemented changes to TANF made as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. (41 pages)

Comments to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Medicaid Citizenship Documentation Interim Final Rule

by Rutledge Hutson. This document contains CLASP's official comments to CMS on the interim final rule published in the federal register on July 12, 2006. The regulations implement the citizenship documentation requirements of Section 6036 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. (6 pages)

Job Announcement

CLASP seeks a Workforce Development Research Assistant, to support members of the Workforce Development team by working on a range of research projects that will require: gathering and analyzing academic research, statistical data, and state policy information; participating in and summarizing interviews with state policy makers; conducting extensive web-based research; developing written and graphic presentations of research; and assisting in production of CLASP reports. For a detailed list of job responsibilities, qualifications, and application instructions, please visit the CLASP job listings page.

[4. New From the National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

West Virginia's State Plan Amendment

On May 3rd, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved West Virginia's request to modify its Medicaid benefit package for certain enrollees. The West Virginia State Plan Amendment (allowed for under the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and not as comprehensive as a waiver), will provide enrollees with

- a basic plan, which includes all federal and state mandatory services, or
- an enhanced plan that offers additional health care services to members who elect to sign, and comply with, a member agreement.

The agreement outlines member rights and responsibilities. Members who chose to sign the agreement must agree to several conditions, including:

- Going to a medical home for check-ups;
- Arriving on time for check-up appointments; and,
- Using the hospital emergency room for emergencies only.

In exchange for signing the member agreement, these individuals will receive a richer package

of benefits. For example, under the enhanced benefit plan, adults will have coverage for chiropractic services, cardiac rehabilitation, stop-smoking programs, diabetes care, emergency dental services and limited chemical dependency and mental health services—all services not covered under the basic plan.

The HMO or medical home will monitor the extent to which members are complying with their responsibilities. Remaining in the enhanced category requires compliance with the following four responsibilities:

1. Screenings as directed by the health care provider
2. Adhering to health improvement programs as directed by their provider
3. Keeping appointments
4. Medication compliance

If the member does not comply, they will be moved to the basic benefit plan. (Members will have an opportunity to appeal this decision.) After one year in the basic plan, enrollees will have an opportunity to sign the member agreement and re-enroll in the Enhanced Plan. In other words, there will be movement between the benefit packages, and this will be determined by member compliance as well as a member's decision to sign the agreement.

The plan will be phased in gradually throughout the state, and eventually operate statewide for eligible members—who include healthy children and healthy adults on Medicaid. In addition to the specified services, enrollees will receive wrap-around or additional benefits for people under age 19 to guarantee that early and period screening, diagnostic and treatment services are provided when medically necessary. The State Plan Amendment will be implemented on July 1, 2006.

From: www.ncsl.org/programs/health/wvmedicaid.htm

5. New from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

ABA Launches Youth at Risk Initiative

The newly installed president of the American Bar Association (ABA), Karen Mathis, has announced an initiative intended to help youth at risk. Under the initiative, the Commission on Youth at Risk will address such issues as:

- finding better ways to serve juvenile "status offenders," such as school truants, runaways, and youth in conflict with their parents, and addressing the disproportionate custodial detention of girls who fall into these categories.
- meeting the needs of those youth who, when they turn 18 or 19, are "aged out" of foster care or juvenile justice systems and may become ineligible for needed services.
- assuring more meaningful participation by youth in the court proceedings affecting them.
- enhancing access by teens and their families to "evidence-based" services within their community, focused on preventing involvement with juvenile and criminal justice systems and aiding teens with emotional, behavioral, or other mental health issues.
- better supporting teens living in chaotic and violent homes and youth who are going through high-conflict family breakup.
- improving how different legal and court interventions affect youth "crossing over" from one category of systemic label (e.g., abused and neglected child) to another label (e.g.,

delinquent child or status offender).

Resources:

To obtain further information about the ABA's Youth at Risk Initiative, visit www.abanet.org/initiatives/youthatrisk/

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice.

6. New from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Education Announcement from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

LAUSD Announces New Investment to Help Improve Math Instruction, Strengthen Ongoing Efforts to Prepare All Students for Success

LOS ANGELES -- The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) announced today that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will invest \$1.3 million to support improvements in teaching Algebra and other college-prep courses to help all students graduate ready for postsecondary success. Today's announcement builds on a prior investment of approximately \$1 million from the James Irvine and William and Flora Hewlett Foundations, and a commitment of \$2.3 million by LAUSD to improve math instruction in pilot schools throughout the district.

To read the full announcement please visit:

www.gatesfoundation.org/UnitedStates/Education/TransformingHighSchools/Districts/Announcements/Announce-060914a.htm

New National and Local Investments To Support Kansas City Regional Education Initiative

Kansas City, Mo. -- The Kansas City, Kansas (KCKPS) and Kansas City, Missouri (KCMSD) School Districts today announced new national and local funding to strengthen a regional partnership committed to ensuring that over 8,000 students in secondary schools receive a high-quality education that will prepare them for college and careers.

To read the full announcement please visit:

www.gatesfoundation.org/UnitedStates/Education/TransformingHighSchools/Districts/Announcements/Announce-060914.htm

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (www.gatesfoundation.org)

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to reduce inequities and improve lives around the world. In developing countries, it focuses on improving health, reducing extreme poverty, and increasing access to technology in public libraries. In the United States, the foundation seeks to ensure that all people have access to a great education and to technology in public libraries. In its local region, it focuses on improving the lives of low-income families. Based in Seattle, the foundation is led by CEO Patty Stonesifer and Co-chairs William H. Gates Sr., Bill Gates, and Melinda French Gates.

LOCAL RESOURCES

From New Mexico Voices for Children

Water, Water Everywhere...

It was one year ago this week that the nation watched in shock as stunning poverty, drawn so clearly along racial lines, was uncovered by the winds and water of Hurricane Katrina. As we gathered around our televisions, we also watched in anger as our government failed to make rescuing the victims of this disaster a national priority.

New Mexico is facing its own disaster, albeit one that moves more slowly than a hurricane and does not have the same sense of life-or-death immediacy. It is deadly, nonetheless. We're not referring to the flooding many of us have experienced in our own communities and homes over the past several weeks. We're talking about the health and well-being of New Mexico's children.

New Mexico's children have long suffered from a statewide drought of services and opportunities. The state's investment in high quality early education, for example, falls far short of making this critical service accessible to everyone. Auto-closure policies have made it more difficult for parents to maintain their children's Medicaid coverage. And outdated eligibility requirements mean working families face a huge cliff between qualifying for public assistance and earning enough income to be independent of the need for it.

New Mexico Voices for Children has worked hard over the past 19 years to ease this drought. We concentrate on shaping public policies so they reflect and support our four core values: human rights, economic justice, healthy communities and civic participation. While we've enjoyed a great number of victories, our work is far from done.

Your financial support makes our continued work possible. That's why we've started our Let It Rain! campaign. Please help us fill the rain barrel so we can work toward ending the drought.

We know you're busy, so we've made supporting Voices as easy as possible. By clicking on the link below, you can set up your credit card account for an automatic monthly charge to be sent to us. Even a modest monthly contribution makes a big difference.

Your support is crucial to us, especially as we have just begun a new fiscal year. Your gift now will keep us in the fight to end the drought for our state's most valuable and vulnerable resource: our children.

Thank You!

Where Do They Stand?

The impending election begs the question: where do your congressional representatives stand on the issues that are important to you?

The folks at Project Vote Smart asked every candidate in the November election, from the national- to state-level offices, to fill out their National Political Awareness Test (NPAT). Unfortunately, not one of our congressional incumbents took the time to do so. Most of their

challengers, however, did.

Click on the link below to see what the candidates have to say about a whole host of issues, then follow the links to email those who did not take the NPAT and urge them to do so:

www.vote-smart.org/election_congress_state.php?criteria=NM

Employment Opportunity

The following information was made available to NMTPC to be published in the September News Flash. The employment advertisement expired September 18, but the NNSA received very few applications and may still have positions available.

The National Nuclear Security Administration in Albuquerque, NM announces employment opportunities in the Student Career Employment Program. Applications can be submitted for the Student Career Employment Program positions listed below:

- Vacancy: 06-0001-SCEP, 2 positions, Student Trainee (Business & Industry), GS-1199-2/3/4/5
- Vacancy: 06-0002-SCEP, 1 position, Student Trainee (HR Mgt), GS-0299-2/3/4/5
- Vacancy: 06-0003-SCEP, 1 position, Student Trainee (Information & Arts), GS-1099-2/3/4/5
- Vacancy: 06-0004-SCEP, 1 position, Student Trainee (Engineer & Architecture), GS-0899-2/3/4/5
- Vacancy: 06-0005-SCEP, 1 position, Student Trainee (Accounting & Budget), GS-0599-2/3/4/5
- Vacancy: 06-0007-SCEP, 1 position, Student Trainee (Legal), GS-0999- 7

Area of Consideration (Who May Apply): Applications accepted from all sources. You do not need to be a current or former federal employee to apply. You must be at least 18 years of age and a US Citizen to apply. Student-Trainees are hired under Excepted Service appointments.

You must complete specific coursework requirements as a condition of a Student Career Experience Program appointment.

NNSA would like to get some applicants with qualified DISABILITIES. If they meet the requirements and have the certification, persons with disabilities can be hired right off the street.

Please send to anyone you think may be interested.
For more information, please open the attachments.

NOTE: Incomplete packages will not be considered.

06-0001-SCEP Job Announcement.doc 06-0002-SCEP Job Announcement.doc 06-0003-SCEP Job Announcement.doc 06-0004-SCEP Job Announcement.doc 06-0005-SCEP Job Announcement.doc 06-0007-SCEP Job Announcement.doc

mailto:NNSACAST@nnsa.doe.gov

Save The Date for these Local Events

ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE – 2006 Workshops in NM

Health Policy And Advocacy Training

Announcing the upcoming Health Policy and Advocacy training conducted by the Alliance for Justice in September 2006. The training will be offered for nonprofits in both northern and southern New Mexico:

Santa Fe, Tuesday, September 26, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, location TBA
Las Cruces, Thursday, September 28, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, location TBA

The Alliance for Justice is a national association of environmental, civil rights, mental health, women's, children's and consumer advocacy organizations. Since its inception in 1979, the Alliance has worked to advance the cause of justice for all Americans, strengthen the public interest community's ability to influence public policy, and foster the next generation of advocates. The Nonprofit Advocacy Project assists nonprofit organizations in this area through technical assistance workshops, and a wealth of tools and information. For more information on the Alliance, visit www.allianceforjustice.org.

Nonprofits are becoming increasingly aware of the need to engage directly in advocacy as part of their mission. For many organizations, this awareness is accompanied by anxiety about how to embark on an advocacy campaign. This workshop will help organizations focus their activities effectively and efficiently. In addition, the training will provide participants with information on advocacy rules for nonprofits (types of lobbying that 501(c)3 organizations can do, the 501(h) election, and exceptions to lobbying).

This event is being brought to you by Con Alma Health Foundation in partnership with:

- Health Action New Mexico
- Health Care for All Campaign
- Health Security for New Mexico
- New Mexico Community Foundation
- NM Forum for Youth in Community
- NM Public Health Association
- NM Voices for Children
- NGO New Mexico
- SoAHEC/BHETC

Please save the date and stay tuned for more information. Thank you.

For Information, contact
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Con Alma Health Foundation, Inc.
Ph: 505/438-0776; Fax: 505/438-6223
Email: grants@conalma.org
Website: www.conalma.org

Moving Forward Together

4th Annual NM Youth Practitioners Summit
December 5-7, 2006
Albuquerque Convention Center

Join us as we move forward together toward positive outcomes for New Mexico 's youth. The Summit will feature presentations by national and local leaders, interactive workshops, and a resource pavilion to support positive youth and community development throughout New Mexico .

For more information or to reserve your space
Visit our website: www.nmforumforyouth.org

Or Contact:
NM Forum for Youth in Community
Phone: 505-821-3574
wendy@nmforumforyouth.org

SAVE THE DATE

The NM Teen Pregnancy Coalition Annual Conference will be held in Albuquerque on December 8, 2006. The Topic this year is **A Look at What Works in New Mexico**.

Find out about **Promising Interventions** and hear from some of the fourteen counties that met the **Challenge 2005** and reduced their teen pregnancy rates by a minimum of 20%. Hear what they did that worked from representatives of successful Counties.

And good news for all of you who have been involved with NMTPC for years. The Silent Auction is back! Please think about what you can donate for us to auction off and bring your checkbooks to the conference. We need your donations, proceeds support scholarships for parenting teens and youth actively involved in preventing teen pregnancy in their communities who plan on attending post secondary educational programs.

Each month the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition provides a review of the research and policy reports distributed by National Resources for your information only. The information, and comments expressed in this newsflash 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.

Message from the Young Fathers' Project

The New Mexico Young Fathers Project is thriving! In the most recent 6 month time period, January through June 2006, the following outcomes were documented:

- There was a significant increase in the percentage of young men who have a high school

diploma

- There was a significant increase in the percentage of young men who have implemented their career plans
- The frequency of birth control use in the last six months increased significantly
- There was a significant increase in the percentage of young men who established their paternity.
 - There was a significant increase in the percentage of children with established paternity
- There was a significant increase in the percentage of fathers having contact with their children
 - There was a significant increase in the percentage of children having contact with their fathers
- There was a significant increase in the percentage of children receiving child support

Much work remains to be done to ensure the presence of fathers in all New Mexico children's lives!

For information on the Young Fathers' Project please call:

Carl W. Dellinger
Project Director
(505) 254-8737
(505) 254-8741 Fax

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Back issues of **NEWS FLASH** are available at our web site.

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