

20th Annual Statewide Transitional Independent Living Networking Conference

"Stepping Into Independence"



Monday, October 18, 2010
Sheraton Eatontown
6 Industrial Way East
Eatontown, NJ 07724

Stepping Into Independence

20TH Annual

Statewide Transitional Independent Living Networking Conference

Sponsored by Community Access Unlimited and
the NJ Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS)

The workshops have been designed to offer attendees innovative and thought-provoking information pertinent to adolescents, ages 15 to 21, who are making the critical transition into young adulthood. Workshops will be presented by national and state advocates with the goal of providing attendees with the essential tools and techniques required to best support at-risk young adults who are being served in independent living programs in both public and private sectors. Each workshop focuses on current best practices and strategies that are being implemented to maximize the successful transition of youth being served within the social service system. Programs will empower professionals, care takers, and adolescents towards a brighter future.

Conference Agenda

Monday, October 18, 2010

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| 8:15 AM - 9:00 AM | Registration & Continental Breakfast |
| 8:15 AM - 2:30 PM | Resource Fair |
| 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM | Welcome & Opening Remarks <i>Sidney Blanchard, Executive Director Community Access Unlimited</i> |
| 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM | Keynote Speaker <i>Allison Blake, Ph.D., LSW, Commissioner NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF)</i> |
| 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Morning Workshops (A-G) |
| 12:15 PM - 1:00 PM | Lunch and Networking |
| 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM | Keynote Speaker: <i>Shavar D. Jeffries, Esq., Associate Professor of Law Center for Social Justice at Seton Hall University School of Law "How a Newark kid from humble beginnings overcame incredible obstacles to achieve a quality education and to become an outstanding civil rights attorney."</i> |
| 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM | Afternoon Workshops (H-N) |
| 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM | Special Raffle (Winner must be present to receive prize) |

| Morning Session | Afternoon Session |
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| <p>A) Working with Sexually Abusive Adolescents in a Collaborative Manner Part 1</p> <p>This two part workshop will inform participants about psychological treatment, probation supervision, and case management of the adolescent sexual abuser in both community-based and residential settings. (Must attend Parts 1 & 2).</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Stephen J. Haran, Psy.D – Forensic Coordinator, Trinitas Hospital & Michael Brady, Treatment Coordinator, Pinelands Residential Community Home</p> | <p>H) Working with Sexually Abusive Adolescents in a Collaborative Manner Part 2</p> <p>This two part workshop will inform participants about psychological treatment, probation supervision, and case management of the adolescent sexual abuser in both community-based and residential settings. (Must attend Parts 1 & 2).</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Stephen J. Haran, Psy.D – Forensic Coordinator, Trinitas Hospital & Michael Brady, Treatment Coordinator, Pinelands Residential Community Home</p> |
| <p>B) Creating a Youth Advisory Board: YOUth Can do it!!</p> <p>Audience members will be able to identify the following as a result of this workshop: (1) what a youth advisory board is, with brief background on the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (2) establishing a mission statement in order to formalize a shared vision (3) creating goals that reflect the shared vision (4) developing action plans based on goals (5) different methods of running of youth advisory boards (6) how to publicize your youth advisory board (7) benefits for members of youth advisory boards.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Nancy Caplan, Consultant & Shawn Mines, SM International Consulting, LLC.</p> | <p>I) GLBTQI</p> <p>Participants will learn about the distinctions between GLBTQI definitions. Through interactive discussion, work shop participants will explore the following areas 1) choice vs. nature 2) a look at one's own beliefs and attitudes on GLBTQI issues and how they may influence the participant's work with teens, 3) Reframing discussions with youth 4) Safe spaces for teens 5) Privacy issues and 6) Resources and training of staff.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Nancy Caplan, Consultant; & Shawn Mines, SM International Consulting, LLC.</p> |
| <p>C) Science and Sensuality: Safer Sex Strategies for All Sizes & Shapes</p> <p>Safer sex lessons often focus on the preventative benefits of condom use, but science has revealed that information about anatomical shape as well as pleasure are important to address. Drawing from a variety of scholarly and web-based sources, participants will learn about research regarding penile dimension and condom comfort, examine the diversity of condom sizes, shapes, and textures designed to increase sexual pleasure. The demonstrated activities will equip professionals to incorporate science, sensuality, and safer sex in a classroom.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Melissa Keyes DiGioia, Senior Health Educator/Trainer, The Center for Family Life Education at Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey.</p> | <p>J) School Based Youth Services Program Assisting & Guiding Youth Toward Healthy Adulthood</p> <p>This panel discussion workshop will focus on the mechanics of the New Jersey School Based Youth services Program (SBYSP), and its role in transitional preparation for youth graduating from high school leading into adulthood. High-lighted areas of discussion will be centered on youth considered as being the most vulnerable, and at risk. At risk is defined as youth who are more likely to drop out, become pregnant / teen parents, cross over youth (youth who are involved in both child welfare & juvenile justice systems), and aging out youth. Panelists will inform the audience of various interventions and strategies used within SBYSP to help support this population by offering them realistic positive solutions leading to a successful transition into adulthood.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Jonathan Sims Jr., Regional Coordinator-SBYSP, Dept. of Children and Families.</p> |
| <p>D) Developing a Comprehensive Transition System for Older Youth</p> <p>This workshop will challenge New Jersey care providers to think of new ways to help older youth in transition in their communities. The presenter has work with older youth for over 25 years and is involved at the local, state and national levels in the development of transitional services. Topics will include housing, after care, new legislation that will impact older youth and getting the entire system involved in self-sufficiency preparation.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Mark J. Kroner, LISW, Lighthouse Youth Services Inc.</p> | <p>K) Suicide Prevention</p> <p>Suicidal Ideation is a form of communication. It is sometimes used in a manipulative manner, but still must be taken seriously. In this workshop we will cover the clinical assessment of risks, warning signs of suicide among adolescents, differences between adult and adolescent attempts at suicide, other methods in assessing suicide potential, and the three steps in responding to a person's intent to commit suicide.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Anthony Provenzano, MSW & LMFT, Training Coordinator for Community Access Unlimited.</p> |
| <p>E) Living in the system</p> <p>This presentation was created by Members that have been living in the system for the majority of their lives. In this presentation Staff will come to understand what it is like to grow up in the system and to be taken away from your family. We will explore how living in the system affects our lives and how we see you as a person. We will teach Staff on what is like to grow up in Foster care and move around from one place to another, going to different programs and having to create new relationships every time you move to all these different locations. We can hold our heads up high and accomplish anything that we put our mind to.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Julia Leftwich, Residential Director & Howard Wingard, Residential Coordinator, Community Access Unlimited; with MAC Attack.</p> | <p>L) Living in the system</p> <p>This presentation was created by Members that have been living in the system for the majority of their lives. In this presentation Staff will come to understand what it is like to grow up in the system and to be taken away from your family. We will explore how living in the system affects our lives and how we see you as a person. We will teach Staff on what is like to grow up in Foster care and move around from one place to another, going to different programs and having to create new relationships every time you move to all these different locations. We can hold our heads up high and accomplish anything that we put our mind to.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Julia Leftwich, Residential Director & Howard Wingard, Residential Coordinator, Community Access Unlimited; with MAC Attack.</p> |
| <p>F) Counseling Skills for Relationship Development</p> <p>Counseling Skills will be presented that often work in the development of meaningful relationships. These skills involve acknowledging feelings, use of empathy, three steps of effective praise and confronting troublesome behavior. This workshop is a must have for direct care workers and case managers.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Anthony Provenzano, MSW & LMFT, Training Coordinator, Community Access Unlimited.</p> | <p>M) Youth in Out of Home Care and Mental Health Services</p> <p>This presentation will be an interactive discussion to creatively look at youth in out of home care and their use of mental health services. Due to systemic delays, children in foster care are often in a state of constant transition, moving from placements without time to form stable relationships which can cause added physiological and psychological stress. As a result, these children are more likely to have issues with forming healthy attachments and develop emotional, behavioral and developmental problems. The workshop will cover psychosocial stressors, boundaries and potential issues forming therapeutic alliance.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> KC Craig, MSW, LSW, Social Worker/Behaviorist, Community Access Unlimited</p> |
| YOUTH MORNING WORKSHOP | YOUTH AFTERNOON WORKSHOP |
| <p>G) What to Do When Stopped By The Police: Surviving a Police Encounter</p> <p>Retired NJ police sergeant De Lacy Davis explores the encounters and challenges that young people face when stopped by police officers. He provides a hard-hitting reality-based analysis of the encounters that urban youth in particular and many people in general have with police officers all over the USA. Davis uses his experience, humor and compassion to provide the workshop participants with strategies to avoid tragedy as well success strategies for effectively reporting such conflicts. he teaches his audience the ability to avoid by determining whether the encounter is a "war" or a "battle." He closes the presentation with "Jailing Hip Hop," a consequence of poor decision making, bravado and some times fame. This workshop is recommended for youth, youth service providers, parents, people who work with children of all ages, and policy makers.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Retired Sgt. De Lacy D. Davis</p> | <p>N) Who Wants to be Independent?</p> <p>This fun, fast paced workshop will challenge youth to show their knowledge of basic life skills information. It will be in a game format similar to "Who wants to be a Millionaire." Youth will be divided into two groups who will compete for the highest group score. Group winners will have a chance at winning small prizes. The workshop will require the presence of several staff to help keep order and keep the game on track.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Mark J. Kroner, LISW, Lighthouse Youth Services Inc.</p> |



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| NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT No. 225 Elizabeth, NJ |
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80 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202-1447

Stepping Into Independence



SPACE IS LIMITED ~ EARLY REGISTRATION CLOSES ON 09/30/10

Space is limited, so please register early.
Print all information clearly and return by September 30, 2010 (for Pre-Registration Price) to:

*Community Access Unlimited—80 West Grand Street—Elizabeth, NJ 07202-1447 or
Fax to: (908) 354-2665 in care of Tanya Johnson
Pre-registration fee: \$75.00 (**Must be paid in full prior to conference**)
DYFS Staff, Foster Parents and Youth are exempt from the registration fee.*

Morning refreshments and lunch included.
****PAST DEADLINE/LIMITED ON-SITE REGISTRATION FEE: \$85.00****
Make checks payable to Community Access Unlimited.

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

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|-----------------|-------|
| NAME: | _____ |
| TITLE: | _____ |
| AGENCY/ADDRESS: | _____ |
| PHONE: | _____ |

Workshop Preferences

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|---|---|---|
| 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM (Choices A-F) 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____ | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (Choices H - M) 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____ | Youth Participant _____ Workshop G (morning) Workshop N (afternoon) |
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** For more information or questions about the conference, please call (908) 354-3040 ext. 251