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February
is
National
Parent
Leadership
Month!



This issue of the Parent and Practitioner Newsletter focuses on community programs designed to bring law enforcement and youth together to improve relationships and mutual understanding, and to ultimately reduce violence.

CBCAP-funded primary prevention programs provide supports to individuals and families while implementing practices that strengthen communities. The stories in this edition present ways that non-traditional child abuse prevention partners are helping youth to develop social-emotional health that will serve them well as they become adults and parents. Many of these programs are also offering opportunities for individuals to discuss past traumas and to receive support, and new ways of channeling anger.

YMCA Evening Center

Emanuel "Manny" was bored and wanted to stay active, so when his probation officer asked if he wanted to try the YMCA Evening Center, he said "yes."

"At first, I thought it was going to be weird because I thought they were only going to talk to me," says Manny. "I didn't know that there were other activities that I could get involved with such as working out, and eating delicious food. My first day on the program, I really liked it. I thought it was a good way to start my weekend. Once we started to talk about the day's topic and doing the activities, I was glad to be there."

The YMCA Evening Center is a new alternative judges can choose, instead of sentencing youth to juvenile detention. The reporting center is located at the YMCA Student Center on the University of Washington Tacoma campus. Staff from Pierce County Juvenile Court and the YMCA partner to provide three hours of life skill-building activities every Friday.

"The YMCA Evening Center focuses on prosocial behaviors and building life skills," says Katie Zimmermann, Case Aide Monitor for Pierce County Juvenile Court. "We strive to give our participants positive adult role models, mentors, and community connections that will set them up for success after their six weeks in the program."

The YMCA Evening Center opened in 2015 in response to a growing need for youth to fulfill court-required hours. Youth attend for six weeks and during this time they engage with positive adult mentors, stay physically active, and build new relationships. In 2017, the success rate of youth completing all six weeks of the program increased to 65%, up from 42% in 2016. Also in 2017, the program reached a more diverse population, serving African American (62%), Caucasian (27%), and Hispanic (12%) teens.

"We focus on giving youth a safe, stable, and positive environment," says Chris Spivey, Association Teen Director

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Visit the PAC on the FRIENDS website at www.friendsnrc.org

We Can't Do It Alone: Building Healthier Communities for Young People and Law Enforcement

Recent events have highlighted the need to bring young people and law enforcement together to effect positive change. One approach is creating opportunities to bring police officials and youth together for two-way conversations to promote the safety and wellbeing of all citizens. A national program known as Just(ice) in Time Training is an example of an approach to working with communities to address this issue. Snell & Associates Consultants of Buffalo Grove, Illinois developed the violence prevention training - Just(ice) In Time Training Seminar For Teenagers & Young Adult



JIT Advisors and law enforcement interacting and discussing with community participants following a role-played real life experience by Youth Street Team members; hosted and led by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Males Of Color (JIT®). JIT is an interactive violence prevention

program that brings young people and law enforcement together to address negative encounters between young people and law enforcement, and to bridge the perceived community divide. The seminars utilize strategies such as role-playing and honest discussion to facilitate better relationships with law enforcement and the communities they serve. The cornerstone of the training is the development of the Youth Street Teams which are responsible for identifying and recruiting peer-to-peer training participants and creating a "ripple effect" in educating, increasing understanding, and building community support to effect change.

Recently, the curriculum was utilized in Kalamazoo, MI to promote nonviolent interactions between youth and law enforcement. The JIT model is in its second year of a statewide effort in Delaware. This program is led and implemented by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware and is currently garnering support from funders, stakeholders, partners, and local, county, and

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YMCA Evening Center

for the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties. "The program is designed to give them tools to help them overcome adversity, change their perspective, and focus on a growth mindset for their life."

The program runs from 5-8 p.m. every Friday. Youth are required to complete six sessions, which are guided by three themes:

1. Getting to know you: visioning and goal setting
2. Breaking the cycle: addressing barriers and adversity
3. Resume building: interview skills and making community connections

Youth are drawn to the program because it is one of the more active and fun options for youth with court-ordered detention, and also includes a meal together. Participants have the option to join the YMCA Teen Late Nite program every Friday and Saturday night, and may

earn a short-term YMCA membership at no cost.

Manny says that the best thing he liked about the program was, "the staff really wanted to help you and they talked about topics that were meaningful. They were not there to judge me." He referred a friend to the YMCA Evening Center because he believed that his friend would benefit from the same topics he learned.

Once youth graduate from the program, they are welcome to return anytime. Over two years, 43 youth have returned to the program without a requirement.

-by Katie Zimmerman, Pierce County Juvenile Court and Chris Spivey, YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties



Agencies Working to Ensure Community Safety Act Provides Consistent Training for Motorists and Officers

The Community Safety Education Act (S.B. 30) was developed to improve traffic stop interactions between motorists and law enforcement throughout Texas. State agencies, including the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), are now working to provide information and training for drivers, students, and law enforcement on the expectations that each should have during interactions.

State Senator Royce West (Dallas) and State Senator John Whitmire (Houston), authors of the bill, recognized the need for consistency in this training across Texas. Educational materials will include instructions to drivers on how they should react and communicate with officers during a traffic stop. Proper responses will also be included in training for new officers and continuing education courses for veteran patrol officers. Officers will receive best-practice guidelines on their expected behaviors and reactions during a citizen contact. This same type of information will also be included in the instructional materials taught to high school students, and provided to driver training and driving safety course instructors licensed by TDLR.

A committee of state agencies has been assembled for the implementation of the act. TDLR, along with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, Texas Department of Public Safety, Teen and Police Service Academy, and Texas Education Agency are all working together to develop the instructional and training materials to be used by driving schools and law enforcement agencies.

"TDLR is honored to be a part of this effort to ensure, through

improved education and communication, the safety of Texas motorist and law enforcement officers," said Brian Francis, TDLR Executive Director. "Our agencies' goal is to provide citizens with the right educational materials and information so that Texas can cultivate highly-engaged drivers. This should result in decreased tensions and anxieties between officers and citizens during traffic stops and other encounters that too often lead to undesired outcomes for everyone involved."

~ by Raymond Pizarro, TDLR



Brian Francis, TDLR Exec. Dir.

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We Can't Do It Alone...

state law enforcement. Although originally developed for young people of color, this curriculum has been modified to meet the needs of different communities and diverse groups.

The programs that bring youth and law enforcement together are reaping benefits. Results of the JIT program have included these initial findings and impact:

- Participants learn how to react or diffuse situations to keep them from escalating.
- The program prepares young men for what to expect when stopped by police and explains their individual rights under local law, for example, stop-and-frisk laws. The program also explains the individual's behavioral responsibilities when stopped.
- JIT builds and improves the relationship between law enforcement and community members thereby helping to bridge the community divide.

- Adults are assisting in changing young peoples' perceptions of the police from negative to positive.

Key community leaders and organizations must be convinced of the importance of creating a dialogue, in which youth and law enforcement concerns are addressed in structured events or training. By focusing on building a strong foundation put into place through communication, understanding and mutual respect, there is a greater likelihood that the outcomes will include prevention of violence between young people and the men and women who serve to protect all residents.

For more information on creating dialogues between youth and law enforcement or JIT®, contact Isaac "Ike" Snell, Jr., President of Snell & Associates Consultants via email at isaac@snellaa.com or phone 630-532-2202.

~by Isaac Snell, Snell & Assoc. Consultants



Walking Thru Bullets

In November, I attended the Second Annual Healing Neen Trauma Informed Care Conference held in Baltimore City, MD. Tonier Cain-Muldraw, the Neen conference host, was a keynote speaker at the 18th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN), where she shared her story of being a woman who felt the system had given up on her. Fortunately, when she was able to enter a program for pregnant women called TAMAR's (Trauma, Addictions, Mental Health, and Recovery) Children, she was given the help she needed to begin her healing journey. Her message to caregivers is "Where there's breath, there's hope." She is featured in two documentaries, "Behind Closed Doors" and the award winning documentary "Healing Neen".

The Neen Conference featured a variety of speakers and topics. On the final day, there was a prerelease screening of the documentary, *Walking Thru Bullets*, produced by Laura Cain

and Thom Strומר. *Walking Thru Bullets* looks at the consequences of youth violence and the hope for individual healing. The film follows the lives of four African American male clients. Through the Healing Hurt People (HHP) program, they receive interventions that changed their lives and the lives of their families while still in the hospital.

The film is a part of HHP, a cornerstone of Drexel University's Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice. The mission of the Center is to decrease violence and trauma through public health policy, practice research and training. HHP is a hospital-based violence intervention



program designed to reduce re-injury and retaliation among youth ages 8 to 30.

For more information go to: <http://drexel.edu/medicine/about/departments/emergency-medicine/healing-hurt-people/>. To see a clip of the documentary and for more information regarding its release date go to www.walkingthroughbullets.com.

~ by Eliza Cooper, PAC Alumnus

Recognizing Parent Leaders

February is **National Parent Leadership Month**, a recognition originated by Parents Anonymous, Inc. Parent Leaders are actively involved throughout the year in supporting other parents, their communities, and local, state, and national organizations. Most begin as recipients of services in times of need, and through the actions and support of another person, have become leaders—advocates, group facilitators, board members, and trainers.

FRIENDS' Parent Advisory Council (PAC) has created a

series entitled, *Sharing the Journey: Voices of Parent Leaders* that will be released in the next few weeks. PAC members share their personal journeys on becoming leaders—stories about their own upbringing, neglect, losing their children, incarceration, or of needing a little extra help in their time of need. These audio files can be powerful additions to trainings, consultations with parents, and parent support groups. The release of this series will be announced through the FRIENDS' Listserv and Facebook page.

During the month of February, please plan to specially recognize any parent leaders you work with and support. They play a critical role in adding a voice, advocating from the heart for change, and educating all of us on issues from their perspective.

FRIENDS' PAC members—thank you for contributing your time and energy to the work of FRIENDS! You are an important part of who we are and what we do!

~by Valerie Spiva Collins,
FRIENDS National Center



Safe Streets - A Community Violence Prevention Program

Safe Streets Baltimore is a Baltimore City Health Department program that tackles the epidemic of community violence through a public health approach. Viewing violence as a disease, Safe Streets utilizes a model where “credible messengers” mediate and diffuse conflict by building on their relationships in the community and engaging with “high risk” individuals.

Safe Streets creates a network for residents to reduce gun violence and move to a path for individual and community economic development. The program has been operating since June 2007, and has four sites across Baltimore City. The sites are located in McElderry Park East, Cherry Hill, Park Heights and Sandtown-Winchester.

In the summer of 2016, the program was contacted by the president of a community association requesting assistance to bridge a divide between neighborhood youth and members of the community. There was concern that youth were attracting “negative elements” to the area by hanging out on the corners of the neighborhood.

The Safe Streets framework highlights the importance of using a public health approach focused on treatment, using strategies traditionally associated with disease control: identifying and intervening, interrupting exposure and transmission, reducing risk of those at highest risk, and changing community norms.

Safe Streets agreed to meet with the association members to hear their concerns. During the meeting, the police captain for the district shared that there were

many calls and officers dispatched to this area to address the concerns regarding the youth hanging on the corner. The captain also indicated that many of the youth targeted in the calls were not actually engaging in criminal activity and then suggested a community-driven mediation involving the police, community members, and the youth in question. The consensus of the group was to schedule a conversation facilitated by Safe Streets.

The conversation took place during a community meal prepared by the association and shared with the youth. The shared meal was to act as a unifier, a place of community and for relationship building. It was an opportunity to exchange stories, consider varying perspectives and simply talk.

Safe Streets staff wore identifying uniforms while the police captain and everyone else wore street clothes. The conversations were robust, focused and productive. The outcome was a rich exchange where all involved had the opportunity to get to know the strengths, concerns and hope for their shared community. The neighborhood association was able to learn about the youth and what they had to offer the community through enterprise and ability. The youth were able to express interests in opportunities to better

support their community neighbors and partner with the association. The young people shared how their presence on the corner diffuses the potential for violence even before something erupts. They talked about how they are keeping a watchful eye on the neighborhood while standing on the corner.

Safe Streets has been invited back twice since the initial request. One request was to follow-up the progress of the group and the second request was for the community association to acknowledge Safe Streets contribution to their community during National Night-Out.

The collaboration offered the opportunity to demonstrate the importance of collaboration and partnership at the community level. A partnership among a community-based violence prevention program, a police district, a community association, and youth who share a commitment and concern for their community only fortifies the strength of the community and empowers them to work together.

*~By Dedra Layne,
Safe Streets Baltimore*



In Appreciation: FRIENDS Recognizes New PAC Alumni

FRIENDS values parent involvement and leadership, and especially appreciates those parents who share their experience and expertise as members of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). Two PAC members, Dawn Patzer and Eliza Cooper, are being recognized and celebrated for their contributions and years of exemplary service as they join the ranks of the PAC Alumni. Dawn and Eliza became inaugural members during the PAC's formation over a decade ago. Both have played instrumental roles in developing the FRIENDS PAC to what it has become today.

Dawn has represented the parent voice as both a parent and grandparent. Initially serving as a PAC representative from Texas, she continued to serve after she moved to Washington. She has worked on many workgroups for numerous projects, co-facilitated workshops, helped revise the website and various materials and she assisted in the development of the FRIENDS Parent Leadership Guidebook. She also assisted in the creation, implementation and periodic revision of the Parent Leadership Ambassador Training. Dawn's willingness to share her story so that

others may grow and benefit from her experience has been a gift she has given and will continue to give others. She is hands on and always willing to provide guidance, leadership and mentoring. Dawn's experiences, as witnessed through her eloquent storytelling and training style, continue to be truthful and touching. Her knowledge and honest input have shaped the FRIENDS PAC and will continue to inform the work of CBCAP for years to come.

As a PAC member, Eliza has served as the talented and insightful editor of the *Parents and Practitioners* newsletter since 2009. She has authored thoughtful articles and recruited diverse contributions from others to create a rich reading experience for all stakeholders in the child abuse prevention community. She has taken on a diversity of additional leadership roles, including serving as a trainer, a presenter, and member of countless committees, work groups, focus groups, and special projects. In 2017, after fulfilling a full term on the PAC, Eliza continued as a mentor and supported the new members. One of her accomplishments this year was assisting in the production of *FRIENDS' Sharing the Journey: Voices of Parent Leaders*. Eliza's viewpoint focuses on the strengths in people and situations. She is always seeking the inclusion of parents' perspectives and looking for opportunities for parents and practitioners to work together for better outcomes for children and their families. Her infectious nature inspires people to be inclusive and find creative avenues to take action in ways that include the authentic parent voice.

Both parent leaders have inspired and touched many people. Their impact with FRIENDS has a ripple effect that is invaluable to all of us and will continue to bring knowledge and insight to the CBCAP community. Thank you for all you have done Dawn and Eliza!

-by Jessica Diel and Jill Gentry,
PAC members



FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council members (from l to r, front row): Bruce Bynum, Fatima González Galindo, Jill Gentry, Beth Stodghill, Sam Blue; (from l to r, back row) Eliza Cooper, Jessica Diel, Dawn Patzer, Sam Bowman Fuhrman and Dena Hillman

About the PAC

FRIENDS has established a Parent Advisory Council to provide useful overall program direction and guidance to the activities of the National Center. Committee members share their experience and expertise in child abuse prevention and family strengthening through their active participation in FRIENDS workgroups and the annual Grantee's meeting, development/review of FRIENDS written materials, and by providing resource center staff with consultation and advice.

Contact Information: Beth Stodghill and Jessica Diel, Editors
friends@friendsnrc.org

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