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FSNH Weekly Newsletter June 7, 2010

As you all know, NH Children's Trust held its bi-annual Smith Award Banquet and Celebration on Thursday, May 20th.

Congratulations to The Children's Place, the 2010 recipient of the Smith Award!



Congratulations also to Tia Parr, the winner of The Lucy Fowlkes Breed Family Service Volunteer Award! Please check out [this website](#) to see all of the great photos that were taken at the event! Thank you so much to everyone who attended and celebrated with us! 😊



Childhood Obesity, Nutrition, and Physical Activity

With the school year winding down, children will soon be able to laugh and play outside and enjoy their summer vacation. Unfortunately, many children will not take the opportunity to play outside and be active. Instead, many will choose to remain inside to watch television, play video games, or use the family computer. Last month, the Promising Practices Network made available a variety of resources to provide parents and caregivers information on the dangers of childhood obesity, the importance of proper nutrition, and ways to encourage kids to be physically active. [Click here](#) to view a list of all of the resources and articles available!

Upcoming Events, Conferences, and Training Opportunities

The **International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference** will be held at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel and Conference Center in **Portsmouth, NH on July 11th - July 13th, 2010!**

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On Thursday, June 17th, the NH Citizen's Alliance for Action will be holding a **free workshop** in **Portsmouth, NH** designed to help organizations get their message out more effectively. To RSVP or for more information, e-mail ozink@nhcitizensalliance.org.

The **19th Annual Conference on Parent Education and Parenting** will be held February 10-11 at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX. The theme is "Changing Families in a Changing World," and the deadline for submitting a proposal is

August 1, 2010. [Click here](#) to learn more about the conference and submit your proposal!

Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma: A Workshop for Resource Parents is a PowerPoint-based training curriculum designed to be taught by a mental health professional and foster parent as co-facilitators. The curriculum includes nine case studies of foster children ages 8 months to 15 years, as well as cases of secondary traumatic stress in parents. The training provides practical tools for parents to help their children heal and manage their feelings and behaviors, to advocate for the children, and to seek useful support from others.

Download the workshop package from the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network Website](#).



Team Decision-making and Domestic Violence: Guidelines for Facilitators. This day-long, 6-hour training was designed to aid Team Decision-making facilitators and child protection supervisors in preparing for and managing effective meetings, discussing DV issues with parents, assessing the impact of children's exposure to DV, and making decisions and plans to increase safety for children and battered mothers. Find the materials on the [Family Violence Prevention Fund website](#).

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Adolescent Health and Teen Pregnancy

The United States has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy and births in the western civilized world. In fact, just under 1/3 of all females in the United States will become pregnant during their teenage years. Here are some additional statistics on teen pregnancy in the United States:

- 750,000 teens become pregnant every year
- Unmarried teens having children account for 24% of all unmarried expectant mothers
- More than 2/3 of teens who have children will not graduate from high school

The good news is that teen births have dropped by almost a third since the beginning of the 1990s. With pregnancy prevention programs and more understanding and teaching about safe sex, this number will hopefully drop even more. This reduction in the annual number of teen pregnancies in the United States can be attributed to better and more effective abstinence and safe sex programming. To ensure these programs continue to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies, parents, caregivers, and other educators must continue to talk with teens about this issue by asking what they think about sex and how it is portrayed in their school life, by their friends, in their families, and in the media.



This spring, CDC Director Thomas Frieden highlighted teenage pregnancy as one of the agency's top public health priorities. The CDC is expanding its leadership in preventing teen pregnancy by taking a multifaceted approach that targets four specific areas. First, the CDC hopes to increase access to and the use of contraceptives among sexually active teens. Second, the agency will be implementing evidence based prevention programs that will attempt to reduce risk factors associated with teen pregnancy. Third, programs that promote and support adolescent reproductive health will be identified. Lastly, the CDC hopes to establish communitywide teen pregnancy prevention efforts that involve multiple levels of providers and organizations within

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communities. The ultimate goal is to establish programs that can be sustained beyond the CDC’s funding periods. For more resources and information on teenage pregnancy, [click here](#).

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Announces Funding Opportunities

The OJJDP recently announced a variety of fiscal year 2010 funding opportunities. Below is a list of the funds, along with their respective application deadlines and websites.

1. [Juvenile Indigent Defense National Clearinghouse](#). Deadline: 8:00pm EST, June 24, 2010. [Website!](#)
2. [National Evaluation of Safe Start Promising Approaches](#). Deadline: 8:00pm EST, June 25, 2010. [Website!](#)
3. [Safe Start Promising Approaches Project](#). Deadline: 8:00pm EST, June 25, 2010. [Website!](#)
4. [Youth and Sexual Behavior Problems Program](#). Deadline: 8:00pm EST, June 28, 2010.
5. [Community Based Violence Prevention Program](#). Deadline: 8:00pm EST, June 18, 2010. [Website!](#)
6. [Recovery Act Needs Assessment and Developmental Activities for the National Internet Crimes Against Children Data System](#). Deadline: 8:00pm EST, July 15, 2010. [Website!](#)

Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit Sign on Letter

Numerous state and national organizations that care about promoting children and families have signed a letter urging members of Congress to improve, preserve, and/or retain some of the tax credits established by President George W. Bush in 2001.



The letter first asks our Representatives and Senators to [Improve and Preserve the Refundable Child Tax Credit](#). A family with two children working full-time at the minimum wage currently receives a Child Tax Credit of about \$1,750. If Congress does not act to extend the current levels, the same family will receive

only \$250, a loss of \$1,500. If the current Child Tax Credit improvements expire, 8 million children would lose their credit entirely, and an additional 10 million children would lose some of it, according to the Tax Policy Center.

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The letter also urges Congress to **Retain Help for Families with Three or more Children and Reduce the “Marriage Penalty” in the Earned Income Tax Credit**. In 2009, Congress improved upon the EITC by increasing the amount available to families with three or more children and reducing the “marriage penalty” in the EITC by increasing the amount received by married couples. In 2009, the maximum EITC for a family with three or more children was increased to \$5,657 or \$629 over the amount available to families with two children. The increase is important because it responds both to the increased costs of raising more



children and to the greater likelihood of poverty in larger families. These two EITC changes prevented three million people from falling into poverty in 2009, according to an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and increased the help to 7 million people.

Lastly, the letter seeks to **Help Low-Income Students Afford to Go to College through the American Opportunity Tax Credit**. The 2009

changes to this credit (formerly known as the Hope tax credit) could benefit 3.8 million low-income prospective college students by providing up to \$1,000 in a refundable credit to help pay for college costs.

Please consider signing this letter to keep families and children out of poverty and help them succeed by obtaining a college education! To read the letter in its entirety, [click here!](#) To sign the letter electronically, [click here!](#)

Focus on Father Engagement

Since Father’s Day is this month, the Children’s Bureau Express spotlights “Engaging Fathers” and the importance of fathers and paternal relatives in the lives of children involved in the child welfare system in their June 2010 newsletter. Articles featured in the newsletter focus on federally funded efforts to study and promote father involvement, as well as promising practices from the field. To access all of the featured articles, [click here!](#)



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Tuition Assistance

Tuition assistance through the Community College system of New Hampshire is available to eligible **staff** who work in a Family Centered Early Supports and Services program either full or part time. This assistance is also **open to**

parents/guardians of children receiving Family Centered Early Support and Services.



To access the assistance, talk with your FCESS provider about your interest and they can provide you with a paper application. For an online application, [click here](#). The NH Community College System has created a [web page](#) to allow you to explore the different course offerings available at each campus.

Congressional Hearing on Corporal Punishment in Schools

On April 15, the House Committee on Education and Labor Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities held a hearing on “Corporal Punishment in Schools and its Effect on Academic Success,” the first time since 1992 that Congress has heard testimony on the issue. In opening the hearing, subcommittee chair Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) explained that over 220,000 students were paddled in school in the United States in the 2006-2007 school year, according to the most recent data available from the U.S Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR).

Corporal punishment is permitted in 20 states and the OCR statistics indicate that a disproportionate number of those paddled are African-American students who receive physical punishment in schools at twice the national rate, and also for school children with disabilities who are dealt corporal punishment at disproportionately high rates, again twice the rate in some states.

As with reporting information on child abuse and neglect, the youngest children are the most vulnerable, with students in kindergarten through the 8th grade more likely to be paddled than high school students, McCarthy pointed out. McCarthy stated that she plans to introduce legislation to end paddling in schools, observing that federal statutes already prohibit physical punishment in

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prisons, jails, and medical facilities. An archived webcast of the hearing can be found on the [House Committee on Education and Labor website](#).

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