

"It takes a whole village to raise a child." –African Proverb



http://www.sbschools.org/schools/bc/class_pages/specialists/images/kids_clip_art.png

Family Support NH

Weekly Update

March 1, 2010

This week I stumbled upon a quote that I have heard many times but had never really pondered, "It takes a whole village to raise a child". This quote is extremely reflective of the importance of community and the support that children need.

This video is excellent. It discusses the importance of support for children and families: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_GozRIDJzs

February 24, 2010

New Online Clearinghouse for State Child Welfare Policies

Child Trends, with support from Casey Family Programs, launches the [State Child Welfare Policy Database](#) to provide information on child welfare laws, procedures, and agency guidance for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Database can help elected officials, administrators, advocates, practitioners, researchers, and other stakeholders keep up to date with the policies that protect our nation's most vulnerable children.

The site can be navigated by state or by topic. You can learn about your state's expenditures on child welfare services, policies for relatives and "kin" caring for children involved in the child welfare system, benefits and services provided to foster youth after age 18, and much more. In addition to the traditional web version, the site is designed to be compatible with your mobile device, allowing for easily accessible information on the go.

For more information about child welfare resources available at Child Trends, please visit: www.childtrends.org/childwelfare. Through program evaluations, data analysis, policy surveys, literature reviews, and research syntheses, we seek to inform policy makers and frontline practice.

NH Children's Lobby Alert

**DOLLARS &
SENSE**

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The current economic downturn has created particular challenges for New Hampshire’s children and families. Our public systems must respond to guarantee that New Hampshire’s citizens, especially our children, maintain the quality of life that is the bedrock of a healthy state. That is why “Monitor and Protect Essential Children’s Services” is New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network’s lead 2010 **Priority for New Hampshire’s Children.**

UNDERSTAND
THE IMPACT

Priority leader, Jack Lightfoot of Child and Family Services, has been convening a children’s budget monitoring group. NH CAN partners who are interested in participating in this work should contact Jack at 518-4145 or lightfootj@cfsnh.org.

- This group has produced a first look at the impact of state budget decisions made thus far in [Children’s Budget Watch #1.](#)

ACT
NOW!

Going forward, there is much to be done by every NH CAN partner organization.

- write a letter to the editor (you can ask us for help/hints)
- email us your story of how these changes have affected you or the children and families you serve.
- collect data on the impact of these changes on children and families in your community

Several statewide networks have begun collecting stories and noting trends. If you belong to such a network, it will be easier for you to work through them. If you’re not sure who in your areas of interest is working on such a project, contact us and we’ll try to put you in touch with the right people.

Your stories and data can be emailed to us at childrensbudgetwatch@childrennh.org.

This collective effort lays the groundwork for effective budget advocacy that protects the rights and well-being of children

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right now, while ensuring the future prosperity of New Hampshire's children and families.

We welcome your comments, questions and opinions on anything mentioned in this newsletter. Please email them to Jack Lightfoot at LightfootJ@cfsnh.org. Thanks!

Current information and the text of bills, when available, can be obtained at the Legislature's website: <http://gencourt.state.nh.us>

NH Children's Lobby is a program of Child and Family Services, a private, nonprofit organization, headquartered at 464 Chestnut St., PO Box 448, Manchester, NH 03105, www.cfsnh.org

strengthening families

Strengthening Families Update: February 23, 2010

In this update:

- [Bryan H. Samuels Confirmed as ACYF Commissioner](#)
- [QIC-EC Releases Request for Applications for Dissertation Support](#)
- [New Issue Brief from NGA Center for Best Practices: Building an Early Childhood Professional Development System](#)
- [Recorded and Upcoming Strengthening Families Webinars](#)
- [Follow us on Twitter, Join our Facebook Group, Read our Blog](#)

Bryan Samuels Confirmed as ACYF Commissioner

On Thursday, February 11, the U.S. Senate confirmed Bryan Samuels of Chicago, Illinois as the newest Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ACYF is comprised of the Children's Bureau, which oversees matters related to child welfare, and the Family and Youth Services Bureau, which administers programs for homeless and runaway youth, children of incarcerated youth, and other special populations. Mr. Samuels's responsibilities will include implementing the [Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act](#), recent federal legislation designed to improve outcomes for children in foster care.

Preceding his appointment to ACYF, Mr. Samuels served as Chief of Staff for the Chicago Public Schools and Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

QIC-EC Request for Applications for Dissertation Support

The Quality Improvement Center on Early Childhood has released its Request for Proposals for Dissertation Support for advanced-level doctoral students conducting research on preventing the abuse and neglect of infants and young children (0-5) and promoting child and family well-being. Two eligible students will be funded at \$25,000 for each of two years. The application is available at www.qic-ec.org, and all submissions are due on **June 9, 2010**.

A webinar for prospective applicants will be held on March 4, 2010, from 3:00-4:30 PM ET. To register for the webinar, please [CLICK HERE](#).

New Issue Brief from NGA Center for Best Practices: Building an Early Childhood Professional Development System

The [National Governors Association Center for Best Practices](#) has released a new issue brief on [Building and Early Childhood Professional Development System](#). With specific examples from states, the brief outlines how successful early childhood professional systems:

- "Coordinate early childhood professional development policies;
- Implement research-based standards for early childhood professional development;
- Ensure access to professional development opportunities; and
- Gather and use data on characteristics of the early childhood workforce to improve professional and program quality."

Upcoming Strengthening Families Webinars

Upcoming Webinars

Registration is now open for the following webinars:

- *NEW Online Strengthening Families Self-Assessment Training*
March 3, 2:30-4:00 ET
[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)
- *State Strategies for Implementing Strengthening Families* March 9, 2:30-4:00 ET
[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)
- *Strengthening Families 101*
April 13, 2:30-4:00 ET
[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

New Recording Available

- *NEW Online Strengthening Families Self-Assessment Training*
Held on February 16, 2:30-4:00 ET
[CLICK HERE TO WATCH RECORDING](#)

Follow us on Twitter, Join our Facebook Group, Read our Blog

Connect with Strengthening Families on the web in a variety of ways:

- Follow us on Twitter, at [StrengthenFams](#), where we post news items and resources.
- Join the [Strengthening Families Facebook Group](#) to connect with others around the country.
- Read the [Strengthening Families Blog](#) on our website. Look for guest bloggers, new materials, and more.

Subscribe to the Strengthening Families Mailing List at www.strengtheningfamilies.net.

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News From the Children's Bureau

Welcome to the 10th anniversary issue of Children's Bureau Express! This month, News From the Children's Bureau includes a welcome to our readers, announcement of the new ACYF Commissioner, as well as reports on the release of the NIS-4, a site visit to a CB-funded grantee, updates from the T&TA Network, and more.

- [Welcome to the CBX 10th Anniversary Issue!](#)
- [Samuels Confirmed as ACYF Commissioner](#)
- [Fourth National Incidence Study Shows Declines in Child Abuse](#)
- [Site Visit: Leadership Training for Community-Based Care Managers](#)
- [Updates From the T&TA Network](#)
- [New! On the Children's Bureau Site](#)

Spotlight on 10 Years of Child Welfare News

To mark our 10th anniversary issue, we're taking a look back at the last 10 years of child welfare—the trends and important happenings. We've included special articles from guest contributors as we explore some of the significant changes in the field.

- [CBX Looks Back at a Decade of Child Welfare News](#)
- [Building Accountability in Child Welfare: The CFRs](#)
- [A Decade of Technology in Child Welfare](#)
- [Trends in the Child Welfare Workforce](#)
- [Key Themes in Child Welfare Legislation Since 2000](#)
- [The Frontline Worker: Then and Now](#)

Child Welfare News

Research from the child welfare field includes a look back at ASFA and articles on screening for prenatal

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substance exposure and testing a collaborative approach to family assessment.

- [ASFA 12 Years After: A Look at Consequences and Lessons Learned](#)
- [Screening and Responding to Prenatal Substance Exposure](#)
- [Illinois' Integrated Assessment Process](#)

✂ [Strategies and Tools for Practice](#)

CBX provides tools and examples of State programs that promote college enrollment for youth in foster care and offer guidelines for university-agency research partnerships.

- [Washington's Foster Care to College Partnership Initiative](#)
- [Effective University-Community Research Collaborations](#)

✂ [Resources](#)

- [Video on Working Together to Prevent Child Abuse](#)
- [Federal Tax Help for Caregivers](#)
- [Foster Care Alumni Resources](#)
- [College Scholarships for Former Foster Youth](#)
- [HIPAA Closes the Insurance Gap for Adoptive Families](#)

✂ [Training and Conferences](#)

- [Improving Outcomes for Youth Exiting Foster Care](#)
- [Health Evaluations of Children in Foster Care](#)
- [Conferences](#)