Colorado Homeless Youth E-News

"Working together to end youth homelessness in Colorado"

July 2008

Welcome to the new bi-monthly E-Newsletter of the Office of Homeless Youth Services and the Advisory Committee on Homeless Youth. This is your source for news you can use in the fight to prevent and address youth homelessness in Colorado.

Advisory Committee on Homeless Youth

Vision Statement:

Public, Private, and Faith-Based Agencies working together to end youth homelessness in Colorado.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Advisory Committee on Homeless Youth is to end youth homelessness by improving the quality, availability, and accessibility of services provided to homeless youth and those at risk of homelessness.

Visit the Homeless Youth Services Website for information regarding the Colorado Homeless Youth Action Plan, upcoming meetings, youth related reports, homeless youth resources, frequently asked questions, and other key information.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Advisory Committee on Homeless Youth Meeting will take place on July 23, 2008 from 1-3 pm at Mile High United Way. Conference Calling is available for those outside the metro Denver area. The 2008 meeting schedule, which includes all Advisory Committee on Homeless Youth workgroup meetings, is posted on the Homeless Youth Services website.

New Study Results/Trends

United States Government Accountability Office Report (GAO) entitled *Young Adults with Serious Mental Illness: Some States and Federal Agencies Are Taking Steps to Address Their Transition Challenges.* http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08678.pdf

Article from Science Daily *Homeless Youth Need More Treatment for Substance Abuse, Study Says* http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/05/080512105705.htm

Article from Science Daily *Risky Sexual Behavior of Newly Homeless Youth Varies* http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/01/080107091038.htm

Trends: *Callers to the National Runaway Switchboard are Getting Younger* http://www.1800runaway.org/news_events/TrendsStatistics.htm

Out of Reach, The National Low Income Housing Coalition annual report on the affordability and availability of housing at the national, state, and local level. http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2008

Funding Resources

U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Grants for Homeless/Runaway Youth Programs:

- Street Outreach Program - Due July 18, 2008 http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2008-ACF-ACYF-YO-0128.html
- Rural Host Home Demonstration Project – Basic Center – Due August 4, 2008 http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2008-ACF-ACYF-CY-0129.html

Colorado Trust Grants to Increase Health Coverage for Children/Youth:

- Expanding Children's Access to Health Care – Due July 31, 2008
- Expanding Outreach & Enrollment for Children and Youth – Due July 31, 2008 http://www.coloradotrust.org/index.cfm?fuseAction=Grantmaking.FundingOpportunityJune

Updates

Urban Peak hosted a Symposium in November 2007 entitled "Young Adults in Crisis – Creating Sustainable Solutions In Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services." The Steering Committee of the Symposium met at the end of March to develop a Plan for the Action Items identified at the Symposium. The work completed by the Steering Committee is now posted on the Urban Peak website. http://www.urbanpeak.org/symposium.htm

In April 2008, the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs in conjunction with Mile High United Way hosted a convening of agencies from across Colorado to begin initial visioning and planning for rural host homes to provide short-term shelter for homeless/runaway youth in rural areas of Colorado. If you are interested in participating in these discussions, please contact Andy at: Andrew.johnson3@state.co.us or 303-866-7366.

Vital Documents for Youth: The Advisory Committee on Homeless Youth and Bridging the Gap at Mile High United Way joined forces to work towards ensuring that youth exiting system of care (child welfare, juvenile justice, etc.) have access to their photo identification, birth certificate and social security card. A training video for caseworkers on the birth certificate acquisition process is now available. The training and related documents are hosted on the e-Colorado website. Click here for instructions to access this training:
http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/shhp/PDFs/DocumentsTeamRoomInstructions.pdf

Planning is underway for the November 2008 Homeless/Runaway Youth Awareness Month activities. This is a great opportunity for a coordinated public awareness campaign regarding the issue of youth homelessness. Please consider getting involved! For more information or to host an event, please contact Andy Johnson at Andrew.johnson3@state.co.us or Dana Scott at scott_d@cde.state.co.us .

Requests for Content

To submit an article or other content for this newsletter, please email Andy at: Andrew.johnson3@state.co.us. The newsletter is scheduled for production every other month. The next newsletter will be published in September 2008. All submissions should be sent in no later than August 15th for consideration.

If you are not currently on our mailing list and would like to be added, please email andrew.johnson3@state.co.us with "ENEWS ADD" in the

Subject line. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please respond to this email with "ENEWS REMOVE" in the Subject line.