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**National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day**

Date: May 9, 2012 (7:30 pm EDT)
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) joins the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and other community organizations in planning for National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day, May 9th. At 7:30 pm EDT, an event will be held at Lisner Auditorium in Washington, DC, to share the message that young people can demonstrate resilience following traumatic experiences with the help of caring adults and informed child-serving systems. The event will feature young people in juvenile justice, child welfare, and education systems who have demonstrated resilience from trauma and will address strategies to assist military families in enhancing their resilience. Members of the 115 national Awareness Day collaborating organizations will support their affiliates and grantees in organizing events to view the national webcast and begin conversations about the importance of children’s mental health. The event will be preceded by a reception hosted by the Child Mind Institute. Find out more about the event online or by e-mailing AwarenessDay2012@vancomm.com.

**Tips to Promote Social-Emotional Health Among Young Children**
This AAP resource provides tips and resources for parents, early education and child care providers, and pediatricians to promote social-emotional health among young children. Download it for free on the AAP Web site.
NEW AAP INITIATIVE

Medical Home for Kids Exposed to Violence
Supported by a grant from the US Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime, the AAP is developing resources to help pediatricians and other professionals strengthen the medical home for children and adolescents exposed to violence.

Resources will include:

- Information on the prevalence and effects of exposure to violence
- Tools from the AAP and other trusted sources that can be used to identify children and youth who may be experiencing violence, as witnesses or victims
- Guidance on implementing programs and services in the medical home to better serve these children and youth—and their families
- Models of community partnerships successfully used in medical home settings
- Educational opportunities for pediatricians and other professionals in the healthcare environment to better understand exposure to violence and how to create a more trauma-informed medical home

Contact AAP staff Heather Fitzpatrick (hfitzpatrick@aap.org or 847/434-7642) with questions or comments. Visit the Building Up the Medical Home for Kids Exposed to Violence Web site or access the recent AAP News article to learn more about this initiative.

Grant activities are conducted under award #2010-VF-GX-K0009, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this article are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the US Department of Justice.

IN THE NEWS

GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH

Child Abuse Frequency Linked to Worse Outcomes
Medscape Medical News – April 23
Maltreatment frequency is a strong predictor of future negative health and behavioral outcomes among low-income children, according to a new study (Pediatrics). Investigators found a linear dose-response relationship between number of abuse incidents and likelihood of adverse outcomes during childhood, including mental health conditions, juvenile court petitions for use of alcohol or illicit drugs, and suicide attempts before age 18. The frequency of maltreatment during childhood was also linked to an increased risk for mental health issues and problematic substance abuse. “Although primary and secondary prevention remain important approaches, this study suggests that enhanced tertiary prevention may pay high dividends across a range of medical and behavioral domains,” the authors conclude.

Neighborhood Conditions, Household Socioeconomic Characteristics, and Childhood Behavioral Problems
MCH Alert – April 13
A new study (Maternal and Child Health Journal) examines the relationship between neighborhood and household socioeconomic influences on child health and behavioral outcomes and defines a composite measure of serious behavioral problems (SBP). The authors found that children in neighborhoods with the least favorable

http://www.aap.org/commpeds/dobchs/mentalhealth/mh5n.html
social conditions had higher odds of SBP than children living in the most favorable conditions. In addition, children living below the federal poverty level had higher odds of SBP than children whose family income exceeded 400% of the poverty level. “Social policy measures aimed at improving the broader social and physical environments can be vital to improving overall child health in general and their psychological well-being in particular,” the authors conclude.

**Mothers and OCD Children Trapped in Rituals Have Impaired Relationships**
Newswise – April 10
According to a new study (Child Psychiatry & Human Development), mothers tend to be more critical of children with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) than they are of other children in the family. The study also demonstrates that parental criticism is linked to poorer outcomes for the child after treatment. The research does not blame the parent for the child’s OCD. It does, however, suggest that the relationship between parents and children with OCD is important and should be a focus of treatment.

**School Environment Has Little Effect on Teen Mental Health**
Physician's Briefing – April 2
There is limited evidence that the school environment impacts adolescent mental health, according to a new review (Pediatrics). Researchers conducted a literature review of cohort or controlled trial designs that reported emotional health outcomes and school environment exposure or intervention in youth ages 11 to 18. They found limited evidence that the school environment influences adolescent mental health; however, some evidence indicated that individual perceptions of school connectedness and teacher support were predictive of future emotional health.

**ADHD**

**ADHD Is Over-diagnosed, Experts Say**
ScienceDaily – March 30
A new study (Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology) shows that child and adolescent psychotherapists and psychiatrists tend to give a diagnosis based on heuristics, or unclear rules of thumb, rather than adhering to recognized diagnostic criteria. Boys in particular are substantially more often misdiagnosed compared to girls. Researchers conclude that it is crucial for therapists not to rely on their intuition, but to strictly adhere to defined, established diagnostic criteria to avoid a misdiagnosis of ADHD and premature treatment.

**AUTISM**

**‘Publication Bias’ Casts Doubt on Value of Antidepressants for Autism**
MSN.com – April 23
According to new research (Pediatrics), studies that show a type of antidepressant eases autism symptoms are more likely to get published in medical journals than studies concluding the drugs do not improve common behaviors such as rocking and hand-flapping. That “publication bias” may mean that physicians believe the medications are more effective than they really are for children with these behaviors. The study also calls into question the effectiveness of current methods used to evaluate pediatric drugs in the United States.

**Higher Risk for Half-Siblings of Children With Autism**
United Press International – April 18
Siblings of children with autism have a higher risk of autism, but researchers (Molecular Psychiatry) have determined that half-siblings of children with autism also have elevated risk. “We found that autism risk for half siblings is about half of what it is for full siblings,” the researchers conclude, noting that “mothers and fathers appear to be transmitting risk equally in families in which autism recurs.”

**Could Autism Be Reversed With a Pill?**
Boston.com – April 12
A new study (Neuron) found that medication could correct the health and behavior problems of mice with a genetic condition known to lead to autism in people. The drug, which acts on the synapses between brain cells,
reversed a range of symptoms often associated with autism, including hyperactivity, impaired learning and memory, and extreme sensitivity to sounds. The drug worked on adolescent mice, demonstrating that these symptoms are reversible even after the critical period of early brain development.

**Sick Kids Study Could Shed Light On Why Autism Affects Four Times More Boys Than Girls**

National Post – April 12

A new study (American Journal of Human Genetics) appears to shed light on why autism spectrum disorder affects 4 times more boys than girls. The SHANK gene family is coded for proteins that are involved in forming neural synapses in the brain and how these synapses function. When neural synapses aren't properly formed, or cannot function properly due to gene mutation, it causes symptoms associated with autism. The study identified 6 people from the same family who carried the SHANK1 mutation. Of these 6 people, only the men had autism. According to researchers, the study “indicates that there may be a protective factor preventing these female carriers from developing ASD.”

**Researchers Examine Impact of New Diagnostic Criteria**

Science Daily – April 10

According to a new study (Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry), proposed changes to the diagnostic definition of autism spectrum disorder may affect the number of individuals who qualify for the diagnosis. Researchers determined that approximately 25% of those diagnosed with classic autism and 75% of those with Asperger's syndrome or pervasive developmental disorder, not otherwise specified, would not meet the new criteria for autism. The study also suggests that higher-functioning individuals may be less likely to meet the new criteria than individuals with intellectual disabilities. However, researchers caution that the findings reflect analyses of a single data set and that more information will be provided during field trials overseen by the American Psychological Association.

**Web-Based Tool Produces Fast, Accurate Autism Diagnosis, Study Suggests**

Science Daily – April 10

Researchers (Translational Psychiatry) have discovered a highly accurate strategy that could significantly reduce the complexity and time to accurately detect autism in young children. Using an artificial intelligence method in which machines are trained to make decisions, researchers studied results of the Autism Diagnostic Interview, Revised and the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule to find redundancies. The outcome was a shortened mechanism for evaluating a child (8 out of 29 steps) and a roadmap for evaluating short home video clips. These results have the potential to move a substantial percentage of the effort into a mobilized electronic health framework with broad reach and applications.

**Pregnancy Length May Influence Severity of Autism**

HealthDay News – April 6

According to a new study (Journal of Autism and Development Disorders), children with autism who were born prematurely or several weeks late may experience more severe symptoms than children with autism who were born on time and may be more likely to inflict self-injury. Although the reasons their symptoms are more severe remain unknown, the study suggests it may have something to do with what caused the children to be born before 36 weeks' gestation. “With preterm and post-term babies, there is something underlying that is altering the genetic expression of autism,” researchers note. “The outside environment in which a preterm baby continues to mature is very different than the environment that the baby would have experienced in utero. ... This change in environment may be part of the reason why there is a difference in autistic severity.”

**Autism Linked to Obesity in Mothers**

Wall Street Journal – April 9

The obesity epidemic may be contributing to the rising number of children diagnosed with autism, according to a new study (Pediatrics). Mothers who are obese are significantly more likely to have a child with autism or another developmental abnormality. The results suggest that obesity and other metabolic conditions are a general risk factor for autism and other developmental disorders.

**US Gene Studies Begin to Unravel Autism Puzzle**

Reuters – April 4

A new study (Nature) of families with autism has found that spontaneous mutations can occur in a parent's sperm or egg cells that increase a child's risk for autism, with fathers 4 times more likely than mothers to pass...
these mutations to their children. The results suggest that mutations in parts of genes that code for proteins play a significant role in autism. Researchers also identified several hundred new suspect genes that could eventually lead to new targets for autism treatments.

**Improvements in Autism Symptoms Vary**

Reuters – April 2

A new study (Pediatrics) suggests that social and communication skills in some children with autism may improve over time with therapy, but others will continue to have problems functioning as they get older, in particular children with other intellectual disabilities. Researchers found that white kids and those whose parents were more educated tended to have less severe autism symptoms during treatment and were more likely to be among the 10% whose symptoms improved dramatically between ages 3 and 12. Researchers attribute these gaps to treatment access and suggest that providing equal access to the best autism treatment for minority and less well-off kids will be important going forward.

**Diagnoses of Autism on the Rise, Report Says**

New York Times – March 29

The likelihood of a child being given a diagnosis of autism, Asperger’s syndrome, or a related disorder increased more than 20% from 2006 to 2008, according to new data (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report). The sharpest increases appeared among Hispanic and black children, who historically have been less likely to receive an autism spectrum diagnosis than white children. Although the frequency of autism spectrum diagnoses has been increasing for decades, researchers cannot agree on whether the trend is a result of heightened awareness, an expanding definition of the spectrum, an actual increase in incidence, or some combination of those factors.

**DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY**

**Computerized Self Help Intervention for Adolescents Seeking Help for Depression**

British Medical Journal – April 19

Adolescents suffering from depression can benefit just as much from specialized computer therapy as they do from one-to-one therapy with a clinician, according to a new study (British Medical Journal). Results showed that SPARX, an interactive 3D fantasy game in which a single user undertakes a series of challenges to restore balance in a virtual world, was as effective as usual care in reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety by at least a third. The authors suggest that SPARX may be a cheaper alternative than usual care and may be more accessible to young people with depression in primary health care settings.

**Use of Ecstasy, Speed by Teens Tied to Later Depression**

HealthDay News – April 18

Teens who use the party drugs ecstasy and speed appear to face a notably higher risk of depression afterward, new research suggests (Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health). Interviews and mental health assessments conducted among 10th-graders in Quebec revealed that, compared to non-users, adolescents who acknowledged taking either drug had a 60-70% greater risk of experiencing telltale signs of depression a year after their last recorded use. Those who said they had tried both speed and ecstasy showed double the risk for depressive symptoms when compared to non-users.

**Anxious Mothers May Disrupt Babies' Sleep**

Telegraph.co.uk – April 17

Sleep problems in young children and babies are common and can cause stress and tension in the family as the parents become sleep deprived. Researchers (Child Development) have determined that mothers who are depressed may cause sleep problems in their babies by picking them up and feeding them, taking them into their own bed, or cuddling them at night because they need the emotional comfort rather than their baby. According to the authors, “This study provides insights about maternal depression's effects on night-time parenting, and how such parenting affects infant sleep.”

**First Blood Test to Diagnose Major Depression in Teens**

EurekAlert – April 17

Scientists (Translational Psychiatry) have developed a blood test to diagnose major depression in teens by measuring a specific set of markers in their blood. The test also distinguishes between teens with major
depression and those with major depression combined with anxiety disorder. This is the first evidence that it is possible to diagnose subtypes of depression from blood, raising the hope for tailoring care to the different types.

**Yoga Could Help Teens Ward Off Anxiety, Study Shows**
Huffington Post - April 8
According to a [new study](https://www.jdevped.org/article/10.2146/jdp180102) (*Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*), yoga can benefit teens. Researchers found that teens who did not do yoga during their PE classes scored higher for mood problems or anxiety, while those who did yoga scored lower on these tests or their scores remained the same from the beginning of the study period. In addition, the teens who did not do yoga reported more negative emotions during the study period, whereas the teens who did yoga reported fewer negative emotions.

**Exposure to Maternal Depression Sows Seeds of Teenage Emotional Disorders**
HealthCanal.com - March 27
A [new study](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0237408) (*PLoS ONE*) shows that children face an increased risk of depression in their teens if their mother suffered from depression when they were toddlers. It is anticipated that this research will help identify children at risk of developing depression during their teen years and will enable mental health experts to help these children earlier, before depression manifests itself.

**Child Coordination Disorder Increases Risk of Mental Health Issues**
Physician's Briefing - March 26
Children with probable developmental coordination disorder (DCD) at age 7 have a significantly increased risk of depression and mental health difficulties at age 10, according to a [recent study](https://www Pediatrics) (*Pediatrics*). Researchers found that children with probable DCD had an increased likelihood of self-reported depression and parent-reported mental health difficulties. After accounting for verbal IQ, social communication, bullying, and self-esteem, the odds of mental health difficulties were significantly reduced.

### EATING DISORDERS

**Anorexia May Be Caused by Brain Abnormality**
Zee News – April 22
A [new study](https://www.medicalhypothesis) (*Medical Hypothesis*) has suggested that anorexia may be triggered by a defect in the brain, offering new hope that the eating disorder can be treated. Research, using brain-imaging techniques on individuals with anorexia as young as 8 years of age, reveals malfunctioning in the insula, a key area of the brain that controls eating, anxiety, and body image. These findings could help settle the debate that anorexia is caused by unhealthy attitudes towards food and body image.

### PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS

**Genes Associated With Autism Also Related to Schizophrenia**
US News & World Report – April 19
Scientists (*Cell*) have identified 33 genes associated with autism and related disorders, and they say several of the genes also appear to be altered in people with schizophrenia. The research supports suspicions that “the genetic causes of autism and other neurodevelopmental abnormalities are complex and likely to involve many genes”.

**Severe Abuse in Childhood May Triple Risk of Schizophrenia**
Guardian.co.uk – April 18
Children who experience severe forms of abuse are almost 3 times as likely to develop schizophrenia and related psychoses in later life, compared with children who do not experience such abuse, according to a [new study](https://www.schizophreniabulletin) (*Schizophrenia Bulletin*). The results add to a growing body of evidence that childhood maltreatment or abuse can increase the risk of developing mental illnesses in adulthood, including depression, personality disorders, and anxiety.
Fifth of Adolescents Hear Voices
UK Press – April 12
Hearing voices can affect more than a fifth of young adolescents, according to a psychiatry study (British Journal of Psychiatry). The study showed that auditory hallucinations stop for many children as they get older, with only 7% of adolescents ages 13 to 16 hearing voices. However, approximately 80% of the teens who continued to hear voices also had a psychiatric disorder, linking auditory hallucinations and serious mental illness.

Mental Illness Drugs and Pregnancy
dailyRX.com – April 4
A new study (Archives of General Psychiatry) found that 6-month old babies whose mothers had taken antipsychotic drugs during pregnancy scored lower on neurological assessments compared to babies whose mothers took antidepressants or neither kind of drugs. Babies whose mothers had been diagnosed with psychiatric illnesses also showed lower scores on the tests. However, this does not mean the mothers' mental illnesses caused the infants' lower scores. Researchers acknowledge that more study is necessary to determine what part the medications and the history of psychiatric illness play in infant development.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ADDICTION

12-Step Meetings May Help Teens Beat Alcohol, Drug Abuse
US News & World Report – April 16
Teens undergoing treatment for alcohol or drug abuse can benefit from the 12-step program used by groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, researchers say (Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research). The study found that meeting attendance was associated with better outcomes, particularly when meetings were attended at least once per week or more. According to researchers, “These findings support the common clinical recommendation that individuals should ‘go to meetings, get a sponsor, and get active.’ This is the first evidence to support this common clinical recommendation among young people.”

Most Alcohol, Drug Abuse Starts in Teen Years
Reuters – April 3
A study (Archives of General Psychiatry) of US teenagers found that most have used alcohol and drugs by the time they reach adulthood, setting many of these kids up for a lifetime of substance abuse. According to researchers, strategies need to target adolescents to prevent drug and alcohol abuse, but need to take into account the different forces that influence it.

Caring Teachers May Help Keep Kids From Trying Alcohol, Drugs
HealthDay News – March 23
The connections youth have with their teachers may help prevent experimentation with alcohol and drugs at an early age, a recent study suggests (Psychology of Addictive Behaviors). Researchers found that students in middle school who felt more emotional support from teachers had a lower risk of early alcohol and illicit drug use. Parental ties were important, as well. The study also found that middle school students who began using alcohol and illicit drugs before sixth grade had significantly higher levels of depressive symptoms, which suggests that depression may be a consequence of early use of alcohol or drugs. According to the researchers, it also may indicate that depression is a risk factor for alcohol and drug use before middle school.

SUICIDE AND SELF-INJURY

LGBT Youth and Suicide: Findings Cite Increased Risks, Protective Factors
TeenScreen.org – April 1
More than one-third of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth have had thoughts of suicide, and 15% have engaged in some form of self-harm, according to new research (American Journal of Preventive Medicine). In assessing the predictors of suicidal ideation and self-harm, researchers found that previous suicide attempt, impulsivity, LGBT victimization, and low social support increased risk. Researchers emphasize that school professionals should focus on enhancing social support networks for LGBT youth and advise greater parental supervision as a way to limit opportunities for youth to engage in self-harm.

http://www.aap.org/commpeds/dochs/mentalhealth/mh5n.html
Non-Suicidal Self-Injury & the Internet: What School Professionals Need to Know
TeenScreen.org – April 1
Internet content on non-suicidal self injury (NSSI) is prolific, and some can be troubling and potentially dangerous, according to a new study (School Mental Health). Researchers recommend that school mental health professionals review and assess social networking and video-sharing sites to gain a clearer picture of NSSI-related media accessed by adolescents. They also suggest that additional research study the impact of graphic self-injury video on youth.

Suicide Rates Among Girls Going up, but Decreasing for Boys
Toronto Star – April 2
Suicide rates are on the rise among girls and female adolescents, but have declined among males of the same age, says a new study (Canadian Medical Association Journal). The study notes that suffocation, which includes hanging and strangulation, has become the leading method of suicide among children and teens, whereas the use of firearms and poisoning has decreased. The study does not detail why young Canadians are committing suicide, but notes some of the risk factors, including depression, substance abuse, relationships and bullying, and addresses the existence of pro-suicide Web sites. The trends in Canada are consistent with other countries, according to a separate commentary.

CONFERENCES/Webinars

Winning the Battle: Impacting Tobacco Control in the Real World Webinar
Date: May 9, 2012 (2:00-3:30pm CDT)
This webinar will discuss strategies for successfully pursuing a tobacco control agenda while facing opposition at the community, state, and national levels. Featured presenters include Bronson Frick from Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights and Robert Berger from the Public Health Institute. Although the focus is on tobacco control, the strategies discussed in this webinar could be applied to any health topic. Reserve your seat today.

The Developing Brain: What It Means for Treating Adolescents
Date: May 10, 2012 (2:00-4:00 pm EDT)
Are you a clinician working with teens? Join this videocast from the National Institute of Mental Health to learn how research informs our understanding of the developing brain, which translates into better treatment for teens. Register online.

Community Solutions Launches Webinar Series
First Webinar: May 23, 2012 (2:00 pm EDT)
Community Solutions at the University of South Florida is a new national resource for system planning and community capacity building. Its goal is to provide services and training that will equip individuals, communities, and states with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively provide behavioral health services and supports to all children, youth and their families. Community Solutions is hosting a new webinar series that will be beneficial to anyone involved in developing and implementing successful community initiatives and systems of care. These webinars are currently being offered free of charge and are open to everyone to participate. Presenters include faculty experts, as well as additional scholars, educators, policy makers, youth, and families who are integrally involved in shaping the children’s mental health field through their expertise in a variety of areas. The first webinar, Health Reform: A Bridge to Health Equity, will be held May 23, 2012 at 2:00 pm EDT. Information about registration and other available webinars is available online.

Psychotropic Medication Use Among Children and Youth in Care
In this archived National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections (NRCPCF) webcast, Dr Gerald Mallon, NRCPCF Executive Director, talks with Dr Christopher Bellonci about psychotropic medication use among children and youth in care. This webcast compliments past NRCPCF and National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health events and discusses best practices regarding use, and oversight and monitoring of use, of psychotropic medications by children/youth in foster care, as well as the impact of the Fostering Connections Act. This webcast focuses primarily on the role of child welfare staff in working with prescribers of medications, foster parents, birth parents, and children/youth in care.

http://www.aap.org/commpeds/dochs/mentalhealth/mh5n.html
Addressing Mental Health Concerns in Primary Care: A Clinician’s Toolkit
This AAP resource includes a series of tools that provide a clinical framework and guidance for the assessment and care of children and adolescents presenting with mental health concerns. Find guidance on anxiety, depression, and inattention and impulsivity, just to name a few. AAP members have free access to Guidance on Disruptive Behavior and Aggression.

Free Pedialink Course: Electronic Health Records In Primary Pediatric Care
This free AAP course is designed as a resource for practices considering the adoption of electronic health records. This course will help you develop a plan to address the technical, organizational, and economic challenges in EHR implementation in your practice and evaluate specific EHR products in terms of vendor stability and interoperability with other information systems in your practice. Resources will also be identified that can be helpful in choosing a specific EHR product. This course will be available online until February 21, 2013.

Mental Health Screening and Assessment Tools for Primary Care
This recently updated table provides a listing of mental health screening and assessment tools, summarizing their psychometric testing properties, cultural considerations, costs and key references.

24-Hour Mobile Mental Health Crisis Team Reduces Hospitalization for Children With Complex Behavioral and Emotional Needs
Wraparound Milwaukee is featured in an AHRQ Innovation Profile for its model Mobile Urgent Treatment Team, which provides 24-hour crisis intervention services to families in the Milwaukee area. The team defuses crisis situations and helps find community services for the child and family as an alternative to institutionalization. The program, which is popular among both police and parents, has significantly reduced the need for hospitalization for children and adolescents after a crisis situation. Learn more about the Wraparound Milwaukee model.

Georgia Psychotropic Medication Monitoring Project
In collaboration with Casey Family Programs and the Child Welfare Collaborative, the Barton Child Law and Policy Center led a project from February 2011 to January 2012 to explore concerns about the administration of psychotropic medication use among children in Georgia’s foster care system. This report presents project findings and recommendations for improvement along the frameworks proposed by national studies.

Mental Health, United States, 2010
This publication from SAMHSA reports on the United States’ mental health system across 3 themes: people, treatment facility characteristics, and payers and payment mechanisms. State-level data, needs of children and military personnel, and services in non-traditional settings are included. The report is available for free through the SAMHSA Web site, although shipping charges may apply.

National Center Releases New Self-assessment Tool
A new checklist by the National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University provides a vehicle for organizations and their personnel to measure individual and collective progress over time. This free checklist is one in a series of self-assessments produced to heighten awareness of and sensitivity to the importance of cultural diversity and cultural competence in human service settings. The checklist provides examples of the kinds of values and practices that foster a diverse and culturally and linguistically competent service-delivery system for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth (LGBTQ) and their families who require health, behavioral health, or other services and supports. Promoting Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competency: Self-Assessment Checklist for Personnel Providing Services and Supports to LGBTQ Youth and their Families is organized around the following topics: the physical environment, materials, and resources; communication practices; and values and attitudes. Information on how to use the checklist is included.

New Resources Highlight CHDI’s Quality Improvement Work
The Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut, Inc (CDHI) has released a new report titled The Performance Improvement Center: A Promising Approach for Improving Service Quality and Outcomes. This report highlights methodology along with a case study for improving the quality and effectiveness of community-based child mental health care programs in Connecticut. The case study details how CHDI’s Performance Improvement Center increased the effectiveness of statewide Emergency Mobile Psychiatric

http://www.aap.org/comm ped/s/docs/mentalhealth/mh5n.html
System Crisis Intervention Services, resulting in statistically significant improvements in the emotional and behavioral functioning of children and families receiving its services. A brief summary of the report as part of CHDI’s Issue Brief Series is also available online.

New Stop Bullying Web Site
The US Department of Health & Human Services and the Department of Education have launched an enhanced Web site to prevent and respond to bullying. StopBullying.gov emphasizes action steps individuals can take to prevent bullying in their schools and communities. The site features tools and resources for community leaders, young people, and families on ways to recognize the warning signs and when to take action; tips to prevent bullying before it starts; ways to implement strategies for prevention; ideas for sharing community resources, policies, or strategies to prevent and address bullying; and information on state bullying laws. Additional resources include widgets, badges, and e-mail updates, as well as options for submitting materials to the resource database, following the campaign on Twitter or Facebook, and providing feedback.

Promoting Children’s Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Health
The Center for the Study of Social Policy has developed a report designed to support policymakers in their efforts to ensure all families have access to necessary, quality care so children grow up with the support they need to be healthy and productive. This paper is intended to be a companion piece to the Promote Children’s Social, Emotional, and Behavioral health section of PolicyForResults.org.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

New Statewide Family Network Grants
Deadline: May 18, 2012
SAMHSA has announced the availability of $440,000 to fund 7 Statewide Family Network Grants ($60,000 each, with 2 having the ability to obtain an additional $10,000 for a youth leadership component). The purpose of this program is to enhance state capacity and infrastructure to be more oriented to the needs of children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances and their families by providing information, referrals, and support to families who have a child with a serious emotional disturbance and to create a mechanism for families to participate in state and local mental health services planning and policy development. Access the Request for Applications to learn more about key dates and eligibility. Applications are due by May 18, 2012.

Child Welfare - Early Education Partnerships to Expand Protective Factors for Children With Child Welfare Involvement
Deadline: June, 11, 2012
The US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families is seeking proposals for projects to improve the socio-emotional and behavioral well-being of infants and young children, ages birth to 5-years-old, and their families, through collaborative service delivery. Specifically, these 24-month grant projects will build infrastructure capacity between state, local, or tribal child welfare agencies and early childhood systems to ensure that infants and young children who are in or at risk of entering into foster care have access to comprehensive, high-quality early care and education services. Projects also will promote and utilize multi-disciplinary interventions that build on protective factors and mediate the effects of adverse experiences. You can learn more by reviewing the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Research on the Health of LGBTI Populations
Deadline: Varies
The National Institutes of Health is seeking proposals for research relevant to the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and related populations (LGBTI). Areas of interest include studies of suicidality and stress-related illnesses in LGBTI populations, including prevalence, risk and protective factors, and preventive interventions. Access the Funding Announcement Opportunities for Research on the Health of LGBTI Populations [R01], Research on the Health of LGBTI Populations [R03], or Research on the Health of LGBTI Populations [R21] to learn more about the specific requirements and deadlines.

http://www.aap.org/commpeds/dochs/mentalhealth/mh5n.html
Please note that some journals may require a membership to gain access to the articles.

**Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research** - Vol 38, No 3, May 2012
- Early Intervention for Substance Abuse Among Youth and Young Adults With Mental Health Conditions: An Exploration of Community Mental Health Practices
- Adolescents With Diabetes and Their Parents' Perceptions of Mental Health Screening, Assessment, and Feedback

**American Journal of Psychiatry** - Vol 169, No 4, Apr 2012
- Imaging Adolescent Depression Treatment
- Brain Activity in Adolescent Major Depressive Disorder Before and After Fluoxetine Treatment

**Archives of General Psychiatry** - Vol 69, No 4, Apr 2012
- Prevalence, Persistence, and Sociodemographic Correlates of DSM-IV Disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication Adolescent Supplement
- Severity of 12-month DSM-IV Disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication Adolescent Supplement
- Use and Abuse of Alcohol and I illicit Drugs in US Adolescents: Results of the National Comorbidity Survey-Adolescent Supplement

**Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine** - Vol 166, No 4, Apr 2012
- Exposure to Gestational Diabetes Mellitus and Low Socioeconomic Status: Effects on Neurocognitive Development and Risk of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Offspring
- Recent Progress in Understanding Pediatric Bipolar Disorder

**British Journal of Psychiatry** - Vol 200, Issue 4, Apr 2012
- Mental Health Problems in Children and Young People From Minority Ethnic Groups: The Need for Targeted Research
- Intellectual Disability and Other Neuropsychiatric Outcomes in High-risk Children of Mothers With Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder and Unipolar Major Depression
- Parent Psychopathology and Offspring Mental Disorders: Results From the WHO World Mental Health Surveys
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