



Children's Justice Act E-Newsletter

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In This Issue:

- New AFCARS Report Released
- National Center on Missing and Exploited Children Internet Safety Training

Quarterly Featured Topic- Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare

- *Crossover Youth Practice Model*
- *CASA Judges' Page Newsletter - Crossover Cases*
- *CWLA Guidebook for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Service Coordination and Integration*
- *Crossover Youth Transitioning Out of Care*
- *Screening Tool for Runaway Youth*
- *NIAAA Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention for Youth*

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The Summer 2012 CJA e-newsletter includes information about the latest AFCARS report, internet safety resources from the National Center on Missing and Exploited Children and our Quarterly Featured Topic-Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare.

New AFCARS Report Released

In July, the Children's Bureau released the new statistics on the numbers of children involved with the child welfare system. The ***Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reports System (AFCARS) Report No. 19*** provides preliminary Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 data which includes information on the number of children in foster care, the number who entered and exited care, the number of children waiting to be adopted and the number who have been adopted during FFY2011.

In addition a trend report is available entitled ***Trends in Foster Care and Adoption-FY 2002-FY 2011***, also based on the AFCARS data, that indicates a substantial decline in the number of children in foster care as well as a decline in the number of children served. The data from the trend report shows that FFY 2005 had the highest number of entries to that date with 307,000 entries into foster care. Since that time, the number of entries into foster care has declined to 252,000, the lowest number since AFCARS data has been reported.

While the report does cite some data quality issues, there is clearly a pattern of decline in the number of children in foster care and the number of children served which was 800,000 in FFY 2002 and dropped in FFY 2011 to 646,000.

To access the AFCARS report go to:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afc_ars/tar/report19.pdf.

For a copy of the AFCARS trend report go to:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afc_ars/trends_july2012.pdf

National Center on Missing and Exploited Children Internet Safety Training

The mission of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, (NCMEC), a private, nonprofit organization, is to serve as a resource on the issues of missing and sexually exploited children. The organization provides information and resources to law enforcement, parents, children, including child victims as well as other professionals.

One of the resources that NCMEC provides is training to increase communication between adults and children about online safety. The program called NetSmartz® provides information for adults to share with children about many types of internet related issues including cyber bullying, blogging, social networking and overall internet safety. The free program provides specific content for caregivers and law enforcement and provides videos, presentations and activities tailored for specific audiences.

To access the NetSmartz® program go to <http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>

Quarterly Featured Topic: *Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare*

Each quarter the newsletter highlights a topic of interest to CJA programs. This quarter the focus is on juvenile justice and child welfare. Below are resources related to this topic:

Crossover Youth Practice Model

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute supports leaders in juvenile justice and other systems of care. CJJR has partnered with Casey Family Programs to address the issues for youth who are known to both child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

These children and youth have been termed "crossover youth" because they move between child welfare and juvenile justice systems or are involved with both systems at the same time. According to CJJR, a disproportionate number of crossover youth are girls and youth of color. All of these crossover youth have greater service and support needs than youth who are part of just one system.

In order to address the special needs of youth who cross between both child welfare and juvenile justice, CJJR developed the ***Crossover Youth Practice Model*** to provide for consistent practices with youth between both systems and to create shared resources and data between the systems.

CJJR and Casey Family Programs are working together to implement the practice model in eleven jurisdictions listed on the following page.

Crossover Youth Practice Model (Cont'd)

The participating jurisdictions include counties in:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| ■ Florida | ■ Colorado |
| ■ Ohio | ■ Washington |
| ■ California | ■ Oregon |
| ■ Pennsylvania | ■ New York |
| ■ South Carolina | ■ Texas |
| ■ Iowa | |

To review the Crossover Youth Practice Model and to find out more about programs in the participating jurisdictions go to:

<http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/pm/practicemodel.html>

CASA Judges' Page Newsletter on Crossover Cases

In the March 2010 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) publication, *Judges' Page Newsletter*, resources for judges in court systems involved with crossover cases are highlighted. The newsletter provides information on three documents published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) that addresses best practices for crossover cases and features specific topics related to crossover youth including:

- the critical role of the CASA/GAL;
- resiliency, risks and protective factors that need to be addressed in crossover cases;
- the connection between childhood maltreatment and delinquency;
- methods three featured courts have used to coordinate cases involving crossover youth;
- expanded training needs for volunteers in crossover cases; and
- reform in handling crossover cases.

To review the *CASA Judges' Page Newsletter* go to:

http://www.casaforchildren.org/site/c.mtJSJ7MPIsE/b.5852971/k.909F/Editors_Message.htm

CWLA Guidebook for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare System Coordination and Integration

Another resource for developing a comprehensive framework to achieve improved outcomes for youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems is the CWLA publication, *Guidebook for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare System Coordination and Integration: A Framework for Improved Outcomes*. The guidebook, which is organized by the phases in the framework development process, starts with mobilization and advocacy, then moves through the phases to implementation. To download a copy of the guidebook go to:

<http://www.modelsforchange.net/publications/195>

Crossover Youth Transitioning Out of Care

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities initiative partnered to publish ***Supporting Youth in Transition to Adulthood: Lessons Learned from Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice***. The publication provides information on the very challenging aspects of preparing youth to age out of care that also have involvement in the juvenile justice system. Included in the publication are features concerning assessment, case management and promising practices that have impacted outcomes for these youth.

The publication also provides case study information on Tennessee and that state's efforts to develop a single model of practice applicable to both child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Among many things, the Tennessee practice model details content guidelines for Child and Family Team Meetings held prior to a youth's discharge from care and options to increase family stabilization and family-centered practices when working with delinquent offenders.

Overall conclusions and recommendations are provided in the publication to assist states in developing targeted services and improved service coordination between Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare for youth transitioning from care. To download a copy of the publication go to:

<http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/pdfs/TransitionPaperFinal.pdf>

Screening Tool for Runaway Youth

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Journal Spring 2012 issue includes a number of topics related to the needs of youth in the juvenile justice system.

One of the articles in the journal addresses the unique needs of runaway youth that may actually need child welfare services. The article entitled ***The 10 Question Tool: A Novel Screening Instrument for Runaway Youth*** provides a tool that can be utilized by law enforcement to screen runaway youth and gain information related to their safety. The questions on the tool can help determine if the youth has been victimized by gathering information about why the youth left home, how long he or she has been gone and what has happened to the youth since leaving home. The tool, which was developed and used as part of a research study, was found to help in locating newly assaulted runaways and to help in securing needed care for them.

The article recommends that the tool be utilized by law enforcement in partnership with local Child Advocacy Centers or other service providers and that the information from the tool should be shared with Child Protective Services, youth shelters and other victim support services.

To view the OJJDP Journal and the article concerning the 10-Question Tool go to:
<http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org/JOJJ0102/JOJJ0102.pdf>

NIAAA Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention for Youth

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics, has developed an empirically based tool and guide entitled the ***Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention for Youth: A Practitioner's Guide*** to be used for identifying youth at risk for alcohol-related problems.

According to the NIAAA, the tool can detect risk early, is fast and versatile and is the first tool to include a question about friends' drinking. The tool can be used with children and youth from 9-18 years of age.

Research related to the tool indicates two entry questions on the tool, one about friends' drinking and the other about personal drinking frequency had the greatest predictive value for future risk.

The guide for the use of the tool provides instruction on the best way to utilize the tool including an easy flow chart with steps to follow based on the answers to the initial two questions. The steps then lead to appropriate interventions based on the answers.

To download the guide and tool go to:

<http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Practitioner/YouthGuide/YouthGuide.pdf>

Have a Question or Comment?

Let us know if you have questions or a comment. Do you have ideas for future issues or a topic for the next CJA webinar? Please contact Kathy Simms at kathy.simms@action4cp.org.

Look for the next CJA e-newsletter in Winter 2012. To view archived issues of the CJA newsletter, go to: <http://nrccps.org/peer-networks/cja-support/>

Also available at the same link on the NRCCPS website are archived webinars including many topics of interest for CJA grantees.