

## Transforming Children's Mental Health in America

## CAFB Branch Update Winter 2008

<http://www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov>



The field of child, youth and family mental health is well known for hard work, passion and commitment, and it is a great privilege for those of us here at the Branch to work with families, youth, providers and administrators who care so deeply about improving the service delivery system. In the next several months, we will launch new initiatives to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to the priorities we have established. These activities include:

- ✓ Teaming up with the National Federation to develop a Family-Driven Care Policy Academy;
- ✓ Partnering with Youth MOVE to create an anti-stigma campaign that is accomplished "for youth, by youth;"
- ✓ Collaborating with Georgetown University to offer a "new and improved" Leadership Academy, and
- ✓ Sponsoring Children's Mental Health Awareness Day at the national and local levels, which will include Howie Mandell as our National Ambassador

We are also excited about the Training Institutes to be held in Nashville, TN where we will come together once again to learn, network and rejuvenate. As we engage in these and other important activities in 2008, you can be assured that our focus and commitment to children, youth and families and their well-being is unwavering.

Sincerely,

Gary Blau and Diane Sondheimer

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## March 2008 JMATE Conference *Addressing Diversity*

The 2008 Joint Meeting on Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness (JMATE) will be held at the Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington D.C. from March 25 through 27, 2008. JMATE provides a forum for a wide range of partners to come together to discuss the latest advances in adolescent drug treatment, with a particular emphasis on the unique perspectives of youth and their families. The TA Partnership will be sponsoring a track titled *"Understanding the Past, Changing the Future: Improving Outcomes for Children, Youth and Families of African Descent"* in collaboration with the National Alliance of Multi-Ethnic Behavioral Health Associations (NAMBHA). Additional information, including how to register and hotel information, can be found at <http://www.mayatech.com/cti/jmate/>. You may also contact Karen Francis at [KFrancis@air.org](mailto:KFrancis@air.org). Participation in the conference counts towards fulfilling the requirement for the winter grantee meeting.

## Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (May 8, 2008)

Mark your calendars! National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day will be held on May 8, 2008. Be sure to check the Campaign's list serve and the Awareness Day website at: (<http://systemsofcare.samhsa.gov/nationalawareness/materials.aspx>) for announcements about upcoming Awareness Day planning events and the most up-to-date information about the national event:

- February 19 at 3 p.m. Providing Support for Developing Partnerships
- April (date TBD) Review of Data Release and Media Materials Embargoed
- June (date TBD) Awareness Day Highlights (Webinar)

## New and Improved Leadership Academy!

The Georgetown University Leadership Academy, "Leading in Challenging Times," will be held from March 31- April 3, 2008, in Santa Fe, NM. The Academy is designed to enhance skills and improve leadership capabilities. Over 48 attendees have signed up to participate in this personal growth experience. Participants will build their leadership capacities and develop a blueprint for leading effective change in their home communities. The Leadership Academy was fully enrolled within 3 weeks of the initial announcement. Plans are underway for a second Leadership Academy to be held in the Fall. Check the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health's website for information about future Leadership Academies:

[http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/programs/ta\\_center/index.html](http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/programs/ta_center/index.html)

## Youth MOVE National Update

Youth MOVE National (YMN) has made tremendous strides over the past year. In November 2007, Carl Yonder was hired as the first Director of Youth MOVE National. Youth MOVE National also became incorporated. With money provided by SAMHSA, Youth MOVE National was also able to increase its board size from 12 to 18 members. Youth MOVE National is also working on Dare to Dream America, an anti-stigma campaign based on the Dare to Dream program in Canada. Youth MOVE National would like to send an enormous thank you to the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. They are 'housing' YMN, serve as their fiscal agent, and provide Executive and Developmental Training for Carl and the board. Keep up the good work!! For more information about Youth MOVE National, contact Carl Yonder at [cyonder@ffcmh.org](mailto:cyonder@ffcmh.org).

## Upcoming Training Institutes in Nashville!

The 2008 Georgetown University Institutes will be held July 16 to 20, 2008 in Nashville, TN at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. The 2008 Training Institutes will focus on strategies and skills to strengthen partnerships, provide effective services, and improve outcomes to children and youth with mental health needs. The institutes will focus on three new "tracks" to strengthen systems of care:

Track 1: Implementing a Public Health Approach

Track 2: Partnering with Schools

Track 3: Partnering with Child Welfare

For more information about the 2008 Training Institutes, please visit:

[http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/programs/ta\\_center/TrainingInstitutes/T12008/newdirections.html](http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/programs/ta_center/TrainingInstitutes/T12008/newdirections.html)



## In the Spotlight

We would like to officially introduce our newest member of the CAFB Branch. LT Bethanie Parrish is a proud member of the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. She joined the Branch in August 2007. Bethanie is a licensed clinical social worker with a specialization in working with children and families. Prior to joining the Branch, she worked for the Carroll County Department of Services and Spring Grove Hospital Center. We are very glad to have her as part of our team!



## National Federation of Families 19th Annual Conference



The National Federation of Families 19th Annual Conference was held December 7-9, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The theme of the conference was "Family-Driven, Youth-Guided Partnerships with Mental Health, Juvenile and Criminal Justice: Defining Excellence and Increasing Success through Practice-Based Evidence." The conference was a huge success with over 1000 people in attendance! Next year's conference will be held in Atlanta, GA.