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PEDIATRICS WORK GROUP ANNOUNCES MINI-TRACK AT NATIONAL HCH CONFERENCE

The Network's Pediatric Work Group planned a two-session mini-track for the upcoming 2007 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference. The first session, "Understanding Traumatic Stress in Children," will teach participants to identify ways that traumatic stress affects children's development; to understand how traumatic stress affects the body; and to learn strategies to help children and families cope with traumatic stress. Developed for anyone who works with homeless children and families, the workshop is appropriate for those who have little or no training in recognizing and addressing traumatic stress. The workshop is on Thursday, June 14, 2:00 - 3:30 PM.

The second session, "Using the PEACH Curriculum as a Tool to Help Children Heal," is on Friday, June 15, 10:30 AM - 12:00 noon. Workshop objectives are to teach attendees about PEACH, the wellness curriculum for young children developed by the National Center on Family Homelessness (NCFH); to examine how the curriculum has been implemented in

communities; and to learn how to implement the curriculum in your own location with NCFH support. This workshop is appropriate for those working with children in transitional settings and homeless health care projects.

For more information about the 2007 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference and other Network-sponsored events, visit our website at www.nhchc.org. Under Resources for the Provision of Care: What's New, click the link to **Network-Sponsored Events** at the National HCH Conference.

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CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The HCH Clinicians' Network announces that Betty Schulz, CPNP, RN, former Steering Committee member and Chair of our Pediatrics Work Group, is the new liaison with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In her new role, Betty will help see that homeless issues are taken into consideration as the Campaign moves forward and help keep Network members informed about the Campaign.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the most supported and fastest ratified human rights document in the history of the world, with 193 countries having signed and ratified the treaty. Only two countries, Somalia and the United States, have not ratified this agreement. American children suffer from some of the highest rates of poverty, hunger and infant mortality in the industrialized world. Four American children die every day due to abuse and neglect,¹ and nearly three-quarters of all the murders of children in industrialized countries occur in the U.S.²

More can be done in order to safeguard our most physically, psychologically, politically and socially vulnerable citizens. In the U.S., the Convention would establish a useful framework and set clear goals to address specific needs of families and children. The Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the CRC website, at <http://childrightscampaign.org>, is designed to provide basic information about the CRC, the Campaign, and how you can participate based upon your level of interest. For more information, write crc@childrightscampaign.org.

NOTES

1. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth & Families. Child Maltreatment 2004: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System. 2006. Washington, DC: Author.
2. Krug, E.G., Dahlberg, L.L., & Powell, K.E. Childhood homicide, suicide and firearm deaths: an international comparison. *World Health Stat Q.* 1996; 49:230-235; and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Rates of homicide, suicide and firearm-related death among children: 26 industrialized countries. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 1997; 46:101-105.

SOURCE: Convention on the Rights of the Child | <http://childrightscampaign.org>

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LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER YOUTH: AN EPIDEMIC OF HOMELESSNESS

A report released by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force in collaboration with the National Coalition for the Homeless says between 20 and 40 percent of homeless youth are lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender, and that conflicts at home over sexual orientation or gender identity are the driving force behind these disturbing statistics. It is estimated that about three to five percent of the U.S. population identify as gay or lesbian, so these figures are grossly disproportionate.

The report, "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Youth: An Epidemic of Homelessness," addresses the harassment and violence that many of these young people experience in public shelters, and the specific impact on LGBT homeless youth of federal funding for so-called faith-based service providers. The full report can be downloaded at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force website at www.thetaskforce.org, and you may contact the study's author Nicholas Ray of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute at nray@theTaskForce.org.

SOURCE: "This Way Out" Program #984 | February 5, 2007 | TWORadio@aol.com | www.thiswayout.org

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PEDIATRIC TB ONLINE COURSE NOW AVAILABLE

The Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center (CNTC) announces the release of its latest Internet course: Pediatric Tuberculosis: An Online Presentation. The slide and audio presentation is designed for clinicians who diagnose and treat tuberculosis (TB) and latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) in children. Written and presented by Ann Loeffler, MD, one of the nation's most respected authorities on pediatric TB, the course provides a thorough and engaging overview of the topic, which is consistently named by providers as one of their highest priority training needs.

Loeffler's 50-minute presentation, based on lectures delivered during CNTC's Clinical Tuberculosis Intensive, focuses on:

- Why clinicians should be concerned about pediatric TB
- Three basic situations in which children are often evaluated for LTBI or active disease
- Interpretation of tuberculin skin test results and the use of QuantiFERON in pediatric populations
- Treatment of LTBI
- Diagnosis and treatment of active TB in children, including scrofula

Continuing medical education credits are available to course participants. Over 30 supplemental resource materials, including handy tables, algorithms and forms can also be downloaded. Visit Pediatric Tuberculosis: An Online Presentation at www.nationaltbcenter.edu/pediatric_tb.

SOURCE: Francis J. Curry National TB Center | www.nationaltbcenter.edu/

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LATER DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM AMONG MINORITY CHILDREN RAISES CONCERN

There is "widespread" concern about whether black and other minority children with autism are being diagnosed early enough or are being misdiagnosed, the Hartford Courant reports. According to a 2002 study of children enrolled in Medicaid, black children on average were diagnosed with autism 18 months later than white children were diagnosed. White children were diagnosed at age 6.3, compared with 7.9 for black children. Researcher David Mandell, assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, also found that black children were 2.6 times less likely than white children to be diagnosed with autism during the first visit to a specialist and more likely to be misdiagnosed with behavior and adjustment disorders.

Thyde Dumont-Mathieu, a developmental pediatrician at the University of Connecticut, added, "I know some (parents) have said their child as a black child is more likely to be labeled as having oppositional defiance disorder than as having autism."

Access to a specialist, insurance, cost, and cultural and communication factors are likely contributors to later diagnoses for minority children, the Courant reports. In addition, Dumont-Mathieu said that different cultures might focus on different symptoms, which can delay diagnosis.

It is best to diagnose children with autism by age three so the child can immediately begin intervention programs, according to the Courant. Dumont-Mathieu said, "It is crucial to identify children with autistic-spectrum disorders as early as possible, as studies have demonstrated that the provision of early, intensive, high-quality intervention services is associated with improved outcomes."

The National Autism Association is establishing a committee that will raise autism awareness among minority communities to address the issue, Wendy Fournier, president of the association, said (Megan, Hartford Courant, 5/14).

SOURCE: Daily Reports | The Henry Kaiser Family Foundation | May 14, 2007 | <http://kaisernetwork.org>

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PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse and neglect is a recurring event in today's society. Many of the children who are abused tend to be harmed by adults they know. Children who are abused are at a much greater risk to become violent adults, whether it is committing child abuse or other crimes, so outreach and education to prevent the cycle is important. The Brain Injury Association of Minnesota is focusing attention on educating the Latino community about Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS)/inflicted Traumatic Brain Injury (iTBI). Here are some key tips to promote preventing SBS/iTBI:

- Take a deep breath and count to 10.
- Make sure the child's basic needs are met (e.g., food, diaper, clothing).
- Take the child for a walk or a car ride.
- Call a friend, relative or neighbor to come over for support.
- Put the child in their crib/room, making sure they are safe, close the door, and check on them every five minutes.
- Call the Crisis Connection Hotline at [provide a local number] or 911 for help.

For more information, visit the Brain Injury Association of Minnesota website at www.braininjurymn.org or call 880-669-6442.

SOURCE: Headlines Online | enews@braininjurymn.org | April 4, 2007

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STATE-BY-STATE ANALYSIS OF UNINSURED CHILDREN RELEASED

In preparation for Cover the Uninsured Week 2007, April 23 - 27, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation released a comprehensive analysis of children's access to health insurance. The state-by-state analysis, conducted by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center, provides specific data about the number of children living below the federal poverty level, changes in the percent of working parents who receive health insurance from an employer, the number of uninsured children, and several other factors across different time periods. To access the complete analysis, visit <http://covertheuninsured.org/media/research/WhoseKidsAreCovered.pdf>.

SOURCE: Primary Care & Prevention Network News | March 16, 2007

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HEALTH AFFAIRS ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS CHILDREN'S HEALTH COVERAGE

"Designing Children's Health Care" is the focus of the March/April 2007 edition of *Health Affairs*. Featured articles cover health care, insurance redesign, data tracking and collection, and schools. Below is a brief article list:

- "Transforming the U.S. Child Health System"
- "SCHIP at a Crossroads: Experiences to Date and Challenges Ahead"
- "Universal Coverage for Children: Alternatives, Key Issues and Political Opportunities"
- "Family Structure and Children's Physical and Mental Health"
- "Newborn Screening: Current Status"

SOURCE: Primary Care & Prevention Network News | March 16, 2007

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HOMELESS CHILDREN DON'T HAVE TO BE HOMELESS ADULTS

The Vogel Alcove in Dallas, Texas, helps the youngest homeless members of the Dallas community. This nonprofit "haven for the children of the homeless" was established almost 21 years ago by a collaboration of 21 synagogues and Jewish organizations as a child care center for 11 children of homeless families living in a downtown shelter. Today, the Vogel Alcove is a multifaceted program providing free childcare and development services,

parenting services, and primary health care access to more than 100 infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers daily. Its 11,000 sq. ft. facility houses 10 classrooms, including three Head Start programs. Twenty affiliated organizations in the community including domestic violence and emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs refer the children to the Vogel Alcove. Requiring such referrals ensures that the parent(s) are linked to community services.

Two weeks after enrolling at the Vogel Alcove, children receive professional development screenings to assess their motor, cognitive, behavioral, emotional and language skills. Speech, play therapy, and other assistance is made available as appropriate to try to overcome any developmental delays the child is experiencing. Most of the children enrolled in the Alcove childcare program are served onsite but some, particularly those whose parent is staying at a domestic violence shelter, receive services at affiliated sites. The Alcove also offers a parenting program one night a week with four classes running concurrently. These classes include "parenting matters," "beyond surviving," "infant massage to facilitate bonding and attachment between parent and infant," and a culturally sensitive program in Spanish.

Primary health care services, including well child check-ups, immunizations, vision and hearing checks, are provided twice weekly by the Homeless Outreach Medical Services (HOMES) Mobile Van of Parkland Hospital, a federally funded Health Care for the Homeless Project.

The hospital also contracts for a nurse to visit the Alcove every morning for two hours. The HOMES program is an effort between Parkland Health and Hospital System and the City of Dallas that uses mobile motor homes to provide medical care and social work services to the pediatric and adult homeless population within the City of Dallas. The mobile units are equipped with clerical and nursing stations, two examination rooms, a pharmacy and restroom. The HOMES program also played an important role post-Katrina when thousands of Louisianans evacuated to Dallas. HOMES mobile units were set up outside Reunion Arena and the Dallas Convention Center to provide primary medical care and a dedicated pharmacy staff to provide prescription refills.

When the Alcove started to track where parents and children went after they left a shelter, they found that often those who were now housed had practical support needs such as furniture and other household items, baby formula, etc. Two former Board members familiar with furniture banks in Houston and Atlanta incorporated the Dallas Furniture Bank three years ago. The Bank works on a voucher system with vouchers purchased for families by the Alcove. In collaboration with shelter and housing providers, the Alcove will continue to provide case management services for a time after the family is housed.

The Alcove continues to be mostly privately funded but does receive limited HUD funding through the Continuum of Care process, small amounts of CDBG money from the city, and food nutrition assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More than 400 community members volunteer each year at the Alcove.

While the Alcove sees many situational homeless circumstances, many more appear to be "generational homelessness," according to Alcove Executive Director Barbara Landix. One voluntary parent survey found that 32 percent had had involvement with child protective services, more than 50 percent had a history of physical or sexual abuse or domestic violence, and increasingly there is a jail or corrections history.

The Vogel Alcove program has been "adopted" by the Dallas Psychoanalytic Network whose members offer professional mental health assistance for the most difficult cases. Says Landix, "We all experience life as a journey. We travel life's highways, and occasionally there is a detour. Yet most of us are able to navigate, get our bearings and we get back onto life's road. But for some, life's journey is much more complex. The Alcove is that oasis along the way. We give hope, we give help, and we allow weary travelers to regain their strength and chart their plans for the future."

SOURCE: Interagency Council on the Homeless e-newsletter

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FUNDING & AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

A Brighter Future for Children & Youth: Youth Violence Prevention Programs

Deadline: July 2, 2007

United Methodist Women announces funds to support programs for children and youths (ages 5 to 18) in the areas of peacemaking, anti-abuse and nonviolence. Projects shall involve women and youth at the grassroots level; provide direct services to young people; promote respect for racial/ethnic diversity; and cultivate spiritual life and values. Eligible applicants include faith- and community-based organizations. Awards up to \$4,000 are available. For further information, contact Women's Division's Office of Mission Opportunities at Musherke@gbgm-umc.org or go to: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/money/grants/abrighter-future-for-children-and-youth-2005-2008/>.
GrantID: GD2036

SOURCE: Funding Alert | Vol 10, Issue 19 | May 7, 2007 | <http://opgd.dc.gov>

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Children's Program Support

Application deadline: July 15, 2007

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation supports organizations that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children through the dissemination of knowledge of new and innovative programs designed to benefit youth or through the dissemination of knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations. For further information, go to

www.legion.org/cwf. GrantID: GD2054

SOURCE: Funding Alert | Office of Partnerships & Grants Development | Government of the District of Columbia | Vol 10, Issue 20 | May 14, 2007

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**Staples Foundation for Learning Offers Support for Education & Job Skills Programs
Deadline: August 3, 2007**

The mission of Staples Foundation for Learning is "to teach, train, and inspire." The foundation contributes funds to national and local charities that provide educational opportunities and job skills for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. To be eligible for consideration, applicant organizations must have nonprofit, tax-exempt classification; offer programs aligned with the Staples Foundation for Learning's mission; and focus on job skills and education. Most grants awarded by the foundation are in the \$5,000 to \$25,000 range. The foundation reviews grant proposals on a quarterly basis. Go to www.staplesfoundation.org for complete program information.

RFP Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10007175/staplesfoundation>

SOURCE: RFP Bulletin | Foundation Center | May 4, 2007 | Vol 8, Issue 18 | <http://foundationcenter.org>

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Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation Accepting Grant Applications from Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence

Deadline: August 31, 2007

The goal of the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation is to eliminate domestic violence. As part of this effort, the foundation annually donates funds to worthwhile organizations that aid the victims of domestic violence. Since 2000, the foundation has awarded millions of dollars to women's shelters across the U.S. In 2005, the foundation distributed \$20,000 grants to 150 shelters, and again in 2006 the foundation awarded \$20,000 grants, totaling \$3 million, to 150 shelters in all 50 states. Shelters may use the funds awarded by the foundation for operating expenses, with the exception of staff travel. The foundation wishes to aid the largest number of shelters possible, which requires it to exclude for a one-year period the previous year's awardees. Visit the foundation's website at www.mkacf.org for further information and a grant application.

RFP Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10007108/mkacf>

SOURCE: RFP Bulletin | Foundation Center | April 27, 2007 | Vol 8, Issue 17 | <http://foundationcenter.org>

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Hello Tomorrow Fund

Deadline: No deadline date for applications

Avon Products, Inc., announces funds to assist individuals in realizing a program, project, or idea that will empower women in one of the following areas: business development, community service, or awareness and outreach. The Fund will award \$5,000 every week in 2007. Every Tuesday, a winner will be publicly announced and their profiles featured on the Hello Tomorrow website. For further information, go to

[http://shop.avon.com/HelloTomorrowFund](http://shop.avon.com>HelloTomorrowFund).

SOURCE: Funding Alert | Office of Partnerships & Grants Development | Government of the District of Columbia | Vol 10, Issue 20 | May 14, 2007

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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

June 6 - 9: National Mental Health Association Annual Meeting | Washington, D.C. | www.nmha.org

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June 14 - 16: 2007 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference | Washington, DC | For more information, go to www.prainc.com/_flash/index.html

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June 22: Using School-Based Clinics to Improve Adolescence Immunization Rates | 12 noon - 1 PM eastern | Presented by Tosan Oruwariye, MD, Director of School-Based Health Programs, Morris Heights Health Center, Bronx, NY | Free online, web-based continuing education program | Registration is limited; register in advance by selecting the title of the session.

<<http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?1Q,M3,08bec495-a445-4c09-a1f5-08ab80214cfd>>
Clinical Directors Network, Inc | cme@cdnetwork.org

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The Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network brings you this Pediatrics Interest Group e-mail update. We invite you to share your opinion on issues of concern to the pediatrics community. In addition, we welcome your feedback. If you have comments or suggestions for improvements to the newsletter, please send them to the Pediatrics Interest Group newsletter editor, Brenda Proffitt, at bproffitt@nhchc.org. If you decide to cancel your subscription, please send a blank e-mail to network@nhchc.org, and put Leave Pediatric Interest Group in the Subject line of your message.

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