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- * National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect
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NETWORK PEDIATRICS WORK GROUP SEEKS MEMBERS

Due to a couple of recent resignations, the Network Pediatrics Work Group is seeking members to fill these vacancies. The work group, which meets monthly by conference call, focuses on issues related homeless youth and children. Current projects include writing a public policy paper and developing a mini-track on parenting for the 2005 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference. For more information, contact Rachel Rodriguez-Marzec, MS, FNP-C, PMHNP, committee chair, at rachelrm1@comcast.net or 505 242-4644.

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CHILD HEALTH USA 2003

US Dept. of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services

Administration, Maternal & Child Health Bureau

Child Health USA 2003 is the 14th annual report on the health status and service needs of America's children. The Maternal & Child Health Bureau compiled this book of secondary data for 59 health and health care indicators. It provides graphical and text summaries of data and addresses long-term trends where applicable. Data are present for infants, children, adolescents, children with special health care needs, and women of childbearing age. *Child Health USA 2003* is published to provide the most current data available in an easy-to-use, succinct format. Single copies of the publication are available at no cost from the HRSA Information Center at 1 888 245-4772.

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NUTRITION RESOURCE FOR SHELTERS EXPANDED

The *Child & Adult Care Food Program*, a federal entitlement, is an underutilized resource for feeding children and youth in homeless, runaway, and domestic violence shelters and some transitional housing. Recently, Congress extended food program eligibility for children and youth in shelters from 13 years of age to up to 18 years of age. Shelters can receive up to \$5.70 per day for each participant served. For example, shelters serving meals to 20 children and youth each day could be eligible to receive up to \$41,000 a year in food program reimbursements. The *Food Research and Action Center's Outreach Tool Kit*, including state agency contacts and outreach materials, is available at http://www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/homeless/homeless_index.html <http://www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/homeless/homeless_index.html> . For more information, contact Geri Henchy at ghency@frac.org or 202 986-2200 ext. 3025.

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AUDIO CONFERENCE ON MASSACHUSETTS' RESPONSE TO FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

On January 13, the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), John Wagner, was the featured speaker for the *Leadership to End Homelessness Audio Conference Series*. The focus of the audio conference was on how his department shifted its response to family homelessness from heavy reliance on motels to an approach

that centers on moving families back into housing more rapidly. DTA, which is responsible for administering the TANF program, spent over \$20 million of the Commonwealth's Emergency Assistance program funds in fiscal year 2003 to house families in motels when shelters were full. In August 2003, 500 families in Massachusetts were residing in motels at a cost of \$3,000 per month for each family. Determining that this approach was unsustainable, DTA implemented a series of changes and, within one year, ended its reliance on motels.

DTA successfully turned this trend around by emphasizing moving families out of homelessness more rapidly, reducing the strain on the existing shelter system, and increasing the supply of family shelter beds. With the substantial cost savings, DTA has invested in new initiatives to foster progress in ending family homelessness. These initiatives include a **Shelter to Housing** pilot that provides \$6,000 to private agencies that successfully re-houses working families residing in shelters. DTA has also partnered with the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide up to 100 families with transition-in-place housing and with the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership to provide services and housing assistance to families with self-identified mental or behavioral health problems. A recording of the call is available on the PATH website; go to <http://www.pathprogram.samhsa.gov/naeh.asp>. More information about Massachusetts's efforts can be viewed online at:

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/audio/2005/MADTA.pdf>

SOURCE: National Alliance to End Homelessness | Online Newsletter | January 3, 2005

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GAO STUDIES YOUTH INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS

On December 21, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released the results of a survey of independent living coordinators in all 50 states and the District of Columbia on the development and implementation of their fiscal year 2003 Chafee programs. According to the GAO report, youth stated that locating safe and stable housing after leaving foster care was one of their primary concerns. Forty-six states reported using Chafee funds to offer a range of housing supports including rent assistance, group housing, supervised apartment sites and unsupervised apartment sites with case manager visits. Less than half of states reported using U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

or state housing authority resources for former foster youth. State officials consistently reported difficulties meeting the housing needs of youth because of a lack of employment history, lack of or poor credit history, no co-signer, lack of rental housing in rural areas, lack of available affordable housing or insufficient housing subsidies. Further findings in the report included:

- * 40 states have expanded existing services to younger youth (under 16)
- * 36 states reported serving youth older than they had previously served (above 18)
- * 31 states now provide Medicaid health insurance coverage to at least some former foster care youth
- * Several states reported a lack of a smooth transition between the youth and adult mental health systems as a major problem for youth exiting foster care

GAO recommended that HHS should make information available to states and local areas about other federal programs that may assist youth in their transition to self-sufficiency and provide guidance on how to access services under these programs. It also recommended that HHS should develop a standard reporting format for state plans and progress reports and implement a uniform process that regional offices can use to assess states' progress in meeting the needs of youth in foster care and those recently emancipated.

An essential part of fulfilling these recommendations is the creation of the [National Youth in Transition Database](#) and the release of federal guidance for its implementation. HHS explained to GAO that guidance related to this database, which has been delayed since 2001, will be released sometime in 2005. Releasing this guidance will allow states to move forward in collecting detailed program data, which will help programs identify areas of success and needed improvement as well as increase overall program accountability. For the complete GAO report, [Foster Youth: HHS Actions Could Improve Coordination of Services and Monitoring of States' Independent Living Programs](#), go to <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0525.pdf>

SOURCE: National Alliance to End Homelessness | Online Newsletter | January 3, 2005

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AUDIO CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAMS

Teen Living Programs, a Chicago-based agency serving homeless youth, was the topic of a recent Leadership to End Homelessness Audio Conference Series. A recording of the call is available on the PATH website; go to http://www.pathprogram.samhsa.gov/naeh_2004.asp.

More detailed information about Teen Living Programs and Chicago's service providers' efforts to ensure developmentally appropriate housing options for youth are available online at

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/audio/2004/12.html>

SOURCE: National Alliance to End Homelessness | Online Newsletter | December 13, 2004

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GIVING HOMELESS YOUTH A VOICE

National Alliance to End Homelessness is creating a contact list of youth providers and advocates to send information on specific federal issues and seek input as we continue to develop a national policy agenda to end youth homelessness. The following link

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=69585753457> takes you to a short, seven question, survey to collect information about your services to youth and young adults. Thank you for your assistance.

Peggy Bailey | Youth Policy & Program Analyst | National Alliance to End Homelessness

SOURCE: National Alliance to End Homelessness | Online Newsletter | December 7, 2004

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CHILD DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Despite increased attention to children's development, many young children fail to receive the social, developmental and health care support that they need to be ready for school according to a new chartbook related by **The Commonwealth Fund** and **Child Trends**, a nonpartisan research organization. *Early Child Development in Social Context: A Chartbook*, created by Child Trends in partnership with the **American Academy of Pediatrics Center for Child Health Research**, examines how young children in the U.S. fare on more than 30 key developmental indicators. The researchers find many American children, especially those

from low-income or minority families are not achieving their full potential because of problems that go unrecognized or untreated. The chartbook's release is accompanied by a teleconference in which an expert panel discusses the issues raised by the new report and the best ways to address them. To download *Early Child Development in Social Context: A Chartbook* and listen to a recording of the teleconference go to http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=237483. Other Commonwealth Fund publications on child health and development include:

- * Quality of Care for Children and Adolescents: A Chartbook, May 2004
- * Rethinking Well-Child Care, July 2004
- * Building a Bridge from Birth to School: Improving Developmental and Behavioral Health Services for Young Children, May 2003

SOURCE: MCN Streamline | The Migrant Health News Source | Vol. 10, Issue 5 | page 7

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A SHELTER IS NOT A HOME . . . OR IS IT? LESSONS FROM FAMILY HOMELESSNESS IN NEW YORK CITY | New York: White Tiger Press, 2004

A Shelter is Not a Home . . . Or Is It? Lessons from Family Homelessness in New York City is reviewed by Susan Lehmann in the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*. The book provides a general history of homelessness in the US since the 19th century and a detailed history of homelessness in New York City. The book concludes with a description of and rationale for Tier II shelters, which are long-term facilities where homeless families receive shelter, social services, health care, day care and education. The book, Lehmann writes, ". . . should prove to be a useful road map to what works and what does not work in addressing the problems of homeless families, of equal value to policy makers and to social service providers."

The book's author, **Ralph da Costa Nunez, PhD**, is president and CEO of **Homes for the Homeless** and the closely related research organization, the **Institute for Children and Poverty**. He is the author of academic texts

and papers, including *The New Poverty: A Generation of Homeless Families* and *Hopes, Dreams and Promise: The Future of Homeless Children in America*. He has also written three children's books that explore the challenges that face homeless children.

SOURCE: *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* | November 2004 | pages 706 - 7

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EARLY CHILDHOOD CARIES PROJECT

The **Association of Clinicians for the Underserved** Early Childhood Caries Project trains clinicians in how to recognize and prevent early childhood caries. ACU invites inquires from interested parties wanting to present this training session on a fee-for-service basis. For more information, contact ACU at acu@clincinas.org or 703 442-5318.

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SIDRAN INSTITUTE PRESS: PROFESSIONAL, CONSUMER & REFERENCE BOOKS, VIDEOS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON TRAUMATIC STRESS

* *The Traumatized Child* | video series | Describes how traumatized children understand the work and interact with others differently from other children, and how adults can respond most effectively.

* *A Terrible Thing Happened* | A storybook for children ages 4 - 6 who have witnessed any kind of violent or traumatic episode

* *Someone Hurt Me* | Encourages abused children to work through their feelings with vivid illustration and empathetic text

* *Real Life Heroes: A Life Storybook for Children* | Helps children move from negative or suppressed memories to a more positive perspective. It is designed to be used in tandem with *Rebuilding Attachments with Traumatized Children*, a guide to attachment and trauma therapy

* *Young Children & Trauma: Intervention & Treatment* | Addresses practical considerations in working with traumatized young children and their caregivers, focuses on building cross-disciplinary collaborations, and presents state-

of-the-art assessment and treatment approaches

* *Dissociative Features Profile* | Helps identify dissociative pathology in children and adolescents

* *Adolescent Dissociative Experiences Scale* | Developed specifically for adolescents ages 10 - 21

Go to <http://www.sidran.org> for a complete listing of publications and to order.

Source: Sidran Bookshelf | Fall 2004

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FDA ORDERS "BLACK BOX" WARNINGS ON ANTIDEPRESSANTS USED BY CHILDREN

The FDA has ordered a "black box" warning that must be carried on all antidepressants, linking the drugs to increased suicidal thoughts and behavior among children and teens taking them. The agency additionally is creating an information guide to advise patients of the risk, as "black box" warnings are seen primarily by doctors.

<http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/antidepressants/default.htm>

Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness | Online Newsletter | October 15, 2004

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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

February 6 - 9: **National Network for Youth Symposium 2005: 30 Years of Reflections and Revelations in Youth Services.**

Washington, DC. For details, visit

http://www.nn4youth.org/site/PageServer?pagename=meetings_symposium

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April 18 - 23: 15th **National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect: Supporting promising practices & positive outcomes:**

A shared responsibility. At the Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts. Sponsored by the US Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Children & Families, Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse & Neglect.

A limited number of partial and full registration scholarships are available. To register, visit the website at

[http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/profess/conferences/cbconferen
ce/indes.cfm](http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/profess/conferences/cbconferen
ce/indes.cfm). For more information, call 703 528-0435 or
write 15Conf@pal-tech.com.

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April 27 - 29: **Young Children Without Homes National
Conference**. Boston, Massachusetts. Sponsored by **Horizons
for Homeless Children**. For details, visit
<http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org>

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