

April 2009 State Liaison Officer Update e-Newsletter

Welcome to the April 2009 SLO Update e-Newsletter. In this month's e-Newsletter:

➤ *April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month-*

The theme for this year's National Child Abuse Prevention Month is *Strengthening Families and Communities*. The Child Abuse Prevention Resource Guide for 2009 is available through the Child Welfare Information Gateway and the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention. The guide contains resources to promote community awareness of five protective factors that can help families protect children from the risk of child abuse and neglect, including tip sheets for parents in English and Spanish. To download printable versions of various parts of the guide or to order hard copies, go to:

http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/res_guide_2009/

➤ *Child Maltreatment 2007-*

The Child Maltreatment 2007 report on child abuse and neglect statistics compiled from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) has recently been released. The 2007 data indicates that 112,000 fewer children were determined to be victims of child maltreatment than in 2006. The Department cautions that it is too early to say whether this year's decrease reflects a trend. The youngest children continue to be the most frequent victims, and neglect continues to be the most common form of maltreatment affecting 59% of the victims. To review the entire report, go to:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm07/index.htm>

➤ *17th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect and SLO Meeting-*

We regret that budget issues around the country prevented many SLOs from attending this year's SLO meeting and the 17th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Atlanta. You were missed! The good news is that the handouts from many of the presenters at both the Grantees' Meetings and the Conference will be available on-line soon. We will notify you when those are available at the website: www.pal-tech.com/

➤ *ABA Child Law Practice April 2009-*

The most recent ABA *Child Law Practice*, a publication of the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, includes an article about a program in Washington State that teaches domestic violence victims about the safe use of technology. The article provides good information about the program's effectiveness and indicates that it can be easily replicated by other programs. The article provides tips for safety planning with domestic violence victims. To view the article and the publication, go to:

<http://www.abanet.org/child/clp/home.html>

➤ *April Child Safety Article-*

The Action for Child Protection April Child Safety Article entitled, *Why We Remove Kids*, discusses child removal within safety intervention decision making and practice. To check out the article, click on:

http://www.actionchildprotection.org/documents/2009/pdf/April_Why_We_Remove_Kids.pdf

➤ *Upcoming Conferences-*

From Inspiration to Innovation: Leadership, Partnerships, and Change: The second national summit on the intersection of child abuse and domestic violence will be held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming June 2-4, 2009. The summit is being presented by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in partnership with the Family Violence Prevention Fund and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.thegreenbook.info/summit/index.htm>. The deadline for registration has been extended, although the room rate can no longer be guaranteed.

New Strategies for Changing Times: The 2009 Meeting for Agencies and Courts is designed for state and local child welfare leaders and court representatives who are interested in achieving child welfare systems change. The meeting begins on Monday August 3rd with a Court Improvement Program meeting for representatives of state courts and child welfare leaders who work with their courts. The conference continues on Tuesday August 4 through Thursday August 5 with sessions specifically designed for • State child welfare directors, • CFSR leads, • Directors of each state's largest metropolitan region, • Foster care managers, • Adoption managers, • In-home services or CPS managers, and • Training managers. The Children's Bureau will fund the participation for all State agency representatives. Invitations will be sent to the State Child Welfare Director for selection of funded participants.