

February 2009 State Liaison Officer Update e-Newsletter

Welcome to the February 2009 SLO Update e-Newsletter. The last few weeks have been very exciting times in Washington D.C. Although a number of Cabinet appointees have been confirmed, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is still up in the air. We will keep you updated in upcoming e-Newsletters about appointments that impact HHS and child abuse and neglect programs. In this month's e-Newsletter, we cover a wide range of topics including recently released research findings about caregivers, new training and technical resources and workforce resources that can be downloaded and reproduced. For your review:

- *The Children's Bureau Training and Technical Assistance Network Is Expanding –*
You may have heard about the new regional Implementation Centers (IC) that will be offering intensive technical assistance to States and Tribes to improve their Child Welfare Systems. To learn more about the IC system and how to contact the IC in your region, click on the following link:
<http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewArticles&issueid=102§ionid=1&articleid=2511>
 - *Depression Prevalent in Caregivers of Children Under Five in the Child Welfare System - NSCAW*
The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being is a longitudinal study through the Administration for Children and Families, which runs from 10/30/97- 10/31/2010. The study gathers longitudinal data on the experiences and outcomes for children and parents in the child welfare system through first hand reports and data from administrative records. One of the recently released research briefs from NSCAW highlights the significance of depression in caregivers of children under five. The research brief highlights the need for child welfare staff to consider depression when assessing caregiver protective capacities. To learn more about the findings from the research, go to:
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/nscaw/reports/depression_caregivers/depression_among_care.html
 - *Children's Bureau Funded Project –*
As indicated in last month's SLO e-Newsletter, we are going to highlight a different Children's Bureau project for the next few months to keep you up-to-date on child abuse and neglect program information and data coming from the projects. This month we want to update you on The National Abandoned Infants Assistance (AIA) Resource Center. The Center's mission is to enhance the services provided to abandoned children and those at risk of abandonment due to the presence of drugs and/or HIV in the family. For information on the Center's 2009 teleconference series, go to:
<http://aia.berkeley.edu/>
 - *Workforce Resources –*
Do you know there is an online forum dedicated to discussions about pressing Child Welfare workforce and training issues? The Child Welfare Workforce Connection is offered through the Child Welfare Information Gateway. To register for the password protected community, go to:
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/nscaw/reports/depression_caregivers/depression_among_care.html
- Another workforce resource, available through the Michigan State University School of Social Work website, offers assessment tools and reports related to staff recruitment and retention. Since the resource materials were developed by the University through a five-year demonstration project grant under the Children's Bureau, all of the tools can be reproduced. To download the tools and reports, go to: http://www.socialwork.msu.edu/outreach/childwelfare_resources.html
- The Michigan State University School of Social Work has also developed a curriculum workbook series on Staff Retention in Child and Family Services. For more information on the curriculum workbook series and to view Workbook 2, *The Practice of Retention Focused Supervision*, click on:
<http://socialwork.msu.edu/outreach/docs/Workbook%20%20Retention%20Focused%20Supervision%206-07-07.pdf>
- *February Child Safety Article –*
The Action for Child Protection February Child Safety Article is Part II of *Family Functioning Assessment as a Safety Intervention*. To check out the article, click on:
http://www.actionchildprotection.org/documents/2009/pdf/Feb_2009_Family_Functioning_Assessment_as_a_Safety_Intervention_Part_2.pdf
 - *We Want to Hear From YOU –*
Let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions about the SLO e-Newsletter. If you have an interesting project going on in your state, please let us know and we will highlight it in the e-Newsletter. Contact Kathy Simms, the SLO Coordinator, at Kathy.Simms@actionchildprotection.org with suggestions, comments or ideas.