

May 2009 State Liaison Officer Update e-Newsletter

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

➤ *Kathleen Sebelius Confirmed as 21st Secretary of the DHHS and Assistant Secretary Nominated-*

On April 29th, Kathleen Sebelius was confirmed as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is one of the HHS agencies, Ms. Sebelius' first activities have been related to addressing the impact of the H1N1 Flu Virus outbreak. With 13 agencies, including the Administration on Children and Families, within HHS, Ms. Sebelius will be filling leadership positions and making decisions about any restructuring.

On May 5th, President Obama announced his intent to nominate Carmen Nazario to be Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. According to the press release, Nazario has a distinguished record of public service and extensive experience at the federal, state, and international level directing programs that promote the health and well-being of children and families. For her bio go to:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-More-Key-Administration-Posts-05-05-09/

We will keep you updated as more key leadership positions are filled. For more information about HHS agencies, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/>

➤ *Central Child Abuse and Neglect Registry State Policy Summary-*

There has been interest lately on the SLO Listserv concerning central registry systems. As a reminder, the Child Welfare Information Gateway has a publication on state summaries of laws concerning central registries entitled *Establishment and Maintenance of Central Registries for Child Abuse Reports: Summary of State Laws*. The publication is current as of October, 2008 and provides details on how central registry information is entered, maintained, and released in various states. To view the publication in PDF format, go to:

http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/centregall.pdf

➤ *Federal Legislation Factsheet-*

Confused about how Federal Legislation is made and how it impacts your state child welfare programs? The Child Welfare Information Gateway has developed a factsheet that explains how the Federal legislative process and policy impacts State and Tribal programs. The factsheet includes a flow chart of the legislative process and useful links to key Federal legislation and regulations. Also included with the factsheet is an overview of the Federal Rulemaking process called the RegMap. To review the fact sheet, go to: <http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/impacts/>

➤ *American Humane Webinar Series on Family Group Decision-Making-*

The American Humane Association is offering a webinar series to complement its trainings, technical assistance and mentoring, and annual conference on Family Group Decision-Making (FGDM). The next webinar, to be held on May 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. EDT, is entitled, *Even the Tiniest Voices Are Heard: Children's Participation in FGDM*. The following webinar to be held in August will address domestic violence and the FGDM process. To find out more about the series and to register for the webinars, go to:

<http://www.americanhumane.org/assets/docs/protecting-children/PC-fgdm-webinar-brochure.pdf>

➤ *National Survey on Drug Use and Health-*

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released findings last week from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) Report entitled *Children Living with Substance-Dependent or Substance-Abusing Parents 2002-2007*. The report provides data on the prevalence of children under the age of 18 living with a substance-abusing parent. During the past year, the report indicates that 8.3 million children (11.9%) lived with a parent who was dependent on or abused alcohol or an illicit drug. To review the findings from the survey, go to:

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/SAParents/SAParents.htm>

➤ *National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare-*

One of the resources available to assist in working with families with substance abuse issues is the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW). NCSACW, a service of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, provides information, resources, and technical assistance on substance abuse issues in the child welfare population. Starting in June, NCSACW will be providing a three part web-based information series including evidence-based practice, screening and assessment, and family engagement. To learn more about the web series and other available resources, the link to the NCSACW website is: <http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/>

➤ *May Child Safety Article-*

The Action for Child Protection May Child Safety Article entitled, *Impending Danger and the Cultural Context*, discusses safety intervention and culturally competent practice. To check out the article, click on: [http://www.actionchildprotection.org/documents/2009/pdf/May_2009_Impending_Danger_and_the_Cultural_Context_\(1\).pdf](http://www.actionchildprotection.org/documents/2009/pdf/May_2009_Impending_Danger_and_the_Cultural_Context_(1).pdf)

➤ *May is National Foster Care Month-*

National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to acknowledge the dedicated work of foster parents and draw attention to programs and practices that promote permanency for children and youth. Whether as foster parents, volunteers, mentors, child welfare professionals, or policymakers, keeping foster care temporary is everyone's responsibility. For more information on National Foster Care Month and other issues of interest, see the Children's Bureau Express at <http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/>