



# State Liaison Officer E-Newsletter

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## Child Welfare Practice in Rural Communities Webinar

The National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement is hosting a webinar on February 12, 2010, entitled, *Training to Improve Child Welfare Practice in Rural Communities*. The webinar will feature presenters from sites that have just completed five year grants under the Children's Bureau's discretionary grant program to develop effective training programs for rural child welfare programs. The presenters will describe their strategies to improve practice in rural areas and the lessons learned from working with rural and remote child welfare agencies. For information on registering for the webinar go to: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids/tele.htm#february12>

## Mental Health Screening and Assessment Toolkit

Do you ever get confused about the information contained in the mental health screening and assessments that are part of a child's mental health records? The Resource for Advancing Children's Health (REACH) Institute, with support from Casey Family Programs and the Annie E. Casey Foundation has developed a publication entitled *Mental Health Practices in Child Welfare Guidelines Toolkit (2009)*. The toolkit is designed to help child welfare administrators and staff members implement mental health guidelines for child welfare agencies. The toolkit is divided into five categories: mental health screening and assessment, psychosocial interventions, psychopharmacological interventions, parent engagement and support, and youth empowerment and support. Particularly helpful information is found on pages 22 and 23 of the toolkit which includes a list of mental health screening and assessment tools with explanations as to how each tool is used and the types of information the tool can provide. Contact information for the developers of the screening and assessment tools is also included. To download the toolkit go to: <http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/pdf/MentalHealthPractices.pdf>

## Strengthening Families Summit Research Briefs Available

The Center for the Study of Social Policy created five research briefs summarizing seminal studies or areas of research and their relevance to Strengthening Families and released them at the Strengthening Families Leadership Summit in October, 2009. The one-page research briefs, which are all available online, cover the following topics:

- ***The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study***, which shows a direct correlation in negative experiences in childhood and poor outcomes in adulthood.
- ***Childhood Stress across the Lifespan***, on the different degrees of stress that children experience and its impact throughout life.
- ***Infant Mental Health and Social-Emotional Competence***, about the development of normal social-emotional capacities and signs of abnormal development.
- ***Resilience in Childhood***, which addresses the factors that influence resilience among young children that enable some to function successfully in difficult contexts.
- ***Risk and Protective Factors***, on the dynamic relationship between different types of risk and protective factors for families.

To view the research briefs go to:

<http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net/index.php/summit/materials>

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## January ACTION for Child Protection Child Safety Article

This month's ACTION for Child Protection child safety article is entitled ***The Protective Capacity Family Assessment: Facilitating the Introduction and Discovery Stages - When Caregivers Are Not Thinking About Change***. This article is concerned with practice skills occurring during the Introduction and Discovery Stages of the Protective Capacity Family Assessment (PCFA). Included in the article are techniques to use when families are not yet ready to admit there is a concern and may be ambivalent about change. The article stresses the purpose of the PCFA is to reach a mutual understanding with the caregivers about what must change to eliminate impending danger and enhance caregiver protective capacities.

To view the article go to:

[http://www.actionchildprotection.org/documents/2009/pdf/Jan\\_Facilitating\\_Introduction\\_in\\_the\\_PCFA.pdf](http://www.actionchildprotection.org/documents/2009/pdf/Jan_Facilitating_Introduction_in_the_PCFA.pdf)

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## Child Maltreatment Prevention Webinar Available On-line

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Violence Prevention hosted a webinar entitled ***A Better Start: Child Maltreatment Prevention as a Public Health Priority*** in the fall of 2009. The event and associated slides are now available on-line.



Topics discussed during the webinar include:

- the important role public health agencies can and do play in preventing child maltreatment;
- the body of research linking harmful childhood experiences with long-term quality of life; and
- how public health agencies can prevent child maltreatment by using the concept of safe, stable, nurturing relationships (SSNRs)

To view the webinar and download materials go to:

<http://www.ddcf.org/page.asp?pageId=840>

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## Substance Exposed Newborns Summit

The National Abandoned Infant Assistance (AIA) Resource Center in conjunction with the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare and the Children's Bureau has announced a national summit on the collaborative approach to the complex issue of substance exposed newborns. The Summit, to be held June 23-24, 2010, in Alexandria, Virginia, will bring together multidisciplinary practitioners to share information and resources related to the prevention, identification and provision of services to substance users and their newborns. To receive reminders and updates about the Summit go to: <http://aia.berkeley.edu/training/SEN2010/index.php>

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## Questions or Comments?

We welcome your feedback! If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, please contact [Kathy.Simms@actionchildprotection.org](mailto:Kathy.Simms@actionchildprotection.org). Let us know if you have any topics you would like to see in future issues of the newsletter or you have any other suggestions to make the newsletter work best for you.