



Municipal Network on Disconnected Youth E-Newsletter **January/ February 2007, Volume IV, Issue 1**

Cities to Watch

Brockton, Mass. Coordinating Council: The city of Brockton, Mass. (pop.94,000), along with the local school district and community college, has undertaken a major effort to coordinate services for older youth and to identify and fill gaps. Collaborating agencies including the three noted above plus local police, the District Attorney's office, and relevant state agencies have begun meeting monthly. A second tier of organizations including community-based and faith-based service providers, as well as the local Chamber of Commerce and Workforce Investment Board, also participate regularly. The collaborators have mapped the principal services available for older youth and are continuously deepening the amount of information available on each partner's programs. The cross-walking of education, workforce development, public safety, social services, and positive youth development programming has, among other results, led to creation of one common "release of information" sheet for parents.

Little Rock, Ark. Career Development System Expanded: Having identified at least 1,000 young people between the ages of 16 and 19 who are out of school and unemployed, the City of Little Rock (pop. 183,000) has extended the reach of its Career Development System to include this group. With community and local business partners, the City's Department of Community Programs is now re-connecting older youth to opportunities to obtain a GED while working and to pursue additional education. This new element helps round out a complete system that includes a large summer job effort, job shadowing, project-based learning, internships, and apprenticeships. For more information, see: www.newfuturesforyouth.org/content/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=9&Itemid=64

NLC Updates & Resources

Mayor-police partnerships for youth safety highlighted in new *Vital Partners* report

Vital Partners: Mayors and Police Chiefs Working Together for America's Children and Youth highlights innovative and promising collaborations around the country between mayors and law enforcement officials to keep young people safe.

With support from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), NLC's YEF Institute and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) have worked together to identify partnerships between mayors and law enforcement officials that successfully address youth violence, bullying, delinquency prevention, and substance abuse.

Profiling work in 7 cities in depth, and touching on 10 other promising city initiatives, *Vital Partners* highlights the value of mayor-law enforcement collaboration, citywide and targeted strategies, data collection that sustains momentum, and a shared community vision for the safety of children and youth.

To order a hard copy of the report, email jyef@nlc.org, or download the publication at www.nlc.org/content/Files/IYEF_COPS_report.pdf.

California Cities Gang Violence Prevention Network meets in Oakland, Calif.

Teams from 13 California cities met in Oakland, Calif., on Jan. 24-25 to identify and share successful strategies for reducing gang violence and victimization in their communities. Sponsored by the YEF Institute at NLC and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), the newly created California Cities Gang Prevention Network seeks to support these efforts by helping the city teams shape comprehensive local action plans through collaboration between and among the teams.

The two-day meeting focused on building strategies that interweave prevention, intervention, enforcement, and the community's "moral voice" as an alternative to prison-only solutions. Led by mayors' offices and law enforcement officials, each city brought a team of five to eight members who represented key stakeholder groups such as probation and public health offices, community-based organizations, and the faith community. NLC and NCCD plan to develop a resource bank, publish monthly bulletins and strategic briefs on lessons learned, and provide on-site technical assistance to participating cities.

To learn more or to receive the monthly California Cities Gang Prevention Network bulletin by email, contact Leon Andrews at (202)626-3039 or by email at andrews@nlc.org.

Additional Resources

Targeted Community Action Planning: The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention offers short-term, intensive technical assistance to cities through the Targeted Community Action Planning initiative (TCAP), which aims to reduce juvenile delinquency and improve juvenile justice systems. TCAP includes diagnostic assessment, problem analysis, and development and implementation of targeted responses -- all within 9 to 12 months, using (and sometimes re-allocating) existing resources. For more information, see <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/tcap>.

Learning to Finish open forum on dropout prevention: The Pew Partnership for Civic Change has launched a "Best Practices" WIKI where parents, educators, policymakers and students can find out how to lower the dropout rate in the United States. The WIKI includes program case studies, statistics, literature overviews, and links to web resources on dropout prevention, and can be quickly and easily updated by users. Visit *Learning to Finish* at www.learningtofinish.org.

Preparing Students for the World Beyond High School – New issue focus from MDRC
The social policy research organization MDRC has announced a new focus on the Career Academy model of high school reform, oriented toward the goal of helping students prepare for a productive future by giving them work-based opportunities while in high school. The Career Academy approach—small learning communities created within over 2,000 high schools across the country—includes both academic and career-oriented courses, as well as work internships and other career-related experiences outside the classroom. For more from MDRC, visit www.mdrc.org/area_issue_20.html.

Prevention and Response to School Violence Toolkit from IACP: The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has developed a comprehensive toolkit for law enforcement agencies to use as they target school violence and youth crime. Through its past efforts to reduce youth violence, the IACP has developed a number of guidelines, strategies, and products aimed at helping agencies deal with this serious problem. The toolkit is available online at www.theiacp.org/research/RCDSafeSchools.htm.

Creating Dedicated Local and State Revenue Sources for Youth Programs – New Finance Project brief available now: This brief outlines strategies to create dedicated local and state revenue sources for youth programs, provides guidance and information on the capacity, funding, and community support required for these strategies, and profiles these strategies at work in different states and communities. This publication is available at: http://financeproject.org/publications/DLR_PM.pdf.

National League of Cities, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families



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