



## ***Municipal Network on Disconnected Youth E-Newsletter***

**March 2006, Volume III, Issue 3**

### **Examples from the Field: What Three Cities are Doing**

**San Francisco Launches Transitional Youth Task Force:** On March 15, Mayor Gavin Newsom swore in a first-ever Transitional Youth Task Force. The Task Force responds to a recommendation from the city's Youth Commission, and will focus on better serving youth in transition ages 17-24; one third of members are youth. The city Departments of Children, Youth, and their Families and Health have combined efforts to provide full-time staffing for the Task Force, and arranged for national intermediary New Ways to Work to provide facilitation. On the launch day, the city also combined efforts with the University Of California- Berkeley Goldman School Of Public Policy to convene a large-scale Roundtable Discussion on youth in transition. Students from the Goldman school are moving forward with mapping existing services for transition-age youth. For more information see [http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/youth\\_commission/TYTF%201-pgr..pdf](http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/youth_commission/TYTF%201-pgr..pdf) or write [sandoval@nlc.org](mailto:sandoval@nlc.org) to request a packet of materials by fax or mail.

**Philadelphia Hosts State Legislative Hearing on Dropouts:** Responding to the rising number of documented school dropouts, the Philadelphia Youth Network arranged with the state General Assembly's Education Committee to hold a special informational session in the city in late March. The School District of Philadelphia's chief executive officer and city teachers' union president testified about effective interventions, and about the current gaps in services and resources for reaching dropouts. To view recent article please visit: <http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/living/education/14218030.htm> .

**Alexandria Holds Gang Awareness Summit:** Alexandria, Virginia, population 135,000, hosted a half-day Gang Awareness Summit at a local middle school in late March. The event drew 500 people to participate in gang-awareness training, presentations of current gang prevention, intervention and suppression services and feedback sessions. City staff will compile the feedback and make recommendations for improving gang prevention to a Community Task Force on gangs chaired by two members of City Council, and also to senior policy officials. For more information contact city Gang Prevention & Intervention Coordinator Mike Mackey at 703/838-4180 x 239 or track developments through the city's homepage: [www.ci.alexandria.va.us/](http://www.ci.alexandria.va.us/).

### **New YEF Institute Resource:**

#### ***City Platform for Strengthening Families-Adopt It Now!***

Cities across the country are adopting the *City Platform for Strengthening Families and Improving Outcomes for Children and Youth* and using its recommendations to guide and assess local initiatives. The platform, developed by NLC's Council on Youth, Education, and Families, highlights the "essential infrastructure," or processes or mechanisms, necessary for sustained progress in helping children, youth, and families succeed. The platform also recommends concrete action steps in areas such as supporting youth in transition or at-risk. For more information, contact Michael Karpman at [karpman@nlc.org](mailto:karpman@nlc.org) or (202) 626-3072. [Learn how four cities are using the platform to guide local efforts >>](#) [Adopt the Platform in your own community! >>](#) .

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



For more information about the  
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## **Additional Resources:**

**Mayors as Partners for Children's Advocates:** In a stirring close to a Temple Law School symposium on law and adolescence, Stanford Law School professor and YEF Council member Michael Wald called upon children's advocates to work with new allies including mayors to significantly change public attitudes about cross-system services for disconnected youth. Obtain information about pre-ordering a copy of the *Temple Law Review* symposium issue by contacting [tlawrev@temple.edu](mailto:tlawrev@temple.edu).

**Finance Project Funding Publications Now On-Line!** Longtime YEF Institute partner The Finance Project is now making available for on-line searches its detailed guides to Federal funding for transitional jobs, foster care transition, and other programs. Try a search at <http://www.financeproject.org/fedfund/>.

**Opportunity to cross-walk WIA with Chafee foster care transition funds:** Cities may wish to make local and state workforce staff aware of US Department of Labor's recently released Training and Employment Notice #18-05, which highlights the uses of Chafee Independent Living funds and Education and Training Vouchers, and provides examples of collaboration between WIA and child welfare agencies including the City of Philadelphia's Achieving Independence Center. For a copy of TEN 18-05 see: [http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr\\_doc.cfm?DOCN=2184](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2184).

**Youth Court Professional Development Institute Offers Advanced Training** On June 14-17, 2006, in San Diego, CA, the [National Youth Court Center](#) will host the [Youth Court Professional Development Institute](#) This interactive event features a series of intensive training sessions designed to provide administrators and coordinators working with youth, teen, peer, or student court programs with advanced training in youth court and related topics. The registration deadline is May 12, 2006. To obtain further information and register online, visit: [http://www.youthcourt.net/training\\_ta/2006/SanDiego\\_Overview.htm](http://www.youthcourt.net/training_ta/2006/SanDiego_Overview.htm). You may also call the National Youth Court Center at 859-244-8193.

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