

*Building a System of Prevention
A Foundation for the Future*



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A Fairfax County, VA
Publication

Prevention Web-
site

Coming VERY
Soon!

We’ll have a web-
site devoted solely
to prevention!

Countywide Prevention Newsletter

Coordinator’s Corner—Denise Raybon

Prevention: It’s Bigger than Me and You! While the foundation of prevention is often seen as individual behavior change (or influence on an individual), a successful and comprehensive approach to prevention must consider the relationships and interaction between individuals, their families, their neighborhoods and communities, and society, as a whole. Successful change requires a continuum of strategies that address all of those levels.

Changing or influencing individual behaviors means having an impact on their knowledge, attitudes, skills, and beliefs. Relationships can have a variety of influences on an individual’s behaviors. While relationships with peers, intimate partners, and family members can increase risk (for example, cases of abuse and neglect or domestic violence, substance use or peer attitudes favorable to drug use...) those relationships can also give the support and guidance needed to avoid risk and make healthy decisions (for example, a parent’s nurturing, a teacher’s support of social development, or a role models influence on physical activity and nutrition) Any attempt to influence an individual’s behaviors must include caring relationships that communicate high expectations through positive beliefs, focus on strengths, and opportunities to be contributing members of a community.

There is a growing body of knowledge that suggests that successful prevention efforts must include strategies that:

- ◆ Strengthen family and community connections and supports
- ◆ Build trust and improve relationships and connectedness to school, community members, services providers, and police.
- ◆ Are family-centered and treat parents as vital contributors to their children’s growth and development
- ◆ Improve access to resources and community support systems
- ◆ Enhance coordination and integration of services needed by families

Families – Parenting is Prevention While there is general agreement that families have a lasting influence on their children, we must also understand that the needs of a child can not be addressed without addressing the needs and strengths of the family. Beyond ensuring that basic needs are met, families have a vital role in teaching and modeling social, communication, and coping skills. Ensuring that families (especially parents and caregivers) have those skills and the supports they need can have a positive influence for children of all ages.

Neighborhoods - The Heart of it All Community-building and prevention-focused strategies are grounded in the core belief that caring communities can provide the supports and services to meet needs and make use of the strengths of families. Developing a sense of belonging and attachment to a community requires that a person have the opportunity to participate in the life of the community. Strategies that strengthen community infrastructure and improve coordination between residents, service providers and other organizations can build relationships, communication channels, and trust.

A variety of initiatives have built on this philosophy and forged partnerships in communities. [A few examples are included on pages 10-11.](#)



Though overall teen drug use is down nationwide, more teens abuse prescription drugs than any other illicit drug, except marijuana.

Prescription drugs and painkillers are the most commonly used "other drug" in Fairfax County - 2005 Youth Survey

ONDCP Launches Major Campaign to Fight Teen Rx/OTC Abuse—*Media Campaign Flash January 29, 2008*

The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign launched a major public education effort to fight the serious threat of teen prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drug abuse in America with new, free resources you can use in your community. Starting with a television ad in the Super Bowl on February 3, the Media Campaign launched a comprehensive public outreach campaign lasting four months. This national campaign, ONDCP's first paid TV advertising targeting parents in nearly two years, includes television, online advertising, information sheets on select prescription drugs at pharmacies, and free print and online resources for your community.

As part of the extensive campaign, two television ads will air on 27 networks nationwide for more than two months, and two print ads will run in 14 national magazines. An Open Letter ad to parents, endorsed by organizations including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, launches the day after the Super Bowl and will run in 43 newspapers and four magazines across the country. Two additional Open Letter ads targeting health and school professionals and endorsed by key national medical and education groups will appear in professional publications. And in February and March, look for tips and information about prescription drug abuse on information sheets for prescriptions of commonly abused substances in 15,000 pharmacies nationwide.

Though overall teen drug use is down nationwide, more teens abuse prescription drugs than any other illicit drug, except marijuana – more than cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine combined. Every day, 2,500 kids age 12-17 abuse a prescription painkiller for the first time, and more people are becoming addicted to prescription drugs. Drug treatment admissions for prescription painkillers increased more than 300 percent from 1995 to 2005.

What Parents Can Do

- ◇ **Safeguard** all drugs at home. Monitor quantities and control access.
- ◇ **Set clear rules** for teens about all drug use, including not sharing medicine and always following the medical provider's advice and dosages.
- ◇ Be a good **role model** by following the same rules with your own medicines.
- ◇ Properly **conceal and dispose** of old or unused medicines in the trash.
- ◇ **Ask friends and family** to safeguard their prescription drugs as well

Help get the word out to parents about what they can do by taking advantage of these **FREE RESOURCES** to combat teen Rx and OTC abuse. You can find a wealth of resources at the **Media Campaign's new online section for community groups, coalitions, and non-profits:** www.theantidrug.com/resources/.

ONLINE TOOLS FOR PARENTS: Encourage parents to learn why teens are increasingly abusing prescription and OTC drugs, the signs and symptoms of abuse, and which drugs are abused at: www.TheAntiDrug.com/drug_info/prescription_drugs.asp. There are also easy tips for safeguarding and properly disposing of medications. Parents can take an online virtual house tour to learn common sources of drugs in the home by visiting: www.TheAntiDrug.com/dangerzones.

Parents can have an immediate impact on curbing teen prescription drug abuse, since teens often find these drugs at home. See the box on the left for five actions parents can take immediately.

Suicide Prevention through MySpace.com

- Leslie Quander Wooldridge, excerpts from SAMHSA News, July/August 2007

What's an effective way to raise awareness about SAMHSA's National Suicide Prevention Lifeline? As it turns out, it's MySpace.com, one of the most popular online networking sites in the Nation.

In spring 2005, the administrators of the Lifeline Web site noticed increasing hits from MySpace—at the rate of about 60 to 80 per day. As it turned out, several people on the networking site had posted the Lifeline logo on their pages and were directing visitors to the official Web site at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

MySpace quickly became the number one referrer to the Lifeline site, even surpassing the SAMHSA referrals. Noting the increase in traffic, SAMHSA's Lifeline staff signed up for a customized page on MySpace.

In 2006, the Lifeline Web site received about 150,000 unique visitors referred by MySpace. Through May 2007, the Lifeline has received about 85,000 unique visitors. In fact, the MySpace page is so popular that SAMHSA is exploring partnerships with other networking sites. Lifeline also is working with Facebook.com, a popular online communication site for college students, to keep the momentum going.

To view the Agency's Lifeline Web page on MySpace, visit:

www.myspace.com/suicidepreventionlifeline.

National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy May 7, 2008

- thenationalcampaign.org

Plans for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy's seventh annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy are gearing up! **The National Day will be held on May 7, 2008** and we know many of you are already planning your activities for this exciting event.

The purpose of the National Day is to focus the attention of teens on the importance of avoiding teen pregnancy and other serious consequences of sex. On the National Day, teens nationwide will be asked to take a short, online quiz at our new teen website -- StayTeen.org -- that asks them to reflect on the best course of action in a number of tough sexual situations.

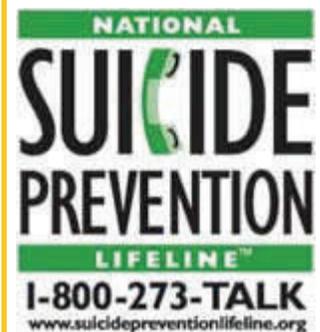
As you begin to organize events and activities, please let us know about your plans so we can share them with others in the *Who's Doing What?* Section of our website. Send a summary of your planned activities to mrosst@thenc.org.

For additional information, please visit the National Day section of our website:

www.thenationalcampaign.org/national

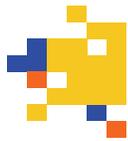


In 2006, the Lifeline web site received about 150,000 unique visitors referred by MySpace.com



Hundreds of thousands of individuals took the National Day Quiz in 2007. In a special study with teens who took the 2007 National Day Quiz:

- ◇ 83% said the Quiz made them think about what they might do in such situations;
- ◇ 73% said the Quiz made the risks of sex and teen pregnancy seem more real to them;
- ◇ 62% said they'd talk to their friends about the situations described in the Quiz;
- ◇ 62% said the Quiz made them think about things they hadn't thought about before; and
- ◇ 63% said they'd learned something new from the Quiz about the consequences of sex.



“The costs of responding to the impact of child abuse and neglect are borne by the victims and their families but also by society.”

Child Abuse Economic Impact Study 2007—*Mary Nelms*

Prevent Child Abuse America
Chicago, Illinois

Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States

Ching-Tung Wang, Ph.D. and John Holton, Ph.D

www.preventchildabuse.org/about_us/media_releases/pcaa_pew_economic_impact_study_final.pdf

Prevent Child Abuse America examined the impacts of child abuse and has created an Economic Impact Study available at the above link. In the study they state that, “**Child abuse and neglect are preventable, yet each year in the United States, close to one million children are confirmed victims of child maltreatment.** It is well documented that children who have been abused or neglected are more likely to experience adverse outcomes throughout their life span in a number of areas:

- ◆ Poor physical health
- ◆ Poor emotional and mental health
- ◆ Social difficulties
- ◆ Cognitive dysfunction
- ◆ High-risk health behaviors
- ◆ Behavioral problems”

Based on data drawn from a variety of sources, the estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect is **\$103.8 billion** in 2007 value. This is a conservative figure and the study elaborates on the factors that are and are not included in the amount. The total cost is broken down into *Direct* and *Indirect* costs with the following subcategories:

Direct Costs (in \$Billions)		Indirect Costs (in \$Billions)	
Hospitalization	\$6.6	Special Education	\$2.4
Mental Health Care System	\$1.1	Juvenile Delinquency	\$7.1
Child Welfare Services System	\$25.4	Mental Health and Health Care	\$0.68
Law Enforcement	\$0.3	Adult Criminal Justice System	\$28
		Lost Productivity to Society	\$33
Total Direct Cost	\$33	Total Indirect Cost	\$70.6





**WHEN FAMILIES
NEED SUPPORT**

- PARENTING EDUCATION
- HOUSING SUPPORT
- EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
- HEALTH CARE
- LIFE SKILLS TRAINING
- HOMEMAKER AID
- CHILD CARE/RESPITE CARE
- INFORMATION AND REFERRAL TO AVAILABLE SERVICES
- SUPPORT GROUPS
- FAMILY COUNSELING
- MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT
- ALCOHOL/DRUG TREATMENT
- PARENT/CHILD RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAMS
- SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN
- BEHAVIORAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN
- ADOLESCENT-PARENT CONFLICT MEDIATION
- ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY/PARENTING SERVICES
- YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Adapted from a chart created by Jacquelyn McCroskey & William Meezan.

Time for Reform - Investing in Prevention: Keeping Children Safe at Home—Mary Nelms

Kids Are Waiting: Fix Foster Care Now is a national campaign dedicated to ensuring that all children in foster care have the safe, permanent families they deserve by reforming the federal financing structure that governs our foster care system. *Time for Reform - Investing in Prevention: Keeping Children Safe at Home* is a report which examines the role that child welfare programs play in keeping children safe and helping families remain together whenever possible. View the complete report at:

www.kidsarewaiting.org/tools/reports/files/0011.pdf

Foster care provides a much-needed safety net for children and youth when they have experienced abuse or neglect and cannot remain safely at home. However, a growing body of evidence and real-life experiences suggest that providing families with a broader array of services and supports can effectively prevent child abuse and neglect from occurring in the first place.

Outcomes research on family support and strengthening programs suggests that certain program features appear to be associated with greater effectiveness in prevention programs: STRENGTHS-BASED FAMILY SERVICES, CULTURAL SENSITIVITY, COMPREHENSIVE AND HOLISTIC APPROACHES. A number of promising programs have been developed that focus on preventing child and abuse from occurring in the first place.

The report provides a description of federal child welfare funding streams and those with flexible vs. dedicated dollars. The report asserts that children would be much better served by a child welfare financing structure that provides a continuum of services that can prevent child abuse and neglect, keep children safely with their families, and when children must enter foster care, reunite children with their families as safely and quickly as possible.



CASA—Parent Power —The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University

Calling ALL Parents... The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University wants to hear from YOU!

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA*) at Columbia University has just launched a new forum -- Parent Power -- on its website to engage parents in a conversation about how to raise kids alcohol- and drug-free!

CASA wants to hear from parents like you all across America to learn about your experiences in talking/listening to your children about alcohol, marijuana, pills and other drugs. What works? What doesn't work? What are the questions you want answered?

Your comments will be used to help shape CASA's second book, Parent Power, a guide to raising healthy and substance free children which will be published in 2009.

To share your thoughts, questions and ideas simply log on to www.casacolumbia.org and click on the parent power link.

Share now and you can be apart of creating the best book ever done to help raise healthy kids free of drugs and alcohol!

For more information, contact
Sekenia Welch
Sekenia.welch@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-704-6224

Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP)

—Sekenia K. Welch, Program Manager—Region I, Fairfax County Community & Recreation Services

Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services, Manassas Park Parks and Recreation, Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services, the Governors Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP), and Fairfax County Public Schools are partnering together to offer the 3rd annual Northern Virginia Regional Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) on **April 26, 2007** at **Mount Vernon High School** 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road Alexandria, VA 22309 from **8:30am - 5:00pm** for youth ages 14-18 (rising 9th – 12th grades).

The mission of the Regional YADAPP is to develop youth leadership among high school students in order to foster substance abuse prevention, violence prevention, and other prevention efforts at the local level. A primary goal of the Regional YADAPP is for participants to gain knowledge and develop positive refusal skills from their peers in order to implement these prevention objectives in their schools and communities.

This years Regional YADAPP focuses not only on teen drug and alcohol use, but also on a variety of other important topics including the influence of the media on teens, issues with teen driving, cliques, and teen promiscuity. These topics are discussed in small group sessions and are youth led with the guidance of adult volunteers. In addition, this years' Northern Regional YADAPP will provide a motivational speaker, Michael Andrews, the Assistant Dean of Students at The Catholic University of America.

The state-wide YADAPP is being highlighted as a resource for leadership opportunities at the high school level across Virginia, and the Northern Regional YADAPP is an extension of that effort. For those who want to make a difference in their school or community, please register in teams of four youth, accompanied by one adult. Space is limited to the **first 32 teams** of four youth that **register before the deadline of March 28th, 2008**. A light breakfast, lunch, giveaways and T-Shirts will be provided for the participants at no cost.

Survey Preceding “Substance Abuse Awareness Week - *Jamie MacDonald*

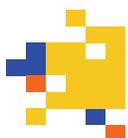
HELP US ASSESS SKILL-BUILDING NEEDS

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board is preparing for the 27th Annual Substance Abuse Awareness Week (SAAW) & Conference. SAAW 2008 will raise community awareness of substance abuse and build community capacity and connections to better address this public health concern. A particular focus on skill-building for our workforce will highlight this year's conference. Learning more about your training needs and interests is an important part of our planning process. We want to hear from our partners and fellow service providers and invite you to go to the link below to find a short needs assessment survey. We thank you for your time and interest and look forward to seeing you on October 31, 2008.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/prevention/saawsurvey.doc

Questions?

Jamie MacDonald
Jamie.MacDonald@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-934-8770



Nurturing Parenting Program—

The Fairfax County Department of Family Services, Nurturing Parenting Program has scheduled several parenting classes for the spring. These programs are special in that both parents and children attend the classes although children are taught in different classrooms than parents. All classes are free for Fairfax County residents and include free childcare, dinner, weekly raffles, and educational materials. Classes meet once a week for 12, 13, or 21 weeks depending on the curriculum. Parents who are self-referred can complete the *Enrollment Form* provided online. Professionals who refer families will be provided with the *Professional Use Form*, and *Consent Form once the Enrollment Form is submitted*.

PROJECTED NURTURING PARENTING GROUPS - SPRING 2008

For more information or to enroll in a class, please contact the designated Nurturing Program staff.

Website information, curriculum topics and enrollment forms can be found online.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ParentingResource

Keesha T. Edwards,
MSW
Social Worker III
Nurturing Parenting
Program
African American
Community Develop-
ment
Fairfax County, DFS
Phone: 703-324-7501
TTY: 703-222-9452
keesha.edwards@fairfaxcounty.gov

AGE GROUP	LAN-GUAGE	LOCATION	START DATE	END DATE	SPECIAL EMPHASIS	NURTURING PROGRAM STAFF
5-11	English	Fairfax Station	March 24, 2008	June 23, 2008	African American Culture	Calvin Robertson 703-324-7144
5-11	Spanish	Falls Church	March 25, 2008	June 17, 2008	None	Cecilia Tatis 703-324-7737
5-11	Spanish	Fairfax	April 17, 2008	July 10, 2008	None	Mario Prada 703-324-7405
5-11	Spanish	Springfield	May 22, 2008	August 24, 2008	None	Krissa Slone 703-324-7745

Free Sports and Camp Physicals Day -BeBe Nguyen

May 31, 2008, 9am to 2 pm



Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic
 500 Grove Street – Suite 330
 Herndon, VA 20172

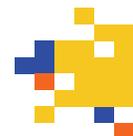
Any type of sports physical required for school or camps! Patients who qualify live in Herndon, Reston, Chantilly, or Centreville, have no insurance and a household income of 200% or less of the poverty level. Nurses, doctors, interpreters, community service volunteers, and teen volunteers are needed and welcome.

To make an appointment, call

703.481.8160 x1

To volunteer, call

703.481.8160 x2



To register, contact:
Jan Ward,
School Social Worker
703-876-5212

Positive Behavior Workshops for Preschool Parents

- *Ellie Barnes*

Fairfax County Public Schools Preschool Diagnostic Center staff members are presenting a series of Positive Behavior workshops for parents of preschoolers. The focus of the workshop is to provide parents with positive and proactive strategies for dealing with problem behaviors in typically developing children between the ages of two and five. The next two workshops will be:

March 5, 2008, 9:30 to 11:30
at the Lorton Center
and
May 7, 2008, 9:30 to 11:30
at the Devonshire Center

Unequal Partners: Helping Teens Avoid, Change or End Unhealthy Relationships

- *Robert Franklin*

This engaging workshop, targets professionals who work with young people ages 10-17 in school and community settings. Unequal Partners aims to increase professionals' understanding of the dynamics, complexities and risks of adult-teen relationships and improve their effectiveness in helping adolescents develop healthy relationships and avoid, change or leave unhealthy ones.

Drawing on the Third Edition of the Unequal Partners curriculum, this workshop utilizes interactive methods to encourage participants to reflect upon their own experiences and opinions. Participants will learn strategies for educating and working with groups of adolescents to define healthy relationships, understand guidelines for consent, recognize the warning signals of unhealthy relationships and communicate about relationship issues.

Participants will be able to:

- ◆ Describe the importance of educational interventions in helping patients, clients and students make healthy decisions about sexual relationships, especially adult-teen relationships.
- ◆ Describe their attitudes, feelings, and perspectives regarding adult-teen sexual relationships.
- ◆ Name at least two guidelines for determining sexual consent.
- ◆ Know current state laws about adolescent sexual relationships, including adult-teen relationships.
- ◆ Describe at least two educational strategies for educating groups of young people about healthy relationships.

Morning beverage, lunch, and afternoon snack provided.

Please visit this website to register:

<http://www.vahealth.org/civp/sexualviolence/index.asp>

Monday, March 17, 2008
Virginia Beach
and
Wednesday, March 19, 2008
Charlottesville

Robert L. Franklin, MS
Male Outreach Coordinator

Division of Injury and Violence Prevention, Virginia
Department of Health

Robert.Franklin@vdh.
virginia.gov
(804) 864-7739



Saving Babies Initiative - Esther Walker

In 2005, approximately 8% of Virginia's infant deaths occurred in Fairfax County. A review of our County birth records shows that most infant death and low birth weight births occur among white women in their late twenties and thirties because this population represents the majority of child-bearing women in Fairfax County. However, African Americans have the highest rates of both low birth weight and infant death. Hispanic mothers have a higher relative risk and frequency of low birth weight and infant death. Most infant deaths (77.65%) are caused by perinatal conditions (usually premature birth or low birth weight) and birth defects.

Premature birth and infant death can happen in any family. To address these issues, the Fairfax County Health Department has implemented a new program called the Saving Babies Initiative that focuses on community outreach and education about the risks associated with premature birth. The educational component stresses the importance of good health before a women gets pregnant and the need to include 400 micrograms of folic acid in our daily vitamin supplement as well as eating a diet rich in folic acid. If a woman takes folic acid prior to becoming pregnant, she can reduce the risk of certain birth defects (neural tube) by as much as 80%.

Just like the signs of a cardiac arrest or stroke that have been widely publicized to the general public, the signs of premature labor need to be made known as well. Another focus of the initiative is to educate everyone about the signs of premature labor. It is important that if a pregnant women experiences contractions, pelvic pressure, change in vaginal discharge or leaking of fluid, low dull backache, menstrual-like cramps and abdominal cramps with or without diarrhea, she immediately contact her physician and seek treatment.

During the month of March and April, the Fairfax County Health Department will be sponsoring a series of employee brown bag lunches entitled "**Healthy Today for a Healthy Future**". Additionally, outreach and education sessions will be scheduled in the community for residents. The programs will provide health information resources and incentives.

To learn more about the initiative, visit

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/pcs/

or contact

Esther Walker
RN, BSN, MSA
MCH Coordinator
Fairfax County Health
Department
703-246-8669
esther.walker@fairfaxcounty.gov

Healthy Today for a Healthy Future —Sam Manivong

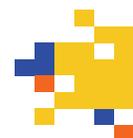
Sponsored by the Fairfax County Health Department. What every woman of child bearing age needs to know about health and wellness practices that lead to positive pregnancy outcomes. Family members and significant others of women of child bearing age are also welcome.

To register contact:

Sam Manivong
703-246-8660

sam.manivong@fairfaxcounty.gov

Monday March 10, 2008 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Thursday March 27, 2008 Noon - 1 p.m.	Wednesday April 9, 2008 Noon - 1 p.m.
Registration Deadline March 6, 2008	Registration Deadline March 25, 2008	Registration Deadline April 7, 2008
Government Center 12000 Government Center Parkway Fairfax, VA 22035 Room 8	South County Human Services Center 8350 Richmond Highway Alexandria, VA 22309 Room 217	Falls Church Human Services Center 6245 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, VA 22044 Room 330



The Purpose of Prevention - Denise Raybon

As we come together in an effort to develop a more comprehensive and strategic approach to prevention, it is often easier to focus on our difference than it is to identify our commonalities.

But if we can agree on the purpose of prevention, then we've already taken the first step:

- ◆ Healthy communities in which people have a quality life
- ◆ Healthy environments at work & in school
- ◆ Supportive communities & neighborhoods
- ◆ Connections with families & friends
- ◆ An opportunity to live drug, violence, and crime-free



Prevention System Goals

Children are physically fit with good nutritional habits

Children enter kindergarten fully ready to succeed

Children and youth are safe from violence and bullying

Children are born healthy – there are no disparities

Families have skills and supports needed to raise healthy and thriving children

All youth are succeeding academically – there are no disparities

Families are connected to their communities and schools

Children and youth are free from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs

Children and youth are mentally well

Neighborhood Networks - Denise Raybon

Neighborhood Networks are part of the Department of Family Services' Child Abuse and Neglect strategies. Through this effort, support and referral services link families who are facing significant challenges to community resources and provide them with opportunities to build leadership skills to become resources within their own neighborhoods. Neighborhood Networks establishes relationships with families and with their schools, and then through 1-1 case management and simultaneous relationship building with community groups, assists families in connecting to community resources and in building supportive relationships that will be on-going. The program outcomes look at academic achievement of children, employment and housing stability, parental leadership, family functioning, and the family's capacity to build and maintain community connections.

Neighborhood Initiatives - Denise Raybon

The **Neighborhood Initiatives Project** is working in partnership with five Fairfax County neighborhoods. Within each community, a network is being created to engage residents and the broader system of county, school and community-based service providers in achieving outcomes for youth, families and communities through neighborhood-focused approaches. Neighborhood Initiatives focus on four key impact areas:

- Community Engagement
- Family Relations
- Social and Emotional Health
- Children's Education and Development

In addition to staff from CRS, DSMHS, and DFS, staff from other agencies, including the Community Services Board, Housing and Community Development, Office of Partnerships, Police, and Fairfax County Public Schools, have also been actively involved, providing technical assistance and other programmatic support.



Neighborhood School Readiness Teams - Denise Raybon

Neighborhood School Readiness Teams, initiated through the Office for Children, were created to build relationships, communication channels, and plan experiences between child care programs and schools so that children and their families experience smooth transitions to kindergarten. The teams are piloting sample transition forms created to help educators and parents share written information about a child's early learning experience with the new kindergarten teacher. Teams include principals, kindergarten and Head Start teachers, child care center directors, and family child care providers.



Neighborhood Initiative Communities

- Annandale
- Janna Lee
- Sacramento
- Southgate
- Yorkville

Neighborhood School Readiness Teams

- Annandale Terrace
- Freedom Hill
- Hollin Meadows
- Lake Anne

Contract Management News - Kelly Matthews

The Fairfax County Department of Administration for Human Services, Contracts Management provides a newsletter with information on training sessions, grant opportunities and general announcements related to Human Services.

To view the March edition of the newsletter go to:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/admin/cm/PDFs/March2008.pdf>



Building Healthy Teen Relationships Program - Call for Proposals

— the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is partnering with the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF)—one of the nation's experts on domestic violence—to announce a new four-year initiative designed to prevent violence among the next generation. *Building Healthy Teen Relationships* is a \$14.6-million national effort of RWJF designed to develop and test new models to prevent dating and sexual violence among 10- to 14-year-olds.

The Building Healthy Teen Relationships program will fund eight geographically and ethnically diverse communities to create comprehensive models of prevention that aim to decrease relationship violence and increase positive, protective relationship skills among young adolescents. The initiative will identify effective ways to encourage older teens, parents and adult mentors to implement innovative strategies, change social norms, and engage communities in stopping this violence. The FVPF will oversee the community grantees, which will be selected in November.

The program will award the eight sites for a period of up to 48 months. Each grant award will be up to \$250,000 per year, with a maximum award of \$1 million for the full four-year grant period. For information on how to prepare and submit your proposal:

<http://www.buildinghealthyteenrelationships.org/>

Fairfax Futures—READY!

— Mary Nelms

Fairfax Futures is dedicated to ensuring that our county's youngest children are well prepared to succeed in school and in life. Fairfax Futures produces a newsletter with articles and resources for those interested in *News for Early Childhood Educators*. The Winter 2008 edition is available online at:

www.fairfax-futures.org/pdf/Fairfax%20Futures%20Ready%20Newsletter%20January2008.pdf

Safe and Drug Free Youth DVDs and Videos for Loan

—Diane Eckert

Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section, FCPS have DVDs and Videos available for loan on underage drinking, driving and accidents, and inhalant abuse. These materials are the best in the field.

This Place (3 copies DVD, 1 video):

A powerful movie that challenges viewers to recognize the many ways that our society allows and even encourages children to drink alcohol. *15 minutes.*

Huffing: The Latest Facts About Inhalant Abuse (1 copy DVD):

This movie communicates the truth about inhalants through straight facts and hard-hitting, real-life stories from abusers and their families and friends. *20 minutes.*

Dying High: Teens in the ER (1 copy DVD):

Viewers of this film will receive a valuable opportunity to see what goes on in emergency rooms as doctors treat teens for drug overdose, alcohol poisoning, and traumas as a result of drunk driving. *26 minutes.*



Brief Proposal Deadline April 16, 2008

Learn more:

[Building Healthy Teen Relationships call for proposals](#)

(www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=20202)

Safe and Drug Free Youth DVDs/Videos

Contact

Joanne Bales

571-423-4270

or

joanne.bales@fpcs.edu

Pick up @ Gatehouse Administrative Center, Falls Church or

Request through inter-office mail



To request this information in an alternate format, contact Mary Nelms

We hope you find this newsletter useful. Feel free to forward to others who may also make use of the information included.

Are you talking prevention?

Send us an update on what you or your organization is doing to spread the word about prevention or further the prevention system goals for our May newsletter. *Send updates to Mary Nelms by*

April 25, 2008.



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