Mental Health Awareness Day is Almost Here!

Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day is May 9. Information and resources are available at www.samhsa.gov/children. You can download and/or order publications from the SAMHSA store at http://ow.ly/kPSig. In conjunction with the awareness day, the Child Mind Institute is conducting Speak Up for Children Campaign: http://speakup.childmind.org/. By taking a quiz on this website about the common barriers to access to children’s mental health services, you can contribute to an organization working on behalf of children. In addition, the whole month of May is Mental Health Awareness Month; check out the Presidential Proclamation at http://ow.ly/kDtrF

Summer Therapeutic Activities Programs Encourage Family Involvement

Summer is coming and with it a new season of Summer Therapeutic Activities Programs (STAPs). Check out the pamphlets on family involvement created in collaboration with the OMHSAS Mental Health Planning Council Children’s Committee, the OMHSAS statewide STAP workgroup and the OMHSAS Children’s Bureau. There are two versions, one for providers to use as is and the other for providers to customize for their use. The brochures are available at www.parecovery.org (Statewide Initiatives/BHRS).

PAYSPI Announces Contest Winners

Earlier this year, the Pennsylvania Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative held a contest for public service announcements for high school youth on behalf of suicide prevention. Each school could submit an entry in the following categories: posters, 15 or 30-second audios, 30-second videos, and 60-second videos. This contest is the first of its kind in Pennsylvania, and we were very pleased to receive 42 entries. All of the winning and honorable mention entries will be made available by DVD to every school district in the state and will eventually be posted on the PAYSPI website at www.payspi.org. In addition, the winners in all four categories will be honored at the Pennsylvania Suicide Prevention Conference in State College in October.

Congratulations to the winners!

Poster: Cumberland-Perry Area Vocational Technical School; Aurora File, student; Wendy Lenker-Badorf, mentor
15 or 30-second audio: North Pocono High School; Anthony Anzalone, student; Geri Featherby, mentor
30-second audio: Galeton High School; Mekensie Huggler, Zach Brown and Kris Brumbaugh, students; Deborah Long, mentor
60-second video: Brentwood High School; Jessica Martin, Laura McGowan, Nick Gall and Allison McKonja, students; Jennifer Hughes, mentor

New Website for Secondary Transition Planning

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, and the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) have developed a new website for youth and families that addresses planning for secondary transition: www.secondarytransition.org/. The purpose of the website is to provide youth, young adults, parents, and professionals with secondary transition resources to facilitate a young person’s progress toward the attainment of post-secondary goals related to education, employment, and community living. There are resources and information in various categories: agencies and supports, community living, employment, financial supports and services, health, post-secondary education and training, recreation and leisure, school, and self-determination.

New Videos about Effective Early Childhood Programs

"We are Pennsylvania’s Future" video from Pennsylvania’s Promise for Children; shares from the children’s perspective how investments in quality early education build a brighter future for Pennsylvania’s families, businesses and communities. Watch it at http://vimeo.com/64010741

Video about Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, from the University of Pittsburgh’s Office of Child Development discusses how Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation works. Watch it at http://ow.ly/kpSJA
YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING OFFERED

Youth Mental Health First Aid training will be offered free of charge on May 22-23, 2013 in Scranton. The training is offered to individuals who work or live in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties through the Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a public education program that introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and most importantly, teaches individuals how to help a youth in crisis or experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. Youth MHFA is an 8-hour course that uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care. More information is at [http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/coming-soon-youth-mental-health-first-aid](http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/coming-soon-youth-mental-health-first-aid). Registration deadline is May 17; contact Jen Bankard at jen@paproviders.org or 717-364-3280.

TEST YOUR TRANSITION SERVICE COMPETENCIES

The Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures at Portland State University has developed a “Transition Service Provider Competency Scale.” The list of items on the checklist relate to activities that service providers might engage in while working with young people with mental health disorders in the transition years (14-29). The items allow providers to assess confidence in performing tasks related to providing effective, youth-led, and culturally responsive services and potential areas for competency development. The scale is available at [http://ow.ly/kpUKu](http://ow.ly/kpUKu)

Additional New Publications from Pathways


RECENT COMMUNITY FORUMS ON BULLYING PODCASTS AVAILABLE

The Center for Safe Schools has been working with print and broadcast media across Pennsylvania on interviews, special features and community forums to communicate best practices for school safety, youth violence prevention and bullying prevention. In these efforts, the center’s staff have provided expertise as panelists and interviewees. Several programs are available by podcast on the website of Harrisburg’s public radio station, WITF. Go to [http://feeds.witf.org/witf-smarttalk-podcast](http://feeds.witf.org/witf-smarttalk-podcast) and scroll down to access the following programs:

- “Pushed Around: A Public Forum on Bullying,” April 25 (TV)
- “What to Do If Your Child is Bullied,” April 1
- “School Safety,” Mar. 26
- “A Closer Look at Bullying, Mar. 22

In addition, the center’s website at [www.safeschools.info/](http://www.safeschools.info/) includes hundreds of resources on topics of all-hazards planning, crisis management, school climate and bullying prevention, among others. The Pennsylvania Bullying Prevention Toolkit, developed in partnership with the Highmark Foundation, is available at [www.safeschools.info/bp_toolkit.pdf](http://www.safeschools.info/bp_toolkit.pdf).

CONFERENCE/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES


*July 29-Aug. 1, 2013: National Autism Conference, Penn Stater Conference Center and Hotel, State College. Sponsored by the Penn Stater Outreach Center and the PA Department of Education. More information at [www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/autism/index.htm](http://www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/autism/index.htm)


Note: Additional children’s mental health training is available from [Drexel University](http://www.drexel.edu): University of Pittsburgh Office of Education and Regional Programs, and Philadelphia Child and Family Therapy Training Center.

*new listing this month*