



## *Update December 2009*

### **Kansas Parent Research Initiative Webinars**

Join us on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 to hear the results of the year-long Kansas Parent Research Initiative! This webinar will include information from both agencies and parents about the ways parent involvement is defined and utilized throughout the State. Results will include survey data from over 80 agencies in Kansas, data from 10 focus groups with over 100 parents, and discussion about what was found.

Webinars will be held throughout the day and will last approximately 1 hour:

- 10:00 am: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/395439562>
- 1:00 pm: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/304771387>
- 4:00pm: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/132269346>

To participate in the audio portion of the webinars, dial 1-877-278-8686 and enter participant pin 376226.

### **Cristi Cain to join Project LAUNCH team**

Cristi Cain will join the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service as the Young Child Wellness Coordinator for Kansas Project LAUNCH, a five-year, \$4.25 million cooperative agreement through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. She previously served as Chair of the Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and the State Coordinator for the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project. Cristi is a certified prevention professional and has worked in substance abuse prevention for almost fourteen years.

Cristi has extensive specialized training in addiction, Drug Endangered Children's issues, Substance-Exposed Newborn initiatives, and child abuse prevention. Cristi has worked in communities across Kansas implementing strategies that have proven successful in addressing the methamphetamine problem and in assisting Drug Endangered Children. She has conducted trainings at local, state, and national levels and has testified before a Congressional hearing. She specializes in partnership development, capacity building, grant writing, and providing technical assistance to communities. In 2006, Cristi received an Office of National Drug Control Policy Director's Award for Distinguished Service for her dedication and leadership.

Cristi will be working with Finney County to implement local portions of the grant and will be supporting KECCS efforts on the state level.

### **CDC Parent Portal New Study Shows Strengthening Families Illinois Improved Quality of Family Partnerships in Early Childhood Programs**

Anne Douglass, Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts, developed her dissertation study in 2008 to focus on how the Strengthening Families (SF) approach influenced change in early childhood programs in Illinois because of its extensive implementation efforts.

Findings indicate that not only did SF Illinois influence changes that improved the quality of family partnership practices in ECE programs, but that their multi-level model of implementation was key to its effectiveness in promoting organizational change, with implications for the design of quality improvement and professional development policy and practice.

The results of her study have been developed as three large journal articles awaiting publication. In addition, she developed a research brief on the study for SFI and will develop a second brief focused on how the organizational culture/system influenced partnerships with families.

The first research brief is located at:

[http://www.strengtheningfamiliesillinois.org/html/Dec%2009%20Update/Douglass\\_Office%20Printing.pdf](http://www.strengtheningfamiliesillinois.org/html/Dec%2009%20Update/Douglass_Office%20Printing.pdf)

### **National Fatherhood Initiative Webinars**

The National Fatherhood Initiative is hosting a series of FREE webinars in January and February. In order to participate in these webinars, please follow <http://www.fatherhood.org/Webinars/schedule.asp>.

Each webinar has its own registration. Once you register, Information on how to join the Webinar will be provided in a separate e-mail after you confirm your registration. Below you will find descriptions of each webinar. NOTE: The times that are listed are Eastern Standard.

#### **1. Funding Your Fatherhood Program**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2010 - 1-3:00PM EST**

Steady funding is the key to a sustainable, successful fatherhood program. In this session, learn how to find funding sources for your fatherhood program, principles for developing a winning proposal, best practices, and more.

#### **2. Getting Started Series: How to Begin a Fatherhood Program**

**Thursday, February 11, 2010 - 2-3:30PM EST**

Want to implement a direct-service fatherhood program in your organization - or create an organization to serve fathers - but aren't sure where to start? This comprehensive webinar will help you develop a plan for success with practical strategies and proven best practices.

#### **3. Reentry Program Success: Reaching the Next Generation of Fathers**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010 - 2-3:00PM EST**

Equip yourself to successfully reach younger fathers with this informative webinar!

Explore how younger generations of men think, learn, interact, and approach issues and learn how you can develop effective programs and services to equip younger fathers for a successful reentry and prison release.

#### **4. NEW Curriculum Module: Understanding Domestic Violence**

**Monday, February 22, 2010 - 2-3:00PM EST**

In this exclusive webinar, get the inside scoop on the National Fatherhood Initiative's newest curriculum module: Understanding Domestic Violence. Learn how you can integrate this helpful tool to proactively reduce domestic violence in your community.

#### **Child Abuse & Neglect (journal) Free Special Issue for 20th anniversary of UN Convention for the Rights of the Child**

Elsevier, a leading publisher of scientific, technical and medical information products and services, announced the publication of a free Special Issue of Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal 1989-2009 on the 20th Anniversary of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The Special Issue aims to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It provides an overview of two decades of development in the areas of child maltreatment research, data collection, and reporting practice, as required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and will facilitate information and practice exchange to support governments and professionals in their important efforts globally.

The Special Issue will be available for free online for a year, along with Part 2 of the Special Issue which will be published in January 2010. Part 1 can currently be accessed at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/issue/5847-2009-999669988-1554191>.

#### **Stories of Parent Leadership**

The FRIENDS National Resource Center for CBCAP and the FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council (PAC) has a new feature called, "Stories of Parent Leadership." This feature includes excerpts from interviews of six parent leaders who work in their communities and nationally to help family support and child abuse prevention practitioners and organizations:

- Gain appreciation for the journey of parents growing as leaders within their families, to leaders making significant contributions on behalf of other families within their communities and beyond;
- Understand the value, benefits, challenges and behaviors associated with including parent leaders in family support and child abuse prevention program and policy development; and
- Build capacity within local communities and on state and national levels to engage parents as participants and leaders in the design, implementation and evaluation of program initiatives aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Spoken with his/her own voice, each parent shares a unique story of how parent leadership has positively impacted their personal growth and the well-being of their children and families. Each further reveal how being encouraged and recognized for their leadership skills inspired them to partner with practitioners so that other families could benefit from effective family support programs and policy.

The FRIENDS PAC offers you these stories to further assist you in carrying-out your goals to meaningfully involve parents in your work to support families and prevent child abuse and neglect. Either singularly or combined, these vignettes can be used to increase public awareness or as tools to support training for staff, network members, partners, parents and other key stakeholders about the value of parent engagement and involvement. While the length of most vignettes is between 4-6 minutes, a 12-minute version is particularly recommended for intensive training. You can link directly to these vignettes at: [www.friendsnrc.org/cbcap/priority/storycorp.htm](http://www.friendsnrc.org/cbcap/priority/storycorp.htm).

### **Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities in Kansas**

Do you have an event, conference or training coming up that would benefit other KSF partners? Let us know, and we will promote it on the KSF website and in the newsletter, the *KSF Update*. Send information to [hilharms@ku.edu](mailto:hilharms@ku.edu) or contact Hilary Harms Logan at (785) 864-6069.