Child Welfare Resource Rundown

The following section provides an overview of new resources, publications, and other updates relevant to professionals and policymakers in the child welfare arena.

- ***Industry Newsletters***
  - The National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement (NRCOI) produces Child Welfare Matters, a periodic newsletter that provides information on critical organizational improvement strategies. The Winter/Spring 2014 edition is Lessons from the Field: Assessing and Improving CQI Systems in Child Welfare.

  - The National Resource Center for Youth Development (NRCYD) published the January/February 2014 edition of *Youth Port*, which spotlights the 2014 National Pathways to Adulthood conference, as well as other resources, information, and tools for young adults currently experiencing foster care, those who are transitioning to adulthood, and those who have aged out.

- ***Child Welfare Research & Evaluation Updates***
  - Recovery Coaches Help Treatment Agencies, Child Welfare Services – Through In-Depth Technical Assistance (IDTA) from the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW), Connecticut developed and implemented the Recovery Specialist Voluntary Program (RSVP), which showed success in improving parents' ability to access substance abuse treatment. Parents' enhanced access to treatment and assistance with other resources was attributed to timelier reunification with children.

  - In continuation of the Child Welfare Evaluation Virtual Summit Series, the Children's Bureau has released two new videos and their related resources:

    - Getting it Done: Partnering to Overcome Concerns About Data Sharing –This video follows a child welfare director as she investigates common barriers to data sharing and identifies strategies to overcome them.

    - Who Cares About Data Sharing: Making the Case to the Courts – Dr. Gene Flango argues the case for practical performance measurement and data sharing in this video.

    - Additional resources and videos will be launched through June 2014. Each video tackles an evaluation-related topic, and many propose solutions to common evaluation problems and direct viewers to additional tools and resources. The videos are available on the Virtual Summit Series web section.

  - Profiles of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Projects. Volume II: Demonstrations Active as of Federal Fiscal Year 2013. This new report is from the federal Children's Bureau.

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- ***Child Welfare Research & Evaluation Updates (cont'd)***
  - The final report and synopsis of the Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visiting Initiative national cross-site evaluation, conducted by Mathematica and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, examines the strategies used by 17 organizations in 15 states supported as part of an initiative funded by the Children's Bureau and other federal partners from 2008-2013, to determine the most critical factors in supporting the implementation of home visiting models with fidelity.

  - The National Center for Evidence-Based Practice in Child Welfare is providing information on their model, "Partnering for Success," and the request for application process. This opportunity is aimed at child welfare and children's behavioral health systems and agency providers serving children, youth, and families receiving child welfare services. The model supports the work being done in many of the Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Projects related to improving the mental health outcomes of children and youth. For information, click here.

- ***Strategies, Tools & Other Practical Resources***
  - The National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology (NRCCWDT) officially released the web section for its Framework for Managing With Data. The framework is intended to help agencies use data to the best advantage in order to inform practice and performance and improve child welfare outcomes. It provides tools to help agencies refine their data-collection process and focus their efforts.

  - The American Bar Association's (ABA's) Center on Children and the Law works on projects aimed at improving outcomes for youth involved with child welfare, including a project focused specifically on supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) young people in foster care. The Opening Doors project provides tools and resources to professionals in the legal and child welfare communities to support their work in improving outcomes for this high-risk population. The project website links to a variety of trainings, publications, and other information, including the companion It's Your Life interactive website (and publication with the same name) for LGBTQ youth, created to help LGBTQ youth in foster care navigate the child welfare system and understand their rights.

  - The National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections (NRCPFC) developed a new online toolkit that touches on various topics related to permanence for youth and young adults in foster care. The toolkit gives a brief history of youth permanence and draws from neuroscience and other research to touch on developmentally appropriate permanence services for youth. The kit also offers an organizational self-study, which child welfare agencies can use to evaluate policies, practices, and training and technical assistance needs.

  - Child Welfare Information Gateway recently posted the updated issue brief Protective Factors Approaches in Child Welfare. The resource is designed to help policymakers, administrators, child welfare and related professionals, service providers, advocates, and other interested individuals understand the concepts of risk and protective factors in families and communities and learn ways in which building protective factors can help to lessen risks for child abuse and neglect.

- ***Strategies, Tools & Other Practical Resources (cont'd)***
    - The National Working Group on Foster Care and Education recently produced Fostering Success in Education: National Factsheet on the Educational Outcomes of Children in Foster Care, which focuses on the importance of establishing a strong educational foundation for children in care and designing effective interventions aimed at enhancing their educational outcomes.

    - In recent years, the Children's Bureau convened a group of national experts to create a framework to guide program evaluators, administrators, and funders through the process of building evidence and implementing evidence-supported interventions. A Framework to Design, Test, Spread, and Sustain Effective Practice in Child Welfare is intended to encourage the thoughtful use of evaluation to promote sound decision making. This framework is designed for anyone who implements and evaluates child welfare interventions – whether it's a new intervention, an existing evidence-supported program, or a longstanding practice that has yet to be formally tests.