



The following information is also available on www.psaydn.org.

Take Ten!

Welcome to *Take Ten!* - A monthly bulletin designed to keep you informed. We invite you to take 10 minutes a month to update yourself with what's going on in the network and the afterschool/youth development field.

April 2008

Contents

[The Spotlight!](#) [News](#) [Promising Practices-Proven Strategies](#)
[Recommended Reading](#) [Upcoming Events](#) [Advocacy Corner](#)

THE SPOTLIGHT!

Aging-Out of Foster Care – Afterschool and youth development programs not only keep kids safe, improve academic achievement and help working families, they also meet the needs of the most vulnerable children and youth in our society – children and youth in foster care. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are more than 500,000 children and youth in foster care in the United States and approximately 20,000 youth “age out” each year. Youth in foster care are 44% less likely to graduate from high school and are less prepared for the real world. A recent publication by the National Association of Counties (NaCo), investigates the challenges facing “aged-out” youth and offers strategies to improve the outcomes for youth in foster care. For more information, visit <http://www.countyengineers.org/Template.cfm?Section=publications&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=26583>.

PSAYDN UPDATE

Stay informed – Here's what's going on.

- **Advocacy Now** – The second session of PSAYDN's *Advocacy Now* series entitled, “Building Effective Legislative Relationships” was held earlier this month to encourage afterschool and youth development leaders to reach out to policymakers. The information provided by guest speaker and Vice President of FowlerHoffman, LLC, Janelle Cousino, was rated as “extremely useful” or “very useful” by 80% of the surveyed participants. Ninety percent indicated he or she will share this information with others while 100% indicated the information will be used in his or her line of work. The next *Advocacy Now* sessions entitled “Strategic Communications: Working With the Media to Make Your Case” will be held on May 20, 2008 from 1 pm to 2 pm. For registration information or to view past sessions, visit www.psaydn.org.

PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.

Pennsylvania

Achieving Independence Center (AIC) is an organization funded by the Department of Human Services and the Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation to help youth exiting the child welfare system transition to independent living. AIC provides youth with mentoring services, family planning sessions, job readiness training and much more at nontraditional hours and flexible scheduling so youth are geared with the tools they need to succeed in life. For more information about AIC, visit http://dhs.phila.gov/intranet/pgintrahome_pub.nsf/Content/CYD+-+Achieving+Independence+Center.

Around the Country

May is Foster Care Month. Join the National Foster Parent Association in celebrating the 20th National Foster Care Month by spending a few minutes learning the facts and understanding the needs of those touched by the issue. Research shows that young people in foster care are far more likely than their peers in the general population to endure homelessness, poverty, compromised health, unemployment, incarceration and other adversities after they leave the foster care system. By raising awareness and spreading the word, we can help advocate for better systems to ensure that all foster youth will receive the education and life skills they need to transition to adulthood and live a successful life. For more information about Foster Care Month, visit <http://www.fostercaremonth.org/Pages/default.aspx>.

RECOMMENDED READING

Check-out these recent articles, research and reviews on afterschool and youth development issues.

- **Aged-Out and Homeless in Philadelphia** – This study addresses seven “problem areas” encountered by youth who have aged-out of the foster care system, highlights key recommendations and discusses current initiatives of the child welfare system. To read this report, visit <http://www.gpuac.org/documents/Aged-OutandHomelessinPhiladelphia.pdf>.
- **Raising Graduation Rates in an Era of high Standards: Five Commitments for State Action** – This report recommends strategies and action steps policymakers can take towards high school reform efforts. To read this report, visit <http://www.jff.org/Documents/raisinggradrates.pdf>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars; you don't want to miss these events.

- **5/13/08 Early Childhood Action Day** – This rally is organized by QUEST will be held in Harrisburg, PA from 8 am to 3 pm. Registration will be held at the Pine Street Presbyterian Church and the rally will be held on Capitol Complex. For more information about the event, visit www.paquest.org.
- **5/13/08 – 5/14/08 Afterschool For All Challenge** – This event is hosted by The Afterschool Alliance and will be held in Washington, DC. Day 1 will be held at the Grand Hyatt Washington and Day 2 on Capitol Hill. For more information about the event, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.
- **5/15/08 Advocacy Now: Champions of Caring 13th Annual Recognition Program** – This event is sponsored by the Champions of Caring and will be held from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Drexel University's Main Auditorium located in Philadelphia, PA. For more information, visit www.championsofcaring.org.
- **5/20/08 Advocacy Now: Tools and Resources on How to Be a Voice for Children and Youth** – This *Advocacy Now* session entitled “Strategic Communications: Working With the Media to Make Your Case” is sponsored by PSAYDN, in partnership with the Afterschool Alliance and will be held online from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Tuesday, May 20th. For more information, visit www.psaydn.org.
- **5/20/08 Supporting Students to Success! Effective Strategies for Pennsylvania's Schools** – This conference is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and will be held at the Hilton Harrisburg in Harrisburg, PA. For more information about the event, visit www.center-school.org.

ADVOCACY CORNER

Sustain Afterschool Funding by Getting Involved – Here's a tip to help steer you in the right direction.

Support the Afterschool for All Challenge – May 14, 2008 is a critical time for afterschool supporters to come together and make their voices heard. As hundreds of advocates, community leaders, parents and youth spend their day communicating their experiences to congressman in Washington, DC, you can be a part of this energy and make a difference from home. Call or write your congressman and tell them about the important work being done in afterschool programs. To find your congressman, visit <http://capwiz.com/afterschool/directory/congdir.tt>. To join other advocates in DC, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org and click on Afterschool for All Challenge.

The **PSAYDN** is a collaborative effort among state, regional and local partners. Its purpose is to promote sustainable, high-quality out-of-school time youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building to enhance the welfare of Pennsylvania's children, youth and families.

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