

NEW COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

The Children's Bureau is pleased to announce the new Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), Mr. Bryan Samuels. Samuels has spent his career formulating service delivery innovations and streamlining operations in large government organizations on behalf of children, youth, and families. His commitment to public service is largely motivated by his own success in overcoming great personal hardship during his eleven and half years of growing up in a residential school for disadvantaged children. This experience helped shape his commitment to serve children who lived in foster care and reinforced his belief that dedicated people and well-designed programs can make a dramatic impact on the lives of at-risk youth.

As Chief of Staff for Chicago Public Schools, Mr. Samuels played a leadership role in managing the day-to-day operations of the third largest school system in the nation with 420,000 students, 623 schools, 44,000 employees, and a \$5 billion budget. His responsibilities include reviewing all policy changes recommended to the Chicago Board of Education and developing a model to address the impact of exposure to violence on student outcomes.

Prior to this role, from 2003 to 2007, Samuels served as the Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the nation's third largest child welfare agency. While Director, he moved aggressively to implement comprehensive assessments of all children entering care, redesigned transitional and independent living programs to prepare youth for transitioning to adulthood, created a child location unit to track all runaway youth, and introduced evidence-based services to address the impact of trauma and exposure to violence on children in state care. As a result of his efforts, DCFS established the lowest caseload ratios for case managers in the nation; reduced the number of youth "on run" by 40 percent and number of days "on run" by 50 percent; decreased the use of residential treatment or group homes by 20 percent; and eliminated the number of past due child protection investigations by 60 percent.

Prior to 2003, Samuels taught at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, while also providing technical assistance to state and local governments to improve human service delivery to vulnerable populations. Samuels holds a Master's Degree from the University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy Studies and a Bachelor's of Arts Degree from the University of Notre Dame.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families is pleased to announce the release of the Tribal Title IV-E Plan Development Grants. The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement is to make one-time grants to Tribes, Tribal organizations, or Tribal consortia that are seeking to develop and implement a title IV-E foster care, adoption assistance and, at Tribal option, guardianship assistance program. The grant announcement can be found at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/hhs-2010-acf-acyf-cs-0048>.

CAMPAIGNS

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!

The Presidential Proclamation can be found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-national-child-abuse-prevention-month>.

The 2010 Strengthening Families and Communities Resource Guide is available at: http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/res_guide_2010/.

REPORTS AND JOURNAL ARTICLES

2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) monitors priority health-risk behaviors and the prevalence of obesity and asthma among youth and young adults. The YRBSS includes a national school-based survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state, territorial, tribal, and local surveys conducted by state, territorial, and local education and health agencies and tribal governments. 2009 data will be available June 3, 2010. Go to <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm> to learn more.

Child Maltreatment 2008. ACYF strives to ensure the well-being of our children through many programs and activities. One such activity is the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System of the Children's Bureau, which provides national and State statistics about child maltreatment. Data from child protective services agencies are analyzed, disseminated, and published in an annual report. Full text: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm08/>

WEB-BASED TOOLKITS

FindYouthInfo.gov. This interactive website, designed for youth-serving organizations and partnerships, provides resources to help communities plan and implement effective youth programs. It also offers interactive mapping tools, in-depth information on youth topics, and an opportunity to provide input on a federal strategic plan for youth policy. <http://www.findyouthinfo.gov>

School Health Services Resource (SHSR). SHSR is a user-friendly Web tool to help school health professionals and other school district staff easily locate all of CDC's school health services resources in one location. SHSR pulls together CDC fact sheets, protocols, guidelines, research and survey information, and health topic overviews into a centralized, searchable tool. To access the tool, go to <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/SHSR/Apps/SearchResources.aspx>

Youth Physical Activity Guidelines Toolkit. The toolkit can be used by anyone who promotes youth physical activity, including community leaders; physical education and health education teachers; physical activity coordinators at the school, district, and state levels; and physical activity practitioners working in health or community-based organizations. To learn more, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/physicalActivity/guidelines.htm#1>