

The Association for Child and Youth Care Practice Inc.



THE CYC ADVOCATE

Our Mission: ACYCP's mission is to engage practitioners in building the child and youth care profession. We build collaborative partnerships, promote innovative training and education, shape public policy, and inform developmental practice through research and scholarship.

Our Vision: We envision a society which recognizes, understands, and supports the essential role of child and youth care work in ensuring the well-being and success of children, youth, and families. ACYCP aspires to excel as an influential and innovative organization advancing child and youth care practice throughout the profession.

PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGES GOT YOU DOWN?



Photo Credit: Pixabay.com

Do you and other area child and youth care workers feel isolated and invisible? Do you long to share your experiences and ideas with other local CYC professionals? Do you see community CYC needs going unmet due to gaps in provider communication? Are you frequently "reinventing the wheel" due to lack of expertise and experience?

Yes, now ACYCP can help you and your colleagues start your own local CYC professional organization, with minimal effort. After extensive effort, we **now have an organizational start-up kit**, complete with templates for by-laws, setting up a board of directors, finding resources, and even how to incorporate. This is your one-stop-shop for creating your very own CYC organization, at whatever level you care to serve. This kit will save you and your colleagues hours and hours of needless duplication and dead-ends, as you seek to unite professionals in your area.

For more information contact:

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(608)846-2860
Madison, WI



Photo Credit: Pixabay.com



photo credit: Freelmages.com

LINK WITH US!

CYC agencies and organizations may email the general email address at: acycp2011@yahoo.com and send their logo and web link, along with the name and contact information of a designated representative. Please put "Invitation To Link-ACYCP" in the subject line. We look forward to welcoming you to our communications and resource network!

Lorraine E. Fox, Ph.D.

LABOR and LIFE

I'm writing in September. Labor Day - the holiday to honor "work" - is over and for children and teens summer is over and school labor has begun. Seems like a good time to talk about labor, and to consider our role in convincing young people of the realities and benefits of work. Most adults are not terribly different than children in that given a choice between work and play, we will usually choose play. Believe it or not, there are actually many similarities between work and play. Work, like play, provides opportunity to use one's unique mind and individual talents and abilities, thus providing many ways of enhancing self-esteem and giving us a good sense of ourselves. In choosing how to spend one's life it's good to know what our strengths and gifts are, as well as where we are limited.

Adults should never apologize for asking children to work! We never want to start a sentence introducing a chore with the words "I'm sorry": "I'm sorry but you'll have to clean your room before you go out to play". There are no reasons why children, even very young children, cannot contribute to the life of their household - however large or small - through some form of work. It is not a favor to children to excuse them from learning early about both the necessity and value of work.



In a treatment setting, work also has therapeutic value. It is important that our clients find ways to recognize their personal value when life so far has often given them the message that they are not worth much - not worth protecting, not worth a stable place to live, not worth letting them hold onto their familiar friends, pets, and neighborhoods. But they, like everyone, are as much a part of nature as every other creature, and all parts of nature have things to do to contribute to the good of all. Branches of trees provide homes for the birds; the running spring waters supply drink for the animals; the growing grass and grain offer food for cattle and humans. Working is the way humans contribute to life - to the well-being of other humans we live with, and to our pets and any others who depend on us.

[READ MORE](#)

NEED HELP WITH YOUR CYC CERTIFICATION APPLICATION AND FORMS?



Help is HERE! The CYCCB and the CYC Certification Institute are now offering monthly webinar-based Certification Assistance.



Child and Youth Care
CERTIFICATION BOARD



If you need help completing your certification, application, references, documenting your training and experience, finishing your portfolio, or a host of other things, **then attend our FREE Certification Help Webinars.**

If you need immediate help, call the CYC Office (979) 764-7306. They can answer most questions and provide you with necessary forms.

If you need more, attend one of our webinars. The webinars will be focused on whatever issues are brought to the session relating to certification completion. If you need more help than can be offered during the hour session, a resource person will be assigned to you who can stay involved until you get your application filed.

Register for the FREE Webinar Today! You will receive an email confirming you are signed up. Two to three days before the webinar is held we will contact you with instructions for how to join the webinar.

You will need a computer with high speed internet access. You can either use headphones at your computer or call-in using a phone. Certification staff will be available during the webinar to answer your questions.

If you have questions, please contact us at (979) 764-7306 or at cycinformation@aol.com.

There is no charge for attending the webinar. Your phone company may charge for the phone call.

Webinars will be held once-a-month on the following Wednesdays for the remainder of 2017:

2017	Nov 15	Dec 13	
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Certification Help Webinars are all scheduled at:

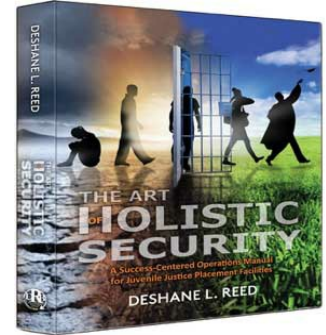
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM Atlantic
- 2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern
- 1:00 - 2:00 PM Central
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM Mountain
- 11:00 - 12:00 PM Pacific

Resources At A Glance

THE ART OF HOLISTIC SECURITY by DESHANE L. REED

We live in a world of best practices. Some call themselves evidence-based best practices (EBP), some are simply promising practices based on evidence from somewhere, and a few are practices grounded in evidence-based research (EBR).

[READ MORE](#)



President's Perspective

THE JOURNEY SETS THE PACE FOR CERTIFICATION!

Jody Rhodes

The ACYCP Board is very proud of the efforts to certify many youth workers in the state of Indiana. Under the leadership of Janet Wakefield, Chief Exploration Officer at The Journey, child and youth work certification is taking off in Indiana. Because of great partnerships, many youth care workers are receiving support in achieving their certification at all three levels. We are looking to Indiana, which is blazing the trail towards becoming a possible model for replication in other states (including my home state of Wisconsin). Many thanks, to all the Indiana youth workers, who are pursuing this important credential. We are very proud of you!



Resources At A Glance



TEEN SUICIDE TREND IN U.S. SHOWS ALARMING INCREASE SINCE 2006

Numerous media outlets, including the New York Times and CNN, have recently run features summarizing released data from the National Center for Health Statistics, documenting a disturbing increasing trend in teen suicide. Although alarming for any age cohort, teen suicide is an especially troubling issue for CYC professionals, who may need to be especially knowledgeable and vigilant regarding the signs for potential self-harm.

[**Editor's Note:** The following is taken from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db241.htm>]

Summary

Suicide is increasing against the backdrop of generally declining mortality, and is currently one of the 10 leading causes of death overall and within each age group 10-64 (4). This report highlights increases in suicide mortality from 1999 through 2014 and shows that while the rate increased almost steadily over the period, the average annual percent increase was greater for the second half of this period (2006-2014) than for the first half (1999-2006). Increases in suicide rates occurred for both males and females in all but the oldest age group (75 and over). Percent increases in rates were greatest for females aged 10-14 and for males, those aged 45-64. The male-female disparity in suicide rates (as measured by rate ratios) narrowed slightly over the period. Poisoning was the most common suicide method for females in 2014, and firearms were the most frequent for males, but both sexes showed increases since 1999 in the percentage of suicides attributable to suffocation. Suicide numbers and rates for females and males by Hispanic origin and race for 1999 and 2014 are also available.

[READ MORE](#)

INTERNATIONAL CYC CONFERENCE



Come join us for the
**20th National &
12th International
Child and Youth Care
Conference 2018**

Transitions and Transformations:

*Influencing change
through relational
practice*

*Join us for 3 days of
information and
inspiration at the*

*Sheraton Vancouver
Airport Hotel*

Booking reference: "National Child &
Youth Care Conference Rate 2018" or Group
Code "ND35AA"
Phone: 1-800-663-0299
Email:

Visit
www.cycabc.com
for
**Registration &
Call for
Presenters**
*Coming
Soon!*



MOVING? CHANGE OF JOB? GOT A PROMOTION?...

Well, we wish you all the best of success! But don't forget to take us along! Who knows, your ACYCP membership benefits and resources may come in real handy in your new situation.

Or does your current email not permit personal or outside messages? Just get us your new email contact and any other membership data updates.

So put us on your calendar or to-do list to make sure our contact remains unbroken. Just shoot off a quick easy email to acycp2011@yahoo.com with all your relevant changes, and we'll take care of the rest. We're soooo confident you'll be glad you did!

A CYC APPROACH TO WORKING WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES WITHIN FAMILIES - OCT 24, NOV 7, NOV 21



This series of three webinars is designed for practitioners working with families where one or more members of the family (adult and/or child) has a diagnosed or undiagnosed mental health concern.

This is a closed series as each webinar builds on the last. Your registration will give you access to all three webinars. We plan to offer this again at a future date. Please prepare to arrive early to each of the sessions to be sure your computer and high speed internet connections are working properly. Sessions will begin at 11:00 AM Central Time.

Webinar One

Tuesday, October 24th will be an overview of mental health and substance misuse disorders. We will also identify strategies that should enable you to open up the dialogue with youth and families about mental health concerns, to develop a co-investigator approach.

Webinar Two

Tuesday, November 7th will focus on exploring care work with families impacted by mental health concerns from a strength-based, ecological and resiliency perspective. We examine strategies and techniques to enable you to investigate how each member of the family manages their mental health symptoms (those with

the concern and those without the concern) and how these coping strategies might be at the heart of any family conflict that is occurring.

Ultimately, the goal of this webinar is for individuals to recognize that within their current professional practice they already have the skills and abilities to focus on mental health and wellness, promote relationship harmony and thereby improve family functioning.

An emphasis will be that a mental health concern is like any other health concern and that CYC practitioners know how to help people well because of our avoidance of focusing what we do through the lens of pathology.

Webinar Three

Tuesday, November 21st This session focuses on families and CYC practitioners as care partners. This is a shared narrative webinar with Mark Littlefield, CYC-P and a parent with mental health concerns. The focus will be on sharing the story of their work together, supporting mother and son both of whom have diagnosed mental health concerns. The parent will also share her experiences and wisdom gained through her journey from child to parent.

Our goal will be to identify what helps and what hinders how professionals (CYC-Ps, doctors, child protection workers, school personal, etc.) provide support.

INSTRUCTORS

Mark Littlefield has worked in numerous communities with children, youth and families since 1989. This includes work in the areas of child protection, child & youth mental health, adult mental health, education, residential treatment and research. Mark is currently director of Littlefield & Associates, an organization focused on collaborative practice, community development, ecological counseling and social research. Mark has taught as a sessional at the University of the Fraser Valley in the Child and Youth Care degree program for the past six years.

Mark is a certified CYC-P practitioner. His practice uses an ecological systemic context to a strength based approach to working with people, communities and organizations. Key to his method is the use of collaborative process. As such Mark has learned a great deal about how to engage families, para-professionals, professionals and community resources towards a synergetic approach to positive change. Mark's services include: social research; ecological counseling; group facilitation; education; organizational and community consultation. Mark is a new member of the ACYCP Board.

A parent partner with a lifetime of experience dealing with mental health concerns and professionals will be joining Mark for the last session.

SCHEDULE

The webinars will meet at the same time on Oct 24, Nov 7, and Nov 21.

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM Atlantic

12:00 PM to 1:30 PM Eastern

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM Central

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM Mountain

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Pacific

COSTS

Registration is for all three webinars.

ACYCP members \$10.00

All others \$15.00 Most credit cards accepted.

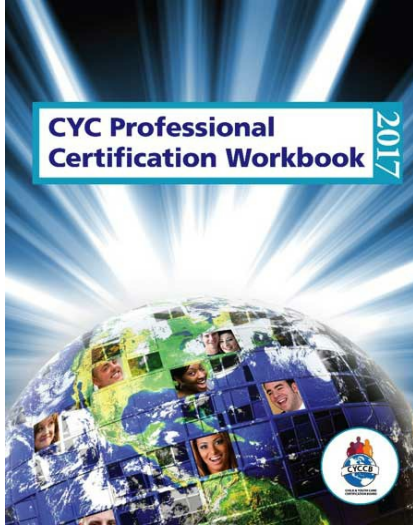
[WEBINAR REGISTRATION](#)

You will receive additional information on how to join the webinar when you register.

CYC PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION WORKBOOK PUBLISHED

CYCCB is pleased to announce that the long awaited **CYC Professional Certification Workbook** is now available. The workbook is designed to help child and youth work practitioners prepare and apply for professional certification (CYC-P) offered by the Child & Youth Care Certification Board.

It provides a wealth of information in an easy-to-use format. It includes information on the history of the CYC certification effort, characteristics



of certified practitioners, the testing and application process, forms, costs, and sources for a wide variety of articles, publications, and professional development supports useful to CYC practitioners working in any setting. The sections on test preparation and the professional portfolio offer sample exam questions and portfolio responses. Information about the Entry, Associate, and Professional level certifications is included.

The workbook is in response to the need for a one-stop source of information that addresses applicant questions and needs. Whether you are preparing for testing, completing an application, or simply exploring how to improve your CYC knowledge and skills, this workbook is designed for you. The workbooks is constructed with tabbed sections to make it easy to find answers for whatever certification related questions you might have.

The workbook is available from CYCCB for \$30 (which includes shipping costs).

[Order a manual at this LINK](#)

Now Happening

SPRINT 1MILLION PROJECT



Donate a device and help change a life.

Sprint and the Sprint Foundation will help change the lives of 1 million high school students by giving them opportunities to reach their full potential.

Through the 1Million Project, Sprint will provide free mobile devices and free high-speed wireless internet connectivity to 1 million low-income, U.S. high school students lacking a reliable source of internet access at home.

The expansive new program will help eliminate the "Homework Gap" that puts low-income students at a major disadvantage because they don't have ready access to the internet needed for completing homework, communicating with teachers, or applying for jobs, scholarships or college.

You can support the 1Million Project by donating your old phone, tablet or mobile hotspot. Sprint will use the net proceeds from reselling or recycling your donated device to provide new ones to disadvantaged high school students. All makes and models are accepted, regardless of carrier or condition. To donate a wireless device, users can print the free pre-paid shipping label in the Additional Resources section.

Device donations are not tax deductible. Net proceeds from reselling/recycling donated devices, or \$1 per device, whichever is greater, will be donated to the program.

[Please follow this link for more information.](#)

Oh Canada!

CYC UPDATES IN OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR!

By Melanie Fournier

I would like to introduce myself as the new Canadian representative to the ACYCP. My name is Melanie Fournier and I am a former youth in care. I have been working in the CYC field since 2004 in the capacity of Child Care Worker. I work primarily with older adolescents who are preparing to leave care to live on their own. I have been President of my Provincial Association (QAE) since 2009 and have been on



Freelimages.com/Alistair Will



the Canadian Council since 2015. I am hoping you enjoy this latest column of "Oh Canada!"

Summer is winding down as well as our 150th year celebration as a Canadian Nation. It has been a busy summer across the country and I am hoping that everyone was able to benefit from visiting one of our beautiful national parks, which also happen to be free this summer.

Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations

A huge thank you goes out to **Kelly Shaw**, former President of the CCCYCA Board. Kelly's many years of energetic service and commitment to her duties, set the bar high for future presidents. **Jeff Reid** follows closely in her footsteps, and I am confident he will continue to lead the Board with dedicated service. The council meets quarterly through tele-conferencing and annual meetings. The next annual meeting will be held in May 2018, in the beautiful province of British Columbia [Editor's Note: see promo elsewhere in this issue]. The Council also sponsors the National Youth and Child Care Award and nominations are now being accepted prior to the next National Conference in May 2018. For more exciting news on what's happening in the Great White North, please visit our web site at www.cyccanada.ca You can also add us on Facebook! We would love to connect with you. You can find us by searching: "Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations".

British Columbia:

The **CYCABC** will be hosting the 20th National & 12th Triennial International Child and Youth Care Conference. The theme of this conference is, "Transitions and Transformations: Influencing Change Through Relational Practice". Special rates are being offered for accommodations at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel. 1-800-663-0299. Group Code: ND25AA. Follow the link to register today. Cycabc.com/conference2018/#

Nova Scotia:

The **NSCYCWA** will be hosting a provincial conference on November 10th 2017. More info will be posted on their website: <https://nscycwa.com/>

Alberta:

The **CYCAA** will be hosting a provincial conference at the MacEwan University, May 30th-June 1st 2018. **Frank Delano** has been invited as the keynote speaker.

Manitoba:

Frank Delano recently brought his unique training on Millennials to Winnipeg. Frank's unique and engaging delivery style had the participants contemplating long after the event.

Ontario:

Congratulations to **Michelle Shelswell** for being nominated to the Presidency of her Provincial Association! I am sure she will make us all very proud. Michelle has 20 year's experience in the CYC field and is dedicated to seeing CYC workers become legislated.

Quebec:

This past summer, the **QAE** held a youth conference for youth in care. This conference was well attended with over 50 youth who participated in different leisure activities including a basketball game, social circus, pool time, graffiti art and a barbeque lunch. The next Provincial Conference will be in the spring of 2018.

From the Soapbox...Again!

STOMPING ON TIN CANS: CHILD REARING IN WORLD WAR II LESSONS FOR THE PRESENT?

By Karen VanderVen, Ph.D., Professor Emerita Department of Psychology in Education University of Pittsburgh

Adults reflecting back on their childhoods may recognize how radically patterns of child rearing and concomitant behavior of children have changed over the years. For me, as a child whose awareness of the world came with the beginning of World War II, it has occurred to me that despite these highly troubled times they may have yielded some lessons that might be helpful today. This article is not a "Soapbox" where I speak strongly for or against

some factor.

Influencing development and the child and youth work field. Rather it is a memoir of childhood experience at another time that upon reflection may offer, if nothing more, some information and perhaps some things for us to think about now. Are there any lessons we can learn from child rearing in the past?

[READ MORE](#)



From the Field Toolbox(Part 2):

THE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS IN A YOUTH EMPLOYMENT MIX

By Michael Mitchell



[Editor's Note: The following is Part 2 of a 4-part series (see the summer 2017 CYC Advocate for part 1) and is reprinted here with the permission of the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, from the May 30, 2017 "Ideas and Opinions" section of their on-line bulletin, and the author]

As with almost every social undertaking, youth employment involves numerous stakeholders, each of which has its own perspective, goals, issues and vested interests. Youth, employers, parents, funders and the community at large can come together at the same table to participate in the adolescent work experience. That doesn't mean they'll all order from the same menu.

It's difficult to prove what juvenile crime rates might be in the absence of a youth employment program. However, there seems to be evidence that keeping youth constructively occupied between the hours of 4 and 7 p.m. may reduce the window of opportunity for juvenile crime. This may apply especially to latch-key kids.

For more information about COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES, go to [JJIE Resource Hub | COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES](#).

There is more evidence to support the idea that holding juvenile offenders accountable within a restorative justice framework, through restitution and community service, does reduce recidivism. It may also reduce progression to more serious crimes, but this too is difficult to prove. Regardless, there is plenty of evidence to support the positive long- and short-term impacts on school attendance and performance, earlier and easier access to adult employment, plus fewer and shorter periods of adult un- and underemployment.

Patently educating stakeholders to bring their expectations and commitments into alignment is at the very core of youth employment. There are numerous myths, misperceptions and real barriers that need to be identified, shared and accommodated, if not changed. Finding stakeholder commonalities while mediating differences is the true mission of the youth employment specialist.

[READ MORE](#)

DEPENDENCE OR INDEPENDENCE

"The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say, 'The children are now working as if I didn't exist!'"

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1st of each month

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