

Your Quarterly News & Updates Vol.9 Issue 2/Spring 2024
From The Association of Child and Youth Care Practice



THE CYC ADVOCATE

"Real Expertise Comes From Those Closest To The Challenge"



THE NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH (NCAPM) 2024

**"Doing Things Differently:
Moving from the Challenge to the Change."**

[DOWNLOAD THE OUTREACH TOOLKIT](#)

[Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences: Creating Safe and Nurturing Environments \[Webinar\]](#)

[Spotlight on National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#)

"Key Updates to Understanding Roles of Childhood Trauma in Overall Health"

A Proclamation on National Child Abuse Prevention Month

ALSO SEE *CYC PRACTICE METHODS* BELOW

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.

Our Value Proposition: There is probably no undertaking more essential to the stability of humanity than the nurturing of each generation into mature self-actualizing adults. This task falls mainly to youth and childcare workers. Often underpaid and overworked, these professionals are society's first responders to the many crises, which can impact human development in the most formative years. Primarily through its professional certification program, the Association for Child and Youth Care Practice, Inc. (ACYCP) supports these care providers in the acquisition and use of best practices. Employing research-based methods, plus personal dedication, ensures strong measurable outcomes. ACYCP bolsters both the individual and the collective field through communication, education, and advocacy. These activities encourage individual live-long learning, selfcare and career dedication. As such, ACYCP seeks the financial support of its Vision and Mission, which guide its daily practices. ACYCP reaches every community of care across the entire spectrum of youth and childcare services, with proven results. Through the prudent stewardship of its resources by an all-volunteer staff and board, ACYCP has maximized its direct benefit to its members and the profession at large for over 45 years. An investment in ACYCP is an investment in the quality of tomorrow's citizens.

Find out what ACYCP is all about. See a quick video at: <https://www.acycp.org/acycp-at-a-glance>

ACYCP is on social media! Follow us on [Facebook](#) using **The-Association-for-Child-Youth-Care-Practice-Inc-186063394783003/** and [Twitter](#) using **@ACYCP** and on [Instagram](#) using **@ACYCP_Inc** . We look forward to hearing from you!

Illustration: Pixabay.com



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What Our Readers Are Saying

"I think the range of [articles] in the [CYC] Advocate is truly impressive...[each] issue...looks extremely professional...the [CYC] Advocate does a good job of appealing both to the most advanced workers and to workers just getting started."

"Great! Lots of links to valuable resources. Again, so well done!"

"Wow that is quite a newsletter! Very impressive work."

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? FEEL FREE TO SHARE, ANNOUNCE, PRINT AND POST AS YOU SEE FIT. FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS AT propman46@gmail.com REPRINTS?- See terms and conditions at end of this issue. Comments, questions, or concerns? Contact Michael Mitchell propman46@gmail.com, or (608)846-2860 Madison, WI (Central Time)

IF YOU LIKE THIS QUARTERLY CYC ADVOCATE...Join ACYCP and get the monthly *ACYCP Membership Memo*, as one of many membership benefits!

TO JOIN ACYCP OR RENEW YOUR INDIVIDUAL, STUDENT, AGENCY, or ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP, GO TO: <https://www.acycp.org/acycp-membership>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Yes, YOU! And while you're at it, please forward this issue to colleagues, peers, friends and anyone else who has the interests of youth and child care workers at heart. You'll be doing them a real service.

Next Issue: Copy for the Summer issue is due July 1, 2024 to: Michael Mitchell, propman46@gmail.com (608)846-2860, Madison, WI

ACYCP PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



By Jody Rhodes, CYC-P, MS, Board President

WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2024 EDITION OF THE CYC ADVOCATE!

Dear ACYCP Members, CYC Colleagues, and Friends,

Welcome to the Spring edition of the CYC Advocate!

Thank a Youth Worker Day is around the corner- Thursday May 2nd. How will you celebrate your staff, co-workers and colleagues? Sometimes just a simple thank you is all it takes to brighten the day for a youth worker. Take the time to acknowledge the hard work that we all do, and as a team we do make the difference in the lives of thousands of youths every day.

In this issue we are also proud to announce our ACYCP Award winners- all are such amazing youth workers who have contributed (and will continue to contribute) to the field. Take a moment to read about them and consider nominating a youth worker when we open our nominations this summer!

Happy reading and exploring!

2023 AWARD WINNERS



ACYCP Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 2023: Lorraine E. Fox, Ph.D., C.C.C.W.

Lorraine holds a doctorate in clinical psychology and a doctoral certificate in organizational development, and is a Certified Child Care Worker. She walked into the world of child and youth care in September, 1964 and found her career home working with children and youth who were declared "emotionally disturbed" as a result of abuse and neglect. After retiring she published a book compiling many of her previously published articles entitled: *Compassionate Caring: Using our Heads and Hearts in Work with Troubled Children and Youth*.

Lorraine has been a direct service worker, a supervisor, a clinical director, an Executive Director, and Assistant Professor. Finding work that has never stopped being challenging, kids and families worth

loving, and wonderful colleagues to work beside, both nationally and internationally she shared her work, love and life with a like-hearted soul-mate. She has trained and consulted across the United States and in Australia, Canada, Guam, England, Scotland and Czechoslovakia. In addition to extensive work with private service agencies, Lorraine was a contract instructor with the Human Services Department, University of California, Davis for thirty years. She was also a contract instructor with the San Diego State University Foundation, training public service employees serving welfare and child protective clients and their community partners. In addition, Lorraine enjoyed a long standing relationship with the California Community Colleges Foster and Kinship Care Education Programs. She was awarded the Outstanding Service Award for Excellence in Teaching by the UC-Davis. In addition to numerous scholarly articles, she writes a monthly Parenting column for her church newsletter, and co-authored an internationally recognized training curriculum. Lorraine has appeared on radio and television in the U.S., Canada, and Australia and has been a consulting editor for the Journal of Child and Youth Care.



ACYCP Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 2023: Keesha Dixon

For nearly four decades Keesha Dixon has been at the forefront of youth empowerment, family support, intergenerational learning, faith-based community development, and innovation in the arts both here in Indianapolis and around the country. As one of the longest serving Black Arts administrators in the city, Keesha's impact is undeniable and the countless people and organizations who have been blessed by her enormous gifts, unwavering commitment, and larger-than-life presence all bear witness to her value and integrity.

It is indeed my honor to nominate Keesha, a gifted friend and mentor, for the ACYCP Lifetime Achievement Award because her work has benefited so many young people, their families, and the people who serve them. "Advocacy is something that is done instinctively. You know what is going on with young people and you know what this work is like. You help them navigate the waters. It's the way you live your life" (Keesha) Keesha has been a powerful force in the youth and arts field locally and nationally. She has served as the Executive Director of a youth-focused organization since 2003. Prior to that she was its Managing Director and Costume Designer.



ACYCP Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 2023: Tammy Hopper

Tammy L. Hopper began her career working as a high school teacher. One day, she found herself in the office of her supervisor advocating for a young person in her class. While she loved working with her students, it was clear she needed to be involved in more impactful ways. Her supervisor shared his perspective that she should enter the social work field. Tammy went back to college and obtained her Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. In 1988, Tammy began her lifetime commitment to keeping youth safe. Like many other new MSWs, Tammy hit the ground running – literally running. Tammy would chase kids who were eloping from the shelter down the street. She would spend time with them, she would

listen. Through her relationships, she would be the intervention. Years later, she would be met by youth she supported and they would run to her with big open arms for a hug. More times than she could count, she would be told how much of a difference she made in their lives.

Fast forward several years, beyond becoming a licensed clinical social worker, Tammy began working to train other youth service providers as a professionally certified youth care worker. As a professional trainer in numerous areas including grant writing, trauma-informed care, advocacy, youth crisis interventions, runaway and homeless youth, mentoring, creative expression, positive youth development, staff development, strategic planning, and more, Tammy's contributions to this field are significant.



ACYCP Dr. Carol Kelly Newcomer Award Winner for 2023: Katie Roelecke

Kate was selected a New Professional Journey Fellow in 2021 as a recognized emerging leader in the field and that has continued to be true. Kate is currently the Director of Strategy and Operations at the Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY) and is the person that I and others go to in order to know what is impacting young people in the city and state. She is actively involved in preventing child abuse and neglect and youth violence. She has taken the lead on youth voice working with the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council. She teaches undergraduate students at Indiana University Indianapolis in public health practices and nonprofit management.

Kate serves on numerous councils including Marion County 4-H Advisory Council, Early Intervention Planning Council and STARS for Children. She has grown herself professionally with various certifications including the Child and Youth Care Professional certification, Certified Community Health Worker, Sexual Assault Advocate, Strategic Doing Facilitator, Holistic Leadership and Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention certification.



**ACYCP Presidents Award Winner for 2023
Tom Woll**

Tom Woll is being honored for his years of service on the ACYCP Board of Directors and his commitment and dedication to the field of child and youth work.



**ACYCP Presidents Award Winner for 2023
Laura Klemm**

Laura Klemm is being honored for her dedication to the Child and Youth Care Certification Board (CYCCB) and the Academy For Competent Youth Work- two very important entities that help professionalize the field of child and youth work.



**SAVE THE DATE!
CELEBRATE & GET INVOLVED!
THURSDAY
MAY 2, 2024**



[GO HERE FOR MEDIA KIT](#)

[GO HERE FOR FREE SPONSORSHIP](#)

[KICK OFF IN CONJUNCTION WITH
CYC-NET INTERNATIONAL CYC-WEEK](#)

[Free webinar called "Cultivating Appreciation for Thank a Youth Worker Day
and Beyond"](#)

[Other Resources](#)

BREAKING NEWS!

Child And Youth Care Practitioners (CYCP) Are Now Recognized By The US Dept. Of Labor!

March 18, 2024: With great excitement we would like to announce that Child and Youth Care Practitioners (CYCPs) are now recognized by the US Dept. of Labor as an established profession. Technically defined, DOL's Employment and Training Administration's Office of Apprenticeship (OA) has made this determination. OA is charged with recognizing occupations on a national level. Most of us doing this incredible work with children, youth and families have known for a very long time that we are a profession. This determination just makes it official and a great step forward.

Even though this determination made on March 11, 2024 for our profession, we do have a long history. Starting way back in the 1977, and into the 1980's, researchers, educators, professors, other direct care workers and administrators at all levels knew the significance of Child and Youth Care practice. They got together in Chicago and formed National

Organization of Child Care Workers Association known as NOCCWA. In 1998 NOCCWA changes to Association of Child and Youth Care Practice (ACYCP). They then start the North American Certification Project (NACP) 1998. In 1999, International Leadership Coalition for Professional Child and Youth Care Work (ILC), ACYCP, and Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations meet in Milwaukee, WI (Cream City Summit). In 2001 the 1st Draft of our Core Competencies are developed. This later translated to the formation of the Child and Youth Care Certification Board (CYCCB) in 2007.

In 2021 ACYCP had a retreat to review its work, assess new developments and trends, and created goals. To accomplish this latest development as a recognized profession several committees were formed. One being the Professional Development committee. Two of their goals are:

- 1.) Identify strategies to support certification/worker status (e.g., expanding certification, increasing renewals)
- 2.) Developing educational resources to promote professionalization (e.g., attracting workers, clarifying descriptions of roles, developing a clear model of our "different kind of profession".

Many of the original organizers of our profession are still involved to this day, along with many new arrivals, ready to again move us forward to new accomplishments.

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CAN YOU HELP?

Jennifer Brooker, Ph.D., (ACYCP member) received a VSA VET International Practitioner Fellowship, studying the training of those working in statutory Out-Of-Home Care Globally. For more information visit www.issinstitute.org.au She would love to do an online interview with those of you who work in this arena around what is the support, training and professional development that is working to keep your workforce in place.

If you are willing to be interviewed, would you let me know as soon as possible?

Janet Wakefield
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please also take a minute to see that your membership is current, so that you continue to receive your full menu of membership benefits and services, including the monthly ACYCP Membership Memo.

[Follow this link to renew](#)

ACYCP ENCOURAGES OUTREACH TO ALLIED CYC ORGANIZATIONS

For 45 years, the Association For Child and Youth Care Practice has worked hard to lift up the recognition, status, and compensation of child and youth care workers. They have done this primarily through professional Certification, supported by webinars, workshops, trainings and conferences, not to mention awards, scholarships, and media recognition.

Now, ACYCP is reaching out to potential allies in every community of care, with a cost-free reciprocal promotional exchange program, with other social service organizations focused on the welfare of youth, children, and families.

Collaborator

- ◇ Exchange of logos and links to website homepage on respective websites Partner
- ◇ Exchange of logos and link to website homepage on respective websites
- ◇ Exchange of promotional advertisement in newsletters and online periodicals

Partner

- ◇ Exchange of logos and link to website homepage on respective websites
- ◇ Exchange of promotional advertisements in newsletters and online periodicals

Associate

- ◇ Exchange of logos and link to website homepage
- ◇ Exchange of promotional advertisement in newsletters and online publications
- ◇ Exchange designation of liaison person for on-going communications
- ◇ Reciprocal endorsements of respective Mission and Vision Statements

[GO HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)-The ACYCP Position

The Association Child and Youth Care Practice (ACYCP) stands in solidarity with all who seek social justice and equality. We are grateful to be associated with Black Lives Matter and others, who demonstrate their commitment to these ideals and to a vision of a future that recognizes the value and worth of all human beings irrespective of their race, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, national origin, economic status, or religious beliefs. These are fundamental values upon which the child and youth care field is founded. It is the foundation upon which we humbly stand.

As an association, we strive to uphold these values but know that we, as a board and as a profession, have fallen short of living up to this vision. The recent tragic events connected to the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and others, have brought to light just how big this gap is in our country as well as in our field. We promote diversity and inclusion, but racial disparity and exclusion are still prevalent. We proclaim justice and equality, but injustice and inequality are everywhere we turn.

As child and youth care practitioners, we meet our youth where they are at and accept them for who they are. We are the foundation of society, helping to raise the next generation of leaders. If we don't take this seriously, who will?

We can start making changes to better the world we live and work in – for the youth, children and families we serve, as well as our own lives. It won't happen overnight, but if we do this together, it will happen. ◇

CYC PRACTICE METHODS



TIPS, TOOLS, AND RESOURCES ON DAILY CYC PRACTICE

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted in part with thanks to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

(SAMSHA) and was posted March 15, 2024.]

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES RESOURCE CENTER [SAMSHA]

Welcome to the inaugural Evidence-Based Practices Resources Center (EBPRC) e-newsletter! In an effort to more widely disseminate information on evidence-based practices, SAMHSA will now release bi-monthly updates on the EBPRC's latest resources.

The EBPRC is part of SAMHSA's comprehensive approach to identifying and disseminating clinically sound and scientifically based policies, practices, and programs in a timely manner. It provides communities, clinicians, policymakers and others with the information and tools needed to incorporate evidence-based practices into their communities or clinical settings.

This approach enables SAMHSA to quickly develop and disseminate expert consensus on the latest prevention, treatment, and recovery support services; collaborate with experts in the field to rapidly translate science into action; and provide communities and practitioners with tools to facilitate comprehensive needs assessments, match interventions to those needs, support implementation, and evaluate and incorporate continuous quality improvement into their prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.

[READ MORE](#)

BONUS FEATURES

[Guides Help Practitioners Support Youth Who Identify as LGBTQ2S+ \[scroll down\]](#)

[Working Well Resource Directory \[Thanks to Frank Eckles\]](#)

[Want To Fix The Social Worker Shortage? Start With The Licensing Exam](#)

[Using Strengths — And Challenges — To Measure Youth Well-Being \[Free Assessment Tool\]](#)

[How Much Talk Is Too Much Talk When a Talker Talks Too Much](#)

[Preparing the Field to Leave: Exiting a Toxic Situation](#)

[Shining the Spotlight on Social Service Worker Motivations](#)

[“How Should Clinicians and Students Cope With Secondary Trauma When Caring for Children Traumatized by Abuse or Neglect?”](#)

[A 100-Year Review of Research on Black Families: Overview](#)

[Mandated Reporting Policies Do Not Promote More Accurate Reporting of Suspected Neglect](#)

[8 Ways That Walking Can Transform the Therapy Experience](#)

[Barriers Facing Providers of Culturally Responsive Services](#)

[Recommendations for Regulating Artificial Intelligence to Minimize Risks to Children and Their Families](#)

Illustration: FreeImages.com

CYC RESEARCH, REPORTS & RESOURCES



STAYING CURRENT WITH THE LATEST DISCOVERIES IN CYC WORK

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and All Of Us Research-My Medical Minutes and was posted March 14, 2024.]

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Do you hear what I hear? There has been a new breakthrough in the treatment of genetic hearing loss, which affects 1 in 500 newborns. In the first procedure to correct genetic hearing loss in the United States, an 11-year-old boy underwent a novel gene therapy treatment. Doctors put a device at the entry point of his inner ear. They were then able to insert a dose of gene therapy that contained healthy copies of the gene that caused his hearing loss. Now, months later, he can hear his father's voice for the first time. Doctors hope this therapy can be repeated in other cases. A study author explains that the affected gene variation in this case was very rare. "[But] these studies may open the door for future use for some of the over 150 other genes that cause childhood hearing loss.

[READ MORE](#)

BONUS FEATURES

[Same-Sex Behavior Is Everywhere In Nature. Does It Have Evolutionary Benefits?](#)

[Molecular Alterations in Brain Tissue Provide Clues to Suicidal Ideation](#)

[Step It Up](#)

[Teens' Transcendent Thinking Spurs Brain Growth](#)

[New Data Shows a Consistent Decrease of Children in Foster Care](#)

[New Funding: Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative \(CVIPI\) Research and Evaluation](#)

[Tools for Strengthening Insights from the Next Steps for Rigorous Research on Two-Generation Approaches \(NS2G\) Project](#)

[Review OJJDP's Model Programs Guide Literature Review on Children Exposed to Violence](#)

[Medication to Help Reduce Allergic Reactions to Multiple Foods](#)

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE JJ SIDE



**By Felix Brooks, MS & Carol Cramer Brooks, MS-CYC
Advocate Staff Writers**

WE REALLY WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Yes, YOU! See our contact info below. *

A PATH TOO FAR . . . PERHAPS

In early 2024 Jennifer and James Cumbley were each found guilty in separate trials of four counts of Involuntary Manslaughter. Neither of them pulled the trigger. The crime was committed by their then 15-year-old son who killed four students and wounded seven others at Oxford High School in Michigan in November 2021. Their son is currently serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole after being charged as an adult and the parents became the first parents to be charged and convicted as the parents of a school mass shooter for neglecting their son's needs and making a gun accessible at home. In support of her decision to charge the parents, the prosecutor said, "These charges are intended to hold the individuals who contributed to this tragedy accountable and send a message that gun owners have a responsibility. When they fail to uphold that responsibility, there are serious and criminal consequences." (NPR News, Parents of Michigan school shooting suspect are charged with involuntary manslaughter. 12/21)

The decisions of the prosecutor to charge the youth as an adult and to also bring charges against the parents sparked numerous value-laden debates across kitchen tables and among juvenile justice professionals. People argued the legality and morality of waiving a juvenile with documented mental health issues into the adult system. But the loudest debates were around charging the parents. Should parents be held responsible for the crimes of their children? If the parents contributed to the tragedy of these events, should we also consider charging school personnel? They also saw signs and failed to follow their own policies. Why did the prosecutor bring the charges of involuntary manslaughter, meaning the individual is charged with committing the crime as opposed to the other cases where the parent was charged with a much lesser crime, i.e., child abuse/neglect?

After much discussion in our own household, we contend that charging the parents and finding the adult Crumbleys guilty of four counts each of involuntary manslaughter is a case of passionate justice as opposed to rational justice. Passionate justice means that when a crime happens in a community it arouses the passions and emotions of significant members of the community. This often leads to a demand for swift justice without regard to the facts of the case or the potential consequences. For example, in the case of mass shootings, communities are often looking for someone in addition to the shooter to blame. This extends beyond the perpetrator to members of his or her family or others in the chain of the event, i.e., security officers, public safety. Once the feeding frenzy begins, objectivity is the first casualty. Rational justice says, "let the facts tell the story." Rational justice maintains objectivity, demands patience and diligence.

"The horrible facts in this case have led to a legal response that goes well beyond these particular facts and produce negative consequence people aren't thinking about." (Evan Bernick, assistant professor at Northern Illinois University College of Law, www.motherjones.com 2/2024). It is also our contention that this act of passionate justice, while satisfying in the moment will have problematic unintended consequences for juvenile justice and the court systems including:

With success comes continued pressure to succeed. The prosecutor's success at trying the Cumbley cases puts pressure on prosecutors in other jurisdictions to consider an option

they would normally by-pass in favor of a lesser, indirect charge. Prosecutors have been reluctant to charge parents under the Parental Responsibility Laws because the laws do not distinguish between parents who let their children run wild and parents who do everything in their power to help their child, but their child still makes the wrong choices. Prosecutors do not want to be seen as prosecuting diligent parents.

Misplaced hope in Parental Responsibility Laws. Since 1903 states (starting with Colorado) have been passing parental responsibility laws primarily as a tool to make it easier for people who have been harmed by children to get compensation. Today, almost every state has legislation to hold parents and legal guardians responsible for the misbehavior of their children with both civil and criminal consequences (www.ojjdp.ojp.gov). Many feel that the juries' decision to convict the adult Crumbleys is an important step toward deterring future mass shootings and strengthens Parental Responsibility Laws. There is little evidence that supports punishing parents is an effective means to deter juvenile crime. An additional unintended consequence of strengthening Parental Responsibility Laws could lead to an overuse or abuse of the laws' intent, i.e., the Recording Industry Association of America sued a grandfather in Texas because his grandchildren used his computer to illegally download music. (News.illinois.edu, Parental liability laws misguided and simplistic, legal scholar says. 12/05)

Negative outcomes for minority families. Barry Krisberg, president of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency called Parental Responsibility Laws "country club criminology" and said, "it sounds good in the suburbs but...if you carry it out you just further endanger and pull apart families" (www.time.com The Problem with Punishing Parents for Their Kids' Crimes. 2/24). Prosecuting parents for the crimes of their children will have a disproportionate negative impact on brown and black families already saddled with negative stereotypes regarding their parenting practices (www.motherjones.com The Trouble with Convicting Parents for Their Children's Violent Crimes. 2/2024).

Cognitive Dissonance. Between December 2023 and March 2024 there were three separate trials involving the Crumbley family in Pontiac, Michigan. In the first, the youth plead guilty in adult court. When a juvenile is waived into the adult system the courts are saying the youth could not be rehabilitated in the juvenile system AND the youth is responsible for his decision-making and fit to stand trial as an adult. Ethan Crumbley is now serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. He was 15 when he committed the crime but was considered an adult in the eyes of the law and courts. In the trials for the adult Crumbleys the prosecutor argued the other side of the coin. For the juries to find the parents guilty the prosecutor had to argue that they neglected the needs of their child, ignored his cries for help, and provided access to a gun even knowing his mental and emotional condition. For the parents to be found guilty, Ethan Crumbley had to be that 15-year-old child, unable to care for or make decisions for himself. Is it possible that both positions could be true or merely a convenient argument on the part of the prosecutor.

Even as we write this article Felix and I continue to go round and round about how this case makes us feel. We understand the cry for passionate justice. Thankfully, we cannot tell you first-hand how we would feel if one of our children or grandchildren had been in Oxford High School that day, so our level of understanding is limited. What we can, however, unequivocally say is that a criminal and juvenile justice system built on passionate justice is not justice. We can provide examples like the Scottsboro Boys (1931) and the Central Park Five (1989). We need our systems to engage in rational justice, to seek the truth and to understand, to stay above the emotions of the case and focus on

the facts. We do not know if the outcome would have been the same for the Crumbleys had rational justice prevailed. There is a strong case that it would have been.

Unfortunately, juvenile justice and the courts have started down this path and it seems to be a path too far.

*Carol Cramer Brooks
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BONUS FEATURES

[Subscribe to OJJDP's JUVJUST listserv for the latest information regarding OJJDP funding opportunities and more](#)

[SAVE THE DATE! OJJDP To Host 2024 National Conference on Youth Justice!](#)

[OJJDP Announces New Funding Opportunities](#)

[OJJDP News In Brief](#)

[A Collection Of Resources Walks Users Through The Juvenile Justice System](#)

[Justice Department, AmeriCorps Partner to Support Juvenile-Justice Involved Youth Reentering Their Communities](#)

[April is Second Chance Month](#)

[More Second Chance Here](#)



Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention

[Reentry Starts Here](#)

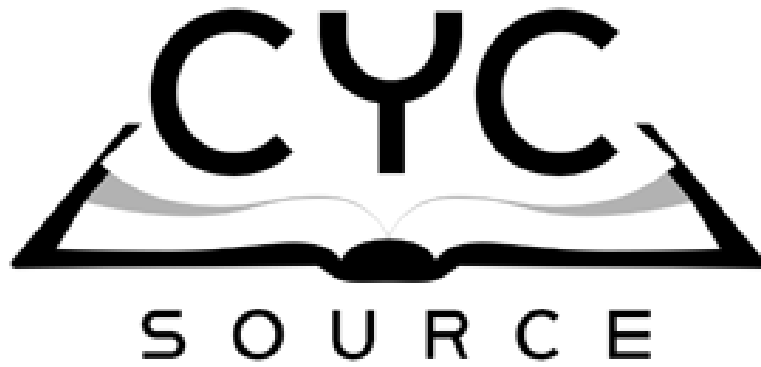
[OJJDP Observes National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#)

[Visit OJJDP's Open Funding Page](#)

[Building A More Equitable Youth Justice System \[New Resource\]](#)

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



**A virtual marketplace of professional development for
Child and Youth Care Practitioners.**

ACYCP Monthly Webinars Pausing

We are pausing the ACYCP webinar program until June so we can get additional social media, relevant content, and marketing in place. Stay tuned for the return of the program.

The following live webinars are coming:

Mind Mapping
Aggression Replacement Training Making Training
Meaningful Indigenous Youth: *Supporting the Next
Seven Generations*

Exploring the 2022 Ethics Code Revisions

Future Trends: *Where is CYC Practice Heading & How
Do We Prepare for the New Realities?*

All My Childhood Heroes: *The Need for Ethical
Standards*

Leading While Simultaneously Following

CEUs for Live Webinars Coming in June

Working with our partners at the Indiana University School of Social Work, CYC-Source will be offering no cost CEUs for all LIVE webinars beginning in June. Formal CEUs are not required for CYC Certification renewal but many social workers and professional counsellors need them to receive credit. If this is something you need, we have you covered.

Archived Webinars available 24/7

[See What is Available](#)

[Purchase Webinar Bundles](#)

Discounts for ACYCP



Members

FAMILY SUPPORT & SERVICES



[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and The Good Men Project and was first posted on March 9, 2024]

PARENTS OF HOMELESS KIDS NEED MORE SUPPORT

By Matt Shipman-NC State

Cost and eligibility criteria that effectively made the services inaccessible.

Public service systems need to do a better job of working with parents to support homeless children, a new study of families experiencing homelessness suggests.

The study also identifies key barriers limiting children's access to support programs, such as unrealistic eligibility requirements and a failure to make parents aware of existing programs.

“There’s a lot of research out there on social and emotional interventions, and on early childhood education,” says Heather Finster, a PhD candidate at North Carolina State University and corresponding author of the study in the journal *Social and Emotional Learning: Research, Practice, and Policy*.

“However, there is not a lot of research that looks at the accessibility of these programs for children experiencing homelessness—even though these children are at greater risk of social and emotional challenges. We wanted to get deeper understanding of these accessibility challenges by listening to the perspective of parents.”

For the study, researchers conducted in-depth interviews with 47 parents experiencing homelessness who had at least one child younger than 9 years old.

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WHAT ABOUT ME?



"IF YOU DON'T MAKE TIME FOR YOUR WELLNESS, YOU'LL BE FORCED TO MAKE TIME FOR YOUR ILLNESS!"

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted in part with thanks to SAND and was posted March 15, 2024. See "Pathways To Wholeness" ad at end of this issue.]

NURTURING YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF

Have you ever felt the weight of always saying 'yes' to others and feeling like you can't say no? Or the stress of unclear boundaries and the toll it takes on your well-being? If so, you are not alone.

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Through Compassionate Inquiry, you can trace the origin of these behaviors and break free from patterns that no longer serve you

Video 2: Empowering Embodied Awareness

Betsy guides us in developing tracking skills, a practical tool for managing overwhelming feelings, particularly fear and anxiety

Using hands-on exercises, we learn to deepen the connection with our body as a path to healing

Reflection Journaling PDF Guide

A companion guide to Gabor's writing exercise video

No matter where you are on your path, this is your invitation to nurture your authentic self and strengthen your embodiment. Simply [click here](#) and register today for your free mini-course.

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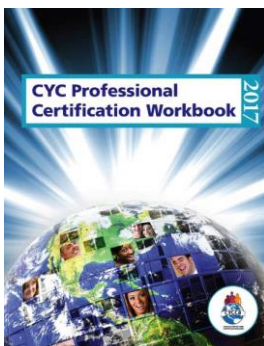
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“If the only tool you have in your toolkit is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail.”—Abraham Maslow



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THE OTHER HALF OF THE JOB



BUSINESS TIPS FOR CYC AGENCIES, PROGRAMS, & EMPLOYEES

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted in part with thanks to the Council On Nonprofits and was posted March 14, 2024.]

"TEAMING UP" TO BUILD BRIDGES AND FIGHT POLARIZATION

"United across divides" is the message that welcomes visitors to the homepage of the Team Up Project, a campaign of four national nonprofits to bridge the polarized canyon our country currently faces. Catholic Charities USA, Habitat for Humanity International, Interfaith America, and YMCA of the USA launched this collective effort in 32 communities across the country to "showcase bridgebuilding in action, share stories about the positive impact of human connection and elevate ongoing organizational work."

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THE ACCIDENTAL PRACTITIONER



By Dale Curry, Ph.D., LSW, CYC-P, Professor Emeritus-Kent State University; CYC Advocate Staff Writer

PUT YOUR STORIES INTO PRINT

One of the strategies for becoming a reflective and less-accidental practitioner is to “put your stories into print.” Conceptualizing and articulating what you likely do so well, can be an important step in your career development. Sharing your work with others through publication is an activity that can benefit you and colleagues as well as help

preserve the knowledge base and promote further development of the field. Storytelling has long been a tradition within the child and youth care (CYC) field: yet typically conducted orally and informally with friends and colleagues. However, there are many ways to tell a story, many CYC storytellers, and many audiences for a CYC story.

Larry Brendtro has told the story of some of our CYC heroes and pioneers with presentations and written publications (Brendro, 1999). Fred (“Mister”) Rogers routinely incorporated stories into his children’s television programs. Writer and director Destin Daniel Cretton, told a CYC story partially based on his CYC experiences in the award-winning film *Short Term 12*. The written script of the film is accessible in the following link https://www.oscars.org/sites/oscars/files/scripts/cretton_short-term-12.pdf. One of the film’s characters (“Mason”) is also a CYC storyteller at the beginning and end of the film (Kelly & Curry, 2019). Bruno Bettelheim helped us understand the psychological meanings of fairy tales, with his award-winning book (Bettelheim, 1976). Andrew Schneider-Munoz is famous for his storytelling during his training sessions. I don’t think I have ever talked to Andy for more than five minutes without him connecting our conversation to a CYC story!

I am asking you to consider writing for potential publication (writing your stories) as part of your CYC professional responsibility; similar to how we think about the development and implementation of activities as a crucial element of CYC practice. Think about writing for publication as planning, developing, and experiencing a CYC activity (Vander Ven, 2009).

Much of this column is based on my discussions with Karen Vander Ven and the readings of publications by Karen and Jerome Beker (Beker, 1990; VanderVen, 1992; 2009 & VanderVen & Kiraly, 1995). This column is not the first request for practitioners to put their knowledge into print.

Why write?

Discussed above are several reasons to write including to: (1) promote self-competence and development and become a more reflective practitioner, (2) share, add to and preserve the CYC knowledge base, and (3) fulfill one of your responsibilities as a professional CYC practitioner.

What do you know? What story do you have to tell? How do you share your story?

There are many ways of knowing, many kinds of knowers (e.g., CYC practitioners, children, family members), and many ways to share knowledge (e.g., biographies, interviews, case studies, critical incidents, survey research, experimental designs, longitudinal studies, critical reviews, newsletter reports, opinion pieces, training curricula, children's stories, parent education guides, metaphorical stories, poems, etc.). The knowledge, skills, and values of CYC practice can be shared with a variety of target populations with a variety of formats. We have much to share with others in the field and with broader society.

What are your goals?

What do you want the reader to know, feel, or do? Are you trying to increase awareness (uncovering information unknown to the reader)? Are you trying to promote a better understanding (helping the reader see new relationships)? Are you trying to teach a skill or maybe promote a better understanding (empathy) of a child or parent? Are you trying to persuade the readers to do something?

With this column, I am trying to encourage you to write and share your knowledge/stories.

Who is the audience for your story?

Similar to developing an activity or training program, you must consider the needs of the client/user/reader. Are you targeting inexperienced or experienced practitioners? Are you targeting a very specific reader (a practitioner planning a social skills training session for the first time) or a broader focus (understanding the importance of balancing relationship and authority).

What is the most appropriate publishing option?

So, who do you want to read your story and for what purpose? The outlets for publication continue to increase. Who are the typical readers of the outlet you are considering? How many readers tend to access the publishing outlet? Is it an open-access outlet? Does it only publish refereed research manuscripts? Is it a professional magazine or newsletter? Does it publish teaching or training descriptions/learning activities? Does the outlet have a reputation of working with first-time authors? Where do you submit your first knowledge sharing piece?

One of the publications that I am most proud of is my first publication in the newsletter of the Pennsylvania Child Care Association (Curry, 1977). Since then, I have published in a variety of professional outlets (e.g., magazines, newsletters, conference proceedings, journals, books). The types of publications include research articles, columns, case studies, descriptions of learning activities, training manuals, training curricula, evaluation and research reports, program standards, program descriptions, monographs, a listing of

training resources, a bibliography, journal introductions, and research methodology descriptions.

When you think of the broad CYC field across a variety of practice settings (e.g., early childhood, out-of-school-time, out-of-home care, juvenile justice, parent and community education, etc.), an abundance of publication resources appear. A few examples include the CYC Advocate, ACYCP Membership Memo, CYC-Online, Journal of Child and Youth Care Work, Relational Child and Youth Care Practice, Journal of Youth Development, Child and Youth Care Forum, Child and Youth Services, Children and Youth Services Review, International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies Review, and Afterschool Matters. The various CYC fields of practice have professional newsletters, journals and other publication opportunities.

How do you write your story?

Recognize that different publication outlets may expect specific formats. Some may require a very prescribed, structured format that may include for example: an abstract and key words, introduction, goals/hypotheses, methodology, analysis, discussion, implications, and limitations. Other sources may encourage in-depth qualitative descriptions of CYC daily interactions. Some, like the Journal of Child and Youth Care Work, will publish pieces using a wide range of approaches.

Writing and publishing can be an emotional process.

I once attended a CYC workshop on writing for publication. At the time, I thought the experience would be a little “dry” and only focus on one’s intellectual resources. After a few minutes, I was surprised to see the colleague who was sitting next to me start crying almost uncontrollably as her writing triggered some powerful emotions. A full range of emotional experiences can emerge during the writing for publication process. Some of these may include feelings of: satisfaction and pride when seeing your work in print for the first time; surprise and awareness (that “ah ha” feeling) of your increased understanding of an important aspect of CYC practice; frustration when one of your “stories” gets rejected by a publication outlet; and sometimes anger when a manuscript reviewer criticizes your story.

Sometimes, you have to have a bit of a “tough skin.” I once had reviewers state that they suspected that English was my second language! After taking some time to grieve an article rejection, try to learn from and respond to the reviewer’s suggestions. The first manuscript that I submitted to a journal was rejected. However, the journal editor recommended another more “appropriate” journal. The manuscript was accepted by the recommended journal and became the most highly cited article in that journal to this date. I am very proud of that article and its impact on the field!

So, get started on your stories today!

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Enjoy! ◇

Illustration: Dale Curry, Ph.D.

WHY DID WE STAY?



By Angelo "Chip" Bonsutto, Ed. D., CYC Advocate Staff Writer

MEETING GODZILLA

I first met "Godzilla" on a cold, but sunny day in January 1985. A few months earlier, I moved from the program director of a traditional residential program for boys, to a small, highly staffed, specialized residential treatment program for teenagers with significant developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs. Godzilla appeared to me via the screams, punches, kicks, spit, and terror-filled eyes of a linebacker-size teenager, who had spent the last several years in a state-run adult facility. Though he was just 15 years of age on that January day, he had spent years in the Big House, as a Canadian psychologist friend called these large developmental centers. Through the dedication, determination, and compassion of a local county social worker and her supervisor, plus a willing state licensing body determined to find a way for this child to be served, he was finally placed in an age and treatment appropriate program, specifically designed for him and his very unique behavioral treatment needs.

A physically solid young man, he was covered in scars and the signs of years upon years of abuse. Many of the old cuts, scratches, and healed bone breaks were self-inflicted, the

by-product of, what today, we would call "past trauma". His teeth were shattered from biting rocks and the impact of head banging. He trembled from the side-effects of "old school" psychotropic medications he had spent almost a decade on. These medications did little to decrease his multiple daily physical outbursts.

Over time, we found that Godzilla would appear in his flashbacks on sunny days when passing clouds would change the lighting in the room. At that moment, he would strike out physically, kicking, hitting, and biting any caregiver in range. If there was no one within a few feet, he would start abusing himself with anything available. Any glass, even Plexiglas, window presented a significant risk. Multiple staff would struggle to restrain him to protect him and themselves. Few staff escaped injuries of some sort. Sadly, for this young man, the nickname "Godzilla" only hinted at a handful of his behaviors.

To those witnesses in the room, Godzilla was real. How did we know? We could see the beast in the terror in his eyes. You felt the presence of his vivid hallucination. From what we gathered, Godzilla was not the mythical beast that many of us had first seen in 1950's Japanese movies. Rather, we suspected that some past "caregiver" had inflicted serious pain and damage. At times, Godzilla had different names. None were the kind a caregiver noted in the record or that anyone officially used. However, they were real to us and, most importantly, to him.

To serve this teenager and hundreds of others with lesser behavioral needs that followed, we had to change everything we did. We, as an agency and staff, had to step out of our comfort zone, take a risk and develop programs that treated him with talent, care, and attention. And love, as he became a special part of each staff's lives.

Many, many direct care and professional staff came and left the agency. His behaviors scared 20-somethings just starting out in the field. His behaviors even scared professionals, who had been in the field for decades. Yet, many did stay, not only to work with him, but to remain child and youth care professionals for the decades thereafter. Almost 40 years later, many of the over 300 former staff that worked with him, remember him fondly and recall the work we did as young professionals. Yes, his behaviors improved greatly over the seven years he was with us. He is close to 60 years old now.

Over the past four decades, we have moved the care of children and teenagers with significant behavioral health needs away from residential centers to community-based programs. For many youth, a community option is a much better intervention than residential treatment. Over the last decade and a half, I assisted in the development of treatment foster care programs, to provide living environments that can treat and care for youth that might have been housed decades before in residential centers. I have seen the community-based program movement better work for many, many youth.

However, as those of us with extensive experience in both the residential treatment and community-based models age away, I am wondering what happens to those youth for which a community-based option is not a safe or practical reality. The field needs champions for those youth at the extremes of treatment services. There must be ethical and effective solutions. We need more individuals like that child welfare social worker, who advocated for that special young man's removal from an adult facility, or the child and youth care professionals that would sit in his room at night reassuring him that the demons were not there. In numbers, these children are relatively few; however, their needs stress our current systems. I still worry about those youth with a Godzilla-like monster that sits and stares back from their mind's eye.

In a recent Mother Jones article, ("Absolutely Do Not Send Them There", Sept/Oct 2023) I was taken back by accounts that Alaska was sending children with behavioral health needs out of state for treatment. In the late 1980's, led by John Vandenberg, Alaska pioneered the concept of cross-agency wraparound services. Today, versions of this service concept exist in just about every state. Yet four decades later, children in Alaska are being sent to expensive facilities in other states. In-state options have dwindled for many of the most needy of children and teens.

In countless conversations with state and/or county-based government child welfare agencies around the county, I have found the challenges to serve children with significant behavior health needs, are overwhelming the fragile child and teen care system. From coast to coast, many youth are sleeping in child welfare offices, in under or non-staffed hotels or rented homes, or simply being "allowed to run away" because the options for these children do not exist. Rarely does a week go by that there are not multiple articles on-line, detailing the failings of behavioral health care and treatment for youth in the wealthiest country on the planet.

There are some bright spots, however. In my home state Ohio, OhioRise is a relatively new state Medicaid initiative designed to fund and access programming for children, who are in significant need of mental health treatment. Residential and respite foster care were not options for Ohio's Medicaid system prior to OhioRise. In addition, Ohio's child welfare system is looking at ways to expand treatment within the state's foster care system to better serve those children and teens at the extremes of service options.

Yet to make any significant change, a large, committed, and trained workforce is needed. Hiring the volume of dedicated professions needed remains a similar challenge to the realities of 40 years ago. Today, universities are reporting dwindling numbers of graduates in psychology and social work. The recession of the early 1980's pushed many of us towards working with "troubled" youth. Many of us were bit by the child and youth care "bug" and made this our life's work. Many of us became leaders in the field and lead the organizations committed to changing children's lives. Many of ACYCP's board are child and youth care veterans that got their start in the years following the Vietnam War. As we transition to the next chapter of life, we need a new generation to step forward and assist children in managing their flashbacks created by their personal Godzillas.

If you are new to the field become involved. Share your voice. If you are new to the field, spend some time picking the brain of a co-worker, who has years or decades of experience. Do not let this institutional and field knowledge drift and age away. If you are new to the field, improve your personal skill set. If you are new to the field, politely pester politicians so these children, especially those with behavioral health needs, are not forgotten. If you are new to the field, become the champion of those youth that are most in need. Serve the true underdogs. Over the past four decades, much in the field has changed. Training is better, licensing is better, medications are better, and, in some positions, pay is better. However, the behavioral health needs of our collective children and teens have remained at best constant and, based on some reports, increased. You see, Godzilla is still out there. ◇

About the Author: A.M. Chip Bonsutto, Ed.D., has worked in child and youth care work since 1981. He spent 29 years working in residential programs and the last 13 years as the Executive Director of Ohio and Indiana MENTOR, a therapeutic foster care and behavioral health agency. Recently retired from full-time work, he continues to consult

and will begin his seventh year as an Adjunct Professor at Kent State University in Child and Youth Care Professional Development.

Illustration: Chip Bonsutto

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON YOUTH AND CHILD CARE WORK



[Editor's Note: The following reprinted with thanks to the PBS (Public Broadcasting System) and the Associated Press (AP) and was first posted March 18,, 2024.]

GAMBIA LAWMAKERS CONSIDER REVERSING BAN ON FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING

SERREKUNDA, Gambia (AP) — Lawmakers in Gambia will vote Monday on legislation that seeks to repeal a 2015 ban on female genital cutting, which would make the West African nation the first country anywhere to make

that reversal.

The procedure, which also has been called female genital mutilation, includes the partial or full removal of external genitalia, often by traditional community practitioners with tools such as razor blades or at times by health workers. Often performed on young girls, it is incorrectly believed to control a woman's sexuality and can cause serious bleeding and death. It remains a widespread practice in parts of Africa.

Jaha Dukureh, the founder of Safe Hands for Girls, a local group that aims to end the practice, told The Associated Press she worried that other laws safeguarding women's rights could be repealed next. Dukureh underwent the procedure and watched her sister bleed to death.

"If they succeed with this repeal, we know that they might come after the child marriage law and even the domestic violence law. This is not about religion but the cycle of controlling women and their bodies," she said.

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[Editor's Note: The Embassy of the Republic of The Gambia in Washington D.C. is The Gambia's diplomatic mission to the United States of America with cumulative accreditations to Canada, Brazil and Mexico. 5630 16th Street, NW Washington D.C. 20011. Front Desk: +1 202- 785-1399.

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[\(Another case of travel-related dengue reported on Oahu\)](#)

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ACYCP-FICE is working on some exciting major international initiatives. For more information contact:

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FROM CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY



"IF YOU THINK EDUCATION IS EXPENSIVE, TRY IGNORANCE."

NEWS FOR STUDENTS & EDUCATORS IN CHILD AND YOUTH CARE PROGRAMS AND INSTITUTIONS

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the Nonprofit Leadership Center and was posted March 12,

2024.]

NONPROFIT CAREER PLANNING: ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEXT STEP?

Are you passionate about making a difference in the world and the nonprofit sector? This training will guide you through the process of nonprofit career planning, helping you explore various roles, develop essential skills, pathways for additional roles and responsibilities, and create a roadmap for a fulfilling and impactful career in the nonprofit industry.

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Whether you are just starting out in your career, seeking career advancement, or a professional transitioning into the nonprofit sector from another industry, this course will equip you with the tools and knowledge to succeed.

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CYC AND NONPROFIT ADVOCACY



[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to The Good Men Project and was updated December 18, 2023.]

U.S. HAS DOUBLE THE MATERNAL DEATH RATE OF MOST OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS

Despite being a high-income country, the U.S. has double the maternal death rate of most other developed nations, with racial disparities exacerbating the crisis.

In an observational study opens in a new tab or window published in JAMA in 2023, researchers described maternal mortality rates as "unacceptably high," with Black women experiencing the highest rates of maternal deaths over two decades. These disparities persist regardless of income or education level, with Black women in the U.S. three times more likely opens in a new tab or window than white women to die from pregnancy-related complications. While a new study suggested opens in a new tab or window that the CDC may be overcounting maternal deaths, the agency countered that the methods used in that study "produce a substantial undercount." Either way, the gravity of maternal mortality and racial disparities remain.

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BONUS FEATURE

[Mom's 911 Call for Her Son's Mental Health Ends With His Death After Police Response](#)

Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the United States

The United States is the only country in the world that has yet to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Several of the provisions of the CRC came at the recommendation of President Reagan's Administration and President Bill Clinton signed the CRC in 1995. However, the Convention has not been ratified by the U.S. Senate. The failure to ratify this treaty has left U.S. children vulnerable to human rights abuses at the state and federal level. It is critical that every nation, including the U.S., sign and ratify the CRC to protect the human rights of children.

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FROM THE HILL



CYC REGULATIONS, LEGISLATION & COURT RULINGS

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted in part with thanks to the Child Welfare Information Gateway and was posted March 21, 2024.]

IN THIS TOGETHER: A CROSS-PARTISAN ACTION PLAN TO SUPPORT FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN IN AMERICA

I didn't quite know what I was getting into with this project. I was familiar with the subject matter. I knew about the partisan divides. I knew many of the participants personally. But I was unfamiliar with Convergence and what type of process could help soften ground between entrenched political positions and groups. What a delight it was to find out.

We live in a hyper-partisan and polarized environment. It has crept into nearly every facet of life, including how to support parents and children. During our time together, a contentious 2024 presidential election loomed. Our Collaborative took place in the shadow of the expiration of pandemic-era support for families, the failure to pass the Biden Administration's Build Back Better proposal, and the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, with states taking radically different approaches in the aftermath. These factors, among many

others, have made it difficult to take meaningful actions to support children and families with a wide base of support.

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BONUS FEATURES

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[Indian Child Welfare Cases. What Judges & Attorneys Need to Know](#)

[Are Children The Last Best Hope For Bipartisan Consensus](#)

Enjoy! ◇

Illustration: Ross Johnston

HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY ADULTS



EXPLORING CYC DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES WITH LIFELONG IMPACTS

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and UCSF News Feed and was posted March 8, 2024.]

WHAT'S BEHIND THE SURGE OF FATTY LIVER DISEASE IN LATINX KIDS?

By Jess Berthold

For Latinx kids, unreliable access to food at age 4 raises the odds of having fatty liver disease later in childhood by nearly four times, a new UC San Francisco-led study found.

About 5% to 10% of children in the United States have nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, putting its prevalence on par with asthma. Pediatric cases have spiked in the last decade, with millions now affected by a disease marked by pain, fatigue and jaundice that can lead to cirrhosis, cancer and organ transplantation. Latinx children and adults have a higher prevalence of fatty liver disease than white or Black people, and the condition is the number one indicator for a liver transplant as an adult.

In 2022, 13.2% of children in Hispanic households had unreliable access to food (food insecurity), up from 9.7% in 2021. Nearly 16% of children in Black households had unreliable access to food in 2022, up from 12% in 2021, compared to 5.5% of children in white households in 2022, up from 3.4% in 2021.

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BONUS FEATURES

[All About Acne \[Are Your Clients Getting The Treatment They Need?\]](#)

[Pornography For Boys?](#)

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[Teens, Social Media and Technology 2023](#)

[Virtual Peer Pressure: How Avatars Affect Our Moral Choices](#)

[1 in 10 Kids Have ADHD](#)

['It's Much More Severe, and It's Much More Dangerous'](#)

[Meet the Woman Working to End Child Marriage in the US](#)

Enjoy! ◇

Illustration: sasint on Pixabay.com

FROM THE HEADLINES



[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and USA Today and was posted March 16, 2024.]

DEATH OF NEX BENEDICT SPURS CALLS FOR ACTION, HELP FOR LGBTQ TEENS AND THEIR PEERS

By Phaedra Trethan

Nex Benedict's death Feb. 8 sparked outrage, pain and worry, among many, particularly in the LGBTQ community. The Oklahoma teen had been involved in an altercation in their high school bathroom, and authorities said

Wednesday the teen died a day later of an overdose, which a medical examiner ruled a suicide. Amid allegations of bullying and anti-LGBTQ polices in Oklahoma and elsewhere, advocates are urging greater support for children and teens who feel disheartened by Benedict's death, anti-transgender rhetoric and escalating violence against the community. Owasso Public Schools Superintendent Margaret Coates called Benedict's death "devastating." State Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters called Benedict's death a "tragedy," but also said LGBTQ groups are "pushing a false narrative."

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AND MORE [New Resource]

[District attorney won't bring charges in Nex Benedict's death, calls fight 'mutual combat'](#)

BONUS FEATURE

[Southern Anti-Trans Laws Are Uprooting Families](#)

Illustration: Wikipedia.org

FROM THE SOAPBOX... AGAIN!



Karen Vander Ven, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Department of Psychology in Education, University of Pittsburgh; CYC Advocate Staff Writer at kvander@pitt.edu
Enjoy!]

LUCKY ME

I continue to learn in child and youth care work from recalling memories of my direct care experiences from the past (and for me, that would be the early 1960's.) I was employed by the Occupational Therapy Department of the New Jersey State Hospital in Trenton. I had previously held positions as a life guard, swimming teacher, and day camp counselor, plus occupational therapy aide for the children's unit

at another state hospital outside of Princeton, New Jersey. But nothing was quite like what this new experience would be.

The youngsters were not easy, to say the least. But of course, that can be the norm in our field. The hospital had not really been set up to handle a young population but, apparently there was a need. So when I came along, having already had experience, I was hired. You could live on my salary of \$2,700 or so a year in those days. My first task was to get my "treatment room" set up. There was a work table for 3-4 youngsters to be able to sit at, a workbench, and a storage closet. In those days there were no "point and level systems," which are used today in some child and youth settings. As some readers know, I have opposed these vehemently for taking away from youngsters who do not have much to start with. Somehow we got through to the youngsters without taking things away from them, unless they were using materials or objects dangerously.

First though, I had to requisition the tools I'd need for the boys to use for the wood working projects I primarily expected to offer them. (Luckily I had learned about tools and basic carpentry skills from my father at his cellar workbench. During World War II he had this outfitted with supplies underneath in the case of an air raid.)

I got my shop room set up with a shadow panel upon which to hang the tools. You'd know before everybody in a group left if a tool were missing. You could not let that happen. My "OT" (occupational therapy) supervisor suggested that I set up a corner bathroom with a portable commode of some kind and a suspended curtain for privacy. Somehow, I managed to do this with a nice cotton print fabric for the curtain. The boys never misused it in any way.

The boys were escorted to the shop by ward staff, who then left. Then it was up to me. The boys would select a project. I would show some of the materials in the cabinet, the tools and table, and they could pick something. At the first frustration, accompanied by swearing and maybe throwing something, "I ain't doing this. Give me something else". I would respond with "I'll help you get started again, but there is no new project until you complete what you started." There might be a volley of swear words but, they soon saw that I was sticking to this 'policy' and even though I was a young woman then age 24, I had no qualms at doing this.

So out came, made by their hands and my firm guidance, tile hot plates, copper ashtrays, paddle wheel boats, bird houses, model airplanes; the stuff of youthful arts and crafts programs back then.

I eventually got wind that the youngsters were selling their works to their ward attendants (analogous to child care worker role).

Now the Occupational Therapy Department that employed me was incredibly strong and well-staffed for a large state hospital system, with limited budgets. So I went to my supervisor for advice and said that the children were not taking their projects home, when they went for visits or were visited in the hospital. Instead, they were selling their creations. She actually snapped at me, "It's probably the first time they ever did anything productive!" So of course I changed my viewpoint.

These boys and girls were not the only ones being taught. Lucky me! ◇

BY THE WAY

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to Leonard Sax from a press release dated December 19, 2023.]

A MENTEE'S TRIBUTE

By Byron Parker

In Loving Memory David C. Thomas 1949-2023

I worked at T-CARE [[Texas Center for Adolescent Rehabilitation and Education] for a consecutive 10 years. During my tenure there, I was taught and mentored by David. He was my first mentor in a professional work setting. Not only did I attentively attend many in-service trainings that David facilitated, I also received one to one instruction and tutorials from David on topics including: computer technology; creating excel spreadsheets and databases; counseling techniques; working with traumatized children; and supervision of staff. During the second year of my employment at the residential treatment center, I was promoted to night shift supervisor. My new duties included attending administrative team meetings, where I was further exposed to David's leadership skills; his value orientation, plus his vast knowledge base as an organizational leader.

We worked in a setting that catered to some of the most disturbed and troubled youth, who were in fact assessed at the highest level of care and needs within the field of child and youth work. I soaked up all that I could learn from David's approach to working with this population of youth, leading a team of staff to do the same. I was inspired by David's sense of empathy, equality, courage, respect, patience, dignity, and the responsibility he demonstrated for working with our country's most severely emotionally disturbed adolescents. David's confidence in my ability and potential ignited a spark that strengthened my sense of self-confidence, self-esteem and self-love. I wanted to be like David when I grew up. I wanted to have a positive impact on the lives of others too. Like David Thomas, I wanted to be a man with a humanitarian heart.

I also knew decades ago that if I ever had an opportunity to publicly acknowledge my gratitude for all that I learned from David, I would. He was super instrumental in providing a firm foundation for the kind of man I wanted to be, and the kind of man I would eventually become, as a helping professional and university educator. Aside from the professional, I also evolved on a personal level relative to the kind of man I wanted to be within my family and within my community. David, thank you for believing in me and taking the time to share and impart your own developing wisdom into the lives of myself and so many other Tejas Home affiliates.

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In Dave's Own Words...

"When I was elected President of the National Organization of Child Care Worker Associations [NOCCWA] in 1997, I re-entered an organization in crisis. I had been

involved a decade earlier, as President of the Texas Association of Child Care Workers, then dropped out of professional activities after my divorce. Similar to so many others, for years I had sacrificed my private life to professionalization. After a period of reflection, I helped create a new Texas organization, and was sent to my first national organization meeting as a representative of the Texas group. The agenda for that national meeting, it turned out, was whether to dissolve the national association. I was elected President after consultation with the woman I was dating at the time (whom I am still married to). Over the next couple of years, we changed that name, to the Association for Child and Youth Care Practice, changed its governance structure, its mission, and its operations. The goal became establishment of national certification, and I spent most of the next several years chairing the group that did that. Martha Mattingly chaired the subcommittee that created the document that listed the competencies of the professional. Karen VanderVen, Varda Mann Feder, Frank Eckles, Carole Stuart, Dale Curry, Carol Kelly, and others were active in the process as leaders, which resulted in the first professional-level certification. After that, I was burned out, and spent the last year of my terms in office finding my replacement. During these same years, I served as Executive Director of Texas Center for Adolescent Rehabilitation and Education, a Houston treatment center which got into financial problems. I took another Executive Director position in Dallas, with Bryan's House, a program for pre-school children with special needs, in 2004. The following year I resigned from ACYCP. I served at Bryan's House until 2015, when I resigned after developing Parkinson's Disease."

[Editor's Note: The above statement was received from Dave in an email dated April 9, 2017, in conjunction with special feature in the Spring 2017 edition of the CYC Advocate profiling all the past Board presidents of ACYCP to that date. Go to: <https://www.acycp.org/images/pdfs/CYC-Advocate-Spring-2017.pdf>



A celebration that was held in Houston to honor David in his role as Executive Director of Texas Center for Adolescent Rehabilitation and Education (TCARE). Byron is in blue shirt seated left center, Dave is center in wheelchair.

Illustration: Byron Parker

YOUR AGENCY NEEDS THIS ACYCP MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT NOW!



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ACYCP Membership Services Chair
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[Madison, WI]

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A graphic for National Volunteer Week 2024. On the left, there are four stylized hands in black outline. The top hand holds a blue heart, the middle hand holds a green heart, and the bottom hand holds an orange heart. The year '2024' is written in orange between the bottom two hands. To the left of the hands is a small, multi-colored starburst. On the right, the text 'POINTS OF LIGHT' is in black, 'NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK' is in large blue letters, and 'APRIL 21-27' is in black at the bottom. The entire graphic is enclosed in a black rectangular border.

POINTS OF LIGHT

**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK**

APRIL 21-27



The Tenth Annual National Conference
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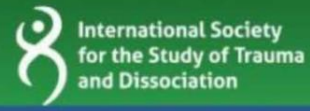
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Child & Adolescent Full Day Webinar



Friday, April 26
11:00AM-6:30 PM US Eastern Time



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22.10.2024 pre-congress day,
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ACRC's 68th Annual Conference, Right Care, Right Place, Right Time: Revolutionizing the Children's Continuum of Care, will be held May 6-9, 2024. With global attention focused on the urgent, often unmet, behavioral and mental health needs of children, we seek to elevate what is working and re-envision how children and families access care.

**Relational in Child and Youth Care Practice, Vol 36.3
(The Graduate Issue)**

This annual release continues the tradition that we started in 2019 (Volume 32 Issue 3) and continued in 2021 (Volume 34 Issue 3). As we set out in 2019, our aim for these graduate issues is to provide a platform for postgraduate students to showcase their work, to demonstrate that research, theory and intellectual engagement are now part and parcel of the full spectrum of activity that unfolds in the field of Child and Youth Care (CYC).

For academic, organisational and individual subscriptions, visit <https://www.rcycp.com>

[Thanks To Andy Schneider-Munoz]

Relational Child & Youth Care Practice

Volume 36 Issue 3



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SPECIAL EDITION
THE GRADUATE ISSUE



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Remember, The Trevor Project is available 24/7, day and night, to support LGBTQ+ young people who may find themselves overwhelmed and impacted by this news. Your identity is valid, your feelings matter, and you are so loved. If you need to talk, you can text START to 678678, call us at 1-866-488-7386, or chat with us online.

Following our premiere episode with Daniel Radcliffe, the second episode of our roundtable series "Sharing Space" features transgender, intersex, queer, and nonbinary young people who join Nova Bright-Williams, Head of Internal Training, Learning, and

Development at Trevor, to talk about their experiences with gender euphoria, stigma, and acceptance.

[**WATCH HERE**](#)

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Visit the Youth Connections Community of Practice for the latest training, promising practices, and technical assistance tools.

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-- Wilhelm Cortez, Executive Editor



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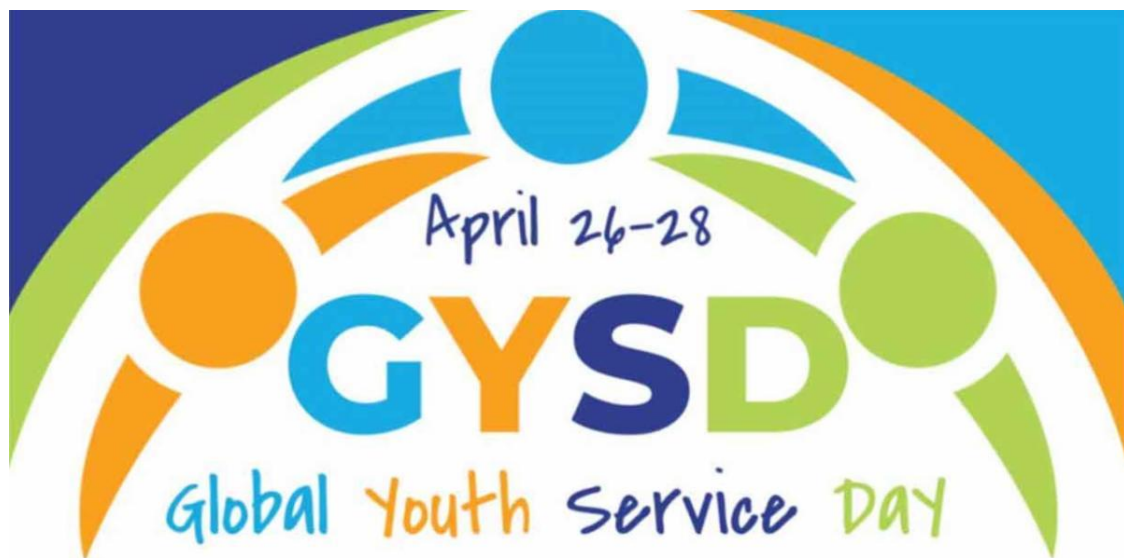
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Celebrating 36 years of youth changing the world, [Global Youth Service Day](#) (April 26-28, 2024) is the longest-running annual youth participation event in the world and the only one that asks all youth ages 5-25 to work together for the common good while also celebrating the difference young people make in their communities every day of the year.

[GYSD](#) is organized by Youth Service America with support from The Hershey Company, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Allstate Foundation, and the Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation... and is powered by you!

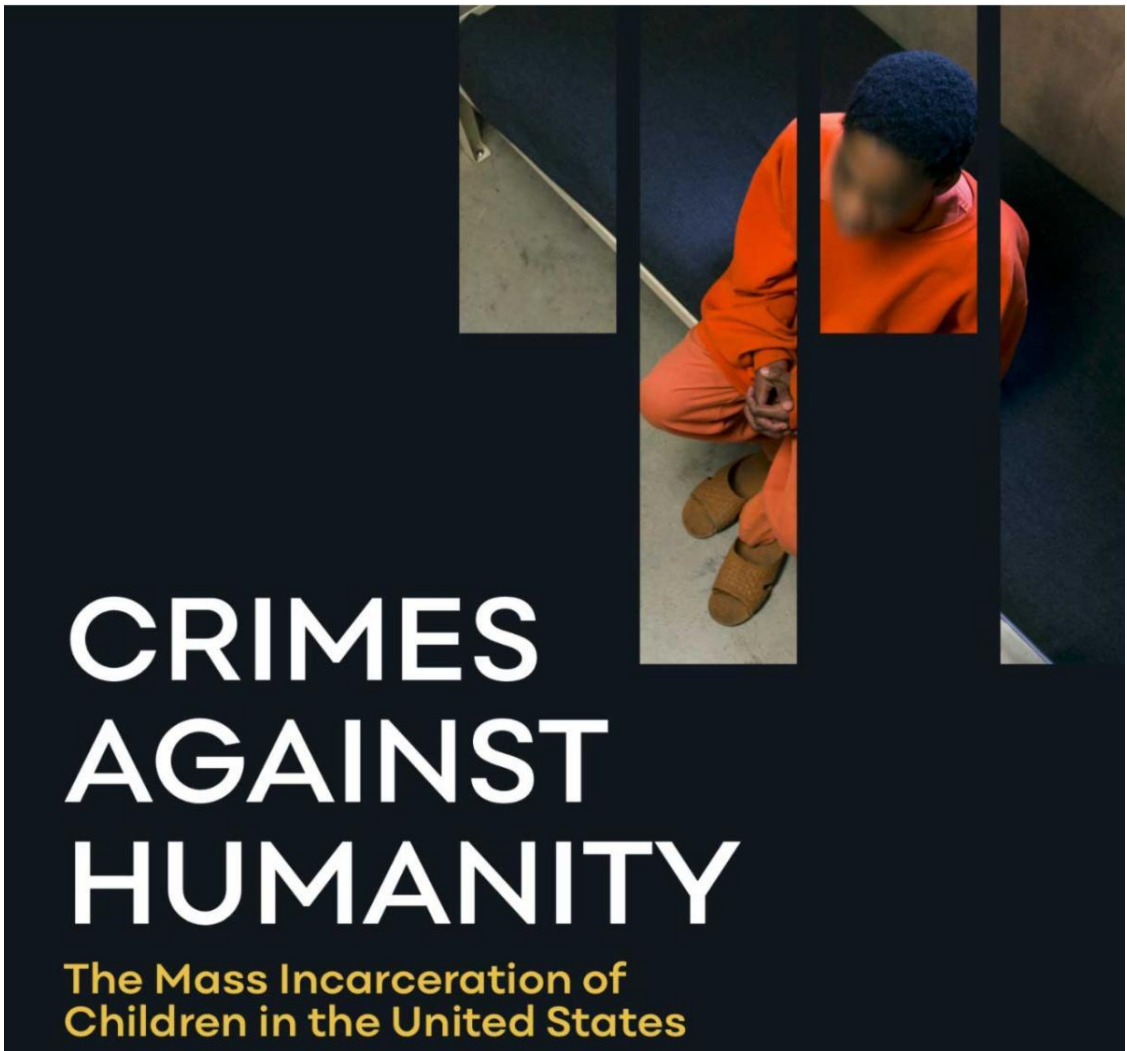
You make GYSD happen by organizing activities in your schools and communities!

For GYSD 2024, we suggest 4 types of GYSD activities:

1. Lead ASAP Projects - Lead Awareness, Service, Advocacy, or Philanthropy projects to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Register & Educate Young Voters - 4 million people in the U.S. turn 18 each year and become eligible to vote. Organize voter registration drives and educate new voters.
3. Celebrate Youth Service - Recognize and honor youth, staff, and partners for the work they do year-round. Tell your story to inspire others.
4. Increase Youth Service - Identify and address the barriers to increasing the quantity & quality of youth service opportunities in your community.

Find ideas and planning tools at YSA.org/GYSD.

[Share Your GYSD 2024 Plans With YSA](#)

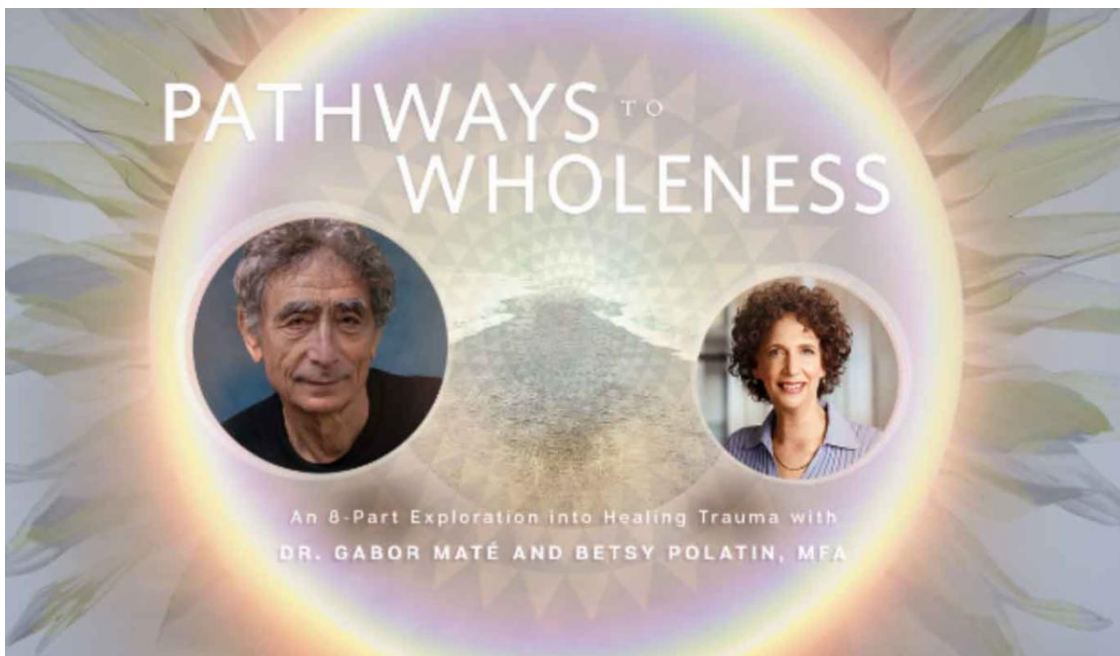


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The Mass Incarceration of
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988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Stickers - There is Hope - Green
These 2 inch x 2 inch "There is Hope" stickers help publicize the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. The stickers are packaged in quantities of 100 and orders are limited to one packet per order. The stickers are available in green, pink, and blue as well as in English and Spanish.

[MORE RESOURCES HERE, PLUS ASL](#)

[NEW VIDEO - WHAT IS 988 AND HOW DOES IT WORK?](#)

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A banner for the All of Us Research Program. On the left, a dark blue box contains the text 'All of Us' in large white font, with 'RESEARCH PROGRAM' in smaller white font below it. To the right of this box, the tagline 'The Future of Health Begins With You' is written in white. The main part of the banner features a diverse group of seven people of various ages and ethnicities standing together. One woman in the foreground is seated in a wheelchair. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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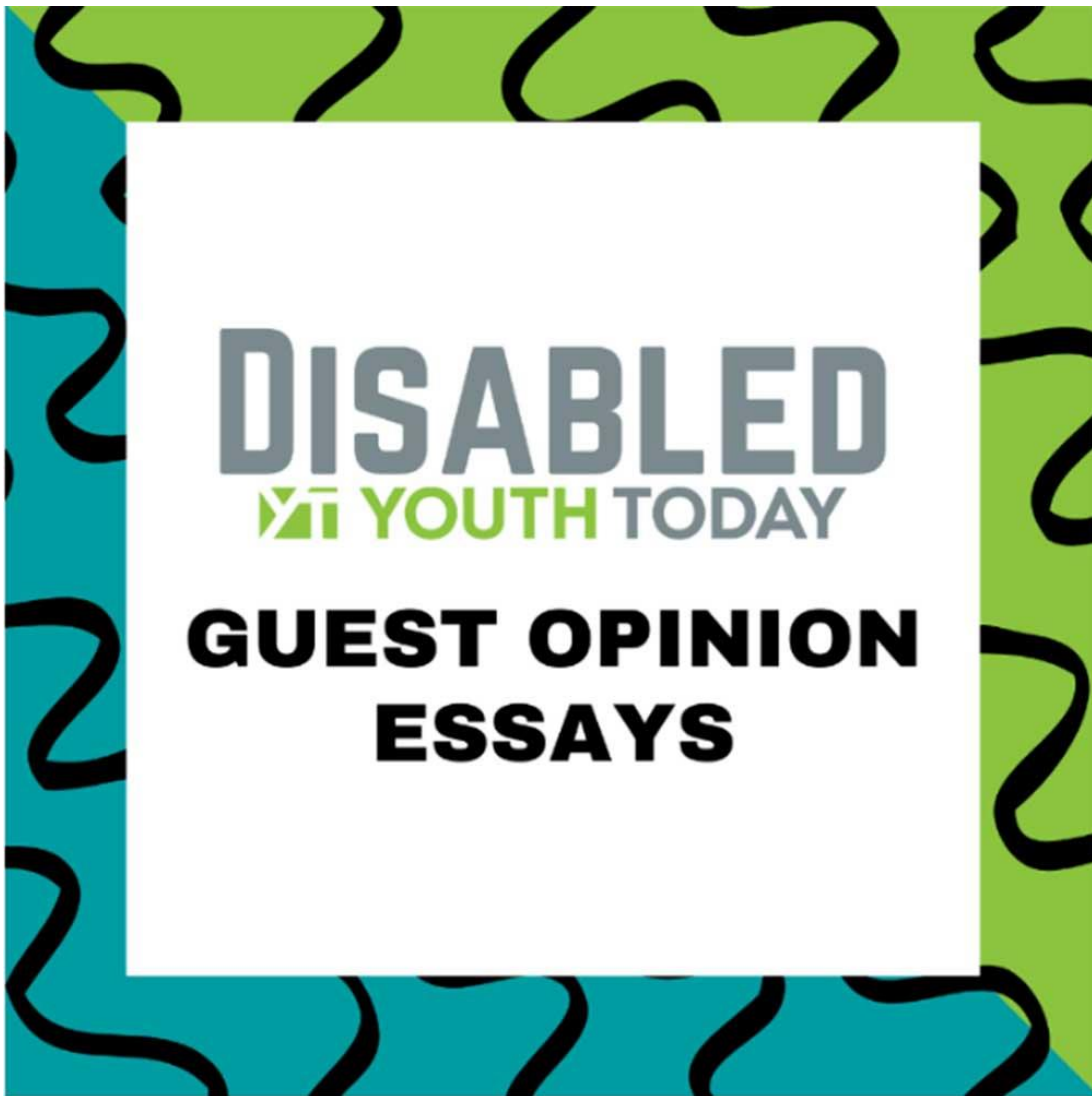


AFRO WOMEN AND YOUTH FOUNDATION

[\[CANADA\]](#)

A purple and blue campaign poster for the U=U campaign. At the top, the text 'U=U' is written in large, white, bold letters. Below it, the text 'UNDETECTABLE = UNTRANSMITTABLE' is written in smaller, white, bold letters. Underneath, a line of smaller white text reads: 'A person living with HIV who is on treatment and has an undetectable viral load cannot transmit HIV through sex.' Below this is another line of smaller white text: 'Uniting to redefine what it means to love and live with HIV around the world.' At the bottom left, the hashtag '#UEQUALSU' and the website 'WWW.PREVENTIONACCESS.ORG' are listed in white. At the bottom right, there is a logo for the 'prevention access campaign' which consists of two overlapping white circles forming an 'X' shape, with the text 'prevention access campaign' to its right.

[GET INFORMATION HERE](#)



Would you like to join the list of Disabled Youth Today thought-leaders, scholars, researchers, frontline workers and others who write timely guest opinion essays?

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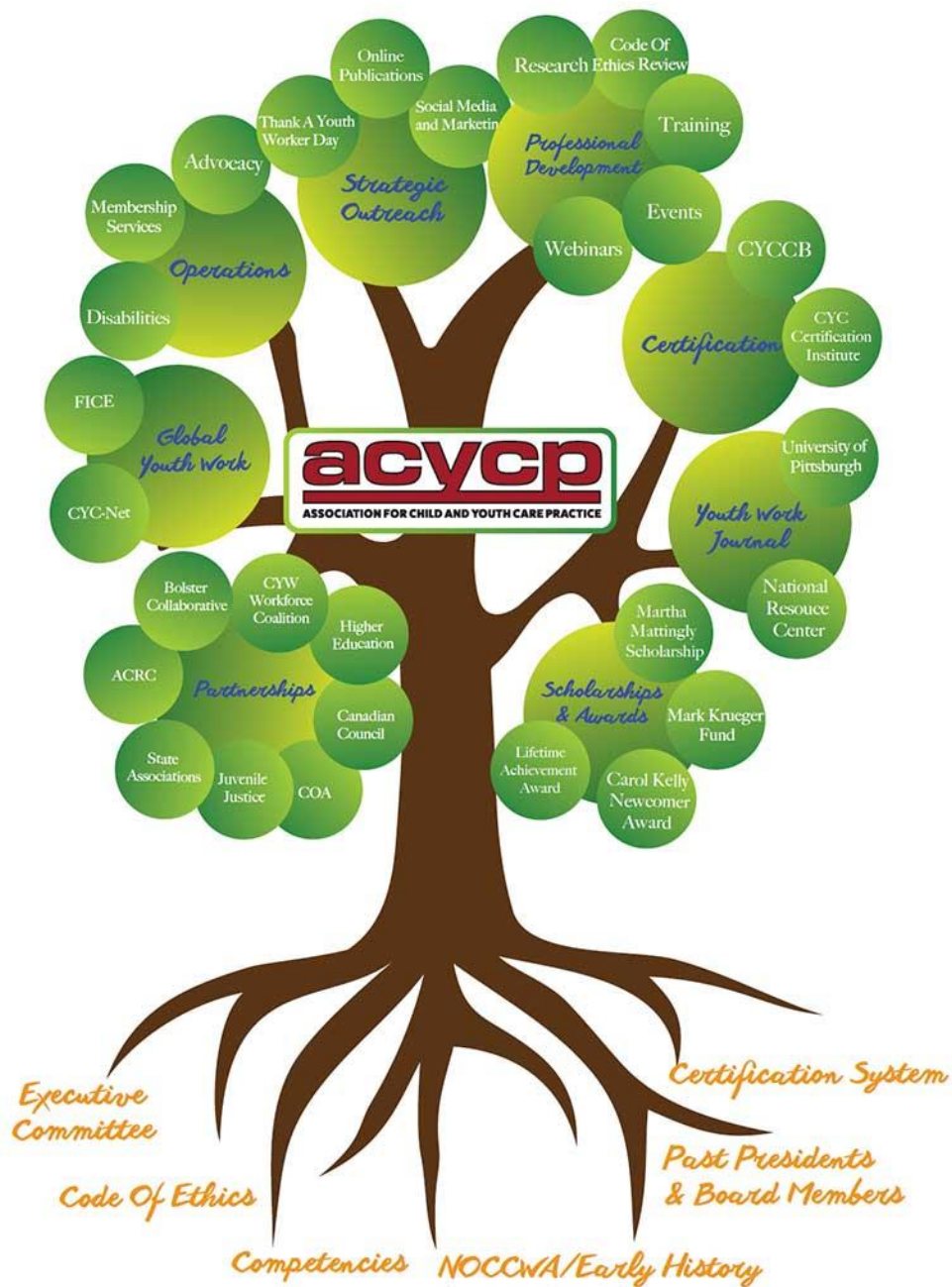


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ACYCP organization tree update, v6.0
10/3/2019

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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!

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