



State and Community Efforts to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Among Foster Care Youth

Support for Foster Youth

The Utah Department of Human Services offers life skills curriculum to youth (14 and older) as a part of their Transition to Adult Living services that assist youth in foster care prepare to be successful young adults. One of the 13 modules covers information on teen pregnancy, HIV, and STD prevention and successful parenting. The curriculum has been approved by the Utah Department of Education so that youth may receive high school credit for participating. The program is conducted in afterschool settings at area community colleges or local human service departments. They also offer the curriculum online. The Department has a website, www.justforyouth.utah.gov, which offers youth in foster care information on a variety of health topics including pregnancy and STD prevention.

Teen Choice is Inwood House's school-based, asset-building, mental health model of teen pregnancy and disease prevention serving 5,000 New York City youth in 11 schools. A number of the youth that participate in the program have grown up in the foster care system. In addition, Inwood House places parenting foster teens and their children in foster homes where both benefit from a safe, healthy family environment and the young mother has the opportunity to nurture her baby while she continues her education and prepares for a career. They also have a Mother/Baby Foster Care small group home.

New Futures for Youth in Arkansas has been working with two independent living programs to deliver "Be Proud! Be Responsible!," an effective teen pregnancy prevention program, to foster youth.

Health Care Education and Training, Inc is working with two independent/supportive living programs in Indianapolis and a program in Wisconsin to implement a teen pregnancy prevention program for foster care youth.

The National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development at the University of Oklahoma is updating the "Power Through Choices" curriculum, the only teen pregnancy, STD, HIV prevention curriculum created specifically for foster care youth, and piloting it with youth residing in group homes in Alabama and Oklahoma.

Support for Foster Parents

The Pueblo City-County Health Department's Adolescent Pregnancy Program in Colorado and the Montgomery Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in Alabama have provided trainings to foster parents on preventing teen pregnancy.

The Idaho Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention partnered with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to train foster parents on risk factors for youth in foster care including early sexual activity, drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. These 1.5 hour sessions took place at regional foster parent conferences and provided guidance on how foster parents can open up the doors of communication with their foster youth on tough issues including sexuality.

Support for Child Welfare Providers

The Georgia Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting piloted a training curriculum for case managers focusing on teen pregnancy prevention and effective strategies on working with youth.

The Division of Adolescent Medicine at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Department of Child and Family Services developed a curriculum on adolescent sexuality that was delivered to social workers across Los Angeles County.

Support for Foster Youth, Foster Parents, and Child Welfare Providers

The South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has been building partnerships with child welfare organizations in their state. The project coordinator meets regularly with local foster parent groups and with teen pregnancy prevention providers as a way to disseminate information about the risks of teen pregnancy among foster teens, and to conduct informal focus groups to gauge their need and desire for more education. With participation from the National Campaign, they conducted a roundtable in April 2007 with local teen pregnancy and child welfare professionals to move the issue forward of support for foster youth, foster parents, and caseworkers on teen pregnancy prevention. Additionally, they piloted "Power Through Choices" curriculum with foster youth in two group homes.

Uhlich Children's Advantage Network (UCAN), a large social service organization in Chicago, will pilot a teen pregnancy prevention program for foster youth, foster parents, and case managers. They plan to pilot the curriculum "Power Through Choices" with youth in their residential and transitional teen living programs. A recent pilot training on teen pregnancy prevention and healthy choices for UCAN direct service providers was successful. UCAN plans to train all their staff in the coming year.

Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc. (SBY), a provider of services for at risk youth and their families in Washington, D.C., holds twice yearly trainings for all staff, including caseworkers, on teen sexuality issues. Their teen pregnancy prevention team, with select staff from their 15 programs, receives specialized trainings on pregnancy and STD prevention on a quarterly basis. They also provide a pregnancy prevention curriculum to youth involved in all their programs and conduct sexual health fairs.

The Oklahoma Interagency Coordinating Council for Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy and STDs has begun outreach to child welfare partners in their state to explore what support and tools they can offer foster youth, foster parents, and caseworkers.

Training 3, Family Planning Council is working with the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Social Services, and Richmond Department of Health to develop an effective model for reducing teen pregnancy among foster youth, 16 and older, in Richmond, VA.

Arizona held an interagency meeting to address teen pregnancy prevention for youth in foster care and juvenile justice. They are currently piloting prevention programs through three probation offices.