



MAY 2003

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*A community newsletter from the
UCLA/RAND Center for Adolescent Health Promotion*

Youth Advisory Leadership Council

The Center, in collaboration with Community Partners of LA, is moving forward to establish a Youth CAB (YCAB) officially called the Youth Advisory Leadership Council. The first meeting of the YCAB will be held this Spring.

YCAB will give teens in grades 9-12 an opportunity to:

- (1) Improve their leadership, communication, and critical thinking skills;
- (2) Learn more about the health issues and problems relevant to teens;
- (3) Improve their understanding of the link between public health research and real life issues; and
- (4) Voice their opinions and perspectives to help us to plan and implement new projects and programs to improve the health and well-being of youth locally and nationally.



The YCAB activities include leadership skill development; informal learning and educational activities (innovative youth oriented web-site, guest speakers, workshops, newsletters, etc.); and at least one special event per year (e.g., sporting event at UCLA, community-based

cultural event, etc.) to encourage team building in a fun setting. YCAB members are expected to remain active for at least one year (but are encouraged to remain active from grades 9-12).



QUESTIONS?

Contact Raphael Travis, Jr., Youth Liaison, (310) 825-3581

OR

Jennifer Hawes-Dawson, Community Liaison, (310) 393-0411, x7238

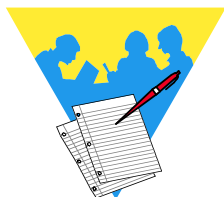
Training and Educational Opportunities for CAB Members

The Center will sponsor a **Program Evaluation Workshop** in Spring 2004. Contact Jennifer Hawes-Dawson, Community Liaison, and let us know your preferences regarding the date and time for this workshop, as well as suggested topics for future training workshops.

Methodology Update: Use of Focus Groups

What is a Focus Group?

A group of 8-12 individuals who discuss a particular topic under the direction of a trained moderator/facilitator, who uses a written protocol to guide a group discussion to solicit participants' views and opinions. They are designed to collect qualitative data (e.g., why do people feel a certain way), not quantitative data (e.g., how many people feel a certain way).



How are Focus Groups Used in Community-Based Participatory Research?

Focus Groups can be an effective tool to:

- Obtain background information about a topic or a community
- Generate research ideas and hypotheses
- Diagnose potential problems for a new program, service or product
- Generate impressions of products, programs, or services
- Learn how people talk about the topic of interest to facilitate development of surveys, programs, or other research tools
- Interpret previously obtained research results (by probing for more in-depth understanding of participants' answers)

Additional Resource Materials

See [The Focus Group Kit](#) by Richard A. Krueger, David L. Morgan, and Jean A. King (SAGE Publication, 1998). This kit consists of 6 in-depth volumes, each representing a separate theme related to effective practices for designing, implementing, and analyzing focus groups.

- **Vol 1: The Focus Group Guidebook.** This provides a general introduction to focus group research (e.g., reasons for using focus groups and what you can expect to accomplish with them).
- **Vol 2: Planning Focus Groups.** This is a "how to" planning book that covers issues such as determining the size of groups, their composition, the total number of groups needed, etc.
- **Vol 3: Developing Questions for Focus Groups.** This explains how to translate research themes into questions for focus groups.
- **Vol 4: Moderating Focus Groups.** This describes the critical skills needed by moderators/facilitators to run effective focus groups.
- **Vol 5: Involving Community Members in Focus Groups.** This is intended for those who want to teach others to conduct focus groups, particularly non-researchers in community settings.
- **Vol 6: Analyzing and Reporting Focus Group Results.** This provides guidelines for how to analyze and report results from focus groups.



Community News and Updates

MAY 2003 UPDATES

Carson Family Resource Center (Josephina Dhungana and Maritsa Adkins). Two New Grants:

- School Community Policing Partnership (SCPP) with California Department of Education. For Carson HS, Carnegie MS, 8 elementary schools. Goal: Reduce truancy rate & attendance issues for students in Carson.
- First 5 LA Small Grants Initiative: funds case management for families with children ages 0-5 years old.

Carson H.S. (Mary Beth DiCecco)

- Carson H.S. is working towards a new configuration – moving from a comprehensive high school of 3,600 students to smaller learning communities where students are housed in smaller groups. Through this process, we are seeking partnerships with the community that can provide some level of support for our developing academies. Ways to support include:
 - Job shadowing
 - Serving on the Advisory Board
 - Speaking to a class or group of students
 - Providing a specific resource
 - Financial support

Centinela Valley Juvenile Diversion Project (Carol Chudy)

- The Centinela Valley Diversion Project (CVJDP) hosted a "Grand Opening" at the Bright Futures Learning Center on March 26, 2003 at Washington Preparatory High School in LA. The Bright Futures Program is a collaborative effort of CVJDP, LAUSD, Girl's Club of LA, WIC, and Building Adolescent Minds. The program offers peer mediation, parent/teen mediation, counseling, pregnancy prevention, and tutoring for over 800 students on campus. The goals of the program are to reduce violence, reduce suspensions, reduce teen pregnancy, and increase academic performance.
- CVJDP was awarded the Mark Pearlman Outstanding Service Award from the California Coalition for Youth. The recognition acknowledged that our peer agencies and youth advocates from across the state respect our community work. CVJDP was selected out of 300 individuals and agencies. The award was given at the Talking Action 2003 Conference on March 31 at the Holiday Inn in Sacramento.

LA County Department of Health Services (Ellen Alkon)

- Announcing the Southern California Public Health Association Conference "Healthy Futures: Public Health Makes a Difference". May 9, 2003, 7:30-4:30, Cerritos Sheraton, Cerritos, CA. For more info contact: www.phfe.org; or 1-800-201-7320 extension 1264.

The Southern California Youth and Family Center (SCYFC) (Ramon De La Rosa)

- The Male Involvement Program (MIP) is hosting a youth mini-conference, "A Day Of Dialogue: Emphasizing The Role Of The Male In Family Planning" on May 7, 2003, 1:00-4:00 PM at Inglewood Public Library Lecture Hall. The event is open to all community youth or service providers. Lunch is provided.
- May 7th is the National Campaign to emphasize our efforts in teen pregnancy prevention and to provide a forum in which youth can realize the benefits of self-help as well as becoming proactive in preserving their health. Questions: call Ramon De La Rosa - Health Educator at SCYFC @ 310-671-1222, extension 122.

Wilmington Coordinating Council (Ruben M. Diaz)

- Sponsored two award ceremonies recently - - a "Teacher of the Year" and "Students of the Year" award to honor local educators and students.
- July 2004: 4th Annual Lake Mission Viejo Excursion - - a fun event for 70 local kids.

Our Community Partners, Collaborators, and Advisors include the following groups and organizations:

Schools and School Districts

Banning/Carson Community Adult School
 Bellflower Unified School District
 Beverly Hills School District
 Evans Adult School
 Harbor Community Adult School (LAUSD)
 Los Angeles Unified School District
 Torrance Unified School District
 Local School Sites

County and State Departments and Agencies

California Department of Health Services
 Carson Coordinating Council
 LA Children's Planning Council
 LA County Department of Health Services
 SPA 8 Area Health Office
 Wilmington Coordinating Council

Clinics and Health Centers

Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
 Coastal Cluster Health Centers, L.A.
 Harbor Free Clinic
 King Drew Medical Center
 South Bay Family Healthcare Center
 Venice Family Clinic
 Wilmington Community Clinic

Community-Based Organizations

AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA)
 Carson Family Resource Center
 Centinela Valley Juvenile Diversion Project
 Community Partners of LA
 Crail-Johnson Foundation
 Equilon (Shell) Refinery
 Harbor Area Gang Alternative Program (GAP)
 LA Community Development Design Center
 Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF)
 National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence of the South
 Para Los Ninos
 South Bay Center for Counseling
 Southern California Youth and Family Center
 YWCA of the Harbor Area

Academic and Research Units

Harbor-UCLA Childhood Injury Prevention Center
 Health Research Association
 RAND
 Robert F. Kennedy Institute of Community and Family Medicine
 UCLA Department of Pediatrics
 UCLA School of Public Health
 UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Featured CAB Member

Mena Marcotte of the YWCA of the Harbor Area

Recently Elected Western Regional Community Representative to the CDC Prevention Research Centers' National Community Committee (NCC)



Mena Marcotte has been a member of the Center's Community Advisory Board for 4 years. Below is a brief biographical sketch provided by Ms. Marcotte.

"I graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a B.A. in American Studies. While a student intern, I taught a writing class for teen moms and this led to my thesis, an oral history of diverse teen mothers. I began working at the YWCA almost five years ago as the Coordinator for the Harbor Area Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaborative. Partners of the collaborative include Wilmington Community Clinic and the Harbor Free Clinic. Since its inception the collaborative has provided over 6,000 teens and their parents with pregnancy prevention services throughout the cities of San Pedro, Wilmington, Carson, Lomita, Long Beach, Harbor City, and Harbor Gateway. Recently, I was promoted to Director of Teen Programs. In addition to overseeing the work of the collaborative and Teen Program staff at the YWCA, I conduct girls empowerment groups at three local high schools. These groups - equip girls - aim to improve self-esteem, communication skills, future goal planning, and provide comprehensive sexuality and birth control information."

Recently Ms. Marcotte (and 5 other Center staff) attended the CDC-sponsored Chronic Disease Conference and the Prevention Research Centers' annual meeting in St. Louis. At that conference she was elected by her peers to serve as the Western Regional Community Representative to the CDC PRC National Community Committee to facilitate communications and information sharing between the CDC, the NCC, and the 28 PRCs and their CABs across the U.S. Ms. Marcotte describes her conference experiences below:

"At the PRC conference I had the opportunity to meet people representing Prevention Research Centers around the country. Some of the main things we discussed in the breakout groups were how the research priorities of the PRCs and the CABs were alike and different. It was very interesting to learn about the variety of challenges and the diversity of roles that CABs have throughout the country."

"On a lighter note, the Chronic Diseases conference was one of the most well-rounded that I have ever attended. In addition to the informative workshops, there were planned exercise and entertainment activities. Also, I was able to bring back resources for some of the other programs offered at the YWCA."

Center Research Highlights

Focus Group experiences to be shared at the 2003 International Field Directors and Technology Conference, in Nashville, TN on May 20, 2003.



Authors: Chau Pham, Jennifer Hawes-Dawson, Beverly Weidmer Ocampo, Sandra Paffen, Shelley Kilpatrick

Center Project: Healthy Passages: A Community-Based Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health

Title: Conducting Focus Groups with Children in Community Settings in Los Angeles

Abstract: Focus groups are a well-known qualitative approach to gathering data. The methodological literature about focus groups, however, primarily focuses on adults, and very little is written about working with children. Drawing upon our experiences over the past five years and culminating with our recent work on Healthy Passages: A Community-based Longitudinal Study of Child and Adolescent Health, we will describe the challenges and resources needed to successfully carry out focus groups with adolescents (and their parents) in Los Angeles, including recruitment and training of moderators, participant recruitment and scheduling, and focus group logistics. We hope that the lessons we've learned in Los Angeles can help others planning to conduct focus groups with children under similar conditions



New Center Grants!

- New Grant for Ramesh Raghavan, MD (Doctoral Fellow) who was awarded a dissertation grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The grant is titled, “**The Impact of Health Policies on Pathways to Mental Health Services for Children in Foster Care**” and will be used to examine the manner in which states use Medicaid to pay for mental health care for children in child welfare environments. We hope that results from the dissertation will help improve Medicaid and child welfare policymaking.
- New Grant for Raphael Travis, MSW (Doctoral Fellow and Youth Liaison) who received a new grant for his project titled “**Bridging Community Strengths**”. This grant is part of a Minority Fellowship Program sponsored by The Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), CDC, and CDC sponsored Prevention Research Centers (PRC). It seeks to explore staff perceptions of program developmental quality, or the ability of community programs serving youth to provide the necessary program characteristics shown to support positive youth development. He will highlight the potential relationship between youth violence prevention efforts and efforts toward positive youth development.

About Our Organization...

The UCLA/RAND Center for Adolescent Health Promotion is one of 28 Prevention Research Centers currently funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Center is a unique partnership of three research and educational institutions – the UCLA Department of Pediatrics, the UCLA School of Public Health, and RAND (a non-partisan, private, non-profit research institute that conducts research to improve public policy) and local community and school groups.

Mission Statement

Our Center's mission, jointly determined with our community partners, is to conduct community-based participatory research, develop programs, disseminate findings, and provide education and training related to adolescent health promotion, risk reduction, and disease prevention, with an emphasis on projects that involve parents of adolescents. We focus on activities that respond to community needs, can be incorporated into community practice, and builds community capacities.



Center Launches New Website!

Check us out at
www.rand.org/health/adol.html

UCLA/RAND Center for Adolescent Health Promotion

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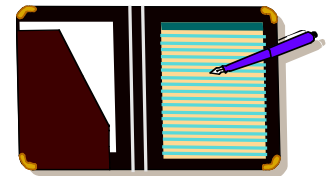
E-MAIL:
center@rand.org

WEB PAGE:
www.rand.org/health/adol.html

Questions? Comments?

Contact Jennifer Hawes-Dawson,
 UCLA/RAND Community Liaison
 Phone: (310) 393-0411, Ext. 7238
 E-mail: hawes@rand.org

Upcoming Events



May 7, 2003
 Community Advisory Board Meeting

Wilmington Municipal Building
 544 N. Avalon Blvd.
 Wilmington, CA 90744
 Noon-2:00 PM

Guest Speaker:
 Sandra H. Berry

Topic:
*Public Opinion Polls:
 Interpreting Polling Data*

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Spring, 2004
 Program Evaluation Workshop
 (Time and Place TBA)

