

COMMUNITY YOUTH FOCUS

Adolescent Health Alliance (AHA) - Building a network of services for youth

Volume 4, Issue 1

Winter 2005

Adolescent Health Alliance The Changing Face of the FMCH CC

The Family, Maternal and Child Health Community Coalition (FMCH CC) is a dynamic group that continues to grow with the needs of Contra Costa County residents.

The FMCH CC began in 1998 as a collaborative of community organizations convened by the Family, Maternal and Child Health Programs to assist in the development of a Community Health Assessment. Through the assessment process, the collaborative identified teen pregnancy as a primary issue in the community. As a group of adolescent health service providers, we elected to work collectively to address this issue and formed the Family, Maternal and Child Health Community Coalition (FMCH CC).



Over time, the Coalition began expanding its work to focus on additional adolescent health issues, and in May 2002 it was agreed that the focus of the Coalition would shift to overall adolescent health. As part of this shift the coordination of the Coalition was transferred from the FMCH Programs to the FMCH TeenAge Program (TAP), and with the input of the members the name was changed to the **Adolescent Health Alliance (AHA)**.

The goal of **AHA** is to encourage collaboration, share resources and support each other in building our capacities to provide effective adolescent health services to youth in Contra Costa County. To further this goal, a grant was submitted to Kaiser Permanente to expand the role of **AHA** to include the provision of training opportunities for the community partners.

AHA currently meets quarterly, on the third Thursday of the month, in Martinez. (See page 2 for a list of dates and locations for 2005.) Meetings provide an opportunity for community partners to meet, share ideas and resources, and network.

If you would like additional information on AHA and/or would like to be added to our member/ mailing list please contact Jeffrey Gould at 925-313-6437 or email: jgould@hsd.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Contra Costa's STD Program

Working to increase the capacity of local youth-serving agencies

- Nancy Warren, PHN, Program Director

Our Public Health STD Program is now participating in a statewide program called SCIP, the STD Community Intervention Program, designed to increase the capacity of local staff to promote awareness and prevention of Chlamydia and to reduce STD morbidity rates in California.

Elba Warner of the Contra Costa Health Services STD Program, has been visiting youth serving agencies in West Contra Costa County to capture the scope of the services provided by each agency. Elba will finish gathering this information by the end of 2004 and will enter it into a database that will be available to all agencies sometime in 2005.

In addition, Elba is gathering information about the technical assistance needs of community agencies in West County. AHA will be working with SCIP to address provider needs and offer training opportunities.

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Did You Know?

The rate of births to teens ages 15-17 (per 1,000 adolescent females) in Contra Costa has declined steadily since 1990, from a rate of 27.1 in 1990 to 14.8 in 2002.

Contra Costa also fares better than California, which had a rate of 24.4 in 2001. We have also surpassed the Healthy People 2010 objective of 43.0.

However, this overall success masks major racial/ethnic and geographic disparities in births to teens in our county. In 2001, the rate of births to Hispanic teens was 48.0 and the rate for African-American teens was 30.9, compared to a rate of 4.9 for White teens.

Though other racial and ethnic groups saw declines in their rates of births to teens, the rate for Hispanic teens has stayed somewhat level over time, from 47.6 in 1991 to 48.0 in 2001.

Source: CCHS FMCH Community Health Assessment
www.cchealth.org/fmch/pdf/exec_summary_5.pdf

STD Program (cont.)

It is hoped that by establishing or enhancing partnerships with non-clinical, youth-serving

community based and government programs, SCIP will strengthen the individual programs serving youth in West Contra Costa County—and that through these efforts, more young people will be served.

If you would like more information about SCIP or would like more information on training opportunities available through SCIP please call Elba Warner at 925-313-6778.

"On The Block"

Current Youth Terminology

Friends with Benefits: Two friends who have a sexual relationship without being emotionally involved. Typically two good friends who have casual sex without a monogamous relationship or any kind of commitment.

source: www.urbandictionary.com

Federal Maternal and Child Health Training Program Launches Web Site

The MCH Training Program supports trainees and faculty by providing continuing education and technical assistance. The new web site provides information on new funding opportunities including tips on writing grant proposals, lists of currently funded projects, and report requirements. The web site also includes an events calendar, conference archives, a glossary, a PDF file library, and other resources relevant to the program. The web site is available at:

<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/training>

AHA Meetings for 2005

597 Center Avenue,
Suite 200, Martinez

Thursday, February 24, 2005, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 26, 2005, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 25, 2005, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 1, 2005, 2:30-4:30 p.m.



Free Resource Guides for Youth

Health Initiatives for Youth (HIFY) has developed gender specific survival guides for youth. Written by and for teens these guides contain crucial health information.

A Young Woman's Survival Guide is a guide to young women's health, that covers body image, sexuality and sexual health, substance use and harm reduction, and nutrition and fitness.

Walk Like a Warrior: A Young Man's Survival Guide is written by and for young men. This book explores what it means to be a man, how this affects the choices young men make, and their unique needs regarding their health and well-being.

Both guides are free to youth. Visit HIFY's web site for further information and ordering instructions.

<http://www.hify.com>

"What does this mean to me?"

Senate Bill 71 took effect January 2004. This bill unifies sexuality and STD/HIV education in schools by replacing eleven separate laws scattered throughout the California Education Code.

The legislation lists requirements for mandatory STD/HIV prevention education and stipulates additional requirements for schools that choose to provide comprehensive sexuality education.

SB71 also made changes to the parental permission process by requiring schools to notify parents only once, at the beginning of the school year of plans for sexuality and STD/HIV education. The bill also specifies that parents must submit a written request if they wish to have their child excluded from any sexuality related presentations. This consent revision relieves teachers from having to send home permission letters two weeks prior to each education event.

For more information: <http://teenbirths.phi.org/SB71.html>



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