

Children, Youth & Family Consortium

CYFC Monthly

CYFC Monthly — April 2016

CYFC Establishes Advisory Board

By Mary Marczak — Director, Children, Youth & Family Consortium and Director, Urban Family Development and Evaluation

How does the Children, Youth & Family Consortium (CYFC) become more than what we think is possible? Bring together a group of diverse, interdisciplinary minds with both practice and academic wisdom to inspire and broaden our thinking! This year, 2016, marks over five years since CYFC made a home in University of Minnesota Extension Center for Family Development. Given our team's renewed vision for growing our work and expanding our reach, we believe it is a perfect time to once again engage a formal advisory board for CYFC.

In the near future you'll be able to go to </family/cyfc/about-us/cyfc-advisory-board/> to see the pictures and bios of people who said "yes, of course!" when members of our team asked them to serve on the CYFC Advisory Board. The positive responses reminded us of the passion and commitment people have not only for CYFC, but the urgency that has grown around children's mental health, trauma and stress, as well as health and education disparities. Our advisory board members are an eclectic mix of people with knowledge of a wide range of issues about children and families. These individuals represent community organizations, University departments and centers, and policy and/or clinical practice, and they bring a great amount of lived experiences as parents and/or community members to the board.

CYFC Advisory Board members will generally serve two-year terms, and new members will be added according to a nomination process. Board members will contribute by attending quarterly advisory board meetings, representing CYFC at occasional events, contributing to discussion regarding CYFC current and potential activities, participating in strategic planning, and advising CYFC staff members. We welcome our [Advisory Board](#) members and are excited to learn and work with them!

Consortium News

New eReview -Examines Educational Disparities and Latino Students

The Children, Youth & Family Consortium (CYFC) has published a new *Children's Mental Health eReview* focused on educational disparities and the experiences of Latino youth in the U.S. educational system. This issue of *eReview* brings together authors from different settings to discuss the research on educational disparities and the application of that research in schools, clinical settings, and community organizations.

Read this issue for statistics and stories about Latino students' academic achievements, as well as the many opportunity gaps they face in U.S. schools, including economic constraints, language barriers, acculturation issues, and discrimination. Hear from community professionals how research on educational disparities and Latino youth can be put to use in educational and community settings. The editors of *eReview* ask you to:

- Read the article, "[Falling Behind: Understanding the Educational Disparities Faced by Immigrant Latino Students in the U. S.](#)"
- Complete this short [survey](#) to tell us what you learned, how this research applies to *your* work, and how these ideas might change the way you do your work.

Cultural Providers Network Releases New Videos

CYFC has long been involved with the Cultural Providers Network (CPN), a group of community professionals and parents interested in promoting children's mental health in communities of color. CPN has been going through a reflective storytelling process over the past months, with members writing and capturing in video thoughts of what the network is and why they have chosen to be involved in it. Some of these videos are now online; visit the "[Our Stories](#)" page of the [CPN website](#) to view them. Check them out and if what you hear intrigues you, consider attending CPN meetings, which are open to the public. You can find information on [dates and locations of CPN meetings here](#).

Lessons from the Field Webpage Gets a Makeover

CYFC's Lessons from the Field professional development series webpage just got a face lift. Check out the new [Lessons from the Field webpage](#) for presentation notes and video playlists from previous events on a variety of topics, including coparenting, secondary trauma, and working with immigrant and refugee families. Please use and share these resources with others.

SNAP-Ed and CYFC Staff Work Together to Build Community

[Shirley Vang](#), a [SNAP-Ed](#) educator with University of Minnesota Extension Center for Family Development, recently started teaching cooking classes for parents at Bruce Vento Elementary School in East St. Paul — part of [a CYFC participatory partnership](#). In cooperation with [Second Harvest Heartland](#) and its [Food + You](#) program, families in need whose children attend Bruce Vento receive food boxes every month.

When school officials and CYFC staff learned that families were throwing away some of the food because they didn't know how to use it, they asked Vang to conduct cooking classes to help parents learn how to prepare quick and healthy dishes from the items they receive in the food boxes. Learn more about the Bruce Vento-CYFC partnership and a recent cooking class at the school in a blog entitled "[The Recipe for Healthy Relationships](#)" on the Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, Healthy Learners website.

Center for Family Development Announcements

New Resource for Talking to Children About Violence and Terrorism

Sponsor: University of Minnesota Center for Family Development

Location: Online

Finding appropriate ways to talk to children about terrorist attacks, including recent ones in Brussels, Paris, and San Bernardino, kids can be difficult. As a result, the Center for Family Development is offering some tips and resources for talking with children about terrorism and violence. Visit "[Talking About Violence and Loss — Terrorism and Violence](#)" for more information.

University & Community Announcements

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Certificate Program

Sponsor: University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development

Date: Applications due May 1 for the fall 2016 program

Location: St. Paul, MN

Credits: 17 to 19 academic or continuing education credits

This two-year certificate program is an intensive, interdisciplinary post-baccalaureate training program for professionals and students in domains of mental health, public health, education, and early care. The program is designed to enhance the understanding of infant and early childhood mental health and promote the skills necessary to support the social emotional development of young children ages birth to five. Learn more about the program at [the Center for Early Education and Development website](#).

Let it Go: Letting Youth Lead in Your Daily Programming

Sponsor: Youth Work Learning Lab

Date: April 29, 2016

Cost: \$50

Location: St. Paul, MN

Join [Deborah Moore](#), director of the Youth Work Learning Lab at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work, in exploring quick and easy ways to implement new techniques in youth leadership programs. This session will focus on key practices from the [Youth Program Quality Assessment \(YPQA\)](#) tool that create space for youth to step in and take the lead. These practices include letting youth plan what they will do each day or choose what and how to learn during an activity. Learn more and [register for this workshop](#), to be held in Peters Hall on the University's St. Paul campus.

20th Annual Child & Adolescent Mental Health Conference

Sponsor: Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health

Dates: April 24-26, 2016

Cost: \$99-379

Location: Duluth, MN

This annual conference is for professionals and family members who care for or work with children and youth. The conference will address policies and practices to help children who are experiencing or who are at risk for mental health disorders; the conference also will provide information on skills and strategies designed to improve outcomes for children with mental health needs. Attendees also will learn about best practices and the latest research on children's mental health and related fields, and they will enrich their understanding of different perspectives and common goals in support of all children. Read more about the keynote speakers Allen E. Lipscomb and Henry Emmons, review itinerary and training sessions, and register at the [Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health website](#).

Social and Emotional Learning in Practice

Sponsor: University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development

Date: May 17, 2016

Cost: \$25

Location: St. Paul, MN

Join Kate Walker, University of Minnesota associate professor and Extension specialist, for this activity-filled training that builds fluency and understanding of how to support social emotional learning (SEL). By exploring practices that infuse SEL opportunities into existing program content, participants will walk away with strategies to intentionally support social-emotional skill growth. Read more and register for the "Social and Emotional Learning in Practice" program on the University of Minnesota Extension website.

Job Opportunity

[University of Minnesota Extension Center for Family Development — Research Project Coordinator, Health and Nutrition](#)

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