



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

PARI: PREVENTION OF ADOLESCENT RISKS INITIATIVE



Prevention of Adolescent Risk Initiative

PARI PERIODICAL

#pursuingmeaningfulwork

May 2019



May is Sex Ed For All Month
Take the time to learn about how
this focus is different from the
former Teen Pregnancy
Prevention Month.

On May 1st the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS) issued a press release stating that May is Sex Ed for All Month: Accessing Power, Information, and Rights. Sex Ed for All Month replaces Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month and focuses on positive sexual health outcomes for all young people through education and access to services. Sex Ed For All is an effort to help young people in marginalized communities, including communities of color, LGBTQ young people, immigrants, those with lower incomes, those living in rural areas and those in foster care have access to the information and care they need to ensure their lifelong sexual and reproductive health (<https://siecus.org/reproductive-health-rights-and-justice-groups-launch-sex-ed-for-all-month/>)

Here are some selected responses by leaders in the sexual and reproductive health community about Sex Ed for All Month:

Christine Soyong Harley, President and CEO, SIECUS

It is past time we start providing all young people in this country with the information and skills they need to stay safe and healthy. Right now, far too many students fail to receive any sex education at all--let alone lessons they can see themselves reflected in. The rebrand and the legislation being introduced this month bring us closer toward our goal of recognizing the diverse lived experience of today's young people and providing them with the high-quality, shame-free sex ed they should have already been receiving. (<https://siecus.org/reproductive-health-rights-and-justice-groups-launch-sex-ed-for-all-month/>)

Janet Max, MPH, CHES, Acting President and CEO, Healthy Teen Network

Our society has a responsibility to support and empower young people to lead healthy lives, and that includes sexual lives. We cannot allow ideology to obscure science or ostracize entire populations of young people. We cannot just talk about pregnancy or disease. Our young people need sex-positive, high quality sex ed and access to youth-

friendly sexual and reproductive health care, and they need it now. Why 'Sex Ed for All'? Because it's a human right. (<https://siecus.org/reproductive-health-rights-and-justice-groups-launch-sex-ed-for-all-month/>)

Dr. Leana Wen, President, Planned Parenthood Federation of America

The science is clear: countless studies have shown that sex education reduces the rate of unintended pregnancies, reduces the rate of STIs, and empowers people to make the best decisions for themselves. Less than 40% of high schools and only 14% of middle schools across the U.S. meet the CDC guidelines for sex education. Yet, the Trump-Pence administration has cut funding and redefined sex education to be abstinence-only. We at Planned Parenthood are proud to work alongside partners and champions in Congress to support the Real Education for Healthy Youth Act and Youth Access to Sexual Health Services Act. We know the importance of sex education for all and will fight every attempt to dismantle access to evidence-based sex education because we know that current and future generations deserve to lead lives of choice, and not chance.

(https://powertodecide.org/sites/default/files/articles/SexEDForAll_NewsRelease_LegislationIntroduction.pdf)



Public Health Post: Why Foster Youth Need Sex-Ed

On May 10, 2019, Dr. Nadine Finigan-Carr's article on the findings from surveys of out-of-home care youth was published on the Public Health Post, a population health resource from Boston University's School of Public Health geared at influencing policy through research. Please check out this fascinating article outlining sexual education needs of foster youth

<https://www.publichealthpost.org/research/why-foster-youth-need-sex-ed/>



3rd Annual Maryland Child Trafficking Conference

*****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*****

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 7TH, 2019

A CALL TO ACTION

@ TOWSON UNIVERSITY

3RD ANNUAL MARYLAND
CHILD TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE

MarylandChildTraffickingConference.org

The 2019 ***Maryland Child Trafficking Conference: A Call to Action*** will bring together community members, interdisciplinary professionals, educators, and advocates to advance their knowledge and gain valuable insight into identifying, combating and responding to trafficking. The conference will also focus on ways attendees can respond to trafficking across Maryland, emphasizing strategies to leverage partnerships at the community, state and national levels. We hope you can join us in August!

If you are interested in volunteering for this event please reach out to the volunteer coordinators Caroline Harmon-Darrow (charmon@ssw.umaryland.edu) or Karen Burruss (kburruss@ssw.umaryland.edu).



**Dr. Nadine Finigan-Carr and Amelia Rubenstein at recent
recognized by the Children's Bureau at a recent Grantee
Meeting**



On April 24 2019, Jerry Milner, D.S.W., the Associate Commissioner at the Children's Bureau and the Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, and Rosie Gomez, Child Welfare Program Specialist, presented a certificate to PARI in recognition for their work in the field related to human trafficking. Those in attendance to receive the certificate were Dr. Nadine Finigan-Carr (far left) and Amelia Rubenstein, LCSW-C (far right).



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PARI?



PARI, Prevention of Adolescent Risks Initiative is one of the Ruth Young Center for Families and Children's newest initiatives created to increase visibility and knowledge to address adolescent health issues. The federal grant projects under the **PARI** umbrella include:

- **The Baltimore Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative for Out-of-Home Youth (BTPPI)**
- **Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative (CSTVI)**
- **Maryland Human Trafficking Victims Initiative (MHTI)**

This month we say good bye to one of our dedicated interns, **Leanne Pomeroy**. (far right in above picture). Leanne has worked with PARI over the past year and recently graduated from the University of Maryland's School of Social Work with her Master's in Social Work. Here are a few reflections from PARI staff working with Leanne over the past year:

"I really appreciate her willingness to jump in and assist whenever needed. I know she assisted Amelia and Sharon with literature reviews, data entry/data cleaning, and logistical planning for the Maryland Child Trafficking Conference. I personally appreciate her assistance with data cleaning for the Baltimore Teen Pregnancy Prevention for Out-of-Home Youth Initiative! ***Leanne's infectious and endearing personality will truly be missed in our office!*** I wish her much success in all of her future endeavors."

"She really stepped up to the plate during the fight for passing Safe Harbor legislation. She filled in when Nadine and I were not available and ***testified in person in front of the judiciary committee in***

support of the *Safe Harbor law* to protect youth who are victims of sex trafficking. She did a great job despite never having testified before and took all these new challenges in stride."

"Leanne is an amazing social worker and advocate. Believe me, her **future co-workers will be the lucky ones to have someone so dedicated and motivated** to be a part of their team. She will be sorely missed at PARI but I have no doubt she will excel in wherever this next chapter in her life takes her."



The **Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative (CSTVI)** will soon be concluding their work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to roll-out the curriculum, *Engaging Child Victims of Sex Trafficking: The Role of the CW Worker* across Maryland. To date CSTVI has conducted **51 child welfare trainings** resulting in over **1,090 workers trained** across the state. At the conclusion of this project focus groups will be utilized to gather additional feedback before the curriculum is integrated in the Child Welfare Academy (CWA).



The **Maryland Human Trafficking Initiative (MHTI)** in collaboration with U.S. Attorney's Office, Mayor's Office of Baltimore and Mission 14, held their **Regional Maryland Human Trafficking Investigators Seminar** this past March and it was very well received. Over 150 law enforcement personnel representing local, state, and federal levels were in attendance and benefited from valuable training and resource sharing. Upcoming regional trainings across the state will occur next in Salisbury, Baltimore City, and Howard County.



The **Baltimore Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative for Out-of-Home Youth (BTBPP)/U-Choose** project will continue to provide both *Making Proud Choices* trainings (for eligible youth 14-21) and *Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health* trainings (for child welfare workers, juvenile justice professionals and foster parents) through June 2019. Final evaluation findings will be incorporated into the technical report and shared with our sponsors at the Baltimore City Health Department, and our partners at Planned Parenthood and Healthy Teen Network.



Thoughts from our Director

It's May 2019! There is a lot to celebrate as well as a lot of work to be done! Spring has sprung! Graduations and milestones are everyone's turn. As many youth are transitioning to another season of their lives, we should be even more mindful of their strengths and assets and how they can use them to overcome their weaknesses and risks.



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On May 1st, many reproductive health, rights, and justice groups launched **Sex Ed For All** Month. The goal is to focus on sexual health information, access, and rights young people need to make healthy decisions for themselves and live their lives on their own terms. **Sex Ed For All** Month replaces Teen Pregnancy Prevention month with the understanding that all young people should have the power and right to access the education and health care they need to achieve the best positive outcomes for themselves. The launch of **Sex Ed For All** Month is timely as key sexual health legislation is being introduced on both federal and state levels this month. The Real Education for Healthy Youth Act and the Youth Access to Sexual Health Services Act are being introduced at the federal level. Concurrently in several states, legislation is being introduced which limits reproductive health care access and abortion rights for many. It is imperative that we continue to support and empower young people to lead health lives which includes their sexual health.

Join me this month in supporting the young people in our midst, wherever they are in our communities.

