

Happy Holidays!



Illinois Center For Violence Prevention
December 3, 2010
Issue #1

In This Issue

Letter From the Board Chair
From the Director's Desk
Cyberbullying:
Understanding &
Preventing Online Youth
Aggression
Art of Peace Gala 2010
Recap
Gov. Quinn Signs After-
school Bill
Chicago After 3PM Press
Release



Mission

The Illinois Center for Violence Prevention fosters safe communities for people at every stage of life. We identify, promote and evaluate the best ways to prevent violence.

A Letter From the Board Chair

Dear Members, Partners and Benefactors of ICVP:

Living in the Chicago North Lawndale community, an area where there is too much physical, verbal and gun violence on the streets and in the homes, I know the great need not only for intervention, but the greater need for violence prevention. As the Chairman of the Board for ICVP, and as a faith leader, I believe that the Center plays a unique and critical role in helping organizations to develop and implement evidence based violence prevention strategies that will eliminate bullying in our schools and on the internet, dating violence, domestic violence, elder abuse, and many other forms of violence that diminish the potential for individuals to not just survive, but to thrive in our society.

Violence occurs at many levels. The Center seeks to educate organizations, institutions, agencies, corporations, public servants and individuals on how to best create and maintain environments where every person has the ability to achieve their fullest potential, free from fear and prejudice. I thank you for your help in making this more and more possible, through your collaboration, financial support, and in your support of our legislative advocacy efforts.

Education is critical in building peaceable communities and is at the core of what we do. Thank you for your partnership with the Center. Together we do make a difference in the present....for the future.

Peace!

Fr. Larry Dowling, Chairman
ICVP Board of Directors



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From the Executive Director's Desk

When interviewed for this position I was asked why I chose to apply to the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention. There were numerous reasons but first and foremost was the Center's mission. As I begin my third month as Executive Director I cannot begin to express my excitement about the important work that lies ahead and the privilege I have been afforded to be teamed up with such a talented and dedicated staff. So what's in store....

As a statewide organization we will be aggressively seeking to ensure that we are an available resource for the dedicated providers from Carbondale to Antioch from Danville to Moline. To that end the Center will be conducting a number of regional meetings to not only offer training, but more importantly to identify the needs of providers. In the coming year we will work closely with the ACT Now! Coalition and Voices for Illinois Children, two terrific collaborators, as the next stage of work with after-school programs is placed into their capable and caring hands; and we look forward to being a strategic partner for after-school programs in the prevention of violence.

The Center is working diligently to develop evidenced based capacity building tools for the prevention of youth violence, and we are dedicated to meeting the needs of our citizen soldiers and their families as these heroes reintegrate into civilian life. The complexities of PTSD and its impact on the children, partners and parents of our veterans needs to be further researched and addressed. Throughout 2011 we will continue to meet the exponentially increasing demand for workshops related to bullying and teen dating violence....though we all wish the need was nonexistent. Finally, financial sustainability and public policy advocacy are essential to the Center's success and will not go unattended.

A new calendar year approaches, a new Executive Director is at the helm, but the dedication to the work and the mission, "creating a safe environment for every stage of life" remains the same. Have a wonderful holiday season, a happy New Year, and remember that the even smallest act of kindness is never wasted.

Greg Jackson

Violence
does not
just affect
one:
community
income level
people age
back or ground
it affects
us
all

Cyberbullying: Understanding & Preventing Online Youth Aggression

For many bullying is viewed as a normal rite of passage to adulthood. This is far from the truth and sadly today's children are experiencing bullying differently. It now occurs through texting, social-media sites and other forms of technology. Cyberbullying can spread virally and has very unfortunate consequences. Research has shown that approximately one out of every three youth have experienced cyberbullying or online aggression.

Unlike traditional face-to-face bullying, the nature of new technology makes it possible for cyberbullying to occur more secretly and spread rapidly. As this behavior becomes more recognized as a significant problem researchers will need to provide information about its occurrence to inform and support educators,

Chicago After 3PM Press Release: October 20, 2010

On behalf of the Center, Executive Director Greg Jackson and Illinois After-school Partnership staff attended the press conference of *Cities In America After 3PM*, a special report from *America After 3PM*. *Cities in America After 3PM* looks specifically at the variations with after-school program participation in four U.S. cities: Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, and New York.

According to the Chicago study, 27% of Chicago schoolchildren are in afterschool programs compared with 15% nationally. While these participation rates are relatively strong, further results showed that nearly 30% of Chicago children are unsupervised in the afternoon, compared with a national average of 26%.

Mayor Daley reiterated Chicago's commitment to providing afterschool learning environments for children and youth stating, "young people are the future of our great city and nation and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they are given the tools they need to thrive and achieve success in life."

parents, service providers and administrators.

Cyberbullying has become an increasing challenge facing schools and it deserves serious attention. Schools need to play a significant role to combat cyberbullying. However, the restriction of school use Internet and other technological tools cannot deter bullies from finding ways around the schools' suspension of privileges. What is most effective is establishing anti-bullying programs is using evidence based research and creating a peaceful culture of caring and kindness in schools. Awareness and education are the first steps.

Dr. Vivian Wright, University of Alabama, posits that our efforts to raise awareness and to educate must be ongoing and integrated across the curriculum. Efforts to combat cyberbullying must be concerted in partnership with students, young adults, parents, educators, school counselors, administrators as well as service providers.



Governor Quinn Signs Important After-school Bill

The Illinois After-school Partnership, a project of the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention, has been hard at work to ensure enactment of an important piece of legislation. As part of the ACT Now! (Afterschool for Children and Teens) Campaign, the Partnership was actively involved in the passage of the Afterschool Youth Development Program Act. Governor Quinn signed the bill in July; it is the first time that a statewide policy concerning after-school programming has been codified in Illinois law.

The Afterschool Youth Development Program Act creates a framework for coordinating and strengthening after-school services in Illinois. Through the establishment of the Youth Development Council the act institutes mechanisms to create accountability for afterschool programs. The Youth Development

Council will be charged with developing standard measurable indicators of program quality and successful outcomes; collecting and analyzing data on the effectiveness of state and locally supported after-school programs; increasing program participation by providing technical assistance; capacity building and program evaluation and monitoring; and identifying gaps in services.

The new law also creates a three year Afterschool Demonstration Program that will evaluate the impact, outcomes, and cost of quality after-school programs, while simultaneously strengthening participating programs. Existing programs with experience in providing after-school services in Illinois will be given priority for participation in the Demonstration Program, although new entities would also be eligible. After the three year period, outcomes of the program will be evaluated and reported to the General Assembly and the Governor. A positive evaluation will create the opportunity to develop a stronger statewide plan for improving access to after-school programs.

Quality after-school programs help youth succeed by developing critical academic as well as career and life skills. Additionally, research shows that youth with high levels of participation in after-school programs miss fewer days of school, and have higher rates of graduation and lower dropout rates than their peers that do not participate. After-school programs have also been shown to greatly reduce instances of violence among young people as the hours between 3-6 PM are peak hours for youth to commit or be victims of crime.

Even with these benefits statewide demand for quality after-school programs outpaces the current supply with shortfall estimates between 60%-70%. Expanding access to these programs will be of great benefit to youth and working families. The signing of the Afterschool Youth Development Program Act into law is a huge step forward for after-school programs in Illinois.

the art of peace

A beautiful day created a perfect atmosphere for the 8th Annual Art of Peace Gala. Newly appointed Executive Director Greg Jackson greeted guests and outlined an ambitious agenda for the Center in the coming year. Jackson, formerly a city manager and county administrator, outlined the agency's three major goals: to increase and expand its service reach into every region of the state, to address the unique issues veterans and their families during and post reintegration, and to increase awareness about the Center and its role in supporting violence prevention issues and policies.

Dr. David Levine was the event's featured speaker. Levine, regarded as one of the state's foremost clinical experts and leaders in the fields of domestic violence and sexual assault grew up in the Chicago suburbs. He was directly impacted by violence issues until medical school when domestic violence touched him personally. One day a close friend did not arrive for rounds; she was tragically killed by her boyfriend. The loss of his friend became his personal and professional call to action.

During his emergency medicine residency he developed a screening program, in partnership with a domestic violence service agency, for follow up with potential victims of abuse and brought that practice to Cook County's Emergency Department. Ultimately this led to the requirement of all emergency departments nationwide to screen female patients for domestic violence.

Levine urged guests not to become overwhelmed by the large reach of violence, assuring all that the Center has made significant impact by developing programs to prevent the violence from ever happening. The Center has worked to identify and promote evidence based practices statewide and help social service agencies to emphasize and measure outcomes ensuring that limited resources are well spent. The advocacy for sound policy is also key so quality programs can continue in the quest to end violence. To ensure that those close to us are not lost to violence, Levine encouraged guests to support the Center by volunteering, spreading the word about services, staying informed, and contributing especially in these lean times.

Contributing significantly to the event's success were sponsors:

The Robert & Patricia Moore Foundation
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St. Nectoros Philoptpchos
CB Richard Ellis

Upcoming Events.....

How To Engage Bystanders in Bullying Prevention

When: Tuesday, December 7, 2010

9:30am-1:00pm

Where: Illinois Center for Violence Prevention

70 E Lake St, Suite 720

Chicago, IL 60601

Stay tuned for our 2011 5k run/walk and golf outing!

Illinois Center for Violence Prevention | www.preventingviolence.org

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