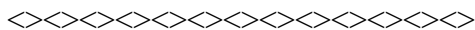


ENEWS: A Monthly Forum for Sharing and Interchange

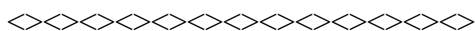
April, 2003 (Vol. 7 # 7)

Source: UCLA SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT/
CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS

WHAT IS ENEWS? (For those who don't know) This is another link for those concerned with enhancing policies, programs, and practices related to addressing barriers to students learning and to promoting mental health in schools. It augments the other ways our Center shares information and facilitates interchange/networking.



Feel Free to Forward This to Anyone



WHAT'S HERE THIS MONTH

****Emerging Issue**

>Reducing Over-identification of IDEA Kids

****News from Around the Country**

****This Month's Focus for Schools to Address Barriers to Student Learning**

>April - Spring Can Be a High Risk Time for Students

****Recent Publications Relevant to**

>Children's Mental and Physical Health

>Family, Community & Schools

>Policy, Law, Finances & Statistics

****Upcoming Initiatives, Conferences, Workshops**

****Calls for Grant Proposals and Papers**

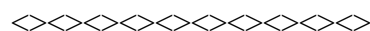
****News from the two National Centers focusing on Mental Health in Schools**

****Other Helpful Resources**

****Requests/Information/Comments/Questions from the Field**

****Training & Job Opportunities**

(Including fellowships and scholarships)



To post messages to ENEWS, E-mail them to smhp@ucla.edu

this concern. Also, see the OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES section of this electronic newsletter for some specific resources on helping kids cope with terrorism and war.

STUDY SHOWS PRESCHOOL CAN HELP PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

Findings from a University of Wisconsin - Madison longitudinal study provide evidence that preschool programs positively impact not only school readiness and performance, but long term family outcomes. In *Child Development*, January/February 2003. ([Http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cls/](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cls/))

IT LOOKS LIKE ADHD, BUT IS IT?

In *Pediatrics* March, 2003, researchers at the University of Louisville reported that certain sleep disorders can lead to hyperactivity in young people, which might be misdiagnosed as ADHD. The researchers found that once the sleep problem was handled, about one-quarter of the children (ages 5 to 7) were able to give up ADHD medication. *Christian Science Monitor*, 3/6/03.

STUDENTS SELLING ANTI-ANXIETY PILLS TO PEERS

A *Miami Herald* article (3/3/03) discusses the problem of students selling Xanax on campus. Police report that it is more accessible and cheaper than other club drugs. With respect to treatment, it is stressed that abusers of the drug have to come off it gradually to prevent seizures.

STATES CUT SCHOOL FUNDING

School officials from more than a dozen states report the most serious fiscal crisis in more than half a century. 85% of district budgets is tied up in salaries and benefits. Cuts are predicted to take a toll on students' performance as districts increase class size, pare teacher training programs, and cut programs ranging from remedial tutoring to advanced classes. (*Washington Post*, 3/14/03)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFERING \$60 MILLION FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING RELATED TO CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS

U. S. Departments of Homeland Security and Education will help school districts create emergency plans for chemical or biological attacks. There will be \$30 million this year and next devoted to training, equipment, and planning for emergency response. (*New York Times*, 3/7/03)

DATA MAPPING HELPS PHILADELPHIA TARGET SERVICES FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

The Urban Health Initiative reports that the Philadelphia Safe and Sound initiative has improved decision making related to the targeting and coordinating services through use of tools such as: the City Report Card, the Children's Budget, the

Integrated Data Information Systems, the Geographical Information System visual mapping, the Weapons Related Injury Surveillance System, and the city hospital based training system for weapon related injuries and families.
([Http://www.urbanhealth.org](http://www.urbanhealth.org))

THE DISPERSAL OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE 1990's

Foreign-born population in the U.S. grew 57 percent during the 1990s. However, in 22 "new growth" states across the Southeast, Midwest and Rocky Mountain regions, it grew by 145 percent. The largest growth occurred in North Carolina, Georgia, and Nevada. ([Http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=410589](http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=410589))

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"Even in this era of growing cynicism and shriveling resources, local groups in many parts of the country are determined to mobilize political will around achieving the tangible outcomes that the public values. Individuals and organizations are forming coalitions and acting together because they have found that fragmented, piecemeal, narrowly categorical approaches do not achieve their goals."

Lisbeth Schorr

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[Note: see our website WHAT'S NEW, for a current news item posted each week.]

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THIS MONTH'S FOCUS FOR SCHOOLS TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO LEARNING

Each month on our website we feature a special focus on enhancing student support at schools. The focus for April is on: Spring Can Be a High Risk Time for Students

Time is running out for catching up; decisions are made about who passes and who fails. Of special concern are youngsters who feel hopeless about their situation. The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report notes "Programs designed to prevent suicide and suicidal behavior among students should recognize that the spring semester is the period of highest risk." For tools, guidelines, and resources to anticipate and address this concern see <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu> homepage feature "Ideas for Enhancing Support at Youth School This Month."

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"Teachers can help to lighten a depressed student's load by creating a comfortable classroom where the student knows he/she is cared for and where the student doesn't have a time limit to suddenly cheer up."

Alexandra Madison

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**RECENT PUBLICATIONS (IN PRINT AND ON THE WEB)

>>>CHILDREN'S MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

"What Adolescents Learn in Organized Youth Activities: A Survey of Self-reported Developmental Experiences." (2003) by D. Hansen, R. Larson, and J. Dworkin in the Journal of Research on Adolescence, 13(1) 25-55.

"Strategies for Developing Treatment Programs for People with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Disorders" (2003) a joint effort of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, the State Associations of Addiction Services and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. ([Http://www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov))

"The Impact of Childhood Psychopathology Interventions on Subsequent Substance Abuse: Policy Implications, Comments, and Recommendations" (2002) by P. Kendall & R. Kessler, Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 70(6) 1303-1306. Summarized at http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/rtcpubs/datatrends/summary_74.pdf

"Mental Health Resource Guide: Moving Towards a Multi-System Approach for Child and Adolescent Mental Health" (2003) Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. ([Http://www.astho.org](http://www.astho.org))

"Developmental Trajectories Toward Violence in Middle Childhood: Course, Demographic Differences and Response to School Based Intervention." (2003) by J. L. Aber, J Brown, & S. Jones, in Developmental Psychology, 39 (2) (http://www.apa.org/journals/dev/press_releases/march_2003/dev392324.pdf)

"Initial Behavior Outcomes for the PeaceBuilders Universal School-Based Violence Prevention Program (2002) by D. Flannery, et al, in Developmental Psychology, 39(2) (http://www.apa.org/journals/dev/press_releases/march_2003/dev392292.html)

>>>>FAMILY, COMMUNITY & SCHOOLS

"The Growth in After-School Programs and Their Impact" (2003) by R. Hollister. Children's Roundtable, Brookings Institution (<http://www.brook.edu/es/research/projects/cr/cr.htm>)

"Managing Transitions" (2003) California Center for Community-School Partnership/Healthy Start Field Office (<http://hsfo.ucdavis.edu/download.html>)

Special Issue of Educational Leadership: "Creating Caring Schools" Vol 60(6) March, 2003. Includes:

"Evaluating Social and Emotional Learning Programs" by R. Weissberg, et al

"Substance Use in Schools" by K. Finn, et al.

"Creating a School Community" by E. Schaps

"Prereferral Intervention Processes: A Survey of State Practices" (2002) by G. Buck, et al. In *Exceptional Children*, Vol 69(3) 349-360.

"Listening to Students About Learning Differences" (2003) by A. Cook-Sather, in *Teaching Exceptional Children*, vol 35(4) 22-26.

"What We Know About Successful School Leadership" (2003) by K. Leithwood & C. Riehl, Laboratory for Student Success, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA (<http://www.cepa.gse.rutgers.edu/whatweknow.pef>)

"Lifeworks: Behavioral Health in the Classroom" (2003) by N DiNatale & H. Shore, Foundations Behavioral Health (<http://www.fbh.com>)

>>>>>POLICY, LAW, FINANCES & STATISTICS

"Determining 'What Works' in Social Programs and Social Policies: Toward a More Inclusive Knowledge Base" (2003) by L. Schorr for The Children's Roundtable at the Brookings Institution (<http://www.brook.edu/es/research/projects/cr/cr.htm>)

"The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children" (2003) Urban Institute (<http://www.urban.org>)

"Child Maltreatment 2000" (2003) Administration for Children, Youth, and Families (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cmreports.htm>)

"Managed Care Design & Financing" (2003) by S. Pires. Promising Approaches for Behavioral Health Services to Children and Adolescents and Their Families in Managed Care Systems, A Series of the Health Care Reform Tracking Project (<http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/institute/pubs/bysubject.html>)

"The Civic Mission of Schools" (2003) Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (<http://www.civicmissionofschools.org>)

"Finding Funding: A Guide to Federal Sources for Out-of-School Time and Community School Initiatives" and "Finding Resources to Support Rural Out-of-School Time Programs" (2003) Finance Project (<http://www.financeprojectinfo.org>)

[Note: the QUICK FIND topic search menu on our website is updated regularly with new reports and publications such as those listed above. Currently there are over 100 topics with direct links to our Center materials and to other online resources and related Centers (<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>)]

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"Districts across the state have been in a cost-cutting mode for a number of years. When you continue that cutting over a lengthy period of time you're cutting to the bone. We're concerned because in Texas we have increased standards for students

learning. So we have increasing expectations and diminishing resources, two irreconcilable forces."

Karen Soehnge, Texas Association of School Administrators

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**UPCOMING INITIATIVES, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS

>University-Community-School Partnerships, April 7-8, Philadelphia, PA
(<http://www.upenn.edu/ccp>)

>Children's Defense Fund, April 8-12, Washington, DC
(<http://childrensdefense.org/events.php>)

>Children and Trauma: Coping in the Aftermath, April 10-11, Pasadena, CA
(<http://www.childrensinstitute.org>)

>National Association of Social Workers, April 11-12, San Mateo, CA
(<http://www.naswca.org>)

>National Prevention Coalition, April 16, Washington, DC.
(<Http://www.nmha.org>)

>National Association of School Psychologists, April 18-21, Toronto, Canada
(<http://www.nasponline.org>)

>Linkages to Learning Leadership Institute, April 29-May 1, Atlanta, GA
(<http://ed-lbexorg.readyhosting.com>)

>Second International Conference on Violence in School, May 11-14, Quebec City, Canada
(<http://www.ulaval.ca/cpires>)

>National Coordinating Committee on School Health, May 15-16, Washington,DC
(<http://www.healthystudents.org>)

>National Head Start Association, May 28-31, New York, NY
(<http://www.nhsa.org>)

>National Youth Advocacy Coalition, May 29 - June 1, Washington, DC
(<http://www.nyacyouth.org>)

>Building Pathways to Success: Research, Policy, and Practice on Development in Middle Childhood, June 12-13, Washington, DC
(<http://www.middlechildhood.org/conference/index.html>)

>International Conference on Bipolar Disorder, June 12-14, Pittsburgh, PA
(<http://www.5thbipolar.org>)

>National Peer Helpers Association, June 22-25, Atlanta, GA
(<http://www.peerhelping.org>)

>National Assembly on School Based Health Care, June 26-28, Reston, VA
(<http://www.nasbhc.org>)

>Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health,
June 26-28, Portland, OR (<http://www.rtc.pdx.edu>)

>Evidence-Based Treatments for Childhood and Adolescent Mental Health, July
24-26, Niagara, Ontario, Canada (<http://www.specialevents.buffalo.edu/niagara>)

>Conflict Resolution: Beyond Peer Mediation Training for Elementary School
Faculty, July 9; for Secondary School Faculty, July 10-11, Seattle, WA
(<http://www.cruinstitute.org>)

>The National Forum on Education Policy, July 13-16, Denver, CO
(<http://www.ecs.org>)

>Substance Abuse in the 21st Century: Positioning the Nation for Progress,
October 8-10, NY, NY (<http://www.casacolumbia.org/>)

>>8th National Conference on Advancing School Based Mental Health Programs,
October 23-25, Portland, OR (<http://csmha.umaryland.edu>)

[FOR MORE CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS, REFER TO OUR
WEBSITE AT <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu> Go to "Contents" then click on
Upcoming Conferences]

If you want your conference listed, send the information to smhp@ucla.edu

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"Trying to predict the future is like trying to drive down a country road at night
with no lights while looking out the back window."

Peter Drucker

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^ ^ ^ ^ CALLS FOR GRANT PROPOSALS AND PAPERS

Grants:

>>>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
(<http://samhsa.gov>)

>Strengthening Access and Retention for Substance Abuse Treatment, TI-03-006, due May 12

>Effective Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment; Motivational Enhancement Therapy
and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, TI 03-007, Due May 12

>Methamphetamine and inhalant prevention interventions or infrastructure development
(part of the Targeted Capacity Expansion Program) SP 03-006, Due May 23

>Knowledge Dissemination Conference Grants, PA 03-002, Deadline September 10

- >>>U. S. Department of Education (<http://www.ed.gov>)
 - >Social and Character Development Research, CFDA#84.305L, Due April 25.
 - >Comprehensive School Reform Quality Initiatives, CFDA#84.332B, Due May 5
 - >Smaller Learning Communities Program, CFDA#84.215L, Due May 19

[Note: If you want to "Surf the Internet for Funds" go to <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>. Click on Quick Find, Scroll down Center Responses to FINANCING AND FUNDING. Provides links to funding sources and our Quick Training Aid on Financing Strategies to Address Barriers to Learning]

Papers:

- >Call for Presentations: National Association of Secondary School Principals Convention, Feb 27-Mar 1, 2004, Orlando, FL. Call for Presentations on successful research based information on student achievement or principal leadership. Proposals due May 5.
([Http://www.nasspconvention.org/2004convention.htm](http://www.nasspconvention.org/2004convention.htm))

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"It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end."

Ursula K. Le Guin

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>>>NEWS FROM THE TWO NATIONAL CENTERS FOCUSING ON MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS

^^^ Updates from our Center at UCLA

- >>>The Summits Initiative: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT SUPPORT
(Go to <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>. Click on the green circle on the homepage that says Summits for a description of the Initiative and its co-sponsoring organizations.)

Most people hear the term student support and think mainly about pupil service personnel and the special services such staff provide. But, schools need and have many more resources they can use to meet the challenge of ensuring all students have an equal opportunity to succeed at school. Besides traditional support staff, learning support is provided by compensatory education personnel (e.g., Title I staff), resource teachers who focus on prereferral interventions, and personnel who provide a variety of school-wide programs (e.g., after schools, safe and drug free school programs). The Summits Initiative is intended to rethink how all these resources can be used to:

- >more effectively deploy resources and minimize fragmentation, competition, and marginalization
- >reframe student support as learning support to address barriers to student learning and realigning support staff roles and functions to develop comprehensive, multifaceted, and cohesive approaches

>fully integrate learning support programs and staff into the school improvement agenda at every school

>revamp infrastructures to weave resources together and provide mechanisms for enhancing how schools address barriers to enable all students to learn.

Building on the National Summit, the Eastern Regional Summit and the Minnesota State Summit on New Directions for Student Support, the UCLA Center has begun planning a late May Midwest Regional Summit. This will be held in Chicago. Invitations will be sent soon to a wide range of state and district administrators of student support programs.

If you are interested in organizing a State Summit for New Directions for Student Support, see the guidelines for State Summits on our website (<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>)

>>>> REVISED RESOURCES:

Affect and Mood Problems Related to School Aged Youth (An Introductory Packet) discusses a broad continuum of affect and mood, causes of problems, ideas for promoting healthy development and preventing mood and affect problems, strategies for responding to the first sign of problems, interventions for serious problems (including depression, bipolar disorder, and anger), and a range of references, resources, and training materials.

**All of our materials can be downloaded at no cost or in hardcopy for the cost of copying and mailing. See our list of materials online at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu> or contact us and we'll send it to you.

>>>THIS MONTH'S IDEAS FOR ENHANCING SUPPORT AT YOUR SCHOOL (A special feature on our website)

Each month we compile ideas and activities for support for students, families, and staff that fit the "season" or rhythm of the school year. The focus for April : Spring Can Be a High Risk Time for Students Includes keeping problems in perspective; seasonal variations in depression and suicidal behavior; resources to guide prevention and early intervention; developmental variations in sadness and depression.

>>>MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS PRACTITIONER LISTSERV

The number of school based mental health practitioners linked to this weekly exchange of information and ideas continues to grow. It is a window into what others are doing, what problems they face, and potential solutions. Join us in this weekly exchange on topics related to mental health in schools. Email smhp@ucla.edu and ask to be added to the Mental Health in Schools Practitioner Listserv.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU NEED. New resources can be developed and best practices identified. Also, let us know about the latest and greatest you encounter so we can update our resources and your colleagues across the nation.

Contact us at SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT/
CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS
UCLA Department of Psychology
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1563
Phone (310) 825-3634 Fax (310) 206-8716
Email: smhp@ucla.edu
Website: <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>

^^^ UPDATES FROM OUR SISTER CENTER

^^ Center for School Mental Health Assistance at the University of Maryland at Baltimore will hold its 8th National Conference on Advancing School Based Mental Health Programs, October 23-25, Portland, OR

For more, see their website (<http://csmha.umaryland.edu>) Or contact Mark Weist, Director, Center for School Mental Health Assistance, University of Maryland at Baltimore, Department of Psychiatry, 680 W Lexington St., 10th fl., Baltimore, MD 21201. Phone (888) 706-0980; Email: csmha@umpsy.umaryland.edu

+ + + + OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

>>MENTAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE/HEALTH

"Talking to Kids about Terrorism or Acts of War"
(<http://www.aboutourkids.org/articles/war.html>)

"Road to Resilience" to help people build resilience in a time of war
(<http://www.helping.apa.org>)

"Helping our Children Deal with War" (<http://www.nmha.org>)

"Terrorism and Children" (<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/terrorism/index.html>)

"Helping Children deal with tragic events in unsettling times"
(<http://www.nasponline.org>)

"Diagnosis of Eating Disorders in Primary Care"
(<http://www.aafp.org/afp/20030115/297.html>)

"National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy"
(<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/america/default.asp>)

"Children & Families Subcommittee of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health"
(http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov/subcommittee/Sub_Chairs.htm)

"Management of Bipolar Disorder"
(<http://www.aafp.org/afp/20000915/1343.html>)

"Treatment of Bipolar Disorder: A Guide for Patients and Families"
(http://www.psychguides.com/Bipolar_2000_Guide.pdf)

>>PARENTS, SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES

"Dropout Re-Engagement: A New Approach"
(http://www.principals.org/news/pl_dropout_reengagement_0203.html)

"Moving Beyond the Walls: Faith and Justice Partnerships Working for High-Risk Youth" (<http://www.ppv.org/index.html>)

"A Child Advocate's Guide to Federal Early Care and Education Policy"
(<http://www.childadvocacy.org/ECEFederalGuide.pdf>)

"White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans"
(<http://www.YesICan.gov>)

"State Fact Sheets on Vulnerable Children" Child Welfare League of America
(<http://www.cwla.org/advocacy/statefactsheets/statefactsheets03.htm>)

"Census data on high school and college enrollments"
(<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>)

"Parents' Resource Center" (<http://www.healthinschools.org/parents/index.htm>)

"Community YouthMapping" (<http://www.communityyouthmapping.org>)

"CLIKS: County, City, Community-Level Information on Kids"
(<http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/cliks>)

"National Youth Service Day" (<http://www.ysa.org/nysd/>)

[Note: for each access to a wide range of relevant websites, see our "Gateway to a World of Resources" <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>]

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Is it true? The balance between benefits and defects is much more easily improved by removing defects than increasing benefits.

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****REQUESTS/INFO/COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM THE FIELD**

>>Reactions to high stakes testing

"I oppose high stakes testing required by the federal No Child Left Behind statute for reasons widely shared among scholars, researchers and psychometricians. I do not believe that high stakes testing leads to achievement of broad educational goals and the efficient learning of basic skills. I believe high stakes testing produces unintended consequences damaging to schools and students. Labeling schools will be unproductive and unfair.

I accept the purpose of NCLB that all students need to improve in basic skills and I accept being held accountable for success with students. Teachers work hard at providing quality programs for students and bringing dropout prone students to graduation. I measure student progress not through testing alone but through a variety of measures that take into account students' present state and their living environment..."

>>We were asked to include this announcement:

The Adolescent Health Working Group is excited to announce that our training, Confidentiality, Minor Consent, and Practice Concerns When Treating Teen Patients, is now available online.

([Http://main01.hostcast.com/custom/ahwg/ahwy.asp](http://main01.hostcast.com/custom/ahwg/ahwy.asp))

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It is said: The "silly question" is the first intimation of some totally new development.

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^ ^ ^ TRAINING AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

<Evaluation Specialist>

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, Austin, TX. Master's and experience conducting educational program evaluations.

([Http://www.sedl.org/about/jobs.html](http://www.sedl.org/about/jobs.html))

<School Support Consultant>

Center for the Advancement of Children's Mental Health, Columbia University, NY. Masters degree in social work, psychology, education or related field and two years experience. Contact Lisa Hunter, Columbia, Dept. of Child Psychiatry, 1051 Riverside Dr., Unit 78, NY, NY 10032.

<Postdoctoral Fellowships>

Childhood Trauma, LaRabida Children's Hospital, Chicago. Doctorate required. Contact cmavroals@larabida.org.

<Postdoctoral Fellowship>

Adolescent drug abuse treatment research, University of Miami Center for Treatment Research on Adolescent Drug Abuse, Miami, FL. Ph.D. or M. D. required. Contact crowe@med.miami.edu.

<Postdoctoral Fellowship>

Adolescent Health, University of California, San Francisco. Deadline April 15.
Contact Susan Millstein, Division of Adolescent Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Research, and Policy Center for Children and Adolescence, University of California, San Francisco, Box 0503, 3333 California St., San Francisco, CA 94143-0503.

<Faculty>

University of California, Santa Barbara, Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology Program. Contact Chair of Clinical Child/Adolescent Psychology Faculty Search Committee, UC Santa Barbara, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology Program, Santa Barbara CA 93106-9490.

[FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, SEE <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>. Go to Contents, scroll down to Jobs. Following the listing of current openings, you will see links to HRSA, SAMHSA, and other relevant job sites.]

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THIS IS THE END OF THIS ISSUE OF ENEWS

Below is a brief description of our Center at UCLA for more see our website <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>

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Who are we?

Under the auspices of the School Mental Health Project in the Department of Psychology at UCLA we established a Center for Mental Health in Schools in 1995. The Project and Center are co-directed by Howard Adelman and Linda Taylor.

Our group at UCLA approaches mental health concerns from the broad perspective of addressing barriers to learning and promoting healthy development. Activities include gathering and disseminating information, materials, development, direct assistance, and facilitating networking and exchanges of ideas. We demonstrate the catalytic use of technical assistance, internet, publications, resource materials, and regional and national meetings to stimulate

interest in program and systemic change. Specific attention is given to policies and strategies that can (a) counter fragmentation and enhance collaboration between school and community programs, and (b) counter the marginalization of mental health in schools. Center staff are involved in model development and implementation, training and technical assistance, and policy analysis. We focus on interventions that range from systems for healthy development and problem prevention through treatment for severe problems and stress the importance of school improvement and systemic change. There is an emphasis on enhancing collaborative activity that braids together school and community resources.

The Center works to enhance network building for program expansion and systemic change and does catalytic training to stimulate interest in such activity. We connect with major initiatives of foundations, associations, governmental, and school and mental health departments. Evaluations indicate the Center has had considerable impact in strengthening the network of professionals advancing the field of mental health in schools and in changing policies and practices.

For more information about the Center or about ENEWS, contact
Center Coordinator Perry Nelson or
Center Co-Directors Howard Adelman and Linda Taylor at:
UCLA, School Mental Health Project/Center for Mental Health in Schools
Box 951563 Los Angeles, CA 90095-1563
Phone (310) 825-3634 Fax (310) 206-5895
email: smhp@ucla.edu -- Website: <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>