

YouthPRO Quarterly Newsletter

Indiana YouthPRO Association, Inc

February 2008

News from the Board Chairs: Ellen Clippinger and John Brandon

Volume 1, Issue 1

Having just celebrated our first year officially as Indiana YouthPRO Association Inc., it seemed timely to begin a new tradition— a quarterly newsletter to share information and updates on YouthPRO, highlight projects of some of our members, and share reports, stories and resources that can be helpful to our members as we all work to advance the professional practice of youth development.

Looking back over 2007, YouthPRO has celebrated some successes, and we began setting the infrastructure for continued growth and success. During 2007, using the skills and knowledge of a number of committed board members and advisors, YouthPRO was able to create a new alternative method for obtaining an Indiana Youth Development Credential (IYD). More information on the IYD can be found on page 3 or on our website. In addition, YouthPRO has begun working with Indiana State University Department of Recreation and Sport Management on identifying additional ways to earn an IYD, including integrating the IYD into current degree programs.

As our mission states *To Advance the Professional Practice of Youth Development*, YouthPRO has joined The Children's Coalition of Indiana. The Coalition's mission, *To Advocate For The Well-Being of Children*, is composed of individuals, organizations and agencies that work with children and families. As a member of YouthPRO, you can join The Children's Coalition as an Agency of an Association Member. See page 3 for more information on The Children's Coalition.

On behalf of the Board, we thank you for being a member of YouthPRO and for your ongoing support. Over the next few months the Board and committees will continue to work on the IYD credential and renewal process, look at ways to expand our presence in Indiana and identify other services/programs that would be useful to our members.

If you have any suggestions for topics or information that you would like to see included in future newsletters, or if you would like to volunteer for a committee, or if you have a question about membership, please send an e-mail to Info@indianayouthpro.org.

We hope that you find the first edition of the YouthPRO Quarterly useful. Please feel free to share it with others by forwarding or by referring people to our website www.indianayouthpro.org.



YouthPRO Member Highlight: Each newsletter will contain a brief highlight of a YouthPRO member agency or individual. If you have a new program, initiative, or staff that you would like to highlight or if you would like to see an overview of your agency, please contact us at Info@indianayouthpro.org subject line "Member Highlight Article".

YouthPRO Member Highlight:

MCCOY Inc. selected as *Ready by 21 Quality Counts* Participant

In October 2007, MCCOY Inc., and the Indianapolis area were selected as a *Ready by 21 Quality Counts* site. The *Ready by 21 Quality Counts Initiative* is a partnership between the Forum for Youth Investment, the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation (High/Scope) and the AED National Training Institute for Community Youth Work (NTI) with major support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies. Indianapolis is one of twelve communities engaged in a three-year effort to improve the quality and reach of youth programs. The Initiative will provide MCCOY Inc. with an opportunity to apply for up to \$100,000 in pass-through funding and an accompanying suite of tools and technical assistance valued at up to \$150,000. These tools will allow MCCOY Inc. to map program availability, assess program quality, document workforce characteristics and supports, and identify public and private resources.

Communities across the country are committed to ensuring that all youth are Ready by 21 – ready for college, work and life. In many places, this commitment has translated into an increased focus on building broader supports for youth, in school and out. However, according to Karen Pittman, executive director of the Forum, “many places struggle to identify, link and improve the myriad of programs and activities that exist. Changing the quality of young people’s daily experiences requires building a coordinated quality improvement system that engages the programs where young people spend their time. Along with our partners at High/Scope and NTI, we are extremely excited to begin work with MCCOY Inc. and the youth serving programs of Indianapolis.”

“Our selection as a site for this national initiative recognizes our community’s commitment to work together on behalf of young people.” John Brandon

MCCOY’s application was selected as a *Ready by 21 Quality Counts* site because of the commitments the community has made to date on behalf of children and youth show that it is well suited for a cross-system quality improvement initiative. Staff from the Forum For Youth Investment will manage the Initiative and, using its Ready by 21 framework, will take the lead in helping communities engage stakeholders, assess leadership and program capacity, identify policy priorities and build momentum for quality improvement. NTI brings extensive expertise in strengthening local intermediary organizations, houses the field’s most widely used youth work training model, and coordinates a national network of field consultants. High/Scope brings research-based quality improvement methods, experience with public sector accountability systems and a web-based “e-tools” platform for customized training and data management applications.

For more information about the Indianapolis Quality Counts effort, contact John Brandon at MCCOY Inc. at 317-921-1288 or john.brandon@mccoyouth.org.

MCCOY—The Marion County Commission On Youth, Inc. is the youth services intermediary for central Indiana, the mission is *to serve as the catalyst for the positive development of youth by making sure that the supports and opportunities that are necessary for success are available and accessible to all youth*. More information is available online at <http://www.mccoyouth.org/>



Indiana Youth Development Credential (IYD)



The IYD was created to support the professional development of individuals who work with children and youth. Those who earn an IYD Credential have taken college-level courses and have been observed working in their program with appropriate practices and competencies. The IYD was first awarded in January of 2004 to a group of 15 Candidates working with the University of Southern Indiana. Since that pilot project, over 30 additional Candidates have been assessed and awarded IYD credentials. To address the ever changing environment of youth work, YouthPRO introduced a new **Alternate Process** for obtaining an IYD which is designed for individuals with an Associate, Bachelor or Master Degree and at least 12 credits in Youth Development or a related field. A combination of non-credit training and experience can be used to meet the eligibility requirements for the IYD.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the IYD and the new **Alternate Process**, please visit the IYD section of our website - www.indianayouthpro.org.

The Children's Coalition of Indiana (ICC)



**Children's
Coalition
of Indiana**

The Children's Coalition (ICC) was officially formed in 1994 to monitor recommendations and seek feedback from the Division of Family and Children. Today protecting the interests of Indiana's kids in State Legislation is one of the Coalition's primary motivations. The Coalition stands as the Legislative voice for all children in Indiana. Their mission is *To advocate for the well-being of children*. Visions of the Children's Coalition include:

Abuse, Neglect and Family Violence: All children in Indiana deserve to grow up free from experiencing abuse and neglect and witnessing family violence.

Adoption and Foster Care: All children in Indiana deserve to grow up in a family, whether birth, adoptive, foster, or kinship, that provides a safe, nurturing, and permanent home.

Early Childhood Care and Development: All children in Indiana deserve access to safe, nurturing, enriching, and age appropriate early childhood care and development.

Economic Self-Sufficiency: All children in Indiana deserve to grow up in a household that is able to provide adequately for their family's needs.

Education: All children in Indiana deserve a free, K-12, quality education.

Financing Appropriate Child Welfare Services: All children deserve care, protection, and the best services to achieve and maintain a safe and permanent family, and to become a contributing member of society.

Physical and Mental Health: All children in Indiana deserve a medical home that includes comprehensive, accessible, affordable physical and mental health care.

Juvenile Justice: All Indiana youth in the juvenile justice system are entitled to a judicial proceeding that: ensures fair representation; enforces the rights of youth and their parents; and provides rehabilitative and re-entry services in the least restrictive and most appropriate settings.

Youth Development: All children in Indiana deserve an environment surrounded by competent and caring adults providing the highest level of care in order to offer youth a sense of belonging and empowerment, and promoting interactions that conform to the principles of positive youth development.

In November 2007, the YouthPRO board voted to become a member of ICC and work together to bring about positive change in legislation in Indiana. As a member of YouthPRO you can join The Children's Coalition for \$100 as an Agency of an Association. Individual/Family membership is \$50 and Senior/Student membership is \$35. Annual Membership Dues run from Oct. 1, 2007—October 31, 2008. Membership information and dues can be mailed to The Children's Coalition, 1800 N. Meridian St. Suite 402, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205.

Indiana YouthPRO Association

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Website:

www.indianayouthpro.org

Mission: *To advance the professional practice of youth development.*

Values:

- Our profession of caring for and developing young people is essential to the growth and development of healthy communities throughout the state of Indiana.
- Highly trained, well-skilled and caring youth workers lead to excellent programs and services for Indiana's youth.
- High retention of qualified youth workers will occur as a result of universally recognized career paths with continual opportunity for advancement; and pay and benefits commensurate with experience and education.
- Youth workers are able to be more successful when they collaborate, cooperate, and support one another rather than work in isolation.
- A positive community of peers is foundational to attracting, retaining and sustaining quality youth workers.
- Partnerships with youth development organizations to advance the wel-

Membership Information: Indiana YouthPRO is an affiliate of the National Afterschool Association (NAA), membership in YouthPRO includes membership in NAA.

Membership benefits include:

- Bi-monthly newsletter from NAA and Quarterly newsletter from YouthPRO
- Public Policy Representation in Washington, DC
- Discounted registration at the NAA national conference

Membership forms and additional information is available online at www.indianayouthpro.org

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