



UPDATE

April 15, 2012

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*Prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health,
Office of Constituency Relations and Public Liaison*

SCIENCE AND SERVICE NEWS UPDATES

SPONTANEOUS GENE GLITCHES LINKED TO AUTISM RISK WITH OLDER DADS: NON-INHERITED MUTATIONS SPOTLIGHT ROLE OF ENVIRONMENT

Researchers have turned up a new clue to the workings of a possible environmental factor in autism spectrum disorders (ASDs): fathers were four times more likely than mothers to transmit tiny, spontaneous mutations to their children with the disorders. Moreover, the number of such transmitted genetic glitches increased with paternal age. The discovery may help to explain earlier evidence linking autism risk to older fathers. The results are among several from a trio of new studies, supported in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), finding that such sequence changes in parts of genes that code for proteins play a significant role in ASDs. One of the studies determined that having such glitches boosts a child's risk of developing autism five to 20 fold.

Press release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2012/spontaneous-gene-glitches-linked-to-autism-risk-with-older-dads.shtml>

PATTERN RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY MAY HELP PREDICT FUTURE MENTAL ILLNESS IN TEENS

A technique combining computer-based pattern recognition and brain imaging data accurately distinguished teens at risk for mental disorders from those with low risk and may someday be useful in predicting risk in individuals, according to an National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)-funded study published February 15, 2012, in the journal *PLoS One*.

Science News: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2012/pattern-recognition-technology-may-help-predict-future-mental-illness-in-teens.shtml>

ADULTS EXPERIENCING MENTAL ILLNESS HAVE HIGHER RATES OF CERTAIN CHRONIC PHYSICAL ILLNESSES; ADULTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS ARE ALSO MORE LIKELY TO BE TREATED IN EMERGENCY ROOMS AND TO BE HOSPITALIZED

A new report shows that adults who had a mental illness in the past year have higher rates of certain physical illnesses than those not experiencing mental illness. According to the report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), adults aged 18 and older who had any mental illness, serious mental illness, or major depressive episodes in the past year had increased rates of high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1204102228.aspx>

NEW DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO HELP STATES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that 11 States and the District of Columbia will participate in the Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Demonstration, established under the Affordable Care Act, to test whether Medicaid beneficiaries who are experiencing a psychiatric emergency get more immediate, appropriate care when institutions for mental diseases receive Medicaid reimbursement.

Press Release:

<http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=4300&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500&srchOpt=0&srchData=&keywordType=All&chkNewsType=1%2C+2%2C+3%2C+4%2C+5&intPage=&showAll=&pYear=&year=&desc=false&cboOrder=date>

RESOURCES: PUBLICATIONS, TOOLKITS, OTHER RESOURCES

NEW ON NIMH WEBSITE

DIRECTOR'S BLOG: THE NEW GENETICS OF AUTISM – WHY ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

NIMH Director Dr. Thomas Insel discusses how new research may help tie together seemingly disparate findings on genetic and environmental risk factors in ASDs.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2012/the-new-genetics-of-autism-why-environment-matters.shtml>

VIDEO: BRAIN'S WIRING REVEALED IN HD

New brain wiring images reveal a pervasive 3D grid structure with no diagonals, say scientists funded by the NIH. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/media/video/brains-wiring-revealed-in-hd.shtml>

NIH RESEARCH MATTERS

COMPLEX BRAIN HAS SIMPLE GRID STRUCTURE

A landmark study revealed that nerve cells in the brain form a simple checkerboard grid pattern. The new technique will help researchers better understand how the brain develops and may give insights into disorders like epilepsy, autism, and schizophrenia.

<http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/april2012/04092012brain.htm>

UP CLOSE WITH OPIOID RECEPTORS

Researchers have taken the closest-yet look at the structures of opioid receptors, which play key roles in pain relief and addiction. The findings might aid development of safer painkillers and addiction-fighting medications. <http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/april2012/04022012opioid.htm>

NIDA NOTES: NICOTINE DEPENDENCE LINKED TO HIGHER RATES OF MENTAL DISORDERS AMONG TEENS

This National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded study found that teens who reported more symptoms of nicotine dependence in a recent study had higher prevalence of mood, anxiety, and disruptive (attention deficit hyperactivity, conduct, oppositional defiant) disorders. Researchers attributed the correlations mainly to psychiatric problems increasing the risk of nicotine dependence, although nicotine dependence heightened the risk of one psychiatric diagnosis, oppositional defiant disorder.

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/nida-notes/2012/03/nicotine-dependence-linked-to-higher-rates-mental-disorders-among-teens>

NEW FROM CDC

NEW AUTISM TRAINING FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Autism Case Training empowers primary care practitioners to take timely and appropriate action in response to a parent's concern about their child's development. This training helps doctors identify appropriate alternatives to "wait and see" so that no time is wasted in getting a child and family on the right track toward the early care and support they might need.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/AutismTraining/>

MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS: AN INTERVENTION CONDUCTED IN EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS

The primary objective of this study was to evaluate changes in depressive symptoms, coping strategies, and receipt of mental health services among low-income African American adolescents and young adults receiving a mental health intervention integrated into an employment training program.

http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2012/11_0163.htm

SAMHSA RESOURCES

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION TO PREVENT SUICIDES: NEW BRIEFS

CDC has been working with SAMHSA and three Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act grantees in Tennessee, Oregon, and Maine to develop “actionable knowledge tools.” This collaboration has resulted in the development of a series of briefs to help integrate the most recent research into actionable suicide prevention efforts for communities. <http://blog.samhsa.gov/2012/04/10/putting-knowledge-into-action-to-prevent-suicides/>

SAMHSA STARTS HEALTH REFORM EDUCATION WORK WITH THE CENTER OF SOCIAL INNOVATION AWARDS TO 8 COMMUNITIES

Through SAMHSA’s Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy, the Center for Social Innovation has announced awards of \$25,000 each to eight peer-run/recovery community organizations. These eight organizations will work within their states to increase public awareness about behavioral health services available through the Affordable Care Act.

<http://blog.samhsa.gov/2012/04/04/samhsa-starts-health-reform-education-work-with-the-center-of-social-innovation-awards-to-8-communities/>

SAMHSA’S OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EQUITY TEAMS UP WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

This past year SAMHSA launched its new Office of Behavioral Health Equity (OBHE) to build capacity for addressing behavioral health disparities. OBHE was established by the Affordable Care Act and focuses on addressing the mental health, substance abuse, and related conditions of often underserved racial, ethnic, and sexual minority populations and communities. <http://blog.samhsa.gov/2012/04/12/samhsas-office-of-behavioral-health-equity-teams-up-with-community-partners-to-reduce-the-impact-of-mental-health-and-substance-use-disorders/>

EVALUATION OF THE PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS PROGRAM

This report summarizes a program evaluation of a Federally-funded state-based system to protect patient rights for those with significant mental health disability. It reviews the program goals, presents significant findings, and discusses their impact on outcomes for patients. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/PEP12-EVALPAIMI>

POLICY BRIEFS FROM SAMHSA'S NATIONAL CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS NETWORK

THE NEED FOR AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF CARE FOR YOUTH WITH TRAUMATIC STRESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

This policy brief from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) discusses the overwhelming evidence documenting the range and severity of problems experienced by adolescents with co-occurring traumatic stress and substance use, and recommends addressing these problems through a youth-oriented coordinated system of care that would require interagency collaboration, family and youth involvement, cultural competence, and accountability.

http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/policybrief1_traumatic_stress_and_substance_use.pdf

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT TRAUMA EXPOSURE AND SERVICE USE HISTORIES

This brief highlights the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress (NCCTS) Core Data Set study findings that suggest that having a full understanding of the prevalence and diversity of trauma exposure in clinic-referred youth is an important guide in risk screening, prevention, intervention, workforce development, and public policy.

http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/policybrief2_highlights_core_data_set.pdf

TRAUMA EXPOSURE, PSYCHOSOCIAL FUNCTIONING AND TREATMENT NEEDS OF YOUTH IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

This brief sheds light on the links between trauma exposure in childhood and adolescence, current psychosocial functioning, and intervention outcomes in youth receiving residential treatment services—compared to youth receiving services in a continuum of community-based services—with the goal of achieving a better understanding of this population and their unique needs.

http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/policybrief3_traumaexposure.pdf

COMPLEX TRAUMA AND MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN PLACED IN FOSTER CARE

This brief presents the findings from the NCCTS Core Data set study of trauma histories and trauma reactions of 2,125 children and adolescents in the child welfare system between 2004 and 2010—most of whom have experienced at least one caregiver-related trauma (e.g., abuse or neglect)—and presents recommendations and implications for further research.

http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/policybrief4_complextrauma.pdf

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LAUNCH NEW STOP BULLYING WEBSITE

The Departments of Education and Health and Human Services (HHS) unveiled a revitalized Stop Bullying website to encourage children, parents, educators, and communities to take action to stop and prevent bullying. The website provides a map with detailed information on state laws and policies, interactive webisodes and videos for young people, practical strategies for schools and communities to ensure safe environments, and suggestions on how parents can talk about this sensitive subject with their children. The site also explores the dangers of cyberbullying and steps youngsters and parents can take to fight it.

<http://www.stopbullying.gov>

SEARCHING OUT SOLUTIONS: CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO THE CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS

This report from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness explores the themes and solutions that were identified at the Searching for Balance Summit. It also chronicles the experiences of several local communities in their endeavors to develop programs that treat individuals experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect, while simultaneously meeting the needs of community safety and maintaining civic order. http://www.usich.gov/issue/alternatives_to_criminalization

HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING SUPPORTS TO ADDRESS FAMILY HOMELESSNESS: PROMISING PRACTICES IN THE FIELD

This HHS Research Brief explores local programs for linking human services and housing supports to prevent and end family homelessness. The Research Brief is based on interviews with stakeholders in 14 communities nationwide, highlighting key practices that facilitated the implementation and ongoing sustainability of the programs. <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/11/FamilyHomelessness/rb.shtml>

CHILDREN'S BUREAU EXPRESS: SPOTLIGHT ON NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

This month, the Administration for Children and Families newsletter focuses on National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In 2010, the Quality Improvement Center on Early Childhood funded four projects to implement new approaches to preventing child abuse and neglect, promoting optimal child development, and strengthening families. This issue highlights two of those projects, the Family Networks Project and Fostering Hope.

<https://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewSection&issueID=134&subsectionID=9>

DOJ RELEASES TRIBAL YOUTH SUMMIT VIDEOS

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has posted an eight minute video highlighting the 2011 National Intertribal Youth Summit (NIYS) held last July in Santa Fe, N M. The "2011 National Inter-tribal Youth Summit" video covers activities from the week-long event, attended by more than 160 youth representing nearly 50 tribes. In addition, a public service announcement (PSA) video—"That's My People"—is available on the DOJ website. In the PSA, developed at the NIYS, tribal youth talk about issues that they have identified as important to address with their tribal leaders. <http://www.justice.gov/tribal/videos.html>

OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION: JOURNAL OF JUVENILE JUSTICE ARTICLES

PREDICTORS OF ARREST HISTORY AMONG HOMELESS YOUTHS FROM FOUR U.S. CITIES

This study identifies mental health and situational predictors of arrest history among homeless youth in four U.S. cities. <http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org/JOJJ0102/article01.htm>

FAMILY WARMTH AND DELINQUENCY AMONG MEXICAN AMERICAN AND WHITE YOUTH

This study investigates the complex relationships between family factors and delinquency among Mexican American and White youth. It examined parental attachment, family cohesion, and parental control to determine whether these factors serve to prevent or reduce adolescent delinquency. <http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org/JOJJ0102/article04.htm>

REAL WARRIORS, REAL ADVICE PODCASTS

HELPING CHILDREN UNDERSTAND COMBAT STRESS

Experiencing stress as a result of combat is common. Open communication can help family members cope with challenges before, during, and after deployments. <http://www.realwarriors.net/podcasts/episode011>

LENDING SUPPORT TO FELLOW SERVICE MEMBERS

Fellow service members and veterans can often provide a warrior with needed support and help identify the need for psychological health care. <http://www.realwarriors.net/podcasts/episode012>

NEW ARTICLES FROM REAL WARRIORS

STAY CONNECTED WITH DEPLOYED PARENTS

This article describes online resources to stay connected throughout deployment by communicating in private chats, sharing creative works, and learning about the country or countries that a parent may visit during their deployment. These resources can also be used to connect with other military families and share common experiences to help families manage common military stressors such as multiple deployments and frequent relocations. <http://www.realwarriors.net/family/children/stayconnected.php>

SESAME WORKSHOP'S MILITARY FAMILIES INITIATIVES

This article describes the tools developed by the Sesame Workshop to help military families cope with common stressors of deployment.

<http://www.realwarriors.net/family/children/sesamestreet.php>

DEFENSE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE BLOG POSTS

NICOE CONNECTS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN TBI CARE

This Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) blog post describes the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) activities to train providers about the signs and symptoms of traumatic brain injury (TBI). The “Train the Trainer” initiative was created through a contract with HHS and National Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Organization to broadly disseminate a program developed by the North Carolina AHEC and Citizen Soldier Support Program, a Defense Department-funded program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=355>

TBI CLINICAL RESOURCES IN 140 CHARACTERS OR LESS

This blog post describes DCoE's recent twitterinterview with the DCoE Deputy Director to share available clinical tools that represent the state of science in care of wounded service members with TBI. Provider tools shared include the *Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Pocket Guide*, *Co-occurring Conditions Toolkit*, case management resources, and mobile applications. <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=353>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

APRIL 2012

This year's theme of National Minority Health Month is *Health Equity Can't Wait. Act Now in Your CommUNITY!* The theme is a call to action and unity for the regions, the state and local offices of minority health, the health departments, and all the organizations and partners involved and invested in reducing health disparities. <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/actnow/>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

APRIL 2012

Each year, the Department of Defense recognizes military families by celebrating the Month of the Military Child throughout April. Service members with children across the nation can take this opportunity to spend time with their loved ones, while also learning about the importance of family resilience and readiness. Real Warriors has compiled information and resources to help families communicate throughout the Month of the Military Child and the entire deployment cycle.

<http://realwarriors.net/family/children/militarychild.php>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

APRIL 2012

Visit the 2012 National Child Abuse Prevention Month web section to prepare for the observance. *Preventing Child Maltreatment and Promoting Well-Being: Network for Action 2012 Resource Guide* is now available to help plan activities. <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2012

The U.S. recognizes April as a special opportunity for everyone to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

<http://healthfinder.gov/nho/nho.asp#m4> and <http://www.hhs.gov/autism/>

WEBINAR: SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT FOR TRAUMA IN THE CHILD WELFARE SETTING SPEAKER SERIES: AN OVERVIEW

APRIL 26, 2012, 12:00 PM ET

In the first NCTSN webinar in a series of five presentations on Screening and Assessment for Trauma in the Child Welfare Setting, presenters will describe the prevalence and impact of trauma on children in the child welfare system and the rationale for trauma screening and assessment. They will define screening and assessment, exploring the potential overlap and confusion in the use of these terms, in an effort to create a common language for the discussion. They will describe some common tools for trauma screening and assessment and introduce child welfare-specific measures that will be detailed in a future presentation.

<http://learn.nctsn.org/>

WEBINAR: CHILDREN OF DEPLOYED PARENTS: HEALTH CARE PROVIDER STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING COPING SKILLS

APRIL 26, 2012, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

Since the onset of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom, military families have experienced multiple and extended deployments. Although many children adjust well, the stress of parental deployment may increase the risk for adjustment problems, emotional difficulties, and internalizing/externalizing behaviors (e.g., physical aggression/substance abuse). Healthcare providers frequently serve military families struggling with deployment-related issues. This DCoE webinar will discuss the impact of parental deployment on children's psychological health, and identify strategies and resources relevant to coping. <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/Training/MonthlyWebinars.aspx>

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY: DISPOSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND SUPPORT THE NATIONAL TAKE-BACK INITIATIVE

APRIL 28, 2012

Prescription drugs are being misused and abused at alarming rates throughout the U.S. As part of the effort to address this problem, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has scheduled the 4th National Prescription Take-Back Day to collect potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs for destruction at sites nationwide. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and health issue. Many Americans are not aware that unused or expired medicines are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are increasing at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to abuse of these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html

WEBINAR: EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES AND SELF-CARE FOR THOSE WORKING WITH YOUNG TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN

MAY 3, 2012, 12:00 PM ET

This NCTSN webinar in the Zero to Six Speaker Series will discuss the importance of identifying and implementing effective strategies for self-care in dealing with the emotional challenges of working with infants, young children, and their caregivers who have been traumatized. <http://learn.nctsn.org/>

WEBINAR: FROM CHILD MALTREATMENT TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: TRAJECTORIES OF CROSSOVER YOUTH AND THE ROLE OF TRAUMA

MAY 8, 2012, 1:00 PM ET

The NCCTS and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform will kick off a three-part webinar series on “Crossover Youth,” youth who are known to—and move between—the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Presenters will discuss findings from research on Crossover Youth, how traumatic stress plays a role in the trajectory of Crossover Youth, and implications for policy and practice. Follow-up webinars will expand on these policy and practice implications with discussions of strategies for policy reform and ways to translate research into promising practices. <http://learn.nctsn.org/>

NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY: NATIONAL EVENT

MAY 9, 2012, 7:30-9:30 PM ET, WASHINGTON, DC

Across the country on May 9, communities will be coming together for community conversations about the impact of trauma on children and youth and ways that caring adults, "Heroes of Hope," can help them enhance resilience. Join SAMHSA, more than 115 collaborating federal programs and national organizations, youth and families, and a Special Recognition Award winner in celebrating children and youth who have demonstrated resilience from trauma, as well as the extraordinary people who are their Heroes of Hope. The event in Washington, DC, will focus on resilience in child welfare, juvenile justice, and education systems, as well as helping military families to be resilient. The Awareness Day national event complements activities occurring across the country, such as community events, youth rallies, social media campaigns, and activities with children. <http://www.samhsa.gov/children>

NIMH VIDEOCAST: THE DEVELOPING BRAIN: WHAT IT MEANS FOR TREATING ADOLESCENTS

MAY 10, 2012, 2:00-4:00 PM ET

As part of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, NIMH is sponsoring a videocast panel of children's mental health researchers. Panelists will discuss neuroscience research findings related to teen brain development, cognition and emotional and behavioral growth, and treatment for teens.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/childrens-mental-health-awareness-day/childrens-mental-health-awareness.shtml>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK

MAY 13–19, 2012

National Women's Health Week is a week-long health observance coordinated by the HHS Office on Women's Health. It brings together communities, businesses, government, health organizations, and other groups in an effort to promote women's health. The theme for 2012 is, "It's Your Time." National Women's Health Week empowers women to make their health a top priority. It also encourages women to take specific steps to improve their physical and mental health and lower their risks of certain diseases.

<http://www.womenshealth.gov/whw/>

WEBINAR: TRAUMA SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT MEASURES FOR CHILD WELFARE

MAY 17, 2012, 12:00 PM ET

This NCTSN webinar in the Screening and Assessment for Trauma in the Child Welfare Setting Speaker Series will describe, compare, and contrast three specific trauma screening and assessment instruments that have been used extensively within child welfare settings: Trauma Screening Checklist, Child Welfare Trauma Referral Tool, and Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)—Trauma Version.

<http://learn.nctsn.org/>

WEBINAR: WORKFORCE IN CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH: CORE COMPONENTS TO ENSURE QUALITY

MAY 17, 2012, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

This National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health webinar will explore the status of core workforce strategies or components used by states to ensure quality in children's mental healthcare and present recommendations for increasing progress in this area.

<http://gucchdtacenter.georgetown.edu/resources/2012calls.html>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK

MAY 20–26, 2012

SAMHSA's National Prevention Week 2012 will help bring communities together through local events and celebrations that focus on the prevention of substance use and abuse, and the promotion of mental, emotional, and behavioral well-being. These local events will be part of a new national movement to raise awareness around these important behavioral health issues. Each weekday during National Prevention Week 2012 will focus on an important behavioral health issue:

- Monday, May 21 – Prevention of underage drinking;
- Tuesday, May 22 – Prevention of illicit drug use and prescription drug misuse and abuse;
- Wednesday, May 23 – Prevention of alcohol abuse;
- Thursday, May 24 – Prevention of suicide; and
- Friday, May 25 – Promotion of mental, emotional, and behavioral well-being.

<http://blog.samhsa.gov/2012/03/07/helpcelebratepreventionweek2012/>

WEBINAR: OPTIMIZING VISITATION FOR YOUNG TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

MAY 24, 2012, 12:00 PM ET [RESCHEDULED FROM MARCH 15TH]

This NCTSN webinar will address the important role that visitation plays for young foster children and their caregivers and discuss ways to organize and improve the visit experience. Learn methods for transforming visitation from a frustrating to a therapeutic experience, including ways to manage children's behavior during and after the visit. <http://learn.nctsn.org/>

WEBINAR: SECONDARY TRAUMATIC STRESS AND PROVIDER SELF-CARE IN DISASTER AND TERRORISM SETTINGS

MAY 31, 2012, 2:00 PM ET

This NCTSN webinar in the Secondary Traumatic Stress Speaker Series will address the potential for secondary traumatic stress in disaster and terrorism settings, and outline some recommended actions for preventing and reducing the potentially stressful impact of this work on disaster mental health providers. <http://learn.nctsn.org/>

5TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS; HEALTH, EMPOWERMENT, RESILIENCE, AND RECOVERY

JULY 17–19, 2012, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

SAMHSA, in partnership with Mental Health Systems, Inc., is hosting this conference to bring together a diverse audience with an interest in prevention, mental health, and addiction services for women and girls. Join with leaders, colleagues, and stakeholders to discuss the current research, innovations, and trends in serving women, girls, and their families. <http://samhsawomensconference.org/>

CALLS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

A CALL TO IDENTIFY KEY METHODOLOGICAL ROADBLOCKS AND PROPOSE NEW PARADIGMS IN SUICIDE PREVENTION RESEARCH

The NIMH, NIDA, and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism are seeking input to identify the types of research tools needed to support rapid advancement in suicide prevention research. Specifically, this request asks interested parties to provide input on the following topics: a) the key methodological roadblocks that currently exist in suicide prevention research, and b) new paradigms and theoretical models with the potential to spark innovative research. A methodological roadblock is defined as a critical, unresolved challenge that is clearly limiting progress along an important suicide prevention research pathway. New research paradigms and theoretical models are novel ways of thinking about suicidal behavior and avenues for its prevention. This request for information is issued as an invitation to interested parties to contribute these specific methodological challenges and new conceptual paradigms for inclusion in a compendium of ways to facilitate suicide prevention research progress. Responses are being accepted through April 27, 2012. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-12-017.html>

INPUT INTO THE SCIENTIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SUBSTANCE USE AND ADDICTION DISORDERS

NIH is soliciting input into the Scientific Strategic Plan for the proposed new Institute, the National Institute of Substance Use and Addiction Disorders. This new Institute would result from the proposed reorganization of substance use, abuse, and addiction-related research at the NIH. Responses are being accepted until May 11, 2012. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-12-045.html>

DCOE SEEKS FEEDBACK ON CO-OCCURRING CONDITIONS TOOLKIT

DCoE is seeking feedback on the *Co-occurring Conditions Toolkit: Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health* and corresponding mobile app for smartphones and tablets. The feedback will help DCoE make improvements to the toolkit and app, and other psychological health and TBI products.

<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=356>

FUNDING INFORMATION

SAMHSA: STATEWIDE CONSUMER NETWORK GRANT

http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/2012/sm_12_002.aspx

SAMHSA STATEWIDE FAMILY NETWORK PROGRAM GRANT

http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/2012/sm_12_001.aspx

GRANTS TO REDUCE SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, AND STALKING ON CAMPUS PROGRAM

<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/campus-solicitation.pdf>

SHORT-TERM RESEARCH EDUCATION PROGRAM TO INCREASE DIVERSITY IN HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HL-13-020.html>



The **Outreach Partnership Program** is a nationwide outreach initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) that enlists state and national organizations in a partnership to help close the gap between mental health research and clinical practice, inform the public about mental illnesses, and reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness. For more information about the program please visit: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partners>. To subscribe to receive the **Update** every two weeks, go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/subscribe-to-the-update.shtml>

The information provided in the **Update** is intended for use by NIMH Outreach Partners, National Partners and their associates for the express purpose of exchanging information that may be useful in the development of state and local mental health outreach, information, education and partnership programs.