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THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

## Specialized Dockets *Newsletter*

[News](#)  
[Funding](#)  
[Call for Papers](#)  
[Ohio Trainings](#)  
[National Trainings](#)  
[Research & Resources](#)  
[Job Openings](#)  
[Sign up!](#)

December 1, 2010

### 2011 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIALIZED DOCKETS MEETING DATES

The 2011 *Advisory Committee on Specialized Dockets* meeting dates are scheduled as follows:

**January 28, 2011**  
**April 15, 2011**

All meetings are from **10 p.m. to 2 p.m.** at the Ohio Judicial Center.

For directions to the Court, please visit our [website](#).

### 2011 ACMIC MEETING DATES

The 2011 *Advisory Committee on Mental Illness and the Courts (ACMIC)* meetings are scheduled as follows:

**March 7, 2011**

All meetings are from **1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** in the Judicial Education Center at the Ohio Judicial Center.

For directions to the Court, please visit our [website](#).

### NEWS

#### 7 COMPLETE MANSFIELD MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Shelley Price hit bottom with her alcohol and mental health problems before she entered the Mansfield Municipal Court Mental Health Court program. The Mansfield resident was homeless,

living in a shack and unable to have a clean substance test while serving probation for a hit-skip traffic accident. "I was tired of disappointing my twin daughters and my mom and dad and being homeless. I couldn't take it anymore," Price said. "It was my choice whether or not to go through Mental Health Court, and I was ready to become normal, clean and sober." [More...](#)

### **A JOB FOR LAME DUCKS: REHABILITATE LIVES BY GENERATING SAVINGS IN THE COSTLY PRISON SYSTEM**

Advocates of criminal sentencing reform are prodding legislators to act before the lame-duck session ends this year. They have a persuasive case, noting the bipartisan support for reform bills in the House and Senate, the substantial savings possible in the criminal justice system and the positive effects community-based care can have turning around the lives of low-level offenders. [More...](#)

### **GROUPS PUSH FOR SENTENCING REFORM IN LAME DUCK**

Though signs continue to point toward an absence of activity in the lame duck session, 43 individuals and organizations today signed a letter sent to Gov. Ted Strickland and legislative leaders urging them to move on criminal sentencing changes. The letter, also sent to Senate President Bill Harris and House Speaker Armond Budish, Today, asks for passage of Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 235, which the letter says "would make widely-supported, common sense changes to Ohio's criminal and juvenile justice systems that would save the State of Ohio millions of dollars each year while having no adverse, and likely a positive, impact on public safety." [More...](#)

### **VETERANS TREATMENT COURT TO HANDLE UNIQUE PROBLEMS**

Military veterans need a Veterans Treatment Court because their problems are unique, says a court proponent. "Some of them have seen their buddies blown up," said Youngstown Municipal Judge Robert P. Milich, who is spearheading the creation of a Veterans Treatment Court here. The Youngstown Veterans Court is scheduled for its first session Jan. 11, said Judge Milich, who, with other Veterans Court team members, met Tuesday in city council chambers to continue planning for the court's formation. The Veterans Court is similar in concept to Municipal Court's Drug and Mental Health Courts in that nonviolent offenders are given the option of treatment in lieu of jail. If they do not follow the treatment plan, they can be dropped from the program and sent to jail.

[More...](#)

### **TEEN SUICIDE: SEPARATING FACT FROM MYTH**

Mental-health experts are troubled by a cluster of suicides involving Anoka-Hennepin, Minn., students this year — but equally troubled by public reactions and misconceptions that could hamper efforts to prevent more tragedies. Talk of a "surge" in teen suicide, for example, is at best inaccurate. With 33 teen suicides so far this year, Minnesota is on pace for the average of 42 it has seen annually since 1990. [More...](#)

### **WARREN HONORED WITH HIGHEST AWARD IN STATE FOR AN ATTORNEY**

"The award draws attention, if nothing else, to what our job is on a daily basis," he said. Some of those duties besides handling criminal, civil and other cases have included helping to form a local facility to treat people with addictions instead of sending them off to prison. Warren also helped form reentry court and the sex offender court to provide offenders with intense supervision in hopes of giving them a better chance at making it. The Ritter Award is given annually by the Ohio State Bar Foundation to one attorney for outstanding contributions to the administration of justice, said Beth Gillespie, a spokeswoman for the foundation. [More...](#)

### **TASK FORCES HELP KEEP EX-INMATES OUT OF PRISON**

Nearly 28,000 people walked out of Ohio prisons in 2008, many without job prospects, support or a place to sleep. More than 10,000 of them ended up back there, or are expected to by the end of next year. A third of those who leave prison in Ohio typically reoffend within three years. To try to stop that revolving door, officials in 25 counties have created task forces to develop and carry out plans to reduce the recidivism rate locally. In central Ohio, that includes Delaware, Franklin and Pickaway counties and a joint effort by Marion and Crawford counties. [More...](#)

**NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DRUG DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT GROUPS FOR THE TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISORDERS, DRUG OR ALCOHOL ADDICTION – NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

**ELIGIBILITY:** Nonprofit Organizations; Small Businesses; Public and State Institutions of Higher Education; Others

**DEADLINE:** February 24, 2011

**FULL ANNOUNCEMENT:** <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-238.html>

The purpose of the National Cooperative Drug Discovery and Development Group Program is to create multidisciplinary research groups or partnerships for the discovery of pharmacological agents to treat and to study mental illness, drug or alcohol addiction.

**GENERAL YOUTH FUNDING**

**Deadline:** Rolling

**Summary:** Most of the work the Annie E. Casey Foundation supports takes the form of multi-year, multi-site, foundation-based projects. However, the foundation, which focuses on helping vulnerable and at-risk children, youth and their families, does not discourage interested organizations from submitting letter of inquiry when looking for grants. Founded in 1948, the primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of vulnerable children and families. It is the 15<sup>th</sup> largest private foundation in the United States, with assets of more than \$3 billion, and ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation for charitable giving.

**Website:** [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)

**REDUCING EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES**

**Deadline:** Throughout 2010

**Website:** [http://www.rwjf.org/files/applications/cfp/overview\\_lfp\\_peacefulpathways2010.pdf](http://www.rwjf.org/files/applications/cfp/overview_lfp_peacefulpathways2010.pdf)

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Funding Partnerships is seeking nominations from diversity-focused funders for projects to reduce violence in traditionally underserved communities that are defined by race, ethnicity, tribe, gender, sexual identity or rural/frontier location. The Foundation is open to nonprofits, but shows a preference for diversity-focused groups. There will be eight matching grants of \$50,000 to \$200,000. Proposals may be submitted at any time throughout 2010 and will be reviewed on the following dates: September 1, 2010 and January 5, 2011.

**BUILD-A-BEAR WORKSHOP GIVING PROGRAMS TO FUND CHILDREN'S HEALTH & WELLNESS; APPLICATION DEADLINE VARIES**

Build-A-Bear Workshop, Inc. awards Children's Health & Wellness Champ-A-Champion Fur Kids grants twice annually to provide direct support for children in the areas of health and wellness. Grantees include childhood disease research foundations, child safety organizations, and organizations that serve children with special needs. Application deadlines are at the end of April, July, and October. Grant applications can be submitted through the Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation at <http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants>. Organizations seeking unrestricted support for children are also encouraged to apply for grants through the nonprofit Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation. The foundation reviews grant applications on a rolling basis. Grants range between \$1,000 and \$10,000 each.

**HUMAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Deadline:** Ongoing

**Website:** [www.macfound.org/site/c.1kLXJ8MQKrH/b.938141/k.FEFC/Domestic\\_Grantmaking](http://www.macfound.org/site/c.1kLXJ8MQKrH/b.938141/k.FEFC/Domestic_Grantmaking)

The Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Program on Human and Community Development will focus its grant-making strategies on community change and juvenile justice. The Juvenile Justice effort maintains a national scope and promotes an effective juvenile justice system that is linked to relevant agencies, is acknowledged to play a critical role in the

community and is held accountable for public safety as well as the rehabilitation of young offenders. Grant award funding levels vary. Eligible applicants for the Juvenile Justice program include a variety of organizations in the United States.

### **PUBLIC WELFARE FOUNDATION GRANTS**

**Deadline:** Open and rolling

**Website:** [www.publicwelfare.org](http://www.publicwelfare.org)

The Public Welfare Foundation (PWF) offers \$1.5 million in grants for its Criminal Justice Program competition. Funds promote a fair and humane criminal justice system and violence prevention that includes alternatives to incarceration, effective legal representation and the reintegration of offenders as productive citizens. Proposals are welcomed from a wide range of organizations and can include both governmental and independent advocacy groups.

### **MCCORMICK TRIBUNE FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES PROGRAM GRANTS**

**Deadline:** Ongoing

**Website:** [www.mccormicktribune.org/programs.aspx](http://www.mccormicktribune.org/programs.aspx)

The McCormick Tribune Foundation Communities Program supports efforts to stimulate local philanthropy and improve community life through collaborative partnerships in communities nationwide. The foundation helps to support projects that address basic human needs, children and youth at risk, and community strengthening efforts.

### **SAMHSA CONFERENCE GRANTS**

**Website:** [http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/conference/PA\\_06\\_001\\_Conference.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/conference/PA_06_001_Conference.aspx)

**Description:** The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) accepts applications twice a year for Knowledge Dissemination Conference Grants to support sharing information on best practices and the integration of that knowledge into real world practice.

### **OFFICE DEPOT TAKING CARE OF KIDS AND SCHOOLS GRANTS**

**Website:** [www.community.officedepot.com/local.asp](http://www.community.officedepot.com/local.asp).

**Description:** Office Depot supports local nonprofit organizations that directly affect the health, education and welfare of children. Office Depot is accepting applications for its Taking Care of Kids & Schools Grants Program. Funds should be used to directly provide services.

### **WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH IN PREGNANCY AND THE POSTPARTUM PERIOD**

**Website:** <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-081.html>

**Description:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) solicits research project grant applications on the topic of women's mental health in relation to pregnancy and the postpartum period.

### **REDUCTION AND PREVENTION OF SUICIDALITY**

**Website:** <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-079.html>

**Description:** The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to invite grant applications for research that will reduce the burden of suicidality (deaths, attempts, and ideation).

### **EFFECTIVENESS, PRACTICE, AND IMPLEMENTATION IN THE CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES' COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES SERVICE SITES.**

**Website:** <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-091.html>

**Description:** The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Institutes of Health (NIH), invites research grant applications on services delivered to children, adolescents, and their families through the Center for Mental Health Services' (CMHS) Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program initiative (hereafter referred to as the "Children's Services Program").

## ALLSTATE FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

**NEW WEBSITE:** <http://www.econempowerment.org/>

**Description:** The Allstate Foundation is taking a stand. It provides resources and programs that support survivors of domestic abuse and their advocates – by addressing the issues of financial security and economic empowerment.

## CALL FOR PAPERS & ARTICLES

### TWO DAYS IN MAY WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

2011 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Ohio Attorney General's Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance (TDIM). The conference will be held on May 16-17, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio. Victim Services Providers are invited to submit workshop proposals by **December 31, 2010**. Please follow the directions on the workshop proposal form located at <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Services/Victims/Two-Days-in-May>.

Notification of workshop acceptance will be made by February 1, 2011. Contact Venica Miller at [tdim@ohioattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:tdim@ohioattorneygeneral.gov) or 614.644.1234 if you have any questions.

### SPECIAL ISSUE OF *VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN* ON CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON BATTERED WOMEN'S USE OF NON-FATAL FORCE IN INTIMATE HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS: A CONTEXTUAL APPROACH

*Violence Against Women* is seeking manuscripts for a special issue on contemporary perspectives regarding battered women's use of non-fatal force in their intimate heterosexual relationships.

Submissions from a variety of disciplines are encouraged including, but not limited to: social work, psychology, philosophy, cultural studies, sociology, law, anthropology, and criminology. Submissions may be empirically based (but do not need to be), and themes may include (but are not limited to): domestic violence, women in prison, criminalization of women's behavior, probation experiences, legal system strategies, and/or historical as well as cross-cultural analyses. Manuscripts that include innovative strategies in work with women from communities of color and other marginalized groups are of particular interest. **Submission Deadline: January 7, 2011** Manuscripts should not exceed 30 double-space pages, including tables, references, and notes. Authors should email their manuscripts to: Lisa Young Larance, at [llarance@csswashtenaw.org](mailto:llarance@csswashtenaw.org)

### **“STOP HURTING ME!” WORKING WITH SURVIVORS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Date:** December 8, 2010

**Location:** Waverly, Ohio

While each survivor that we work with has a unique story and unique needs, sometimes domestic violence programs must think outside the box to provide effective and appropriate services to survivors with disabilities. In this training, participants will have the opportunity to learn about different types of disabilities, how batterers may manipulate a survivor's disability, things to take into consideration when working with survivors with disabilities, and ways to effectively safety plan with survivors who have disabilities.

CEU's available to social workers and counselors. Cost is \$25 for ODVN members, \$60 for non-members:

To register, visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/disabilites>

For detailed information, please contact Rachel Ramirez-Hammond at 614.781.9651 ext. 222 or [rachelr@odvn.org](mailto:rachelr@odvn.org).

### **COMMUNITY INFORMATION ABOUT SEX OFFENDERS**

**Date:** Thursday, December 9, 2010

**Time:** 10:30 am until 12:30 pm

**Location:** Emergency Services Training Center, 2127 Jefferson Avenue, Toledo, Ohio

**Cost:** No Charge; seating first come, first serve.

Presenter: Ohio Department Of Rehabilitation and Correction's Director of Sex Offender Services David Berenson

*For more information, please call Reentry Coalition Of Northwest Ohio at 419.242.9955*

### **2010 FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION CAUCUS**

**Date:** December 15, 2010

**Time:** 10 am - 4 pm

**Location:** Mid Ohio Food Bank - 3960 Brookham Drive, Grove City, Ohio

Contact Jo Simonsen with questions at [jsimonsen@woh.rr.com](mailto:jsimonsen@woh.rr.com) or (419) 581-7000. Register by December 9, 2010 online at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PDZ3H62> or [www.odvn.org](http://www.odvn.org)

### **FREE GRANT WRITING SEMINARS**

OCJS is hosting several free Grant Writing Seminars in 2010. The trainings provide an overview of identifying grant sources, analyzing program objectives, creating a budget, seeking letters of support, and proposal writing. Federal and state grants available to criminal justice professionals will be discussed. Attendees will also receive the OCJS publication, *Grant Writing: Identifying and Applying for Funding in a Competitive Market*.

Trainings will take place on the following date:

#### **Tuesday, December 21**

All trainings will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Motorcycle Classroom, located at 1970 W. Broad St., Columbus, on the first floor.

To download and print a training registration form, visit:

[http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs\\_TrainingForm.pdf](http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs_TrainingForm.pdf)

**SAVE THE DATE: HOW DID YOU SLEEP LAST NIGHT? – A Sleep Out for Mental Illness**

**Date:** May 10, 2011 – 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

**Location:** Ohio Statehouse

Join NAMI Ohio for the Sleep Out for Mental Illness to call our lawmakers' attention to the impact of their funding decisions.

### ONLINE COURSES TRAIN JUVENILE JUSTICE MANAGERS

The [National Juvenile Court Services Association](#) has designed an online training curriculum to train juvenile justice managers. Sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Professional Juvenile Justice Manager (PJMM) certificate program includes [a series of online courses](#). Students will spend two weeks on each course, working on basic lecture material, specialized readings, and self-assessment questions.

The program is designed to train staff and to provide certification for supervisors currently in the field. Those who successfully complete the program will receive certification from the American Probation and Parole Association. Resources: To access a list of PJMM courses and register online, visit [www.njcsacertification.org/course/ca\\_tegory.php?id=29](http://www.njcsacertification.org/course/ca_tegory.php?id=29).

### BJA 2010 NATIONAL CONFERENCE: ADVANCING JUSTICE THROUGH EVIDENCE AND INNOVATION

**Dates:** December 6–8

**Location:** Washington, D.C. at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

**There is no registration fee for the BJA Conference.**

The conference will emphasize how evidence and innovation can be leveraged to improve the Nation's justice systems and to ensure community safety, and how BJA funding is supporting this approach across the Nation. The conference will feature plenary sessions and numerous workshops that will address key developments and initiatives that are impacting the criminal justice system today and how other communities can use available funding to further these efforts in their communities to reduce costs, align local systems with future trends, and improve system efficiency and effectiveness. All BJA grantees are strongly encouraged to attend these events. Attending this Conference is an allowable cost under all BJA grant programs.

**[ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!](#)**

### NDCI TUNE-IN ON TUESDAY WEBINAR SERIES

The National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) is proud to announce our *Tune-In on Tuesday* webinar series hosted by the National Drug Court Resource Center. Once a month, NDCI will feature an expert from the Drug Court field who will present on the hot topics that Drug Court professionals like you need to know more about. For our kickoff month of December, we will have a double-feature! **December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>** will feature talks on Spice/K2 by Paul Cary, toxicology and drug testing expert.

**The webinar is FREE, but space is limited. Register today!**

December 7, 2010: <https://ndcrc.webex.com/ndcrc/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=646519101>

December 14, 2010: <https://ndcrc.webex.com/ndcrc/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=640873369>

This session will discuss the emergence of a new class of synthetic cannabinoids that mimic the effects of marijuana - products that can be legally purchased in many parts of the country. Sold as herbal incense, these products are smoked in an effort to achieve a marijuana-like "high". This presentation will provide facts about these designer drugs including information on their origin, their chemical composition, their detection and the legal efforts to ban their sale.

**For more information about NDCI trainings and webinars, please visit [www.ndci.org](http://www.ndci.org).**

### SESAME STREET WEBINAR TALK, LISTEN, CONNECT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

**Date:** December 7, 2010

**Time:** 10am PST/1pm EST

Developed in conjunction with military and mental health experts, *Talk, Listen, Connect* is a bilingual, multimedia outreach program designed to help military families with young children coping with

challenging transitions in their lives. Through video, music, and print materials, beloved Sesame Street characters—including Elmo and Rosita—address issues such as deployment, a parent’s return home changed due to combat related injury, and the death of a parent.

During the Webinar, trauma experts, military experts, and members of the Sesame Workshop team will share clips from the *Talk, Listen, Connect* initiative, discuss key lessons learned during the development process, and review how clinicians and caregivers can use *Talk, Listen, Connect* to help military families and children.

**This Webinar will include:**

**Ms. Lynn Chwatsky**, Sesame Workshop, Assistant Vice President, Outreach Initiatives and Partners

**Dr. Stephen Cozza**, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, USUHS Associate Director, Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, Uniformed Services University School of Medicine

**Ms. Barbara Thompson**, Director, Office of Family Policy/Children and Youth, Office of the Secretary of Defense Military Community and Family Policy

**Dr. Russell Shilling**, CAPT, MSC, USN, Program Manager - I20, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

**Mrs. Patty Shinseki**, Board Member, The Military Child Education Coalition, and Chair of MCEC’s Living in the New Normal: Helping Children Thrive Through Good and Challenging Times

**Dr. Judith Cohen**, Medical Director, Center for Traumatic Stress in Children & Adolescents Allegheny General Hospital and Professor of Psychiatry

**To register:**

**Step 1:** Create an account (free) at <http://learn.nctsn.org/login/signup.php>

**Step 2:** Check your email and confirm your account (click on link)

**Step 3:** Login at <http://learn.nctsn.org/> and enroll in the [Military Family Learning Community Master Speaker Series](#) course listing

**Step 4:** On December 7, 2010 at 10am PST/1pm EST, login to participate

For NCTSN Learning Center technical assistance email [help@nctsn.org](mailto:help@nctsn.org)

**NATIONAL COUNCIL LIVE WEBINARS: *Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment: Skills and Resources***

**Date:** Wednesday, December 8

**Time:** 3:00 pm Eastern, 2:00 pm Central, 1:00 pm Mountain, 12:00 pm Pacific, 11:00 am Alaska

First in a series of three webinars on Treating Severe Mental Illness. Brought to you by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare and Hazelden. Click [here](#) to register.

**CLASP MANAGES [SPOTLIGHT ON POVERTY](#) AND IS PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO TWO EXCITING EVENTS IN DECEMBER:**

**Audio Conference: Illinois Poverty Commission Recommendations**

**Friday, December 10, 2010, 12:30-1:45 pm ET**

## Register Now!

Register now for *Spotlight's* December 10 national audio conference featuring Illinois state legislators and experts who will discuss newly released recommendations from the state's poverty commission. The recommendations will be released December 9th. Illinois is one of 10 states in the nation to set a poverty reduction target. The goal is to cut extreme poverty in Illinois in half by 2015. Those who live in extreme poverty have incomes below one half of the official poverty measure. That means a family of four in extreme poverty lives on roughly \$11,000 per year.

Doug Schenkelberg, Heartland Alliance, and Representatives Bob Pritchard and Karen Yarbrough (invited) will present.

Want to know how they plan to meet the goal? Ask your questions to the experts and legislators about how the Illinois commission pulled together its priorities.

### **Panel Discussion: Should the Disadvantaged be Spared from the Budget Axe? A Look at the President's Budget Commission Findings and How They Could Impact the Poor**

**Thursday, December 16, 2010, 9:00 am – 11:30 am ET**

The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC

(This event will be webcast live. No registration is needed. CLASP will circulate a link prior to the event.)

## Register Now!

Join the Budgeting for National Priorities Project at Brookings, *Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity* and the Hudson Institute as two panels of experts examine the recommendations of the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform from the perspective of the disadvantaged.

Among the participants will be the Presidents of the Annie E. Casey and Ford Foundations; Bob Greenstein, Founder and Executive Director of Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, President of American Action Forum; Dean Baker, Co-Director of Center for Economic and Policy Research; and Stuart Butler, Distinguished Fellow and Director of the Center for Policy Innovation at The Heritage Foundation.

Speakers and panelists will take questions from the audience after the presentations.

### **2010 JOINT MEETING ON ADOLESCENT TREATMENT EFFECTIVENESS (JMATE)**

**Date:** December 14-16, 2010

**Location:** Baltimore, MD

The overarching theme for JMATE 2010 is "*Synergy Envisioned ~ Action Inspired.*" The purpose of this theme is to continue to promote synergistic working relationship among researchers, policymakers, youth/families, program planners, and service providers and to inspire action to improve the health and well being of youth and families. Utilizing the most cutting edge research, JMATE 2010 will serve as a platform for service providers and researchers to work in concert with youth/families/communities; juvenile justice; education; and child welfare.

<http://www.jmate.org/jmate2010/>

### **41<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL COUNCIL MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS CONFERENCE**

**Date:** May 2-4, 2011

**Location:** San Diego, CA

<http://www.thenationalcouncil.org/cs/conference/conference-basics>

**FREQUENT CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY DRINKS IS ASSOCIATED WITH PROBLEMATIC ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION*****New Findings Coincide with FDA Regulatory Action on Caffeinated Alcoholic Beverages***

College students who frequently drink highly caffeinated beverages, "energy drinks," are at significantly greater risk for alcohol dependence according to a study in a forthcoming issue of *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* that was authored by Amelia Arria, Ph.D. and other researchers. The findings coincide with yesterday's announcement by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that it is issuing warning letters to several manufacturers of pre-mixed caffeinated alcoholic beverages. The FDA decision was based partially on a summary of research evidence presented to the Agency and States Attorneys General by Dr. Arria and other health professionals in September 2009. Mounting evidence had pointed to risks associated with the combination of alcohol with high levels of caffeine, which can produce a "wide awake and drunk" effect that can mask perceived alcohol impairment and generate even more risky alcohol-related behavior. Today's announcement concerns findings by Dr. Arria and her team that students who frequently consume energy drinks (not pre-mixed with alcohol) were more likely to have gotten drunk at an early age, drink more per drinking session, and were more likely to develop alcohol dependence compared to non-users and the low-frequency users. Importantly, the increased risk for alcohol dependence persisted after adjustment of several "confounding" variables, like risk-taking characteristics and parental history of alcohol problems. Because the design was cross-sectional, researchers caution against a causal interpretation until further studies are conducted. When viewed in connection with the previous findings, today's release suggests there are many issues surrounding energy drinks, alcohol laced or not. "Young adults need to understand the potential risks associated with drinking energy drinks on a frequent basis. Mixing high amounts of caffeine with alcohol on their own is similar to drinking a pre-mixed beverage and can pose health and safety risks," said Dr. Arria. "We also need to emphasize that this study did not find an association of alcohol dependence with other caffeinated beverages like coffee, tea or colas," Dr. Arria went on to say. "The relationship was found with "energy drinks" which have much higher concentrations of caffeine." Dr. Arria is a Senior Scientist at the Treatment Research Institute and Director of the Center on Young Adult Health and Development at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Data for the study were obtained from the College Life Study, a NIDA-funded, ongoing longitudinal study of 1,253 young adults matriculating at a large, public university in the mid-Atlantic region.

**THE OHIO FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROJECT (OFVPP)** is pleased to debut our new website, hosted by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, with support from the HealthPath Foundation. The website presents credible, useful local data on child maltreatment, intimate partner violence and elder maltreatment in Ohio. This includes the new *Family Violence: Statewide Assessment Report*, (see attached press release) as well as individual profiles for all 88 counties, powerpoint slides from past presentations and much more. This work is becoming widely used for planning, evaluation and to educate community and government leaders. [www.hpio.net/familyviolence](http://www.hpio.net/familyviolence)

## JOB OPENINGS

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<http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/Employment/>

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