

The National ACE News

Newsletter for the Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

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Director's Update



**Gregory Mark, D. Crim.,
Principal Investigator/
Director
National ACE
Coordinating
Center**

Welcome to the latest edition of National ACE Program News. It has been a busy year coordinating and presenting numerous collaborative submissions at various conferences, such as the American Public Health Association (APHA), the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA), and the Society for Prevention Research (SPR) Meetings.

Most recently the Coordinating Center helped to organize and implement the National ACE Grantee Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in early March. At this meeting, participants from the ten ACEs worked to further

develop and refine the ACE Action Plan in the four priorities for surveillance, policy and practice, analytic tools, and community mobilization and interventions. Dr. Bob Cohen has been leading the charge in the action planning process since its inception, and has been instrumental in moving forward the process to its current state. The ACE Action Plan is underway to being finalized thanks to all of the work of Dr. Cohen, the Steering Committee, and the original and new members of the Action Plan workgroups. A majority of the feedback from the ACE Meeting was very positive, and we look forward to already beginning to plan for the next reverse-site visit.

In this issue, we feature the Virginia Commonwealth University Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development and its focus on community-based efforts to address youth violence.

The CC hopes that you find this newsletter to be helpful in further understanding the increasingly challenging work that the ACEs are undertaking.

Please join us in supporting our ACE colleagues at the upcoming SPR Meeting in San Francisco, which is approaching quickly at the end of May. Also available will be a pre-conference series of policy workshops that we hope many of you will be able to attend.

This summer, the CC will help organize, with the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center, an educational briefing for the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation and invited State Legislators. During 2008, the CC hopes that other ACEs will be able to host and organize similar briefings in their respective cities.

*Aloha,
Greg Mark*

Highlighting the ACEs: Virginia Commonwealth University

This is the third in a series of newsletters that will highlight the National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Currently, the ten ACEs are: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Columbia University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Meharry Medical

College, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Riverside, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Violence represents a particularly serious problem for the community of Richmond, Virginia. As part of its urban mission, the Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development,

led by principal investigator Albert Farrell, Ph.D., and other Virginia Commonwealth University Faculty, is involved in a variety of community-based efforts to help address the problems of youth violence. The Center's mission is to empower youth, schools, families, and other stakeholders to promote the

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2008 National ACE Meeting Highlights: The ACE Action Plan



ACE colleagues and CDC and community partners catch up at the ACE Meeting Welcome and Orientation Reception



Michele Hoover, CDC and Greg Mark, Coordinating Center

The 2008 National ACE Grantee Meeting recently took place March 10th-11th in Atlanta, Georgia. The meeting started off with a warm welcome reception hosted by the Coordinating Center on the evening of March 9th so that ACE participants had some time to catch up with colleagues.

The two-day meeting was opened with a welcome address by CDC leadership, Dr. Janet Saul, Prevention Development and Evaluation Branch (PDEB) Chief, and Dr. Rodney Hammond, Director, Division of Violence Prevention, who were introduced by Dr. Linda Anne Valle, PDEB Team Lead. Ms. Michele Hoover, CDC Public Health Advisor, provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

The focus of the meeting was largely on the development and refinement of the National ACE Action Plan, which describes the actions and activities designed to impact youth violence prevention and positive youth development by the ACEs and other interested stakeholders. The four priorities and workgroups of the

current ACE Action Plan which were developed previously and refined at the meeting included 1) surveillance, 2) policy and practice, 3) analytic tools, and 4) community mobilization and interventions. Dr. Bob Cohen, Coordinating Center consultant, who has been the lead on the Action Planning process, gave the background and charge to the workgroup members for the meeting.



Dr. Rodney Hammond, Director for the CDC Division of Violence Prevention welcomes the ACE Meeting participants.

ACE representatives, CDC staff, and community members participated in one or more of the working sessions of the four workgroups to come up with concrete action steps and tasks with timetables for implementation. The mo-

mentum and energy sparked in Atlanta has already resulted in the immediate implementation of some of the proposed activities. The detailed information of the workgroup activities will be incorporated into the Action Plan and distributed to the ACE community by the Coordinating Center.

In addition to the dedicated time to the Action Plan, the ACE Meeting also included other ACE networking time, as well as CDC presentations by Dr. Rita Noonan, on the Dissemination & Implementation Framework; Ms. Marie Boyle and colleagues on the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center; Dr. Jeff Hall on Surveillance; and Dr. Linda Anne Valle on Evaluation of Centers.

For more information about the ACE Meeting, the Action Plan, or to obtain a copy of the CDC presentations, please contact the Coordinating Center at nacecc@dop.hawaii.edu.

Read more on the ACE Action Plan workgroup activities and updates throughout this issue and on the Coordinating Center website at www.nacecc.org.

Surveillance

The Surveillance workgroup of the ACE Action Plan was facilitated at the ACE Meeting by Drs. David Hemenway, Harvard University, and Paul Juarez, Meharry Medical College.

Discussions from the surveillance group resulted in two specific activities being proposed as potentially feasible for the ACEs to implement in the immediate and near

future regarding ACE surveillance efforts.

The first objective includes publishing and presenting lessons learned from surveillance efforts of the ACEs. This activity is being led by Dr. Saba Masho at Virginia Commonwealth University.

The second objective proposes to establish a set

of core surveillance variables that would be standard across the ACEs. The core variables could then be used for comparisons cross-site. The lead for this activity is Dr. David Hemenway at Harvard University.

If interested in the above activities, please directly contact the lead individuals at swmasho@vcu.edu or hemenway@hsph.harvard.edu.

Policy and Practice

The Policy and Practice workgroup was facilitated by Drs. Deborah Gorman-Smith, University of Illinois, Chicago and Greg Mark, Coordinating Center.

The Policy and Practice group identified three main areas in which to focus cross-ACE efforts: 1) communication and dissemination by identifying substantive issues, target audiences, and mechanisms for communication and dissemination; 2) education and training of ACEs around communication and dissemination; and 3)

linking/building relationships with other organizations.

Proposed activities included short-term objectives in the next several months with the development of an ACE ten-site research brief regarding accomplishments, a research brief template, and expert profiles. Mid-term objectives (6-12 months) included developing individual site research briefs, and a media package focused on school violence and school shootings, as well as policy training at the upcoming Society for Prevention Re-

search (SPR) Meeting (Deborah Gorman-Smith) and a Hawaii State Educational Briefing (Greg Mark).

Long-term activities (1 year or farther) included coordinating a press conference associated with the next National ACE Meeting, an educational briefing in Washington DC (Greg Mark), and a media seminar.

To become involved in the above activities, please contact debg@uic.edu or markgr@csus.edu.

Analytic Tools

The Analytic Tools workgroup, facilitated by Drs. Nancy Guerra, University of California, Riverside, and David Henry, University of Illinois, Chicago, focused on their original objective, currently underway, of developing and piloting an instrument to assess basic forms of youth violence across the ACEs.

The group is currently testing, modifying, and disseminating an instrument that will assess basic forms of youth

violence for purposes of comparing prevalence rates across ACEs. More in-depth subscales for each type of youth violence will also be developed, tested, modified, and disseminated. This effort is being led by Dr. Nancy Guerra and Dr. David Henry.

The group also proposed a catalog of common measures that would facilitate research and evaluation and enable comparison of findings across studies through cross-site

documentation of measures used by the ACEs. Presently, this activity is on hold awaiting a lead volunteer.

For more information on these activities of the workgroup, contact Dr. Guerra (nancy.guerra@ucr.edu), or Dr. Henry (dhenry@uic.edu). Any individual interested in leading the catalog of common measures activity should also contact Drs. Guerra or Henry.

Community Mobilization and Interventions

The Community Mobilization and Interventions workgroup was facilitated by Drs. Joel Fein, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Phil Leaf, Johns Hopkins University.

Participants discussed how to identify and disseminate proven and promising approaches to community intervention/mobilization through collaborative publications, presentations, and workshops by highlighting ACE community partnerships strategies to build

effective coalitions.

The group proposed establishing a method for sharing practices and lessons learned electronically in order to allow what is being used at one site to be applied to another. This effort is being led by Dr. Joel Fein, Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center, and Rev. Neely Williams from the Nashville Urban Partnership Academic Center of Excellence (NUPACE).

Other activities proposed included organizing a conference on CBPR and community interventions around violence prevention and developing partnerships with the NIH and other funders.

A conference call with interested individuals is planned for early June 2008. For more information or to participate in the workgroup please contact Dr. Fein fein@email.chop.edu or Rev. Neely Williams at neelywilliams@yahoo.com.

Mahalo Nui Loa From the Coordinating Center to



The 2008 National ACE Meeting Participants

ACE Steering Committee

The Action Plan Workgroup Original and New Members

Dr. Bob Cohen

Dr. David Hemenway

Dr. Paul Juarez

Dr. Deborah Gorman-Smith

Dr. Gregory Mark

Dr. Nancy Guerra

Dr. David Henry

Dr. Phil Leaf

Ms. Michele Hoover

Dr. Linda Anne Valle

CDC Program & Science Officers

Dr. Rodney Hammond

Dr. Janet Saul

Dr. Rita Noonan

The NYVPRC Team

Dr. Jeff Hall

Ms. Jeanelle Sugimoto

APIYVPC Center staff

Ms. Gail Brown

Ms. Pisa Soli



Dr. Bob Cohen leads the ACE Action Plan

Community Level Surveillance: Why we need it

By Catherine Stayton



“These findings underscore the need for comprehensive surveillance of violence at the community level to inform local program and policy”

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) acquires, collects, and analyzes data on violence-related injuries as part of its Injury Surveillance System (ISS).

Data comes from three sources. Injuries leading to death are obtained from the New York City DOHMH Office of Vital Statistics. Data for injury hospitalizations are obtained from the Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) via the New York State Department of Health. DOHMH staff collects data on intentional injuries leading to emergency department (ED) visits from a sample of EDs at New York City hospitals.

ISS provides measures of youth violence by three levels of severity (death, hospitalization, and emergency department visit) and by subtype over time and place. Injury subtypes coded in ISS include assault injury by firearms, cutting instruments, blunt object, and sexual assault.

Furthermore, ED data provide circumstantial information such as whether the assault took place in the context of a fight, sexual assault, or robbery. Each data source offers geographic information, enabling the monitoring of violent injury and deaths citywide, by borough, and by neighborhood.

In collaboration with the Columbia University Center

for Youth Violence Prevention (CCYVP), the DOHMH monitors violence indicators among youth in Washington Heights-Inwood.

Trends in youth violence indicators in Washington Heights-Inwood are not consistent with those seen citywide and in a sociodemographically comparable community, Morrisana-Highbridge. Specifically,

- From 2001 to 2005, there was little change in homicide rates citywide and in Morrisana-Highbridge; homicide rates in Washington Heights-Inwood declined 38%.

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Responding to Community High Profile Events

by Stephen Leff



Stephen Leff, Ph.D.,
C&D Core Director,
Philadelphia Collaborative
Violence Prevention
Center UPACE

In January 2007, a tragic event heralded the New Year for the West Philadelphia community: An unarmed and innocent young man (age 20) was killed by police. They were responding to a disturbance caused by some teenagers who were drinking alcohol and shooting off guns at their own New Year's celebration.

When police arrived on the scene, the teenagers allegedly began shooting at the officers, and the police opened fire and tragically killed a young man who was picking up his younger nephew from a nearby residence. An innocent young man was killed, and the life of his nephew and family were changed forever. Unfortunately, as our Center partners know

all too well, these types of events happen with much too much regularity in this community.

The Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC) research team had just begun developing relationships with staff members and participants in a neighborhood recreation center when this tragedy occurred.

PCVPC team members were asked by a staff member and a family member of the young man's nephew to provide some helpful resources related to the witnessing of a trauma and loss. A general email was sent to all PCVPC Partners asking for psychological and emotional support resources and informa-

tion, and ultimately the family was provided with specific recommendations to help the survivors of this event.

As members of the PCVPC team assembled these community and clinical referrals for the affected teenager and his family, this incident helped us realize that there may be more effective ways to communicate and provide resources on a regular basis, rather than in response to a tragic event.

Over the past months, Communication and Dissemination (C & D) Core Co-Directors, John Rich, Tom Henry, and Stephen Leff have worked hard to develop a community advisory group to help guide the PCVPC in how

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Highlighting the ACEs *continued from page 1*

healthy, safe, and positive development of youth in the community from early adolescence through emerging adulthood.

Sponsored by the Departments of Psychology, Government & Public Affairs, Psychiatry, and Preventive Medicine & Community Health, the Center's research agenda builds on previous work including a 13-year collaborative effort to develop effective youth violence prevention programs.

It is driven by the assumption that current prevention efforts provide an excellent starting point, but that further research is needed to improve the effectiveness of these programs. This can best be accomplished through an action-research cycle in which current prevention efforts are refined based on relevant research and community input, implemented, and evaluated. Collaboration with the community and collection of surveillance data are considered essential to under-

standing the nature of the problems and priorities within the local community and to determine the feasibility of various prevention approaches.

The research agenda includes core studies and smaller studies designed to provide critical information to guide revisions to current prevention programs. Further research can then be conducted to evaluate their impact. The outreach and education core builds upon and extends previous work supported by an ACE developing center grant funded in 2000.

Some of the community research studies being conducted include:

- *Dating Experiences in Adolescence Study*—a qualitative investigation of situations adolescents face in the context of dating experiences, including positive and problem situations that may lead to violence exposure

- *Risk and Protective Factors for Youth Aggression*—a project

designed to refine measures of risk and protection associated with youth aggression, and to identify how to best improve upon existing measures with this data

- *Expressive Writing Study*—an intervention designed for middle-school youth exposed to community violence based on a model that writing about traumatic or stressful events can facilitate self-regulation of emotions

- *Project COPE*—a study which focuses on stressors in the lives of youth living in impoverished areas of Richmond and how the stressors are linked to adjustment

For more information on the VCU Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development, visit www.clarkhill.org. For information and links to the other ACE websites, visit the Coordinating Center website at www.nacecc.org.



Albert Farrell, Ph.D.,
Principal Investigator,
Virginia Commonwealth
University Clark-Hill
Institute for Positive
Youth Development

The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center is seeking **peer reviewers** for the upcoming Special Issue on Asian American Pacific Islander Youth Violence and Prevention in the *Journal of Aggression and Violent Behavior*. If interested and for further information, please contact Greg Mark at MarkG@dop.hawaii.edu.

Voices from the Community: a youth summit *by Anisa Ibrahim*

As summer approaches, the staff and peer leaders of the Whittier Youth Service & Enrichment (WYSE) program held their 5th annual Youth Violence Prevention Summit on April 24th at the John D. O'Bryant Institute at Northeastern University.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., Summit participants started to form several lines at the registration table. Upon signing the attendance list, each person received a t-shirt and a bag containing social and health literature and brochures and then quickly proceeded to take a seat in the modern conference room booming with the

sound of Hip Hop music.

The master of ceremony was none other than "Maverick," well-known in the community for his rapping and rhymes of non-violence. Maverick officially launched the Summit with endearing words of welcome and introduction to an audience eager to hear about lessons learned from well respected youth violence prevention practitioners as well as a gang involved panelist promoting gang peace.

First on the stage was Emphatic Force, a six-member dance group that utilizes Hip Hop to illustrate non-violence.

At the end of their performance the audience gave them a warm round of applause.

Next followed a panel on the promotion of youth violence prevention comprised of Ulric Johnson, Ph.D, Assistant Dean of the Boston Campus at Springfield College, Mario Rodrigues, Boston resident, Brandy Crawford, MSW, Behavioral Health at Whittier Street Health Center, and Stanley Porter, Event Coordinator, John D. O'Bryant Institute at Northeastern University.

The discussion quickly evolved on the role of the

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"My life's turnaround was seeing the anguish and pain on my mother's face while I was recovering on a hospital bed from a gun shot to the chest."



Dr. Larry Cohen, UNITY Director and Dr. Jane Onoye, Coordinating Center Assistant Director



Dr. Bruce Link, Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention Principal Investigator, is awarded the Rema Lapouse Award for Lifetime Contributions

2007 American Public Health Association Meeting

The Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention were highlighted at the nation's largest public health conference, the 2007 American Public Health Association (APHA) Meeting and Exposition held November 3rd-7th in Washington DC.

As part of the oral symposium on Youth Violence Prevention and Interventions, Dr. Jane Onoye, ACE Coordinating Center, presented an overview of the community-based programs and research of the ten Centers, as well as spotlighted the work of the Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development at Virginia Commonwealth University.

The panel was part of a collaborative submission by the Coordinating Center and Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth through Violence Prevention (UNITY) to describe each program and explore potential avenues for partnership. UNITY presented

its roadmap for urban violence prevention.

In addition to the presentations by the Coordinating Center and UNITY, many other paper and poster sessions at the APHA Meeting included individuals from the various ACEs (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University, University of California at Berkeley, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Virginia Commonwealth University) and their partners.

A noteworthy event at the APHA Meeting was the presentation of the Rema Lapouse Award for Lifetime Contributions to Dr. Bruce Link (Principal Investigator, Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention) for his work on public attitudes towards mental illness which spans many decades.

Also, in conjunction with the APHA meeting, the Coordinating Center organized an ACE brunch which provided infor-

mal networking opportunities for colleagues, and a policy training workshop on understanding the legislative process, conducted by Ms. Annie Toro, Associate Executive Director for Public Interest Government Relations, and Director of the Congressional Fellowship Program of the American Psychological Association.

Several collaborative ACE symposia for special sessions were also submitted for the upcoming 2008 APHA Meeting in San Diego, California, with the hope of continuing to increase the visibility of the ACEs at premiere venues such as APHA.

For a more comprehensive list of ACE presenters and their titles at the 2007 APHA Meeting, visit the webpage nacecc.org/2007-meetings.asp. For more information about APHA or the upcoming 2008 APHA meeting in San Diego this fall, visit www.apha.org.

ACEs at Society for Research on Adolescence Meeting



Chicago streets are masked with snow during the 2008 Biennial SRA Meeting

The 2008 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence in Chicago, Illinois held March 6th-9th included a cross-ACE panel on approaches to school-based prevention of adolescent aggression and problem behaviors.

Chaired by Dr. Tamara Haegerich, CDC, and Dr. Jane Onoye, Coordinating Center, the oral symposium included presentations by Dr. Catherine Bradshaw, Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Stephen Leff, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Dr. Maury Nation, Meharry Medical College.

The papers collectively discussed the evaluation of three

alternative approaches to school-based prevention: social skills training, school-wide bullying prevention, and Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS).

Dr. Haegerich concluded the session as discussant, reflecting upon the implications of the role of schools in promoting adolescent health, and CDC's contributions to preventing adolescent violence through collaborative research and provision of technical assistance to support evidence-based practice.

Additionally, there were a number of other paper and poster presentations by junior

and senior researchers from the ACEs at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Virginia Commonwealth University covering topics such as dating violence, bullying, positive youth development, and youth program evaluation research.

One highlight of the meeting included an ACE dinner for informal networking opportunities in true Chicago style—over pizza.

For more information about the SRA presentations, email the Coordinating Center at nacecc@dop.hawaii.edu or visit nacecc.org/meetings-and-conferences.asp.

Community surveillance *continued from page 4*

- From 2001 to 2005, there were increases in assault-related hospitalizations among youth citywide, in Morrisana-Highbridge and in Washington Heights-Inwood.
- The rate of increase in assault-related hospitalizations in youth in Washington Heights-Inwood was twice

that in Morrisana-Highbridge.

- Washington Heights homicide and assault-related hospitalization rates were approximately half those seen in Morrisana-Highbridge.

These findings underscore the need for comprehensive surveillance of violence at the

community level to inform local program and policy development.

For more information on the Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention, visit <http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/sph/ccyvp/>.



Catherine Stayton, DrPH
Steering Committee,
Columbia Center for
Youth Violence Prevention

Calendar of Events

MARCH 2008	APRIL 2008	MAY 2008	JUNE 2008	JULY 2008	AUGUST 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar 6-9 Society for Research on Adolescence Meeting Chicago, IL www.s-r-a.org • Mar 9-12 35th National Conference on Juvenile Justice St. Louis, MO www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1054/315/ • Mar 10-11 National ACE Meeting Atlanta, GA www.nacecc.org • Mar 15-18 9th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Merida, Mexico www.safety2008mx.info • Mar 17-19 Blueprints Conference Denver, CO www.blueprintsconference.com • Mar 31- Apr 4 National Youth Violence Prevention Week www.ncjrs.gov/yviolence/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apr 1 Summer Institute on Youth Violence Application Deadline nacecc.org/library/images/2008%20flyer-final.doc • Apr 1-2 Navigating the Future: Accessing and Sustaining Resources for Community & Faith-based Organizations Conference www.usdoj.gov/fbci/upcoming-conf-events.htm • Apr 16 Building Healthy Teen Relationships Proposal Deadline www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=20202 • Apr 16 Live Webcast—Community Action: What You Can Do to Stop Bullying Now! Maternal and Child Health Bureau www.mchcom.com/liveWebcastDetail.asp?leid=329 • Apr 30-May 2 Coalition for Community Schools National Forum 2008 Portland, OR www.communityschools.org/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2 Participation in study by Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Deadline cbresearch@une.edu depts.washington.edu/ccph/researchprojects.html • May 4 Kids on the Hill Sounds of Hope & Change 2pm EDT Beth Am Synagogue www.afterschoolinstitute.org/ • May 8-9 4th Eastern Regional Conference on After School Baltimore, MD www.afterschoolinstitute.org/ • May 12-14 Johns Hopkins 58th Institute for Spirituality and Medicine: Violence and the Challenge of Healing in Our Communities Baltimore, MD www.hopkinscme.edu/CourseDetail.aspx?course_code=8001865 • May 28-30 Society for Prevention Research Meeting San Francisco, CA www.preventionresearch.org 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jun 2-8 National Center for Victims of Crime Conference: Responses, Rights, and Resources for Crime Victims Portland, OR www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=DB_Training_Institute1160 • Jun 4-7 Mental Health America Promotion & Prevention Summit Washington DC www.mentalhealthamerica.net/annualconference/index.html • Jun 16 Health Promotion Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Males (R21) Deadline grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-421.html • Jun 24 PBIS Maryland State Leadership Meeting www.pbismaryland.org • Jun 23-26 National Gang Youth Symposium www.gangsymposium.org/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jul 13-25 8th Annual Summer Institute on Randomized Clinical Trials Involving Behavioral Interventions obssr.od.nih.gov/Content/Training_and_Career_Development/Annual_RCT_Course/RCT_2008/2008_RCT.htm • Jul 16-20 National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health: Training Institutes on Local Systems of Care gucchd.georgetown.edu/programs/ta_center/TrainingInstitutes/index2.html • Jul 21-23 National Institute of Justice Conference Arlington, VA www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/events/nij_conference/welcome.htm • Jul 21-25 2008 Maryland PBIS Summer Institute Ellicott City, MD www.pbismaryland.org/SI2008/2008SummerInstituteNew.htm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug 1 Grants for After-School Programs Deadline www.mhopus.org/app_special_0.asp • Aug 14-15 Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) Sustainable Schoolwide SEL Implementation Training Chicago, IL casel.org/pub/training.php • Aug 18 & 29 White House Conference on Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Sacramento, CA (18th) Dallas, TX (29th) www.dtiassociates.com/fbci/index.cfm • Aug 26-28 National Conference on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention New Orleans, LA www.nationalcac.org/professionals/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=122&Itemid=118

For a more comprehensive and updated list of upcoming events, conferences, training opportunities, we recommend linking to <http://www.jhsph.edu/preventyouthviolence> and subscribing to the Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence Items of Interest newsletter.

Voices from the Community: *continued from page 5*

mainstream media in the portrayal of young people as gang involved. According to Dr. Johnson anyone watching the news on television would get the impression that over 90 percent of youth are involved in gangs, while the truth of the matter is less than 5 percent of young people engage in activities that would be deemed gang related.

The panel discussion was followed by a question and answer session between the panelists and the audience. One young participant shared his experience living in the neighborhood stating: "All I noticed was violence; therefore, I became involved with the activities that were going on and got shot three times. My life's turn-around was seeing

the anguish and pain on my mother's face while I was recovering on a hospital bed from a gun shot to the chest. At that moment I remember my mother's warnings about violence on the street; therefore, I decided to get out of the gang."

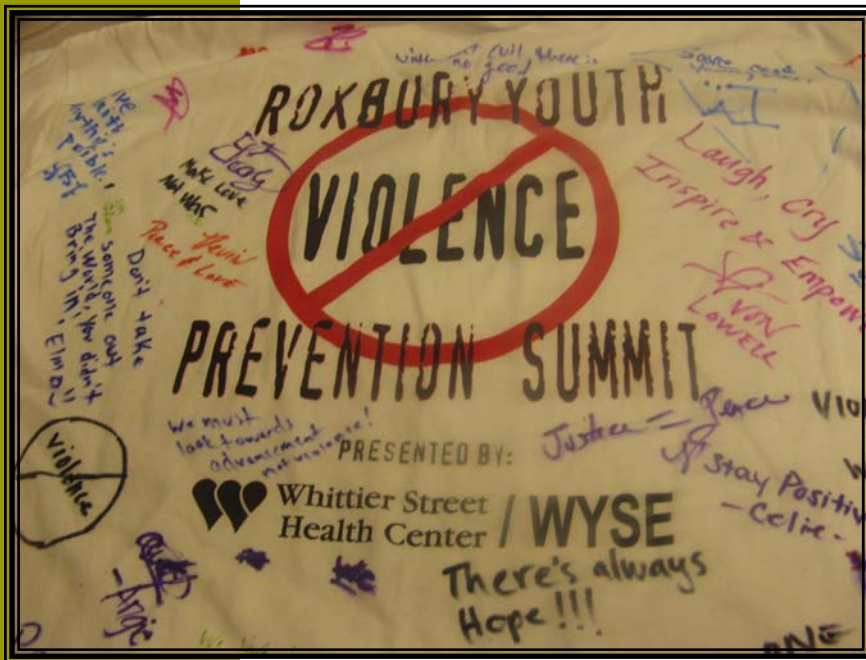
The last act featured Ahmir, a premiere and upcoming male R&B group with a rapidly growing local and national fan base. Ahmir brought urban and classic R&B sounds that reflect the wide range of feelings and emotions that all young people experience.

The Summit attracted approximately 100 males and females aged 12 years and older. Prior to leaving, the participants enjoyed a delicious and nutritious dinner; each one

expressed their commitment to non-violence and hope by writing on a t-shirt.

The Youth Violence Prevention Summit was sponsored by the WYSE program, in collaboration with Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center, John D. O'Bryant Institute, Lowell Community Health Center, Lower Roxbury Coalition, and the Roxbury Community Alliance for Health to promote violence prevention with a focus on creating a safe space for pre-adolescent, adolescent and young adults to reflect on public safety and healthy choices; to engage in fun and interactive learning; and to take a pledge to promote personal responsibility and social justice.

IN FOCUS



Participants at the 5th annual Youth Violence Prevention Summit at the John D. O'Bryant Institute expressed their commitment to non-violence and hope by writing on a t-shirt.

The ACEs

Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention

Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center

Johns Hopkins University Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence

Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention

Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center

Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention

Virginia Commonwealth University Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development

The Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center

Nashville Youth Violence Prevention UPACE

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Web: www.nacecc.org

We're on the web!
www.nacecc.org



NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER
FOR THE ACADEMIC CENTERS OF
EXCELLENCE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE
PREVENTION

ACEs and CDC to be at SPR in San Francisco

If you are attending the upcoming 2008 Annual Society for Prevention Research (SPR) Meeting in San Francisco, California, we invite you to look for the ACEs and CDC.

The event schedule includes numerous sessions that involve individuals from various Centers as well as from CDC. In particular, several cross-ACE collaborative submissions were accepted to the conference, including an oral symposium on teen dating violence, and one on methodological issues of the ACEs. Other ACE posters on ethnicity and culture as contexts in youth violence prevention will also be seen at the evening poster sessions.

ACEs represented at the meeting include University of Illinois at Chicago, University of

Hawai'i at Mānoa, Virginia Commonwealth University, Johns Hopkins University, and University of California at Berkeley.

Also featured at this meeting is an invited CDC session on the public health approach to the prevention of HIV/AIDS, violence, and smoking presenting surveillance, program evaluation, and dissemination activities at CDC.

In support of one of the objectives of the ACE Action Plan workgroup on Policy and Practice, meeting participants may consider attending a series of pre-conference training workshops on public policy offered on Tuesday, May 27th. Two half-day training sessions are offered. The morning workshop provides an overview of the federal legislative process and effective strategies for informing federal policymak-

ers with the role of science. This will be followed by the afternoon workshop which builds on the previous session by providing participants information regarding opportunities for researchers and prevention scientists to be involved in policy and practice.

The Coordinating Center will also be organizing opportunities for informal ACE networking and Action Plan workgroup meetings. For information about these activities and a more comprehensive listing of ACE involvement at the SPR meeting, email nacecc@dop.hawaii.edu or visit www.nacecc.org. For more information on the Annual SPR Meeting visit their website at www.preventionresearch.org.