

Subject: News from CMHS' National Center for Trauma-Informed Care



Trauma Matters

The e-Newsletter from CMHS' National Center for Trauma-Informed Care

In This Issue ...	June 2007
<u>Peer Support for Torture Survivors</u>	Conference Yields Peer Specialists for Torture Survivors
<u>New Web Resource for Veterans</u>	<p>The first five graduates of an innovative peer companion training were honored in May at the first National Conference of Vietnamese Trauma Survivors and Seniors in Fairfax, VA.</p>
<u>Child Trauma and Learning</u>	<p>The conference, sponsored in part by SAMHSA, was hosted by Boat People SOS in collaboration with the George Mason University Center for the Advancement of Public Health.</p>
<u>Study: Link Between Depression and First Drug/Alcohol Use</u>	<p>Peer companions are trained using the Survivors of Torture Empowerment Program (STEP), designed to serve as a "re-education camp" for Vietnamese survivors and their families who have become U.S. residents under the U.S. Humanitarian Operation Program.</p>
<u>Consumers Working to Combat Stigma, Discrimination</u>	<p>Under STEP, local community leaders and volunteers are trained to provide psycho-social support to survivors, locate and connect social services to those survivors, and develop survivors' capacity to contribute to the well being of their families.</p>
<u>Oregon Announces TI Policy</u>	<p>The curriculum is designed to be culture-sensitive, responsive to trainees' feedback and needs, and involves more practice than lectures.</p>
<u>New Homelessness Web Resource</u>	<u>2007 National Conference of Vietnamese Trauma Survivors</u>
<u>2007 Calendar of Events</u>	SAMHSA Offers New Web Resource for Veterans, Families
Quick Links	<p>The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has developed a new web resource for veterans and their families on the prevention and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.</p>
	<p>Combat veterans and other trauma survivors are at a much higher risk</p>

[NCTIC Home](#)

[Technical Assistance](#)

[Resources](#)

[News and Info](#)

NCTIC Mailing List

Join Our Mailing List!

for mental health and substance use concerns. ***Resources for Returning Veterans and Their Families*** provides publications, fact sheets, and links to relevant agencies, along with information on SAMHSA-funded programs, agency activities, and training and technical assistance opportunities. Individuals seeking substance use and mental health services can easily find information about local programs by using SAMHSA's treatment facility locator.

Also, SAMHSA has convened a meeting with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and veteran service organizations to better understand the needs and to identify ways local community-based substance abuse and mental health service organizations can best be prepared to assist veterans and their families. Guidance materials are planned to help states, local communities, and providers to ensure a coordinated approach when providing mental health and substance use services.

[Resources for Returning Veterans and Their Families](#)

New Report Aims to Help Traumatized Children Learn

The Massachusetts Advocates for Children has released a report and policy agenda to help ensure that children traumatized by family violence succeed in school.

The report, *Helping Traumatized Children Learn*, sets forth an education and policy agenda to help schools become more supportive environments where traumatized children can focus, behave appropriately, and learn. It provides a framework that can be tailored by individual schools to integrate trauma-sensitive routines and supports throughout the school day. Rather than prescribing particular interventions, the framework is designed to establish environments that help traumatized children develop relationships with caring adults, learn to modulate their emotions and behaviors, and achieve academic success. The framework contains six key elements:

- School-wide infrastructure and cultures;
- Staff training;
- Linking with mental health professionals;
- Academic instruction for traumatized children;
- Non-academic strategies; and
- School policies, procedures and protocols.

"The first step in creating trauma-sensitive schools is to help educators become aware of trauma symptoms," the report states. "Without supports within the school, teachers are almost forced to look the other way; policy makers must provide schools with the tools they need to help all children learn, including those who have been traumatized by family violence."

The report also acknowledges the strong link between unaddressed childhood trauma and social and behavioral health problems: "When child victims become victimizers, a society that failed to help these children when they needed it most faces the consequences of shortsighted policies. We can either invest in necessary supports for

educators and services for children now, or we can allow the cycle of violence and failure to continue, dealing with children later through more costly institutions, including the criminal justice system."

[**Helping Traumatized Children Learn: a report and policy agenda**](#)

SAMHSA Study Shows Link Between Depression and First Use of Drugs and Alcohol

Youths who faced depression in the past year were twice as likely as those who did not have depression to take their first drink or use drugs for the first time, according to a new report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) Report, *Depression and the Initiation of Alcohol and Other Drug Use among Youths Aged 12 to 17*, showed that in 2005 2.2 million youths experienced a major depressive episode in the past year.

[Click here](#) to access the report online. Free copies may be obtained by calling SAMHSA's Health Information Network at 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727). Request inventory number NSDUH07-0503.

Consumer Group Calls for Greater Survivor Involvement to Combat Discrimination and Stigma

The National Coalition of Mental Health Consumer/Survivor Organizations (NCMHCSO) released a policy statement calling for greater consumer involvement to counter discrimination and social stigmas associated with mental illness.

In its statement, *Countering Discrimination and Stigma by Promoting Mental Health Recovery and Resiliency*, NCMHCSO offers three main points:

- Research shows that people can recover from mental illness or severe emotional distress.
- People who have psychiatric histories must be included in discussions concerning them, just as other groups are included when decisions are made about them.
- The mental health community needs to focus on wellness promotion and programs that support recovery and resiliency.

"We also can offer information about self-help/advocacy organizations we have developed around the country and about the active role we are playing in transforming the mental health system," the statement reads. "Allowing others to speak 'for' us perpetuates the myth that we are unable to represent our own interests."

[**Countering Discrimination and Stigma by Promoting Mental Health Recovery and Resiliency**](#)

Oregon Announces Trauma-Informed Statewide Policy

Oregon's Department of Human Services has released a policy

statement announcing its intention to integrate a better understanding of and more effective response to trauma across its health and human service delivery systems.

The statement outlines Oregon's plans to:

- develop and implement statewide policies and procedures to deliver mental health and addiction services that are sensitive and responsive to the needs of survivors of psychological trauma;
- have service agencies develop policies and procedures that are both trauma-informed and trauma-specific; and
- encourage partnership across the department and with other public, private, and non-profit agencies in developing trauma-informed services.

Oregon is calling for a more coordinated approach within mental health, addiction, and other social and health services that recognizes and responds to trauma, helping people recover.

[Oregon Department of Human Services, Addictions and Mental Health Division](#)

New Homelessness Web Resource Launched

SAMHSA's Homelessness Resource Center (HRC) has introduced its interim web site at www.homeless.samhsa.org.

HRC fosters the development of an interactive learning community by bringing together state-of-the art knowledge and promising practices to prevent and end homelessness among people with trauma histories and mental health and/or substance use problems.

When completed next winter, the site will address key topics in the field from the perspectives of researchers, service providers, consumers, advocates, and policymakers.

[SAMHSA's Homelessness Resource Center](#)

2007 Calendar of Events

June 14-16

[2007 National Health Care for the Homeless Conference](#) in Washington, DC

June 16-21

[College on Problems of Drug Dependence 68th Annual Meeting](#) in Quebec City, Quebec

June 18-20

NCTIC Trauma Workshop at the [National Center for Victims of Crime Conference](#) in Washington, DC

July 16-20

[Virginia Summer Institute of Addiction Studies Conference](#) in Williamsburg, VA

July 18-21

SPAN USA's [12th Annual National Suicide Prevention Awareness and Training](#) in Washington, DC

July 26-28

[American Mental Health Counselors Association 2007 Annual Conference](#) in New Orleans, LA

August 17-20

[American Psychological Association 115th Annual Convention](#) in San Francisco, CA

September 16-19, 2007

[Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma 12th International Conference](#) in San Diego, CA

September 23-26

[8th National Conference on Addiction and Criminal Behavior](#) in St. Louis, MO

September 30-October 3

[Alcohol and Substance Abuse Providers 10th Annual Conference](#) in Niagara Falls, NY

October 3-5

[National Crime Prevention Council 8th National Conference](#) in Atlanta, GA

October 4-6

[Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders International Conference](#) in Dallas, TX

October 10-14

[Alternatives 2007 Spanning the Recovery Movement: Consumer Control & Choice](#) in St. Louis, MO

November 3-7

[American Public Health Association 135th Annual Meeting and Exposition](#) in Washington, DC

November 15-17

[International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies 23rd Annual Meeting](#) in Baltimore, MD

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to info@witnessjustice.org, by nctic@abtassoc.com
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

National Center for Trauma-Informed Care | 4550 Montgomery Avenue | Suite 800 North | Bethesda | MD | 20814

Email Marketing by

