

TAKING CHARGE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Making the Latino Family Connection</i>	2
<i>Conexiones: A Student's Perspective</i>	2
<i>Cuidate: Reducing Risks Among Latino Youth</i>	4
<i>Sex-ed Teacher Training Institute Formed</i>	6
<i>2008 Nearman Awards</i>	7

Officers:

Carl Kallgren, Ph.D., Chair

Shileste Overton-Morris, Vice-Chair

Anita Pilkerton-Plumb, M.S.W., Treasurer

Damion H.L. Wilson, Secretary

Members at Large:

Carolyn Cass

Heather Cecil, Ph.D.

Erica Coulter, M.D.

Danielle Green

Wayne Grinwis, M.S.S.

Martha Milbrand

Carol Nodgaard

Maryjo Oster

Ingrid Perez

Mary Jo Podgurski, RNC

Tristan Ruby, MPH

Sandra Valdez

Lisa Wehr

Jay Yanoff, Ed.D.

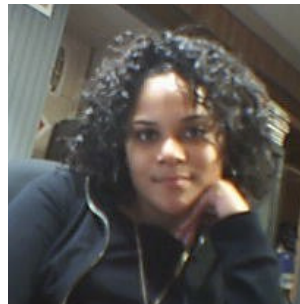
Staff

Joe Fay, M.A., Executive Director

Susan Washinger, M. Ed., SBA Project Coordinator

Becky Thoroughgood, Newsletter editor

CONEXIONES: A BLENDED CURRICULUM



Mercedes Gutierrez,
Congreso de Latinos Unidos,
Philadelphia, PA

One of the most common errors in health education is the misconception that all curricula are acceptable and appropriate for all audiences. This assumption has led to the failure of many previous attempts to implement a program that results in a valid behavioral change. *Conexiones* is a program that has created a blended curriculum, which strives to be culturally competent and relevant to the Latino youth of North Philadelphia. Developed from three

pre-existing science-based curricula, this curriculum has been founded upon several well-known models. We have taken major components from the best practice models from current and past programs based on what best fits the needs of the target audience. *Conexiones*, which means Connections, attempts to illustrate a distinct connection between sexual health, domestic violence, healthy relationships, nutrition, mental health, and promotion of the overall well being of young individuals. This is done by addressing the topics in combination with each other. By demonstrating this correlation, youth are empowered with knowledge to make healthy choices that will in turn help them to lead healthier lives.

Meeting the needs of Latinos

While the national rate of teen pregnancy has been on a steady decline, the Latino teen pregnancy rate is almost

twice the national average (www.teenpregnancy.org). The cause of this could stem from a lack of knowledge and education. In order to ensure that our clients are given an equal opportunity to gain from our program we have translated a large majority of our written materials, hired bilingual staff, and work to connect our clients to bi-lingual services. We also strive to use inclusive language at all times. Speaking openly about sexual health in the context of other high risk behaviors is new territory for many of our clients. Often we are faced with apprehension from teachers or parents who wonder if exposure to these topics would spark curiosity and in turn cause more problems. Much of this anxiety is put to rest when teachers and parents are read some of the anonymous questions that students place in a box to be answered. This has been one

(Cont. on p 2 See Conexiones)

WORKING WITH LATINO YOUTH

Melissa Montero-Townes,
Adagio Health, Inc.

In 16 of the 37 reporting states and the District of Columbia, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen pregnancy shows an increase in Teen Pregnancy in Latinas age 15-19 from 1990-2005. I ask myself, "Why is that?" Some may argue that it is cultural, economical, social norms or language barrier. In my opinion, as a Latina Health Educator and teen mother, it is a combination of all. Add to the mix, a lack of

comprehensive sexuality education in the public school system and scarce Latina role models and you have the perfect recipe for teen pregnancy.

During my research for this article and looking at national, state and local statistics, the numbers were surprisingly not surprising to me. Nationally, 51% of Latinas get pregnant at least once before the age of 20, compared to the national average of 35%. Latinas have had the highest birth rate among the major racial and ethnic groups in US

since 1995. In addition, the National Campaign reports that Latinas age 15-19 were 32% more likely to report first male partner to be four or more years older than them compared to over 19% Non Hispanic Black. In education, 57% Latinas, 25 and older, have only a high school education compared to 78.7% Non Hispanic Black and 88.7% Non Hispanic White. The statistics are disturbing.

So what is the "solution" to this huge problem of Teen Pregnancy among Latinas?

(Cont. on p 3. See Latinas)

“Many times, we find that the Latino community is categorized as one group due to the generalizations and stereotypes of society. There is a definite need for awareness of cultural differences among the group.”

— Mercedes Gutierrez,
Congreso de Latinos
Unidos

Conexiones (Cont. from p. 1)

of the most useful tools for addressing the needs of our clients by allowing students to ask questions freely.

Recognizing Diversity

Many times we find that the Latino community is categorized as one group due to the generalizations and stereotypes of society. Contrary to what working with Latino youth may imply, there is a definite need for awareness of cultural differences among the group. From the food, the music, and even the language, the differences are vast. Developing a curriculum that will encompass all of the values that different groups of Latinos identify is virtually impossible. *Conexiones* has offered a safe haven to many of our participants who live in at-risk households and are in need of support and guidance. By offering a space where they can talk and discuss issues that have been plaguing their minds, we have dispelled many myths and empowered youth with facts and information. This allows them to make healthy decisions that will affect the rest of their lives.

CONEXIONES: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Raymond Otero , E3 Center-
Job Readiness Program,
Philadelphia, PA

Conexiones was the program that Ms. Ingrid and Ms. Aleah taught us about life skills, in addition to drugs and alcohol and HIV/AIDS. For about two and a half weeks they drilled into our heads the importance of staying safe and to think things through — not in a forceful or controlling way. Nor did they say, “Say, no , no ,no, drugs are bad and AIDS will kill you in an instant.” It was instead, in a way that was comfortable and relaxing. They explained all the details and used simple activities to make sure we were taking in all that they were giving us. They also taught us methods of getting out of situations that would harm us, either mentally or physically, get us locked up or make us parents at a young age.

Like I said, besides the life skills they taught us, they helped us understand the exact ways you can get HIV/AIDS or STDs. Not simply from

giving someone a hug, but from sexual contact and using someone else's needle. They also told us which STDs are curable and the ones that aren't curable as well as what drugs and alcohol and do to your body and your mind. They explained the main body parts drugs and alcohol take a toll on, and how your way of thinking and decision making is off when you are high or drunk.

Making a Real Difference

Basically, I knew most of this stuff. The consequences of getting high or drunk would hurt my body and how easy it is to get an STD when you not taking the right precautions. But I liked how they taught and how they were down to earth. They even brought some food and drinks in during class and you know you can't learn on an empty stomach! Hopefully, other adolescents learn as much as I did from the program and, as a result, live their life in a healthy and mature way, knowing that life is sacred.

MAKING THE LATINO FAMILY CONNECTION

The following is an excerpt from *What Research Tells Us About Latino Parenting Practices and their Relationship to Youth Sexual Behavior* by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (Feb. 2008). It is designed as suggestions for practitioners working with Latino Youth.

1. Focus on the teen within the family context. The core Latino value of familism necessitates a family-based approach to adolescent care and preventive services that considers the values and dynamics of Latino families. This requires inclusion of parents and other family in decision-making and consideration of parental authority more than might be

necessary for other cultural groups.

2. Develop creative ways to reach out to extended family. Extended family members are an untapped resource in Latino families. Involve aunts, uncles, cousins, or other adults to whom teens turn to for advice in clinical or programmatic activities. A trusted extended family member may be an important bridge between parents and teens when conflicts arise.

3. Ask about individual and family conflicts around acculturation. Research suggests that conflicts can arise for individuals and within Latino families as adolescents master language skills and familiarity with

cultural and institutional values in the United States more rapidly than do their parents. Parents may feel conflicted about how to respect their own values while accommodating those of the mainstream culture. Youth may feel pulled between parental values or identity and a desire to be more “American.” These pressures or stress may result in grief, mental health problems, or conflicts and tensions between parents and youth. Additionally, both teens and parents may newly experience racism and discrimination, which adds additional stresses that may impact family health and functioning.

(Cont. on page 5. See Family)

(Latinos Cont. from p. 1)

The Latino culture is a bold, beautiful and vibrant culture – truly an awesome experience. We love our families, including close friends of our families. We love our children and our mothers and fathers. This family connection is an important one to enlist if we want to prevent teen pregnancy in the Latino community. Parents have a strong influence on children and therefore should be educated through effective programming on teen pregnancy prevention and life skills. Family involvement can be created by someone in the community, someone who is trusted to build a strong relationship between families and agencies. Family dynamics cannot be assessed through school based programs, which is why school based programs ALONE are not our solution to teen pregnancy in the Latino community. Similarly, family education done through phone calls, letters and emails is much less effective than outreach done through relationship building and home visits. Programs need a broad perspective including strategies that develop family strengths and enhance parenting skills, and provide information about reproduction and contraceptive services (Moore et al.,1995).

In addition, programs for the Latino population have to be culturally appropriate and relevant to increase the effectiveness of efforts to reduce teen pregnancy.

More than half of Latinos (53%) say that religion provides a “great deal of guidance in their daily lives. (*The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 1-2006*) So I say, let’s involve

the churches. I have been at Catholic, very conservative churches, talking about HIV and other health issues in the community. At times, it may not be possible to actually do interventions at the church, but they may let you do an announcement of a program or speak to the elders or even post an educational event in a bulletin.

Funding What Counts

We are in desperate need of more funding to hire more health educators in the comprehensive sexuality education field. I wish that I could do more programs at more places, more frequently, but money is an issue. I believe more comprehensive sexuality education is needed in school-based and after school programs.

I was a Latina teen parent (twice) and I wish I would have benefited from the suggestions I made in this article. I do believe I have made a difference in teens’ lives through school based education, an afternoon program, or maybe having coffee with a teen’s mother during a home visit. If we implement these things and build relationships in the Latino Community, we can be hopeful to see a decrease in teen pregnancy. For now, we need to continue exploring, developing, and evaluating promising approaches and interventions to working with Latino Youth.

Note: *The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy provides many resources on working with Latino youth and communities. Visit the website at www.teenpregnancy.org and there you will find materials specific to the Latino Population. See page 5 for a listing.*

“The family connection is an important one to enlist if we want to prevent teen pregnancy in the Latino community. Parents have a strong influence on children and therefore should be educated through effective programming on teen pregnancy prevention and life skills.”

— *Melissa Montero-Townes, Adagio Health*

LATINO TEEN PREGNANCY STATS

Latinos are a growing and diverse population in the United States with a rich cultural heritage. As an ethnic group, Latinos may be characterized as valuing family highly and benefiting from strong family connections. Yet while we know, in general, that parents play a vital role in protecting the well-being of adolescents, less is known about characteristics of parenting practices in Latino families and how they relate to pregnancy prevention. There is a great need to understand the important role Latino parents play in establishing the beliefs and values that deter their adolescent children’s sexual behavior, and to identify challenges that may make parents’ efforts less effective. The urgency of these issues is underlined by statistics indicating that Latino adolescents experience a number of disparities in relation to teen pregnancy and sexual behavior.

- Latina teens (aged 15 to 19) have had the **highest birth rate of any racial/ethnic group in the United States since 1995**, and while birth rates have dropped for all groups since 1991, Latinas have experienced the

lowest percentage drop (21%). In 2004, birth rates for Latina adolescents were 82.6 per 1,000, compared to significantly lower rates for their counterparts (17.3 per 1,000 for Asian/Pacific Islanders, 26.7 per 1,000 for Whites, and 63.1 per 1,000 for African-Americans).

- **Fifty-one percent of Latina adolescents become pregnant at least once before age 20** compared to a 35% national average.
- Recent national data indicates that **44% of Latina adolescents reported ever having had sexual intercourse**, a percentage similar to Whites. However, approximately 66% of sexually experienced Latina teens used contraception the first time they had sex—less than both African-American (71%) and White girls (78%).

(Source: *What Research Tells Us About Latino Parenting Practices and their Relationship to Youth Sexual Behavior*, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, February 2008)

Cuidate: Reducing Risks Among Latino Youth



Shannon Sainer, COAPPP

Colorado is a state with diverse traditions, cultures, people and languages. Not unlike other states, health disparities exist within the diversity and among the most marginalized communities. In Colorado, the greatest health disparities in teen births and STIs exist among rural youth and youth of color – primarily Latino youth. The research on teen pregnancy available to us about Latinos does very little to tell us how the disparity impacts Latino groups based on the diversity among Latino communities. We do know that more research about acculturation, national origin, and language will give us greater insight to the differences among Latino groups in our communities. However, gaps in economic and educational opportunities and access to health education and services are major factors that impact teen pregnancy, and exist at a greater rate among Latino youth and other youth of color.

Addressing Misconceptions

One perception about Latinos that Colorado Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention (COAPPP) has heard time and again suggests that Latino families condone or promote teen pregnancy, a perception that COAPPP has yet to see demonstrated by the greater majority of Latino communities in Colorado. Hector Sanchez-Flores, senior researcher from the Center for Reproductive Health Policy Research University of California, puts

“Gaps in economic and educational opportunities and access to health education and services, are major factors that impact teen pregnancy and exist at a greater rate among Latino youth and other youth of color.”

— Shannon Sainer,
Colorado Organization on
Adolescent Pregnancy,
Parenting and Prevention
(COAPPP)

this perception in context by stating, “It is a gross generalization that Latino families approve of teen pregnancy simply because they celebrate and help raise the children born to the teens around them.”

There are many collaborations and organizations actively working to address the health disparities in Colorado and support the success and well-being of all young people. Several organizations have adopted science-based programs that address diverse communities and work to change adolescent sexual risk-taking behavior among specific population groups.

A Science-Based Approach

One such program, *iCuidate!*, is a science-based, proven-effective HIV sexual risk reduction curriculum for Latino youth. The curriculum was created for and with Latino youth, modeling the structure and content from another science-based curriculum, *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* (BPBR). Although the content is similar to BPBR, *iCuidate!* also incorporates cultural values and concepts unique to Latino communities to decrease sexual risk and increase prevention behavior. The curriculum works to link these values to decision-making and behavior, so that abstinence and condom use are emphasized as culturally accepted and effective ways to prevent unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. As an afterschool program, *iCuidate!* was replicated in several US cities, rigorously evaluated and was shown to increase condom and contraception use among teens and reduce the number of sexual partners.

Most recently, Colorado has had the opportunity to use

iCuidate! in one local high school during school class time. Nearly 95% of students attending the participating school are Latino and the program was delivered to 9th grade students. The program was delivered during gym classes and students were recruited to participate, with signed parental consent. In a classroom setting with 45 minute classes, the curriculum was delivered daily for three weeks. The school administrators, staff and parents were supportive of the program, however there were challenges in coordinating school schedules and getting students to deliver the permission slips to their parents. Despite these challenges, students reported that they were very satisfied with the program and that they didn't want to see the program end. On a program evaluation, one student stated “I really enjoyed this program. I learned a lot of things I never heard before so I would like to thank you so much for the help in making better choices.”

This curriculum, along with the efforts of many organizations and individuals, are making a positive impact on the youth and health disparities in Colorado.

iCuidate! is currently being approved as an effective HIV prevention program, and is not yet available to the public – but will be in 2009.

For more information on *iCuidate!* [Take Care of Yourself], visit http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/prev_prog/rep/packages/i_cuidate!.htm

For more information about the Colorado Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention, contact Shannon Sainer at 303-225-8870 ext. 3 or via e-mail: ssainer@coapp.org.

(*Family, continued from p.2*) It is important that providers acknowledge social inequities, and help families find positive means of response.

4. Respect parents' language choices. Understand that differential language abilities between youth and parents may undermine not only a clinical or other encounter, but also parental authority in general. It is therefore imperative to reinforce parental authority by speaking to the parent in their language of choice. Adolescent children should never be used as interpreters. Simple efforts like having materials and questionnaires available to parents in Spanish may encourage parents' involvement, and provide a starting place for other important discussions.

5. Be personable. *Personalismo*, or relationships based on warmth, trust, and respect are highly valued in Latino culture. Latino families therefore need to feel that the teacher of their child, their nurse, or their social worker genuinely cares about them. Remembering details such as the names of children or spouses, and asking about them in conversation is a way to express that you value the relationship.

6. Discussions regarding confidential medical care should be approached with an understanding of Latino families' cultural values. Many Latino parents are unfamiliar with the concept of confidential care for teenagers, and may misinterpret it as a threat to their core values of respect for parental decision-making and the sanctity of the family. However, many parents will change their perspective if confidentiality is fully explained in clear and simple language. Latino parents should be reassured that an important goal of confidential discussions is to encourage parent-adolescent communication about sensitive topics. To avoid parent-adolescent misunderstandings and establish that confidentiality is the norm for the care of all teens, it should be explained to the teen and parent together at the first visit, before the provider begins other discussions.

7. Provide culturally and linguistically relevant parent education. Multiple organizations focused on parenting adolescents have noted that most Latino parents are ready and waiting for culturally and linguistically relevant coaching on parenting teens. Providers can support and promote agencies that are developing these programs, and encourage parents to attend.

8. Immigrant Latino parents may need information on how to allow adolescents to develop independence safely. Immigrant parents may need guidance to understand normative adolescent activities in the United States. Adolescents need safe opportunities to develop a mature interdependence, but immigrant parents may not recognize appropriate situations to allow this growth. Those expected expressions of independence and rites of passages that are regarded as culturally normative by many in the U.S. may become a source of stress in a Latino family. Providers should discuss these anticipated developmental passages and how Latino

parents can assure their child's safety. Address their fears and help connect Latino teens and children to supervised organized activities (i.e.

(*Cont. on page 6. See Family*)

RESOURCES

The Latino teen pregnancy rate is almost twice the national average and has declined about half as fast as the national rate. For this reason and others, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has begun a new initiative focused specifically on helping the Latino community in its efforts to reduce continued high rates of adolescent pregnancy and childbearing. For information about the Latino Initiative, please contact Ruthie Flores, Senior Manager, Latino Initiative, at 202-478-8504.

Resources available include fact sheets and the following:

- ***Bridging Two Worlds (2006)*** Also available in Spanish as *Un Puente Entre Dos Mundos*
- ***Faith, Hope, and Love: How Latino Faith Communities Can Help Prevent Teen Pregnancy (2005)*** (Available in Spanish as *Fe, esperanza y amor: Cómo pueden las comunidades religiosas latinas ayudar prevenir el embarazo entre los adolescentes*)
- ***Nine Tips for Faith Leaders (1998)*** Available in Spanish as *Nueve consejos para ayudar a líderes espirituales*)
- ***Parent-Adolescent Communication about Sex in Latino Families: A Guide for Practitioners (2008)***
Parent Power (2003) (Available in Spanish as *El poder de los padres: Lo que los padres deben saber y hacer para ayudar prevenir el embarazo en los adolescentes*)
- ***Talking Back (2002)*** (Available in Spanish as *Los jóvenes responden: Diez cosas que desean que los adultos sepan sobre el embarazo en la adolescencia*)
- ***Ten Tips for Parents (2007)***
- ***What Research Tells Us About Latino Parenting Practices and their Relationship to Youth Sexual Behavior (2008)***
- ***Science Says #32: Effective and Promising Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs for Latino Youth***
- ***Science Says #35: Acculturation and Sexual Behavior among Latino Youth***

For more information or to download a publication, go to: the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy website at www.teenpregnancy.org

“It is a gross generalization that Latino families approve of teen pregnancy simply because they celebrate and help raise the children born to the teens around them.”

— *Hector Sanchez-Flores, Center for Reproductive Health Policy Research, University of California*

LOCAL COALITION NEWS

This year marked the seventh annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy on May 2, 2008. Here are some activities that were held in recognition of this event:

- **May 2 — Delaware County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition** sponsored *Girls' Night Out—The ABCs of HPV* for an interactive discussion about reproductive health and to introduce community resources.
- **May 8 — Montgomery County Teen Parent Task Force** held its annual teen conference including a resource fair and workshops, including a session in Spanish for the Latino population.
- **May 8 — York County** held their annual *Teen Pregnancy Awareness Day* at Crispus Attucks Community Center.
- **May 22 — Adams Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy** co-sponsored *A Picture Lasts a Thousand Years: Internet Reality*, an interactive free internet safety program for all parents and educators to learn the latest internet concerns for youth.
- **June 28 — Planned Parenthood of Central PA** sponsored a youth camp to teach youth to take action and advocate for better sex-ed in their schools and communities.

(*Family, continued from p 5*) extra-curricular activities or sports). Parents may need information on how these activities improve their children's skills at school.

9. Parents may feel isolated socially, and with regard to their parenting beliefs. Parents may feel isolated in their new community, especially in those areas where Latinos have settled more recently. It is important, therefore, that providers have a strong working relationship with other organizations serving the Latino community. Referrals to other agencies may decrease parents' social isolation and increase their connection to local community resources. These connections may nurture the development of social networks within which parents' beliefs and values can be supported, and their ongoing, meaningful engagement in the lives of their teens can be celebrated.

10. Given the cultural value placed on motherhood, secondary pregnancy prevention may have a particularly important role for Latinas. Though statistics support the multiple negative consequences of teen pregnancy, for Latinas, there may also be positive outcomes. The experience of some clinicians suggests that positive transformations in support of the motherhood role may result from a teen pregnancy, such as new motivation to finish school. As with other aspects of adolescent care in Latino families, it is important to involve the family in the teen's prenatal care and to assist with the transition into new family roles. Once the first child is born, the challenge to practitioners is to utilize those same cultural values to motivate ongoing participation in education and to delay of a second pregnancy. The importance of staying in school in light of modern economic demands should be emphasized to the whole family.

11. Help parents understand and navigate the educational system. Research indicates that Latino parents have high educational expectations and aspirations for their children, but they may lack understanding as to how the system works and their expected role in their children's learning. Given the link between educational success and delayed pregnancy, assisting La-

tino parents in developing this knowledge and skill base is crucial for pregnancy prevention. Investment in community or school-based programs that address these issues for Latino and other immigrant parents is likely to bring significant long-term results in educational and other public health arenas.

12. Avoid burn-out. Providers may feel isolated and overburdened when working with underserved populations such as Latinos. Do not reinvent the wheel. Refer and create space to meet other providers who share your mission and passion. Use those opportunities to refresh, share ideas and resources, and recharge. Channel some of the stress into advocacy.

PCPTP JOINS WITH PENN STATE TO FORM TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR SEX EDUCATION

Penn State University (PSU) and PCPTP recently announced a new training program for Pennsylvania educators, the Pennsylvania Learning Academy for Sexuality Education (PLASE). The new academy will be based in the Department of Biobehavioral Health in PSU's College of Health and Human Development. Patricia Koch, Ph.D., Professor of Biobehavioral Health, will oversee the academy.

PLASE is Pennsylvania's only statewide sexuality training program for educators. The 2008-2009 year will feature ten one-day workshops offered at various Penn State locations across the Commonwealth. So that the courses can be offered at reduced cost to Pennsylvania educators, they are being underwritten in part by grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and PSU's Outreach Thematic Initiative Fund.

The formation of PLASE is a major milestone in the PCPTP's ongoing efforts to improve sexuality education for Pennsylvania youth. We are grateful that PSU and PDE have risen to the challenge.

Please refer to page 8 (back cover) for the 2008-2009 schedule of trainings.

"Family dynamics cannot be assessed through school based programs, which is why school based programs ALONE are not our solution to teen pregnancy in the Latino community."

— Melissa Montero-Townes, Adagio Health

PCPTP ANNOUNCES 2008 NEARMAN AWARDS

Lesley Nearman was instrumental to the development of The Pennsylvania Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (PCPTP). Before PCPTP was able to hire paid staff, Lesley served as a volunteer Director. She was an ally and force behind the new organizational vision and without her, PCPTP would not exist as we know it today.

In her honor, the Lesley Nearman Awards recognize outstanding efforts that support the mission of PCPTP. Since her passing in 2001, an award is presented annually to a recipient in each of the following four categories: statewide or national organization, community-based group, individual, and adolescent(s).

The 2008 Nearman Awards were presented to the following recipients:

Statewide/National Organization – Advocates for Youth, Washington D.C.



Advocates for Youth is dedicated to creating programs and advocating for policies that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates provides information, training, and strategic assistance

to youth-serving organizations, policy makers, youth activists, and the media in the United States and the developing world. A life-long friend of PCPTP, Advocates has a decade-long history of guiding the PCPTP and many local coalitions in PA to become stronger and more effective organizations. Advocates has been a tireless supporter of PCPTP's initiatives, sometimes with funding, always with their highly-regarded staff, on issues such as EC, comprehensive sex education, science-based approaches, and advocacy. Their participation as keynotes and workshop presenters at our annual conferences has been invaluable. More recently, Advocates has provided guidance for PCPTP's strategic plan, clarity to our advocacy efforts, and has assisted in the development of the overall organization. PCPTP is grateful for the work of this esteemed organization as a national leader in the field, and as a supporter of PCPTP's mission to lead efforts in Pennsylvania.

Community-Based Group – Delaware County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition

The Delaware County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition is a collaboration of organizations that serve children and families in Delaware County. Its mission is to prevent pre- and teen pregnancy by increasing knowledge,

awareness and accountability of the issue through the promotion of evidence-based best practices and through community outreach and education. In the last year, the coalition hosted screenings of educational videos and held several successful workshops for students and professionals. This local coalition serves as an example of how collaborative efforts can strengthen a community-wide prevention effort.

Individual – Judy Gawlinski, Union City SD

Judy is a teacher in Union City School District. She teaches one of the state's most comprehensive sex-ed programs and, as part of the course, trains the students to become peer educators. Judy is a strong advocate for the rights of teens to receive sex education.



She respects teens' abilities to be advocates for their own sexual health. She encourages youth to demonstrate responsibility by contributing to the well-being of others and to take responsibility for their actions. Judy has been working tirelessly in obscurity for many years, gradually building community support for her efforts. Her work serves as an example to others within the public school system who are often deterred from taking action.

Adolescent – Kaitlyn Wall, Washington SD

Kaitlyn is an outstanding peer educator who models, mentors and educates. She personifies open, non-judgmental attitudes toward adolescent sexuality and diversity. She was instrumental in starting the first Gay Straight Alliance in her high school, and as a college student, continues to provide guidance and support. In response to a suicide in her high school that had implications for sexual orientation, Kaitlyn also initiated the first Day of Silence in Washington County, which also continues to be held at the school. As someone who is courageous and strong enough to stand for those who are marginalized, Kaitlyn is a true role model for other teens.

Board Recognition

Each year, we also recognize members of the Board of Directors who have completed their second term of service. This year, we recognize three out-going members of the Board who have served from 2002 – 2008:

- **Laura Rostolsky**, Family Health Council of Central Pennsylvania
- **Andrea Schappert, M.S.**, Maternal and Family Health Services
- **Linda Snyder, Dr. PH**, Adagio Health, Inc.

The Lesley Nearman Awards recognize outstanding efforts that support the mission of PCPTP. Awards are presented in the following four categories: statewide or national organization, community-based group, individual, and adolescent(s).



**Pennsylvania
Coalition to
Prevent Teen
Pregnancy**

3461 Market Street,
Suite 200,
Camp Hill, PA 17011
717-761-7380
717-763-4779 fax
www.pcptp.org

*Providing statewide leadership
on the issue of adolescent
pregnancy prevention through
advocacy, education, and
support for community efforts.*

The PCPTP gratefully
acknowledges the following
organizations for their
generosity and support:

Family Health Council of Central
Pennsylvania, Inc.

Adagio Health, Inc.

Family Planning Council, Inc.

Maternal and Family Health
Services, Inc.

Pennsylvania State University

Hahnemann University Hospital
(Tenet Healthcare)

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Harrisburg, PA
Permit No. 243

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Mark your calendars

The Pennsylvania Learning Academy for
Sexuality Education (PLASE), a project of
Penn State University and PCPTP (see p. 6),
will host the following one-day workshops in
the fall:

HIV in the 21st Century

10/13/08, at Penn State Mont Alto
10/27/08, at Penn State New Kensington

11/3/08, at Penn State Hazleton

Risky Business: STIs/HIV and Youth

9/29/08, at Penn State Fayette
10/10/08, at Penn State Abington
10/20/08, at Penn State Wilkes-Barre
Visit the PCPTP website for updates about
the trainings. For more information, go to:
<http://www.pcptp.org/education/>

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT PCPTP

The mission of the PCPTP is to provide statewide leadership on the issue of adolescent pregnancy prevention through advocacy, education and support of community efforts. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation. (Please make checks payable to: PCPTP) Or, you can donate on-line by visiting us on the web at: <http://www.pcptp.org/contact/> and select "Make a donation"

_ \$1,000 _ \$500 _ \$250 _ \$100 _ \$50 \$_____ other

Thank you for your support.

Name: _____

Mail to: PCPTP

Address: _____

3461 Market St., Suite 200

Camp Hill, PA 17011

Email: _____

Questions? Call 717-761-7380, ext 3100