

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

Youth Initiatives E-Newsletter

Issue No. 31
Wendy Paget Henderson
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Welcome to the WCCF Youth Initiatives e-newsletter. Feel free to forward these messages to any other interested parties, and encourage others to [sign up](#) for this and/or other WCCF mailing lists.

If you would like to be removed from the recipient list, simply reply with the words "remove from list" in the message. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions feel free to email the author, Wendy Henderson, at whenderson@wccf.org. Thanks for reading!

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1. Report Preview: WCCF Recidivism Analysis

Risking it All: How trying all nonviolent 17-year-olds in adult court is a losing proposition for Wisconsin

Soon to be released: WCCF analysis of 1,000 17-year-old offenders.

Risking their Futures: **Why trying nonviolent 17-year-olds as adults is bad policy for Wisconsin**

WCCF took a critical look at the aftermath of adult convictions for 1,000 17-year-olds in Wisconsin. We tracked the number and severity of future crimes over a 6.5 year follow up period, as well as the reconviction rate based on the initial charge. This first-of-its kind study shows that youth who are initially sentenced to jail have the highest recidivism rate at 80 percent. The results of this in-depth analysis are coming soon.

2. Special Committee on High Risk Juvenile Offenders

WCCF has been appointed to the Legislative Council's Special Committee on High Risk Juvenile Offenders. The committee's initial charge is:

The Special Committee is directed to study high-risk juvenile offenders and best practices for decreasing the risk of recidivism among high-risk offenders. Specifically, the committee shall study current law relating to the Serious Juvenile Offender Program, waiver of juveniles to adult court, original adult court jurisdiction over juvenile offenders, and placement of juveniles in juvenile correctional institutions and adult prisons. The committee shall also review successful practices relating to juvenile justice in Wisconsin and other states, including the State of Missouri.

I will provide regular updates on the progress of the committee as it moves forward. If you have any questions about the committee, meeting dates and agendas will be [posted here](#) soon.

3. National Kids Count Book Released: Focus on Juvenile Justice

The 2008 KIDS COUNT Data Book published last week by the Annie E. Casey Foundation highlights the need to re-examine the nation's approach to juvenile justice, and recommends state and local policy changes that would better meet

the developmental needs of adolescents and the public safety needs of their communities.

KIDS COUNT data show that youth in Wisconsin are detained and committed in custody at a rate (132 per 100,000 youth) higher than the national rate. Nearly two-thirds of the Wisconsin youth in custody are there for nonviolent offenses. This suggests a need to rethink what we are accomplishing by incarcerating so many nonviolent youth offenders.

Here is the [WCCF Press Release](#).

Here is the link to the KidsCount book [essay on juvenile justice](#).

Here is the link to the [Wisconsin data page](#).

4. Renewed Call for Art Work

After the initial success of the *Art from the Inside: Unlocking the Creativity of Wisconsin's Incarcerated Youth* show, we are once again collecting art work. We have shows planned at a number of upcoming conferences and would love to highlight some new artists. The initial show was viewed by over 300 people at planned events, and was housed at the Capitol for a week with countless public viewings.

To be eligible, the artist must have been incarcerated in juvenile detention, juvenile corrections, adult jail or adult prison for a crime committed before the artist turned 18. We have received submissions from young artists through adults.

If you know a creative artist who would be willing to share their work with a wide audience, please [click here for more details](#).

5. Register now: In Depth Adolescent Brain Development Training

[Unlocking the Mysteries - Adolescent Brain Development](#)

Eau Claire August 21 and 22

Register now at:
http://www.wccf.org/event_unlockingmysteries2008.php

THE TRAINING

This is a two-day training summarizing the latest research on adolescent brain development and popular trends affecting adolescent programming and treatment.

Participants will learn about:

- Starting at the Beginning: Baby Brain Basics
- When Are They Going to Grow Up? Adolescent Brain Basics
- What Could They Be Thinking? Cognitive Development and the Change Process in Adolescent Development
- Truth or Dare: Risk Taking by the Adolescent Brain
- Mad and Moody: Emotions, Hormones and the Mental Health of the Adolescent Brain
- Teaching Empathy to Kids Who Don't Care

- Get Going! Motivating the Adolescent Brain

If you would like to be added to the notification list for future trainings, please email Mary Adele Revoy at mrevoy@wccf.org.

COST

The training has a \$130 fee, which covers the cost of materials, meeting space, and lunch for both days.

CEU CREDITS

The curriculum is approved for CEU credits in several fields.

For more information about Unlocking the Mysteries: Adolescent Brain Development, go to www.wccf.org or contact MaryAdele Revoy by telephone: (608) 284-0580, ext. 328 or via email at mrevoy@wccf.org

Register now.
http://www.wccf.org/event_unlockingmysteries2008.php

6. Boys at Risk Conference to be held in Madison

The National Boys at Risk Conference will be held at the Madison Concourse hotel on July 21 and 22, 2008. It is sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Project Fresh Light and the Aaron J. Meyer Foundation. This year's topic is gender differences.

[Click here get more information and to register.](#)

7. Rock County Anti-Poverty Discussion: All are Welcome

You are Invited to a Special Vision 2020 Discussion in Janesville!

Friday, June 27th 10am-1pm

Rock County Job Center, 1900 Center Ave., Janesville, WI

In addition to providing local poverty data, connecting you with others in the Rock County area interested in fighting poverty, and action planning discussion.

Featuring a Presentation & Q&A With The Organizers of the Fox Cities Project Promise Poverty Coalition

[\(http://www.projectpromisefoxcities.org/\)](http://www.projectpromisefoxcities.org/)

- Learn what they've done (and are still doing!) in the Fox Cities to raise awareness about poverty, to engage the community, and to develop action plans to fight poverty.
- Hear what worked in this incredible Fox Cities effort, and what they wish they'd done differently.

FREE! Please bring a bag lunch.

All are welcome!

RSVP to Marc Perry at Community Action Inc. at (608) 755-2279,

mperry@community-action.org

The Vision 2020 Campaign to End Child Poverty is a collaborative effort of the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP), the Wisconsin Head Start Association and the Wisconsin Council on Children & Families.

Learn more at www.2020wi.org

8. Donate now

We are working hard to ensure that all kids in Wisconsin grow up in a just and nurturing home and community. We can't do it without your help. You can [donate online](#).

Thanks for your support.