

CONTENTS

1 **CYD Releases Report on California's Rural Youth**

2 **Upcoming Conferences**

3 **CYD Projects: Building Partnerships for Youth E-Bulletin and Interactive Teleconference Series: Stakeholder Involvement**

3 **Safe Place to Learn**

4 **CYD in Action!**

- **In Print**
- **On the Road**
- **In the News**

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

By **Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D.**

I think I want to rename this column "the part about all the changes." That seems to be the constant theme. We have several additions to the 4-H CYD –

Katherine Heck gave birth to a baby boy – Douglas – on Saturday January 10. Katherine will be on family leave for the next several months with Douglas – we are glad that he is here and happy and healthy. We are also welcoming Robyn Matsumoto who is joining us as our new Administrative Assistant! Robyn began working with us part-time in mid-February. She recently graduated from

UCLA with a B.A. in History and a Minor in Education. She is a fantastic new addition to the 4-H CYD.

Another transition is that Anne Driscoll has taken a position as Senior Researcher with PACE (Policy Analysis for California Education), a research institute in the UC Davis School of Education. She plans to continue her affiliation with the 4-H Center for Youth Development and expects that her experiences with PACE will enrich her collaborations with the 4H CYD.

(continued on page 2)

4-H CYD Releases Report on California's Rural Youth

By Ramona Carlos

The 4-H Center for Youth Development has recently published a new report on the health and well-being of adolescents in rural California. "California's Rural Youth" was written by lead author Katherine Heck (UC Associate Specialist), John Borba (4-H Youth Development Advisor for Kern County), Ken Churches (County Director and 4-H Youth Development Advisor for Calaveras County), Susan Donohue (EFNEP and Home Advisor for Butte County), Arlene Hyde Fuller (Program Representative for Mendocino County), and Ramona Carlos (Research Associate with the 4-H Center for Youth Development). The report was drawn from various data sources, including the California Health Interview Survey, the California Healthy Kids Survey, and the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.

Key findings include:

Youth in rural areas engage in some types of risky health behavior more so than their urban counterparts. Rural youth are nearly four times as likely to smoke cigarettes frequently and more likely to drink alcoholic

(continued on page 4)

DIRECTOR'S NOTES (continued from page 1)

We were busy last fall working on the last pieces of two major reports of the 4-H CYD – the *Safe Place to Learn* report, and the report on *California's Rural Youth*. Both were released in January, and we have had very positive feedback about each of them. They are both online, and available in hard copy as well.

We continue to plan for the next incarnation of the 4-H CYD. We would still like your feedback from the document that was developed from the November

planning retreat – mail your comments to cyddirector@ucdavis.edu.

Best regards for the rest of the winter,



Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D.,
Director
4-H Center for Youth
Development,
Department of Human and
Community Development,
UC Davis



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) National Conference
March 3-5, 2004 Washington, DC
<http://www.cwla.org/conferences>

**National Service-Learning Conference Citizens not Spectators:
Fulfilling the Promise of Democracy.**
March 28-31, 2004
<http://www.nylc.org/conference/index.htm>

CYFAR Conference 2004
May 11-14, 2004 Seattle, Washington
The Westin Hotel (the Preconference on the 11th)
<http://www.reeusda.gov/4h/cyfar/cyfar2004/announcement.htm>

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences
June 26-29, 2004 San Diego, California
<http://www.aafcs.org/meetings/index.html>

4-H Center for Youth Development

"The 4-H Center for Youth Development fosters collaborations in research and evaluation among UC Cooperative Extension professionals and UC campus-based scientists that deepen our understanding of youth development in the contexts of family and community."

Hours:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
3325 Hart Hall (Third Floor)
Department of Human and
Community Development
<http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu>

Director

Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D.
Adolescent Development,
Youth and Families at Risk
(530) 752-7069

Specialists

Marc T. Braverman, Ph.D.
Adolescent Health Promotion,
Program Evaluation & Educational Research
(530) 752-7003

Lenna L. Ontai-Grzebik, Ph.D.
Child and Family Development
(530) 752-6410

Richard C. Ponzio, Ph.D.
Science & Technology
(530) 752-8824

Research Associates

Michael S. Brockman, M.A.
Post Graduate Researcher
(530) 754-8433

Ramona Carlos, M.S.
Associate Researcher
(530) 754-8435

Stacey Ngoc Doan, B.A.
Junior Specialist
(530) 754-8434

Katherine E. Heck, MPH
Associate Specialist
(530) 754-8755

Aarti Subramaniam, M.A.
Graduate Student Assistant
(530) 754-8856

CYFAR Project

Robyn Caruso, MSW
CYFAR Project Coordinator/Evaluator
(530) 752-2766

Administration

Robyn S. Matsumoto
CYD Assistant/ Production Coordinator
(530) 754-8433

Colin Perez
Student Assistant
(530) 754-8432

CYD Projects

Building Partnerships for Youth E-Bulletin and Interactive Teleconference Series: Stakeholder Involvement

By Mike Brockman

The interpretation of stakeholder involvement has changed over the last several years as programs have focused not just on individuals and families, but the broader environment including schools, workplace, neighborhood, places of worship, communities, and society. Involving stakeholders from these areas in the processes of program planning, implementation and evaluation may greatly contribute to successful outcomes.

Join Building Partnerships for Youth, CYFERnet, and Healthy People, Healthy Communities on March 18, 2004 from 1-2:15 PM ET for a live interactive teleconference featuring experts in the fields of youth development, stakeholder involvement, working with the faith community and the Across Ages program. Presenters will include Lynne Borden, Ph.D., University of Arizona, Mary Oliver, Institute for Youth Development and Andrea Taylor, Ph.D., The Center for Intergenerational Learning at Temple University. Registration information will be available online in early March at <http://www.cyfernet.org/> — look for the link in the “Announcements” section of the CYFERnet homepage.

Upcoming teleconference topics include youth development and younger youth (mid-April), and academic success (mid-July). Watch for the BPY e-bulletins to be released a month before these teleconferences—they contain registration instructions and other pertinent information on featured presenters and programs!

Safe Place to Learn

By Stephen Russell

Despite an anti-harassment law that took effect four years ago this month, harassment and bullying based on sexual orientation remain persistent and pervasive in California schools. 7.5% of California’s middle and high school students, more than 200,000 students every year, are targets of harassment based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, according to a study released today by the California Safe Schools Coalition. The Safe Place to Learn study, including 26 times more respondents than any previous study on the issue, found that such widespread bullying has dangerous academic, health and safety consequences for students. The study is among the first to document that schools can take concrete steps to reduce harassment and improve student health and safety.

“When 200,000 students are suffering the devastating consequences of harassment each year, schools can’t ignore the problem any longer,” said Molly O’Shaughnessy, Director of the California Safe Schools Coalition. “This is an epidemic in California schools that needs immediate attention from state and local school officials.”

The Safe Place to Learn study is the first comprehensive statewide analysis of harassment based on sexual orientation and gender nonconformity in California, where more than one-in-eight of the nation’s children are growing up. The report analyzes data from the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS), a broad-based state survey, and an independent companion survey conducted by the California Safe Schools Coalition measuring the effectiveness of school anti-harassment practices. The data were analyzed by the California Safe Schools Coalition and researchers at UC Davis’ 4-H Center for Youth Development.

The report is available online at: <http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu>

For a printed copy, contact Robyn Matsumoto at the 4-H CYD at Rsmatsumoto@ucdavis.edu.

California's Rural Youth (continued from page 1)

beverages and ride in a car with a driver who has been drinking. About eight percent of rural adolescents smoked cigarettes regularly, and more than half of them began smoking before age 13.

On a more positive note, students in rural areas are less likely to drop out of school than are students in other areas. In the 2001-2002 school year, about 1.5 percent of students in rural schools dropped out of school – less than half the drop-out rate for students who attended schools in urban areas.

Also, 79 percent of rural youth report having a purpose to their lives, 82 percent report having goals and plans for the future, 65 percent report having an adult at home who talked with them about their problems and 77 percent report having an adult at home who listens when they have something to say. These positive findings are factors that can help reduce adolescents' risk behaviors, and are strengths from which youth development programs can build.

There are copies of the report available through the CYD. If you would like a copy, please contact CYD Administrative Assistant Robyn Matsumoto at 530-754-8433.

The report is also available through the CYD web site, www.fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu.

4 - H C Y D I N A C T I O N !

IN PRINT

Russell, S. T. & Consolacion, T. B. (2003). Adolescent romance and emotional health in the U.S.: Beyond binaries. *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, 32, 499-508.

CYD ON THE ROAD

Stephen Russell and Mike Brockman presented a workshop on “Integrating Positive Youth Development and Pregnancy Prevention” at the California Alliance Concerned with School Age Parenting and Pregnancy Prevention (CAC SAP) Conference in Sacramento, November 6th-7th.

Stephen Russell and Mike Brockman presented a workshop on “Linking Life Skills to Your 4-H Project” at the California State 4-H Leaders' Forum in Pacific Grove, November 7th-9th.

Stephen Russell presented the 2003 Gerhart Lecture, “Growing up Gay in the Church: The Role of Faith in the Lives of LGBT Youth”, at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA, November 20, 2003.

IN THE NEWS

The 4-H CYD received significant media coverage when the Safe Place to Learn report was released. Details of the news coverage are available at: <http://www.casafeschools.org>

The 4-H CYD's recently published report: *California's Rural Youth*, received media coverage from both radio stations and newspapers. Stephen Russell was interviewed on KPAY in Chico and Ramona Carlos was interviewed by UC Broadcast & Media Services (Spanish Language) as well as by UCLA's *Daily Bruin*. An article was also printed in the *Imperial Valley Press*.



update

- Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D., Director
- Robyn Matsumoto, Publications Coordinator

4-H Center for Youth Development
Dept. of Human and Community Development
University of California
One Shields Avenue/3325 Hart Hall
Davis, CA 95616-8523

Phone (530) 754-8433
Fax (530) 754-8440
CYDdirector@ucdavis.edu
<http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu>