

MOAPPP Monitor

Cultural competency plays a significant role in Hmong adolescent reproductive health

Laurie L. Meschke, Ph.D.
Good Reason Consulting, Inc.

Hmong culture and practices provide health educators and service providers an opportunity to consider the importance of incorporating cultural competence strategies within our organizations and programs. While the 2000 Census data indicated that Minnesota has the largest Hmong population in the United States, data from 1999 also reveals that 22% of Hmong births were to teens between the ages of 15 and 18. White adolescents in the same year represented only 1% of all births to white mothers.

Cultural competence is a vital basis for health promotion efforts. [Georgetown University's National Center for Cultural Competence]. Recently the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) published a manual that outlines their recommendations in delivering culturally competent care (www.hrsa.gov/cmc). Although the publication was written in relation to health care providers, the messages apply to the promotion of adolescent reproductive health. Two primary recommendations are discussed below.

Define culture broadly.

In defining culture, race and language can quickly come to mind. Yet promoters of adolescent reproductive health should be aware of the whole person they are serving — including gender, sexual orientation and religion. At a recent training on Hmong culture (February 2002), Krystal Vujongyia, Extension Educator, of Ramsey County Extension Service shared that integration of Hmong practices and culture varies greatly by age and the percentage of one's life spent in the U.S.

According to Vujongyia's evaluation through a qualitative observation, while 99% of the elders from Laos understand and practice Hmong culture, only 75% of middle-aged

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Study establishes link between interpersonal violence and teen pregnancy

The prevalence of interpersonal violence among pregnant and parenting adolescents presents challenges to reducing rates of teen pregnancy according to a new study. Two-thirds of young women who become pregnant as teens have experienced sexual and/or physical abuse either as children or in their current relationships.

The new study, *Interpersonal Violence and Adolescent Pregnancy: Prevalence and Implications for Practice and Policy*, produced by the Center for Assessment and Policy Development and the National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention, examines the multiple links between violence and adolescent pregnancy, through direct sexual abuse, or violence that includes birth control sabotage, as well as through the correlating circumstances or conditions associated with prior sexual or physical abuse.

Teens who were previously sexually or physically abused may be particularly vulnerable to violent partners due to the emotional or psychological damage of their earlier experiences. The report also points out that younger adolescents are more likely to be

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Minnesota's
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MOAPPP

for teen
pregnancy
information

*Minnesota Organization on
Adolescent Pregnancy,
Prevention and Parenting*

Spring 2002

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Dear Friends,

Spring in Minnesota provides us with a sense of hope. Soon we can put away the scarves and boots and open the windows to the fresh air! And if you're a MOAPPP regular, you are looking forward to the Annual Conference. "Surrounding Our Youth with HOPE," the theme for MOAPPP's 11th Annual Conference, seems even more appropriate since September 11. It has been a challenging year, with a somber overtone since that day, and continuing with the real and threatened budgetary cuts to programs for youth. I hope that you will find inspiration and healing at the MOAPPP Conference on April 25 and 26, and be able to return to your important work re-energized and more hopeful. Last year, one of our participants eloquently remarked that she attends many conferences and often leaves with her head full. "The MOAPPP Conference," she said, "fills my head *and* my heart."

The conference planning committee has made a concerted effort to incorporate many opportunities to explore and understand the unique cultures of the young people with whom you work. We all know the

discouraging statistics on the disparities in teen pregnancy rates between our teens of color and our white teens. We have reason to hope that positive changes in those statistics will start to happen through the many programs created by the Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative and the Youth Risk Behavior funding from the Minnesota Department of Health. Now it is up to all of us to make the best use of the resources, to implement programs that work and engage the wider community in surrounding all of our young people with hope!

We are looking forward to learning from you and from your communities so that many more teens have many good reasons to be hopeful.

Happy Spring!



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The Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting, a nonprofit organization, is composed of individuals and organizations in Minnesota that work to strengthen policies and programs related to adolescent pregnancy prevention, adolescent pregnancy care and adolescent parenting.
www.moappp.org

2002 legislative session update

As the projected budget deficit grows ever larger (\$2.29 billion for 02-03 and \$3.2 billion for 03-04), state legislators wrestle with what to cut. Both houses overrode the Governor's veto of their proposed budget for Phase One, providing more protection to nonprofit programs than the Governor's budget proposal. To track the budget decisions, an excellent resource is the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits website, www.mncn.org. *Think Twice Before You Cut*, a campaign sponsored by the Minneapolis Foundation and the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, is creating awareness of the need for policymakers to consider the critical role of nonprofits as government partners. Many nonprofits that will be affected by budget cuts provide critical services for children, youth and families.

K-12 Comprehensive Sexuality Education Bill reflects research on what works



Valentine's Day press conference
Rep. Jim Davnie, Sen. Julie Sabo, Dr. Robert Blum, Bob Tracy (MN AIDS Project), Marnie Wells, MOAPPP

State Senator Julie Sabo and State Representative Jim Davnie introduced the K-12 Comprehensive Sex Ed bill (SF 3195 and HF 3456) on Valentine's Day. The legislators announced their bills at a press conference coordinated by the Sex Ed for Life-Minnesota Coalition. The legislation, boasting over two-dozen legislative sponsors, calls for a "comprehensive, technically accurate and updated curriculum that includes, but is not limited to, helping students to abstain from sexual activity." Research shows that a balanced curriculum that discusses both abstinence and contraception is most effective in postponing sexual activity among young people. The most trusted medical and scientific institutions in the nation, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Society for Adolescent Medicine, all recommend sexuality education that includes age-appropriate and medically accurate information

about abstinence and contraception. This type of education can help youth to delay the start of sexual activity and reduce sexual behaviors that put adolescents at risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancy.

Family Life Education Act introduced in Congress

Bill Smith, Public Policy Director of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), was the expert presenter at the January Sex Ed for Life-Minnesota briefing. He provided information on the **Family Life Education Act (HR 3469)**, an effort to provide resources to states to conduct programs that include "education on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS." The funding would appropriate \$100 million for five years, beginning with fiscal year 2003 and does not require states to provide a match to receive the funds.

The bill also provides a nine-point definition of family life education to which funded programs would have to adhere. Among the requirements are that programs: be age appropriate and medically accurate; not teach or promote religion; teach abstinence as the only sure way to avoid pregnancy or STDs; encourage family communication about sexuality between parent and child; and that they present the health benefits and side effects of all contraceptives. **To view the full text of HR3469, see http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_cong_bills&docid=f:h3469ih.txt.pdf**



Bill Smith (SIECUS), Amy Brugh, Marnie Wells, Lisa Turnham (Sex Ed for Life - MN Coalition), presented at January 8 training.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE CONTINUED ON PAGE 7.

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Cultural competency plays significant role

Hmong (40 years plus) who were born and raised in Laos and educated in both Laos and the U.S. understand and/or practice Hmong culture.

Vujongyia estimates that a small percentage of the youth who were born and raised in the U.S. will truly understand and practice Hmong culture. These differences by age exemplify how approaches to the promotion of adolescent reproductive health might vary depending on whether the audience is parents of adolescents, older adolescents or young adolescents.

Value clients' cultural beliefs.

Cultural beliefs about gender roles, contraception, marriage and childbearing have an impact on how information

about adolescent reproductive health will be heard, accepted and applied in an individual's life.

In the Hmong culture, family — both immediate and extended — is highly valued. The Hmong also have great respect for their community elders. Thus these leaders should be involved in health promotion efforts.

Hmong women are generally very uncomfortable in discussing personal matters with men, therefore, when possible, their health educators and practitioners should be female.

The benefits of culturally competent efforts to promote adolescent reproductive health are clear. We must each make efforts to meet this exciting challenge. □



The following websites provide more ideas on how to PROMOTE CULTURAL COMPETENCY in your programming efforts:

<http://www.georgetown.edu/research/gucdc/nccc>
<http://gucdc.georgetown.edu/nccc/>
<http://www.serve.com/Wellness/culture.html>
<http://www.omhrc.gov/haa/HAASidebar/Cultural.htm>
<http://www.hccc.arealahec.dst.nc.us/>
<http://www.crosshealth.com/>

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Violence and teen pregnancy linked

victims of interpersonal violence and are especially vulnerable to coercive or nonconsensual sex. Seventy-four percent of sexually active girls under the age of fourteen disclosed involuntary sexual activity in their relationships, often with older men.

The research suggests that experts in many related fields, including adolescent pregnancy prevention and teen parenting advocates, domestic violence, judicial and social service professionals and others are not fully aware of the relationship between interpersonal violence and teen pregnancy. A number of policy opportunities and challenges are reviewed in the study and have implications for health care, welfare,

housing, education and criminal justice policies.

While Congress debates the reauthorization of the 1996 Welfare Reform law, the importance of understanding the link between interpersonal violence and teen pregnancy is especially important. Adolescent parents are an important subset of the TANF population. They often are discouraged from applying for benefits before they have had an opportunity to disclose interpersonal violence. A central component of President Bush's welfare reform proposal promotes marriage as the best option for young families regardless of the adverse effects on teens living in violent homes or experiencing violent

relationships. And the increased investment in abstinence-only-until-marriage programs does not address the needs of this population who have been coerced into sexual relationships. Fear-based sexuality education "runs the very real risk of re-traumatizing victims of child abuse or interpersonal violence."

The report offers recommendations for appropriate interventions, implications for policy, as well as next steps for all of us to consider to effectively prevent teen pregnancy. You can download the report from the NOAPPP website, www.noappp.org or you can contact MOAPPP's office for a copy at 651-644-1447 or moappp@moappp.org □

May Events Celebrate Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month!!!



Women Who Cook!

Reunite for 20th Anniversary Performance to Benefit MOAPPP

The legendary Women Who Cook! will perform a special 20th Anniversary Performance to benefit MOAPPP. Their May 9th performance in Minneapolis will draw attention to Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month.

Women Who Cook! is an example of "the sum of the parts being greater than the whole." This ensemble consists of 13 of the most talented and well-known female vocalists and instrumentalists on the Minnesota music scene over the last 25 years. The group's diverse talents and backgrounds create a special sound and energy that comes from bringing these professional musicians together: Jane Aleckson, Mary Jane Alm, Ginger Commodore, Laurie Glaser, Kim Griffin, Jane Henderson, Kathy Jensen, Prudence Johnson, Gwen Matthews, Marian Moore, Kathy Mueller, Sue Roberts and Jearlyn Steele.

In addition, Women Who *Really* Cook, a networking organization of women leaders in the Twin Cities food industry, will provide an assortment of food specialties throughout the evening. Sue Zelickson, WCCO radio personality will serve as Honorary Chair for this event.

This is an event not to be missed! Support MOAPPP while having fun! The cost is \$75 per person. A portion of the price will be tax deductible. Sponsor tables for 8 will be available. Call MOAPPP at 651-644-1447 to make your reservation now. □

May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

The month of May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month and we hope every community is planning high profile activities. Designed to draw attention to the issue of teen pregnancy, the month emphasizes strong partnerships between the community and families in helping young people develop responsible and healthy attitudes about sexuality. MOAPPP staff can help you plan your activities. Call us at 651-644-1447, email us at moappp@moappp.org or check our website at www.moappp.org to learn more about activities planned across the state for the month of May. Try one of these ideas in your community:

- ask your mayor to proclaim May as Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month
- hold a community forum on teen pregnancy and prevention efforts
- Promote Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month to your colleagues, members, chapters, customers, students, schools and businesses through emails, radio public service announcements, newsletter articles or other communication avenues
- recruit area churches and faith organizations to include information about teen pregnancy in their newsletters
- make contacts with local reporters or write an editorial highlighting effective programs in your community
- invite area elected officials to visit teen programs and meet with teens
- offer a workshop for parents and teens on sexuality, communication and adolescent development.

Women Who Cook!
 20th Anniversary Performance
 The Quest Club
 110 No. 5th St., Mpls.
 Thursday, May 9,
 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Call MOAPPP
 651-644-1447 for details

may is
 teen pregnancy
 prevention month

National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

This year, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is partnering with *Teen People* magazine, *Teen People Online* and over 50 national, state and local organizations to co-sponsor an online interactive quiz and forum just for teens on **May 8, 2002**. Teens will examine real-life scenarios and decide how they would react in certain situations, discuss feelings and beliefs about teen pregnancy and offer their suggestions for preventing teen pregnancy. **The quiz — created by *Teen People*, the National Campaign and teens across the country — can be taken on the Campaign website at www.teenpregnancy.org on May 8, 2002.**

The National Campaign hopes to create a new on-line teen community! If you're interested in hearing more about the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, sharing ideas on how you're planning to get involved or to receive email updates, email the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy at: nationalday@teenpregnancy.org □

News and Notes

New resources available

All Kids Count! Assessing the Well-Being of African-American, American Indian, Asian and Latino Children. Minnesota KIDS COUNT, a project of the Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota, reports on the demographics of Minnesota's children of color and their status in the categories of social climate, economics and housing, health, education and safety. Download a copy at www.cdf-mn.org or order from the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, 612-870-3670 or 1-888-870-1402.

Advocacy handbook for nonprofit organizations

If lobbying is new to you, this publication may help clarify questions and concerns you may have about legislative advocacy. Written by Marcia Avner, Public Policy Director for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN), the handbook is intended to re-invigorate and inspire experienced organizations and lobbyists with new ideas on lobbying. Available for \$30 (\$20 for MCN members). To order by phone, call MCN at 651-642-1904. www.mncn.org/lobbyinghandbook.htm

A fabulous new teaching resource from Rutgers University!

A new teaching manual just published for use with high school students called **Teaching with SEX, ETC.: Articles and Activities** includes 40 of the best teen-authored articles categorized by subject and accompanied by activities for use with groups of teens. There is a list of curricula, sexuality education organizations and a complete list of the over 200 SEX, ETC. articles written by teens. The manual is available for \$25, plus \$4.95 for shipping and handling. **Contact: Nora Gelperin, 732-445-7929, norag@rci.rutgers.edu**

New parenting booklet available

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) recently released a parenting booklet, *"Adventures in Parenting: How Responding, Preventing, Monitoring, Mentoring and Modeling Can Help You Be a Successful Parent"* The booklet encourages parents to use the "RPM3" approach: **Responding** to your child in an appropriate manner; **Preventing** risky behavior or problems before they arise; **Monitoring** your child's contact with his or her surrounding world; **Mentoring** your child to support and encourage desired behaviors; and **Modeling** your own behavior to provide a consistent and positive example for children.

"Adventures in Parenting" is available free-of-charge by calling the NICHD Information Resource Center at 1-800-370-2943. It also is available online at <http://www.nichd.nih.gov>

"Meeting the Needs of Adolescents: Global and Local Perspectives" video now available

If you would like to order a videotape of last November's MOAPPP, Prevention Research Center and Population Resource Council policy briefing with Dr. Robert Blum and Dr. Michael Resnick, please send a check for \$10 with "video" in the memo to MOAPPP, 1619 Dayton Ave, Suite 111, St. Paul, MN 55104. Credit card orders: send us the type of credit card, the credit card number, the expiration date and the billing name and full billing address associated with the card. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Marie at MOAPPP at 651-644-1447 or at moappp@moappp.org

Sexuality Education Resource reviews now available online

The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel (MSERRP) reviews and recommends sexuality education and HIV prevention curricula and resources for use in schools and communities. All materials are evaluated based on current research on comprehensive sexuality education in schools using a set of specific criteria developed by the panel. A complete set of reviews is now available on-line at www.moappp.org or at www.mnschoolhealth.com. Printed copies are available through Coordinated School Health 651-582-8842.

Upcoming events and opportunities

11th annual MOAPPP conference — April 25 - 26, 2002

The Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP) will convene approximately 400 social service and health care providers, educators, advocates, program directors, volunteers and youth who work to prevent adolescent pregnancy and support pregnant and parenting adolescents. The conference theme, "Surrounding our Youth with Hope" highlights how "HOPE" shapes the lives of our youth and sustains the commitment of those who work with them. The conference will be held at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 25 and 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26.



Call for reviewers for Community Health Grants

The Minnesota Department of Health is seeking qualified individuals to review, score and make recommendations on proposals for HIV Health Education and Risk Reduction Programs. Qualified applicants will be asked to review twenty proposals consisting of fifteen to twenty pages each, score the proposals and provide constructive feedback on each proposal submitted. Reviewers will be notified of selection by April 30, 2002. Interested individuals should call Kathy Chinn at 612-676-5714 for an application, due at noon on April 15, 2002.

Teen birth rates decline across the nation and the state

The overall teen birth rate in the United States declined to a record low in 2000 although teen birth rates in 11 states and among Hispanic teens increased between 1999 and 2000, according to data recently released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics.

The overall US birth rate for teenagers aged 15-19 declined 2 percent between 1999 and 2000 and has declined a total of 22 percent since 1991. Minnesota's birth rate for 15-19 year olds declined 21 percent from 1991-2000, from 37.3/1000 to 29.6/1000.

The CDC report attributes the declines to: the proportion of sexually experienced teens stabilizing; public and private initiatives focusing on pregnancy prevention through abstinence and responsible behavior; and sexually active teens using contraception more effectively. For details on the report, please visit www.cdc.gov/nchs

State health department announces landmark grants to address health disparities

In February, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) awarded \$9.5 million in competitive grants to 49 community projects aimed at improving the health of populations of color across the state. The grants were funded through an Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative passed last year by the Minnesota legislature.

The agencies and organizations selected were broadly representative of the African American, Native American, Asian and Latino populations across the state. Twenty organizations were awarded grants to focus on eliminating disparities in teen pregnancy rates through healthy youth development strategies. MOAPPP is a partner on two of these awards: serving as the fiscal agent for the comprehensive Latino Youth Development Project with La Clinica, CLUES and La Oportunidad in Minneapolis; and providing public policy coordination for the African American Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaborative with the St. Paul Urban League and other community partners.

During the highly competitive grant application and review process, Minnesota Department of Health staff and community evaluators from across the state considered 167 applicants submitting proposals totaling \$39.6 million.

Minnesota organizations receive grants to prevent sexual violence

New resources to help prevent sexual violence were awarded in January 2002 to 12 community organizations and their partners through a federal grant program administered by the Minnesota Department of Health. The grants will be used to integrate sexual violence prevention efforts with other health promotion activities that help reduce violent sexual behaviors. Activities funded by the grants will include education, public awareness, healthy youth development programs and school curriculum development with a special emphasis on creating culturally appropriate programs that meet the unique needs of Minnesota's diverse communities. For more information about preventing sexual violence, view "A Place to Start: A Resource Kit for Preventing Sexual Violence," produced by MDH. www.health.state.mn.us/svprevent □

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2002 Legislative Update

Sexually transmitted disease prevention through marriage promotion proposed

The bills introduced by Rep. Sondra Erickson and Senator Claire Robling (HF 2660 and SF 2709), propose amending the sexually transmitted disease education statute to require teachers to focus on "promoting marriage." This attempt to impose an abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum on sexual health programs could deny young people medically accurate information about contraception. Of the three rigorous studies of abstinence-only curricula, none of them "showed an overall positive effect on sexual behavior, nor did they affect contraceptive use among sexually active participants." (Emerging Answers, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2001).

Your voice makes a difference in determining legislative and Congressional action on sexuality education.

It is important to let your state Representative and Senator, as well as your Congressional Representative and Senator know what you think they should support. As Representative Peggy Leppik remarked at the policy briefing, "If we hear from five people on an issue, we pay attention!" Pay attention to how your representatives vote on issues and be sure to thank your elected officials for votes that you appreciate!

Call House Information at 651-296-2146 to find out your State Representative and Senate Information at 651-296-0504 to locate your State Senator. Find your legislator on the Internet at www.house.leg.state.mn.us and www.senate.leg.state.mn.us □

MOAPPP CALENDAR

April

Adolescent Parent Network Meeting, April 11, 2002. The meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Division of Indian Work. The topic will be service learning.

Adolescent Female Conference, April 18 and 19, Sheraton Hotel, Minnetonka. Contact: Campbell Meeting Management, 651-646-5060

MOAPPP Annual Conference, April 25 and 26, Earle Brown Center, Brooklyn Center. Contact MOAPPP for information, 651-644-1447.

May

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, May 8:
www.teenpregnancy.org

MOAPPP Benefit with Women Who Cook! May 9, at the Quest Club. Contact MOAPPP for ticket information, 651-644-1447.

Adolescent Parent Network Meeting, May 9, 2002. The meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Catholic Charities-Seton Services in St. Paul. The topic will be sexual violence.

Challenges Facing Our Youth Today: Club Drugs and Date Rape, May 21, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Lake Superior College, Room E2462, 2101 Trinity Road, Duluth, MN. Presenters: James H. Rothenberger, MPH; others TBA. \$50 nonprofit organization/\$60 for-profit. Contact Katherine Meerse at 612-821-6146 or training@ppmsd.org

June

Contraceptive Update, June 4, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, Room 135, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul. Keynote speaker: Sharon Schnare, PNP, CNM, MSN. \$95 nonprofit organization/\$115 for-profit. Contact Katherine Meerse at 612-821-6146 or training@ppmsd.org

Healthy Generations Video Conference, June 5, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., locations around the state. Sponsored by Maternal and Child Health Training Program and the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Contact Jan Pearson at pearson@epi.umn.edu or 612-625-8644.

Social Disparities and Health Institute, June 27-28, sponsored by Maternal and Child Health Training Program and MDH Center for Health Statistics. Contact Jan Pearson at pearson@epi.umn.edu or 612-625-8644.

July

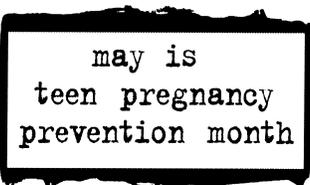
Positive Images: Teaching Abstinence, Contraception and Sexual Health, July 25, 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. at Earle Brown Continuing Education Center, Room 32, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul. Presenter: Bill Taverner, MA. \$95 nonprofit organization/\$115 for-profit. Contact Katherine Meerse at 612-821-6146 or training@ppmsd.org

August

2002 Summer Institute on Youth Development and Sexuality Education, August 12-15, 2002 Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Children, Family and Learning; and Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Adolescent Nursing, School of Nursing, University of Minnesota; and the National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Research Center, Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health, Medical School, University of Minnesota. The guest faculty will include Doug Kirby, Senior Scientist, ETR Associates, Santa Cruz, California and Cordelia Anderson, Director, Sensibilities, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota. Topics of the Institute will include: sexuality and self; sexual health programs that work; dating violence; gender education; curricular resources; and youth development strategies. Continuing education hours or academic credit are available. For more information, please contact the University of Minnesota School of Nursing at 612-626-4772 or lvjvegell@umn.edu

MOAPPP Monitor

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