

THE CLFC FAMILY REUNION NEWS

THE CREATING LASTING FAMILY CONNECTIONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Summer Edition

July, 2010

COPEs Selected to Present at Multiple National Conferences across Multiple Disciplines

Ted N. Strader and other COPEs staff are busy traversing the county this year with the honor of being selected to present four years of evaluation research at multiple national conferences across a wide range of fields, including substance abuse prevention, healthy marriage, fatherhood, reentry, corrections and HIV prevention conferences. These presentations provide us with the privilege and opportunity to disperse our positive results with the *Creating Lasting Family Connections* (CLFC) curriculum, and to share our experience and insight into effective programming with at-risk populations. The following is a list of the presentations we have already delivered or will be delivering this year. We are still exploring the possibility of several more presentations to come!

Presentations we have already delivered this year:

- March, 2010 – Presenter, “Building Healthy Individuals, Healthy Families, and Healthy Communities by Bridging the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Fields”, Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage Roundtable series “Building and Sustaining Continuums of Care for Families”, Jacksonville, FL

- May, 2010 – Presenter, “Family Enhancement Skills that Support HIV Prevention with Reentry Families”, Boston College AIDS Conference, 22nd Annual National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS, Denver, CO
- June, 2010 – Presenter, “Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood: A Sound Government Investment”, Administration for Children and Families, African-American Healthy Marriage Research to Practice Conference, Hampton University, VA
- June, 2010 – Presenter, “Using Data Evaluation to Improve Program Performance and Outcomes”, Webinar, National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse
- June, 2010 – Presenter, “A Fatherhood Promising Practice That Lowers Recidivism Rates By Enhancing Fatherhood”, National Partnership for Community Leadership, 12th Annual International Fatherhood Conference, New Orleans, LA

Presentations we will be delivering later this year:

- July, 2010 – Presenter, “Real Grantee Experience in Securing Multiple Funding”, Cohort 6 Grantee Closeout Technical Assistance Meeting, sponsored by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Atlanta, GA
- July, 2010 – Presenter, “Get Tested: Bridging the Gap between Knowledge and Action”, 2010 Kentucky Conference on HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis, Lexington, KY
- September, 2010 – Presenter, “How Expanding Our Understanding of Culture Leads to More Effective Approaches to Prevention”, 23rd Annual National Prevention Network Prevention Research Conference, Denver, CO

- October, 2010 – Presenter, “Family Enhancement Skills that Reduce Recidivism”, Christian Association for Prison Aftercare, 9th Annual National Prisoner Reentry Conference, Milwaukee, WI
- November, 2010 – Presenter, “Fatherhood and Family Programming for Special Populations”, 72nd National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN

We are thrilled to share our successes in so many different venues across the country. We hope to continue to learn and share exciting developments in our efforts across the many fields of professional work we touch serving families and children. We hope you and other professionals trained in CLFC are also expanding your array of service delivery with CLFC in order to ensure your agency’s ongoing ability to serve your community in exciting new ways.

CLFC DVD Recording Complete

After five months of hard work and dedication, COPES has completed the video recording of a full 20-session program run of the *Creating Lasting Family Connections* (CLFC) presented to a group of prison reentry and recovery participants. COPES obtained written permission from each participant prior to shooting the videos. We recorded all 20 2-hour sessions of CLFC from several camera angles, capturing both the trainers’ presentation and facilitation skills and the group participants’ responses to the training material and the presentation style.

Before and after the completion ceremony on the last program session for this group, we also recorded interviews with graduates and their families who volunteered to share their experience with the CLFC program. Combined, the recorded CLFC program run and the interviews will allow us to maximize our ability to reach as many people as possible in the most cost efficient manner. We have already begun the process of editing the videos for reproduction and use for a variety of purposes, including web-based facilitator training, in-house facilitator training, make up sessions for participants absent from class, and more!

New Referral Agency Partnership Formed

This Spring COPES formed a new key partnership with Dimas Charities, Inc. St. Ann's, a residential treatment facility in Louisville, KY. This new partnership bolsters an already extensive referral network, allowing us to serve more at-risk members of our community. With the help and support of St. Ann's management staff, we quickly launched our first CLFC program and comparison group. As expected, 100% of participants who started this program group graduated this week. We anticipate running a minimum of two cohorts per year at their facility. We really appreciate all the support we receive from the dedicated staff of Dismas Charities, Inc.

COPES Seeking Additional Funding to Expand Services

In order to sustain COPES' efforts to continue to provide meaningful substance abuse and HIV prevention programs and offer family strengthening initiatives for reentry and other minority

populations, COPES is applying for funding from multiple funding sources, including both the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA), and others. If funded, these new grants will allow us to greatly expand our current services to the populations at greatest risk in our community. We hope to expand our reentry and recovery support services and open new services for minority women and minority adolescents who are currently aging out of foster care. COPES is planning on teaming up with the Home of the Innocents. Home of the Innocents is the largest single foster provider in the state of Kentucky. We expect to hear about funding in late September. Remember, COPES also provides free grant writing consultation and support for other agencies wishing to use CLFC to address similar populations. Call us now to discuss some of the upcoming opportunities for federal grants!

Employment Opportunities at COPES

COPES continues to seek qualified candidates for positions in our current initiatives and for possible new positions with newly funded programs. COPES is looking for individuals who can provide leadership in multiple areas. We are looking for potential CLFC trainers, case managers and program administrators. Many successful COPES employees combine several of these areas under a single job description. Most employees are expected to deliver the *Creating Lasting Family Connections* curriculum with proficiency, with cultural sensitivity and connectedness to the receiving audience. New COPES employees will join a team of professionals who work

together in a variety of COPES' projects and undertakings. Trainers and case managers are often involved in more than one program or project at a time.

COPES is looking for candidates who possess or can develop the following important characteristics:

- Outgoing and caring personality
- Non-judgmental/tolerant of different opinions
- Able to handle and accept ambiguity (can see both sides of an issue)
- Natural helping attitude
- Able to recognize, name and express feelings as they occur
- Has experienced and led successful group oriented personal growth opportunities including interpersonal skill building, counseling, spiritual development, self-help, or related personal growth activities

We are looking for professionals who can build meaningful relationships with other members of the COPES team, in the training room with participants, and in one-to-one case management sessions. We are seeking individuals who can foster responsibility personally, with team members and with clients. We ask potential employees to answer two key questions before seeking a position with COPES:

- Do I have the time, energy and emotional sense of calmness to commit to others?
- Do I have or can I develop the personal resources, skills, and attitudes outlined above?

If you know any individuals wishing to be considered for any positions open at COPES, please ask them to submit a cover letter and a resume to Human Resources, COPES Inc. 845 Barret

Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky 40204 or by email to tstrader@sprynet.com (please include the words Employment Letter and Resume in the subject space of the email).

CLFC Implementation Trainings

We have received several calls from individuals who want to attend a CLFC Implementation Training. We need a few more slots filled before we can plan a date. If you are interested in participating in a CLFC Implementation Training or if you are interested in hosting a training at your site for your staff, please call the COPES office at 502-583-6820.

CLFC DVD Sale Continues

Selected CLFC DVDs are on sale at greatly reduced prices throughout this summer! These DVDs are excellent resources to augment your CLFC trainings, to bolster staff development and to use when working with individual clients. This sale will remain in effect this spring only while supplies last. Go to www.copes.org for further details.

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