

MOAPPP Monitor

Record number attend annual conference

Over 500 program administrators, public health representatives and MOAPPP partners attended the 11th Annual Conference, "Surrounding Our Youth With Hope," on April 25 and 26, 2002. Conference attendees participated in over 50 different workshops on a broad array of topics including teen pregnancy prevention, working with Somali and Latino communities, community collaboration and youth development programming.

Gloria Lewis, Director of the Office of Minority and Multi-Cultural Health at the Minnesota Department of Health, framed her speech around 'building the ladders of hope'. "Hope is when one defines what one desires for oneself or others. Hope is also when we at our last resort have tried everything we can think of and turn to

hope which comes from strength and resilience," said Lewis.

In a review of current teen pregnancy and birth statistics in Minnesota, Lewis concluded that central to changing communities is the need for hope and possibility. "Ladders of hope are built wrung by wrung. The wrungs are supported on each side by government and the people – communities," reasoned Lewis.

Parents and community institutions are the first two wrungs of the hope ladder. Yet, the wrungs of self-esteem, dreams, resilience and respect are equally important according to Lewis.

"When we are working with young people and we want to prevent teen pregnancy – view them as climbing this ladder," said Lewis.

On the second day of the conference, Debra W. Haffner, the co-director of the Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice and Healing, treated attendees to a provocative and inspirational presentation. Haffner, the author of two popular books for parents about talking to children and teenagers about sex, began her remarks with a passage from the Bible about a man and a woman in a state of physical and spiritual ecstasy. Thirty-four different stories in the Bible have themes of sexuality that can aid men and women to "celebrate our sexuality as one of God's greatest gifts to us," said Haffner.

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Landmark State Blueprint To Reduce Teen Pregnancy in Minnesota Unveiled

A landmark blueprint to reduce teen pregnancy in Minnesota was unveiled at the 11th annual conference of the Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting. The state plan, "A Work in Progress: Building a State Plan for Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting", offers a series of recommendations that educators, health and youth development professionals, parents and teens can use in their own communities to address the issue of teen pregnancy.

The collaborative of representatives from the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Departments of Health, Human Services and Children, Families and Learning, the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health and teen pregnancy prevention organizations convened two years ago and completed the most comprehensive analysis of effective solutions based on research.

Task force members examined credible research documenting many of the reasons why teens get pregnant and concluded that individual risk factors are intertwined with family, peers and the community in which teens live. In the report, task force members also concluded that all the ingredients for implementing the plan recommendations are available but need to be utilized more effectively.

The recommendations outlined in "A Work in Progress: Building a State Plan for Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting" are available at www.moappp.org.
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Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting

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Dear Friends,

Teen pregnancy prevention is a complicated issue with no simple solutions. It does not lend itself well to sound bites and is a topic fraught with value judgments, stereotypes and misinformation. Given these challenges, how do we advocate for and create effective policies that will have a positive impact on preventing teen pregnancy?

Last summer, the Surgeon General of the United States issued a *Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior* to address the significant sexual health challenges facing Americans. Surgeon General Satcher urged all communities to begin a dialogue about sexual health, encouraging all parents to talk with their children about responsible sexual behavior, and to support teachers in their roles as sexual health educators. The Surgeon General, sounding the alarm, said, "Approaches and solutions might be complex, but we do have evidence of success. We need to appreciate the diversity of our culture, engage in mature, thoughtful and respectful discussion, be informed by the science that is available to use and invest in continued research."

In Minnesota, we have been engaged in such a dialogue. "A Work in Progress: Building a State Plan for Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting," is the culmination of discussion, debate and the hard work of advocates, public health

professionals, members of the academic community and many others to develop a blue print for teen pregnancy prevention and support for adolescent parents. This state plan is our call to action.

The plan's recommendations are inclusive and recognize the role that each of us has to play to assure teens grow into healthy adults. Youth development opportunities, comprehensive sexuality education in our schools, community partnerships, parents talking to teens, eliminating health disparities – each piece is a part of the puzzle, a part of the solution.

This is only the beginning – a work in progress. Real success means building and promoting the recommendations of the plan in your community. Join us! Learn more about the State Plan in this issue of the Monitor, visit our website or call the MOAPPP office and receive a copy. Working together as a community, we can address the challenges of teen pregnancy and parenting and build a blue print for success!



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The Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting, a non-profit 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

Award winners honored for inspirational work and commitment

MOAPPP supporters presented this year's award winners with a plaque and ringing applause at the 11th Annual Conference in April.

Individuals of the Year

Corrine Ryan, a Family and Consumer Science Teacher and the Pregnant and Parenting Students' Program coordinator at Park High School in Cottage Grove, was recognized for her commitment to teens. Corrine started the Park High School Teen Parent program eleven years ago and since its inception, the dropout rate for teen parents has gone from sixty percent to zero.

Mark Eastwood, an attorney with the Dorsey and Whitney law firm in Minneapolis, was honored for the pro bono legal advocacy program he started at one of the teen parent programs in Minneapolis. Mark not only helped teens with their legal issues, including child support, housing and contract issues, but he also helped design a legal education track in the social studies program. Mark passed away in June 2002. MOAPPP extends our sympathies to his family.

Teens of the Year

Ashley Boevers, a resident of Faribault, is a peer educator in Minnesota ENABL Project SIGHT program. Her nominator said that she is an excellent presenter and a fabulous role model for younger teens. In addition to her role as a peer educator, Ashley trains other teens, building on the leadership in her community.

Becky Gerhardson graduated from the Fergus Falls Alternative Education Center this year and plans to attend the Fergus Falls Community College this fall. Becky has been a participant in Partners in Parenting, a teen-mentoring program, since September 2000 when her baby was seven months old. She has recruited other teen parents, led the group, trained other leaders and made presentations to younger students and adults in her community.

Policymakers of the Year

State Senator Julie Sabo and State Representative Jim Davnie were recognized for their sponsorship of the K-12 Comprehensive Sexuality Education bill introduced during the 2002 session. The bill, boasting over two-dozen legislative co-sponsors, calls for "comprehensive, technically accurate and updated curriculum that includes, but is not limited to, helping students to abstain from sexual activity." However, the bill did not receive a hearing in the Senate or the House this year.



Program of the Year: National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Research Center Staff: Michael Resnick, Rebecca Fee, Jenny Oliplant, Lisa Turnham and Rachel Banken

Member of the Year

Helen Jackson has worked in the trenches of teen pregnancy prevention for many years and is a respected leader in Minneapolis. Until recently, she coordinated Call to Action, a north Minneapolis teen pregnancy/HIV prevention program, a community-based, teen directed effort. In her new role with the Stairstep Foundation, Helen coordinates the organization's health disparities grant. Helen is also a minister and a true collaborator.

Program of the Year

The work of the National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Research Center (PRC), based at the University of Minnesota, was recognized. The program is part of a network of twenty-six prevention centers funded by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the only one devoted to teen pregnancy prevention. The PRC was recognized for its commitment to community-partnered research and education. •

Honor someone you love with a tribute gift

Honor or celebrate special occasions by making any size "tribute gift" and support the important work of MOAPPP at the same time! A tribute envelope is inserted into every issue of the Monitor and is also available by calling Lisa at MOAPPP at 651-644-1447. Your friend or family member will be sent a timely acknowledgement of your and special gift.

Give a gift that gives throughout the year...make a tribute gift to MOAPPP today!



Teenagers view parents as the most reliable source of information. Unfortunately, teenagers also say the information comes too late.

Marriage promotion legislative amendment stopped in its tracks by citizens

The bills introduced by Rep. Sondra Erickson and Senator Claire Robling (HF 2660 and SF 2709), proposed amending the sexually transmitted disease education statute to require teachers to focus on “promoting marriage” rather than providing medically accurate information about sexual health to teens in Minnesota schools. This attempt to impose an abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum on sexual health programs could have denied young people medically accurate information about contraception.

The House bill passed the Education Policy Committee and was sent to the floor in late May. In danger of passage by the full House, Representative Jim Davnie moved to lay the bill on the table taking the legislation off the floor indefinitely. On a roll call vote, Davnie’s motion passed 66 to 64. An email and phone campaign, coordinated by the Sex Ed for Life Coalition pumped hundreds of calls into key legislator offices and turned the tide of the debate, leading to the Davnie motion to pull the bill from consideration by the full House. The Senate did not consider the bill this year.

“The response from the Sex Ed for Life Coalition to the news that House Republicans were going to bring this bill up at the last minute, in the midst of all the other important work we had to do, was rapid and impressive.”

—Representative Scott Dibble (DFL-Minneapolis)

“Our ability to stop the bill wouldn’t have been successful without the Sex Ed for Life coalition. A number of Members commented to me about the emails they were receiving in the days leading to the end of the session.”

—Representative Jim Davnie (DFL-Minneapolis) •



Untitled Identities performance met with rave reviews at MOAPPP conference

Untitled Identities, a collaborative effort between Penumbra Theatre Company and the Minnesota Organization on Adolescent

Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP), examines issues related to identity, relationships, sexual health, and planning for the future. It is targeted to adolescents in grades 6 through 12.

Inspired by conversations with teens, *Untitled Identities* is at times fragmented and frenzied, but is permeated with lyrical storytelling. It is active, challenging, thought provoking and fun! Most importantly, *Untitled Identities* creates a forum for Minnesota teens to discuss issues of importance in their lives.

The piece premiered and was very well received at the 11th annual MOAPPP conference on April 26, 2002 and is available for performances in schools, community groups and faith-based organizations throughout Minnesota. For more information, contact Marilyn Colby Rivkin at (651)-644-1447. •

U.S. Senate moves towards welfare reform authorization

Near the end of June, the U.S. Senate Finance Committee marked up their version of a bill that would reauthorize 1996’s welfare law. The bill would reauthorize the 1996 Welfare Reform Law for five years and includes a \$50 million per year abstinence-only-until-marriage program.

Yet much remains uncertain in the Senate, including speculation that there may be no welfare reauthorization bill passed at all this year. Instead, lawmakers would pass a one-year resolution that continues the program unchanged and lawmakers in the 108th Congress would take it up anew. •

Source: The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States www.siecus.org

October is Let’s Talk Month!

October will be here in no time and so will *Let’s Talk Month*, a nationally recognized opportunity for parents and caring adults to discuss sexuality issues with the children and teens in their lives. Public health agencies and community organizations are collaborating to help encourage adults and young people to start the conversation.



Last year, metro-area organizations collaborated on Let’s Talk Month activities. The collaborative, led by the Hennepin County Community Health Department, Minnesota Organization of Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP), and the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health, recruited an additional twenty-five diverse partners to make the effort a huge success.

If you are interested in getting involved in *Let’s Talk Month 2002* or want information contact Marnie Wells at the MOAPPP office (651) 644-1447 Marnie@moappp.org Keep your eye on the MOAPPP web site where we will be posting materials and Let’s Talk Month training dates. www.moappp.org •



Sign up to be on the MOAPPP Action Alert network!

Call or email MOAPPP TODAY or go on-line at www.moappp.org to sign-up for the Action Alert Network. Click on the Advocacy Button on the Toolbar, complete the requested information and send your request to MOAPPP. It’s easy and it’s free and IT’S IMPORTANT that you do your part!!!

Vive Tu Juventud! poster speaks in the voices of Latino teens

Parenting and non-parenting students at the Guadalupe Alternative Program in St. Paul, along with Spanish-speaking adults in adult education classes, contributed their perspectives on teen pregnancy for the Live Your Youth! poster project. Sandy Naughton, Health Educator at Health Start, a community-based health clinic in St. Paul facilitated the conversations, coordinated the photo shoot, and worked with participants to select their statements.

“We had to consider the diversity within Spanish-speaking populations. Influences such as religion, financial status and education were only some of the influencing factors for teens and pregnancy. There was one unifying belief: that the family has the deciding influence. What the family thinks, believes in, communicates and teaches is what will determine the choices teens will make,” said Naughton.

The poster, outlined in flags from each Latino country in the western hemisphere, presents portraits of sixteen young people and their



views on teen pregnancy and parenting. MOAPPP is grateful to all the teens for their participation, the coordination by Health Start and the Guadalupe Alternative Program and to photographer Len Larson.

Posters are available by calling MOAPPP at 651-644-1447 or by ordering through our website at www.moappp.org.

MOAPPP board member receives national recognition

Board member, Clarence Jones, received an International Spirit of Fatherhood Award from the National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families in Washington, D.C. this summer. He was recognized for his collaborative work with Concordia University and the St. Paul Urban League in designing the nation's first distance learning program for fatherhood practitioners. The Fatherhood Program is a twelve-week certificate program with baccalaureate and master's degree program options through Concordia University. Jones also received his master's degree in Youth Development from Concordia University and gave the welcoming address this year.

The McKnight Foundation also gave a planning grant to develop the Minnesota Fathers and Families Leadership Network. Jones is the state planning group coordinator and is organizing regional forums to create a grassroots advocacy constituency on behalf of fatherhood and strengthening family programs and policies development. To find out more about the forums, contact Clarence Jones at 651-228-3283.

A Work in Progress:

Building a State Plan for Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting

A Summary of Key Recommendations

- Recognize and support the primary influence parents and families have on their children's attitudes, behaviors and knowledge regarding sexuality
- Support policies that guarantee confidential access to health care for all teens
- Fund health clinic programs that improve access to counseling, contraception and health
- Embrace youth development strategies that use dual approaches of reducing risks and promoting the strengths of individuals, their families and the community
- Support and coordinate resources and services for teen-parent families
- Recognize and educate youth on the responsibilities of fatherhood
- Endorse comprehensive sexuality education that includes information about contraception and abstinence
- Motivate partnerships by linking community, government and health care leaders with providers, families and youth

News and Notes

Research and Education

New Survey Offers Insights into Adolescents' Discussion about Sex with Parents

Many teens are saying their parents don't know they are having sex and only one in 10 who have had sexual intercourse say they discussed their plans with a parent ahead of time, according to a new national survey of 500 15- to 17- year-olds by Seventeen magazine and the Kaiser Family Foundation. The survey on sexual health communication among teens and their parents, providers and partners, is highlighted in the August issue of Seventeen magazine.

The survey also suggests that many teens seem to be having a hard time talking to their boyfriends and girlfriends about their sexual health. Among teens surveyed who have had sex, more than one in five have never talked about condoms or any other form of birth control with a partner. Four in 10 have never talked about HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases. The survey is available at www.kff.org/content/2002/3240

Child Trends Identifies What Works to Improve the Lives of America's Teens

Child Trends, in partnership with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, has released a set of new tools designed to improve the health and well being of America's youth. "American Teens" is a series of seven research briefs that summarizes and translates research and evaluation studies on youth development and on programs and interventions to support young people. The first research brief is "Preventing Teen-age Pregnancy, Childbearing, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases: What the Research Shows." The web-based "What Works" tables identify programs and approaches which experimental research studies have been found to be successful in improving youth outcomes and behaviors. For more information, visit www.childtrends.org.

National Sexuality Education Coalition Has Largest Gathering Ever

The National Coalition to Support Sexuality Education coalition (NCSSE) held the first of its biannual meetings in June, its largest gathering to date with over seventy people in attendance. The NCSSE, a coalition led by SIECUS, is comprised of over 150 national, international and local organization working to assure comprehensive sexuality education for all young people. At the meeting, Marnie Wells from MOAPPP discussed efforts to pass comprehensive sexuality education legislation in Minnesota and MOAPPP's collaborative work with state-level coalitions and national organizations.



* Amy Cochran, MOAPPP intern visits with St. Paul youth at the May teen pregnancy awareness fair.

New Resources Available

BAM! Website for Pre-Teens Announced by CDC

The Center for Disease Control's Office of Communication and the Information Resource Management Office (IRMO) is pleased to announce the launch of BAM! (Body and Mind), the first issue of an e-zine for youth aged 9 to 13 years old. BAM! was created to answer kids' questions on health issues and recommend ways to make their bodies and minds healthier, stronger, and safer. BAM! also provides middle school health and science teachers with interactive activities that are educational and fun.

Published quarterly, the first issue of BAM! focuses on physical activity and how other health areas— infectious disease, asthma, safety/injury, disability, etc.— are related to physical activity. To check out the first issue, click onto www.bam.gov



Research shows that children who have caring adults talk to them openly and honestly about sexuality are more likely to delay sexual experiences.

New Parent-Child Communication Activities Available

The Sexuality Information & Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) Family Project is designed to encourage families to talk about sexuality issues. As part of the project, SIECUS publishes Families Are Talking, a quarterly newsletter with activities, tips, and other information. Two issues are now available on-line. The first focuses on "parent-child communication" and includes tips for young people, parents, and caregivers to talk with each other about sexuality, as well as web sites with useful information. The second examines "the media" as a tool for family communication about sexuality and includes tips for young people, parents, and caregivers; comments from young people about TV, sex, and real life; stats; resources; and an activity to get families to talk. To view both issues, click on www.siecus.org/pubs/families/Families

Morning Glory Press Publishes New Parenting and Curriculum Resources

Morning Glory Press has released several new titles this summer. The book entitled, *“ROAD to Fatherhood: How to Help Young Dads Become Loving and Responsible Parents,”* by Jon Morris profiles thirteen young fathers each with a unique story to tell. Morris describes the individualized services the fathers received and offers suggestions to programs working with teen fathers.

The *Teen Parenting Curriculum Notebooks*, written especially for teen parents, provides an exhaustive curriculum with accompanying workbooks examining topics of pregnancy and prenatal care, a baby's first year, the challenge of toddlers, teen dads and discipline from birth to three. To order these resources, call 1-888-612-8254 or go to www.morningglorypress.com

Two New Resources Endorsed by the Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Teaching with SEX, Etc.: Articles and Activities (2002) • This manual is a compilation of articles and corresponding activities that deal with issues teens face related sexuality. It is to be used as a supplement to a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum for grades 9-12. The manual is available from the Network for Family Life Education, Rutgers University, 41 Gordon Road, Suite A, Piscataway, NJ 08854 at 732.445.7929 or www.sxetc.org. The cost is \$25.

Baby Think it Over (2001) • Baby Think it Over is a program designed to examine the emotional, financial and social consequences of parenting. In addition to instructional materials, the program involves a parenting simulation through the use of a computerized doll that simulates the behaviors of a real infant. The curriculum is for middle and high school students and is available for \$449 from BTIO Educational Products, Inc., 2709 Mondovi Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701 at 800.830.1416 or www.btio.com •



Jan Hayne and Dads Make a Difference students check out the resources at the St. Paul Youth Fair.

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Annual conference

“Religion has alienated many from their sexuality and their sexuality has alienated them from our spirituality,” said Haffner. “Many people have demons because of the issues of shame, guilt and fear.”

However, there is much to celebrate according to Haffner. Nine of ten teenagers claim a religious affiliation and half say that religion is very important to their daily lives. When comprehensive sexuality education is discussed within faith communities, there is little incidence of teen pregnancy and STDs. Eighty-percent are likely to use a condom and fifty percent are less likely to have sex.

Children learn how to make healthy decisions from caring adults who communicate their own values, beliefs, expectations, and factual information about sexuality.

“There is a theological foundation for comprehensive sexuality education. Abstinence-only positions are life denying and hurt our young people,” said Haffner.

Haffner suggested several options for reaching out to faith communities. Identifying supportive clergy and establishing programs with interfaith councils is a first step. Parents should find out what is being taught in youth groups and make sure that it is accurate and safe. Communities must also anticipate opposition and reach out to those people.

“People allow their own hurts to affect their positions. We need to be able to listen to them, find opportunities for dialogue and search for common ground,” Haffner concluded. •

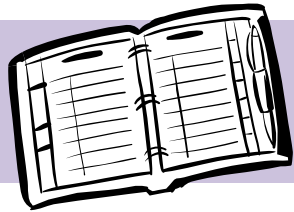
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Landmark blueprint unveiled

Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting,” cite the importance of utilizing proven medical and scientific research, building community partnerships, providing comprehensive and age-appropriate sexuality education and emphasizing the critical role that youth development efforts and opportunities for Minnesota teens play in reducing teen pregnancy.

The success of the state plan's recommendations lies in the implementation of these pieces and feedback from people around the state. This summer, MOAPPP mailed a survey to over 1,500 advocates, educators and health professionals around the state asking for feedback on the plan and its recommendations. A second printing of the document has recently been completed incorporating citizen feedback. Additionally, MOAPPP is recruiting a community of people around the state interested in working to implement the state plan's recommendations. If you would like to learn more about the state plan or join the state plan community, call the MOAPPP office at 651-644-1447 or go to our website at www.moappp.org •

Save the date!



MOAPPP
12th Annual
Conference
May 1-2, 2003

MOAPPP CALENDAR

September

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Update, sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Minnesota/South Dakota, September 25, 2002, Wednesday. This annual update provides the latest information on education, counseling, and clinical care of clients with STIs, including HIV/AIDS. The sessions are designed for medical and non-medical professionals, including counselors, social workers, and health educators. This year's topics will include sessions on trends in sexual activity, HPV, and others.

For registration details and/or additional information, phone 612.821.6146 or email training@ppmsd.org. Registration deadline: September 13.

October

Institute for Professionals Working with the Hmong Community, October 2-4, 2002. This deeper look at Hmong culture is designed to provide an advanced learning opportunity for professionals and to make progress toward building community in the midst of understanding cultural differences. The conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel Metrodome, 615 Washington Ave. SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information, contact Krystal Vujongyia at the University of Minnesota: 651.704.2057 or via email: vujon001@umn.edu.

A Multicultural Approach to Sexuality Education, October 10, 2002, Thursday. This workshop will discuss these issues for a number of different ethnic groups and provide practical strategies that can be implemented with diverse populations in the area of sexuality education. For registration details and/or additional information, phone 612.821.6146 or email training@ppmsd.org. Registration deadline: October 1.

"Putting the Pieces Together: Strategies to Prevent Teen Pregnancy," Co-sponsored by Health Care Education and Training, Inc. and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, October 16-18 at the Sheraton Indianapolis North Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. For more information go to www.hcet.org or call 317-247-9008.

Lights On Afterschool! Events Scheduled for Oct. 10, 2002
Children, parents, afterschool staff and community leaders at over 5,000 sites across the country will rally to demonstrate the ways afterschool programs improve student performance, support working families and keep communities safe. To register as a host of a Lights On Afterschool! event, find an event in your area, learn about how you can participate or to request a Lights On Afterschool! Action Kit, please visit our website, www.afterschoolalliance.org, or call 1-877-759-9733.

Immigrant Adolescent Health, Oct. 16 - Nov. 20, 2002
A six-week class designed for health care, education and social service professionals who work with teen-aged immigrants to Minnesota. The course will be offered on Wednesdays, from 4:30 to 7 PM, for six weeks on October 16, 23, and 30 and November 6, 13 and 20, at the Model Cities of Saint Paul Brownstone Building, in Saint Paul.

Session One	Oct. 16	Introduction Part 1: Immigration, Adolescence and Acculturation
Session Two	Oct. 23	Introduction Part 2: Adolescent Immigrants in Minnesota
Session Three	Oct. 30	Physical Health
Session Four	Nov. 6	Mental Health
Session Five	Nov. 13	Sexual Health
Session Six	Nov. 20	Applying Lessons Learned

To receive a registration form, call Health Advocates, 651-489-4238, or e-mail Health Advocates at pobmans@healthadvocates.info. For more information about Health Advocates courses and services, visit us on-line at www.healthadvocates.info.