



January 2003 E-Monthly

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.

If you know anyone with an interest in teen pregnancy prevention and teen parenting issues who would like to receive the MOAPPP E-Monthly, please send it on to them, asking them to let us know if they would like us to send it by e-mail. E-mail us at moapp@moapp.org or phone us at 651-644-1447 with your ideas!

2003 Legislative Session

The 2003 session, opened January 7th, welcoming both new and returning legislators back to the Capitol. Make sure your voice is heard in the difficult decisions about how to reduce the nearly \$5 billion deficit. This month is a prime opportunity for you to call your new legislators or reconnect with your reelected legislators to talk about the status of teen pregnancy and the needs of teen parents in your community. Find your county's teen pregnancy and birth data by clicking on your county on our website.

Don't know the name, address, phone, or e-mail of your legislator?

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

Sign up to be on the Action Alert network! Call or email MOAPPP TODAY!

MOAPPP Legislative Issues At A Glance

MOAPPP staff will be monitoring legislative activity on issues that affect teens and their families. Review some of the highlights of what MOAPPP will be following. Check out our website, www.moapp.org for more information:

Comprehensive Sexuality Education

We know 9 out of 10 Minnesotans support comprehensive sex ed in the schools. Research has shown that comprehensive sexuality education is effective in providing adolescents with the tools – the knowledge, the skills, the attitude and values to make responsible choices about their

sexual health. In contrast no research has shown that abstinence-only education effectively delays the onset of sexual intercourse. Research has shown that balanced programs – those that discuss both abstinence and contraception including condoms do not increase sexual activity among teens.

Minor's Access to Confidential Health Care

The confidentiality assured by this right to consent is a basic principle of adolescent health care that is essential in promoting the health of adolescents. Research has shown that most adolescents do discuss their use of reproductive health services with their parents and even more adolescents discuss an unplanned pregnancy with their parents. Related research has also shown that mandatory parental consent laws are unlikely to convince adolescents who would not otherwise discuss their health concerns with their parents to do so. Rather than promoting parental involvement, mandatory notification laws appear to have the unintended effects of increasing health risks to the adolescents.

Teen Parent Support

There are more than 10,000 adolescent mothers under the age of 19 in Minnesota and an unknown number of adolescent fathers. It is essential that these young parents stay in school to ensure their long-term self-sufficiency and the healthy development and learning readiness of their children. Without support services, teen mothers and fathers do not finish school. Research indicates that 70% of teen mothers drop out of high school; 30% of teen mothers earn a high school diploma by aged 30 compared with 76% of women who delay childbearing until age 20 or more. More than 50% of the families on welfare had their first child as a teen. Early prevention and intervention would reduce this negative outcome for many families and children.

New report sheds light on sanctioned MFIP families

A new report from the **Legal Services Advocacy Project** finds that families on welfare that are sanctioned (have their cash assistance reduced) for not complying with the program are more likely to face barriers to employment than non-sanctioned participants. These barriers include chemical dependency, physical and mental health problems, domestic violence, and lack of childcare and transportation. Among the findings:

- ❑ more than one-fourth of the participants on the December 2001 MFIP caseload had been sanctioned during 2001, indicating that sanctions affect a significant portion of the MFIP caseload.
- ❑ disparities in sanction rates exist between the racial and ethnic groups on MFIP.
- ❑ sanctioned participants differ from non-sanctioned participants in key areas.
- ❑ sanction resolution and prevention strategies that emphasize early intervention and specialized staff to assess a participant's barriers to both employment and compliance are showing positive results.

For a copy of the report go to <http://www.mnlegalservices.org/lsap/index.shtml>

New Opportunities!

Start the new year off right and get involved with new opportunities the MOAPPP staff have uncovered for you!

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel recruiting new panel members

The mission of the Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel (MSERP) is to review and recommend sexuality education and HIV prevention curricula and resources for use in schools and communities. The panel consists of 40 members with expertise in sexuality education and HIV prevention, who represent community-based and statewide organizations, including teachers, public health professionals, health educators, youth workers, and religious leaders. Meetings take place in the metro area, alternating between Minneapolis and Saint Paul locations and are held from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Meeting dates for 2003 are:

- Thursday, January 30, 2003
- Thursday, March 20, 2003
- Tuesday, May 20, 2003
- Tuesday, September 23, 2003
- Thursday, November 20, 2003

MSERRP is coordinated by MOAPPP. **If you have any questions about the panel or are interested in serving on MSERRP, please contact Marilyn ColbyRivkin for an application by January 17, 2002 at marilyn@moappp.org or 651.644.1447 x15.**

Upcoming Activities

"How Will Low-Income Children and Families Fare in the 108th Congress?"

Join host Jodie Levin-Epstein for this 13-session series from the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), beginning Friday, January 24, 2003. Guests for the 2003 Series include Senator Chuck Grassley, R-IA (incoming Chair of the Senate Finance Committee) and Senator Chris Dodd, D-CT (invited). On-line credit card orders get a 10% discount! For details and info on how to order: www.claspstore.org.

Just Say No and I Do: James Wagoner, Director of Advocates for Youth

An opportunity to explore the implications of the abstinence-only-until-marriage movement. Minnesota AIDS Project Forum co-sponsored by Sex Ed for Life, Outfront, and Pride Alive, Monday, January 27. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Intermedia Arts, 28th and Lyndale Avenue in Minneapolis. Call MOAPPP to register, 651-644-1447, extension 0.

MOAPPP's 12th Annual Conference: SAVE THE DATES!!

April 30, 2003: Pre-conference Institute; May 1 and 2: Conference keynotes and workshops. Registration forms will be ready in early February on MOAPPP website www.moappp.org or through the mail.

Website of the Month

Are you looking for more teen pregnancy resources? Check out this fabulous compilation of teen pregnancy resources with just one click. Follow this link to:

http://mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_adolpreg.html