

REPRESENTING YOUTH WITH COMPLEX MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

Friday, June 10, 2011
MCLE, Boston

8:00 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

8:30 WELCOME

8:45 **KEYNOTE: UNDERSTANDING YOUTH AT RISK**

Dr. Samples will cover the normal developmental stages and tasks of adolescence (physical, emotional, cognitive, social, family, peer and sexual), and the risks they can pose to current and future health. She will also discuss the medical, social, and emotional challenges that often face adolescents and young adults with complex needs. Such complex needs include youth with disabilities or chronic illness (particularly HIV), and adolescents whose families may be in crisis or dysfunctional, or who have themselves experienced or witnessed violence. Issues unique to the GLBT and questioning populations will also be covered. Dr. Samples will also detail what non-medical people might expect from the health care system and explain the questions clinicians often ask as part of an adolescent "physical" or routine health care visit as well as the services that youth-friendly clinicians provide.

Cathryn L. Samples, MD, MPH, Director, Boston HAPPENS, Children's Hospital Boston.

Regional Medical Director, Metro-Boston DYS Health Services. Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School

10:30 **BULLYING AND HARASSMENT: FROM THE SCHOOL YARD TO THE INTERNET**

In recent times, the arena in which adolescents intimidate and threaten their peers has expanded from the school setting to cyberspace, rendering prevention and intervention with perpetrators extremely challenging. Drs. Clark and Judge will discuss developments in identifying, understanding and responding to these youths, with a specific focus on the mental health difficulties that may underlie these aggressive behaviors.

Andrew Clark, MD, Medical Director, Children and the Law Program, Massachusetts General Hospital

Abigail M. Judge, PhD, Fellow, Children and the Law Program, Massachusetts General Hospital

12:00 LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:00 **CHINS REFORM AND THE NEW FACES CAMPAIGN**

The Children in Need of Services system (CHINS) has been failing our children for decades by not keeping them out of the juvenile justice system as intended and 50% of those children have a diagnosable mental illness and must go to the court system for the help they need. The new Families and Children Engaged in Services system (FACES) seeks to have families get necessary services from their home communities rather than through the courts. This session will explore and explain the differences in these two systems, the impact on children with mental health issues and the growing campaign around the FACES system.

Erin G. Bradley, Coordinator, Children's Mental Health Campaign

State Representative Paul J. Donato, Thirty-fifth Middlesex

State Senator Karen E. Spilka, Second Middlesex and Norfolk

2:00 **LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF ADOLESCENTS WITH SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND BEHAVIORAL DISABILITIES**

Faculty with a sophisticated understanding of legal, educational and mental health issues unique to the population of adolescents with multiple disabilities that impact their mental health and social, emotional, behavioral and cognitive success will present strategies for effective advocacy. They will focus on the education system as well as the interplay between family and juvenile law in the Probate and Juvenile Courts with special education law. Discussion will include frequent obstacles encountered in school settings and options for improving outcomes in educational plans and disciplinary matters including the importance of neuropsychological evaluations and appropriate educational settings. Issues around delinquency and CHINS and implications for legal proceedings in court will be covered. Anti-bullying legislation, harassment prevention, and transition planning for high school kids will also be addressed.

Katherine Engel, LICSW, MPH, Program Director, Advocating Success for Kids, Children's Hospital Boston

Peter A. Hahn, JD, Attorney-at-Law, Newton

Barbara Kaban, JD, MBA, MEd, Deputy Director, Children's Law Center of Massachusetts

Martina Roy Lynde, MSW, Consultant/Advocate, Private Practice, Newton

Marlies Spanjaard, JD, MSW, Project Coordinator, EdLaw Project, Youth Advocacy Department and Children's Law Center of Massachusetts