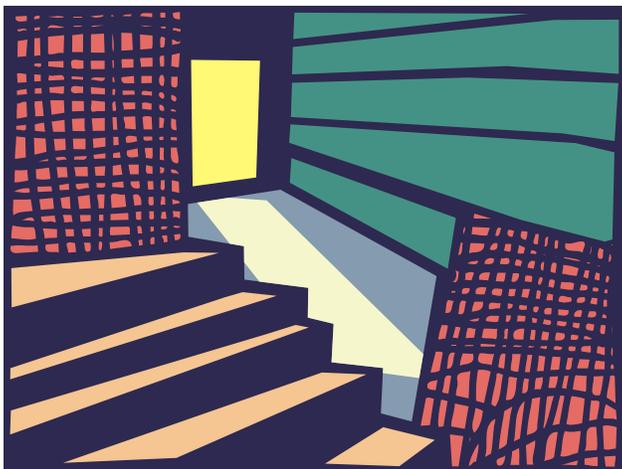


**IN RECOGNITION OF
RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH
PREVENTION MONTH**

**The NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
and
The New York State Office of Children and Family Services
will present a one day conference for youth professionals and service providers**



**November 3, 2005
9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
Harlem PAL
441 Manhattan Avenue
(at 119th Street), NYC**

**“ YOU THINK YOU KNOW? ”
VOICES AND POSITIVE LESSONS FROM
RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH**

Youth presenters will share their views on:

- **Medical Needs**
- **Sexually Exploited Youth**
- **LGBTQ Youth Issues**
- **Parenting Youth**
- **Immigrant Issues**
- **Gang Related Issues**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Youth Resilience**

**For more information, or to RSVP,
contact: Robyn Causey 212.676.8260 or rcausey@dycd.nyc.gov**



**New York State
Office of Children & Family Services**

**George E. Pataki, Governor
John A. Johnson, Commissioner**



**New York City
Department of Youth and Community Development**

**Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Jeanne B. Mullgrav, Commissioner**

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services
and
The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development

**“You Think You Know?”
Voices and Positive Lessons from
Runaway and Homeless Youth
A FREE ONE-DAY CONFERENCE**

Thursday, November 3, 2005
9:00am-3:30pm
Harlem PAL
441 Manhattan Avenue (at 119th Street)
New York City

*Train Directions: A, B, C, or D Train to 125th Street
Please note: St. Nicholas Avenue turns into Manhattan Avenue at 124th Street.*

AGENDA

9:00-9:50 Breakfast/Registration

10:00-10:30 Opening

*Jeanne B. Mullgrav, Commissioner
New York City Department of Youth
and Community Development*

*Sally Herrick, Assistant Commissioner
New York State Office of Children and Family Services*

10:30-12:00 Workshop 1

12:00-1:00 Lunch Provided

1:00-2:30 Workshop 2

2:30-3:30 Closing

Alan Gerson, New York City Councilmember

“Why We Dance,” Safe Space Players

To RSVP, FAX this form by October 27, 2005

To: Robyn Causey at (212) 442-4771

Name: _____

(Please fill out a separate sheet for each attendee)

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

PLEASE DESIGNATE YOUR FIRST 3 CHOICES IN NUMERIC ORDER – EACH PARTICIPANT WILL ATTEND ONLY 2 WORKSHOPS

_____ **Creating Safe Spaces: Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth (LGBTQ) Issues.** Some groups estimate that as many as 40% of runaway and homeless youth are LGBTQ youth. Many are homeless because they experience rejection by their families and they can be subjected to violence, trauma, HIV and substance abuse as a result. Learn about issues related to the diverse population of LGBTQ youth, and gain valuable referral resources skills to communicate with and support these youth.

_____ **Fostering Resilience:** Many young people have had to learn how to manage in hostile and difficult environments. Although these experiences often result in challenging behaviors and problems, many young people do develop powerful survivor skills. These coping skills allow them to develop resiliencies that can go unrecognized, and improperly challenged. Learn to re-examine youth work through a strengths-based, resiliency lens and gain practical tips and strategies for your work.

_____ **Developing Healthy Relationships: Domestic Violence Issues for Youth** Many runaway and homeless youth became homeless as a result of being victims of family domestic violence and/or teen dating violence—and some have cohabitated with the abuser and remained in abusive relationships to prevent homelessness. Learn how to prevent future victimization; assist youth in building healthy relationships and more.

_____ **Beyond the Band-Aid: Runaway and Homeless Youth Medical Issues** Runaway and homeless youth face many unique and serious medical issues including mental health issues, pregnancy, and chronic conditions. Dr. Alan Shapiro has overseen clinical services for homeless youth for over 15 years. He will define the problem and identify homeless specific challenges. Learn how to bring services to youth's turf and expand care through a comprehensive community network.

_____ **Youth Development in Action: Sexually-Exploited Youth:** The majority of sexually exploited youth run away from home and are vulnerable to the recruitment tactics of pimps. Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS) specializes in working with sexually exploited youth, and reaching youth who are considered high risk. Gain a solid understanding of this issue, the ability to identify signs of possible sexual exploitation and practical strategies to talk to youth for providers.

_____ **A Sense of Belonging: Runaway and Homeless Youth Immigrant Issues** Immigrant youth who leave their home must be looked at differently, as immigrant youth may not see this act as "running away", as NYC/USA is not their original "home". By addressing general youth development strategies of working with immigrant youth and by hearing from a young person who will share personal experience, attendees will gain a better understanding of this unique population.

_____ **Gang-Related Issues: Understanding How Youth Development provides opportunities to Combat Gang Activity.** Gangs are often attractive to youth who are looking for acceptance. For many youth, joining a gang fulfills their need to belong. The National Council for Unity incorporates positive youth development principles to create an alternative culture to gang life. This workshop will present the Council for Unity's model with presentations from youth who are former gang members.

_____ **Runaway and Homeless Youth: Parenting Issues** Runaway and Homeless Youth who are pregnant or parenting experience additional issues related to their additional responsibilities. These youth have special needs and require appropriate services. Learn about prevention techniques, strategies for gaining independence, and special needs of this population.