

Black Focus

Black Child Development Institute-St. Louis Affiliate

Fall, 1987

PROJECT FIT

Hats off to Deane Wiley, NBCDI-St. Louis Affiliate member and staff therapist of Children/Adolescent Service at Metro Comprehensive Mental Health Centers, and Craig Brown, NBCDI-St. Louis Social Service chairperson and staff psychologist at Bellefontaine Habitation Center, for their support and commitment in developing Project Fit.

Project Fit: Preventing Self-Destructive Behaviors In Adolescents Through Education And Support, and NBCDI-St. Louis initiative, is designed to increase the awareness of adolescents toward preventing self-destructive behavior by providing them with information, resource, outlets for frustration, and aiding their development of coping strategies.

This program is divided into four forty-five minute modules which can be presented as individual units or as a series. The modules address issues related to substance abuse, physical and mental health, and educational (school related) social issues. The importance of communicating with other adolescents and adults is also stressed in each module.

NBCDI-St. Louis has established six pilot groups in the metropolitan St. Louis area. They represent approximately one hundred and thirty adolescents in public high schools, private boys and girls clubs, and residential treatment centers.

Since the material is designed to be engaging and interactive, the sample population will give feedback on the design and the values of the materials presented. This information will be used to develop materials that have youth appeal and messages to parents and educators about communicating with adolescents.

After the pilot program is completed, NBCDI St. Louis will published the information in manual form so that it can be presented in small group social and educational settings. This text will outline the problem areas, provide techniques for engaging the audience, and list resources and supportive services available to youth.

NBCDI was pleased to be an active participant in the National's 17th Annual Conference held in Detroit, continued on page 4

St. Louis Affiliate's Conference A Success



NBCDI-St. Louis held its Third Annual Conference at Mt. Beulah Educational Building on April 4, 1987. The morning keynote speaker was Evelyne K. Moore Executive Director and founder of the National Black Child Development Institute, Inc. William A. Blakey, Senior Legislative Assistant to Senator Paul Simon, addressed the topic of "Education Is Freedom's Plow."

Two awards were presented at the Conference. Ms. Elizabeth Garlington was the recipient of NBCDI - St. Louis's Community Service Award in recognition of her many years of dedicated service. Christine Reams was the recipient of the 1987 Member of the Year Award in recognition of her outstanding work with the local Affiliate.

The conference was a success. Once again, thanks to all of the participants, workshop leaders, moderator, and speakers.

Support NBCDI'S CFC

Support NBCDI'S Combined Federal Campaign. Tell A Federal Employee about our appeal. Remember to pass out the flyers to friends and relatives that work at Post Offices and other Government institutions. Last year, more than \$4000 was donated to NBCDI by employees in the St. Louis area.

The Census Bureau And Black Children

By

Sara S. Ogawa, Census Community Awareness Project

Mention the Census Bureau to people, and for most it brings to mind the census of population and housing taken every ten years. While this is a very important function, and one which will be discussed later in this article, the Bureau also collects a myriad of data from other censuses and surveys.

Much of the data collected in these censuses and surveys are of special interest to the black community, and some are specific to black children. A sampling of Census Bureau reports and survey results issued within the past two years show:

- More than half (53%) of the nation's 9.4 million black children under age 18 lived with only one parent in 1984. The mother was the sole parent in 95% of these cases. By comparison, about 17% of white children and 25% of Hispanic children lived with one parent.
- About 70% of black children under age 18 lived in households that received means-tested benefits during the fourth quarter of 1984. About half of the nation's black children lived in households that participated in free and reduced-price school meals. Proportions for other programs were about 33% each in food stamps, Medicaid and cash public assistance (including AFDC); 17% in public or subsidized rental housing; and 11% in the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). About 25% of white children and 60% of Hispanic children lived in households receiving benefits, with the highest participation rate for both groups in free and reduced price school meals--17% whites, and 48% Hispanics.
- More young blacks are graduating from high school and enrolling in college than at any other time since the Census Bureau began tabulating such statistics in 1967. The rate of high school completions for blacks age 18 to 24 was 75%, nearly 3 million, up from 56% and 1.3 million graduates in 1967. The number of young blacks enrolled in college grew from 30,000 (23% of graduates) to 80,000 (27% of graduates) during this period.
- Approximately 1.5 million black mothers, two-thirds of the 2.3 million black women with children from absent fathers, were not awarded child support payments as of 1986. By contrast, about 30% of the 6.3 million white mothers with children from absent fathers did not receive child support awards. Of the 1.5 million black mothers not awarded child support, about 60% wanted support but could not get it, usually because the father could not be located. About one-third did not want child support.
- Nearly 75% of the nation's 4.3 million elementary school-age black children were cared for by their parents after school in 1984. Most of the remaining children were cared

for after school by other relatives, with a smaller proportion cared for by nonrelatives or without adult care. About 75% of white youths also were supervised by a parent after school; the proportions cared for by other relatives, nonrelatives, or had no adult care were also similar.

While results from these surveys and reports focus interest in the status of the nation's black children, none have the lasting impact of the decennial (ten-year) census of population and housing, for children and adults alike. Counts and census of population and housing, for children and adult alike. Counts and statistics from the decennial census are used for three major functions: legislative apportionment and redistricting, apportionment of federal funds through an assortment of federal social service programs (as well as some at the state and local level)?, and governmental planning for programs and services at the federal, state, and local levels.

Studies of past censuses indicate that certain socioeconomic factors and housing characteristics, similar to those found in many black communities, correlate to a population count that is too low. A low count hurts the black community, along with the community as a whole, in several ways. Less legislative representation means less of a voice when decisions are made in Washington, D.C., decisions which may have direct implications for the community. The distribution of federal social service program dollars are diverted away from areas whose population is undercounted. In a like manner, government planning efforts overlook segments of the population which are not completely counted. The effects of a census undercount last for ten years.

The next nationwide census is scheduled for 1990. However, the Census Bureau has selected St. Louis City as the urban site in which to take one last look at various procedures chosen for use in the 1990 census. March 20, 1988 is "Census Day" for the city. This special census brings with it benefits, both short-term and long-term. Short-term benefits include jobs (several hundred temporary jobs over the course of the effort, with a minimum wage of \$5.50 per hour) and money (a budget in excess of \$1.5 million to spill into the area's economy). Longer-term effects are official counts which can, and will, be used for funds distribution and planning purposes, two years ahead of any other urban area in the nation.

The Census Bureau's goal for this special census is a complete count of all segments of the city's populations. Over the next several months, information about the 1988 census will be available through schools, church neighborhood meetings, and on radio, television, and

continued on page 3

BCDI-St Louis '87-'88' Events

OCTOBER, 1987

17th Annual Conference in Detroit, Michigan
Annual Calendar Sales
Continuation of Community Resource Survey

NOVEMBER, 1987

2nd Tuesday-Membership Meeting
Calendar Sales Report
Membership Drive
Community Resource Survey

DECEMBER, 1987

Continuation of Membership Drive, Calendar Sales

JANUARY, 1988

2nd Tuesday-General Membership Meeting
Calendar Sales Report
Continuation of Project FIT, Foster Care Project and
Membership Drive

FEBRUARY, 1988

Black History Month Project

MARCH, 1988

2nd Tuesday-General Membership Meeting
Planning For Affiliate's annual conference

APRIL, 1988

4th Annual Affiliate's Conference

MAY, 1988

General Membership Meeting
Continuation of Foster Care Project

JUNE, 1988

Co-sponsor Region VII Minority Summit in St. Louis

JULY, 1988

Foster Care Project
Project FIT

AUGUST, 1988

Foster Care Project
Project FIT

SEPTEMBER, 1988

General Membership Meeting report on NBCDI
Affiliate Presidents Training Institute
Continuation of Foster Care Project

**WHO, IF NOT US,
WILL BE RESPONSIBLE?**
help make a difference for Black children.

Community Resource Survey

NBCDI-St. Louis is still conducting its community resource survey as a part of the research project on the **BLACK CHILD IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM**. Information from the survey will go into the development of a resource booklet entitled "Where To Turn...Helping Black Children and Families."

The community resource survey is a very important phase of the Foster Care Project. Information regarding the availability of both non-traditional and traditional resources will benefit our community. It is important to St. Louis. We need this information in order to provide better services to Black children and their families.

We need to complete this phase of the project within the next few weeks. Affiliate members, who made commitments to work on the survey, are encouraged to turn in their questionnaires to Christine Reams as soon as possible. If you have any questions or problems please call Ms. Reams at 997-0831 after 6 P.M.

As you know, Johnnie M. Penelton is the Project Director of the St. Louis Affiliate's Black Child In the Foster Care System Project. Ms. Penelton is eagerly awaiting moving on to the next stage of this Project. Let's complete the survey and move on!

continued from page 2

in newspapers. The slogan for this effort is "You Count Today--for a Better Tomorrow," a slogan meant to touch the city's blacks and whites, adults and children. All households are urged to completely fill out census form and to return it. **All personal information is by law kept confidential**, and all results will be counted in a better tomorrow for all of St. Louis City.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

For more information about the 1988 census, or about the reports cited in this article, contact the Census Bureau District Office at (314)425-5457.

NBCDI Calendar of Black Children Available

The 1988 calendar of Black children is now available, for \$6.50, in the St. Louis area. This calendar shares daily information on Black History. A lovely face of a Black child accompanied by a Black Awareness poem adorn each month. The NBCDI calendar makes an excellent gift for children and adults. Only 600 calendars are available in the St. Louis area.

Order your calendar now. Call Lula Stallings at 524-4719 or Ciby Kimbrough at 361-1735 to schedule a time to pick up your calendar.

Your continued support will help NBCDI continue working to improve the quality of life for Black children, youth and their families.

Membership Drive

BCDI-St. Louis is currently conducting its membership drive for 1988. "There is no better cause than our children. Who, if not us will be responsible?"

- BCDI-St. Louis has continued to;
 - advocate for Black children and their families;
 - place representatives on important boards and committees that make recommendations on issues that impact on the lives of people;
 - offer referral services and research analysis;
 - offer parenting workshops;
 - sponsor conferences which serve as inservice training for caregivers of Black children and youth;

develop Project FIT Preventing Self-Destructive Behavior in Adolescents Through Education and

Support and co-sponsor the Region VII Minority Summitts, and Black History Month Activities.

BCDI-ST Louis is also one of seven cities currently conducting a research survey on the needs of the Black child in foster care.

BCDI-St. Louis is an innovative, growing organization. BCDI-St. Louis needs you. Renew your membership today. If you are not a member, consider joining us. You, too, can help build a brighter future for Black children by becoming a member of BCDI-ST. Louis. We need your support in our mission to improve the quality of life for Black Children. For more information, contact Lula Stallings, Membership Chairperson at 527-4719.

JOIN THE NATIONAL BLACK CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

NBCDI Membership Year: January 1 to December 31

- | Individual | Organization | Interest |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Agency/Community Group \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring Group \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Nutrition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Care/Adoption |

I am already a member. Please renew my membership for another year.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

Please make check payable to NBCDI, and return this card with payment.

NBCDI-ST. LOUIS AFFILIATE
P.O. BOX 9731
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63140

National Black Child Development Institute St. Louis Affiliate Officers

- Ms. Ciby Herzfeld-Kimbrough..... President
 - Ms. Lula Stallings..... Secretary
 - Ms. Jobe Reid..... Treas
 - Ms. Christine Reams..... Public Policy
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- Black Focus Newsletter is published by
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BCDI St. Louis, P.O. Box 9731, St. Louis, MO 63140
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continued from page 1

Michigan on October 22-24, 1987. In keeping with the conference theme: "An Ounce of Prevention: Eliminating Self-Destructive Behaviors," St. Louis Affiliate members Craig Brown and Deane Wiley conducted a workshop on Project Fit. St. Louis Affiliate president, Ciby Kimbrough served as moderator.

Support ABC

The Alliance for Better Child Care (ABC) is a broad-based national coalition formed to develop and advocate public policy solutions to child care issues. The primary focus of ABC is the enactment of a comprehensive national child care policy. The Act for Better Child Care Services of 1987 would vastly increase the federal government's role in the child care partner ship. It calls for a federal investment of \$2. % billion dollars to make child care more affordable to low income families,; increase the number of child facilities and well-trained child care providers; improve the quality of child care available to families, and coordinate child care resources. For more information on this legislation phone Ciby Herzfeld-Kimbrough at 361-1735.



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