



## May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

While a growing body of research shows that mental health services are effective in reducing violent behavior, access to mental health services for youth is dangerously low.

Research and evidence-based programs and services can be utilized to elevate arguments for one of SCY's [Focus on Five](#) priorities: Equitable Access to High Quality Mental Health Services.

In light of the [pressing need](#) for increased access to mental health resources for youth in Chicago, participate in Mental Health Month and check out Mental Health America's [resources](#) for what individuals and organizations can do, or [download](#) their general toolkit!

Read SCY's [blog post on Mental Health Awareness Month](#) for more information or check out mental health-related events below!

## Upcoming Events & Important Dates

### May 19-25

*National Week of Action Against Incarcerating Youth*  
Learn more in [SCY 5/7/14 Newsletter](#)

### May 22

*Rally to maintain responsible 5% income tax rate*  
[READ MORE](#)

Dear Alyssa,

With only a week and a half left before the General Assembly adjourns, we should all be very concerned that there is not yet a solution to our state's impending budget crisis. If the 5% income tax rate is not extended, we face massive cuts to health and human services, many of which are tremendously effective in preventing violence and strengthening youth. Please [contact your state representative today](#) (using this sample letter from Voices for Illinois Children) and urge them to put children, families and communities first!

For more information, please view [SCY's Legislative Action Alert](#) on SCY's website.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Levin, MPH  
Director, SCY  
Strategic Director, Injury Prevention and Research Center  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

## Youth Input Needed

### *The Illinois Division of Mental Health*

The Illinois [Division of Mental Health](#) (DMH) is applying for a Federal Youth Transitions Grant through SAMHSA's "Now is the Time" Health Transitions (HT):Improving Life Trajectories for Youth and Youth Adults with, or at Risk for, Serious MH Conditions. DMH would like to include youth input to support their application.

Please help DMH by completing this [survey](#) and sharing the survey with youth you are working with.

Please return the survey to [Kathryn.dittemore@illinois.gov](mailto:Kathryn.dittemore@illinois.gov) or fax to 773-794-4881 attn: Kimberly Jenkins

Deadline to return the survey is Friday, May 23

## JJI Releases New Report

### *Automatic Adult Prosecution of Children in Cook County, Illinois*

In Illinois, youth as young as 13 can be automatically excluded from juvenile court for prosecution in adult court without any judicial review.

## May 22

*Bolster Mission Consulting:  
"How Mission-Driven Is Your  
Data?" Workshop*  
Learn more in [SCY 5/7/14  
Newsletter](#)

## May 23-24

*CHRC Symposium: Creating a  
Non-Violent Future - Children's  
Rights and Advances in  
Protection from Corporal  
Punishment*  
Learn more in [SCY 4/2/14  
Newsletter](#)

## May 28-30

*Chicago Freedom Summer:  
"Freedom Dreams, Freedom  
Now" Conference*  
Learn more in [SCY 5/7/14  
Newsletter](#)

## May 29

*Youth Rally for Peace*  
[READ MORE](#)

## May 30

*Webinar: Addressing  
Perpetration of Intimate Partner  
Violence (IPV) in Families  
Affected by Substance Abuse*  
[READ MORE](#)

## May 31

*Open Panel Discussion on  
PEACE and Youth Job Fair*  
[READ MORE](#)

## May 31

*"Freedom Summer" Film  
Screening and Discussion*  
[READ MORE](#)

## June 2-4

*Reconnecting the Pathways:  
Equipping Leaders for Juvenile  
Justice Reform*  
Learn more in [SCY 5/7/14  
Newsletter](#)

## June 5

*Childhood Trauma Training  
hosted by Illinois Childhood  
Trauma Coalition, ICOY, and  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie  
Children's Hospital of Chicago*  
[READ MORE](#)

## June 6

*Juvenile Justice Initiative's  
Justice Comparative Law  
Training*

The [Juvenile Justice Initiative](#) examined this practice in Cook County, Illinois. This month these findings were released in its report, "[Automatic Adult Prosecution of Children in Cook County, Illinois.](#)"

The data implications are deeply concerning. National research and the U.S. Supreme Court warn against the continued practice of prosecuting children as adults. We must restore the individualized and balanced approach to justice missing in our state.



## Rally to Maintain 5% Tax

### Responsible Budget Campaign

TOMORROW, Thursday, May 22, there will be a rally in support of a responsible budget with the extension of the 5% income tax rate.

This lobby day is absolutely FREE. Below are the typical bus stops, departing at 6:30am:

2229 S. Halsted (SEIU Headquarters)  
87th & Dan Ryan  
55th & Wentworth (at the Walgreens)  
Kedzie & Roosevelt  
Madison & Austin  
176th & Halsted (Homewood)

Bag lunches will be provided on the buses.

Training typically takes place on the bus via bus captains.

## I Care Month 2014

### Youth Rally for Peace and Youth Job Fair

"Do You Care?" [Chicago Area Project](#) (CAP), [The Brave Youth Leaders](#), [The ARK of St. Sabina](#), and [Hip-Hop Detoxx](#) present, "I Care Month 2014" to promote peace among youth.

### Youth Rally for Peace

**Thursday, May 29, 5pm-6pm**

Perspectives High School (Football Field)  
8131 S. May St.

### Open Panel Discussion and Youth Job Fair

**Saturday, May 31, 11am-4pm**

(doors open for registration at 10am)

Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep

250 E. 111th St.

Ages 15-21

Bring your resume and dress to impress for jobs!

RSVP at [repkellyempowermentsummit.eventbrite.com](http://repkellyempowermentsummit.eventbrite.com)



## NCTSN Upcoming Webinar

### Addressing Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Families Affected by Substance Use

Sponsored by the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) Trauma and Substance Abuse Collaborative Group as part of the NCTSN Speaker Series, *The Role of Trauma Among Families Struggling with Substance Abuse.*

**Friday, May 30, 11am Central Time**

[READ MORE](#)

## June 6

Chicago Children's Advocacy Center Training, "Responding to Abuse"

[READ MORE](#)

## June 8

CROSSwalk to a Safe Summer

[READ MORE](#)

## June 10

FREE Childhood Trauma Training hosted by Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition, ICOY, and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

[READ MORE](#)

## June 11

FREE Childhood Trauma Training hosted by Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition, ICOY, and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

[READ MORE](#)

## June 11

Chicago Children's Advocacy Center's Raising Awareness in Service and Empowerment of African-American Families (RAISE) "Stay Awake and Care: The Must-Have Practices for Your Clinician Toolkit"

[READ MORE](#)

## June 13

Demand Peace: This is our time to take a stand! Peace March

[READ MORE](#)

## June 17

FREE Childhood Trauma Training hosted by Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition, ICOY, and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

[READ MORE](#)

## June 18

FREE Childhood Trauma Training hosted by Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition, ICOY, and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

[READ MORE](#)

## June 24-27

To view slides and listen online:

[Enroll now](#) in The Role of Trauma Among Families Struggling with Substance Abuse Speaker Series on the NCTSM Learning Center and join the webinar on May 30th.

To listen by phone:

Call 1-866-292-5950 and enter guest code 5318986#

To submit a question during the webinar, email

[question@nctsn.org](mailto:question@nctsn.org)

A copy of these slides may be downloaded and printed on the day of the webinar.

## "Freedom Summer"

### Film Screening and Discussion

Please join [Chicago Freedom School](#), [Crossroads Fund](#), the [Public Square](#) (a program of the Illinois Humanities Council), and the Roosevelt University [Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation](#) for a film screening and discussion of the new documentary, "Freedom Summer." Join for an engaging afternoon that connects this historic summer of activism with the legacy of youth-led social change in Chicago. This event is primarily for young people and their adult allies.

May 31, 2014 1-4pm

Roosevelt University

430 S. Michigan Ave  
Congress Lounge 2nd Floor

[Register here](#)



## Childhood Trauma Training

[Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition](#), [Illinois Collaboration on Youth](#), [Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago](#)

Gray Matters! The brain is 90% of adult size by age 3. Trauma alters brain structure and function. 1 in 5 children has witnessed violence in their family or neighborhood.

Learn about the impact of childhood trauma on children and teens and what you can do to help.

FREE childhood trauma training will help you spot signs of trauma and create safe and supportive environments.

[Register now](#) or click [here](#) for more information, locations, times, and free contact hours. Separate registration is required for each training date. For more information, contact Lisa Toban at [ltoban@icoyouth.org](mailto:ltoban@icoyouth.org)

Training dates:

Thursday, June 5, 1pm-3pm

Tuesday, June 10, 2pm-4pm

Wednesday, June 11, 2pm-4pm

Tuesday, June 17, 2pm-4pm

Wednesday, June 18, 2pm-4pm

## Juvenile Justice Comparative Law Training

### Juvenile Justice Initiative

Join [Juvenile Justice Initiative](#) and learn about international developments in juvenile justice law in comparison to the U.S. Attendees will come away from this program with an understanding of how laws, policy and practices in other countries address juvenile justice issues common throughout the world, continuing challenges and the role lawyers can play in promoting the rights of children.

6 Professional Responsibility CLE Credits available

Chicago Freedom School "Rev Up" youth organizer, worker, educator training  
Learn more in [SCY 4/16/14 Newsletter](#)

## June 25

Collaboration with CDPH: Applied Research, Program Evaluation, & Epidemiology to Inform Evidence-Based Policy  
[READ MORE](#)

## June 30

SCY Monthly Training: Stakeholder Engagement, co-hosted by [Prevent School Violence Illinois \(PSVI\)](#)  
[REGISTER HERE](#)

## August 13

SCY Quarterly Meeting  
[REGISTER HERE](#)

## November 5

SCY Quarterly Meeting  
[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Interested in Sharing Your Expertise or Violence Prevention Experience?

Strengthening Chicago's Youth hosts monthly trainings on violence prevention in Chicago. Past topics have included mental health, youth programming, data-driven advocacy, media, restorative justice, and trauma-informed care. Trainings frequently involve information sharing, networking, and interactive action planning.

If you or your organization is interested in partnering with SCY for a future training, learn more [here](#) or contact Alyssa Petersel, Program Assistant, at [apetersel@luriechildrens.org](mailto:apetersel@luriechildrens.org)

To join our mailing list or subscribe to our weekly policy updates, click the button below



Friday, June 6  
[Registration required](#)

Juvenile Justice Initiative 

## Training: Responding to Abuse

Chicago Children's Advocacy Center

Join [ChicagoCAC](#) at their next free "Responding to Abuse" training to learn about or refresh your knowledge of defining, recognizing and understanding child abuse and its effects, as well as how ChicagoCAC helps children and families.

Free CE hours are provided for licensed social workers, licensed counselors and early intervention providers

Friday, June 6, 9:30am- 12:30pm  
Chicago Public Library 6 South Hoyne, Chicago

[Register now](#) or help spread the word by [downloading and sharing the flyer](#). You can also [schedule a training](#) for your workplace or community site!



## CROSSwalk to a Safe Summer

CROSSwalk

Join [CROSSwalk](#) and hundreds of Chicagoans for a gathering in the South Side Avalon Park community.

Hear young people's stories about the impact of violence, why employers are partnering with CROSSwalk to hire young people, and music by Verbal Kwest.

June 8 3-5pm  
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church  
8255 South Dante Ave (start)  
Avalon Park 1215 E 83rd St (end)

Learn more [here](#) and promote #crosswalksafesummer!  
For more information contact Sarah Jordan at [sjordan@episcopalchicago.org](mailto:sjordan@episcopalchicago.org) 312-751-3576



## Stay Awake and Care

The Must-Have Practices for Clinician Toolkit

Join Chicago Children's Advocacy Center's [Raising Awareness in Service and Empowerment of African-American Families \(RAISE\)](#) coalition for this training on building alliances between therapists and clients.

June 11, 10am-12pm  
UCAN  
10046 S. Western, Chicago

CE hours are available for licensed clinical social works and counselors.

[Registration](#) is required and ends on June 10, 2014



## Join the Discussion on Youth Violence Prevention in Chicago

Follow SCY's Blog!

Check out some of our recent posts on Mental Health Awareness Month, Bullying Prevention, Juvenile Justice, and Making Our Communities Safer for Our Youth [here](#).



## Newsletter Content

To have an event or article included in SCY's bi-monthly update, please email Alyssa Petersel at [apetersel@luriechildrens.org](mailto:apetersel@luriechildrens.org)

**DONATE**



## Demand Peace - Peace March

### Faith Community of Saint Sabina

This end of the school year march to proclaim Peace in the Streets, led by Rev. Michael L. Pfleger, Senior Pastor, and the Faith Community of Saint Sabina, invites people throughout Chicago to stand up and declare their commitment to occupy our streets this Summer to bring about PEACE!

**Friday, June 13, 2014 7:00 p.m.**  
**78th Place & Throop**

*First 500 people receive a free t-shirt beginning at 6:00 pm*

## Applied Research, Program Evaluation, & Epidemiology to Inform Evidence-Based Policy

### Collaboration with Chicago Department of Public Health

Commissioner Bechara Choucair, MD of the [Chicago Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH) will provide a brief overview of [Healthy Chicago](#), the public health agenda for the city. Additional speakers from CDPH will also share current CDPH applied research and program evaluation priority areas, guidance on accessing CDPH and other relevant data resources, and best practices for ensuring that research can inform public health policy-making.

Open to academic institutions across Chicago, community-based organizations and analytics partners.

**June 25, 2-4:30pm**  
**240 E. Huron**

**Hosted by CDPH and ARCC**

