



## Letter from the Interim Executive Director

Greetings!

Conversations about the relationship between mental health and the use of excessive force by police are not new, especially in the violence prevention space. However, the tragic deaths of Daniel Prude, Angelo Quinto and so many others reminds us of the urgency that is needed to bring reforms that will prevent others from death and injury. SCY will continue working to support de-escalation practices and mental health crisis responses to bring an end to these injustices in the future.

Sincerely,  
Leslie Helmcamp  
Interim Executive Director  
Strengthening Chicago's Youth  
Patrick M. Magoon Institute for Healthy Communities  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

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## FEATURED ARTICLE: SCY'S POLICY AGENDA 2021-2022

### Period for Comment

Every two years, SCY revises the policy agenda priorities through collaborative consensus-building. At the quarterly meeting in December, partners reviewed the progress on the 2019-2020 policy agenda and worked with partners to develop revisions and news ideas. SCY has reviewed those ideas, refined language, and combined related priorities



into a draft policy agenda. Please review and submit your comments to Interim Executive Director Leslie Helmcamp at [lhelmcamp@luriechildrens.org](mailto:lhelmcamp@luriechildrens.org) by **Monday, March 8.**

[POLICY AGENDA DRAFT](#)

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[A SAMHSA SPONSORED WEBINAR](#)

## Addressing the Adverse Impacts of COVID-19 on Children with Serious Mental Emotional Disorders

Since March 2020, children across the country have been isolated at home participating in distance learning. The impacts academically, socially and emotionally have been staggering, particularly for children with pre-existing serious emotional disorders and their families. By the end of the roundtable discussion, participants will be able to: understand the impact of distance learning on academic outcomes, explain the social-emotional impacts of distance learning, and more.

Wednesday, March 3, 2021  
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  
Online

**NATIONAL COUNCIL**  
FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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## THE HISTORIC RETURN OF PELL FUNDING FOR INCARCERATED STUDENTS

### And What Comes Next

Join a discussion and Q&A with panelists Vivian Nixon, George Chochos and Max Kenner. With the passing and signing of the omnibus spending and COVID relief bill at the end of the year, the insidious provision of the '94 Crime Bill -- that revoked modest student aid from incarcerated people and eviscerated college-in-prison -- has been reversed. With college-in-prison at a crossroads, join [Bard Prison Initiative](#) for a discussion of how we got here and what comes next.

Tuesday, March 16, 2021  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Online

**BPI**  
BARD PRISON INITIATIVE

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## THE SCIENCE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION

### New Strategies for Understanding and Intervening

The University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center has organized a unique event to share the latest evidence-based suicide prevention research, facilitate new collaborations, and explore new ideas for suicide prevention.

Tuesday, March 16, 2021  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Online

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### 3RD ANNUAL EXCHANGE

#### Summer and Back-to-School Festivals Info and Resources

While nobody knows yet what the summer of 2021 will look like, the hope is that many will be able to host more "normal" summer and back-to-school festivals. For many, these events are important to build community, provide resources and help prevent anticipated spikes in summer violence. [Strides for Peace](#) wants to provide an opportunity to come together, exchange ideas and best practices and other information.



Wednesday, March 17, 2021  
11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Online (via Zoom)

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### ADDRESSING SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

#### Webinar

Being socially disconnected or perceiving the absence of companionship and support can have a large effect on health and mortality risk for adolescents. This presentation will explore factors that lead to social isolation and loneliness; will determine how both physical and emotional health can be influenced; and will discuss ways to improve social integration and support in order to improve outcomes and life satisfaction for adolescents.

Friday, March 19, 2021  
1:30 pm  
Online (via Zoom)

**NATIONAL COUNCIL**  
FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### Chicago Racial Justice Pooled Fund

This social, economic and political moment is a direct result of the generational disinvestment in Black, Indigenous, and Brown communities. Acknowledging this, the Chicago Racial Justice Pooled Fund (the Fund) is a commitment from thirteen foundations to raise and move \$3M to Chicago organizations building and sustaining movements for justice that center Black lives and address anti-Blackness. In this context, community organizing means bringing people together who individually may lack power but collectively can build and wield power to advance racial justice.



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## VOICES OF CHILD HEALTH IN CHICAGO REPORT

### Parent-Child Communication about Substance Use

For this [Voices of Child Health in Chicago](#) report, the focus is on parents' communication with their children about substance use. Parents were asked questions about youth substance use as well as questions about their family and their family's health. Report highlights include: 90% of parents report having clear rules about alcohol and drug use for their adolescents, the majority of parents believed they would likely know if their child had engaged in risky substance use behaviors, but youth in other surveys believed their parents were less likely to know about these behaviors; and though most parents discuss substance use rules with their teens, many do not discuss these rules with the parents of their child's friends.



Voices of Child Health  
in Chicago

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## DONATE

Supporting the work of SCY helps to grow the capacity of our team, resources and effort. To make a contribution, visit our [donation page](#).

## NEWSLETTER CONTENT

To have an event or article included in SCY's bi-monthly update, email Operations Coordinator [Kirstin Grabski](#).