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HEAL TEEN LIBERTY NEWS

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2015-2016 Updates, Progress, and Headlines

The following includes updates, progress, and headlines related to teen liberty and institutional abuse. News reports regarding individual programs are now shared primarily on the background information/staff list pages of our website unless the program referenced was closed prior to creation of a staff/background information page or is located outside of the USA . To search our news page using a PC (not a Mac), hit "CTRL+F" and enter the name of the program then hit "enter key" or "return key". If using a Mac (not a PC), hit "Command+F" and enter the name of the program then hit "enter". The Command key on a Mac is also known as the Apple Key or Clover Key.

Op-ed: How Many Kids Must Die Before Youth 'Treatment' Programs Are Regulated? The Los Angeles LGBT Center's CEO explains why 'treatment' programs to 'cure' p
but wouldn't you think protecting the lives of children could unite the parties? You'd be wrong. For decades, the industry of residential schools, camps, and wilderness prog
legislation to change that, thousands of children have been abused by these programs. Hundreds are reported to have died. Way back in 2007 there were congressional hear
states involved in incidents of abuse. And those were only the reported incidents. It's no wonder that a guiding principle of these programs is to deprive youth of all contact
confinement in windowless cells. We've also heard from devastated parents whose children died in these programs. The nonprofit organization Survivors of Institutional Ab
place where his son Aaron, a poet, would be cared for by staff who were experts at helping kids struggling with drugs and dealing with social pressure. They told him Aaron
any food, all while hiking up to 10 miles a day. During the freezing nights in the wilderness, he had only a thin blanket to cover him; for five nights he had nothing at all. By
him. He told us, "My wife and I will never escape our decision to send our gifted 16-year-old son to his death." During his senior year in high school, David Wernsman — v
around my waist and forced me out of my home. I was taken to a dumping ground — guarded by men with guns — for kids whose families didn't know how to solve their
ourselves in a bucket." Every day at the Los Angeles LGBT Center, we see the consequences of parents sending their LGBT kids to these programs to be "cured" or becaus
organization Survivors of Institutional Abuse and with the support of a growing list of organizations, businesses and individuals, the center has launched the national Campa
Department of Social Services, with no exemption for faith-based groups. In fact, the bill will get its first hearing in the state Senate Tuesday, when the Senate Committee o
and reopen in another state, often under a different name. And parents frequently send kids to programs outside their home state. That's why we absolutely must have federa
building a broad coalition, partnered with allies in Congress, to finally bring sensible regulation to this industry. Nationally, we've secured commitments from U.S. Reps. A
at PYIA.org, and help us protect youth — whatever their sexual orientation or gender identity — from abuse. LORRI L. JEAN is the chief executive officer of the Los Ang
Commission (approves abusive facilities and fails to provide proper oversight time and again), CARF (approves abusive facilities), COA (approves abusive facilities), and a

Is Sheltering Foster Youth Akin To Incarceration? Executive Briefing | by Howard Shiffman, M.A. | April 18, 2015 Howard Shiffman, M.A. Last month, a headline in th
district attorney, the sheriff, supervisors and voters) have decided "that sex-trafficked youth should no longer be tried and incarcerated as criminals but rather sheltered in fo
dealing with assaultive behavior. We had several young adolescents on the unit that were involved in prostitution and had been recruited into this by other adolescents. In th
them was broken out and taken back to the streets. Who were we protecting? Our patient or the community? Were we locking in our kids to protect them or locking out the
problem, in my estimation, and if a secure setting is needed this is one of our options on the continuum of available care. But, this type of setting should not be a corrections
exists. I see possible "plug in telepsychiatry" solutions – virtual in-home psychiatric settings with around the clock supervision by hired staff; visiting therapists; and "scho
MINDS team who have had ample experience working in foster care. Patricia Wilson Patricia Wilson, Senior Associate, OPEN MINDS – This is an extremely tough one. U
would be court ordered which means if the youth AWOL, there comes the opportunity for charges and the potential for racking up delinquency status. This is hardly what is
agency from the United Kingdom) trained in dealing with the culture of trafficking and the issues surrounding it. Perhaps for this group of youth, a small group setting in th
resources for the youth) that can be mustered to deal with this. I would hope that they look to formerly trafficked individuals for guidance. Paul Neitman Paul Neitman, Sen
children, so the answer is to lock them up. Is that what we do with our mentally ill? The setting they are in for treatment services should be based upon clinical need, up to a
in cases where these children may continue to be at risk of victimization. Overall, my belief is this is a system problem that needs system solutions other than further victim
serve victims of child abuse and neglect), providers will get a better look at what policymakers have in mind for the future. For more on the emerging market models in chil
intelligence/executive-briefings/is-sheltering-foster-youth-akin-to-incarceration.htm/

Barnard Woman Battles DCF Over Safety Of Child Posted date: Friday, April 24 2015In: Archive, Barnard, NewsNo Comments Barnard Resident Jennifer Duncan spea
Children and Families — even before they took her foster child. In her five months as a foster parent, Duncan said she wasn't given access to information and decisions wer
came and picked her up. A DCF official told Duncan the child would be staying with the cousin's family for a week and would be continuing to go to school, she said. "All
us," Duncan said. Now Duncan fears for the child's safety. Kate Kennedy, the attorney who represents the child, and Guardian Ad Litem Robin Goodrum who works at Hav
privacy, was four, but had the maturity of a two year old when she arrived at the Duncans' home last October, Duncan said. The child was in their care for five months. She
said. In December, when the child started showing physical and sexual behavior toward her 13-yearold son, it was "shocking," she said. "I can't expand fully on the inciden
"weren't prepared" and didn't receive adequate information prior to her arrival. She pointed to numerous occasions where the Department of Children and Families failed to
about the child, documents provided by the Duncans show. An original document from the DCF listed the wrong last name as the four-year-old child in custody. When the I
addiction plans for the parents, suggesting to Duncan that the document had been copy and pasted from another plan. The document was signed March 12 by three people re
department's policies. The child was put in DCF custody after a cousin (mother's stepsister) made a report of neglect in October, Duncan said, around the same time that the
mother performed oral sex on her. Duncan reported that information to the DCF, but she isn't sure what happened with it. DCF officials declined to comment on the case. D
said at the conclusion of an investigation by a trained forensic interviewer, there was no evidence to suggest that the child's mother sexually abused her or that the she was s
Duncan's care after DCF officials told her that she was trying to block the child from reunification efforts with her mother, Duncan said. Duncan thinks the real reason the c
two days later. Another child, Peighton Geraw, died under DCF watch last April. A number of studies have been conducted since then on the DCF to determine how it can m
number of children coming into DCF custody. Each caseworker is dealing with 17.4 cases on average — too much, he said. "We do the best we can. I'm not going to say we
parent a few years ago for teenagers 14-17 years of age. She said trying to get a caseworker on the phone was difficult. Decisions were made quickly and not communicated
said. "It was difficult at times for us to get the support to help the kids." 'High Burnout' Duncan is advocating for a bill in the legislature called S.9, which passed the Senate
investigation was conducted and if evidence of harm was found. It also calls for the commissioner to improve polices and make sure they are followed consistently. It asks h
had apprehensions about. "Our concerns are that the way it's drafted now, many social workers — educators, babysitters — may be caught by what we believe is overly bro
about how system was run and the process itself, said Sen. John Campbell, who also is an attorney. "The people we have as caseworkers—a lot of them are just out of colleg
"There was a high burnout level," he said of investigations. "After being part of it, I certainly understand how that could happen." Schatz said the DCF supports most of the
including the lawyer and foster parents and guardian ad litem. Two Calls Left Duncan knows she may never see the child again, but she'll never stop fighting, until she know
first appeared in the April 16, 2015 edition of the Vermont Standard. Source: http://www.thevermontstandard.com/2015/04/barnard-woman-battles-dcf-over-safety-of-child

Sometimes parents need to ask for help without fear of losing custody Print Email Share Tweet Next1 of 2 Contributed photo Rep. Deborah Sanderson, R-Chelsea Cont
number of approved foster and adoptive families. While the Office of Child and Family Services issued a plea last month for more families to open their homes to children i
mobilizes the local community to prevent abuse and neglect by supporting families in crisis and helping them stay together. Our bill, LD 1065, the Strengthening Families A
challenges they face spiral out of control. In many cases, abuse and neglect happen when a parent is in crisis and, feeling overwhelmed and with nowhere else to turn, make
friends, where can she turn? Unfortunately, the foster care system often is not adequately equipped or designed to reach families until it is too late, and the state only becom
intact families throughout Maine. The Strengthening Families Act improves existing law by providing greater certainty for families in need in a number of ways. First, the b
itself, constitute abandonment, abuse or neglect. Finally, we distinguish the type of temporary care provided under this law from foster care to further protect parental rights
work they do protecting children, we all understand government has the power to permanently remove children from their families. This power, while important for rescuing
the work of Safe Families for Children, a nonprofit organization already having great success helping families right here in Maine. Founded in Chicago in 2003, Safe Famili
when times get tough. The concept is simple, based on the fundamental value of neighbors helping neighbors. And, unlike foster care, Safe Families encourages the host fan

2009. And more than 98 percent of children hosted since 2009 have been reunited with their families without ever entering foster care. This is a bipartisan commitment to p
Maine. We encourage our colleagues in the Legislature to join us in supporting this important piece of legislation, and we want to support and expand upon the compassion
District 143. Source: https://bangordailynews.com/2015/04/26/opinion/contributors/sometimes-parents-need-to-ask-for-help-without-fear-of-losing-custody/

SUPPORT WASHINGTON STATE SB 5870 - 2015-16 Comment on this bill **Prohibiting the use of aversion therapy in the treatment of minors.** Revised for 1st S

SUPPORT WASHINGTON STATE SB 5408 - 2015-16 Comment on this bill **Removing references to faith-based exemptions regarding criminal mistreatment of**

New Video Book Trailer–"More Than a Score: The New Uprising Against High Stakes Testing" By I AM AN EDUCATOR on May 2, 2015 VIDEO–More Than a Sco
even the most skeptical school reformer." –Kirkus As the opt out movement explodes nationwide, the tour for the new book, More Than a Score: The New Uprising Against
of this book inspire resistance to the reduction of teaching and learning to a data point–please share it far and wide. For too long the "testocracy," mostly billionaires, politic
refusing to administer these detrimental exams. In fact, the "reformers" today find themselves facing the largest revolt in US history against high-stakes, standardized testing
Baltimore City Public Schools students; Jerry McNutt, a member of the Baltimore Algebra Project. Jessica Shiller, a parent of two public school children in Baltimore and a
are defying the corporate education reformers, often at great personal and professional risk, and fueling a national movement to reclaim and transform public education. Mo
Alma Flor Ada, Rosie Frascella, Alexia Garcia, Emily Giles, Helen Gym, Nikhil Goyal, Jesse Hagopian, Brian Jones, Alfie Kohn, Amber Kudla, John Kuhn, Jia Lee, Karen
Phyllis Tashlik, Dao X. Tran Source: http://iamaneducator.com/2015/05/02/new-video-book-trailer-more-than-a-score-the-new-uprising-against-high-stakes-testing/

Cities offer public boarding school to teens from troubled homes Education By Laura Edghill Posted May 5, 2015, 10:17 a.m. Leaders in Buffalo's chronically strugglin
instability, transient living arrangements, lack of proper nutrition, and truancy. "We have teachers and union leaders telling us, 'The problem is with the homes; these kids ar
guidelines for free or reduced lunch, English and math proficiency rates hover 20 points below the state average, and only 53 percent of its students graduate in four years.
of the original program from which most known abusive facilities have derived their practices including Straight, Inc., CEDU, Synanon, and more. We must unite to stop th

.**A. LGBT Center Holds Important Forum on 'Troubled-Teen' Industry Tonight** The efforts to end cruel psychological child abuse - known as so-called "conversion"
the national Survivors of International Abuse to regulate what is known as the "troubled teen" industry. The Center has launched a campaign to support the bill, which will b
teen" industry offers "tough love" in a "safe" Christian environment where the behavior of the wild ones will be tamed—when in fact the facilities (such as the one in the D
of them LGBT—have suffered extreme physical, emotion and psychological abuse and even died in these programs. The timing of Lara's bill and a forum sponsored by the
announced their intentions to introduce congressional legislation to regulate the industry and cut federal funding to healthcare professionals that practice so-called "reparativ
providing critical therapy and rehabilitation services," Schiff said March 27. The timing is critical—not just to save lives of LGBT teens whose only "trouble" is that they d
"headlined a closed-to-the-media fundraiser for the Center for Arizona Policy, the group that helped push the state's religious freedom bill later vetoed by former Gov. Jan B
the Center and the Survivors of Institutional Abuse's (SIA) campaign to regulate the troubled-teen industry in California and nationally. The Center says the forum "will rev
statewide and federal legislation to finally regulate the troubled-teen industry." On hand for the discussion will be SIA President Jodi Hobbs, Kate Logan, director of the exc
in Kidnapped for Christ. Alan Acosta, the Center's Director of Strategic Initiatives, will serve as moderator. The forum will start at 7:00 and run until 9:30p at The Village a
center-holds-important-forum-on-troubled-teen-industry-tonight/

Troubled Youth Center Closing, Agency In Charge Shutting Down May 13, 2015 4:54 AM Share on email 5 View Comments (Photo Credit: KDKA) Related Tags: Car
TV news team as a general... Read More You've Earned Points for Reading!Claim points in our Reward Center, and earn more tomorrow.Claim Points CARRICK (KDKA)
inaccurate health and safety assessments and not identifying or arranging appropriate medical care for acute or chronic conditions of children. According to the Post-Gazette
clear that Grant's death did play a significant role in revoking the home's license. Yusif Shepard, 15, and Malik Crosby, 16, have been charged with Grant's murder. Police s
was charged with grabbing a teenager by the head and tossing him down a flight of stairs outside the home. In March, the family of several teenagers at the home sued Circl
with Circle C. That contract expires on June 30. On May 6, the Circle C board voted to shut down the agency. According to Geitner, everything will be closed by the end of

Charter School "Flexibility" Linked to Major Failures; More Than $3.3 Billion in Taxes Spent Monday, 18 May 2015 00:00 By Jonas Persson, PR Watch | Report fon
regulatory environment in which charters have grown, rather than a bug. (Photo: Empty Classroom via Shutterstock; Edited: LW / TO) Also see Part I: Feds Spent $3.3 Billi
Department of Education's (ED) quarter-billion-dollar-a-year ($253.2 million) program designed to create, expand, and replicate charter schools - an initiative repeatedly cri
charter spending from ED as well as from states, and the findings shed new light on the deep flaws in the design, implementation and oversight of the federal program. For
charter school and their authorizers accountable as these states tend to score high on one of the rubrics used to evaluate applications: "flexibility offered by state law." But g
authorizers are held to the highest standards of accountability in the state:"[Florida] provides ample examples to illustrate its commitment to continuously improve upon its
steps to oversee the authorizers in the state." Strikingly, a 2012 OIG audit exposed a total lack of oversight and accountability in Florida: None of the three SEAs we examir
ability to ensure authorizers were approving and granting charters to quality charter schools and providing adequate monitoring to them after they opened. Florida could not
statutory oversight of charter schools and authorizers could receive the highest score on the rubric it might help to realize that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
democratic oversight and control. The "accountability" criterion was added in 2010 following Obama's reauthorization of ESEA. after which Secretary Arne Duncan pledge
this new safeguard, which is flatly at odds with the original purpose of the program, was never more than a rubber-stamp rubric. In fact, reader feedback on this section of th
reviewer remarks, and scores the rubric 20/20. Lack of Oversight Is a Design Feature Rather Than a Bug The fact that authorizers enjoy almost complete autonomy - not on
billionaires, like the Koch Brothers, have backed a legislative agenda to privatize public education in America. Lobbying groups funded by them, like the corporate bill mill
oversight of whether authorizers have adequate policies, not over how charters spend tax dollars. This includes pushing bills to "stomp out local control," as stated by a men
fundamental problem with school districts … is that they don't get to control their boards … Now, if we go to the general public and say 'Here's an argument why you shoul
Hastings hoped that elected school boards would be eliminated within 20 years. Source: http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/30830-charter-school-flexibility-linked-to-maj

Seattle Educators Set To Strike For The Schools Our Children Deserve: Video interview with Jesse Hagopian on the rolling strike wave in Washington State By I A
Legislature: Fully fund education. These educators will be joined by many parents and students who are asking that the Washington State Legislature do what is not only rig
have approved I-1351 which would reduce class size around the state, yet the legislature is preparing to ignore that law. To make matters worse, the Washington State Legis
rolling strike wave across Washington State in this special segment: DHARNA NOOR, PRODUCER, TRNN: Welcome to The Real News Network. I'm Dharna Noor joini
who are members of a union called the Washington Education Association, are demanding smaller class sizes, better compensation, and less testing. Teachers of other distric
an associate editor of the acclaimed magazine Rethinking Schools. He's also a founding member of Social Equality Educators. He blogs at I'mAnEducator.com and is the e
rolling-strike-wave-in-washington-state/

Charter Schools Won't Solve Racial Injustice In Baltimore, Or Anywhere Else The disturbing death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore while in police custody, and the ensu
by police against people, especially black and brown people, taken into custody. A recent report from progressive news outlet Alternet reveals "nearly 2,600 detainees" from
similar event in Ferguson, Missouri – and found, indeed, incidents of police brutality sparked "every major riot by the black community of an American city since the Secon
racial discrimination. Editors of The New York Times seem to agree, declaring, "Racism doomed Baltimore." However, this common sense analyses hasn't stopped others f
charter schools took to Twitter to contend their schools had the power to "save" the city. Editors at The Washington Post, in an editorial, "The schools Baltimore needs," dec
"might help," and they criticize Maryland state lawmakers for being "so hostile to charter schools." Similarly, editors of The Wall Street Journal make the same illogical lea
that give local authorities governance over new charter start-ups – a bizarre argument coming from a conservative news outlet for sure. First, let's be clear that what plagues
isolated Baltimore as a segregated, high-poverty school district with inadequate funding and support. "Baltimore City really isn't provided sufficient resources to address its
Maryland's new Republican governor Larry Hogan is likely making matters worse. As Politico points out, in its daily education newsletter, Baltimore's mayor Stephanie Ra
Baltimore's schools. A recent report on these events in The Baltimore Sun notes that advocates want some of the money targeted to turning more city schools into communi
district of Baltimore, schools serving the highest percentages of the lowest-income children spend less on teacher salaries – a pretty good indicator that the city's high-pover
likely sustainable in the long term, unless as a matter of policy, large shares of teachers are annually dismissed." Although charter schools advocates like to point to data ind
lowest income kids. "But, in the higher poverty zip codes, charters tend to be serving lower poverty populations." See how that works? Get your poverty cred from serving
example of "throwing money at the problem" of racial inequity, and charter schools, rather than helping to solve racial inequity, may be adding to it. Public School Progress
reasonable average gains, given expectations," on the most common measure of academic achievement, the National Assessment of Education Progress. "Although nearly a
to learn, state standardized assessment reading test scores jumped nearly 20 percent from 2004 to 2013, and math scores climbed more than 25 percent during that same tim
conduct "classroom activities and events to help students process what happened." How is that effort helped by adding to the divisiveness that has become one of the prima
reduce student suspensions and expulsions and de-escalate tensions that lead to school and community violence and end the city's school to prison pipeline. Instead Of Mor
reasons. State lawmakers, rather than ignoring the plight of poor kids as they are accused of doing by newspaper editors, are likely paying attention to recent revelations tha
accountability. Where there are cases of charter schools out-performing public schools on standardized tests, there doesn't seem to be anything especially innovative about t

justice would do more for their cause by urging government and policy leaders to actually address these problems directly. In communities like Baltimore, what's more likel transform punitive education policies to practices that advance understanding, cooperation, and respect. Source: http://educationopportunitynetwork.org/charter-schools-w

Congress to Consider Scaling Down Group Homes for Troubled Children At a hearing in Washington, a renewed call for addressing the violence and neglect that means for California's chance at reform. Spur Reform in 2015 Support ProPublica's mission to expose abuses of power and corruption. Donate Latest Stories in this Project 'Level 14' Sen. Ron Wyden talks with Sen. Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, in April. Hatch proposed shutting down group homes and Wyden circu it felt less like a home than a business. Instead of family photos, the walls were covered in informational posters and licensing certificates. When her emotions got the better She recalled being medicated to the point that she developed a facial tic. She said she lost basic privileges like phone calls and television time for what she now considers nc was I being penalized for having been removed from an abusive home?" Grüber was one of roughly 57,000 children who live in group homes for foster youth across the c to offer intensive care for the nation's most troubled youth. But the homes have come under fire in recent years – as a failed model of care, and as places vulnerable to violer and the local police. Children disappeared for days at a time and began living in local parks. They became involved in fights, sexual assaults and drug abuse. Reports of neg older boys from the home. ProPublica also found that the Department agency failed to reach any conclusion in investigating hundreds of allegations of abuse at similar hom known recruiting grounds for pimps. "Group homes, sometimes referred to as 'congregate care,' are literally breeding grounds for the sexual exploitation of children and you children placed in them for prostitution." Hatch has proposed a simple solution to longstanding problems in group homes: begin shutting them down. In 2013, Hatch introdu pass, but child welfare experts expect him to introduce a similar version of it at some point after this week's hearing. "Here's how I look at it: No one would support allowin just as destructive." Earlier this month, Sen. Ron Wyden, the ranking Democratic member of the committee, circulated draft legislation that aimed to prevent children from largest child welfare organizations. The report encourages state agencies to place children with relatives as opposed to foster families or group homes, only using group hon and advocacy for the Casey Foundation. "There are far too many children being separated from their families and being placed in what is available instead of what is best fo report suggests that children are often sent to the homes because there is nowhere else for them to go. President Obama's 2016 budget proposal aims to address that need. Th handles child issues, described the budget draft in her written testimony for the Senate hearing yesterday. In addition to foster parent training, the proposal would also requi Administration believes that children are best served when raised in safe, loving families, and congregate care use should be limited to children who need intensive resident children in their homes and aggressively seeking to remove them at the first evidence of risk. The Miami Herald, over the same months that the Chicago Tribune series of a preferred staying with a family member as opposed to living in a group home for two years. In an interview, she told ProPublica that when she was first removed from her b shelter and then into a foster home based on a technicality: that there weren't enough bedrooms for all the children living in her uncle's home. "If I had stayed with my uncle Grüber said. Kari Sisson, executive director for the American Association of Children's Residential Centers, told ProPublica that Australia closed its residential programs in mid-2000s. "The conversation is fair, but it's not informed," she said. "I worry that they are making decisions that will seriously affect children who need therapeutic resid parent can offer. It's very challenging." Sisson was not called to testify. Source: http://www.propublica.org/article/congress-to-consider-scaling-down-group-homes-for-trou

Report: Thousands of Arizona children living in group homes Share Story Tweet Share Share Share Print By Mac & Gaydos, | May 19, 2015 @ 5:08 pm Listen: 17,00 kids have been removed from their homes and what to do about it. 00:00 08:09 Pop Up In Player | Download(Right Click + Save As) Update Required To play the media yc Children's Village campus in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig) With Arizona children getting removed from their homes at record-high numbers, officials have atte emergency shelters and group homes, which cost the state approximately $123 per child, per day. Licensed foster family housing costs around $23 per day. Dana Wolfe Nai she said. "Even though the Great Recession is technically over, many families are struggling and still facing unemployment or underemployment. Families have a lot of ove the rest of the country. "In other states they are reducing the number of children and care," she said. "They are spending time and energy on helping children stay home safe because we've lost the number of foster families," she said. "It's because the number of children we've taken out of their homes has grown. The demand of foster care has ou flexibility in federal fund use. The Arizona Department of Child Safety pledged to develop service reforms to prevent placement into these services, place children in less re mother's care allowed her to experience a continued sense of encouragement and support. "I feel fortunate to have grown up in a family setting," she said in an interview wi from my family." Desaray, a member of the Fostering Advocates Arizona Young Adult Leadership Board, said being able to grow up beside her siblings granted her the abil helped me be successful." In order to reduce the number of children being placed into congregate care settings, Naimark said there needs to be changes with state funding ar priority." Source: http://ktar.com/95/1835425/Report-Thousands-of-Arizona-children-living-in-group-homes

Report warns about effects of group homes on W.Va. kids By Samuel Speciale, Capitol reporter West Virginia's child welfare system places more kids in group homes th absence of family in such placements is harmful to a child's development and hinders them from forming strong, nurturing attachments. Children who don't grow up with fa putting the state in a tie with Wyoming for the third highest percentage of children in group homes in the country. About 57,000 out of 400,000 American children in the cus term, residential care," said Margie Hale, executive director of West Virginia KIDS COUNT, a subsidiary of the Annie E. Casey Foundation that aggregates state-level data says. "These group placements exact too high a price," Hale said. "As a state, our top policy priorities should be keeping kids connected to family or kin and strengthening t as well as reduce state reliance on residential care through a program called Safe at Home West Virginia. In a statement responding to the KIDS COUNT report, West Virgi "The department's goals with the Safe at Home project are to ensure youth remain in their home communities whenever safely possible," she said, adding that the program foster and adoptive parents through awareness events, social media and advertisements. While some states are attempting to reduce the number of children placed in group h whenever possible, and that many who do have no documented behavioral or medical need that warrants such placement. The rate of children living in group placement aro http://www.charlestondailymail.com/article/20150519/DM01/150519173/1298

Hamblen County group home owner accused of abusing patients Updated: Wed 6:04 AM, May 20, 2015 Home / Headlines List / Article MORRISTOWN, Tenn. (WVL September 2, 2014 to September 7, 2014, two patients at her home became ill and were takene to a local emergency room. The investigation showed that both patients had c dependent adult and two counts of Delivery of a Controlled Substance. On Tuesday, Rogers was booked into the Hamblen County Correction Center, where she is being hel

Ohio coroner: Disabled boy's death in foster care accidental Associated Press Share on emailShare on facebook Share on facebookShare on twitter0 Share on twitterMo a foster home in January was an accident. A spokesman says the Cuyahoga County medical examiner has ruled that Xavier Brothers-Bartholomew died of positional asphyx their 18-month-old brother, Isaac, was found dead in his crib at the family's home near Vermilion, west of Cleveland. Authorities say Isaac died of malnourishment and that death-in-foster-care-accidental-1.593206

Marion Police Investigating Death of Foster Care Infant Tools 0 Comments Email this article Digg Print this article By Matthew Searcy By Jared Roberts Story Created girl, who died Wednesday morning. Foster parents had cared for the girl since birth, and the cause of her death remains undetermined. At the same time, her biological par office, just hours after she learned from case workers, her youngest child died in foster care. "All they (DCFS) can tell me is that they found her unresponsive, that's it," asl ain't the first time," said Issac Hill. "This resulted in the death of my daughter. And three times my kids have been abused. Three times!" Marion Police and DCFS investiga complete an autopsy. "Everybody in this country has the right to identify their dead relative," said Issac Hill. "These foster parents are put above the biological parents. They me she (Katrina) ain't a good mother," said relative Annette Welch. "Her kids were alive when they were with her. I know that much!" "I have nine other children besides m Police-Investigation-Death-of-Foster-Care-Infant--304491291.html

Report: Too many foster kids institutionalized Adam Rodewald, Press-Gazette Media 7:05 p.m. CDT May 22, 2015 Brown County stands out as a bright point in an othe an otherwise dismal report released this week on the state of the nation's foster care system. The study published Tuesday by the Annie E. Casey Foundation says the systen in a group setting. The problem is many of those kids shouldn't be there. The foundation estimates 40 percent of foster youths in a group home or institution have no mental state Department of Children and Families. County foster care staff couldn't be reached for comment. In the past, they've touted the region's abundance of resources as a bc who do not grow up in families are at greater risk of being abused in group placements and of being arrested, according to the Annie E. Casey report. The report also notes t from that and are in some sort of institution, it's just not as good for you," said Ken Taylor, executive director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. Taylor sa greatest opportunity for improvement as giving financial support and training for relatives of children removed from their homes who are willing to become the caregivers. Brown County agencies have partnered to bolster those preventive programs. One initiative connects families to support services if they are reported for possible abuse and and on Facebook at Facebook.com/AdamGRodewald. Source: http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/local/2015/05/22/report-many-foster-kids-institutionalized

Salem group home closing after break-ins lead to questions about management Published May 22. 2015 7:43PM Updated May 23. 2015 2:07PM By Jessica Hopper 4 will be sold. In a release sent out Thursday evening, First Selectman Kevin Lyden said the remaining residents will be relocated within the next 60 days. He said the "isolate meeting called last week to address neighbors' concerns, Lyden and residents of the Witch Meadow neighborhood said it was mismanagement that allowed for the break-ins action. "I think they decided it was best just to close and relocate to another place and I don't disagree. It is more than I asked for, but that's their choice," Lyden said. He cal Lyden quoted an email from a neighbor, saying "I'm grateful Key decided this is the best thing for the community and (that they are) following through with it, but it's unfor

Sexual assault allegation in province's foster care system CTV Saskatoon: Foster care neglect allegation Child care workers in Sturgeon Lake say a child was sexually a Child care workers in Sturgeon Lake said a child was sexually assaulted while in the care of the province in 2010. "Our First Nation has lost two young children who were i

Related Stories Sask. children's advocate says foster care plagued by systemic problems Photos Eleanor Brazeau and Shirley Bighead of Sturgeon Lake Child and Family S the system failed another child from Sturgeon Lake in 2010. The organization said it found out about the sexual assault in September, but the incident happened in 2010. "It sexually assaulted. But, a spokesperson told CTV News, if a child was injured there would be a comprehensive review. Sturgeon Lake's Child and Family Services would li week revealed gaps between what social services says it will do and what actually happens. The ministry said its policies weren't being followed in 2010 when Daniels ende workers since Daniel's death and said fewer children are in need of foster care. Source: http://saskatoon.ctvnews.ca/sexual-assault-allegation-in-province-s-foster-care-syst

Carrick group home shuts down months after teen resident beaten to death —A group home for children that was the scene of a deadly beating early this year has now concert guide: Everything you need to know Norris' grand slam lifts Padres to win vs Pirates Woman dies, kids flown to hospital after school van crash Circle C Youth and I year-old resident Nicholas Grant was beaten and later died in a fight with other residents in January. The other teens allegedly involved, 16-year-old Malik Crosby and 15-y down. " Circle C operates three other group homes in addition to the Carrick house, and Geitner said all are expected to be closed soon. Source: http://www.wtae.com/news

Meriden group home counselor charged with assaulting intellectually disabled client Published: May 13, 2015 | Last Modified: May 13, 2015 09:36PM By Andrew Ra intellectually disabled person, a misdemeanor. He posted $10,000 bond and is due to appear in Meriden Superior Court on May 22. The charge stems from a reported incide assaulted by Forbes, said police spokesman Lt. Sal Nesci. The man told police he suffers from an intellectual disability and had been assaulted three days earlier but hadn't require a password. So the man went to the kitchen to look for the counselor who provided him with the phone so that he could enter the password and continue listening to actually indenting the wall before punching him on the right side of face," Nesci said. The altercation was broken up by another counselor. Police obtained photos of the ind other. After breaking up the altercation, the counselor went back outside, and a short time later heard another altercation. He went inside and witnessed Forbes pinning the c Barnish, spokesman for the state Department of Developmental Services, said Forbes was an employee of Continuum of Care. Source: http://www.myrecordjournal.com/m

Hatch to Hold Finance Hearing on Foster Care Group Homes on 12 May 2015. Posted in Featured Articles Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) Reliance on Foster Care Group Homes," will take place at 10:00 a.m. in Room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. "Children who experience long term placements needs to be change, and this hearing will allow members to hear about the need to reduce the reliance on foster care group home and learn about effective strategies that can

Former Tunkhannock Teacher Sent to Prison 5 05/13/2015 05:40 PM 05/13/2015 06:59 PM Former Tunkhannock Teacher Sent to Prison By Associated Press 05/13/201 sending inappropriate text messages to a female student. A former teacher from Tunkhannock Area High School is going to prison. Michael Chase was sentenced Wednesda years in prison. The former Tunkhannock Area High School history teacher and drama coach admitted crossing the line with text messages he sent to a teenage girl. "He wa standard especially in a school setting." Stacy Altenhain has two kids who went to Tunkhannock Area High School. Her son just graduated and had Chase as a teacher. "He were talking and also gave her money to buy the morning-after birth control pill. "Kids look at you as their role model and parents send their kids to school thinking they're handed down will send a message but also not paint all teachers with a broad brush. "Most teachers do an excellent job. They're great people. This is an exception but I belie http://www.pahomepage.com/story/d/story/former-tunkhannock-teacher-sent-to-prison/19249/8p-sQhAW_0ys3ibgeViCWw

Human Rights Youth Awards honor students for public service Andy Davis, 9:53 p.m. CDT May 13, 2015 Buy Photo Joey Trom is honored during the Theatre was filled with applause and appreciation Wednesday night for the work and community service of local high school students. Thirty-two students from City High, Human Rights Commission and Iowa City Mayor Matt Hayek, the awards were presented by Shams Ghoneim, vice president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa of goodwill, and to encourage humanitarian actions regardless of age." Iowa City Human Rights Coordinator Stefanie Bowers said the awards were started in 2003 as a way community," Bowers said. Among the recipients was 16-year-old West High junior Joey Trom. Trom said last year, as part of earning his Eagle Scout merit, he reached out said he was inspired to help with the project so his older brother, Jackson, could enjoy the park. "I helped build the dragon because my brother has special needs and we spe Photo Emma Hartwig shakes hands with Mayor Matt Hayek as she and fellow Regina classmates are honored during the Iowa City Human Rights Commission's Youth Aw fundraising for the University of Iowa Operation Smile, a chapter of the international organization that helps to fund cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries around the world. "T Harper, executive director of KoNec, with the Youth Ally Award during the ceremony. Bowers said the commission created the award in 2012 to recognize an adult in the c school programs around the city. It also works to keep parents involved and accountable for their children's success. Harper said this is one of the most meaningful awards h most rewarding ones I've had because it came from a young person that I worked with in 2007 and 2008." Buy Photo Mayor Matt Hayek speaks to guests at the Iowa City H volunteerism offers. "You're here because you have given of yourselves and you have engaged in an act of service in this community," Hayek said. "There is so much need t 319-887-5404 or at , and follow him on Twitter as @BylineAndyDavis. 12th annual Human Rights Youth Awards recipients Molly Arndt Cora Bern-Klug Kathryn Lorenger Maggie Morony Thomas Nepola Max Otoadese Willem Paul Sarah Rinehart Anna Schuchert Haley Steffen Nathan Stenger B.J. Sullivan Gabby Thomse awards/27280889/

NC bill targeting group home abuse heads to governor NEXT STORY Father, son found shot in Dobson Text Size: ASmall Text AMedium Text ALarge Text RALEIGH to its measure after the House made a small change. The bill now goes to Gov. Pat McCrory's desk. The measure increases the severity of the misdemeanor against someone caused but don't tell authorities. Parents of a group-home resident lobbied for changes after allegations surfaced that their son was sexually abused but workers didn't report

State House Approves Bill To Form Task Force On Group Homes Commissioner Rehmer Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services Commissioner Patricia Re contact the reporter Laws and Legislation State house approves bill on group home task force - grew from #Manchester officials' concerns The state House of Representativ throughout the state and whether the placement of homes is equitable. The Senate has not acted on the bill, which was introduced by state legislators representing Manchest the 2013 draconian Sandy Hook Gun Control Laws (all... RICHARD PIECZARKA at 4:52 AM May 16, 2015 Add a comment See all comments 3 "I think that's very positi in the future." The focus on group homes in Manchester followed a raucous meeting in October over residents' objections to a halfway house for convicted sex offenders on however, is much bigger than one group home, local leaders said. Figures from the state Office of Legislative Research show that Manchester hosts many more state placem for them. A local task force appointed by Mayor Jay Moran recommended that municipal leaders receive notification before the placement of group homes or like facilities South Windsor. "But at the same time, there is an inequity in the location of homes such as in Manchester, and they need to be spread out more evenly across the state so tha community-based residential facilities. This is unfairly costing many of our municipalities a lot of money," said Rep. Mark Tweedie, a Republican who represents Manchest issues, said Rep. Jason Rojas, a Democrat representing East Hartford and Manchester. "The big thing is notification," he said. "Can we do that? And to what extent are we li the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, also said community-based care is much less expensive than hospitalization, which costs $1,200 each day. S

. . **California reforms to cut use of foster care psych meds will cost millions** By Karen de Sá Posted: 05/18/2015 05:48:33 AM PDT2 Comments Upd 63,000 foster children from the excessive use of powerful psychiatric medications in a state where prescribing physicians, caregivers and the courts have long supported the welfare system's heavy reliance on mind-altering medicine for behavior management. That cost is significant but not excessive in populous California, and the legislation ha the kids being doped up like this, it's really pennies -- I personally believe $8 million is budget dust," said Mike Herald, a legislative advocate with the Western Center on L two surprises: $149,000 to improve data on prescribing to foster children, and an increase of $1.5 million for social worker training that includes psychotropic medication is there are dollars in the budget right now that specifically mention training for psychotropic drugs, and the kind of tracking that we need, is good news -- I think that means t would be used to hire 38 new public health nurses; provide second medical opinions, and train social workers and caregivers to watch out for side effects and to advocate fo about prescriptions for young children and those on multiple meds; and there would be new oversight of residential group homes, where the medications are most frequently public health system. California taxpayers spend more on psychotropics than on drugs of any other kind for foster children, this newspaper found, more than $226 million o of California a lot of money." The precise cost of the reforms is still in dispute. The most costly bill, authored by Mitchell, could total more than $12 million alone, accordin fourths of the social worker training. "The authors of all of these bills know that there's going to be some investment to put the reforms in place on a mandatory basis," Mec annual cost for new administrative duties and additional hearings. That figure was found to be "greatly overstated," by the National Center for Youth Law, however. And the attorneys are seeking $33 million to lower caseloads, and the governor's January budget proposes $7 million in state general funds aimed at reducing reliance on residential average of 248 kids per attorney is significantly reduced; in at least one county, caseloads are as high as 1,000. Judges rely on the attorneys to relay how foster kids are farin "There's a very obvious intersection between the psych meds issue and caseloads," Heimov said. "And without us, the court will not know what the child is experiencing."

Too many foster children are in Michigan group homes, report finds Print Email By Kyle Feldscher | MLive.com on May 19, 2015 at 10:53 AM Reddi Michigan League for Public Policy expressed concern over their findings that 1 in 5 children in Michigan's child welfare system live in a group home. The national average Jane Zehnder-Merrell, project director of Kids Count in Michigan, said there is cause for concern. "All the research tells us this is not a good idea to put these kids in reside welfare systems reported last year the state still places hundreds of children in shelters for long periods of time. This despite a court agreement in 2008 requiring children be December 2013 were there for more than 30 days. Nationwide, 40 percent of children in group placements do not have a clinical need to be in those settings, the report state systems," she said. "It's really critical, especially for teenagers, that they have a connection to a family. Kids never stop needing a family." The report recommends the state requiring justifications for restrictive placements and prohibiting group placements for very young children. The state has many programs at the community level that work,

want to first prevent the removal," she said. "And then, you want to make sure that the child's next setting (if removed from their home) is successful." •Read the full report http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/05/too_many_children_in_michigans.html

Too Many Abused, Neglected Children in Group Homes Too Long, Report Says By: Matt Smith | May 19, 2015View as "Clean Read" Print Click to read the full report detriment, according to data from 2013, the latest available. Those findings are at the heart of the Kids Count report released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Even small number of kids have such complex needs that they will need specialized care in a residential setting," said Rob Geen, the Casey Foundation's policy reform director. " are designed to come to them." Child welfare authorities should try to recruit and train more foster parents, courts should have to provide "substantial justification" for place direction. The Senate Finance Committee, which oversees foster care legislation, is holding a hearing on the issue today, and President Obama's latest budget includes incre know." Courtesy of the Annie E. Casey Foundation But of the more than 400,000 kids in the care of child welfare agencies in 2013, about 57,000 — roughly one in seven – Geen said that figure is likely to be "just the tip of the iceberg." "There are lots of other kids who have clinical needs who could be cared for in their own families or in anot homes are more likely to test lower than their peers in English and math, less likely to graduate from high school and more than twice as likely to be arrested as those placed because child developmentalists will tell you the family setting is even more critical for young kids," Geen said. As if that's not bad enough, Geen said the average group-h run up to 10 times the cost of family placement. "We're keeping kids long past the time that's long past any therapeutic value that's being provided by the residential setting with the lowest share of kids in group homes were Oregon, Kansas, Maine and Washington, where the numbers were 5 percent or less. In four states — West Virginia, Wyo to the shift in policy that now emphasizes keeping youths in a family setting whenever possible. They've set up mechanisms to train and support relatives who can take in tr buildings and rolling hills was actually good for kids," Geen said. "What we know now from the research is that family is critical for a child to overcome the trauma they've

Smaller Role for Residential Care, Witnesses Urge Senate Finance Committee By John Kelly, May 19, 2015 Share on Tumblr PRINTER FRIENDLY Group settings sh said Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.,) ranking minority member on the committee, who added that group care should last "only for as long as necessary to stabilize the child…bef welfare financing, which has taken shape over the past three years. Limits on federal support for foster care, greater flexibility for the use of federal funds by states and curb as congregate care. About 57,000 (14 percent) of the nation's foster youth live in group care, according to a report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, released just hours be who called for the hearing, introduced legislation two years ago that would cut off federal IV-E dollars after 15 days for children under age 13 who are placed in congregate Hatch was forced to miss the hearing because of the major trade bill on the Senate floor. Senators on both sides of the aisle shuffled in and out of the hearing to ensure it cou said. Meanwhile, he said, group homes "create conditions that make young people vulnerable to homelessness, substance abuse, and poverty." All of the witnesses acknowl a major provider of residential and community-based family services in New York City. "There is a belief that most children in group care need to be there because of seriou residential care by the city could be served in their homes or with foster families, he said, "at least 50 percent or more." Kohomban said that changes to federal law should a instead of "helping them live with families." Matthew Reynell, an adoptive parent from Rochester, N.Y., who testified at the hearing, said time limits should be placed on re of increased reimbursements for specialized foster home placements and greater oversight requirements for congregate care, said Children's Bureau Associate Commissione it.'" John Kelly is an editor for The Chronicle of Social Change Source: https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/news/smaller-role-for-residential-care-witnesses-urge-senate-fi

Chris Minor Investigates: Teen sex abuse allegations at youth-treatment facility Posted 5:00 pm, May 18, 2015, by Chris Minor, Updated at 05:43pm, May 18, 2015 Fa Department of Children and Family Services is looking into what happened. Michaela Rosenow was court ordered to the state-licensed juvenile facility after aiding with an would go underneath the blanket and rub my feet and she tried touching my vagina. She also touched my butt when we were making popcorn and when we had an "individu lady at Arrowhead Ranch has been flirting with her. I asked her details and she wasn't telling me so I went through her Facebook," Fullington said. Fullington said message with kids. I could get that on my record and not be able to do what I wanna do later in life. But I trust you 100," and "Your secret's safe with me." "I thought it's disgusting. exact words were if I were to say anything to anybody, that she'd catch a murder case," which Michaela says is slang for "she'd kill me." Fullington notified Arrowhead abo allegations of abuse. Arrowhead Ranch has fired that employee," said Andrew Flach, a spokesman for DCFS, The Rock Island County Sheriffs Department also launched a the teen and said she might have tried to touch the teen's vagina, but never made contact because she had on baggy sweatpants. She said she may have said something about Office declined to press charges. Sheriff Gerry Bustos says there wasn't enough evidence of a crime that could be proven in court. "There was inappropriate texting. I just h stopped," he said. DCFS says after it concludes its investigation, it could red-flag the caseworker, making it tougher to find work in her field. But Fullington and her daught Michaela said she told the caseworker about her past. "She's been sexually abused before, she spills her guts to a staff member and then she takes advantage of her? She sho Moody says she can't talk about the case, calling it a "personnel issue" but said any questionable allegations get turned over to DCFS. "We feel it's important that our kids f

Report: Too Many Foster Kids Unnecessarily in Group Homes Share on facebookShare Share on twitterTweet Share on emailE-mail 0 Comments Share on printPrint B than 40 percent of these children have no clinical need to be in such restrictive settings. The Casey Foundation report, "Every Kid Needs a Family," makes the case that chil them to live with someone close to us – and if that couldn't happen, with a caring foster family who could provide them with as normal a life as possible during a turbulent t family settings, according to the report. While 84 percent of foster children nationally are in family placements, the percentage in New Mexico is 92. Just six states have a h Mexico's foster kids are in the care of relatives. Only four states have a higher percentage. "I think the kinship care rate speaks to our cultural roots and history—New Mexi children in their care by ensuring that they can access the benefits those children are entitled to and that they have assistance in navigating those systems," she added. The C

West Virginia third highest in percent of kids in residential group care Last updated: May 19. 2015 12:20PM - 256 Views By Fred Pace - Story Tools: from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In West Virginia, that number is 1,189, which means that 27 percent of the 4,403 kids in our child welfare system are being placed in r been shown to be harmful to a child's opportunities to develop strong, nurturing attachments. Group placements can also cost seven to 10 times the amount it takes to place other sobering statistics that point to the urgent need to ensure, through sound policies and proven practices, that everything possible is being done to find loving, nurturing government leaders as well as policymakers, judges and private providers can work together as they strive to help these 57,000 children who are living in group placements clinical need to be in such restrictive settings, threatening their well-being and chances for finding a permanent family. Every Kid Needs a Family recommends how commu development. And it shows ways in which residential treatment — a vital option for the small percentage of young people who cannot safely live in any family during treatm Margie Hale, Executive Director of West Virginia KIDS COUNT. "Far too many West Virginia children under the care of our child welfare system are missing the support c connected to family or kin; and strengthening the foster care system so that foster parents are available to nurture and protect children until they can live with a permanent fa are at greater risk of being abused in group placements, and of being arrested. Despite this,many children - especially teens - are sent to a group placement as their very first with someone close to us - and if that couldn't happen, with a caring foster family who could provide them with as normal a life as possible during a turbulent time. This rep with families, these efforts vary widely from state to state, and even within states. Among the report's findings across the United States: • One in 7 children under the care o would warrant placement in such a restrictive setting. • While research shows children who need residential treatment likely need to stay no longer than three to six months, reports that common-sense policies and practices can safely reduce use of group placements, and that these placements may be used when caseworkers feel they cannot find change can improve in four ways: • Increase service options. Communities that provide a wide range of services have more options that enable children to remain safely in t pool of families. Public and private agencies should do more to find families for children and to make sure those families have the support they need to help children thrive. in focus. Residential treatment should be strengthened to meet children's acute needs in a customized, short-term way that equips young people to live in a family and to ma recent years, including foster families prepared to take on the older teens receiving treatment in the facility's residential cottages. • Require justification for restrictive placer all group placements. Judges can require caseworkers to provide regular updates to make sure a child still needs residential treatment. Every Kid Needs a Family will be ava Data Center allows users to create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and to view real-time information on mobile devices. Fred Pace is an http://www.coalvalleynews.com/news/news/153539191/West-Virginia-third-highest-in-percent-of-kids-in-residential-group-care

Scared child or troubled son? Boy found in basement testifies Elisha Anderson, Detroit Free Press 7:53 p.m. EDT May 20, 2015 Charlie Bothuell IV, left, and Monique discovered in the basement of his family's home last June during an ongoing court hearing for his father and stepmother, who are accused of abusing him. The first was of a who lied, stole, got in fights at school and got poor grades. He was sent to live with his dad and once lied about being kidnapped by a man with gray hair. The teen, who is r upstairs to use the bathroom when nobody was around. But according to a transcript from an interview last June, the boy, then 12, said he hadn't gone to the bathroom in 10 testified she brought him cereal and protein shakes and told him if he heard anything to be quiet and not say anything. He said he obeyed because he didn't know what woul torture. Their preliminary examination before 36th District Judge Shannon Holmes will determine whether the couple will stand trial on the charges, which are felonies. De after he was reported missing by his family. Defense attorneys also contend the teen wanted to be lose weight and was on board with working out. "I liked the way I looked, the same sponge that I used to clean the table, countertops, and cabinets," it said. "I used bleach to clean the counters. I used the window cleaner to clean the table. I used bl testified the letter wasn't an apology, "it was what Monique believed that she thought I did." Later, during questioning by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Carin Goldfar and sometimes he had mixed them up by mistake. "I never purposely tried to poison anyone," the teen said. The hearing resumes June 8 at 9:30 a.m. Prosecutors said they e

Many Children Placed in Group Homes Unnecessarily, Report Finds May 22, 2015 Facebook 5 Twitter 32 LinkedIn 8 Google Email Share 44 Print One in seven childre KIDS COUNT policy report Every Kid Needs a Family: Giving Children in the Child Welfare System the Best Chance for Success (HTML or PDF, 20 pages) found that 40 that even those who need residential treatment are unlikely to need a stay longer than three to six months. According to the report, the secure attachments nurtured by caregi

placements and of being arrested. Although the rate of group placement ranges from as low as 4 percent in Oregon to as high as 35 percent in Colorado, the report calls for c welfare and Medicaid agencies to increase options for providing behavioral health services at home; increasing the pool of and support for relatives and foster families; keep McCarthy. "If our children couldn't live with us, we would want them to live with someone close to us — and if that couldn't happen, with a caring foster family who could Kids in U.S. Child Welfare Systems Not Living in Families." Annie E. Casey Foundation Press Release 05/19/2015. Source: http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/many-

Foster parent facing charges in 22-month-old girl's death COVINGTON, La. (AP) - A 40-year-old Lacombe woman faces charges in connection with the death of a 22-r already been booked on a count of second-degree cruelty to a juvenile after she told detectives she used a hairbrush to beat the little girl. The child died after being taken to Madison Parrott, whose biological mother lives in Bogalusa. Source: http://www.katc.com/story/29141942/foster-parent-facing-charges-in-22-month-old-girls-death

State lifts admissions ban after northern Idaho home for troubled youth promises changes THE ASSOCIATED PRESS First Posted: May 23, 2015 - 3:49 pm Last U promising to address problems found during a state inspection. The Lewiston Tribune reports (http://bit.ly/1BiLALK) that the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare lifte problems to mishandled assault reports. The inspection was prompted by a complaint that claimed a teen from the Lewiston facility broke into a neighboring house and atta inspection. Source: http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/d58a9ac033ae42fcb32d909aaf557dc0/ID--Childrens-Home/

What is the School-to-Prison Pipeline? Tuesday, 26 May 2015 02:01 PM By Erica Baum Close More ways to share... Stumbled LinkedIn Vine Reddit Delicious Newstru nation's capital. VOTE NOW: Should Convicted Felons Be Allowed to Vote? The School-to-Prison Pipeline, a term coined to characterize the policies and practices within groups tend to go straight from the public school system into the prison system. The ACLU attributes zero-tolerance policies including expulsion and suspension, policing o students who are in trouble from school leads to students becoming disengaged with their studies, further encouraging them to drop out of school, which ultimately increase years. As a result, school based arrests for disruptive behavior has become more common, further contributing to the School-to-Prison Pipeline issue. The New York Times facilities with no educational standards. Disciplinary alternative schools hinder students' abilities and opportunities to learn, placing them at a disadvantage even after return in March 2015 that identified African-American and Hispanic students and students with disabilities as being most harmed by the School-to-Prison Pipeline. The Texas orga campaign. The campaign has created multiple petitions and PSAs to educate the populace about the effect of the Pipeline as well as making a social media mark. Read Late http://www.newsmax.com/FastFeatures/school-prison-pipeline/2015/05/26/id/646797/#

China executes boarding school teacher who molested or raped 26 girls as young as 4 | Fox News China executes boarding school teacher who molested or raped 26 gi The intermediate People's Court in the western province of Gansu says it carried out the sentence against Li Jishun on Thursday after it was upheld by the nation's Supreme shyness to repeatedly assault them in the classroom, dormitories and surrounding forest. The ruling said many of the girls had been left in the village by parents working in

Parents sentenced to 7 years in prison for caging autistic son in O'Fallon, Mo. : News Parents sentenced to 7 years in prison for caging autistic son in O'Fallon, Mo. Sa 30, 2015 12:05 am • By Mark Schlinkmann Mark Schlinkmann Loading… × Related Photos « » × Close Ad A 6-year-old autistic boy in O'Fallon, Mo., their best Family physician says Smiths were exemplary parents. Read more Custody of children in cage case is in limbo Child at the center of the abuse case could face ins son in cage in O'Fallon, Mo., basement A plywood roof was secured to the top of a metal crib with zip ties and bungee cords, police say. Read more ST. CHARLES COUN case. Circuit Judge Ted House also ordered the Smiths to each pay a $500 fine. "The court finds no compelling reason to deviate" from the jury's recommendation of seven home following a tip to a state child abuse hotline. The Smiths also have five other children. County Prosecutor Tim Lohmar's office sought prison time for Victoria Smith, apologized. Attorneys for the Smiths argued that jailing them would also punish Josiah and their other children. They urged House to put them on probation. They said since Josiah" and the other children. Shaffar, however, said it's about punishing the defendants for what they did — "putting the child in a cage over and over because he was an i for comment. The family now lives in Elsberry in Lincoln County. The seven-year sentence imposed on the parents is the maximum allowed. However, Shaffar predicted du that child neglect, endangerment or abuse isn't an option for overwhelmed parents. The defense had argued that the state failed to provide an appropriate safe bed and that th disputed by Allison Haney with the Missouri Department of Mental Health, who testified that the state never provided or approved the cage. At the hearing Friday, Shaffar r The defense, in arguing that prison terms would damage a happy family, showed a recent video of the Smiths with Josiah and the other children in everyday activities at hor Josiah doesn't understand how to use a phone. Shaffar said the Smiths "pretend their children are important'' to them but that the jury in recommending prison time "could s brought in for office visits. Dr. John Constantino, a professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at Washington University, testified that the makeshift cage was completely inappro prison-for-caging-autistic-son/article_92ae01a9-c00b-537d-9bb7-3643e68194e7.html

'We need to rebuild:' Residential school report to show extent of abuse Residential school survivor Kim Good, of the Snuneymuxw First Nation near Nanaimo, B.C., wi CANADIAN PRESS) 11 8 18 1 Chinta Puxley, The Canadian Press Published Friday, May 29, 2015 7:15AM EDT Mike Cachagee was just four-and-a-half when he was ta Child welfare agencies must follow hotel ban or risk gov't takeover: Manitoba minister Music was an 'outlet' for Inuit 'throat boxer' during turbulent childhood Photos Resid residential schools in Ottawa, June 11, 2008. (Chris Wattie / THE CANADIAN PRESS) He never heard "I love you." He was never encouraged or praised. He was beaten a therapy before he started to come to grips with what happened to him. His brother never did. He descended into a life of addiction on Winnipeg's streets. "He was only three rarely speak now. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission examining Canada's Indian residential schools is to release a summary of its final report Tuesday after hearing to attend government schools over much of the last century. The last school closed outside Regina in 1996. For survivors such as Cachagee, the torment doesn't abate with th along with his brothers and sisters. He remembers boarding a train with other aboriginal children and the laughter while on the novel journey. Then they reached the Prince because they had tried to go home. The school was more like a prison, he said. "I thought it was normal because I was just a young guy. Later, I realized how bad that was th healing strategy developed by survivors that will address the aftermath of Canada's failed policy to "take the Indian out of the child." But he suspects the commission's repo Harper is more interested in what happens after the final report. Harper's mother was in a residential school, but the first time he heard details of her abuse was at her compe Keewatinowi Okimakanak representing Manitoba's northern First Nations, learned one of his uncles was in a residential school and was whipped until he defecated. Those s tell their stories to their children," he said. "We want to make sure we don't pass on this generational curse." Source: http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/we-need-to-rebuild-resi

Child Dies While in Foster Care, Parents Want Justice Tools 0 Comments Email this article Digg Print this article By Craig Choate Story Created: May 30, 2015 at 4:26 abuse, he and Katrina Hill lost custody of each of their ten children. "They took me to jail, I admitted my wrongs," Isaac said. Since losing their kids, DCFS has admitted to learned their youngest child, 10-month-old Kalisha, died while in foster care. They say if it wasn't for one person they still wouldn't know the cause of death. "Had it not bee and in her lungs and that she had struggled to fight to breathe and said that it was either from co-sleeping or layover." Isaac and Katrina Hill want their kids back and they w investigation by the Child Death Task Force and the Williamson County State's Attorney's Office. Source:http://www.wsiltv.com/news/local/Child-Dies-While-in-Foster-Ca

Residential schools findings point to 'cultural genocide,' commission chair says Final report from Truth and Reconciliation Commission to be released June 2 By John Pa is probably the best description of what went on here' Residential schools: Promises of reconciliation saved in bentwood box Truth is hard but residential school reconciliati links.) At least 6,000 aboriginal children died while in the residential school system, says Justice Murray Sinclair, the chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Si history of residential schools in Canada Aboriginal nutritional experiments had Ottawa's approval How ballet slippers, broken chalice are helping to heal residential school they would have concentrated more on keeping track." Sinclair offered the figure of 6,000 in a later interview with Evan Solomon to air Saturday on CBC Radio's The Hous estimate made in the early part of the 20th century was that 24 to 42 per cent of aboriginal children who attended the residential schools died at school or shortly after leavir

Authorities Investigate Child Abuse Claims At Police-Run Boot Camp Posted: Jun 03, 2015 7:28 AM PDT Updated: Jun 03, 2015 7:30 PM PDT By: Phil Shuman, Rep Ramirez Like & follow us on Facebook here: FOX 11 Los Angeles Like & follow us on Facebook here: FOX 11 Los Angeles Comment and share our stories with your Fac that seven children from Southern California suffered physical abuse while attending a police-run boot camp on the Central Coast. From Phil Shuman: The seven mothers w called "LEAD", which stands for leadership, empowerment, and discipline. The moms say the stories their kids told when they came home after a week were outrageous an kicked, and when they didn't do exercises correctly, they were stomped in the back", according to Pulido. Bridget Salazar, the mother of a 13-year-old boy tells a similar sto base. It has been operating for some 15 years without any apparent problems, until now. The county sheriff's department in San Luis Obispo is now investigating the claims. is to redirect children to a more positive role in society. The allegations that I've heard are not part of the program''. That statement should be obvious, even though the prog have not been reassigned as of this writing. RELATED: LAUSD Settles Remaining Miramonte Sex Abuse Lawsuits For $139M RELATED: Former Miramonte Teacher, Pl The event from May 17 to 24 was put on by Huntington Park and South Gate police using the Army National Guard's Camp San Luis Obispo facilities. The program is for c from both departments met with parents and pledged a thorough investigation. From Susan Hirasuna: The mothers of four youths came forward Tuesday to allege their chil program is $400 per child for a 3-month program that includes a one week trip to a camp in San Luis Obispo. The mothers would only give their last names and each shared was beaten and kicked. He was then handed a towel to wipe away the blood. Salazar said, her son told her he was hurt so badly he couldn't move. Miss Pulido sent her daug apparently one of the officers would step on the teen's back. Greg Owen, the attorney, representing the youths say, the Gomez brothers have been removed from the LEADs when a boy came back with bruises. His parent apparently took him to the hospital where the injuries were so severe, the hospital apparently called the Department of Child did get a response from the California National Guard. The statement released basically read; no comment while there's an ongoing investigation. And, indeed, the San Luis

Lebanon County to close group homes for troubled teens in cost saving move By John Latimer @johnmlatimer on Twitter Updated: 06/04/2015 05:4 meeting. (John Latimer — Lebanon Daily News) The Lebanon County commissioners on Thursday authorized the closing of two county-owned group homes for teenage b determined the services could be provided by private group homes at a significant cost savings. The homes — one for boys between 13 to 18 in Fontana and another for girl there was a need for them because the only placement options were foster homes and institutions, Holtry told the commissioners. "There was no go between," he explained. opened, counties began closing their group homes, Holtry said. Lebanon County is just one of two counties in the state that still operates its own facilities, he added. Holtry little over 60 percent," he said. "I also found our per diem rate over that same time period was a little over $178 a day." Through the first 10 months of this fiscal year, Holtr $262,000 in savings, Holtry said. Because the agency receives most of its funding from the state and about 20 percent from the county's general fund, the savings for the cou said, is the difficulty in staffing both of the homes. The agency has been short-staffed most of the year and is on pace to pay $75,000 in overtime expenses. "The bottom line service, from the providers we have." Holtry said every effort would be made to place the teens currently living in the homes in privately run homes located in Lebanon Cou good providers who will provide very adequate care for these children. ... Because the private providers have more staff than we do, they are able to provide many more acti county jobs, said county administrator Jamie Wolgemuth. The children's homes are owned by the county, and once they are closed will likely be sold and their contents auct $1.5 million in county expenses that were over budget last year. "The state has agreed, and in a couple of weeks, you will be getting a check for almost $952,000 in addition http://www.ldnews.com/local/ci_28252103/lebanon-county-close-group-homes-troubled-teens-cost

Lara Moves Bill to Regulate 'Troubled Teen' Industry Finally, proponents of "cures" for homosexuality are being regulated and called frauds! June 4, 2015 - by K Monday, June 1, the Senate passed Lara's SB 524 by a bipartisan vote of 31 to 1. The bill "defines private residential facilities for youth and requires them to obtain a licens throughout California, the country and the world prey on desperate parents with emotionally or behaviorally difficult teenagers with promises to "cure" the teens through "te promoted with promises of "curing" young people suspected of being gay. Lara's bill requires private facilities to provide the same protections and receive the same oversig and 6 cases of psychological and emotional maltreatment in California. "Over the past few decades hundreds of facilities have been established nationally for youth with em even death at these unregulated institutions. My bill would require private residential facilities to meet basic standards of care and ensure essential health and safety standard unconscionable," O'Farrell said in a press release. "We must stop the abuse of those forced to live in the shadows because of their sexual identity. I applaud Senator Lara fo resolution was seconded by Councilmembers Paul Koretz, Nury Martinez, Mitchell Englander and his fellow gay colleague, Mike Bonin. At the Lara news conference last l free to abuse children," said Dave Garcia, Director of Policy and Community Building at the LA LGBT Center. "This legislation is an important step toward providing com important effort and we will not stop until all youth, whatever their sexual orientation or gender identity, are adequately protected." It seems almost impossible to those who federal "Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act" and there is a trial underway in New Jersey now in which plaintiffs claim the non-profit organization JONAH violated state con the state, joining California, Washington DC and the state of Washington. Lara's bill, SB 524, now goes to the State Assembly. Source: https://www.frontiersmedia.com/fro

How Standardized Testing Reveals Stark Inequalities Between Rich and Poor Friday, 05 June 2015 00:00 By Molly Knefel, AlterNet | News Analysis font size decreas district who were expected to take the exams had opted out; part of a small, if vocal, movement across the state urging parents to have their children sit out standardized exa (ELA) tests. Data from the tests is high stakes all around; it's linked to individual students' academic advancement, teacher evaluations, and overall school performance ratin USA Today a surprising explanation for why students really ought to take these tests: "Schools are one of the biggest differentiators of value in the suburbs," Brisbane told U movement was bigger than ever this year, with an estimated 200,000 New York children refusing the state exams that test ELA and math. After a budget season in which Gc and closing public schools than it has to do with ending inequality. Following Brisbane's statement about potential Scarsdale homebuyers to its logical conclusion would sug New York City public school parent and teacher. "I would argue that all public schools should and could be excellent places for all of our children and communities." Lee re resources, there's no question that wealthy school districts in New York State have an abundance compared to those that serve poorer children. According to data from the E Title 1 formula, cost at least 40% more to educate - the poorest districts actually receive 16% less than those with the least poverty. On top of that, districts serving the most school supplies, tutoring, and enrichment, it becomes clear that students in a place like Scarsdale aren't on remotely the same playing field as students in the Bronx, where th makes me so angry that there are people who have so much money and so much power who are using that power to keep my students in poverty, by putting policies in place narrative of so many education reformers who advocate for closing public schools in the name of equality. "The narrative of DFER has been so carefully constructed and the the other side of that, which is that this is a competitive system where kids are losing more and more." Victoria Frye, a New York City public school parent whose son has c national reform organization, DFER advocates for "policies which stimulate the creation of new, accountable public schools" (particularly charter schools) "and…simultane year even though the tests are a determining factor in high school admissions; his current school goes through 12th grade, and he's happy to stay. "[Opting out] really dimini in quantitative measurement. But as her son lost increasing amounts of instruction time to test prep, and as the tests became further connected to teacher evaluations, "it just Brisbane's USA Today quote is not an outlier. She expressed a similar sentiment in a DFER blog post, writing: "How will suburban communities maintain their draw if there claims it is the opt-out movement, not testing, that really harms low-income students: "The people who are opting out of tests are largely those who already feel like their ch Scarsdale or the Bronx, and making sure all students have a fair shot at a quality education. Rather than maintain the status quo where wealth determines a quality education make the protest seem less legitimate than it actually is; it is, however, an accusation that is demonstrably untrue, as reports of just who is opting out make clear. New York Brentwood students are black or Latino, and 81 percent are economically disadvantaged. Brentwood is not unique - Amityville (90 percent black or Latino, 77 percent econ Latino and 51 percent economically disadvantaged) exceeded 64 percent." Those numbers clearly run counter to the narrative that the movement is exclusively white and m district where data is known. Critics of testing also point out that there are a number of factors making it harder for low-income families to refuse, from language barriers to standardized tests are a distraction when we already know what the problems are. That is why families, especially in the shrinking middle class, are realizing more and more

Refugee group home caretaker accused of sexual abuse Written By Michael Lansu Posted: 06/01/2015, 04:16pm Jose Cerda | Supplied photo A 28-year-old caretaker at a resident lying on a couch at the home in the 5800 block of South Indiana Avenue on April 10, Assistant State's Attorney Enrique Abraham said. The girl got off the couch ar against the teen several more times that night and eventually went to lie in her bed. Later that night, Cerda went into the girl's room, kissed her and asked her to watch a mo Abraham said. Advertisement: Replay Ad Ads by ZINC After being asked to leave the home, Cerda went on a planned vacation out of the country, his lawyer said. He was a said. Cerda was sentenced to one year's probation for a felony aggravated unlawful use of a weapon conviction eight years ago, authorities said. On Monday, Judge Maria K sexual-abuse

Gateway to Shutter Six Group Homes by August Seventy residents will be affected in North Kingstown, Woonsocket, West Greenwich, South Kingstown and Central Fa 70 residents, of which 15 are children and adolescents. ""We did not make this decision lightly. It followed an extensive and exhaustive review of each of our programs and quality of services we provide at the current reimbursement levels." The company said that the decision comes after "a decade of reimbursement rates that have remained fl Falls), King House (Woonsocket) and Men's House (Woonsocket), and two for children and adolescents -- the Arcadia Children's Home (West Greenwich) and Lighthouse care needed for this population," Leclerc said. "As the major provider of community behavioral and mental health services, we need to make difficult decisions to ensure th Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, and the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families about the decision to close the six group homes within 90 days. a time that state leaders are grappling with significant substance abuse and mental health issues among Rhode Islanders. Source: http://patch.com/rhode-island/coventry/ga

Girl missing from foster care shot to death in Kansas City - SFGate Girl missing from foster care shot to death in Kansas City Updated 11:25 pm, Monday, June 1, 2015 in Kansas City, Kansas. Police say they responded to calls about shots being fired and found the victim dead in the street. According to police, the occupants of two vehicles said they are searching for a late-1990s or early-2000s white Ford F-150 pickup in relation to shooting. It may have a bullet hole in its tailgate and tinted windows. Source:

Former Foster Care Provider Charged with Child Sex Assault in Delaware Share on facebook Share on twitter Share on gmail Share on email Share on print More Sha sexual abuse of a child. Newark, DE - New Castle County Police have arrested a 61-year old man following a sexual abuse investigation Officers say Lazarus Rougier has b subjected to abuse at the hands of Rougier over a number of years. Detectives also learned the Rougier family fostered young children in their home starting in 2003 and en of a child and sexual abuse of a child by a person of trust in the first degree. He has been arraigned and committed to the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution in lieu o

Managing Conflict and Anger with your Tweens and Teens By Kortney Peagram, Monday at 8:38 pm With our parent training we often get on the discussion of anger ar enough time for your child to calm down. Phrase the conversation as you are looking to better understand him/her and help with the anger. Replay the scenario and say som is triggering the anger. You can share that you don't know how to communicate sometimes. Explain that you hate to yell, but when he/she does not listen or is mean you resc you better learn how to communicate, you will make an effort to yell less. Honestly, this conversation will really help you. It will clear the air and give you a chance to start How can we avoid these incidents? What would he/she recommend to do? What can he do to not be mean or volatile? What could you do to help him/her? Come up with str eyes and count to 10 Remember you are doing a great job and this is so difficult. Be yourself and show your child that sometimes you don't know what to do…and that is ol camp/2015/06/managing-conflict-and-anger-with-your-tweens-and-teens/

Nine reported over abuse at Catholic boarding school Fort Augustus. Picture: WikiCommons/Colin Wilson CHRIS MARSHALL 18:23 Tuesday 02 June 2015 NINE me Highlands. The men are alleged to have been involved in incidents dating from September 1967 to December 1992. In a statement, the Crown Office said: "The procurator

monks but closed down in the 1990s. Police began their investigations in 2013 following a report from a former pupil and further allegations which were made in a BBC do school, Carlekemp. The accounts included allegations of physical violence and sexual assault. Source: http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/nine-reported-o

Abuse allegations in Pueblo group homes a key factor in DHS turmoil By Joey Bunch The Denver Post Posted: 06/03/2015 12:01:00 AM MDT14 Comments Updated sanction for federal infractions related to food-assistance program May 24: Colorado human services director Reggie Bicha pledges better communication May 19: Previou criticisms from lawmakers of Colorado human services director Reggie Bicha was his handling of a search for physical abuse in a cluster of Pueblo group homes for people resident being left in her feces to a field trip that left one behind and home alone. There was also a mistake over what "Do not resuscitate" meant when a patient was unresp charities with the legal rights to speak for individual residents. Investigators performed intimate examinations, or "body audits," of residents to determine whether wrongdoi More than 80 lawmakers signed a no-confidence letter directed at human services leadership last month. Advertisement "There's no doubt that it was very, very inappropriat keep his job." The state Department of Public Health and Environment is investigating a civil rights complaint by guardians against DHS. The health department report coul If deficiencies are found, the health department will ask DHS to submit a plan to correct its actions, but the American Civil Liberties Union, other organizations or the guarc Bicha put 11 people on paid leave in the wake of the abuse investigation he says he instigated. Bicha's critics, including the Pueblo Regional Center director who resigned a the abuse investigation was a means of harming their reputation. "If you can denigrate, degradate, call into question, it makes it a lot harder for people to defend it," said Val the case. "What I can tell you is those medical professionals asked each and every one of those clients if it was OK," he said. Bicha calls opponents' concerns unwarranted s legal rights of people with disabilities that specializes in civil rights and discrimination issues. The Pueblo County Sheriff's Department is investigating 10 cases related to tl and picked up the phone to call the guardians." Events were set in motion when Bicha learned in March of a potential abuse case that happened last fall. He would not elabo three agencies' shared concerns. "At that point, I didn't know who we could rely on to give us good, accurate information," Bicha said. "A strip search"? "Let's call it what it residents were checked in their bedrooms. Speedie is convinced the abuse allegations are part of Bicha's goal to close or consolidate the three regional centers. The three ho because a lot of residents have nowhere to go. Their home for years has been in a group home in Pueblo. She said the plan would uproot fragile people who have a history o not going along with the marching orders." Bicha doesn't deny having conversations with Speedie about the future of the regional centers, but he denied having any vendett guardians who formed Save Our Regional Centers after a meeting with Bicha in 2013. She and others in attendance said Bicha told them about plans to downsize and possil regional centers, he said, adding that privatization and less desire from guardians to use the state homes has driven the decline. Some states have eliminated group homes en DHS issued a report on "downsizing initiatives" for the group homes. The number of people in Colorado's group homes has been nearly cut in half since then. "This started private facility without the consent of guardians. A report to legislators in December said that as of September, 85 of the three centers' 266 residents at the time were ready t level of care the group homes provide. Not unusual Speedie said the 86 incidents reported at the Pueblo Regional Center during the past three years are not unusual, based o previous three years, including some that involved accusations against staff members, according to the state health department. "We can't get rid of people who are hard to d 2014, a female resident said a male staff member touched her inappropriately at a Pueblo home. An internal investigation by the Pueblo Regional Center said the allegation resuscitate." The directive, however, meant "full resuscitation." Staff told investigators they were confused. Another resident in his 70s had a digital home theater and other are other accounts of staff manhandling or neglecting individual care, including one resident inadvertently left behind at the home when the rest left in a van for a field trip. did something wrong, and some are concerned they might live in an unsafe place, she said. "The residents are internalizing all of this," Garcia said. Joey Bunch: 303-954-11

For Advocates, Push to End Solitary Confinement in Prison Only Begins With Youth Isolation Saturday, 06 June 2015 00:00 By Victoria Law, Truthout | News Analys Francisco. There, he got into a fight and was kept in his room for four days. Locking a person in a room or cell is frequently referred to as isolation, isolated confinement or recalled, he spent four or five months confined to his room for 23 hours a day. He was supposed to be allowed out of his room for half an hour at the start of each day and fc very disrespectful about it," Cortijo said. "I told him to talk to me with more respect." In response, the guard, along with several other staff members, entered Cortijo's cell a high and left me on the cement floor for about an hour and a half." Cortijo was 14 years old. "We began looking at the laws and realized there was no uniform definition aro gray toilet. I'd be highly depressed." He remembered lying on his bed for three or four hours, thinking about all the different ways he could end his life. Sometimes he felt e solitary confinement at five juvenile prisons in California during a 14-week period in 2011. California's Senate Bill 124, which passed the State Senate on June 2, would cha of research and publicity about the effects of solitary confinement particularly on the still-developing brain of adolescents and teenagers. In children and adults, the effects c psychologically and neurologically, the results can be particularly devastating. One study found that, among those who died by suicide in juvenile prisons, half occurred in s in Illinois' juvenile prisons. In New York City, the Board of Correction, which makes rules governing the city's jail system, voted to end solitary for 16- and 17-year-olds an isolation, 16- and 17-year-olds be allowed out of their cells for five to six hours on weekdays and for two hours on weekends. On May 19, 2015, in response to a lawsuit, Ca family members contacted the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights about their children held in youth prisons. One mother told advocates about her son, who had attempted confinement," said Jennifer Kim, director of programs at the Ella Baker Center. Different terminology - such as "secure housing unit" and "behavior treatment program" - al attention of State Sen. Leland Yee, who, Kim said, was horrified at the practice and introduced SB1363. The bill drew fire from the California Correctional Peace Officers A January 2015, State Sen. Mark Leno introduced the bill again, this time as SB124. "This is an opportunity for California to be proactive rather than reactive," Kim said. "We of organizing, including advocacy by those who have experienced it firsthand. Johnny Perez, who has spent time in isolation in New York prisons, is one of those advocates Rikers Island, New York City's island jail complex, Perez got into a fight when he tried to use a gang-controlled phone. He was sent to isolation for 60 days. There, he said, Truthout. "After a while, you start to think, 'Wow, maybe I really am a bad person. Maybe I do deserve to be here.'" He was 16 years old. An officer sat outside their cells an in yourself. It teaches you to shut your emotions down, but what you're doing is keeping everything inside." Comparing his two experiences, he says, "It's hard when you're internalized it and thought there was something wrong with me." In contrast, he said, "As an adult, you don't internalize it. You know, It's not me; it's you. You're the proble on Long Island, New York. She herself experienced the devastating effects of solitary when, at 19, she was placed in the jail's protective custody. "The way that they have th solid walls and one "wall" that was a row of bars facing the jail's corridor. For the women inside, the lack of a fourth wall also meant a lack of privacy. An officer sat outsid violence of the jail, Lilia recalled. "They would do random cell searches for drugs and things that you shouldn't have," she said. "The way in which they went about it was th ransack everybody's individual cells. I specifically remember seeing peanut butter and jelly go flying across the wall, hitting the other wall and sliding down." It wasn't only gear," she said. "From the sounds that I heard and the force of them, I'm assuming holding her down. It was terrible to even hear. She lay in her cell for two days after that, t didn't know there were other units that were run differently. I just thought everyone was in isolated confinement or, as they would say, protective custody. The level of under post-traumatic stress disorder. I have to say to myself, 'This is not jail. They're not going to do anything to me.' There was also the impending threat that your life might hav forced changes. Adam Schwartz is the senior staff counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois. In 2012, after investigating conditions in the state's juvenile pris Justice were placed in isolation for days - or in some cases, weeks - at a time. They had no contact with other people. They were deprived of education, mental health servic as a form of punishment. Under a settlement agreement, the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice agreed to change its policies around solitary confinement. On April 24, 2 immediate situation. The policies also impose time limits if a youth is separated from others for exhibiting aggressive or violent behavior (24 hours maximum), disruptive b cell each day in the company of staff members and have the ability to talk to a staff member. They also will no longer be excluded from programming, such as school. In 20 not only the plaintiffs, but those in similar situations. In February 2014, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) agreed to an interim stipulati still be confined to their cells for 23 to 24 hours. That same year, Prisoners' Legal Services of New York filed Cookhorne v. Fischer, challenging DOCCS policies around 16 educational or other programming unless the youth was deemed a risk to himself or others. Every youth in solitary had to be offered two hours of recreation every day. Cool Visiting Project of the Correctional Association of New York and a member of the Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement, monitors prison conditions statewide day," he told Truthout. "Fear of a confrontation with security staff on the way to recreation, cold or inclement weather without proper clothing, the fact that the recreation its medium-security prison in which the median age is 22. Many sent to Greene are between the ages of 16 and 21. Greene is also one of eight New York State prisons with an the 185 people in Greene's S-Block were under 30. The median age of a person confined in S-Block was 24. In addition, people in the S-Block were disproportionately peop subjected to isolation for 15 days or more because of its devastating mental, physical and psychological effects. "We believe that no people should be subjected to the tortur spending 15 days in solitary, people would be sent to a residential rehabilitation unit (RRU) where they would be allowed out of their cell for seven hours each day. Six of th Justice Center in New York City. He's also working to ensure that no one ever has to go through a similar experience. In September 2014, the New York City Department of out solitary for people ages 21 and younger in all New York City jails. The phaseout remains contingent on funding for alternative programming. In California, advocates ar these memories is painful, he says, but he is committed to speaking about them publicly. "I keep in mind I'm doing it for the tens of thousands of youth," Cortijo said. "It's n http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/31166-for-advocates-push-to-end-solitary-confinement-in-prison-only-begins-with-youth-isolation

California boot camp for at-risk kids leaves 7 with injuries consistent with abuse, police say | Fox News### California boot camp for at-risk kids leaves 7 with injuries misbehaving youth left seven of the kids with injuries consistent with abuse, investigators said. Those seven were among 39 children who attended the boot camp from May filed. The agency has never gotten a complaint about the 17-year-old camp before, Cipolla said. Greg Owen, an attorney representing the parents of the children who had in they don't want to go out of the house," he said. "That will never go away." He said the parents are considering filing a lawsuit in the case but that they're waiting for his off injuries consistent with abuse, police say | Fox News### held accountable. The program is run by the Huntington Park and South Gate police departments, and drill instruct agencies met with the parents involved in the most recent program Sunday "to provide assurance that any matters of concern will be investigated thoroughly." He and a spol

say | Fox News### youths from Southern California. Participants can range from kids who've joined gangs or use drugs to children with bad grades or attitude problems. Ve with bruises covering her arms, and said that drill instructors had slapped and kicked her, and stomped on her back. "She's traumatized," Pulido said. Parents pay $400 for cl daylong Sunday sessions. ___ Follow Amanda Lee Myers on Twitter at https://twitter.com/AmandaLeeAP Source: http://www.foxnews.com/us/2015/06/04/california-boot

State shuts down Hutto group home By Sophia Beausoleil Published: June 3, 2015, 8:45 pm Updated: June 4, 2015, 6:44 am 12Click to share on Twitter Click to share o is in the process of canceling of A Step Beyond's contracts and certification. The agency provided services for people with intellectual disabilities. Cecilia Cavuto, a spokes monitor medications. Concern with group home after man pounds on doors in middle of night "I started putting everything together and realized it was really bad, it was sca changes and tried to get training for the staff and had been met with defiance," said Ashley. "I wanted to stay and protect the clients, but at the same time, it was bigger than behavioral support plans. Officials also found there were more clients living in at least of the group homes than the number allowed by regulations. Hutto Mayor Pro-Tem M find new homes and are unavailable for an on camera interview. These individuals are like family to us and we are doing everything in our power to ensure a smooth transit innocence. The majority of infractions were caused by a previous RN. That RN had already been terminated and the new RN was rectifying their mistakes. The state refuse she explained. Hutto Mayor Pro-tem Michael Smith According to public franchise tax papers for A Step Beyond, Sahn Moss, the mother of Michael Smith, has been listed a (ingesting) two Lorazepam pills that she stole from consumers at the group home where she is employed." Court records said police found found a "pill bottle" in the open g state said A Step Beyond, the contract owner, program director and HR director are banned from contracting with DADS for eight years. They are able to keep their day-reh services and support to people with intellectual disabilities who are living with their families, or in group homes with no more than four people. During the investigation, A their own home or their family's home. Clients who receive services in their own homes or in the homes of family members will not need to relocate. Clients who live in gr provider to take over services at the home is currently under way. The local authorities are monitoring them and we have staff visiting in person and via phone daily," said C Human Service Commission's Rate Analysis Department. The average is $5,200 per month for an individual in a group home and $2,645 per month for an individual living

Lebanon County to close group homes for troubled teens in cost saving move By John Latimer @johnmlatimer on Twitter Updated: 06/04/2015 05:4 meeting. (John Latimer — Lebanon Daily News) The Lebanon County commissioners on Thursday authorized the closing of two county-owned group homes for teenage b determined the services could be provided by private group homes at a significant cost savings. The homes — one for boys between 13 to 18 in Fontana and another for girl there was a need for them because the only placement options were foster homes and institutions, Holtry told the commissioners. "There was no go between," he explained. opened, counties began closing their group homes, Holtry said. Lebanon County is just one of two counties in the state that still operates its own facilities, he added. Holtry little over 60 percent," he said. "I also found our per diem rate over that same time period was a little over $178 a day." Through the first 10 months of this fiscal year, Holtr $262,000 in savings, Holtry said. Because the agency receives most of its funding from the state and about 20 percent from the county's general fund, the savings for the cou said, is the difficulty in staffing both of the homes. The agency has been short-staffed most of the year and is on pace to pay $75,000 in overtime expenses. "The bottom line service, from the providers we have." Holtry said every effort would be made to place the teens currently living in the homes in privately run homes located in Lebanon Cou good providers who will provide very adequate care for these children. ... Because the private providers have more staff than we do, they are able to provide many more act county jobs, said county administrator Jamie Wolgemuth. The children's homes are owned by the county, and once they are closed will likely be sold and their contents auct $1.5 million in county expenses that were over budget last year. "The state has agreed, and in a couple of weeks, you will be getting a check for almost $952,000 in addition http://www.ldnews.com/local/ci_28252103/lebanon-county-close-group-homes-troubled-teens-cost

Pasadena youth group home sued for teen's alleged abuse Posted by Colleen Park on June 3, 2015 in Crime | 202 Views | Leave a response A teen was physically and m old boy, against Five Acres – The Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles, alleging assault, battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligence. The com ward of the court. The boy's mother died and his father was in prison, leaving no other family members available to care for him or raise him, according to the complaint. T isolation room. The boy was 13 years old at the time. "The staff member then jumped on plaintiff, continuing to beat him with his fists, until another staff member finally in pain and bleeding" and requiring him to be taken by ambulance to a hospital emergency room for treatment, according to the complaint. On other occasions, staff members "retarded," according to the suit. He was additionally kept in isolation for lengthy periods and "made to feel that he was worthless and unprotected," the complaint says. So

This Teen Is Using Her Graduation Dress to Support Human Rights Around the Globe Nora CrottyJune 3, 2015 Photo courtesy of Erinne Paisley At first, Erinne Paisl different dress out of neckties, so the idea of recycled dresses had kind of always been in the back of my mind," she says. Outdoor Clothing & Gear Appalachian Outdoors S idea took a much more meaningful turn. "As graduation got closer, the fact that 62 million girls around the world don't have access to secondary education as I was preparir ribbon, and transformed it into a skater-esque frock. She finished the look off by writing on the skirt, "I've received my education. Not every woman has that right," along v It's offensive to me I keep seeing this It's not relevant to me Something else The latter, of course, is the website for the Malala Fund — the charitable initiative founded by h Malala's plight before ("I've been interested in activism, charity, and giving back for as long as I can remember," she tells Yahoo Style), her interest piqued after hearing Ma your feedback We'll review and make changes needed.Undo Why don't you like this ad ? It's offensive to me I keep seeing this It's not relevant to me Something else Malala there's really no difference — it's just the circumstances that she was born into, and the extent that she had to fight to receive her education was something that really resona

Treatment center director accused of raping patient By FNS on Jun 5, 2015 at 11:49 p.m. Email Sign up for Breaking News Alerts news Fargo, 58102 Fargo ND 101 5th Crookston, is charged with one count of third-degree criminal sexual conduct in Minnesota 9th District Court in Crookston, a felony with a maximum penalty of 15 years in East Grand Forks Police received a report from Polk County Social Services in late December, saying a female patient at the center told a counselor she had recently been s assaulted her twice in his vehicle while she was a patient at the Douglas Place, the affidavit says. Both times, she told police, Biddlecome demanded she have sex with him Eve when he went into her room at the Douglas Place and woke her up around 8 a.m. by stroking her hair, the affidavit says. The woman told investigators he said he had c she provided, the affidavit says. A Minnesota Department of Human Services investigator told police condoms were found in Biddlecome's office, according to the affidavit Crookston. According to the Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy, Biddlecome's license to practice alcohol and drug counseling is active and is effective unt

Teen incarceration leads to less school, more crime "Some judges are more likely to have children placed in juvenile detention than others, but it's effectively random wh rates. Photo by Alexander Raths/Shutterstock BOSTON, June 9 (UPI) -- If you want troubled teens to shape up and stay in school, new research suggests jail isn't the ideal s is a bad seed, a skeptic might argue. But the latest study, conducted by economists at the MIT Sloan School of Management, accounts for the bias. Researchers say they've i have children placed in juvenile detention than others, but it's effectively random which judge you get," study co-author Joseph Doyle explained in a press release. "Some k kids in juvenile detention." By comparing seemingly similar teens -- all of whom were guilty of offenses that offered judges leeway in determining punishment -- researche than 35,000 juvenile offenders in Chicago over a ten-year period, researchers found that a juvenile detention sentence lowered the average graduation rate by 13 percent and be desirable. There could be a stigma attached to it, maybe you think you're particularly problematic, so that becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. "It would be great to see mo http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2015/06/09/Teen-incarceration-leads-to-less-school-more-crime/9141433874513/

Worker at NYC group home for troubled youth is arrested By JAKE PEARSON and COLLEEN LONG - Associated Press - Thursday, June 11, 2015 NEW YORK (AP authorities announced Thursday. Denzel Thompson, 24, pleaded not guilty at his arraignment and was released following his arrest on charges of falsifying official documer investigators from the Brooklyn district attorney's office, said in a statement that the arrest shows the "tragic results" of not following protocol. Thompson made checks ever hour, but never made the checks and was actually on a floor below, they said. The Associated Press first reported the arrest. Meanwhile, a window alarm on the boys' floor h woman, prosecutors said. They pulled her outside, then to a nearby building where they raped her in a stairwell, prosecutors said. They took her keys, cellphone and credit c when they discovered someone inside, prosecutors said. Police said they also have video of the boys at her apartment. The nonprofit Boys Town had been contracted by the at the home were fired last week. The second worker was also being investigated. The Administration for Children's Services said last week that they were closing the home teens, Emanuel Burrowes, Sanat Asliev and Erik Pek, have been charged as adults with crimes including rape and attempted rape. An attorney for Burrowes said last week t court judge. An attorney for Pek hasn't returned a phone message. A live-in companion of his mother's told The New York Times last week that Pek "would never do someth

Berrick: California must bolster education outcomes for foster children By Ken Berrick Tools Twitter Facebook Google Bookmarks Reddit StumbleUpon Email Print 60,000 youth in the California foster care system and 6,000 foster youth in the Bay Area, cannot be overstated. Not only do they face the day-to-day challenges of children l California's educational funding has changed dramatically in recent years, moving control away from the state and closer to local school districts where decisions about pro would be held accountable to the public for the educational outcomes in their schools. One of the most significant and positive implications of this change was the impact o unremarkable; indeed, one might assume that school districts track, monitor and report the educational outcomes for all youth in their schools, including foster youth. Unfor found that foster youth were the single most disadvantaged study-group. Graduation rates were abysmal, hovering at 45 percent, and the academic achievement of foster yo county social service departments, the simple fact remains, this is a whole-system failure. Recognizing the importance of remediating the educational needs of the children affected not only by the educational system, but by the profound impact of the abuse and/or neglect that initially resulted in their entry into the foster care system. The state examples that help generate a solution. Independently, each supports critical and unmet needs of all youth, including foster children. Together, they begin to fill significant g wide-sweeping support across disciplines, departments, funders and consumer groups, not only because there is consensus of the needs of our foster youth, but more import

promise to support our schools with policies and processes that ensure that foster youth can succeed. Ken Berrick is Chief Executive Officer of Seneca Family of Agencies (california-must-bolster-education-outcomes-for-foster-children/Content?oid=2932552

Boarding School Syndrome review – education and the pain of separation A gripping study of the mental wounds inflicted by classic British institutions Character form expats. He'd first come to east Asia on contract for an international church whose missionaries kept getting into trouble. He never went home: there was more than enough v practice of sending young children off into the care of strangers is not wholly safe. The ancient "public" schools worried the Victorians as much or more than did the workh Tom Brown's Schooldays only scraped the surface. Does boarding school really help disadvantaged students? While disadvantaged students who are already academically s systemic cruelty, psychological and physical, and of its wider effects. One of those was the establishment of the principle, among the elite and the ordinary, that to have bee English-speaking world. Psychology seems to have taken a long time to catch up with the issue, perhaps because Freud famously dismissed most of his child patients' allega Schaverien coined the term "boarding school syndrome" only a decade ago, though she follows in the footsteps of Nick Duffell, a psychotherapist who started work in the f of us remember. Kathryn Hughes on the moral fable written for a son who died before he was old enough to go to Rugby Read more Duffell is himself a "boarding school s of surprising numbers of her patients. That makes her book – an academic work, academically priced, though a gripping read – all the more important. There's a confused d of collecting data to an issue that should concern everyone worried about how children fare in professional care – which, of course, is what boarding school is. She's not im left at his boarding school in Brighton, in 1916, aged six. The fact that he arrived in short trousers and wearing a velour hat with elastic under the chin ensured that he was s awful case studies. But it does go to the heart of the issue, both for angry ex-boarders, their spouses and children and anyone bemused by the system. I've talked and corresp suffered the same cover-ups and the same astonishing failings in regulation and in policing as did the hospitals, care homes and young offenders' prisons. The difference? A thought that their parents did not want them to go," Professor Schaverien states. Their parents chose to send them from home into hell or prison – words her patients frequer have broken or redirected healthy attachment more effectively, as Schaverien illustrates. From the moment the parent drove away, a child had to adjust to the fact that not or public school as part of "the time-honoured barbarism required to produce English gentlemen". Bowlby boarded at 13: he was against it. Schaverien has, of course, account boarding schools were meant to do this job: replace infantile loyalties to mummy with the bonds that tie you to the team. It worked: but the side-effects of this abrupt interv substance abuse and so forth. A common effect is amnesia: many of Schaverien's patients – and my correspondents – have sad gaps where, in a normal childhood and adole believes boarding school syndrome is born. On the way we see Theo – often using drawings – recover memories of awful injustice. That is a key issue for many boarders – case this happened dramatically, a traumatised child, exhausted by perpetual fear, may be forced for their own survival to separate their selves – the normal, vulnerable hom never able to grow up. It's a profound effect, an "encapsulation of self… that may last a lifetime", Schaverien says. It's obvious enough that these institutions, full of emotic devotes an interesting chapter to sexual abuse but, for her, it is not the main issue. Theo never experienced sexual abuse. It grabs the headlines, but I suspect that for those w for not having a story of sexual predation to tell. "It was only bullying," people write, "not what you'd call abuse." But emotional cruelty is what exacts the greatest toll on t loss of love. We need the psychological abuse of children to be properly outlawed – a long-awaited "Cinderella law" came into force last month, but it is weak – and we nee with free UK p&p; Source: http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/jun/08/boarding-school-syndrome-joy-schaverien-review

Detention center receives child care license from state of Texas Nuri Vallbona | Jun. 10, 2015 Share on facebook Share on twitter More Sharing Services 11 PrintemailP as to whether the company is trying to comply with a court ruling forbidding the detention of minor children in unlicensed facilities. A second company is still awaiting app of America for the South Texas Residential Center in Dilley, Texas, and by GEO Group for the Karnes County Residential Center in Karnes City, Texas. Both facilities, whi an email. "On Karnes City, we just received their application June 2. The inspection is scheduled for June 16." The move to apply for licensing puzzled activists and attorne out an online account management tool. Don't miss out. Add or confirm your email address today. "I think that they filed the applications first as a Band-Aid effort, as an a Spanish, stands for Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services. Family detention had all but ended in 2009, but when large numbers of immigrants ca "impossible to mandate full and strict compliance with all terms of the nearly two decades-old agreement while expecting DHS to fulfill its core function of protecting the p "The court's tentative order indicated that the court agreed with plaintiffs that putting children in secure facilities that are not licensed by the state violated the language and complete the process by mid-June. But corrections companies did not appear to be seeking a broad childcare license, rather one for a small subset of children in detention, a need to attend court hearings or visit their doctors, according to the application. It does not mention extended overnight care. "Neither Karnes nor Dilley have applied for a l would fall under that type of license. "I can tell you that in September 2014, Karnes submitted a request that they be exempt from residential child care licensing regulations licensure for the facility pursuant to the contractual requirements of our government partner, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)," said Steve Owen, managing di for corporate relations. Both companies referred further questions to ICE. While ICE did not reply to requests for comment, in the past it has issued statements about the qua consistent in our approach," said ICE press secretary Gillian M. Christensen. Ryan and other advocates do not think this move satisfies the requirement set forth in the Flore no means sanctions the remaining 99.9 percent of the facility." Michelle Mendez, training and legal support attorney with the Catholic Legal Immigration Network thought easier on the staff; it's going to be easier on the court that is presiding over the hearings for the judges." [Nuri Vallbona is a freelance documentary photojournalist. She wor

The truth about 'boarding school syndrome' - Telegraph The truth about 'boarding school syndrome' As a new book suggests our classic British institutions inflict lifelon 8:00PM BST 09 Jun 2015 547 Comments The nightmares come more often these days, but lose nothing of their intricacy for their increase in frequency. They all begin on a I've long since learned that the last thing I need is to draw any more attention to the tears beginning to brim than having her taking me right up to the carriage before she lea school where I was incarcerated for four years of my life. I don't use the word "incarcerated" lightly; even (perhaps, especially) as a child, it always seemed more akin to W study of former boarders like me, by Professor Joy Scheverin. Wendy Leigh as a child (Photo: Jeff Gilbert) A Jungian psychoanalyst, Schaverien first coined the term "boar so forth. She, herself, was following in the footsteps of Nick Duffell, a psychotherapist and author of influential study, The Making of Them, about the wounds such schooli the British establishment. Before St Margaret's, I was sent to Hookstead, Crowborough, when I was 10; ostensibly because my parents had just divorced, and also because r books about boarding schools, populated by top drawer, kind and jolly girls, each one a brick – I was happy to be going. •Could boarding school be the best thing for your c myself from the other girls – an odd and ungainly peg rammed into an ill-fitting hole. The only consolation was that I could spend every weekend at home with my mother - acknowledges. But however warm and cuddly modern boarding schools may be in comparison to mine, she insists children sent away to school – no matter how well they a three times a term. These rare weekends at home compensated somewhat for my increasing unhappiness at school – my mother made sure each was akin to a party, filled w Paddock Wood Station in Kent. Somehow these partings never got easier. Although I was outwardly stoic and careful never to cry in front of her, the jaunty carefree air I ma I loathed school with every fibre of my being, or begged her not to send me back; even then, I understood her subconscious motives for dispatching me, her cherished only wasting money on my education – to foot the bill. It was only many years later, when I was 28, and my maternal grandmother's death overwhelmed me with enough grief to Kindertransport, which spirited her and 10,000 other children to safety in England. The train, of course, left from the railway station, where little Marion was forced to part the pattern of her past. Putting me on the train, separating from me and unconsciously hoping that I wouldn't be hurt like she was, I wouldn't suffer, and that, this time, the s form a psychological split into two aspects of personality, which I call the 'home self' and the 'boarding school self'." So there was the fragile Wendy, beset by separation a of me are currently merging, as my mother, now 87, has been diagnosed with terminal non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. She has been in hospital since April, and may have very li bring nothing but love and cheer to her bedside. Instead I busy myself, when tears threaten, with the pragmatic details of palliative care. Here, at least, I am able to see one t http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/secondaryeducation/11662001/The-truth-about-boarding-school-syndrome.html

Former Houston hospital exec sentenced to 45 years in prison for fraud - Modern Healthcare Former Houston hospital exec sentenced to 45 years in prison for fraud B never provided. Earnest Gibson III, the former president of Riverside General Hospital; his son Earnest Gibson IV, who operated one of the hospital's satellite locations; and conspiracy to commit money laundering, according to a U.S. Justice Department release. The elder Gibson was sentenced to 45 years in prison and his son was sentenced to frustrated with the government's efforts to prosecute criminally violations of policy and procedures rather than real criminal acts," DeGuerin said. "It seems to me that the p attorneys for Earnest Gibson IV and Askew were not immediately successful Tuesday afternoon. Earnest Gibson III was also ordered to pay restitution of $6,753,180; Earne Medicare beneficiaries who did not need or qualify for the services, which are a form of intensive outpatient treatment for severe mental illness, the Justice Department said also paid kickbacks to patient recruiters, owners and operators of group-care homes, including Askew, in exchange for them sending ineligible Medicare patients to the hosp kickbacks to patient recruiters and group-home owners for sending their Medicare beneficiaries to the programs, according to the government. A number of other individual

Chester Co. boarding school teacher charged in sex assault of student He was a teacher at a prestigious private school, but now he's at the center of a sexual assault inve as a teacher, coach, and dorm supervisor at the Phelps School in Malvern, was arrested on Tuesday. Investigators say the incidents happened on the campus of the school wh May of 2013, when the victim was 17-years-old, Scavitto began to sexually assault him at his on-campus apartment. The abuse allegedly continued through the summer of code words for sexual activity. The victim says Scavitto would then instruct him to delete the messages immediately after the conversation. Scavitto was immediately fired saddened to learn of the arrest of a faculty member late yesterday evening. We can assure members of The Phelps School community that the safety and well-being of our st Noone says, "This is another example of a person in a position of trust grooming a victim and abusing that trust. This defendant manipulated a student who he was responsil bail. Police are concerned that there may be other victims. Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact authorities. Source: http://6abc.com/news/chester-c

15:16 Thursday 11 June 2015 **A pervert has been convicted of abusing two under-age girls while they were in foster care**. Kevin Gillan had access to the youngsters – c 19, who was 14 at the time of the offence, gave evidence that he touched and handled her breasts over her clothing and smacked her on the bottom after entering her bedroo Katherine Street, Livingston had denied committing a total of four sexual offences against two girls between May 12, 2010 and June 25, 2013. He was convicted of using le of sexual assault. The court was told he has no previous convictions. He will be sentenced on July 30. Source: http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/perve

Berea group home employee accused of punching teen in face An OhioGuidestone staff member is no longer employed there after being accused of punching a 13-year-c 11:30 AM, updated June 12, 2015 at 12:52 PM Reddit Email BEREA, Ohio -- A former Berea group home employee could face charges after she punched a 13-year-old res the organization said in a statement. "OhioGuidestone reported the incident to and is cooperating fully with ongoing police and department of children and family services i resident retaliated by pulling the woman's hair before other staff members could break up the fight, another employee wrote in a statement to police. Erie County Job and Fa

Social work diary: "A teenager in care says his foster carer starves and beats him" A children's social worker talks about late nights, flat car batteries and a difficult chi everything possible in the time and wrote a detailed transfer summary. I wonder why colleagues so often tend to look on the negative side? Tuesday It's duty day for my tea worker nor his leaving care social worker are available so we have to find him a new placement and organise a child protection enquiry. The foster carer is shocked -it was t car battery is flat and I miss a looked-after child review. Luckily it was straightforward and we don't have to reschedule since we are already in the middle of care proceedir of schedules. By 5pm three of our departments, the police and a doctor are drawn into the investigation as the young person alleges they have internal injuries that cannot be now. Thursday With all the time taken up yesterday I had to postpone a visit to a child's aunt and uncle. They want to take up Special Guardianship Order but have not visit who come from a very deprived home where the parents struggle to provide basic needs. The boy tells me he only has margarine on his sandwich today. He and his sister te One day, there will be an acknowledgement of the hours needed to do this work. Just about the time those children reach Mars, I think. Source: http://www.communitycare

Anti-SLAPP Law Crosses State Lines By JONNY BONNER ShareThis SALT LAKE CITY (CN) - A California woman who claimed a "therapeutic boarding school website, Facebook and elsewhere. The website drasurvivors.com is devoted to denunciations of the boarding school for "troubled teens," in Hurricane, Utah. The scho Campbell found that "much of" Filer's speech "likely originated in California" and applied that state's anti-SLAPP statute. However, Campbell also found that though "C whether discovery is needed before they fully brief the merits of Filer's Special Motion to Strike. After ruling on the school's motion to stay briefing on the motion to stri the judicial system to silence or intimidate a critic on a matter of public interest. "Ms. Filer, apart from one trip at the age of 11, has never been to Utah, so it is safe to say citizens' free speech activities, and the court's conclusion that the record, fairly construed, shows that much of the speech likely originated in California, all weigh strongly i Filer, now Chelsea Papciak, did not respond to requests for comment. In a separate federal lawsuit in December 2014, four teenagers called Diamond Ranch a " private p during, or after it occurred," they claimed. "The only option available to the hapless youth there confined was to 'fake it in order to make it,' for Diamond Ranch Academy is Washington Supreme Court found that state's anti-SLAPP law unconstitutional. Justice Debra Stephens wrote that Washington's state law "seeks to protect one group of deadlines to that state's anti-SLAPP law. The bill sailed through the state Senate in April. Source: http://www.courthousenews.com/2015/06/16/anti-slapp-law-crosses-state-

State fails to meet foster care lawsuit requirements Jimmie E. Gates, The Clarion-Ledger 8:52 p.m. CDT June 16, 2015 The latest report by an independent federal court independent federal court monitor says Mississippi doesn't have the capacity to meet many of the court order's basic requirements to improve the state's foster care system. defendants' performance since 2008 when the remedial stage of this lawsuit began, it appears that defendants do not have the capacity to meet many of the MSA's most basi permanent and nurturing homes." Lopes said the parties and the court must confront reality and determine a course that will protect the children in defendants' custody on a Services in contempt of court for allegedly failing to implement settlement agreement of more than seven years. Lowry said the court order in the Olivia Y lawsuit was ente attorney who was part of the initial group filing the lawsuit. The contempt citation, which was already filed, will be updated to include the latest monitor's report, according The class action, originally known as Olivia Y. v. Barbour, cited dangerously high caseloads, untrained caseworkers, a shortage of foster homes, and a widespread failure to Lowry, the modified settlement contained an action plan to address the state's consistent failure to meet court-ordered performance standards. U.S. District Judge Tom S. Le Human Services Executive Director Rickey Berry said the state needs to spend an additional $12 million to meet requirements of the lawsuit. Contact Jimmie E. Gates at (6

Sheriff Recommends Charges For Group Homes Accused Of Abuse By: AP Posted: Wed 8:56 AM, Jun 17, 2015 By: AP Home / Headlines List / Article To join the con homes who say they were abused. The Pueblo Chieftain reports Sheriff Kirk Taylor and his deputies investigated 19 complaints of long-term abuse, maltreatment and unlaw Services and runs 11 group homes in Pueblo West. It's unclear which specific group homes the allegations stem from. Department Director Reggie Bicha said in an email th Recommends-Charges-For-Group-Homes-Accused-Of-Abuse-307890891.html

Former Monticello group home counselor convicted on felony sex charges MONTICELLO – A former counselor employed by the Orange/Sullivan Division of Rehabil was convicted by a jury of two counts of criminal sexual act and one count of endangering the welfare of an incompetent or physically disabled person, all felonies, and two the Protection of People with Special Needs, Monticello and State Police. Rehabilitation Support Services cooperated in the investigation and prosecution. Cubero was tern

Families 'strong-armed' by St. Amant By David Larkins, Winnipeg Sun First posted: Friday, June 19, 2015 04:56 PM CDT | Updated: Friday, June 19, 2015 05:03 PM C Change text size for the story Print this story Report an error An association concerned for the well-being of their family members who suffer from developmental disabiliti disabilities and autism, is going back on its word and forcing some residents to move out of the River Road facility into community group homes. Association spokesman T were not told this was a forced move. When it became forced, they were wanting to meet with us only to explain why they should be moving into the community, not to talk strong-armed and given no options," Warzel said. "The conversation has only been about why they are moving." Warzel said his brother, 49, needs 24-hour supervision and of transition. "No discussion, no options given, no consultation," said Warzel, noting a number of other families have the same concerns. However, John Leggat, St. Amant' internally three years ago to help the facility, which currently holds 167 residents, transition down to 115 by 2018. "For 30 years, we've been transitioning people from Rive know we can support them in the community, because we support both kids and adults with challenging developmental needs already." Warzel fears those being moved fro offer more privacy and amenities to residents, as well as a 3-to-2 resident-to-caregiver ratio, which he said surpasses that of St. Amant. "We offer what we think is a better li

Foster parents accused of sexual abuse may have earned $1.6 million from state By Aaron Martinez / El Paso Times / Follow @AMartinez31 Posted: 06/19/2015 06:1 over 14 years, documents show. The actual amount is not exact because three child-placing agencies took a share of the money in administrative fees. Sandra Huerta, 55, an couple 13 years ago, officials said. One of the victims told police she was 7 years old at the time, while the other victim said he was 10 years old when the incidents happen was forced to touch both the Huertas and have sex with Antonio Huerta while his wife watched, according to the affidavit. Related ›› Police affidavit: Couple accused of ha April 24 on suspicion of indecency with a child and aggravated sexual assault of a child, officials said. She was booked into the El Paso County Jail on a $175,000 bond. Sh totaling $175,000. He bailed out of jail the same day. Attempts to reach the Huertas were unsuccessful. El Paso District Attorney's Office officials said the cases against the Huertas were paid, either directly from the department or through a private child-placing agency, about $1,684,000 during their 14 years as foster parents. The money is giv payment records. Beginning in January 2002, the Huertas were moved under the management of several child placing agencies, officials said. The agencies are in charge of officials said. The amount taken by each agency was not disclosed. The Huertas were placed under the Bair Foundation of Texas between January 2002 to May 2003. Durin Wilmington, Pa., said their office in El Paso is closed. They declined to comment on the amount of money paid to the Huertas while they were foster parents under the Bair Officials from the center could not be reached for comment on how much of that money went to the Huertas. The last few months of the Huertas' time as foster parents were payments made to the Huertas were private information and could not be released. "I am not able to release the payments made to any foster family," Aldrich said. "I can tel Services' website, the minimum daily amount paid to a foster family varies from about $23 to $92, depending on the needs of each child. Aaron Martinez may be reached at

Sexually trafficked girl endures new torment — in foster care Judge Maria Sampedro-Iglesia blasted child welfare administrators for what happened to a 17-year-old girl nightmares: A 25-year-old male "transporter" with all of three days on the job, and no real background check. And a 17-year-old girl who wound up in foster care partly bec welfare judges to write scathing orders, which is what Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Maria Sampedro-Iglesia did late last month, when she called the actions of a private social the wrongs this child has suffered. The agency is one more entity that has failed this child." Our Kids, the organization that oversees foster care and adoption services in Mia Resource Center's director, Oren Wunderman, at first agreed to discuss the girl, but, later, inquiries were referred to a Miami law firm, which also declined to comment. "Th enforcement. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to ensure they have what they need during their active investigation, in order to bring a just resolu parents, struggled with mental health, and had been forced into prostitution by human traffickers — the term child welfare and other authorities use for pimps who prey upo Last March, records say, the girl returned to court from the streets and "begged" Sampedro-Iglesia to allow her to live with her mother, whose legal rights to the child had e colossal consequences: When the teen registered for school, she was told she had to first resolve an outstanding warrant with state juvenile justice authorities. And that requ occurred during the eight-hour drive now is the subject of a criminal investigation by both the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and the FBI. The federal agency, a DCF repo 'transporter,'" the judge wrote. In an interview with the State Attorney's Office, the girl disclosed details of her encounter with the man. The driver, the girl said, stopped at home at 3 a.m. "The Court finds that the actions of the agency are not only negligent, but border on reckless," Sampedro-Iglesia wrote. "The agency is entrusted with caring May 1, administrators of the Family Resource Center, or FRC, did not disclose it to the judge until almost two weeks later — at a routine hearing. The judge has ordered ch Florida's lead foster care agency, showed up for the hearing unexpectedly. In her order, Sampedro-Iglesia called the event "criminal in nature." Then, she blasted child welf

"sexual abuse" or "sexual battery" could have been prevented by better training. "It shocks the conscience of this Court that the incident report indicates 'the issue in this ca educated a transporter that perhaps having sex with a child [who] was entrusted to him is inappropriate and criminal in nature," Sampedro-Iglesia wrote. "It is equally repug remarks make it sound as if the incident that occurred was actually the child's fault and not the adult that the agency entrusted her to." Details of the 25-year-old driver's ba And FRC administrators did not quickly release the man's employment records. In her order, Sampedro-Iglesia said the agency's "background check" on the man was confi job driving kids partly upon the recommendation of another FRC employee, a case worker, to whom he is related, records say. The driver had been working for the foster ca year-old girl with her background [redacted] was released to a single male transporter and why a female transporter was not accompanying her." Source: http://www.miami

East Lansdowne KOs group home for troubled youth By Linda Reilly, Times Correspondent Posted: 06/20/15, 10:37 PM EDT | Updated: 2 hrs ago # Comments EAST preexisting nonconforming use and/or a variance to permit the use of the property for offices in the R-Residential zoning district. According to officials, the participants wo and transported to The Academy. Advertisement "The Academy is not a school, it's a guidance service for students," DuFrayne said. "We can make a difference. They live session to make decision. Marian Fitti, of Hirst Avenue, a school director on the William Penn School Board, was disappointed in the council's decision. "I mentor these kid to six. "We want to cap the number of day care homes in the borough at any one time to six," Councilman William Callahan said. "That's what this ordinance does. It caps i

Chaotic midtown boarding house shuts its doors Chaotic midtown boarding house shuts its doors 6 Saved Save Article My Saved Items Print Email Respond: Write a let Joe Ferguson 3 An unregulated, unlicensed group home in midtown Tucson has shut its doors — but the city's chronic shortage of authorized, affordable inspections. Issues ranged from serious health concerns like a massive bed bug infestation to smaller infractions like needing to replace a fire extinguisher. In early June, ho by Le. "We have clients, and we have had clients historically — low-income clients with a mental illness — that may not need to be in a group home where treatment is pro shut down a boarding house, Bradley said. "Unless there is some evidence that the facility is providing treatment, then there is no state licensing law that would apply," he s pay for rent in a group-home setting. The homes have mostly fallen out of favor with the expansion of Medicaid in Arizona. It has allowed some La Frontera clients to affor Instead, the home sat vacant. Eventually, a parade of strangers started flowing in and out of the house. Two trailers were parked on the front lawn, along with a red sedan th emergency personnel became a regular sight in front of the red-brick house. In the first six months of the year, Tucson police and fire departments responded to calls to the but also disturb the quality of life of the surrounding neighbors," TPD Capt. Michael Gillooly wrote in an email to Kozachik. Curious about the influx of visitors next door, no longer refers people to the five homes operated by the Le family under the Blessing House Boarding name, but it did have a client living inside the home. "The La Front forced the Le family to make improvements. The fire department found no working fire detectors in the home, and required a ventilation hood over the kitchen stove. The P City code enforcers told the owners to fix a portion of the roof, remove nonworking vehicles and trailers and clean up debris around the house. They were also concerned ab said she had tried to help those with few alternatives to homelessness. But now she intends to remodel her homes and offer them to more traditional renters. Fewer group ho traditional housing. With few alternatives other than these group homes in some circumstances, he said, the only other choice is to live on the streets. Contact reporter Joe F

Disproportionality in Foster Care Share on Tumblr PRINTER FRIENDLY SOURCE: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges SUBJECT: Child Welfare T national and state level disproportionality rates. In most states, there are higher proportions of African American/Black and American Indian children in foster care than in t (AFCARS) data and 2013 census data to calculate current disproportionality indexes for the nation, every state, and Washington, D.C. This index demonstrates whether chil decade. Click here for the full report. Source: https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/research/disproportionality-in-foster-care/10524

Pennsylvania Latest State To Try To Curb Psychotropic Prescribing To Foster Children In The News June 23, 2015 Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Email Print 4 Comm Department of Human Services (DHS). The state government also announced its plans to try to rein in the practice. DHS Secretary Ted Dallas said in the press release that, us have a responsibility to make sure children in foster care receive the care they need." The commissioned investigation from PolicyLab in Philadelphia reported that, "For antipsychotics was four times higher among youth in foster care (22%) than youth in Medicaid overall (5%) in Pennsylvania, and that half of the antipsychotic users in Med further found that the youth in foster care in Pennsylvania "were more likely to have not received any visits within the year with a provider for their behavioral health conce would also more closely monitor prescribing. The report, however, also recommended that Managed Care Organizations that oversee children and youth in foster care shoul in and reimbursements of non-pharmacological behavioral health interventions(.)" The DHS press release did not address these recommendations. Pennsylvania Takes Actio (PolicyLab, June 2015) --Rob Wipond, News Editor Source: http://www.madinamerica.com/2015/06/pennsylvania-latest-state-to-try-to-curb-psychotropic-prescribing-to-

Safe Families: An Alternative To Foster Care Matt Vespa | Jun 24, 2015 Share on Facebook SHARES I admit to total ignorance on this issue, though it usually forms the good principle, but one that is lacking in today's government-based system, which is fraught with failure. Right now, there are over 400,000 children in foster care, with 24, the time the child is reunited with their families. It's not a shining example of government in action taking care of those who have truly fallen on hard times. When it comes government-run Child Services? Yes, and there is an amazing organization that's pitching in to help families that are in dire straits. The Chicago-based Safe Families for Ch domestic abuse, Safe Families' goal is reunification. They also offer job-training programs for parents who are undergoing financial hardship. Katie Couric did a segment o it's more of an extended sleepover for the kids, as parents work to get back on their feet either by gaining new employment or getting sober. Safe Families also has an impre volunteer-driven. Only the truly passionate are within the ranks of Safe Families. The host families are vetted, and do not have parental rights over their host child; that righ regarding family welfare. Usually, Child Protective Services arrive when a family's issues become overwhelming; SFFC is known to reach families before conditions reach Child Welfare complex has allies who think SFFC is illegal, or must be regulated in order to continue its operations. There are 27 states where Safe Families are operating, dedicated to sustaining the SFFC model by promoting the Supporting and Strengthening Families Act in other state legislatures where SFFC has a presence. The bill protect for assistance. When it comes to serving children, SFFC appears to be a better alternative. Source: http://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2015/06/24/safe-families-the-alt

Cadet Crisis 06.24.155:25 AM ET Kiddie Boot Camp Accused of Abuse A group of parents is suing a boot camp-style private school, along with the state of Wisconsin, young lives around. Their complaint, filed this week in Milwaukee County circuit court, alleges seven elementary and middle school students enrolled at **Right Step**—a sch According to the complaint, in the 2014 fall semester, these students were: pushed, kicked, and punched; threatened and called derogatory names; forced to stay in smoke-fi ground by placing a foot on his back, forced a student to drink a beverage that the instructor had spit in, and regularly flipped them from their beds in the middle of the nigh abuse and humiliation was part of the school's program. They felt deceived by the school and were upset that they enrolled their kids in the school, thereby subjecting them one of the defendants, Randy R. Martus, hadn't worked with Right Step for three or four years, but she wasn't familiar with the current case and couldn't comment on the a advertised on its website, has been "to develop the minds, bodies, and spirits of the community's most challenging youth, through discipline, and motivation toward positive Choice Program administered by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Government subsidies enable a large majority of the students to attend. As such, the parer —as in this instance, critics say—unregulated schools, effectively turning the majority of the private institution public. "The state does not require that schools in the Milwa advertised achievements of Right Step cadets, numerous studies of juvenile boot camps have found the "scared straight" model to be ineffective and claim the highly-struct rates to juveniles in traditional correctional institutions. These studies, however, are mostly for camps where juvenile offenders go to be reformed and then return to their no as well as receiving instruction in a classroom. Several members of the student body—90 percent of whom are at least three grades behind, according to a drill sergeant quo system boasts one of the largest black-white achievement gaps in the country. Furthermore, the area consistently ranks on the country's most dangerous cities lists and at lea alternatives. Whether Right Step is saving or harming the children entrusted to its care will be for the courts to decide. Source: http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/

The Anti-Union Bosses' Group Fighting Fast Food Organizing Is Now Going After Home Care Workers Can workers centers and unions create a movement strong en The home health aide in scrubs pushing a client's wheelchair up the ramp from street to sidewalk may appear to have little in common with a cashier at McDonalds or Pizza industry's lobbying outfit, the International Franchise Association (IFA), is suing on behalf of home health corporations to keep workers' pay low. The IFA has already emer IFA is there: helping McDonald's argue to the National Labor Relations Board that it is not responsible for franchisees' wage theft and workplace abuses; trying to block a business owners who happen to be franchisees," railed IFA President and CEO Steve Caldeira after the groups' argument failed the first round in court. "Those who have se overtime pay. Profiting from care Instead of selling burgers or pizza, for-profit home care staffing agencies such as BrightStar sell the care, companionship and feeding serv nursing homes, prefer to live at home. Hendricks put it this way: "It makes you feel so much better and know that you are somebody." "[Home-based care] is preferable to known as the "companionship exemption," companies like BrightStar can legally pay the nearly 2 million home care workers in the United States at less than the minimum (which set wage and hour protections for nearly all other workers) and again when Congress amended the FLSA in 1974. Home care workers can be paid less than the $7.2 has been a homecare worker in Brooklyn, New York for the past 14 years. "I try not to ask family members [for money]. You don't let people know what's happening to yo consists of for-profit franchises. It's a lucrative model: the industry rakes in $84 billion a year, with median revenue for a single franchise at around $2 million, according to care boom. Franchisors such as BrightStar, run by CEO Shelly Sun (who also serves as IFA treasurer), are taking advantage of this burgeoning demand. Sun and her husban Franchisors and franchisees leave such health care expertise to the actual home care attendant—the person who lifts the client, helps her eat, mops up her messes, reminds h check—or have it paid for by Medicare or Medicaid. "It was the availability of hiring people using federal monies … that allowed the franchise industry to blossom," says Steffie Woolhandler, a professor at the City University of New York's School of Public Health and senior author of the Health Affairs analysis told Modern Healthcare mag care at a substantially higher cost." David Weil, head of the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, recognizes that action is needed to reverse this race to the is now in federal court; the DC Circuit Court of Appeals has expedited the case and could issue a decision at any moment. In the meantime, the exemption remains in place.

the United States, according to Forbes. If the IFA and home health companies are able to persuade the courts to keep the companionship exemption, CEOs like Sun will see franchised economy? Two separate, non-traditional worker organizing campaigns are underway in the fast food and home care industries. But the franchised structure of the and workplace conditions. What's more, home care workers are in some states explicitly prohibited from forming labor unions—and where they can form unions, the Supre food workers and the coalition-based Caring Across Generations for the home care workers—focus more on advocating for worker-friendly policies and regulations than on unionize. Domestic workers, with their solitary shuttling between clients' homes, have historically been a tough group to bring together. But the National Domestic Workers and push for laws to improve rights for domestic workers at the local, state and federal levels. Both groups say their campaigns aim to raise wages and benefits for the entire Generations campaign, NDWA has formed regional and state-based coalitions with the families of the elderly people and people with disabilities that home care workers ser their mission is to 'protect, enhance and promote franchising.' You have to ask, should a trade association like this be determining the future of homecare for millions of wo York, "worker-owned Cooperative Home Care Associates has more than 2,000 worker-owners who make $16 an hour (more than twice the federal minimum wage) plus be workers to join forces to challenge the IFA. SEIU's own home care and fast food campaigns began in April to link up with a series of teach-ins and protests in SEIU Healthc "Something has to be done about low pay, and the money is there. This is not acceptable at a human level. The cost of living is skyrocketing, food is up, and rent is so much corporate forces up against them both? Kelsey Howe and Jacey Rubinstein contributed research to this article. Source: http://inthesetimes.com/article/18108/international-f

Former Berea group home employee charged with assault, accused of punching resident A former Berea group home employee is charged with assault in connection w June 25, 2015 at 10:42 AM, updated June 25, 2015 at 10:45 AM Reddit Email BEREA, Ohio -- Charges have been filed against a former Berea group home employee accus investigating the incident and interviewing witnesses before the charge was filed in court Wednesday, according to police. Davis is no longer employed at OhioGuidestone, ensure its mission of safety," an OhioGuidestone spokeswoman said in the statement. Davis and the resident were arguing when Davis pulled the resident's hair and punched resident, is also investigating the incident, director Karen Balconi Ghezzi said earlier this month. She declined to elaborate, citing healthcare privacy laws. Source: http://w

Report: Human services violated rights of disabled in body checks - The Denver Post Report: Human services violated rights of disabled in body checks Ordered to pro Reggie Bicha talks to The Denver Post. (Craig F. Walker, The Denver Post) Jun 20: Colorado to pay $1 million sanction to settle a federal complaint that DHS misused mon Bicha pledges better communication May 19: Previous letter sent to Hickenlooper raised similar complaints about human services May 14: Gov. John Hickenlooper defend residents at state-run group homes had been abused, the state public health department said Friday. The report, from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environ on interviews with group-home staffers and residents' guardians, said human services officials failed to adhere to polices regarding "mistreatment, abuse, neglect and exploi community group homes and a day center for people with developmental disabilities. Human services officials did not allow the patients or their guardians to "give informe the search was conducted in such a way as to cause significant distress," according to the findings. Bicha, in an e-mailed statement, said he regretted not asking for guardian searched, 40 residents previously were found incompetent in court to make decisions about their own health. Their guardians were not contacted, investigators found. Patien persons being confused, scared, and some were distraught to the point it negatively affected their behavior." The state health department investigation was prompted by a M released the plan in conjunction with the release of the investigative findings. Human services executives in February and March learned of several allegations of resident ab residents stole a vehicle, and that staffers had struck, choked, shoved and humiliated residents, he said. "Due to the significance and severity of the allegations that had come suspected incidents of maltreatment. Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk Taylor recently announced he is seeking charges against seven current or former Pueblo Regional Center s homes. The department will create a "standardized consent process" for body checks. Also, staffers will have to report any allegations of abuse or exploitation to departmen

Report: Human services violated rights of disabled in body checks Ordered to produce corrective action plan after violating residents' rights By Jennifer Brown The Den $1 million sanction to settle a federal complaint that DHS misused money Jun 3: Abuse allegations in Pueblo group homes a key factor in DHS turmoil May 27: Colorado f complaints about human services May 14: Gov. John Hickenlooper defends human services director Reggie Bicha Colorado human services officials violated the "privacy, The report, from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, was another blow for embattled human services director Reggie Bicha, already under fire aft to adhere to polices regarding "mistreatment, abuse, neglect and exploitation." Human services officials "could not provide a specific explanatory catalyst" for the body insp services officials did not allow the patients or their guardians to "give informed consent to inspections of their bodies," the health department found. Also, the "body audits" findings. Bicha, in an e-mailed statement, said he regretted not asking for guardian permission before the skin checks but that he had "significant factual basis to believe res own health. Their guardians were not contacted, investigators found. Patients who are nonverbal indicated through "behaviors" that they did not want to participate, "yet the behavior." The state health department investigation was prompted by a March 30 complaint alleging medical staffers entered the Pueblo Regional Center group homes "in executives in February and March learned of several allegations of resident abuse by center staffers — including some not reported to state health officials or law enforceme said. "Due to the significance and severity of the allegations that had come to our attention, we needed to take swift action to ensure the safety and well-being of our residen seeking charges against seven current or former Pueblo Regional Center staffers who were involved in six cases of abuse, neglect or sexual misconduct. As part of its correc staffers will have to report any allegations of abuse or exploitation to department executives within 24 hours. Jennifer Brown: 303-954-1593, or twitter.co

Tulane study says foster children in stable homes fare best in adolescence June 25, 2015 Keith Brannon Phone: 504-862-8789 Foster children placed i published in The Lancet Psychiatry. "Our study provides greater evidence for the importance of high-quality foster care that is consistent across the child's life," said lead au placements are likely to be harmful for their psychological health." The study, which is part of the Bucharest Early Intervention Project, followed 110 children abandoned ir that abandoned children placed in the same high-quality foster families by age 12 had low levels of internalizing disorders, such as anxiety and depression, and externalizing had worse outcomes with higher levels of both internalizing and externalizing symptoms that were no different than children in the institutional care group. "Our study foun Tulane researchers Dr. Charles Zeanah, Dr. Mary Margaret Gleason, Dr. Stacy Drury and Devi Miron in collaboration with Dr. Charles Nelson of Harvard University and N

State agency accused of violating rights of disabled Google Survey FAQ The Associated Press • Updated: June 27, 2015 at 4:12 pm • Close Advertisement_ Skip Ad » 00 whether residents at state-run group homes had been abused. + caption DENVER, CO. - MAY 22: Reggie Bicha, executive director of the Colorado Department of Human NAACP chapter airs issues, vows to move forward Suthers wants no sitting, lying on sidewalks and planters in downtown Colorado Springs Colorado officials praise progr to follow polices regarding mistreatment, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Relatives of the residents complained that 62 people were strip-searched at 10 community group h Bicha said in a statement that he regretted not asking for guardians' permission before the skin checks but that he had "significant factual basis to believe residents in all 10 There were reports that words were scratched into the backs and stomachs of nonverbal residents, that two unsupervised residents stole a vehicle, and that staffers had struck (http://tinyurl.com/q5nmzdj). Source: http://gazette.com/state-agency-accused-of-violating-rights-of-disabled/article/1554576

Mob beat boarding school director to death after two pupils aged 10 and 11 are found drowned in a pond on the grounds in India and teachers are accused of mur Indian police are now investigating after the man died from his injuries By Corey Charlton for MailOnline Published: 09:56 EST, 29 June 2015 | Updated: 18:01 EST, 29 Ju stations showed the man being beaten with sticks and writhing on the ground as others watched and stomped on his chest, stomach and limbs. The students had disappeared after being beaten by an angry mob Post-mortem examinations later showed the boys had drowned, while the school director died from his injuries on Sunday night. When a passenger plane's engine catches...Now ISIS brings its evil to Egypt: Terror group kills...Incredible footage taken by Tunisian hotel worker as he... Share this article Share of Patna, the capital of Bihar state, and police have vowed to investigate. Despite authorities' attempts to crack down on vigilante justice, there have been several reports of assembly over the widely-condemned attack by a frenzied mob on Syed Farid Khan in northeastern Nagaland state. Thousands of people stormed the Dimapur Central Prisc director-death-two-pupils-aged-10-11-drowned-pond-grounds-India-teachers-accused-murdering-them.html#ixzz3exlJJnoQ Follow us: @MailOnline on Twitter | DailyMai

Foster care will not be privatized, officials say Justin A. Hinkley, 6:30 a.m. EDT June 29, 2015 In this 2007 LSJ file photo, Michigan foster children and State Journal) Story Highlights State officials said no plans for 100% private case management State employees say clues point in the other direction 244 CONNECT 3 TW Currently, the more than 12,000 foster care cases in Michigan are split about evenly between private providers and the more than 700 foster care workers at the state Depart performance-based funding model — as one of several clues that 100% outsourcing is coming down the pike. READ MORE: The state's contract with Public Consulting Gr Services Agency, speculated folks conflated two separate issues to form an incorrect theory. Private agencies already handled about 90% of the caseload in Kent County, Ya and others said. "I've not heard anyone say the performance-based funding work is tied to 100% privatization," Yager said in a recent interview, adding the state wants "a ba for using the not-for-profits to the extent we can." But he said full privatization wouldn't work because nonprofits have no presence in some of Michigan's most rural areas. children in their communities," state Sen. Peter MacGregor, R-Rockford, Poleski's counterpart in the Senate, said in an emailed statement. "What we have in Kent County is areas of the state where it makes sense to do that," but "there's no intent or desire from the private agencies to eliminate state jobs. The goal is looking at how we provide se Lutheran Services. RELATED: Outsource state jobs 'in the sunshine,' reps say "I think what you need to talk about is, is this the best role for government in all of this?" Gel Public Consulting Group to help it develop the new funding model "for all public and private child welfare providers." But Ray Holman, legislative liaison for the United A time they care for kids provides "a perverse incentive" for them to keep kids in foster homes. Performance-based funding would pay providers for results, including more qu piloting performance-based funding in Kent County have collectively been paid nearly $300 million over the past four-and-a-half years, according to state transparency reco outcomes." Holman said there are other clues the state wants to outsource: There's increased lobbying by private agencies, the state's encouragement of outsourcing in recen Michigan implements child welfare reforms, officials are trying to learn from Florida, which outsourced foster care beginning in the late 1990s. Florida privatized its servic

Paparella, president and CEO of the Grand Rapids-based D.A. Blodgett-St. Johns, said the state's "a little guilty by association" with Florida but "there's no hidden agenda c cases in Michigan, as of June 1 •6,413: Number managed by the state Department of Health & Human Services, or 52% •5,835: Number managed by private agencies, or 48

Child sex abuse inquiry: High turnover rate of foster families, youth workers leaves children vulnerable, royal commission hears By Lucy Carter Updated Sun at 8: Story: Foster carers' register 'could make situation worse for Aboriginal children' Related Story: Ratios of FACS caseworkers to children in care 'doesn't meet standards' Ma Responses to Child Sexual Abuse this week resumed public hearings into allegations of child sexual abuse in out-of-home care. Today it heard from a panel of four youth w families and youth workers. "There's a lot of worker turnover which makes it hard for the young people to build a rapport with the workers, the people who they're involved or an agency worker, or with the school system; he always knew he was going to be moved on. Youth worker Kate Finn Kate Finn told the inquiry that she believed the curr was never able to form a support system with a carer or an agency worker, or with the school system; he always knew he was going to be moved on. "If you don't have the s the internet because they're looking for something they don't have," she told the commission. Ms Finn agreed with counsel assisting the commission Gail Furness, who sugg better social media and online training for children in care and their foster families. Foster children unlikely to report abuse: youth worker The commission also heard from support services and feel they have nowhere to turn to. "When you're in care, you stop being a ward of the state when you're 18, you stop getting help, you stop getting anyt have support from somebody else." The hearing continues. Source: http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-29/foster-families-youth-worker-turnover-leaves-kids-vulnerable/

IG: Group home supervisor charged with identity theft Posted on June 30, 2015 at 4:51 pm by Rick Karlin, Capitol bureau in Inspector General, Office for People with Dev a PSE&G; electricity account. She is a treatment team leader for the State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Here are the details: New York Stat with her alleged use of a service recipient's personal information to obtain electric utility service for her own home. Blossom Officer Thame, 55, of, Ridge, New York was a by Inspector General Leahy Scott's office that revealed that Thame used her position as Treatment Team Leader to gain access to a service recipient's name and personal inf using the name and information of the service recipient. Separately, On April 3, 2015, Thame was charged with allegedly providing false information on an application for a failed to disclose that her license under the name "Blossom Thame" had been suspended. The case remains pending. Inspector General Leahy Scott said, "This employee to investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott's office uncovered this appalling scheme to exploit the vulnerability of a developmentally disabled person – a crime that this General as we move toward trial." At the time Thame allegedly stole the service recipient's identity, she was responsible for seven sites that are operated by OPWDD, five I County First District Court on August 25. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law. Source: http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/a

Mother files lawsuit over son's treatment at residential center By Julie McClure - The Republic () Published: 7/1/15 11:43 am EDT Updated: 7/1/15 5: Murder suspect calls others before 911 www.therepublic.com Police raid two massage spas in Columbus www.therepublic.com AddThis A Clark County mother has filed a center from October 2013 to February 2014, staff members there used unwarranted physical force on the boy. For more on this story, see Thursday's Republic. Source: http

Rebekah King, who was beaten and sexually abused while in care, vows to change foster care system True stories by: EMILY MOULTON From: news.com.au 4 days Decrease Text Size Print Email Share Add to Digg Add to del.icio.us Add to Facebook Add to Kwoff Add to Myspace Add to Newsvine What are these? Rebekah King with she would "kill them". According to Rebekah, her mother, an alcoholic prostitute, would regularly threaten to end their lives. It wasn't until she allegedly admitted trying to children were finally removed and placed into a group home. But, sadly, for Rebekah and her brothers, the abuse did not end. Instead, the trio were subjected to varying deg regularly and was emotionally and verbally abused. She was also sexually abused twice. Once, she claims, by a man who had come to visit her mother, another time while s failed her. And she claims that it still fails hundreds of children every day. Rebekah has set up a Facebook page, The Little Girl that Nobody Wanted, and posted her case fil in the foster care system. So far, more than 35,000 people have signed the petition and Rebekah met NSW Family and Community Services Minister Brad Hazzard today to me counselling. I was sexually abused when I was seven or eight years old but they did not get me counselling until I was 12. By then I had learnt to block it out." An extrac sexual abuse, she was subjected to varying levels of physical abuse and neglect. But it there was one home that was particularly emotionally and physically abusive, the plac in the past what was happening. "So she hid me, so to speak. I was only allowed inside to go to the bathroom, shower and eat and go to bed." Rebekah said the woman's cru smile was ugly. "She dragged me at least 50m to 100m by my hair to a public cubicle to do whatever she wanted to out of spite. "After that, I was placed into another family spare them from further years in the foster care system. Since then she has managed to rebuild her life, married her loving husband Darren, and had their three beautiful chil me, but then my life became hell. The system that was meant to care for me descended into abuse and neglect," she said. "This system has had so many inquiries, reviews a Source: http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/rebekah-king-who-was-beaten-and-sexually-abused-while-in-care-vows-to-change-foster-care-system/story-fnq2o7dd-1

Denver man sentenced for trying to hire inmate to kill abuse victim Scot Copher sentenced to 32 years to life in prison By Anthony Cotton The Denver Post Posted: 0 to the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office, Scot Alan Copher, 53, provided the other inmate with a physical description of the child, a map to where the child lived, a det investigation found that he repeatedly sexually assaulted the child while he was in elementary school in the early 2000s. The abuse lasted approximately three years. Source

. . **LAUSD misspent money on special education that was meant for foster care, English learners, lawsuit alleges** By Thomas Himes, Los Angeles Daily News Posted: students. The state funding was supposed to help students living in poverty or foster care or those struggling to learn the English language, according to the lawsuit filed by action that alleges $400 million last school year and next is misspent on special education. "LAUSD is breaking its promise to provide my children and millions of other stu General Counsel Dave Holmquist denied the allegations. The district's spending, he said, follows state law. District officials have been working with the civil rights groups for its spending on special education, while leaving few dollars dedicated to students for whom the increased state funding was meant to help. Last month, this news organiz According to the lawsuit, LAUSD was already obligated to fund special education programs when the state allocated additional funding to help students who are low-incom managing attorney with Public Advocates. "LCFF requires that LAUSD use these hundreds of millions of dollars to deliver new and better services to targeted students." So

Juvenile detention mentor had sexual relationship with teen, police say Print Font [+] [-] 1 Comment » By Pat Reavy, Deseret News Follow @DNewsCrimeTeam Publi mentor her in the Salt Lake Valley Detention Center. Shutterstock.com Enlarge photo» Sat Jul 04 16:56:26 2015 WEST VALLEY CITY — Police are investigating an alleg investigation involving a 15-year-old girl who had been placed in the 3rd District Juvenile Court's Village Project. The project is a mentor program that uses community vol Lake Valley Detention, according to a search warrant affidavit. Investigators say the two developed a relationship. "During this time Salt Lake Valley Detention Center had the affidavit states. Yet after the teen was released from the detention center in January, the same woman was again assigned as the girl's mentor by the Village Project, acco stepdaughter's journals and turned them over to detectives. Investigators wrote that the journals described "grooming behaviors" by the woman and that the teenager "contin week confirmed they are investigating the case, but declined comment, saying it has been turned over to the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office for possible charges are volunteers who are at least 21 years old and "must be willing to attend an initial interview and pass a criminal record check." Email: , Twitter: DNewsC

An atrocious use of body checks by Department of Human Services By The Denver Post Editorial Board Posted: 07/01/2015 05:00:00 PM MDT3 Comments Colorad homes without their guardians' permission. A state health department report released last week said the the body checks, which occurred in March, violated the "privacy, dig Bicha admits it was a bad call and regrets the decision. The incident is being seized by some legislators and critics of the department to again question the quality of DHS le November, nonverbal residents in a Pueblo home were found with threatening words scratched into their backs and stomachs. The incident wasn't reported by staff. In Febr facts, Human Services took swift action — putting 14 group home staffers on leave and coordinating with law enforcement. And last month, the Pueblo Sheriff's Office ask findings, Human Services originally argued that informed consent does not require guardian approval for investigations into abuse or neglect. But Bicha told The Denver Po again that not involving guardians before the March body checks was a bad mistake — even if done with the goal of finding wrongdoing. It's a mistake that must never be r department-human

Death at Van Vleck under investigation Jackson Hole News & Guide So far no leads indicate a crime was committed in incident at group home for kids and teens. Story Police are investigating the death of a student at Van Vleck House this week. Teton Youth and Family Services, which runs the facility, confirmed the death Friday. The stu the student and began resuscitation efforts, which all of the organization's staff members are trained to perform. The student could not be revived. The Jackson Police Depar spokeswoman Sarah Cavallaro issued a statement on her organization's behalf, confirming the death and giving scant detail due to the age of the student. "This is a terrible t assisting the police "in any way possible." "Members of the TYFS staff and community grief counselors [are] working with other residents of the group home to help them Blue. A call to Blue on Tuesday went unanswered. Van Vleck House, one of three programs that Teton Youth and Family operates, serves students between the ages of 10 ar court, according to the Van Vleck House's website. Students considered for admission are able to attend public school, and do not exhibit severe risk factors, including a rec http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/cops_courts/death-at-van-vleck-under-investigation/article_67831770-631c-56a2-ab00-f40bb1b6c3dc.html

Longtime foster parent arrested for sexual assault Story Comments Print Create a hardcopy of this page Font Size: Default font size Larger font size 1 Previous Next Ste Arrowhead Foster Family Agency, Inc. between the years of 2002 and 2008. During that time, Stephen Taylor allegedly sexually abused two of the female foster children pl frame on Crestline Road, Mile High Road, and Fir Lane in the Crestline community. The sexual abuse continued until the children were removed by the San Bernardino Co family. Detectives from the Crimes Against Children Detail assumed the investigation and determined approximately 27 foster children were placed with the Taylor family Sexual Intercourse with Force, Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child, and Continual Sexual Assault of a Child. Taylor was booked at the West Valley Detention Center on Ju

information pertaining to this investigation is urged to contact Detective Jason Frey or Sergeant Dana Foster at (909) 387-3615. Callers wishing to remain anonymous are u
a3e7ffbe4fc4.html

Police: Springfield teacher sexually abused child in her foster care Trevor J. Mitchell, Springfield News-Leader 6:57 p.m. CDT July 2, 2015 Jessica Jones(Photo: Green
Jessica A. Jones, 32, is currently employed as an art teacher at Watkins Elementary School in Springfield and also taught at Springfield Option Site, a school on Great Circle
although it is not specified at which school this occurred. The victim later requested to be placed into the foster care of Jones, who completed the necessary steps to become
victim was first made in 2014. The victim was the subject of a forensic child interview at the Child Advocacy Center on July 1, 2014, but did not disclose any information r
pornography. The second child also told interviewers she had located pictures on a phone of Jones and the victim kissing. The phone of the victim was collected by a detecti
cellphone and said there were pictures of Jones and the victim kissing, which corroborated the victim's interview. On May 26, 2015, a new police report was made by a Chil
abused her since she was 14. She also said she had lied in the last interview because she liked living with Jones and "felt she had nowhere else to go, so she did not want Jes
with friends, and this upset Jones. ■The victim said she believed she was taken to the behavioral unit of a local hospital based on lies Jones told — specifically that she was
"together." ■The victim said the two had performed oral sex on each other "so many times she could not remember." She said the last time was in May 2015. ■The victim s
purchase marijuana. Jones' bond was set at $25,000, which was posted on June 30. At an arraignment Thursday morning, a preliminary hearing was set for 10:30 a.m. on Ju
attorney, Roger Jones, declined to comment. Source: http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/crime/2015/07/02/police-springfield-teacher-sexually-abused-child-foster-ca

Sexually trafficked girl recounts litany of horrors under DCF's watch Judge Maria Sampedro-Iglesia assured a foster child who was sexually trafficked she would be se
But it's what happened next, she said, that nearly destroyed her. In a hushed courtroom in Miami's gleaming new downtown Children's Courthouse, a teenage foster child ir
trafficked into prostitution. And, just as her life appeared to be mending, the girl was raped by a driver in whose care she was entrusted by a privately run child welfare grou
up mentally and emotionally. I know I can never get my childhood back," the girl said in court, reading from the letter she had written to Sampedro-Iglesia, who is overseei
state who has ever looked into my care, and who has ever tried to fix the errors others have made." She then told the judge she wanted to fire her court-appointed lawyer, an
her remarks to the court on Monday, the girl did not talk in detail about what sent her to foster care. "By the age of 14, I had already been through the worst," she said, addi
"starved us, and turned off the electricity for punishment at night. No air, no light. We couldn't open windows or doors; they were locked." "So, that's usually how fights sta
drugs. She called her caseworker to report she'd been "trafficked" into prostitution — "having guns pointed to my head and having to put guns to [other] people's heads." A
absolutely intolerable," said Michelle Glady, a spokeswoman for DCF, which contracts with a private foster care agency in Miami, called Our Kids, to oversee child welfare
sexual abuse by an employee of Family Resource Center of Miami. All additional allegations of abuse or neglect will be investigated. DCF is reviewing her case history and
doing so, Our Kids wants to ensure the child receives the best available care and services, while also making sure the child is, and feels, safe in her surroundings. The safety
25-year-old "transporter" hired by the Family Resource Center to drive her from West Palm Beach to the Keys. The judge was outraged: "The Court finds that the actions o
quit days later. He now is under investigation by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and the FBI. The girl told authorities that he stopped at a Walmart during the eight-hou
and the relative's spouse. Both references appear to have been written by the same person. The driver has not been charged with any offense. Tensions between the teen and
had found a counselor the girl liked. DCF, however, was reluctant to retain the therapist, because the state's insurance carrier couldn't pay her. And the teen began to weep v
state to let her remain where she is finally happy. "She is a victim here," the caregiver said. "If everyone can just remember she's a victim. She feels stable now, and we ask
somehow craft a happy ending. She likes where she is living. She is making plans to go to college, and maybe law school, with scholarship money the state will give her. "I
is the other children's safety who have been labeled 'a lost case.'" Read more here: http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article26423824.html#

Survey Results Prompt Public Advocate To Call For Reform Of NYC Foster Care System July 6, 2015 1:18 PM Share on email 9 View Comments Letitia James (cred
too much time in the city's foster care system and between multiple homes. Letitia James conducted a survey by setting up a hotline for foster parents, birth parents and chil
five or more placements, according to the survey. Public Advocate Calls For Reform Of NYC Foster Care System Rich Lamb reports playpause The public advocate said 71
have been allowed to languish for years on end in abusive, unhealthy situations," James said. She said it's clear the Administration for Children's Services needs to be signil
http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2015/07/06/public-advocate-foster-care-survey/

F**ormer foster dad pleads guilty to sex charges** | The Columbus Dispatch Former foster dad pleads guilty to sex charges C More Articles By John Futty The Columbus Di
Jr., 42, of Barkwillow Lane pleaded guilty to four counts of sexual battery. Franklin County Common Pleas Judge David E. Cain imposed the prison sentence on two counts
register as a sex offender every 90 days for the rest of his life. King did not speak during the hearing, which the boy did not attend. Assistant Prosecutor Jennifer Hunt said t
relationship, and both contacted Columbus police on March 8. A hospital examination of the boy on March 9 recovered semen containing King's DNA, Hunt said. There wa
a person in their care. Hunt didn't ask for a specific sentence but recommended that the judge impose "substantial prison time." Defense attorney Sam Shamansky said the t
The boy was placed by Franklin County Children Services with King, who had been certified through Buckeye Ranch, a foster-care provider. At the time of King's indictme
dedication, Rees said, made him seem "an exemplary foster parent." He had been caring for four teenage boys at the time the investigation was launched. All were removed

Boy says foster carer dictated 'angry' letter to mother Boys made allegations of sexual abuse against relative after being taken into care As part of a review of the case, J
Crime & Law District Court Dublin District Family Court Brendan Toale More Topics Director of Public Prosecutions Child and Family Agency Mon, Jul 6, 2015, 01:00 Fi
a review of the case on Friday, Judge Brendan Toale was also told that the boy said he refused to see his parents for a year because his former foster mother told him he wou
sexual abuse against a relative. The Child and Family Agency social worker said she understood a file was due to go to the DPP on those allegations. She also said recently
review – a meeting between social workers, the children, a court-appointed guardian and parents – the older boy was very upset and said he didn't go on access visits with h
brought the concerns to the agency's attention. Concerns Asked whether the complaints about the children's previous foster carers had been referred to gardaí, the social wo
punched, but the older boy said he never saw it, she said. The social worker believed the complaints did not warrant Garda notification. She said the boys were now settled i
because I'd have a better life with her [the foster mother]".He told her he wrote the "why I'm angry" letter because "she put things into my head and told me what to say an
court/boy-says-foster-carer-dictated-angry-letter-to-mother-1.2274508

No water, no heat, walls coated in feces: A tragic death at a Hamilton group home INQUEST File photo A coroner's inquest is looking into the circumstances surroundi
where Guy Mitchell died in 2012. The house is at the end of a long treed lane. FRIDGE Evidence photo Photos from the Ancaster home where Guy Mitchell died in 2012 a
pre 3/4 Hamilton Spectator By Susan Clairmont SEE MOREarticles from this author Perhaps the mother of Guy Mitchell can find some comfort knowing that when her chi
officers who responded to the well call in Ancaster stumbled upon a group home so squalid that two veteran police told a courtroom it was the worst house they had ever se
and smeared with vomit. The smell was horrendous. Yet this is where Guy Mitchell, 38, lived. With him, in that house, was another man with profound special needs, David
searching for answers to basic questions about Guy's death on April 29, 2012. The jury of two women and three men will spend two weeks determining where, when, how a
never been arrived at, he was determined to have a "developmental delay." All his life, he couldn't read or write or dress himself. He could not cross a road and was "clumsy
of hard to handle at times." Paton was raising Guy on her own and when he turned 12, the Children's Aid Society introduced her to Karen and Bill Santor. They took Guy in
Santors moved in 2000 from a small house on their property to a larger one they built farther back from the road. For many years Paton — who remained very involved witl
earning medals for snowshoeing. He was also a championship bowler. Bill died in 1999, Karen died suddenly in August 2011. The Santors' daughter, Keri Santor was 26 wh
Coroner's counsel Karen Shea told the jury police have no idea where Keri is. Parties with standing at the inquest are Diane Paton, Choices and MCSS. Weeks before Guy's
heard Keri shouting at her son, and that made her worry. Just after 7 p.m. on a Sunday night three years ago, Const. Adam Brown answered a 911 call. He pulled Guy from t
plus years of policing." "It was very dirty ... There was vomit. The bathtub was full of feces. It was terrible." Forensic officer Det. Const. Doug Moon took photos and meas
 905-526-3539 | @susanclairmont Source: http://www.thespec.com/news-story/5710565-no-water-no-heat-walls-coated-in-feces-a-tragic-death-at-a-hami

Auditor Blasts California Foster Care Agency By NICK CAHILL ShareThis SACRAMENTO (CN) - Thousands of foster children may have been exposed to sex offer
as 8,600 foster children to be placed near the workplace or home of a registered sex offender, due to a faulty method of cross-checking addresses. The 31-page report als
recently registered or active and "incorrectly excluded" addresses from previous months. Social Services failed to use the entire sex offender registry and may have unint
foster homes during the 21 months in which it used this flawed methodology," said State Auditor Elaine Howle. Howle's report was a follow-up to a 2011 audit in which
between 2011 and 2014. In one instance, a foster home caregiver knowingly allowed a registered sex offender to live in the facility while he was on parole. Investigation
were removed from the facility after investigation. In a response letter to Howle, Social Services Director Will Lightbourne said his agency has improved its safeguards t
licensed facilities," Lightbourne wrote. The audit credits Social Services with improving its address checking process, but says it failed to implement cost-saving recomn
could save $116 million over the next five years if it adjusts the pay structure. Howle blasts the department for its decision to wait until 2017 to revise its rate structure.
offenders and require counties to give licensed foster homes higher priority over family-run foster homes. Source: http://www.courthousenews.com/2015/07/07/auditor-bla

Foster mom warned to keep closer watch on missing autistic boy, 9, says caseworker 1 / 49 Police search for missing 9-year-old boy in Davison Township Davison Tov
Freeman encouraged tips and information to be directly reported to investigators and not through social media. Danny Miller | MLive.com Danny Miller |
vigil for Omarion Humphrey draws hundreds to Davison park Parents of missing 9-year-old believe foul play responsible for son's death Facebook post by Genesee County
from a Davison Township park Saturday, July 4, was warned that same day to keep a closer eye on him, a caseworker testified in Oakland County Probate Court today, July

after the boy's disappearance. Mother of missing boy believes someone has taken her sonKhisha Humphrey says she believes her son was taken from the Davison Township asking if the foster mother had been warned by park workers to keep a closer watch on him. The foster mother was not named in testimony at the hearing. "Yes," said Harve ... every second of the day," said H. Elliot Parnes, an attorney for Humphrey's father said. "I'm troubled by many of the answers we received today." Davison Township poli February because she had inadequate housing for them. I'm troubled by many of the answers we received today. Khisha Humphrey said she was shocked by what she heard Humphrey be placed on the state's missing and AWOL docket, and ordered Alternatives of Children and Families to submit a report on its investigation of the incident, inclu regarding supervision of another child in their care. "That was a shock to me ... I was just like, 'What?'" she said. Khisha Humphrey, who is fighting to regain her children, s

Study Shows '80s Metalheads, Groupies Are Well Adjusted Three Decades Later July 7, 2015 61 Comments Share25K Tweet261 Share27 Reddit2 Share25.8K image: compared to their peers who preferred other musical genres, and to a parallel group of current college students. Research in the 1980s suggested that young "metalheads" w at middle age, using snowball sampling from Facebook. Online surveys assessed adverse childhood experiences, personality, adult attachment, and past and current functio university. Results revealed that metal enthusiasts did often experience traumatic and risky "sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll" lives. However, the "metalhead" identity also ser childhood events, and other stressful and risky events in their youth," the researchers wrote, former metal fans "reported higher levels of youthful happiness" than peers wit than any other group, indicating a less happy and fulfilling perspective on their 1980s adolescence." The study, published in the journal Self And Identity, added that partici a way to experience heightened emotions with like-minded people." The full text of the article, titled "Three Decades Later: The Life Experiences and Mid-Life Functioning later/#k1PyJ6IRclCoTGYm.99

Lawsuit says NYC has one of the worst foster care systems in US By Bruce Golding View author archive Get author RSS feed Name(required) Email(required) Comme kids languishing in New York City's foster care system — which is costing taxpayers more than $2.4 billion, according to a new class-action suit. Around 11,000 city kids a be free from harm" and other rights granted by the Constitution and various federal and state laws. It was filed Wednesday on behalf of 10 foster kids, including "Eliza W.," the suit says. She also allegedly suffered repeated instances of sexual abuse, beatings and intentional starvation that were ignored by her caseworker — and led to her asking people in the eye because she gets nervous," court papers say. The plaintiffs also include Public Advocate Letitia James, who the suit says "has received myriad constituent failures that have been plaguing New York City's foster care system for too long." "That the responsible state and city officials have known about these problems and done in foster care from a high of 45,000 in the 1990s" and said that "in the last 18 months ACS has taken significant steps in preventive work designed to keep families together placement system," the statement said. OCFS declined to comment, saying it didn't discuss "potential or pending litigation." Tami Steckler, head of the Legal Aid Society's children in New York City foster care, we have been working very closely with the current Commissioner to improve outcomes," Steckler said in a prepared statement. "Thi time high." Source: http://nypost.com/2015/07/08/lawsuit-says-nyc-has-one-of-the-worst-foster-care-systems-in-us/

The Girls Matter Too: Addressing the Girls' Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline Posted: 07/09/2015 6:34 am EDT Updated: 07/09/2015 8:59 am EDT Tim Pearce, Los Ga have called for an end to mass incarceration because of its devastating impact on men and boys of color. But, like so many others, I did not focus on our girls enough. I beli what is happening to them. The Human Rights Project for Girls, Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality, and the Ms. Foundation for Women just released a repo they are arrested for their experiences of sexual abuse and trauma. Sexual abuse is one of the primary predictors of girls' entry into the juvenile justice system. The most unk attempted to bring more attention to human trafficking that is happening right now, including in our very own country. I thought and still think it is important to deal with ou the FBI, for prostitution arrests under the age of 18, African American children comprise 59 percent of all prostitution-related arrests in the U.S. As the Executive Director o unjustly arrested, jailed and detained as prostitutes. Even though many are not of the legal age to consent to sex." There are other ways that girls are pipelined into the sexua running is a common (and necessary) response to sexual and physical violence. We tell women to run from violence, but when girls run, we arrest and detain them. The Sex child welfare system into juvenile justice -- to create an understanding of the ways that girls are wrongly punished after their experiences of sexual and physical abuse. We Instead, you are punished for it. You are told you are not a victim of child rape, you are a child prostitute; you are not a scared, hurt girl trying to run away from an abusive for true criminal justice reform and an end to mass incarceration and the school to prison pipeline, we must include how our Black and Brown girls are also being wrongly defender, and as one of many Americans demanding an end to the criminalization of our young people of color. Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/russell-simmons/th

DFS worker struggled to keep own grandchildren in safe environment DFS worker struggled to keep own grandchildren in safe environment Jody Holt, left, a former s a class C felony. Jeff Scheid on Twitter @jlscheid (Jeff Scheid/Las Vegas Review-Journal) DFS worker struggled to keep own grandchildren in safe environment Jody Holt, class C felony. Jeff Scheid on Twitter @jlscheid (Jeff Scheid/Las Vegas Review-Journal) DFS worker struggled to keep own grandchildren in safe environment Josh Holt ap gross misdemeanor. Jeff Scheid on Twitter @jlscheid (Jeff Scheid/Las Vegas Review-Journal) DFS worker struggled to keep own grandchildren in safe environment Josh H and her son agreed to a class C felony. Jeff Scheid on Twitter @jlscheid (Jeff Scheid/Las Vegas Review-Journal) DFS worker struggled to keep own grandchildren in safe e agreed to plead guilty to a gross misdemeanor. Jeff Scheid on Twitter @jlscheid (Jeff Scheid/Las Vegas Review-Journal) DFS worker struggled to keep own grandchildren i guilty to a gross misdemeanor, and her son agreed to a class C felony. Jeff Scheid on Twitter @jlscheid (Jeff Scheid/Las Vegas Review-Journal) image By DAVID FERRAF For more than a year, as her son Joshua Holt and his wife, Veronica, struggled with meth addiction, they raised their children in the elder Holt's home. She would throw out at a relative's house. Her grandchildren, ages 2 and 5, wandered through the filth during the day, but slept in Jody Holt's bedroom — the only clean spot in the entire house. told her son she wanted to call the police, he threatened to take her grandchildren away, her lawyer said. They would live on the streets, and she would never see them again loving her grandchildren. Jody's not a villain." But the children had no bruises or injuries and they were well-fed, Smith said. A Family and Youth Services manager visited employee was charged two months later with two counts of child abuse, neglect or endangerment after authorities found her northwest valley home "a significant threat to t or neglect, but did not do so. Under state law, mandatory reporters who suspect child abuse "in his or her professional or occupational capacity" must notify authorities. Hol perspective," Smith said. "When it's your family, you have sort of clouded vision." Holt's last day as a county employee was March 19, according to county officials. She s neglect or endangerment, and her son agreed to the same charge as a class C felony. Prosecutors said they would not oppose probation for both. Last month, Veronica Holt a investigation, Holt moved the children to an uncle's home, authorities said. The children are now in foster care, Smith said, and their grandmother visits them a couple time grandmother loves them." Contact reporter David Ferrara at or 702-380-1039. Find him on Twitter: @randompoker Source: http://www.reviewjournal.co

Feds punish state for failing foster care standards Feds say too many kids are re-entering the system. By Brandon Stahl Star Tribune July 10, 2015 — 11:36am Text size Brooklyn Park in the past four years, but for them one child stands out. The girl was 5 in 2012, when the Waltons took her in. Over the next three years, the Waltons watche said. "She's older, understands what's going on, and she's angry." What happened to the girl, considered foster care "re-entry," has happened to more than 8,000 Minnesota four counties in the state had acceptable re-entry rates, according to records obtained by the Star Tribune through Minnesota's public records law. The national standard is n to meet the re-entry standard since at least 2007, records show. In 2014, about one in every four foster kids returned to out-of-home care, often because of repeated abuse. C children with troubled families. "What is clear is that when kids get returned home, the agency should stay involved," said LaLiberte, the executive director for the school's sent back to foster care. Hennepin and Ramsey counties will shoulder about $280,000 of the penalty due to their high re-entry rates and larger share of foster children. Since care children. The standard is 90 percent, but the state hit that target only 78 percent of the time in 2014. The penalties come at a time when the number of children in foster are placed in safe, permanent homes, the Star Tribune has found. Thousands of foster children have been moved between several homes before they're reunited with their fa serve that child in all the places, in all the settings that child is in." Koppel and DHS Inspector General Jerry Kerber will co-chair a foster care work group formed in June th reporting on child protection failures. "We need to make more of an effort to have the best homes for these children." For many kids, the lack of stability will result in years walking around an ice-covered parking lot without shoes or a coat. Kennedy said the girl was starving and looking for food. She went back to foster care. The girl has been said. Source: http://www.startribune.com/feds-punish-state-for-failing-foster-care-standards/313088651/

Teens missing from Roane County treatment facility On the Fourth of July, three teens ran away from "**Roane Academy**," near Rockwood. Officials found one in the Na TWEETLINKEDINCOMMENTEMAILMORE (WBIR - HARRIMAN) - Two teenagers are still missing after running away from a Roane County youth treatment facility Harriman. Officials found one of the teenagers, a 15-year-old, in the Nashville area on Tuesday. The other teens, 15 and 17 years old, remain missing. Roane Academy is ov said on the evening of July 4, one of the teenagers damaged a sprinkler in a restroom at the facility. That triggered the sprinkler system and fire alarm. Mark Akers is the fac run away. The incident is one of the several issues some neighboring business owners were concerned would come to fruition. In January 2014, Roane County commissione area. They own Precise Industrial Coatings, Inc., located less than a quarter of a mile down the road from Roane Academy. Source: http://www.wbir.com/story/news/local/

Taken From Families, Indigenous Children Face Extreme Rates of State Violence in US Sunday, 12 July 2015 00:00 By Britney Schultz, Truthout | Report font size de the country's former policy of removing Aboriginal children from families for schooling could be best described as "cultural genocide." In the US, Native children were sub country's long-held policy of removing Native children from their families by force and placing them in state-funded residential schools "cultural genocide." According to t subjected to similar policies for more than a century. Article VII of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 stated, "In order to insure the civilization of the Indians entering into thi and forcing them into (often abusive) boarding schools, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was passed in 1978. The law established requirements for public and private that system from becoming a vehicle of systematic removal of children. According to Assistant Attorney General for the Cherokee Nation Chrissi Nimmo, at its most basic in this country." However, due to continued violations and noncompliance with the ICWA, in February of 2015, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) published new guideline

ICWA, which makes it easier to violate. "No federal agency feels its place is to enforce the Indian Child Welfare Act, and the issue is under the radar because [the group it r and professionally fully support the proposed changes," she said. The most important aspects of the new regulations, according to Nimmo, are clarifications on notifying tril children in the US is facing a double threat: being removed from their homes and tribes to be placed with (usually) white foster families and being forced into privately and attempts at forced assimilation. Indigenous activist, writer and prison abolitionist Kelly Hayes, who is also Truthout's Community Engagement Fellow, speaks to this firstha as perpetrated by the American government, has often taken the form of persecuting anyone with any known Black heritage, regardless of appearance, anti-Native policies h percent of the child population, but comprise more than half the children in foster care. Nearly 90 percent of the kids in family foster care are placed in non-Native homes o being taken away and the parents being prosecuted for "neglect." This practice represents a pervasive bias against Native families - especially those living on reservations - something the ICWA was actually designed to protect. "Under this bias," the report goes on to say, "South Dakota's rate of identifying 'neglect' is 18% higher than the natior to poverty seems to be to immediately and permanently remove children from their families. "There is, without a doubt, lasting trauma to children who are permanently rem police. According to a 2009 report by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Native women are criminally prosecuted at six times the rate of white women. The v armored vehicles patrolling the reservations." When Native parents are arrested and their children are taken away, the parents have no means of contact with their children, their Native families is also profitable: According to a February 2015 report from IBISWorld, adoption and child welfare services in the United States rake in $14 billion a y adoption track of the state's foster care system. He said the kids are often dosed with pharmaceuticals because they are labeled as having "special needs," and goes on: "We drugs. When they flunked the test, they were determined to be in need of one or more of these drugs." A report by South Dakota Indian Child Welfare Act directors found th overprescribed these agents to children." The federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 includes a provision called the Adoption Incentive Bonus, through which state child, with an additional $2,000 for each "special needs" adoption above the baseline payment of the Adoption Incentives program. According to the North American Counc foster care and adoption system, each year (from 2003/2004 to fiscal year 2013), South Dakota has claimed 100 percent of the children in its system as "special needs." Son in 1990 to become the development director of the Children's Home Foundation, the fundraising arm of the Children's Home Society of South Dakota. He held the position amount of money it received from the state. Children's Home then began to outsource its examination of potential foster homes and its training of foster care parents. Additi tribal governments concluded there is "a strong financial incentive for state officials to take high numbers of Native American foster children into custody. Anecdotal evider States, representing approximately 2 percent of the total population. About 32 percent of Indigenous people in the US are under the age of 18. Though they are only a small a February 2015 report from the Lakota People's Law Project. Significant resources are funneled toward "services" that displace and confine Indigenous youth. From 2012- detention and treatment facility in Chamberlain, South Dakota, at a rate of $142.94 per child per day. Youth Services International describes its work as "serving at-risk yout "services" was the Chamberlain Academy, which closed in January 2014. In 2000, former residents of the academy brought an action against it in Brown v. Youth Services an investigation uncovered a widespread pattern of systemic abuse by facility guards, including youth being held in isolation or chained to their beds and the use of pepper s percent of the students at Aurora Plains Academy. Daniel Sheehan told Truthout that such abuses are not anomalies. "The children at these institutions are subjected to extre transferred to a juvenile facility." Lasting Impact Sheehan believes that state violence toward and oppression of Indigenous children is under-reported. "There aren't powerfu society that has not only inflicted historical traumas, but also one that imposes values that exist in opposition to the affirmation of their own self-worth. "Removal and assim as the forced sterilization of women living on reservations, is not simply the transition from genocide to 'cultural genocide' - It is genocide, and requires no qualifiers," she s national average. There is undoubtedly lasting trauma to children who are permanently removed from their birth families, said Chrissi Nimmo. "Each child literally holds th generation." Source: http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/31802-indigenous-children-face-extreme-rates-of-removal-and-state-violence#

--> **'I want answers and justice for my daughter': Inquiry into closure of mental health facility after three troubled teens killed themselves within eight months of** both died by August Inquiry called into the closure after documents warned of potential deaths By Leesa Smith for Daily Mail Australia Published: 11:04 EST, 12 July 201 Fowell and Caitlin Wilkinson Whiticker, both 18, all took their own lives within eight months of the Queensland government shutting down the Barrett Adolescent Centre i at the mental health facility, 7.30 reported. SHARE PICTURE Copy link to paste in your message +4 Talieha Nebauer 17, took her own life three months after Barrett Adol mental illness since she was 14 year old. 'You go to bed of a night time and you don't want to fall asleep because you don't know how your child is going to be, you're just a message +4 Caitlin Wilkinson Whiticker was dead by early August - eight months after the mental healthy facility closure After the centre closed, the 17-year-old moved in plenty of places where she could ... harm herself,' she said. 'She'd been in hospital three years in 24/7 care — to go to a little unit on her own without anybody in her unit wi Will Fowell, 18, had also passed away by early August following the long term residence for adolescents at high risk of suicide shutting down Queensland Health Minister Opposition Leader, Lawrence Springborg, and Health minister at the time, who will face the witness stand, assured he wouldn't abandon patients. SHARE PICTURE Copy health-facility-three-troubled-teens-killed-eight-months-vital-service-shutting-down.html#ixzz3gHxQqmxa Follow us: @MailOnline on Twitter | DailyMail on Facebook

These Congress Members Want to Stop Conversion Therapy at 'Boot Camps' Reps. Adam Schiff and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen are demanding an end to the abusive, discre A bipartisan pair of Congress members introduced a bill today that would prohibit counselors at so-called boot camps from engaging in efforts to try to change a camper's s Teens Act, which had been introduced several times by former California Rep. George Miller and passed the U.S. House without making it through the Senate, notes The H a young person's sexual orientation or gender identity, commonly known as "conversion therapy." The phrase "residential treatment programs" refers to a broad range of pr trend of parents sending their children to these facilities as a "last resort," then finding that the children have been abused or even tortured while attending "camp." "While r Republicans to support marriage equality and who happens to have a transgender son. "Some practices, such as starvation, excessive physical restraints, and neglectful med emotional abuse and Adam and I are proud to help take the first step in solving this important problem." "We cannot ignore reports that young people have died and thousan residential treatment programs accountable. The measure will also increase the transparency of these programs so that parents can make informed and safer choices for thei Lehtinen and Schiff's bill expands the scope of those efforts, according to a press release from Schiff's office. According to that release, the legislation introduced today wi any form of child abuse and depriving children of water, food, or medical care; requiring that all children have reasonable access to their families and a hotline to report inst can seek civil damages as well. "Increase transparency of the "troubled teen" industry by requiring all residential treatment programs to publicly disclose any past record of children against harmful or fraudulent practices. "Require states to work with Health and Human Services (HHS) to report and investigate instances of child abuse at reside with license requirements." Source: http://www.advocate.com/youth/2015/07/14/these-congress-members-want-stop-conversion-therapy-boot-camps

Mesa teenager's suicide tied to group home problem, custody battle Posted: Jul 10, 2015 9:05 PM PDT Updated: Jul 11, 2015 6:39 AM PDT By Adam Longo Email Cor Pinal County mom Holly Mutchie had been fighting the court system, trying to regain custody of her 16-year-old daughter, Grace. Grace had essentially been kidnapped wh left the state when Grace was still a toddler. "No fault of my own at all. Never gave up parental rights. His family pretty much kept my girl from me," said Mutchie. Fast-for back. "If that parent hasn't done anything wrong, why does it have to take so long? That's what I don't understand," said Mutchie. For seven agonizing months, Holly went t school." Grace had taken her own life on the campus where she was set to begin as a junior this summer, at Sun Valley High School in Mesa. Mutchie says Grace was bullie you,'" said Mutchie. "Every single day, I miss her so much." Mutchie and her family will host a memorial service for Grace on Sunday, July 26 at 3 p.m. at the Family Life

Coroner chastises 'shameful' conduct of agency that oversaw group home GUY MITCHELL Hamilton Spectator file photo Workers at the agency that placed Guy Mitc Twitter: @susanclairmont See more articles by this author: "This guy died under your watch:" Interim director comes under fire at inquest Agency staff ha much so that he has threatened to revoke the standing of a key party at the inquest into the death of Guy Mitchell, a developmentally delayed man found dead in a cistern ou Friday. "I think Choices and its conduct is shameful," he said angrily in the morning to a courtroom full of lawyers while the jury was absent. "To hide material and produce 29, 2012. The inquest Stanborough is presiding over is examining the circumstances of his death and the oversight of care given to developmentally delayed adults. The jur full of human waste and there was no food in the fridge. Besides Guy, another disabled adult named David and an 11-year-old with autism named Jennifer lived in the home years ago, and the inquest itself began Monday, Choices just now gave the report to the coroner. It was written in 2012. "I don't know what the game is ... but Choices' cond and this is the first time he is considering revoking a party's standing, which allows them to have an official role at the inquest and be able to ask questions. "Can you imagi was unaware of the report until recently. During the lunch break it came to light that there are at least two Choices case file binders about Guy that have not been handed ov Choices manager suddenly appeared at the lunch break — but 13 pages related to the time of Guy's death have been ripped out. Clearly trying to control his rage, Stanborou insurance firm was sitting next to Manishen at the counsel table. Stanborough made the lawyer pack up her things and move into the body of the court, reprimanding her fo commentary appears regularly in The Spectator. Source: http://www.thespec.com/news-story/5728063-coroner-chastises-shameful-conduct-of-agency-th

Blount County Children's Home razed - The Daily Times: News Blount County Children's Home razed Story Comments Image (2) Print Create a hardcopy of this page Times Blount County Children's Home The site of where Blount County Children's Home once sat is shown. Posted: Sunday, July 12, 2015 12:00 am Blount County Child old facility at the former Blount County Children's Home property on McCammon Avenue has been demolished to make way for a new headquarters for the 5th Judicial Dr the facility had been condemned because of structural deterioration. There are only two options for dealing with a condemned building, he said. "It's fixed, which in my opi its last years of operation. "If I was Blount County, I probably would have done the same thing," he said. "The problems came before that. It's a crying shame it went from proposal to put the property back to use to serve children never came to fruition. The home had struggled financially since it stopped hosting children in 2003. After weathe years passed, then came financial troubles. Maintenance fell by the wayside, and at least two groups that were allowed to lease space in the building damaged the interior. A Blount County Commission voted to allow the task force to use the property. The task force will pay for improvements to the site and facilities but would have to be reimbu

property off Mustang Drive in Maryville on behalf of the agency. Reservations had been expressed about the property's appraisal of $300,000 compared to its last assessme The women went door-to-door across the county, asking each family to donate 10 cents to establish the home. It opened Feb. 15, 1894. In the aftermath of the Brian A. vs. S 2012, it had to pay off $10,697 in property taxes it owed to the county and city of Maryville due to administrative errors. From July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2012, the Chi

Spotlight on foster agency linked to missing boy found dead in lake 1 / 52 Body in lake believed to be missing autistic boy Omarion Humphrey, police said Davison Tov body was found. The preliminary autopsy showed no signs of foul play and that the body had been in the water the whole time, Freeman said. Danny Miller | MLive.com D discovery of missing boy's bodyDavison Twp Police Chief Rick Freeman confirmed the body found Friday is that of missing 9-year-old Omarion "Mars" Humphrey. He sai Humphrey was placed, trying to determine if the 9-year-old autistic boy was properly cared for and supervised before his disappearance at Lake Callis Recreation Complex Services wants to know whether Burton-based Alternatives for Children & Families did its job investigating the foster home where Omarion had been placed before he vani spokesman Bob Wheaton said. "We are conducting an investigation right now, and we can't comment on any ongoing investigation," Wheaton said of the case. "(When ther Thursday, July 9, or Friday, July 10, but state records show her agency has been no stranger to special investigations. Since 2008, the state has carried out 10 investigations appropriate placement for the child. The agency's license as a child welfare agency is in good standing despite the investigations and a license renewal report in January that must make an unannounced home visit to licensed homes every quarter, according to MDHH rules. Alternatives, which state records show was incorporated in 1988, has be represented Alternatives at an emergency court hearing last week, told an Oakland County Probate Court judge Tuesday, July 7, that police told her Humphrey's foster moth another child in the past. Probate Judge Lisa Langton has ordered Alternatives to submit a report detailing what type of training members of the foster home where Humphr or by police. Harvey said in response to questions in court that the Humphrey case is not the first time the same foster family has faced an allegation of improper supervisio reach Parnes or Taylor for additional comment. Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/07/state_investigating_burton_age.html

Group homes not best option for kids or taxpayers Montgomery 10 p.m. CDT July 13, 2015 Children do best when raised in stable homes. But many who are removed sound recommendations on getting more children back into nurturing homes. Drawing on 2013 data, the report says of the 402,407 children nationwide removed from their in group placement. That's not horrible, but the state could do better, says Tracey Feild, director of the Casey Foundation's Child Welfare Strategy Group, and we agree. In f some 70 Alabama children with nearby relatives in Georgia, and is developing a border agreement pilot program between Mobile County and Pascagoula, Miss., area count child in a group setting costs seven to 10 times that of family or foster home placement. Therefore, states that strongly support Medicaid and other agencies that provide ser Strong funding for DHR, which oversees child abuse and foster care programs, is also critical. Recruiting and retaining suitable relatives or foster parents to take children in important for the youngest of children. Alabama requires special consent to put infants and toddlers in regular group facilities, but doesn't limit use of shelter care, which Fe Source: http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/07/13/group-homes-best-option-kids-taxpayers/30096809/

Boarding School in Hastings starts selling wine despite students being too young to drink By Western Daily Press | Posted: July 11, 2015 Boarding School in Hasting SHARE PICTURE Copy link to paste in your message Boarding School in Hastings starts selling wine despite students being too young to drink SHARE PICTURE Copy l exclusive boarding school has produced 750 bottles of dry white and sparkling wines which have been grown, harvested and fermented on campus. Buckswood School, in E planting to fermenting and bottling - but won't be involved in the drinking stage. The school are being supervised under the careful eye of expert locals Carr-Taylor Vineya for the Buckswood Vineyard was born out of the combination of the excellent local grape growing conditions on our Sussex coastal estate and the desire to give all the Buck ladies and gentlemen that have an inner confidence and have a myriad of experiences that set them apart from their contemporaries. "There is a chance for every academic d selling-wine/story-26872032-detail/story.html#ixzz3gIOv4sXG Follow us: @WesternDaily on Twitter | WesternDaily on Facebook

Houseparent at Boarding School Arrested for Child Molestation 22,386 12 Hudson Hongo ProfileFollowUnfollow Hudson Hongo Filed to: crime pennsylvania child molest was arrested for a number of sexual offenses this weekend after authorities say he molested an 8-year-old student, PennLive.com reports. According to police, the girl told a said he then pulled her pants down and began to touch her. Police say Zagaceta admitted to being in the girl's room and touching her hand to see if she was sleeping. He said reported the incident to police immediately and has barred Zagaceta from returning to the campus. Advertisement "Such behavior is reprehensible and unacceptable, and we faces charges of indecent assault, unlawful contact with a minor, corruption of a minor and endangering the welfare of a minor. Source: http://gawker.com/houseparent-at-b

Reducing Psychotropic Prescriptions Requires Systemic Reform By Marie K. Cohen, July 13, 2015 The over-reliance on psychotropic medication for children in foster problems as other children on Medicaid. Proposals before Congress and various state legislatures attempt to address the excessive use of psychotropic drugs for foster child too many psychotropic medications. In every one these cases, serious and general problems with the foster care system played a significant role. One such problem is the lac what the child's symptoms were, or how the child was responding to the medication already prescribed. Instead the social worker, with far less detailed information, was the know they have to take off from work for this purpose. If more foster parents treated their foster children as their own, there would be less reliance on inappropriate psychot to prevent inappropriate medication. As I've argued before, in order to make sure foster parents are willing and able to do this for children with special needs, they need to b reason for this may be that group homes are serving the most troubled youth. But any group home relying on medication as a means of control rather than treatment clearly through it is notoriously poor. One Medicaid psychiatrist would write my client's prescriptions as we were walking into the office. She had no intention of talking to her pat fear that in the absence of medicine, the judge on the case would blame him for any misbehavior by the client. A reduction in the use of medication requires an increased rel reimbursement rates, these new therapies will be administered mainly by poorly-reimbursed providers. Because the poor quality of Medicaid therapists is widely recognized medication, we need to recognize the broader problems that contribute to it. It makes sense to monitor medication use among foster children and target group homes or psyc the appropriate treatment to meet their needs. Marie K. Cohen is a former child welfare caseworker for Washington, D.C. She previously worked as a policy analyst and res colleagues in the youth services field? Join our one-of-a-kind Blogger Co-Op, and share in the benefits from your work! TAGS: Blogger Co-Op, child welfare, DC, drugs, f requires-systemic-reform/10660

Who's watching your children? Criminals working in child care Our three-month I-Team exclusive Jarrod Holbrook 12:35 PM, Jul 13, 2015 11:33 PM, Jul 13, 2015 (not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. Our I-Team has uncovered dozens of local people with violent and questionable criminal histories working in day ca exemption for criminal disqualification. Some of the exemptions the I-Team found are raising serious concerns with parents. It gives a second chance to criminals who wa these criminal exemptions by the state's Department of Children and Families. We sifted through DCF records and found the state granted exemptions for people with cha received exemptions. In Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties we found the state granted 35 criminal exemptions since 2012. "It does surprise me. These are not th homes. The I-Team was not able to get the names of the people granted exemptions or where they work. The state's DCF secretary Mike Carroll tells us that's not public re his Facebook page. Copyright 2015 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. Print this article Back

Former teacher charged with secretly filming children at Bristol boarding school 1 / 1 Jonathan Thomson-Glover is accused of carrying out offences at Clifton College abuse of this feature. Please read our Legal Terms & Policies A A A Email A former teacher has been charged with making indecent images of children through cameras at a charges relate to more than 120 victims who were allegedly filmed by cameras at Clifton College and an address in Cornwall over a 16 year period. Thomson-Glover, of Wa images. ADVERTISEMENT "Jonathan Thomson-Glover, from Wadebridge in Cornwall, has been charged following a joint investigation between Avon and Somerset Polic child abuse Call for new rules after teacher avoids jail for affair with pupil teachers among suspected paedophiles charged in major operation "Information was initially pass creation of indecent images committed at Clifton College and an address in Cornwall. "None of the charges relate to contact offences. We've been working closely with the Those affected by the investigation should visit the force's website for details of independent support and advice, or call Victim Support on 0808 168 9111. Press Associatio

Congressional bill seeks to essentially ban 'gay conversion' programs across the U.S. Adam Schiff Alex Brandon / Associated Press Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), pic died and thousands have suffered abuse." (Alex Brandon / Associated Press) By Mary Ann Toman-Miller Mental Health Minority Groups Adam B. Schiff Ricardo Lara Ilea facilities from discriminating against LGBT and disabled youths and allowing residents or their families to sue in federal court, the proposed legislation could essentially ba gay children -- a state lawmaker and LGBT activists on Friday announced a campaign to regulate the so-called "troubled teen" industry. In an effort to halt reported abuse at such programs – intended to rehabilitate children with mental health problems, behavioral or substance abuse issues – have been accused of instead starving their charges, r of those who run and work at residential treatment programs under the guise of providing critical therapy and rehabilitation services," Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), one Paul Gionfriddo, president and chief executive of Mental Health America. Families tend to turn to these residential "boot camp" programs as a last resort after unsuccessful straight, known as "gay conversion" therapy. California banned the practice in 2012. Supreme Court rejects challenge to law banning gay-conversion therapy Patrick McGr turned down a request to hear a challenge to a California law prohibiting mental health counseling aimed at converting minors from being gay to straight. (Patrick McGreev cosponsor. "No one should undergo this physical or emotional abuse." Similar versions of the bill passed in the House in 2011 and 2013, but died in the Senate. Schiff was Congress to pass sensible legislation to regulate this rogue, multimillion-dollar industry that's profiting from the abuse of young people." cComments @cynicalretiree , Tha own experiences in a private California therapeutic boarding school and said she's still grappling with them. The facility, she said, would attempt to "break the wills" of its a different name." State Sen. Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) introduced similar legislation in California this year to increase regulations and oversight on private residential of Therapeutic Schools and Programs, an industry organization of treatment programs, said such states should be exempt from the bill. Several law professors agreed that C Chemerinsky, dean of UC Irvine Law School, who pointed to Congress' power to regulate interstate commerce. Adam Winkler, professor of law at UCLA, emphasized the

would impose, requiring all residential treatment programs to publicly disclose any past record of child abuse and state licensing status. “Parents would have more informati programs for minors. Source: http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-gay-conversion-programs-20150714-story.html

Experiments in multigenerational foster care aim to increase stability and normalcy 1 / 11 Multigenerational foster care - 5 Superheroes adorn the walls of a common r 2015 at 11:00 AM, updated July 15, 2015 at 11:05 AM 2 Reddit Email Now and then Amanda Midland tells one of her foster kids something and he'll reply, "What did your since last fall with multigenerational foster care, taking in teenage boys who are either in state custody or in the juvenile justice system on behalf of Boys & Girls Aid, the S more To get involved with multigenerational foster care through Boys and Girls Aid: 503-542-2301 or boysandgirlsaid. org. To learn more about Bridge Meadows: 503-953 because every move is a traumatic event that "breaks the trust cycle one more time," said Irene Clements, Texas-based executive director of the National Foster Parent Asso resources" as well as fewer transitions because the trio can relieve one another, Michelle Ottaviano, director of shelter and foster care for Boys & Girls Aid, said by email. A Meadows bridges generations while providing foster careExecutive director Derenda Schubert explains the Portland nonprofit's mission. At Bridge Meadows, each foster fa walking kids to school, listening to how a child's day went and attending baseball games and dance recitals. The wealth of statistics on foster children doesn't extend to foste doesn't record the relationship between the foster parents. Clements said she believes the Midlands' homegrown approach is more common nationwide when it comes to mu *** On a Monday morning in mid-June, the Boys & Girls Aid house looks like just another family home on summer break. Amanda Midland's elementary school-age sons as a Safeway clerk. In the kitchen, Susan Midland, 48, has a slow cooker preparing pulled pork for the evening meal. But upstairs, the bedroom doors are numbered and eac for girls but decided to move that program elsewhere, said Elizabeth Vrooman, the agency's recruitment coordinator. Meanwhile Susan Midland had been telling Vrooman, they said, their approach is working. "They're bound to have one of the three of us that they're more willing to connect with," Amanda Midland said. Her sons add a third ge Susan Midland said. *** In the beginning, Bridge Meadows was about the children. Four years later, said executive director Derenda Schubert, "we've seen this flourishing are "living a vital life, a very vibrant life." Bridge Meadows has been featured on PBS' "Newshour" (see video); won the 2014 Eisner Prize for intergenerational excellence, outcomes that we've seen ... have been transformative," Schubert said. For example, she said, the foster children are now attending school regularly. "Their grades are impro healing and growing as well. The progress and the accolades have inspired plans for a second site in Beaverton. Meanwhile, at the original Portsmouth site, the multigenerat Carle picture books and "Limu The Blue Turtle." In one apartment, two elders work together on watercolors at the kitchen table while a boy lounges on the nearby sofa. The cases, the guardians are the children's biological kin – grandparents, aunts, cousins. Schubert said she and other Bridge Meadows staff didn't expect so many of the foster pa grandma becomes your mom, you lose a grandma." The beauty of Bridge Meadows, she said, is that "here in this intentional community, you gain a lot of grandmas." -- Am

8 Former Casa Isla Staffers Charged With Assaulting Troubled Teens In DYS Custody July 22, 2015 Updated July 22, 2015, 1:47 pm Casa Isla, which was run out of 1:47 pm Story continues below BOSTON Eight former employees of a program serving troubled youths in state custody have been charged with assaulting male teens in th year amid allegations that the workers mistreated clients. The clients had been committed to the state’s Department of Youth Services. The former staffers are accused of str with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Several face additional charges, including threats to commit a crime and witness intimidation. “We are deeply troubled b services, and that youth are being treated in a safe and respectful manner.” Seven of the ex-staffers were released on personal recognizance after pleading not guilty at their Massachusetts spokeswoman Stephanie Paauwe said in a statement. The ex-staffers are Joseph Cintolo, 26, of Quincy; Ainsley Laroche, 40, of Roxbury; Hermano Joseph, threats and witness intimidation charges, with Joseph and Depina facing additional charges of assault and battery and indecent assault and battery over 14. “It is hard for us out what happened and we hope that every step will be taken to ascertain the truth in this matter.” The Casa Isla program began in 1991, housing about 100 adolescent teens

Three Tragedies 07.23.151:00 AM ET When Teen Detainees Died in Custody in Jeb Bush’s Florida One boy with appendicitis was told nothing was ‘wrong with his as suck it up. Then he died. This year and last, the deaths of numerous African Americans at the hands or in the custody of prison officials and police—including Michael Brov records on criminal justice policy a factor in the 2016 presidential race. It’s a particularly sensitive topic for Jeb Bush, who as governor faced two situations that mirror the how he might look at criminal justice issues if he becomes president. Paisley’s death could have been averted, and it took a long time. The African-American teenager was really bad,” he wrote. “I don't know what to do. I cand [sic] sleep.” Some of the staff at the facility, according to a Feb. 27, 2004, USA Today story, didn’t take him seriously covered in feces and urine, sweating profusely and clutching his stomach. Nurse Dianne Demeritte refused to enter the cell, saying she didn’t “want to take his [mess] home concluded that there was “nothing wrong with his ass.” Then, according to USA Today, she filled out paperwork to have him moved to a hospital, left him sitting on the cha Today story to the governor and others a few hours after it was published, according to emails made searchable by the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting. Paisley’s their cell. “The lives of those kids are as much if not more important than any employee working there as they are not there by choice as the employees are, they are there b interim Secretary [of Juvenile Justice] is cleaning up the mess,” the governor replied. “Thankfully, this is not a problem that is systemic statewide. I appreciate your writing. fate. “Like many throughout this State, Governor Bush was saddened and outraged over the death of this child,” Berger wrote. “Please know that those responsible will be h happening again.” Those hopes were misplaced. Some leaders at the Department of Juvenile Justice stepped down in the wake of Paisley’s death, and the department imple according to The Palm Beach Post, but neither got jail time. Prison Legal News reported that the prosecutors dropped charges against one of them and that the other nurse— million settlement from the Department of Juvenile Justice. In the meantime, nonviolent drug offenders in Florida faced stiff prison sentences. Source: http://www.thedailyl

Youth workers charged in abuse 072215dysar01.jpg Photo by: Angela Rowlings Jalise Andrade 072215dysar03.jpg Photo by: Angela Rowlings Hermano Joseph. 07221 shuttered Casa Isla. 072215dysar08.jpg Photo by: Angela Rowlings Joseph Cintolo 072215DYS07.jpg Photo by: Herald Pool Ainsley Laroche 072215DYS04.jpg Photo b **teens** passed a state-ordered audit with flying colors just before it was shut down last year — even as the auditor noted there was the outstanding allegation of “sexually ina including assault after allegations surfaced that they spanked teens with orange DYS-issued flip flops, sometimes on their bare buttocks, in a punishment dubbed “orange ch return.” State officials said yesterday they moved “aggressively” to close the program in August 2014 after a complaint. But in a report released to the Herald, based on an the audit. It notes that there was “one allegation of sexually inappropriate behavior by staff during the past year,” and that the accused workers had been suspended pending monitor the quality of the residential environment and the treatment of youth in our care.” A Volunteers for America statement said, “It is hard for us to imagine that this cou Brockton; Wilkins Jeanty, 40, of Quincy; Hermano Joseph, 24, of Taunton; Ainsley Laroche, 40, of Roxbury; and Raymond Pizzaro, 24, of Hyde Park. Emmanuel Fedna, 3

--> **Scarred by boarding school: We've all read of boys horribly abused, now meet the women who say emotional cruelty left them traumatised** It was supposed to b share their experiences By Tanith Carey for the Daily Mail Published: 18:08 EST, 22 July 2015 | Updated: 03:16 EST, 23 July 2015 857shares 104 View comments Sitting a dying of polio. It was less than an hour since her mother had broken the news. But now she was gone, bedtime in the sparse dormitory was approaching, and the matron was Margaret Laughton (pictured here third from left, third row from front, aged 10) is still haunted by the memory of her first day at a boarding school in the Midlands, which s anthropology, is in her late 60s now, but her voice still bristles with anger at the brutality she suffered during her nine years at the school. So far, concern about maltreatmen girls and boys who went to boarding schools - from which some never fully recover - is recognised. RELATED ARTICLES Previous 1 Next Want a nanny as perfect as Kat attended boasted beautiful historic buildings amid manicured playing fields. But according to psychoanalyst Professor Joy Schaverien, author of new book Boarding School be the breaking of them,' says Professor Schaverien. 'It was a form of child neglect that became traditional in this country.' Until she started therapy in her 50s, Margaret say away. They include a tendency to depression, anger and anxiety, a failure to sustain relationships, a fear of abandonment and substance abuse. The younger the child was se 'Loud talking, shouting, singing or any other unnecessary noises are not permitted.' At Alcatraz, says Judith, inmates were entitled to food, clothing, shelter and medical atte my room, my pets, my teddy bear. I stood there and cried the first tears I ever shed for myself 'Like Alcatraz, we were all captive on an island so there was no point trying to beds and a tiny side table. You were allowed two ornaments, perhaps a picture from home, and maybe one toy. 'At dinner, when you weren't eating, your hands had to rest in even know what sex was,' says Judith, whose school was later merged with a boys' school and renamed. 'Later my mother said: 'Why didn't you tell me how dreadful it was wanted to go to university, I was told I couldn't.' Like most children sent to boarding school, Margaret (pictured here aged five) found the moment she was left at the schoo leaving them there. Until the Eighties, when sending children away to school began to fall out of fashion, the most common age for starting prep school was only eight. Pro effects. 'Sending a child away at a young age is a huge rupture in its attachment to its parents. From then on, they have to live without love. They have to develop a false sel and confident' on the outside - even though she was enormously fragile underneath. Until she started therapy in her 50s, she found it difficult to trust anyone in close emotio be around you?' Margaret says that going to a boarding school at the age of eight made her develop a protective shell Margaret Laughton, 79, pictured here aged nine in 194 back, my mother took me for an entrance exam to the school and I was accepted on the spot. I was taken to the uniform shop and then delivered to a private boarding house my eldest daughter got to the age of nine, I went into her bedroom to kiss her goodnight. I saw her comfy bed, her hair spread across the pillow and her arms wrapped aroun bear. I stood there and cried the first tears I ever shed for myself.' The sexual abuse that many boys suffered at boarding schools is now widely recognised - but some claim does not sleep well because, from the age of 11, he was fetched by a teacher from his bed at night to be 'disciplined' - in fact, abused. Margaret, 79, only realised how damag says James, who does not want to name the school for legal reasons. 'And, in any case, in those days none of us thought we would be believed.' Yet casual cruelty by both te this was seen as 'collateral damage', an unfortunate but necessary part of the process of turning boys into men who would one day rule the world. 'There are the winners in t which he was sent at seven with 'polite prison'. The beauty of the buildings at Boarzell Prep in Sussex belied the 'terrible emotional desert' inside. 'Going to school at that ag away, she burst into floods of tears.' For Simon, a widower, his days at boarding school came at a high personal cost. He was unable to settle on a career and had trouble for rolling down my cheeks. At that moment, I realised I couldn't do the stiff upper lip any more. It was time to tell Josh I loved him, too. 'It unblocked me. It struck me as terri to be endured. Margaret, centre, graduated from nursing school at the age of 19 in 1956 Margaret, pictured in 1954 at the age of 17, had just started nursing school in Birmi

of seven is rising. In a globalised economy, high-flying careers increasingly require parents to move overseas. Of course, there are children who do well out of boarding. Th children should be with their parents. 'Children need to be brought up in the company of people who love them,' she says. Simon Partridge is now training be a youth counse society is not so different from the trauma at the more deprived end. 'The difference is that if you went to boarding school, you grew up believing you had no right to compl £27.99 Read more: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3171351/Scarred-boarding-school-ve-read-boys-horribly-abused-prep-school-meet-women-say-emotional-cr

State investigation: Hutto group home had numerous violations By David Barer Published: July 23, 2015, 4:23 pm Updated: July 23, 2015, 7:23 pm 5Click to share on Concern with group home after man pounds on doors in middle of night HUTTO, Texas (KXAN) — A state investigation into a group home formerly operated by Hutto Cit LLC related to service delivery, quality assurance, restraint and rights of individuals, according to the review. KXAN obtained a copy of the investigation Thursday. Smith t percent disagree with the violations. I disagree with the procedure in which this was conducted. We were not given a change to appeal," Smith said. "DADS refused to look multiple violations, DADS Spokeswoman Cecilia Cavuto said last month. Smith said A Step Beyond and its sister business Beyond the Limits have both closed, and he is n investigation also found late reporting of "critical incident data" and missed medical appointments ordered by physicians. Most of those violations occurred during the time staff member," the review states. Smith said he couldn't comment on the stabbing because he was not working at the business during that time period. Hutto voters first elec was away from A Step Beyond in 2014, Sanh Moss was the CEO. Hutto police arrested Moss for suspicion of driving while intoxicated and possession of a controlled subst which the DWI had occurred." Once he collaborated with law enforcement and found out the extent of Sanh's DWI, "all ties were cut with her," he said Source: http://kxa

Foster care failures can't continue Source: http://www.meridianstar.com/opinion/foster-care-failures-can-t-continue/article_2286a83e-30ea-11e5-808e-8baf31351a03.htm of Mississippi on behalf of eight children in the state's child foster care system. Among the plaintiffs was a girl identified in court documents only as Olivia Y. According months in custody, Olivia was moved between five placements, including one home where a convicted rapist was residing," the website states. According to the lawsuit, t under two court-ordered settlements that were a result of the lawsuit. The plaintiffs are now asking that the state work with consultants who will recommend changes, inc conditions had improved in some areas, but was still floundering in others. According to the report, the state failed to collect accurate data, showed little progress in some shortages and that in-home visits were not being conducted as often as required and that some children were not being put under licensed foster care.

New lawsuit addresses 'irreparable' harm in foster care system Brian Josephs | 7/23/2015, 10:19 a.m. Tish James Last Wednesday afternoon, Public Advocate Letitia Ja the New York City Administration for Children's Services and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. James made the declaration in front of a small cr They're often left voiceless, defenseless against a bureaucracy that seems to have no will or incentive to help them." Although a concrete end goal was still nebulous by the child was emotionally or psychologically harmed while in foster care, and 31 percent reported physical harm. New York also ranks No. 46 of 48 jurisdictions in the to rate o percent of the total number of children in the system—and that the agency is investing in improving child welfare practices. "The de Blasio administration is deeply investe working with our partners throughout the system—the courts, attorneys, advocates, providers, parents and children—to ensure we continue to improve outcomes for familie Maria R., a 4-year-old who watched as her sister Olivia was sexually abused. Tyrone M. was separated from his mother when he was just 12 days old, and as a result of neg visceral resonance, the names and details were listed in red and white ink against a black background. "Children who're in foster care, all they know is foster care," James s get her daughter Josee back for three years. The two were originally separated when Josee was 3 because of a "messy home" complaint. **New lawsuit addresses 'irreparab**

WAREHOUSING OUR CHILDREN South Carolina laws hide child abuse inside group homes By Lauren Sausser on Jul 23, 2015 Email @laurenmsausser Paul Zoel Read the Series Part I: Warehousing our Children: How South Carolina laws hide child abuse inside group homes Part II: Brother repeatedly rapes sister, blames DSS Part group homes What's more, South Carolina keeps the abuse these children suffer secret by using state laws that shield group homes from almost any scrutiny. Court records s reluctantly send their children to these facilities for treatment can't figure out how to keep them safe behind closed doors. When Jessica Freeman placed her daughter in Spri Carolina. That's because the state Department of Social Services doesn't make the few records that are public readily accessible. Freeman pulled her daughter from the facili report someone abusing your child." Springbrook administrator Mike Rowley would not discuss any specific case, but said most allegations made against the facility are cle teaches English literature to children at Windwood Farm. The group home for boys in Awendaw offers an on-site school for children in its care. Many of the children have b such as Freeman's, South Carolina continues to send its youngest foster children into group homes and institutions at a higher rate than any other state in the country, federa (PDF) Citizen Review Panels Findings (PDF) Annie E. Casey Report (PDF) That's why other states have reduced their reliance on group homes by expanding foster family always done it, some experts say. "I can say, having done this work for 15 years nationally, that South Carolina is possibly the worst I've ever seen on that front," said Ira Lu time, they house about a quarter of South Carolina's 4,000 foster children. While group-home supporters acknowledge that some problems persist within the industry, they i finds South Carolina's numbers problematic. "Our rate is too high," Alford said. "We put too many children — especially in the 0 to 12 (age) range — we put too many of tl children and teenagers in group homes have been overmedicated for mild behavioral issues, raped by their peers and lured into prostitution while their temporary guardians lawsuits, visited group homes, filed open records requests and interviewed dozens of state leaders, child welfare experts, parents and former foster children for this series. A placement rate for this age group in the United States. By comparison, only 2 percent in Tennessee and 3 percent in North Carolina were placed in similar settings. The natic a day to raise a child. - The South Carolina Department of Social Services spent $28.1 million in 2014 placing children in group homes — more than five times the amount care. She said group homes provide a measure of security that foster families often can't offer, especially for children who may have trouble bonding in a new home. —Brad finds enough evidence to support those claims. The state has investigated 484 allegations of abuse and neglect in group homes and institutions in the past five years, but has Court records allege children who disclose that they've been abused in group care — by adults and each other — are often ignored because state caseworkers are so overloa children who allegedly suffered from the Social Services agency's "dangerous deficiencies." The complaint contends children were abused, overmedicated, separated from t were "frequently deprived." The group home denied her medicine and feminine hygiene products, and she said a maintenance worker there asked her to take naked pictures lawsuit also alleges that a teenager at Epworth Children's Home in Richland County was prescribed a "powerful psychotropic medication for the first time in his life." The c lawsuit claims that a 9-year-old boy's toothbrush was smothered with feces. Epworth Children's Home and Helping Hands did not respond to messages about the lawsuit. Tl caseload and so was limited in what she could do to help her," the lawsuit stated. Paula Fendley is the executive director for the Palmetto Association for Children and Fami prove it," Fendley said. "If these things are, in fact, true, then I guess all of that will come out in the court." Windwood Farm, established in 1985, is a combined "Level 3" g of children staying in the residential treatment facility here are called "private placements." Their own parents retain custody, but have decided they need intense, out-of-hor are group homes, institutions? According to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, "group or congregate care is designed to meet the needs of children/youth wh example, "Level 3" group homes offer behavioral health treatment for children, while "Level 1" group homes generally keep children without any mental health diagnoses. level of care for children with more severe behavioral health needs. Some children in group homes and institutions are considered "private placements." Their parents retain that I just can't talk about," she said. Funding foster families The federal lawsuit hinges on the widely-accepted premise that social services caseworkers in South Carolina a assigned at least 50 children to monitor, and a few were assigned more than 75. The Child Welfare League of America, a national advocacy group, recommends each casew tried to scale back the number of foster children in group homes, resigned under pressure last year. Still, the General Assembly has failed to pass any sort of major legislatio everybody wants to talk about roads and jobs, and we do need to talk about those things and those are important, but if we don't save our children, we don't need our roads." been focused on is what's happening to our kids once they go into the system." Data provided by the Department of Social Services shows about a quarter of the 4,000 foste possible, to keep kids in families," Alford said. "If you can't keep them with their biological family or put them in kinship care, then you're looking at foster care as the next She admitted that DSS places too many children under 13 years old in group homes. —Paul Zoeller/Staff A national report published by the Baltimore-based Annie E. Case facility," the report's authors wrote. On May 1, 2,310 foster homes were licensed to accept children in South Carolina — too few for the nearly 4,000 children in the system. for a child. In response to a public records request filed by The Post and Courier, the Department of Social Services said it spent $28.1 million in the 2014 fiscal year to hou homes because many of them shouldn't be there in the first place. "It's bad for kids, but it's also a total waste of taxpayer money," said Lustbader, of New York's Children's I year on South Carolina children in psychiatric residential treatment facilities, which offer the highest level of care. Most "Level 3" group homes — a step down from reside per night. Meanwhile, a 2012 national report shows only five states paid foster families lower rates than South Carolina. Even some group-home advocates acknowledge the facility for boys in Awendaw. South Carolina needs more foster families, she argued, but some group homes offer children a measure of security that a traditional family car somebody is awake 24 hours a day watching their back." Children eat family-style meals together at Windwood Farm, she said. They go to the beach. Windwood almost res family meals. They take children on beach trips and to community events. They also remind them to brush, floss, wash and flush with these wall decals. —Brad Nettles/Staf its bills. The nonprofit group home still must raise at least $500,000 a year to break even, he said. "I love good foster families and there are lots of them, but even the good c — tend to them." Brendin and Faith Brendin Cecere and his mom, Faith Rice, moved out of their Summerville house right before Thanksgiving three years ago following a routine, his home, his neighborhood — everything that he was familiar with, with the exception of school, was out of sorts for him," Rice said. "By January, he pretty much killed me, there was nothing more I could do." Brendin spent nine months at Three Rivers Behavioral Health, a psychiatric residential treatment facility near Columbia, and Willowglen Academy, Brendin said a staff member broke his arm. The Department of Social Services investigated Brendin's allegations at Willowglen Academy but determ that can't defend themselves, who are not verbally expressive like my son?"' Rice said. She couldn't even get a copy of the official 11-page state investigation into Brendin's Academy, both owned by out-of-state, for-profit corporations, did not respond to questions about Brendin. Children staying at Windwood Farm in Awendaw share rooms. T alleged abuse and neglect at multiple Willowglen Academy facilities and 97 investigations at Three Rivers since 2000, but the agency would not tell The Post and Courier h

She's still trying to figure out what really happened last fall. “I spoke to the SLED (State Law Enforcement Division) department. I spoke to Nikki Haley's office, who boun neglect in foster homes, institutions, group homes and day care centers every year. But 10 years of DSS data shows the department rarely finds sufficient evidence to prove some cases were handed to local law enforcement agencies for investigation. But the Department of Social Services would not tell The Post and Courier how many abuse re of “founded” cases was so low. The South Carolina Citizen Review Panels, three independent groups set up to evaluate child protective services, were particularly worried b child-on-child abuse is not specifically addressed in state law. “They were looking for loopholes so they don't have responsibility. That's just crazy,” said Donna Xenakis, a examined fewer than half of all reports filed in the 2014 fiscal year for out-of-home abuse and neglect. Some of the reports were “screened out,” the agency explained, beca they were taken into state custody more than 10 years ago. “Jaylin came to me at 5 years old. She weighed 22 pounds and had STDs,” Freeman said. Charleston County Sch Olivia, 4 years old at the time, weighed 23 pounds and also was sexually abused. “They didn't talk,” she said. “They weren't potty-trained.” The girls, now teenagers, requir keep them safe and you reach a point when you can't do that anymore.” Last year, Jaylin lived at Springbrook Behavioral Health in Upstate South Carolina until her therapis quiet it's not going to get any better.” Mike Rowley, the administrator for Springbrook, said the facility takes every allegation seriously and self-reports any suspected child filed by The Post and Courier to review any “Out-of-Home” abuse reports, even reports that determined abuse allegations in the group homes were valid. State law exempts department is trying to be a lot more transparent.” Alford acknowledged that potential child abuse in these facilities keeps her up at night. “We have to be concerned with th needs to admit its problems before the agency can solve them. She doesn't trust the department's own data. “These are our poorest kids, our most vulnerable kids,” Berkowit Reach Lauren Sausser at 937-5598. **WAREHOUSING OUR CHILDREN South Carolina laws hide child abuse inside group homes** Source: http://www.postandcouri

Other states reduce dependence on group homes Lauren Sausser Email @laurenmsausser Jul 23 2015 6:00 pm About twenty two percent of South Carolina's children in of the problems plaguing Connecticut's Department of Children and Families could have been ripped right from South Carolina's playbook. Children were dying. Casework Tennessee Group Homes Report (PDF) The Connecticut department's most “urgent focus” was the high number of children in group homes, according to a report published increase family placements — and he appointed a new commissioner to the Department of Children and Families to make it happen. “From the get go, I remember them apj 1, 2011, about a third of the 4,780 children in Connecticut's custody lived in group homes. In fact, more than 350 of those children lived in out-of-state group homes becaus children in state custody live in a group setting — much higher than the national average of 14 percent. Federal data shows South Carolina places about a quarter of its your in the country. “We know kids do better with families,” said Kristina Stevens, administrator of clinical services for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. “I custody with relatives or friends. More than 30 percent of children in state custody in Connecticut now live with relatives or close kin, compared to 21 percent four years ag inside group homes Part II: Brother repeatedly rapes sister, blames DSS Part III: Group homes pull in millions every year from taxpayers Part IV: Eagle Harbor Ranch: A ca stress enough how interrelated those things are.” Also, by reducing the amount Connecticut spent on group homes, the state was able to reinvest some money into “commun fiscal year, about $63 million less than the state spent four years ago. Connecticut isn't the only state that recently made progress on this front. Tennessee also drastically red national advocacy group, forced the Tennessee and Connecticut child welfare systems to make these changes by filing separate class action lawsuits against the states. In Jar institutions at a higher rate than any other state in the country. Ira Lustbader, the litigation director of Children's Rights, called both Tennessee and Connecticut success stori **reduce dependence on group homes** Source: http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150723/PC16/150709448/1177/other-states-reduce-dependence-on-group-homes

Abuse allegations haunt lucrative group homes Lauren Sausser Email @laurenmsausser Jul 23 2015 6:00 pm Jul 24 11:17 am Enlarge John Roe, who said he was abus and relax. Paul Zoeller/Staff John Roe, who said he was abused at Boys Home of the South in Belton, lives in Greenville now and filed a lawsuit against the group home an children say they endured after state Social Services officials dumped them here. Even as state agencies gave the group home as much as $1.5 million a year, the Departmer the outcome of these investigations, but children who lived at Boys Home of the South say they were tortured and raped by employees and their peers. A high-profile child s more than a decade ago. Roe, now 23, asked that The Post and Courier conceal his real name by using the pseudonym he chose for a lawsuit filed last year against the group actually listen, that it wasn't taken seriously,” Roe said. “Eventually, I gave up trying.” The lawsuit that finally shut down Boys Home of the South made national news, but operates a psychiatric treatment facility in Rock Hill, has been investigated for child abuse and neglect 119 times since 2000. Six other group homes and institutions have be than $70 million a year — largely from lucrative state contracts and private donations. Enlarge Boys Home of the South, a group home in Belton, closed last year and has the South, a group home in Belton, closed last year and has since been renovated into a Christian campground. Between 2000 and 2014, the Department of Social Services i severe behavioral health issues and have nowhere else to live. Others, however, contend that the state's dependence on these homes has allowed the industry to rake in rever keep quiet about the kind of abuse Roe says he suffered because they worry the child welfare agency will stop sending them new children — their main source of revenue. ‘ don't have and Social Services has nowhere else to place them. “They're in the business of selling children,” he said. “Basically, they don't do their damn jobs.” State officia bad of both,” said Danny Gilbert, who owns Eagle Harbor Ranch, a group home for boys in Berkeley County. “There are some people who are just collecting a check.” 'Inc IBISWorld, a national research firm. More than 67 percent of this money comes from government contributions and grants. Enlarge × In South Carolina, the Department Services paid the group home nearly $3 million in five years, but other group homes typically make much more. The Connie Maxwell Children's Home in Greenwood made related organizations, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), compensated its president $196,000 in 2013 — $90,000 more than Gov. Nikki Haley's salary. “There' Carolina on this issue.” Sue Berkowitz, executive director of the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center, said group homes make so much money because their inter nursing home lobby is incredibly powerful,” Berkowitz said. “Some of them have been just absolutely horrendous.” Group homes are entitled to make money, she said, but Some state leaders, including former Department of Social Services Director Lillian Koller, tried to reduce the number of children sent to live in group homes with limited s (Raymond McCrea Jones/The New York Times) The grounds at Boys Home of the South, a former group home in Belton, have recently changed to a Christian campground were forced to scale back operations. These closures illustrated a national trend. Similar facilities in other states also shut their doors as the number of children in foster care the executive director of Windwood Farm in Awendaw, remembered Koller and her deputy director addressing group home employees at an industry meeting in 2011. “The making the push that they didn't want kids in residential placements,” she said. “They used words like 'languish' — like (group homes) were torture chambers. They're not.” running at full capacity these days. “Now, an influx of kids are coming in,” she said. “Our phone does not stop ringing all day long.” All 15 group home beds at Windwood Roe, 23, says he was raped many times by a Boys Home of the South staff member more than a decade ago. He tried to report the abuse, but Roe said no one would listen. (Roe, 23, says he was raped many times by a Boys Home of the South staff member more than a decade ago. He tried to report the abuse, but Roe said no one would listen. (have here.” Paula Fendley, who represents many group homes in South Carolina as executive director of the Palmetto Association of Children and Families, said the whole demonizing providers and demonizing advocates and all figure out what we need to do, instead of just blaming everything on DSS.” 'One size doesn't fit all' State lawmaker variety of options for the Department (of Social Services),” said Alexander, a member of the state Senate committee that reviews Social Services funding every year. “One s and foster homes, but in every situation that's not what's available.” A handful of small group homes in Alexander's rural Upstate district make more than $5 million a year, we have in our area, they're very loving, they're faith-based,” he said. “Ultimately, we've got to do what's best for the children ... I'm not interested in numbers and statistics sent, but she said overhauling Social Services may take several years. “I think what we did several years ago, we eliminated some of our good group homes,” Shealy said. S foster mom noticed he needed help. Read the Series Part I: Warehousing our children: How South Carolina laws hide child abuse inside group homes Part II: Brother repeat Other states reduce dependence on group homes Roe wore diapers. He couldn't control his bowel movements. A doctor wrote down in his medical record that the scars on h kids and I don't either,” Stone said. “It's just really sad.” But some child advocates say South Carolina isn't trying hard enough to change the status quo. They believe reduci of Social Services director, said the agency needs to make it easier for potential foster families to sign up. She said internal data indicates for every 1,000 families who expr have more foster homes for kids so they don't have to go to group homes if we don't think that's the best treatment option for them.” Reach Lauren Sausser at 937-5598. So

Man jailed 15 months for having sex with three girls from group home Waterloo Region Record By Gordon Paul KITCHENER — A Kitchener man was sent to jail for other was 15. Sepulveda knew their ages. Although Sepulveda did not force himself on the girls, anyone younger than 16 can't legally consent to sex. "They are group home Jennison called a "party house" — on Christmas Day in 2013, New Year's Day in 2014 and Jan. 18, 2014. Jennison said the fact Sepulveda did not use condoms was "extrer "privileged" man exploiting disadvantaged girls. Sepulveda grew up in a Third World country and was raised without a father, he said. Sepulveda didn't have to convince th factors." Justice John Lynch called it a difficult sentencing. He said the court must denounce the crime and deter others but noted that Sepulveda is a young man with no pri they were children pursuing an adult. This was not consensual sex, nor could it be." Lynch said Sepulveda tried to minimize his offences. "I hope he doesn't see himself as t to stay away from the victims and provide a sample for the national DNA database. Sepulveda's mother broke into tears as her son was handcuffed and taken to jail. Source

Foster Children Robbed of Identity July 25, 2015 Legislatively Speaking By Senator, Lena C. Taylor Lena C. Taylor Imagine turning 18 years-old; finally ready to take o already dealt you a set of circumstances that have interrupted your childhood, separated you from your biological parents and in some cases, your entire natural family. You new challenge: identity fraud. WISN 12’s investigative reporter Colleen Henry reported on the story of two sisters, who were former foster children that discovered their ide bankruptcy in listed in their name. In talking with a representative from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, I was told the following: “Children and youth more readily accessible to identity thieves. Unfortunately, identity theft by parents, relatives and caregivers also occurs. The misuse of the child’s identity may not be discov loans and apartment rental, as well as the potential for civil judgments against the youth for delinquent accounts.” Identity theft impacts an estimated 15 million United Stat least one child whose personal information was compromised, according to a 2012 survey by the Identity Theft Assistance Center and the Javelin Strategy & Research grou statements. Foster children are particularly at risk. So much so, that the White House’s Administration for Children and Families have created federal laws aimed at protecti

reports annually. The law also requires that the agencies ensure that these youth get assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the reports. Although it appe currently has agreements with two of the three credit reporting agencies and is working on the third. We request credit reports twice a year, for all kids, not just those that ar know that it can take years to clear your credit report of fraudulent accounts. There is no obligation under the federal law to continue to work with aged out youth on credit r and never get the help they need to recover. Understanding that good credit is vital for a successful transition from foster care to adulthood, I am committed to addressing ac circumstances that would allow them to receive continued assistance, in correcting their credit information, after they leave foster care and refer violators for prosecution on

Senske: Breaking cycle of child abuse requires effort from all Posted: July 25, 2015 - 12:11am Photos By Kurt Senske The narrative around foster care in Texas usually differently, starting now. Upbring, the largest nonprofit foster placement and adoption agency in Texas, believes we all share responsibility in helping to raise healthy childr is unforgettable. The day he was placed, Patricia's husband asked if he'd eaten anything. "Yeah, I ate some chicken bones," he replied. While Jessie was not available for ad moved in 1999, they grew a bond. Her time with Carolyn greatly influenced her, and today Julie serves in the community as a nurse, owns her own car, and is in the process faithful friend and Upbring colleague, who died Monday after a valiant battle with cancer. Lee Ruth joined the LSS/Upbring Board of Directors in January 2010. She was a missed. We are privileged to work with numerous families throughout Texas like those of Patricia and Carolyn.We need more families like theirs as well as greater participa percent of U.S. children subject to abuse or neglect by a caregiver each year, maltreatment of children is a pervasive problem affecting kids of every age, gender, ethnicity a nearly 18,000 Texas children were removed from their homes in 2014. As the result of a recent study, we now know over their lifetimes, this abuse and neglect costs the Tex needs. Upbring has established an innovative continuum of services and partnerships tracking progress in five key markers of: safety, life skills, education, health and vocat Work on a first-of-its-kind-in-Texas study that will track the progress and wellbeing of foster children. We recognize we can't meet needs alone. Giving vulnerable children partner with us to improve the health of children in foster care; legislators prepared to support the needs of foster children in a complex system; and volunteers passionate ab can be. KURT SENSKE is president and CEO of Upbring, a faith-based nonprofit organization devoted to breaking the cycle of child abuse. Source: http://lubbockonline.

Stop child abuse in group homes Jul 26 2015 12:01 am Susan Alford, the new DSS director, takes a break in-between meetings to eat lunch at her desk Tuesday, June 16, incidents is kept secret. That means parents are in the dark — and people who want to address the problems don't have the information they need to do so. The S.C. Genera caseloads and deaths of children under the agency's authority. Lillian Koller resigned as director under pressure from lawmakers who were exasperated by her refusal to pro changes, starting with changing the law. She also should realign the DSS budget so that more children can be taken care of in homes of relatives or foster parents, and fewer of multiple complaints. And while administrators say that most of the complaints are unfounded, the public has no way to find out if that's true. DSS, which is responsible f allegations were. That would be an easy fix — were it not for state law that calls for the information to be withheld. It should be changed. Certainly the state should protect number of abuse allegations, their severity and their disposition. Many children in group homes are troubled. It stands to reason that some allegations will prove untrue. The group homes than in foster homes, and the outcome is usually inferior. Particularly young children (those up to 13 years of age) are more apt to thrive in foster homes than i better. Some receive as little as $12 a day to feed, clothe and care for a child. Only five states pay less for foster care. By reducing the number of children in group homes si where they risk further abuse. The likelihood of that abuse is classified information. DSS has a new director. And the Legislature has demonstrated a genuine concern for ad homes

How UK Anti-Terror Guidance Could Violate Children's Human Rights Tuesday, 28 July 2015 09:32 By Stephanie Petrie, The Conversation | News Analysis font size between the suggested interventions set out in the Channel guidance and the possibility of a child being removed from their home because their family's political views are has also been argued that it breaches the European Convention on Human Rights. This has happened in the recent past in countries such as Hungary and Argentina, also mo from political opponents for adoption as a necessary step to protect them from harmful influences. Alarm Bells Channel is part of the government's overall Prevent strategy guidance states emphatically that preventing "radicalization" is a "protection" issue that may require action by social workers: The way in which Channel will be delivered is precisely this overlap that rings alarm bells. Guidance does not clarify how the overlap with potential criminal prosecution will be managed. Nor does it set out how youn Rights of the Child which the UK has ratified. The guidance recommends that if parental consent for the referral of a young person to a panel is not forthcoming and there a under section 47 of the same act. "Extremism" is defined in the guidance primarily as opposition to listed "fundamental" British values, as though the definitions of these va sometimes be necessary. Enormous strides have been made in the detection and prevention of physical child abuse and recognition and understanding of child sexual abuse. surveillance operation is intended to protect young people from harm. Extra Pressure on Social Workers As Channel guidance is not a statutory duty but advice which autho the new Conservative government revealed that the Police and Criminal Justice Bill will pave the way to make a criminal offence of wilful neglect for professionals who fai the abuse of children and young people with prevention of terrorism initiatives in gravely misleading ways. It also undermines the paramount principles regarding the welfa belonging" and "a desire for political or moral change" as indicators of vulnerability to involvement in terrorism. Surely we want to educate our young people to strive for n justice, it runs the risk of alienating them further. The program should be withdrawn. Source: http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/32086-how-uk-anti-terror-guidance-could

Georgia Is Moving Children With Disabilities Into Schools Used During Jim Crow Thursday, 30 July 2015 00:00 By Marian Wang, ProPublica | Report font size decre them in run-down facilities and providing them with subpar education, according to an investigation by the US Department of Justice. Some of the students in the program for kids the school system doesn't want or know how to deal with," a parent told the Justice Department of the program. The Justice Department detailed its findings in a let must serve people with disabilities in the "most integrated setting." But what the Justice Department found in Georgia is something that persists across the country: Schools may need more support. In Georgia, schools were quick to move children out of mainstream classrooms, the Justice Department noted. In some cases, students were recomm what's called the Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support, or GNETS, didn't actually need to be there, the Justice Department said. Most could have staye letter said. What's more, because the state has set up a system that tilts toward providing services in segregated settings, the letter said, Georgia "undermines the availability Robinson, counsel to the Georgia Attorney General, told ProPublica, "We don't have any comment at this time." This isn't the first time that the GNETS has drawn scrutiny. room. Advocates have long been critical of the quality of services offered by the network. "We have seen many, many clients whose behavior gets significantly worse in GN involved in student government or band who are sent to GNETS and have no opportunities to be part of their community." The Justice Department threatened the state with mental health services by locating mental health clinics "at or near schools" to provide services to students who would otherwise be at risk of being referred to more restricti

Former Butte County foster parent arrested in child molestation inquiry By Staff Reports Posted: 07/17/15, 4:11 PM PDT | Updated: 1 week, 5 days ago 0 Comments on a child under 14 years old, according to a press release issued Friday by the Butte County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office received a report in June alleging that Ha Children's Services Division and California Community Care Licensing Division subsequently investigated the allegations, including talking to former foster children who $300,000. Anyone with additional information regarding the case or Hastings' alleged actions is urged to contact the Sheriff's Office Special Victims Unit at 538-7544. Sou

LGBT "Treatment" Programs Are Often Child Abuse | Lorri L. Jean LGBT "Treatment" Programs Are Often Child Abuse Posted: 07/17/2015 3:22 pm EDT Updated: 0 troubled teens. I was proud to be joined by Reps. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) who introduced the "Stop Child Abuse in Residential Treatment Pro America. The following are my remarks: The voices of young people aren't often heard at the Capitol. And if you're a teenager sent to a boot camp, so-called "therapeutic" silenced. We're here today for the parents who have been duped into believing these programs would really help their children. And we're here to demand action on behalf o "treatment" to withhold food and water from a youth. It isn't treatment to beat a teenager. And nothing should ever be considered treatment that involves denial of medical c operating without necessary and appropriate oversight. This is not just a claim by our campaign coalition, it's a fact documented by the U.S. Government Accountability Offi need of "fixing"--simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition to enduring the same horrible abuses as other youth, LGBT kids face additional le sensible legislation to regulate this rogue, multi-million dollar industry that's profiting from the abuse of young people. If you're on a plane that's stuck on the tarmac for mo youth can't wait any longer. We need to fix this now. That's why I applaud the leadership of Representatives Schiff and Ros-Lehtinen for crossing the aisle to promote the St California, where today our state Assembly is considering similar legislation that received nearly unanimous bipartisan support from our state senate. And it certainly shoul PYIA.org. We'll contact petition signers when it's time to urge legislators to support the bills. [Webmaster Note: HR 3060 will NOT protect children from institutionalized a treatment-programs_b_7814860.html

Denver, Parker group homes violating city codes Community Recovery program under fire for way facilities opened By Carlos Illescas The Denver Post Posted: 07 and Holden are upset that the house next door has been transformed into a community drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. (Callaghan O'Hare, The Denver Post) Jul 22: P At first glance, the homes seem to fit into their locales just fine — except both are drug and alcohol treatment facilities that never secured permits to open. They are run by home rented by Community Recovery on Parliament Way in the Rowley Downs neighborhood has had several calls to police since it opened less than a year ago, some for say. "Their track history at this location is terrible. They made the place just a slum the first three months they were there," said Tom Stockman, who lives next door to the P for comment. Neither did the Parker homeowner who is renting to Community Recovery. In Denver, Community Recovery purchased the home in the 2500 block of Arapal cities to open a facility require more scrutiny than normal businesses, such as having no more than eight people who are not related living under the same roof. It was only a On Monday, Community Recovery goes before the Parker Town Council to seek a permit to be there going forward. Denver is in the final stages of its investigation of the A the number for small group-home facilities. "We've had a case open for a while on this one," Burns said. "Our neighborhood inspectors are looking into what looks like a zo financially — as some residents claimed in Parker this month when the planning and zoning commission approved its application. According to its website, Community Re

be for women only, while the Denver home is an all-male facility. Joel Noble, president of Curtis Park Neighbors in Denver, said the group home on Arapahoe Street hasn't such as drugs and alcohol. Then, it got along with the people who live in the area just fine. He and others fear the new facility is being used to treat those who are addicted c approved on Monday by the Town Council, the group could go back to its old ways of doing business. "We don't like it. But if they're on their best behavior and stay there, t

Former boarding school teacher charged with taking indecent photos of children Jonathan Thomson-Glover, who taught at Clifton College in Bristol, is charged with 3 Ireland/PA Steven Morris and agency Monday 20 July 2015 08.16 EDT Last modified on Monday 20 July 2015 08.32 EDT Share on Facebook Share on Twitter Share via E Thomson-Glover, 53, who taught at Clifton College in Bristol, faced magistrates in Somerset accused of 36 counts of making, taking and possessing indecent images of chil making an indecent photograph and two charges of possessing an indecent photograph. The charges relate to victims who were allegedly filmed at Clifton College and an ac trousers and a dark blazer, did not enter pleas to the 36 charges. Howard Phillips, prosecuting, asked magistrates to commit the case to Taunton crown court. Eileen Westwo http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jul/20/former-boarding-school-teacher-charged-taking-indecent-photos-children

Grand jury: Close troubled Highlands juvenile facility Kendra Conlon, WTSP 12:07 a.m. EDT July 21, 2015 Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd and State Attorney Jerry H juvenile justice facility that's been plagued with problems from a riot to several recent escapes. Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd and State Attorney Jerry Hill call the facility faults failures at the privately-run, yet state-funded juvenile justice facility. The state attorney insists the company is profiting off taxpayer money, but not protecting the pub on man," says Judd. Judd says an investigation into Highlands Youth Academy revealed rundown 60-year-old buildings, some repairs still haven't been made from a riot 2 y up a fight. One teen sees the chance to escape and flees. "The doors and windows don't have the capability of being secured. It's a miserable failure down there," says Judd. facilities in the Bay area have seen riots too this year. At Highlands, the company insists it is working on renovations and follow DJJ's direction on security. "The way juven the 13-page response from G4S The Department of Juvenile Justice released the following statement: "The Department of Juvenile Justice works to ensure that all youth in taken various steps over the last two years since the Avon Park Youth Academy disturbance took place: "DJJ has installed surveillance cameras throughout the facility; We h replacement. "DJJ continues to closely monitor this program, and all of our programs, to ensure that our high standards of accountability and transparency are met in all we

Over-medication of people with learning disabilities infringes human rights Medicine should not be used to make people easier to care for – we need to discuss alternat England Tuesday 21 July 2015 03.20 EDT Last modified on Tuesday 21 July 2015 04.31 EDT Share on Facebook Share on Twitter Share via Email Share on Pinterest Shar prescribing of psychotropic drugs to people with learning disabilities. These concerns were based on the findings of three reports commissioned by NHS England – from Pu medicines intended for severe mental illness with no clear clinical justification, often for many years without adequate review or challenge, and without them or their loved the answer. Positive behaviour support can help people express themselves in different ways Read more Over-medication, and then lack of review, is a historic problem high carers and professionals to commission these reports, to get to the bottom of the issues once and for all and to take robust action. What we have found is unacceptable, and v only when used to treat the illnesses and diseases they were designed to treat, when risks and benefits have been fully weighed up, where the patient, carers and families are These medicines should not be used to simply calm people down or to make them easier to care for. To do so amounts to chemical restraint and risks missing the real reason going to be about more than central edicts, and it requires the will of more than just NHS England; it needs to be about changing attitudes, cultures and practices right acros that, we led a summit of key stakeholders to fully explore the problem, and to agree next steps and responsibilities as part of a call to action. A call to action isn't about issui results such an approach can achieve tell their own story; the Right Prescription project on decreasing the inappropriate use of antipsychotic drugs for people with dementia I can help provide leadership and impetus, we need others to share the desire for change and the responsibility for driving it. We have been greatly encouraged by the suppo hope that the summit will galvanise the will and catalyse the action of many more. After Winterbourne View I'm being forced to discharge patients too soon Anonymous Sir responsibilities are for each of the organisations that attended. We also discussed the legitimate alternatives to medication, as detailed in the recently published Nice guidelir achieve a shared vision and goal: that each and every individual with a learning disability in England should receive the best quality and most appropriate care that we can p (@GdnHealthcare) to keep up with the latest healthcare news and views. Source: http://www.theguardian.com/healthcare-network/2015/jul/21/over-medication-learning-di

Group home employee had sex with juvenile inmate, deputies say Cornecia McDaniel faces multiple charges NEXT STORY Officials: One person flown from scene of having sex with a juvenile inmate, according to Greenville County deputies. Investigators said Cornecia McDaniel had oral sex and intercourse with a 15-year-old. Autho the incidents happened between June and September 2014, including at the group home and at McDaniel's home. She faces multiple charges including several counts of sex not comment on McDaniel's employment status or the situation and asked our crew to leave the premises. McDaniel was released on $50,000 bond. Source: http://www.w

Lawmakers call for audit of Kansas' foster care system There are about 6,500 children in the foster care system, according to the Department for Children and Families' Google+ Pinterest Reddit Print Order Reprint of this Story Editor's note: Earlier versions of this story contained a quote inaccurately stating the number of children killed in D-Winfield. "This audit would help to ensure we are engaging our best effort to protect children who have been sexually, physically, and emotionally abused." About 6,500 request for an audit and that it welcomes input on how to "better protect children in our state." "Every child death is a tragedy that weighs heavy on our hearts. It is always families. Kansas consistently surpasses national safety measure averages with regard to child safety, both in and out of foster care." The request comes as the DCF reviews i child in foster care this year being caused by maltreatment, the first such incident since 2006. The audit request comes the same month that a federal judge ordered the DCF Legislative Post Audit Committee. Rep. John Barker, R-Abilene, who chairs the committee, said it will be the first item of business on the committee's agenda. Sen. Michae absolutely find common ground, because I've talked to families that have gone through nightmares with the DCF program in my district, so I know that there have been leg

DHS cites staff at area group home for emotional abuse Kevin Allenspach, 10:33 a.m. CDT July 28, 2015 Department of Human Services(Photo: DHS the license holder for the facilities has been fined $400. The Minnesota Department of Human Services on Tuesday released documents detailing the allegations, subsequen administrative staff person "screamed" at a vulnerable adult and other clients and called them inappropriate names and racial slurs. The same staff member also allegedly m another staff member pulled the vulnerable adult's pants down, uncovering the genital area and buttocks. The two staff members involved were related family members, acc The two staff members no longer work at the facilities, according to documents. The license holder for the facilities, Rule 36 Limited Partnership of Duluth V, was ordered t http://www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2015/07/28/dhs-cites-staff-area-group-home-emotional-abuse/30777523/

GOP legislators block audit of Kansas foster care system, despite recent child deaths Photo by Peter Hancock. Enlarge photo. Rep. Jim Ward, D-Wichita, asks the Kans 2015, 11:50 a.m. Updated July 29, 2015, 3:57 p.m. Advertisement Topeka — On a party-line vote, the Kansas Legislative Post Audit Committee on Wednesday declined to authorized later this year or sometime after lawmakers reconvene in January for the 2016 session. The decision came at a time when the Department of Children and Famili changes that could include barring gay and unwed couples from becoming foster parents. The request for an audit of the program came from two south-central Kansas legis more and more and more concerns presented to me about supervision not being done, placements being changed fairly radically quickly, and care plans not being followed t the agency and outside the agency that have a lot of interaction with the cases, with the children, with the families." One of the recent deaths occurred in July 2014: A 10-m Wellington was stabbed to death by his mother, a woman who reportedly had struggled with bipolar disorder. Trimmer said he believed that was a case in which child welfa crisis in their family. They've been physically abused, sexually abused, emotionally abused, or grossly neglected, or we wouldn't be talking about them being in foster care. necessary care. Governmental auditing in Kansas is done by the Legislative Division of Post Audit, an agency within the legislative branch of government. It works under th the Department of Children and Families is already conducting its own review of the foster care system, including the qualifications it requires of foster parents. They also r because decisions about placing children in state custody are made by judges. "I am not quite sure that we're at the point where this particular scope statement is ready to go changes. "It would be a lesson in futility," she said. "I don't know what the answer is, but I don't think this is going to reveal anything that's going to be substantive enough again to set a schedule for audits next year. "I think there was reluctance by Republicans on the committee to look at any agencies in the current administration," Trimmer s foster parents, a move that could exclude single individuals or cohabiting couples. Others have suggested the agency is considering barring gay couples from being foster pa the program only to married couples. Source: http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2015/jul/29/gop-legislators-block-audit-kansas-foster-care-sys/

Chelfham Mill: Two Devon pupils placed in foster care as school closes over physical abuse claims By NDJJosephW | Posted: July 30, 2015 By Joseph Wilkes, digita closes over... Share Tweet Share Pin It Email Copy link to paste in your message / SHARE PICTURE Copy link to paste in your message Devon County Council, left, has b were stolen appeals for help... 1 TWO Devon pupils have been placed with foster parents following the temporary closure of Chelfham Mill school near Barnstaple over phy how Devon children had been affected. Alistair Dewhirst, DCC councillor for Teignbridge South, said he raised issues about the welfare of children at Chelfham Mill Schoo closure and they have been placed with foster parents. Day pupils are on their summer holidays. Related content Police investigate physical abuse claims at North Devon sc Barton was caught Pink pigeons pictured in the South West baffle residents Man accused of Amal Abdi murder due to appear in court today "Private schools are registered a the robustness as well as the "transparency and efficacy" of Devon County Council's (DCC) inspection regime. SHARE PICTURE Copy link to paste in your message He c they are in a safe location. The school, four miles to the north east of Barnstaple in Chelfham, is being investigated by police while its registration to operate has been suspe at the Atkinson Secure Children's Home in Devon. Read more: http://www.northdevonjournal.co.uk/Chelfham-Devon-pupils-placed-foster-care-school/story-27514126-det

Pushing Foster Care Into National Consciousness Posted: 07/31/2015 1:14 pm EDT Updated: 07/31/2015 1:59 pm EDT Share 4 Tweet 11 Email 0 Comment 1 tumblr re foster and former foster youth. While we hear of their stories, they have not yet entered our everyday conversation or concern. Usually, the stories of foster care at the front

foster care shown by mass-media is piecemeal, giving us glimpses into the lives of these youth, while hardly ever providing a base to continue the conversation. Some issue even those most educated. While almost everyone knows the term and have some idea of what they think it means -- likely related to orphanages -- most have no idea of wh 2% of foster youth obtain a college degree, that at least a quarter experience homelessness sometime after aging out of "the system" or that less than half have sustainable er needs to be done for the system to be changed. While no one has all of the answers, it's obvious that, before any real change can be made, these issues must be brought to th http://www.huffingtonpost.com/matt-hartman/pushing-foster-care-into-_b_7908382.html

Houston woman who operated foster care, child placement agency accused of adoption fraud THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Published: 7/31/15 2:57 pm EDT - Updatec jury in Houston. Prosecutors say Swenson owned Sans Pareil Center for Children and Family Services LLC. Prosecutors say Sans Pareil defrauded couples seeking to adopt mail fraud counts and remains in custody pending an initial court appearance Monday. No working publicly listed phone number for the agency could immediately be locate

Ontario names panelists to probe youth group homes Panel reviewing Ontario's child and youth residential system to report by the end of the year. Share on Facebook A review that is “open and transparent.” By: Laurie Monsebraaten Social justice reporter, Published on Fri Jul 31 2015 A child abuse expert, the head of a university program Toronto group homes that found more than one third of children and youths were physically or chemically restrained and about 40 per cent of cases resulted in calls to polic minister of children and youth services in a statement. “The panel will build on this feedback, as well as the foundational work of previous reviews and reports, to advise the “We’ve been clear that we need an open and transparent public review, not another government panel,” she said. “New Democrats believe open public review is the only wa Gharabaghi, director of Ryerson University’s School of Child and Youth Care and Deborah Newman, a former deputy minister of corrections and assistant deputy minister o individuals with lived experience of child and youth residential services,” the ministry said. The public are being encouraged to participate through emailEND. Ontario’s Pr entered the system in the first place and how the province can better support families and protect children,” he said. “This barn door is open now,” Elman warned. And there residential services. Last winter’s province-wide review of the Child and Family Services Act also recommended a probe. Ontario’s Residential Service System for Children residential settings for children and youth and $152.4 million for youth justice custody and detention. Across the province, group homes, along with foster parents and child

Time for state to get serious about foster care reform Jimmie E. Gates, The Clarion-Ledger 5:05 p.m. CDT July 31, 2015 It defies the odds that the state is still wrangling COMMENTEMAILMORE It’s disheartening that the state is still wrangling with implementing reforms to protect children in state custody. I have been writing about the C custody of, the Department of Human Services Division of Family and Children’s Services. Citing the state’s own reports, the lawsuit alleged incidents of sexual abuse, unq more social workers and increase the number of visits the workers make to each foster child; increase its offerings of educational and therapeutic services for foster parents compliance with the settlement agreement. Last week, the state admitted it. Children in the foster care system often have been abused, neglected and victimized. Certainly, t serious about the issue. Let’s hope that is the case. Bryant has agreed to hire an executive director of the Department of Family and Children’s Services and waive state sala care system and recommend whether it should be a free-standing agency, how it should be structured and what the state needs to do to remedy all of its violations of the cou reorganization of the child welfare system and provide additional appropriations to act on the expert group’s recommendations, if the state agrees to adopt them, according t Twitter. Source: http://www.clarionledger.com/story/opinion/columnists/2015/07/31/time-state-get-serious-foster-care-reform/30962113/

Shocking Dog And Child Abuse: Abandoned Kids Of Divorced Parents Found Living In Dog Cage, Raised By Grandfather In Breeding Facility Brad Ryder 8/1/2015 in cages reserved for animal breeding. Sources with the Mirror say a divorced couple abandoned the adolescents, left them in the care of the kids' grandfather, and fled their caged dogs. Jun Teng, unknown relationship to the abused children, said on several attempts, neighbors tried convincing the children's grandfather, who breeds dogs for a li mosquitoes are everywhere and when they get any food they have to fight with it for the dogs. "It's not unusual to see them drinking wastewater that puddles on the ground them from the horrid conditions without the law on their side. For a time, local authorities did nothing. However, after pressure from the public and efforts by the media to f http://www.starpulse.com/news/index.php/2015/08/01/shocking-dog-and-child-abuse-abandoned

Jesse Hagopian and Pedro Noguera Take on the Testocracy in Nationally Televised Debate: “Is public education in the U.S. broken beyond repair?” By I AM AN EDU by Al Jazeera America’s program The Third Rail. We debated the question, “Is public education in the U.S. broken beyond repair?” I have to say, those 45 minutes in the gr to be hard to dispute. But this was the former Assistant Secretary of Education and surely he would have slick responses and cherry picked data to try to mask the truth? Bu reform; I’m a teacher trying my best to help that movement bloom. I am used to challenging the rich and powerful, but here I was sharing coffee and chitchat with one of th of resistance that parents, students, and teachers are building in opposition to the “testocracy.” We tussled over many major questions relating to the corporate model of educ privatization of education. I went on to explain, “My problem with charter schools is that they’re anti-democratic. They’re not under the control of a democratically elected testing has pushed out everything that matters in education.” I cited how recess and the arts are vanishing in schools as they become test-prep centers, rather than incubators core.” At one point Mr. Cunningham inexplicably defended Arne Duncan’s comments that the opt out movement is just white suburban moms—a comment that Duncan hin many hundreds of Latino students who walked out of the PARCC test in New Mexico last year, the Black students in Baltimore who occupied the school board meeting in c format of a few minuet debate program) was the idea that the superrich have horded the wealth at the expense of our children. Today, over half of the students who attend pu debate was when they brought in the great Pedro Noguera, Professor of education at New York University, who powerfully and succinctly and expressed the primary issue v the finer points that we hadn’t had time to cover while on stage. The lingering education disputes soon turned back to small talk, but this time I no longer felt awkward beca http://iamaneducator.com/2015/08/06/jesse-hagopian-and-pedro-noguera-take-on-the-testocracy-in-nationally-televised-debate-is-public-education-in-the-u-s-broken-beyon

State to keep outsourcing at troubled teen detention center Daly By Andy Reid Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Christina Daly (center) met with Palm B Palm Beach County officials Wednesday to address concerns about the state’s privately run Palm Beach Juvenile Correctional Facility, near West Palm Beach. (By Andy Re mistreatment at a local state juvenile detention center. Concerns about injured teens, stolen medicine and tattered clothes are not enough to oust the operator of a troubled de Palm Beach Juvenile Correctional Facility, located next to the South Florida Fairgrounds north of Southern Boulevard. Investigation targets state juvenile center in Palm Be State officials are investigating allegations of misconduct and mismanagement by those in charge of watching over troubled teenagers at a privately-operated juvenile correc Inc. "I recognize that we have had some significant challenges," Daly said. "Culture change takes time. ... They have made some progress." But that's not good enough for C complaints of mistreatment, said claims Wednesday of improvements at the facility are "fairy tales." Vana said Youth Services International can't be trusted to run the detent injuries sending boys to the hospital, worn out socks and shoes, missing medicine, and reports of contraband cellphones and money smuggled into the facility are among the PM August 05, 2015 Add a comment See all comments 1 There are up to 118 boys 13 to 18 from across the state kept at the detention and treatment center for "high risk" y and 45 teens in the substance abuse program, officials said Wednesday. Typically, about 10 of the teenagers housed there are from Palm Beach County. While local officials Palm Beach, that he is taking steps to address what he called "operational shortcomings." Hiring better guards and other staff, increasing the accessibility of mental health w months. But Vana and other local officials Wednesday said the improvements haven't gone far enough and that concerns remain. The severity of injuries suffered by those k improvement" since Alvarez took over, but that "there is still work to be done." "There are challenges with the facility and the program," Haughwout said. If the state sticks "We are not letting this go." Daly said she takes the local concerns "very seriously," but questions whether removing the company running the facility is the right answer. "I beach/fl-teen-detention-center-problems-20150805-story.html

4 California Cops Arrested Over Claims They Brutally Beat 13 Children at Bootcamp for At-Risk Youth 0SHARE Reprint 9 Comments subscribe By Maria Coder 08 kicked, stomped and beaten bloody by the officers, who worked a drill instructors at the camp, the Associated Press reports. One teen one suffered a broken hand, according reducing family conflict at home, according to organizers. The alleged victims attended the camp May 17 to 24. The San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office investigated the camp abused, according to Greg Owen, a lawyer for the children and their families. Owen claims his clients were given towels to wipe blood off themselves after beatings. He als Gomez-Marquez, 31, and Edgar Gomez, 35, were arrested on Tuesday and Wednesday, according to the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office. The release notes 13 victims – bo unclear if they've obtained lawyers. "We really take no pleasure in arresting members of the law enforcement profession. But at the end of the day, we realize that no one is charges will be filed with the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office. Source: http://www.people.com/article/4-california-cops-arrested-cruelly-abusing-children

Children in boot camp abuse investigation suffer lasting damage, lawyer says Huntington Park, South Gate officers arrested for allegedly abusing children at police-spo Huntington Park and South Gate police departments at a location in San Luis Obispo County, authorities announced Wednesday. Four local law enforcement officers were a Luis Obispo County, authorities announced Wednesday. By Matt Hamilton, Sarah Parvini and Corina Knoll contact the reporters Crime Law Enforcement Army National G nothing seems to work? The solution, it declared, could be a police-sponsored boot camp for southeast Los Angeles County youth held at a military base in the mountains o camp became a breeding ground for vicious assaults and physical and emotional abuse. A two-month investigation that included searching the cellphones, computers, vehicl Luis Obispo County Sheriff Ian Parkinson, whose agency spearheaded the investigation. "The reality is that they're no different from anybody else. If they did it, they need t beaten and handcuffed during the $400 boot camp held in May. A lawyer for 11 of the 15 victims identified by investigators said one boy suffered broken fingers when an o hitting me," said one male camper who spoke Thursday to The Times on condition of anonymity out of fear of retaliation. He said he was beaten in a closed room by two in these children forever." The children, ages 12 to 17, at first kept quiet after attending the weeklong camp 200 miles away. But then one mother whose 13-year-old boy suffe gets a little awkward. The reality is that they're no different from anybody else. If they did it, they need to be held accountable.- San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Ian Parkins serves as a training ground for local, state and federal agencies. Authorities found it took time to build trust with the children, whose faith in law enforcement had been viola

Edgar Gomez and Carlos Gomez-Marquez, both of South Gate's police force, were arrested on suspicion of cruelty to a child, criminal threats, misdemeanor battery and abu August 08, 2015 Add a comment See all comments 37 Marissa Larios of the Huntington Park Police Department was arrested on suspicion of cruelty to a child, criminal co have been released on $20,000 bond and are now on paid administrative leave. The district attorney is reviewing the sheriff's investigation to determine whether to file crim years. "They all have very good track records in their department," said Michael D. Schwartz, an attorney for Larios. "The accusations are highly out of character." Schwart violent. All of them have no respect for authority, not their parents, not others in their lives, or officers in the camp." But some parents who convened Thursday at a hotel in experience" she received as a child at a Navy Sea Cadet boot camp. She said during one parent class held before the boot camp, a South Gate police officer whose name she him, something was wrong." Now, she says, her son is not himself and often exhibits anger. Police officials who run the camp have temporarily suspended the program. Pre the program included classroom lectures, community service and field trips on the weekends. Parents were also required to attend parenting classes once a week. On the app participants sitting in a classroom and lining up to do drills. One woman posted her support: "My son went to this program and he says nothing like [the alleged abuse] ever has had a positive effect on," said Huntington Park Police Chief Cosme Lozano in a statement. "We also respect and honor the due process of the justice system," the statem juvenile probation camps. "There's no physical laying on of hands that can be reformative," Leap said, adding that there's little oversight of such camps, some of which can http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-boot-camp-arrests-20150807-story.html#page=2

Tensions boil over at troubled school Save Sunday, 02 August 2015 EmailFacebookTwitterGoogle+ The New Zealand Herald Email FacebookTwitterGoogle+ Hato Peter at Northcote's Hato Petera College, John Matthews, was suspended from his role as chief executive of the school's hostel, Radio New Zealand reported. He remains principa separate boards to run the school and the hostel, but until now management positions have been largely shared. The resignations were reportedly over a lack of progress at t the involvement of the Catholic Church, who owns the land and is responsible for the upkeep of the buildings, and the fact it had only offered the school a five-year lease. T chair. Contacted for comment, Mr Te Rangi said he was not interested as he thought the Herald had not reported the issues fairly. "Stuff you and stuff your paper," he said. A story so far The Herald first reported in April about issues at the school, including the roll falling below 100, dilapidated buildings, bullying, infighting and a lack of confide reports. It refused, instead calling a meeting where three lawyers were present. Hato Petera, whose former pupils include All Black Walter Little and the late artist Ralph Ho between the board, the school, the ministry of education and the church in terms of who will pay for the upkeep of the hostel buildings. Many at the school believe the churc http://m.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid;=11490835

Riverside psychiatrist pleads not guilty in Medicare scheme - Houston Chronicle Riverside psychiatrist pleads not guilty in Medicare scheme Woman indicted separately redesign|1_facebook_share|article-6420311|article-share-redesign|2_twitter_share|article-6420311|article-share-redesign|3_pinterest_share|article-6420311|article-share-redesi scheme pleaded not guilty on Friday and intends to stand trial in August. Dr. Sharon Iglehart is accused of one federal conspiracy count, two health care fraud charges and a jury. Iglehart originally was arrested in December 2013, but the allegations have been amended twice since then - growing from nine to 12 pages in the most recent indictme ringleader in three conspiracies involving Medicare billings for Riverside's psychiatric treatment programs from 2005 to 2012 in which patients were ineligible for treatmen sentenced to 20 years. Active medical license The elder Gibson received the heaviest punishment so far: 45 years. His second-in-command, Mohammad Khan, received a 4(Department. Through her Iglehart Wellness Center, the psychiatrist allegedly participated in the scheme by submitting claims that falsely indicated she provided intensive ou psychiatric patients significantly later than the time she had provided examination, diagnosis and treatment to the patients," according to the agency's website. Her disciplina in prison. Crippling scam In July, Sharonda Holmes, who was involved in paying and receiving kickbacks, was sentenced to 3½ years and Waddie McDuffie became the six health treatment. McDuffie pleaded guilty to delivering kickback money to group home owners in exchange for them sending patients for mental health treatment at the hos of the Riverside cases are being prosecuted by Washington-based lawyers assigned to the Justice Department's criminal fraud division. Source: http://www.chron.com/news

Cromwell leaders call for state guidelines for group homes Cromwell Mayor Enzo Faienza File By Jeff Mill, The Middletown Press Posted: 08/02/15, 1:37 PM EDT | U number of group homes, Mayor Enzo Faienza said. Cromwell already has a number of group homes. But the problem is complicated by the fact that some homes are license "We need our legislators to really sit down and and to come up with some comprehensive fixes for the issue of licensed and unlicensed group homes," Faienza said. In Cron of the home walked away. The man was later found safe in Hartford. But Faienza says he is also concerned because Gilead is now applying for an exemption from local pro Acting Town Manager Anthony J. Salvatore said, "especially to the point of informing us that a residence is going in." "As it is, the usual way we learn about a facility oper schools should be taken into account in that licensing process," the mayor said. As he has in the past, Faienza said he supports the group home idea. "I believe in the right o residents of both Reiman Drive and the town of Cromwell," Faienza said. "We as a town continue to do what we can. But, frankly, we're in uncharted territory here," Faien

Kenya: Ban All Boarding Schools - Parents By Ernest Cornel All boardings schools should be banned, Kenya National Association of Parents secretary general Musau N ongoing Kepsha delegates conference. "If we want to increase access to education then the government must urgently abolish boarding schools," he said. The Knap boss sai

G4S paid author of 'independent' youth prison report as consultant Former prisons chief Sir Martin Narey said firm's Rainsbrook unit, which inspectors condem Simon Hattenstone Wednesday 5 August 2015 07.15 EDT Last modified on Wednesday 5 August 2015 19.00 EDT Share on Facebook Share on Twitter Share via Email Sh thousands of pounds as a consultant for the private security firm, the Guardian has learned. Sir Martin Narey, former director general of the prison service, published a repo if my son or daughter were incarcerated there. In Rainsbrook's case, I would consider him or she to be safe and to be generally well treated." Narey's verdict was delivered incidents of gross misconduct, staff who were on drugs on duty, and others who had behaved "extremely inappropriately" with young people, causing distress and humiliati advice that he needed treatment. The Ofsted report rated Rainsbrook "inadequate"– the lowest grading, prompting Frances Crook, the chief executive of the Howard League report, which appeared to show significant improvement at the unit, was referred to as an "independent report" on the YJB website despite Narey's admission within the bac company. Narey was also paid to advise G4S on bidding for renewal of its contract to run Rainsbrook in 2016. When approached by the Guardian, Narey confirmed he had report," Narey said. "G4S will pay for that review although my report was written primarily for the YJB and the secretary of state." Asked if he had been part of the G4S bi increased. "I realised I would be criticised for defending G4S, as people have suggested my reputation is damaged," Narey told the Guardian. "Life would have been easier criticised the earlier Ofsted report into Rainsbrook, saying: "Ofsted are independent but not omniscient and their conclusions are misconceived." Narey's history with G4S prison service from 1993 to 2008, Narey re-nationalised three prisons from the private sector including one, Buckley Hall, from G4S. Advertisement But his impartiality ha in doubt. The justice secretary [Michael Gove] must intervene immediately to freeze the bid process until G4S has explained why it appointed a member of its bid team to c with the record of abuse at Rainsbrook," he told the Guardian. Watson had previously expressed grave concerns about Rainsbrook as a result of Ofsted's report and wrote to Rainsbrook". Watson also expressed concern about the re-appointment of John Parker as director at Rainsbrook following the Ofsted report. Parker was in charge at Rainsb not independent. A spokesperson for the YJB said it considered the views Narey expressed in the report were his own, not those of any other party and it was common pract inspection of the STC. Ofsted told the Guardian: "We, the HM Inspectorate of Prisons and the Care Quality Commission fully stand by the findings and recommendations o independent-youth-prison-report-consultant

MURRIETA: Treatment center criminal case revelation triggers stock plunge The criminal case involving the corporate owners and employees in a 2010 patient d on moreShare Pin It More Galleries ADVERTISEMENT _ Related article » Stock for the corporate parent of a chain of alcohol-drug rehab homes plunged this week in the July 2010. A Wall Street Journal blog post credits a college student, posting on a blog and on his Bleecker Street Research website, with revealing details of allegations that Business report. AAC stocks closed Wednesday at $20.75, a 4.3 percent boost over the previous day's closing of $19.89. The Bleecker website posting claims the company suffered a loss from an investment on AAC stock to contact them. Holzer & Holzer specializes in shareholder litigation, including class action lawsuits. AAC acknowledge old patient, Gary Benefield. The company has denied wrongdoing on its own and on behalf of workers. In an earlier news release, it asserted Benefield died of natural cause website report states that court documents in civil litigation suggest that company lawyers and Menz knew about the criminal investigation in 2013 but did not disclose the outcomes of the case and any lawsuits could have a "material adverse effect on our business." A Riverside County grand jury returned a sealed criminal indictment July 21 Dawn Scarcella was charged with abuse of a dependent adult, according to court records. Arraignments for all are scheduled Oct. 1 in Riverside County Superior Court. The member of the board of directors, but an AAC news release issued July 29 said he "voluntarily stepped down from those roles to address these charges." Dean is operations and alcohol programs, according to the company's website. Benefield had battled pneumonia just prior to his death and was suffering from congestive heart failure when he medications and necessary oxygen. Staff writer Richard K. DeAtley contributed to this report. Contact the writer: 951-368-9075 or Source: http://www.pe

Child Welfare Ideas from the Experts, #5: Better Reporting Options for Maltreatment in Foster Care by John Kelly August 7, 2015 The Chronicle of Social Change i overseen each summer by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, with support from the Sara Start Fund. Each of the FYI participants crafted a carefully researcl report maltreatment in care by mandating autonomous state ombudsmen offices, requiring that foster youths be notified of any hotline available in their area, and standardiz elaborate American system set up to discover and intervene when children are sexually abused. The number of children reporting such victimization has plummeted in recer unreported. Their likeliest abusers, foster family members or group home staff, are obviously not going to report it. And as Williams points out, "The people that are suppos and making those options clear to foster youths, will improve the prospects of sexual abuse in care getting reported. And mandated education sessions, she argues, will give abused by various foster family members. When I reported the abuse to my caseworker, I was accused of wearing clothing that provoked my abusers to behave that way. Du abuse in foster care." The Chronicle's Take Read her proposal, and you'll see that Williams certainly makes her case that states vary widely in the way they facilitate. Some

requirements to money; that is the only hope of standardizing the collection of data on this issue in the most straightforward way, because that could be done through a reau if it's pricey, CAPTA won't work, because it's a pretty small amount of money. We were genuinely surprised that only "a handful" of states operate a 24/7 hotline that foster states to create "comfort and inform curriculum" to help prepare youths for the foster care system. Adding classes or sessions aimed at empowering youths to speak up abou options-for-maltreatment-in-foster-care/11520

Licensing rules stymie treatment centers By MARK HAYWARDNew Hampshire Union Leader Three New Hampshire residential drug treatment centers are being force prospect of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to meet the requirements. If they don't or can't, they won't be able to tap private insurers and Medicaid to pay for treat epidemic, Southeastern has already reduced the number of treatment beds in order to meet the standards.Serenity Place in Manchester would have to spend $1 million if it w for a waiver because a 155-square foot bedroom is 5-feet short of the standard. Also on the checklist: a $3,000 fire suppression system for a $100 stove. "It's been crazy," sa Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services for the state of New Hampshire, said the treatment centers have known for two years that the regulations were coming.Harding ackno — to keep their programs going.Now, the Obamacare law requires Medicaid and private insurers to pay for substance abuse services."With the increased resources come in building and patient rooms will meet certain standards. And he noted that Farnum Center in Manchester and Keystone Hall in Nashua have recently moved to facilities that troubled teenagers. But the effort was thwarted when the city rejected the move because of neighborhood opposition. Serenity Place has made an offer on a second location, Moran said her agency will have to spend $500,000 to meet the standards. She hopes to get a loan or grant for $300,000, the other $200,000 will come out of cash flow.She' Southeastern's bedrooms are 122 square feet, and the state has rejected her request for a waiver."In a nursing home, grandma might live in her room (and need the space)," M transitional program went from 19 to 15.At Headrest, Thistle had to turn two two-person bedrooms into single-person bedrooms because they fell short of the standard.Mea there, and the rules say I have to get a waiver because we have a bureau in there," Thistle said.Drake said Serenity Place would have lost half of its beds to the regulations, were told we had to have a license with DHHS because we weren't billing insurance companies," Moran said.Under the current system, the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Se http://www.unionleader.com/article/20150809/NEWS12/150809327

Improving the Outcomes of Students in Foster Care – Georgetown University Law Center On May 27, NCYL co-hosted and participated in a convening, "Improving the Center on Poverty and Inequality, and the Children's Defense Fund – considered how federal policies can help spread promising practices that are being implemented at the Director Jesse Hahnel as a speaker, focused on promising practices and continuing challenges in working at the state and local levels to improve the educational outcomes o District, and the Legal Center for Foster Care and Education – emphasized the importance of interagency collaboration and strong leadership. They outlined a number of pr ensuring that foster youth are immediately enrolled in school; ensuring that their educational records are transferred between schools in a timely manner; ensuring that foste staff on trauma-informed practices; sharing data regarding foster youth amongst state and local child welfare and education agencies; and disaggregating educational outcon Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, the US. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, the U.S. Senate advancing this issue, and discussed several mechanisms for spreading best practices, including legislation, regulation, and discretionary grants. The final panel explored the unique challenges that girls in care face related to sexual and relationship abuse, pregnancy, and parenting, and emphasized the importance of trauma-informed school syste the Higher Education Act; use targeted discretionary federal grants to incentivize state and local agencies to collaborate to improve the educational outcomes of foster youth and accountability among education and child welfare agencies. A video of the convening is available at https://vimeo.com/129088273 . - See more at: http://youthlaw.org/p

CR Spreads Message on Overuse of Psychotropics for Kids in Foster Care By CR Staff Sara Bartosz, lead counsel at national advocacy organization Children's Rights, Feel Like a Zombie: Legal Ethics and Overuse of Psychotropic Drug Use among Children in State Custody." The session served to educate lawyers on how the issue affects therapeutic counseling to treat underlying issues, kids are too frequently given powerful psychotropic drugs to control their behavior. The drugs can have side effects like dr moves between foster homes and changes in caseworkers, and consequently don't have one consistent person in their lives who knows their history and can watch out for th child; consistently provide mandated mental health screenings and follow-up treatments; ensure appropriate informed consent processes occur before children are prescribe Michael Naylor, a child psychiatrist with the Institute for Juvenile Research at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The discussion was moderated by Chicago Tribune repo treatments for childhood trauma in order to combat the over-reliance on powerful drugs. Source: http://www.childrensrights.org/cr-spreads-message-on-overuse-of-psychot

'Sex-crazed' teacher preyed on troubled teens: prosecutor By Lia Eustachewich View author archive Get author RSS feed Name(required) Email(required) Comment(requir accused of sexually abusing students "preyed" on his seven vulnerable teenaged victims, even researching them online before making his move, prosecutors said Wednesda who had issues, who had problems. He jumped on that like white on rice," she said. The 45-year-old math and physics teacher was indicted last September on 36 counts, inc seeking him out for sex – not the other way around. "She talks regularly of her love of older men, how she tries to sleep with older teachers," said Summers. "Her goal was gleaned from three terabytes' worth of text messages and emails between Shaynak and his alleged victims. Summers argued to reduce Shaynak's bail from $1 million to $4 http://nypost.com/2015/08/12/sex-crazed-teacher-preyed-on-vulnerable-girls-prosecutor-says/

With Lax Supervision at State-Contracted Group Homes, Teen Prostitution and Drug Use Are Rampant A A Facebook 69 Twitter 33 More shares recommend reddit new locks on the windows to keep her 16-year-old daughter, Cathy, from sneaking out again. The fight ended with Cathy waving around a kitchen knife. She left in handcuf year-old marketing professional, sat watching her daughter, the legal jargon boxing her ears like white noise. (New Times is not publishing their real names.) The judge revi running with older, rougher guys. Cathy was careening along the same wayward trajectory. Her parents couldn't pinpoint why. Bonnie had walked her kids to school every c like her older sister, was wild. Once, when she was 13 and drinking with a group of older boys, the incident ended in a sexual assault. She'd since been held back twice. Nov judge no. "This is sad to say about your own kid," Bonnie says today, the words slipping around tears. "I thought she was safer being detained. At least we would know whe of her mostly naked." In captions, the teen talked about being "higher than the clouds." The judge's pen went into action. Because Bonnie was a victim, the court placed a nc with the state Department of Children and Families to handle child welfare services in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Cathy was assigned a child advocate, or a point-p and 17 who are facing juvenile criminal charges. Although barred from contacting her daughter, Bonnie felt relieved that Cathy would be in a controlled environment — un clouds." Bonnie was stunned. She thought her daughter was being closely supervised. Instead she was out partying — on a weeknight? "I'm just wondering, has she been re Public Defender's Office have repeatedly heard from their juvenile clients that because of lax supervision, shocking behaviors like drug-dealing and prostitution routinely ta (DCF) itself concedes that several agencies, including ChildNet, do not adequately supervise the facilities. Little is being done to remedy the problem, but administrators ins depression," says Gordon Weekes, an attorney in charge of juvenile cases at thee Broward Public Defender's Office. "It seems contagious in the houses. All the children hav not allowed to contact Bonnie, Ed sometimes stopped by New Lighthouse to visit his daughter. He recalls that there was inconsistency in the check-in process. Sometimes a boyfriend, whoever.'?" Cathy told him that, inside, "everybody wanted to fight everybody," Ed says. "None of the girls got along. She said it was a terrible situation." Cathy away from the group home for three days — no one alerted Bonnie or Ed, the mother and father say. The girls were known as "group home hoes." Online, Bonnie also conti transportation. When she emailed Cathy's ChildNet child advocate asking why she was truant, Bonnie got back a curt response. "Your daughter has a school bus," an email get-together, she noticed Cathy had expensive-looking manicured nails, hair extensions, and costly Tory Burch sandals. Cathy's sisters reported that she'd had a $100 bill in were not allowed to give out information, Bonnie claims. Florida's child-care system is a textbook example of outsource economics. Children facing criminal charges can b Families ("the dependency system"); the two groups usually overlap. With the dependency system, children enter a giant bureaucracy that has several layers of subcontracto oversee independently run group homes. ChildNet is the CBC serving both Broward and Palm Beach counties. It subcontracts with 51 agencies in the two counties. The Br oversees group homes.) Regulations laid out by the DCF specify that rooms must be a certain square footage, that a bathroom is required for "every six residents," and that school degree and three years of experience working with children. Staffers need a high school diploma or equivalent and must pass a local law enforcement screening. "Th runaway, the DCF is clear: "Beyond one hour after determining that a child... is missing, staff shall immediately call local law enforcement and report the missing resident." Related Stories Full Statement From ChildNet Regarding Supervision at Broward Group Homes It falls to each CBC to establish standards for subcontractors and make sur depending on whether it's classified as low-, medium-, or high-risk. The review involves a prearranged onsite inspection where ChildNet staffers comb through a random sa by Fountain of Life Community Development Center, a faith-based nonprofit. The home's tax records show that it is also known as Project Touch Inc. It received $380,429 instances, if the child has run away from the group home, the provider did not follow the procedures in the ChildNet policy." The agency's CEO, Dr. Sherron Parrish, did no coach, [and] community leader" states that in "1986 she became licensed as a prophetess" and has a certificate and associate's degree from International Seminary in Plymou Lighthouse's website states that residents would learn "Life preparation skills" and get "therapeutic training to improve behavior." The mission statement also says, "The abi over, she would definitely need it. Illustration by Joseph Laney Cathy's story is not isolated. Broward's public defenders see troubling cases every day. For Lauren Robinette of supervision, even whispers about prostitution and sex trafficking. "I felt like they were just being warehoused there," Robinette says today. "When you would go there, th across Broward. "Although they had a shelter over their heads, there really was no level of parental supervision that you would expect for girls who are 15, 16, or 17 years c [conditions that] should be provided for these girls." No one was going to school. The attorneys say they would arrive at 10 a.m. on a weekday and find kids still in bed. No these children to school." "This exposes the failing of privatization," Weekes says. "Privatization allows the state to alleviate itself of responsibility." Florida administrative environment is created and maintained." Beyond that, the public defenders say standards seemed nonexistent or at least poorly enforced. For instance, teens reported that alt worded letter to DCF Interim Secretary Mike Carroll. "It is extremely disturbing that foster care children who have often already endured significant trauma resulting from and do not feel safe or protected in these state-funded environments." Specifically, Weekes' letter focused on three Broward group homes. The ARRIS (which stands for "Ac

near Warfield Park in Fort Lauderdale. Together, the two buildings house 19 girls between the ages of 12 and 17. The homes are owned by the Agency for Community Treat is an emergency shelter located ten blocks west of the ARRIS/AESHA site and houses 22 boys aged 12 to 17, all with "elevated risk factors" such as chronic runaway issues she'd been sexually assaulted while sleeping in September 2014. Another complained of being attacked and battered by three other residents in May 2014. The attorneys hea seven cases." Because of restrictions on public access to records involving juvenile offenders, New Times could not verify the specific claims in Weekes' letter. But police r was noted at the homes. In November 2012, a girl staying at ARRIS told Fort Lauderdale Police that "she occasionally sold marijuana and crack cocaine and that she smoke were even more common. In September 2012, police responded to Crescent when three boys locked a staff member in a dark room after she refused to let them use the phor flashed a three-inch knife at a staff member; later, another staff member was struck in the head. Gangland drama even spilled into the group homes. In June 2013, a youth st Sheriff's Office had made a death threat to his girlfriend, who he believed had ratted him out for the murder. The girl, a "Ruby," or female Blood member, was staying at AE and then being paid $15.00." Police also responded — along with child protective investigators — to reports of prostitution and sex trafficking. In May 2013, police investig drove up and "asks the girls to come with him and exchange currency for sexual acts." She said the girls were known as "group home hoes" and admitted she "had been arre denied the stories about prostitution. A staff member also denied prostitution was happening but conceded that "girls are always hanging out with boys in the area." A year l at AESHA, an employee stated "that the facility's policy is to report the children missing if they do not return before 4 a.m." — apparently in violation of DCF regulations. I cell. "I just saw the words 'raped' and 'punched in the face,'?" she remembers today. As Cathy would later explain to an investigator from the BSO, she was walking around girlfriend. He invited Cathy to dinner to discuss how she could become a model. She got into a white four-door pickup with the couple, the report says. Cathy noted that the ripped her pants as he pulled them down, then raped her." After the assault, the attacker dropped Cathy off at her sister's boyfriend's house but warned her to keep quiet or h clammed up, saying, "I don't want to get involved." As such, the case has led to no arrests. For Bonnie, the worst-case scenario had now come true. She left the gas station a wetting both their faces. Cathy told Bonnie she was still bleeding from the attack. Some group-home operators say they are doing the best they can. Richard E. Brown, the C view, ACTS is stuck in a tough position, providing housing and meals as required but with little authority to control residents. "If somebody wants to walk away, there is no Times. "If somebody wants to walk away, there is not any authority on our part to prevent that from happening. That's built into the system. That's not necessarily our prefer come there with that experience already in their lifestyle. It's a dynamic that we are wanting to deal with. It's not that we can choose who we admit. We have to take what co home is in compliance and has policies in place to ensure adequate supervision for our clients. Our staff are also well-trained and have been following the proper protocols a experience normalcy. All children and adolescents are monitored and carefully supervised, but residential care facilities are not juvenile detention facilities, and these childr the best path forward." Following Weekes' letter last September, the DCF's Carroll responded with a review of the allegations, one by one. He said that the September 2014 homes stated they continued to work with local law enforcement. Problems at Crescent were attributed to "a recent escalation in behaviors from one particular young man th ARRIS and AESHA were both subject to monitoring in March 2012. ARRIS scored a 97 percent on its compliance, with the only issue falling on the number of residents w Another child advocate responded that the home "needs to have activities both recreational and therapeutic for the client and not allow them to come and go as they want. T monitors noted that only "three of seven applicable girls had demonstrated improvement or maintained passing grades (GPA of 1.0 or above) while in the program." "Due to Chrysalis Health's centers — including Crescent — were last monitored in June 2012. The review found the site 100 percent compliant with the contract. After Weekes' lette the same time Weekes' letter was received, "we had experienced a significant increase in the numbers of children coming into care, and that is putting stress on the entire sys DCF performed an audit and inspected six of Florida's 17 CBCs, ChildNet's Palm Beach operation among them. Auditors found that, in some cases, ChildNet had failed to process. The audit concluded in March 2015 found that while CBCs were failing to keep an eye on subcontractors, the DCF was also failing to watch the CBCs. Across the Cathy is still pending. A month after she was raped, 12 adults, most armed with legal degrees — including her public defender, her guardian ad litem, her guardian ad litem' looked puzzled, as though she were struggling to understand the legalese. The hearing stretched for four hours with no decision made. Another hearing was slotted into the Eventually, she was gone for two months. When the girl returned, she was taken to SafePlace, a ChildNet-run emergency shelter. It became a pattern: running away on her down a bout of tears. "I don't feel comfortable about who is looking out for her. Because nobody is." Source: http://www.browardpalmbeach.com/news/with-lax-supervisio

Ten Ways to Promote Permanence for Foster Youths by Jim Kenny August 11, 2015 There are only two truly permanent outcomes for children in temporary care: reunifi by fiat. Systems need to be modified. Here are ten recommendations that may help improve outcomes. Preserve the birth family. Improve reunification outcomes by beginni Change the financial incentives for agencies by rewarding them with some form of bonus for adoption so that long-term foster care can no longer be perceived as a financia weekly and achieve successful outcomes. Encourage education about attachment and bonding in psychology and social work programs. Focus on attachment issues with cas the home, not in a therapist's office. Consider cooperative adoption. Fear of losing her child may be the only factor holding back a birth mother's voluntary consent to termi voice in conferences and courts for foster parents. They have the most day-to-day knowledge and may care the most and yet they are the only party involved that lacks legal clinical experience. The author of 13 books on family and child care, Dr. Kenny's recent books are Attachment and Bonding in the Foster and Adopted Child and What Fost

We Can Do Better Than This: The Foster Care Bill of Rights | Danielle Gletow We Can Do Better Than This: The Foster Care Bill of Rights Posted: 08/11/2015 4:13 pn As Governor Markell signed the bill surrounded by current and former foster youth, I began to read through the copy given to me when I arrived. Though I was certainly thi neglect." "To receive food, water, shelter and clothing to meet my own individual needs." As I continued to read I couldn't help thinking: "Aren't these just basic human righ unfortunately I can't say it surprised me. For the past eight years I have seen nearly everything negative that there is to see in the foster care system. I have welcomed childr home without finding a permanent place to call home. I have worked with children who have aged out of the system who have received little to no preparation for life beyor several outdated documents that address the need for a Bill of Rights as well as reference to a bill ratified in Philadelphia in 1973. I also found a project from the National C heavily on me since I watched that bill signing is not just that it appears that there is no standard, detailed and easy to read Foster Care Bill of Rights but that this informatio feel their rights are being violated. We have a long way to go in reforming a system that is riddled with inadequacies. I appreciate that in a system with so many exceptions, environment than the one they came from. I write this piece with three goals in mind: 1. I hope that it will encourage more people to become involved in supporting our you other advocates about what information is available regarding children's rights in foster care. I'd like to use this to compile a more complete resource page to be posted on O make it publicly accessible. I must end on a positive note. I mentioned above that in eight years I have seen most of the negatives within the foster care system. But I want t foster parents who have opened their homes to dozens of children in the course of their lives. I have had the pleasure of seeing countless smiles from children who have rec a better life for children in foster care, but to deliver it. As always, I'd love to hear your thoughts and feedback. Email me anytime here. Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.

Ayotte calls on federal health officials to ease licensing requirements that N.H. drug treatment facilities must meet in order to bill insurance under expanded Medi Kelly Ayotte is calling on federal health officials to ease licensing requirements that New Hampshire drug treatment facilities must meet in order to bill insurance under the publicly funded sector currently has the capacity to treat roughly 5,000 people, according to officials. As the calls for action grow, some treatment centers are struggling to r furniture or room sizes and also requires them to meet certain life safety codes including fire protection and electrical standards, said New Hampshire Department of Health a health care facility license, according to Ayotte's letter. "At a time when access to treatment is already lacking, burdensome and costly regulations should not further hinde can achieve a situation where residential treatment centers offer safe places where individuals can receive treatment without facilities having to cut the number of beds and t lamp, a closet and a chair, CEO Sharon Drake told the Monitor in June. Drake did not return a request for comment Tuesday. At a time when the waitlist for the center's trar process, and see Medicaid expansion as a critical way to add beds and treatment services. But many are holding off on those investments until the future of the state's Medi and the only state-funded residential treatment center in the North Country. Officials there are waiting to invest in costly projects to increase treatment capacity at the 18-be Coughlin, CEO of Tri-County Cap, which oversees the Friendship House, told the Monitor earlier this year. Leon said HHS has been working over the past two years with t protection, electrical standards and basic life safety issues," Leon said. "We feel like the department has worked very hard to help and support these efforts, recognizing the

The Shortcomings Of The Foster Care System Comments (1) | child welfare, foster care agencies, foster care system, foster youth, government officials, L.A. County, Lu Tweet View image | gettyimages.com Every child deserves a safe place to call home. Sadly, not every parent is capable of providing their child a stable home environme overcome the obstacles thrown their way, they end up like Bianca, Madison, Tiffany, and Paris Lucci, who have been in the system since the age of 11. The quadruplets ent Verdes, where they all graduated from high school back in June. With plans to continue their education, Madison, Tiffany and Paris Lucci will be headed to Long Beach Ci alone, less than half of foster-care youth graduate from high school and even fewer graduate from college. Additionally, conservative studies of the U.S. show that one in fi pregnant by 21. One in four children will have suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, at twice the rate of war veterans. It is safe to say that the foster care system is fa New Mexico, Oklahoma and Oregon revealed that the average foster-care provider's length of service was less than eight months. Moreover, a 2010 Casey Family study als can drag around from place to place and expect them to turn out just fine. No. Not in the slightest bit. They are human beings. And just like any other person, they require a study of adults in Washington and Oregon who have been emancipated from the foster-care system revealed that a third of former foster children reported being abused by a the homes they came from, then why not just run away? No matter what the case may be, escaping the system should not be a realistic solution for foster children. To confr a meter of how child welfare is failing or succeeding, they're a meter of how we are failing or succeeding as a society." Some children are rescued by child welfare workers poverty line in 2012. With that said, one way to improve the state of the foster care system is to make it less indispensable in our society. Providing larger subsidies to pare we cannot forget about the thousands of children who already find themselves in foster care. Instead of paying millions to troubled foster care agencies, elected officials wit

enter our everyday conversations. The media does an impressive job at featuring exceptional cases like that of the Lucci quadruplets beating the odds or dreadful ones about improve the lives of the most vulnerable - children. Reach Columnist Marina Peña here, or follow her on Twitter. Source: http://www.neontommy.com/news/2015/08/sho

More parents come forward with sex abuse allegations against.. | www.wpxi.com More parents come forward with sex abuse allegations against home for troubled chil Kaminski's report on Monday about an investigation into a Zelienople residential facility for troubled children, more parents have contacted the news station with allegation and was in the hospital afterwards. It's too much to take in," one Somerset County mother, who did not want to be identified, said. Kaminski confirmed last week that the Pe heartwarming note for mother of sick baby Miss Pennsylvania U.S. International winner accused of lying about battling cancer Parents drive 2 hours before realizing they l received a report of sexual mistreatment from ChildLine on July 31, 2015. The reporter alleged that nine male children, ages 8-12 years old, were involved in ongoing sexua 2015. Investigation is ongoing and in coordination with law enforcement." Among the negative comments about the facility on social media were some positive ones. "My now realizes others endured what happened to her 11-year-old daughter. "As soon as I saw that, it was like this is not an isolated incident. It hit home that (she) wasn't the o previously sexually abused when she was younger, so she knew that was wrong," the mother said. The Somerset County woman said she reported the incident to officials at licensing officials said inspection information of the alleged violation and evidence of compliance would be found, had no record of the investigation or violation. "I don't k http://www.wpxi.com/news/news/local/more-parents-come-forward-sex-abuse-allegations-ag/nnJM8/

Staff mishandled violent outbursts Thursday, August 13, 2015 - 06:00 print comments Be the first one to rate this article! 1 2 3 4 5 By Mike Ford Staff Writer ORANGE neglect in handling violent behavior, preventing authorities from learning of violent incidents and an attempt to interfere in the investigation on the part of BASCA'S execut bedrooms. The order also declares incident reports to have been altered or omitted altogether with staff directed to from page 1 not call 911, but to contact Cone instead. "Si allegation. "That's incorrect – I can't go in to detail yet, but I was misquoted. I did not say that," he said. Cone said his legal representatives have been in communication wi there were two residents at the Pine Forest Group Home who displayed violent outbursts, but the order only details two incidents by one of the residents, identified as Resid Because Resident I's behaviors are so frequent and other human rights violations may occur to other residents as a result of trying to control Resident I's behaviors via mear "non-critical incident report" filed on or about June 13. The order says Resident I went into a rage after requesting tea. The report says he grabbed his direct care staff memb Resident I outside in order to protect the other residents and the staff member who had been attacked. Resident I remained outside in an agitated state for approximately an h the home. The injured staff member was taken to a hospital and given a wrist brace to wear until the injury healed. Later in the document, the order reads that "human rights providing a behavior plan and that, "though it was noted in a current unapproved behavior plan that [Resident I] has injured staff and resident, it took (sic) organization over verbally or on logs indicate that residents and staff were harmed in the interim." The agency found there to be a high safety risk and issued the emergency order to close the Medicaid money attached to each resident, those funds will be lost and the group homes effectively closed unless taken over by another organization licensed to do so. The that was redacted from the APD report. The order says "when Resident I was released, he was very agitated and verbalized that he needed to be locked up, as he was not saf the order of the second resident displaying violent behavior indicates the DCF abuse report was closed July 31 with respect to Resident II with a high overall safety risk "for credible evidence to support the allegation of inadequate supervision in the group home. It also declares that "collateral sources" stated that the home is a "problem" and staf "feared for family members who receive BASCA services if they speak openly" and that staff were not trained to keep Resident I or other residents safe when Resident I las to contact Cone. The order also details an incident connected to a "non-critical incident report" filed on or about Aug. 2 involving Resident I, a 911 call and injury to Cone. order. It also declares that "emergency suspension of the group home's license is the least-restrictive means of addressing the immediate threat to the health and safety of the http://www.claytodayonline.com/ee/claytoday/en/component/fullstory/20150813_001_art_2/staff-mishandled-violent-outbursts

Corinth man charged with sexual abuse of patient at group home Posted: Aug 13, 2015 8:51 AM PDT Updated: Aug 13, 2015 8:51 AM PDT Posted by Mary Grace Ep Triplett was arrested Wednesday by investigators with the Attorney General's Office Medicaid Fraud Control Unit with assistance from the Alcorn County Sheriff's Departm penetration with a vulnerable person." The victim is an adult man who has been diagnosed with profound mental disabilities. Triplett was booked into Alcorn County Jail an

Federal lawsuit challenging New York's 'dangerous' foster care program is near settlement BY Jennifer Fermino NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Wednesday, August 12, of 10 kids. A federal civil rights lawsuit that claims the city and the state have for years condemned kids to "one of the most dangerous foster-care systems in the country" is Advocate Letitia James — who filed the suit along with advocates on behalf of 10 kids — said she was grateful the state was moving quickly. The lawsuit was filed last mo

Liberty County Maternity Group Home Denied By Ian Margol Published: August 13, 2015, 10:22 pm Updated: August 13, 2015, 11:08 pm 2Click to share on Twitter (C you'd likely never notice it and you certainly wouldn't be able to tell it's at the center of a heated debate. The non-profit, Emanuel Loving Arms Residential Child Care Inc. issues. "Baby daddies, parents, you can't keep them from communicating with their families," said Moser. "Every house has drama and no matter if it's that or if it's a [regu weeks of their pregnancies. While E.L.A. has already gotten approval from Liberty County for conditional use of the house, the Walthourville City Council voted not to app cared enough to give them a chance, don't you think that would change their attitude? Change their way of life?" said McCray. Because of the ongoing appeal, the Walthou home-denied/

Iowa residents sentenced in Va. to long prison terms in sex-trafficking case marked by torture Published August 14, 2015 Associated Press Facebook24 Twitter9 Ema heal. U.S. District Judge Henry Hudson sentenced Aldair Hodza to almost 42 years in prison. He sentenced Laura Sorensen to 40 years. ADVERTISEMENT Defense attorn looking at photographs of the victim's wounds, he decided even that was not enough. "She may never be able to have a normal relationship because of the unusual and rare said the sign posted over the entrance to Dante's Inferno — "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here" — would have been appropriate over the door of that RV. For the next 18 her body. The drove nails into her feet, poured bleach into her wounds, and dragged her by a dog leash down a gravel path. Hodza's 8-year-old daughter witnessed some of t The torture finally ended when a trucker at a New Kent County truck stop called police after spotting through the RV window a woman who appeared frightened and malno apologized before being sentenced. "This is monstrous, horrible, senseless, inexplicable, inexcusable," Hodza said. "I offer sincere apologies. I know that doesn't mean muc side." "Some of the things you did to this young lady are so horrifying you cannot capture it in words," Hudson told Hodza. Defense attorneys said both defendants were ab trafficking-case/

Wheeling man accused of sexually abusing a foster child in his care Updated: Friday, August 14 2015, 05:40 PM EDT WHEELING, W.Va. -- A Wheeling man has been gave a 17-year-old girl in his care drugs and then sexually abused her. Now he's in jail facing a lengthy prison stay. Jackson is from Wheeling, and according to reports, he a "The victim in the crime had disclosed that there were incidents when the defendant, when Mr. Jackson, would purchase heroin prior to and after the alleged acts took place $125,000. He is in the Northern Regional Jail. Source: http://www.wtov9.com/shared/news/features/top-stories/stories/wtov_wheeling-man-accused-sexually-abusing-foste

Illegal group home in Belton tied to Austin location 37 mins ago JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — AUSTIN (KXAN) – The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Service block of Wildrose Drive for multiple welfare calls. Four patients were transported, 17 more were assisted on scene and one person left with family members. According to A operated by the same owner, 45-year-old Renee Segura, in Belton, Texas. On Aug. 5, DADS received a tip regarding a facility called 'God's Blessings' in Belton. When inv of an assisted living facility here. According to court documents, there were also registered sex offenders in the building and staff reported that there was a male resident "ha Cavuto said DADS had to wait for a temporary restraining order (TRO)—since the facility wasn't licensed—before they were able to shut down the facility and keep Segur operator and came up with a location in Austin. "We found that [Wildrose] place while investigating addresses associated with Ms. Segura after we found the Belton facility the scene. She posted bond on Saturday afternoon. DADS said operating an unlicensed group home could come with monetary penalties as well as criminal prosecution. Fa life. I should've done that," Adrande remembers. Andrade says he travels a lot for work and it stopped him from being able to check in on his mom on a regular basis. The l thought you should know, click," Adrande recounts the conversation. Since then Andrade has opened up his own personal investigation as to whether or not being at God's very pissed off about the whole thing. I wanna know where the hell my mama is at," Luther Meredith says. Meredith says his mother checked into God's Blessings this yea warning signs that could be deadly. So he advises family members like Meredith, to pay attention. "If she starts to sound different that is a red flag you need to go over there

Boot camps for troubled youth need oversight Transparency of programs for troubled youths is long overdue By The Tribune 16, 2015 2015-08-16 of sandwiches and drinks at Piemonte's Italian Delicatessen in SLO $7.00 Buy Now! Recent Headlines Firefighters and volunteers deserve praise and relaxation after battlin taking its advice Related Stories: 4 police officers could be charged in alleged abuse of teens at boot camp Sheriff investigates report of child abuse at Camp San Luis Obisp injuries and even deaths have occurred at "troubled teen" camps. Each time, there's a public outcry, yet the reports continue. This month, allegations of beatings and other p involved.) Despite the outrage over such incidents, licensing requirements and monitoring of camps remains minimal or nonexistent in many states, including California. Tv camp participants basic rights, including the right "to be accorded dignity in his or her personal relationships with staff, residents, and other persons." Who can argue with th scheduled and unscheduled telephone conversations, unrestricted written correspondence , and electronic communications." The federal legislation, HR 3060, includes simi programs that have helped teenagers get their lives back on track. Those programs have nothing to hide, and we see no reason why they would object to increased transparer occurs at boot camps and similar facilities, an often-quoted U.S. Government Accountability Office report from 2007 documented that 34 states had reported over 1,500 sta communicate with their children, it's far too easy for abuse to go undetected and unreported. For example, allegations about the program at Camp San Luis Obispo may not prompted an investigation by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office. Keep in mind, the local case is far from decided; it will be up to the justice system to determine t

this year. Without tighter control of boot camps and wilderness programs, there are too many opportunities for children to come to harm. These children may be defiant, but the sadistic drill sergeant — they may accept abusive behavior as normal. While children are the primary victims in such situations, we can only imagine how painful it mus and similar programs is long overdue. The Tribune strongly urges lawmakers in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., to adopt it without delay. Read more here: http://www.sa regulated and does not overturn the faith-based initiative exempting faith-based programs from regulation that has been supported by both Bush and Obama administrations

Cooked to Death': Inside South Dakota's Juvenile Justice Reign of Terror Christina Rose 8/17/15 The following is the second part of a three part series taking a look at Natives in state-run juvenile detention homes face a cultural crisis everywhere, but from 1996 until 2001, South Dakota Governor Bill Janklow's juvenile justice system wa also known as Wanbli Wiconi Tipi, utilizes restorative justice rather than punishment and alienation from family and community. Restorative justice brings the youth back i the new Young Ambassadors Leadership Program to help re-integrate them into their families and communities. RELATED: 'Terrible Racial Disparities' Not Fixed With SI of Corrections a lot to recover from. History of Juvenile Justice in South Dakota Janklow, who died January 12, 2012, was often described as having been the kind of teen w Janklow, then a 16-year-old high school dropout, got into trouble, a judge recommended he join the Marines. Later, as governor, Janklow brought a more discipline-oriented Plankinton, South Dakota. Those who ended up in Custer or Plankinton faced a first day induction routine designed to overwhelm "the students with stress and anxiety," Dc saw one induction, and that was enough, I thought it was barbaric." Mother Jones says the public began to pay attention to the harsh treatment of youth in the detention hom Score was left lying on the ground long after the group had returned to the camp, and by the time medical staff sent an ambulance, she had turned blue and was frothing at t about boys being molested at the Custer facility, he investigated the situation, and said, "I couldn't believe what was going on." Haley spoke with youth and staff, and even Naked youth were pepper sprayed in their cells, and male guards were routinely present in the girls' showers. Some youth were put into isolation in cells as small as 5' x 10 trying repeatedly to commit suicide. "Kids and staff were at war with each other," says Marc Schindler, an attorney with the Youth Law Center in Washington, D.C. "They p said, "but by Bill Janklow." In a Rapid City Journal story, Score's parents said forgiveness was hard. Viola Score told the paper, "After listening to what other parents say wh 2001 by the state following the acquittal of two state employees in Score's death, but that was not the end of the juvenile justice nightmare in South Dakota. In March 2002, In a Rapid City Journal article, Janklow said "it would be 'illogical' to require the Corrections Department to follow Performance-Based Standards when county detention c Medication as a chemical restraint and rape were reported to Jennifer Ring, director of the American Civil Liberties Union of the Dakotas. In Winner, South Dakota schools pushing in line. In an ACLU complaint, which was the basis for the 2006 ACLU lawsuit, Antoine v. Winner, students were told by their principal they had to sign an affidav punished, but very often the Lakota youth were either given probation or sentences in detention homes. One Lakota boy was sent to a detention home for laughing when a t 12 year old child was arrested at the request of the school principal for 'refusing to sit where he was told,' and for 'making noises,'" according to Steinberger in the Lakota lawsuit, Antoine v. Winner School. In December of 2007, the federal court decreed that the school enact policies to assure that Native children were treated equitably and th change in attitude and an improvement in race relations -- one of the first steps was eliminating police referrals. RELATED: Taking Racism Out of South Dakota Schools, P Things are much better now, especially for the non-Native youth. For Native youth? Not enough. While treatment of the youth in South Dakota's detention homes has impro and in a place that does not value their spirituality and cultural lifestyles. Read more at http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/08/17/cooked-death-inside-south-

--> **Couple who were 'house parents' at Christian ranch for troubled youth 'played sexual Truth or Dare with teenage girls in their care'** Michael and Jennifer Nicol of abusing a 14-year-old girl who came forward with the abuse on August 11 The Magills have two children of their own who have been placed in the custody of the Idaho and homeless youth are accused of playing sexual 'Truth or Dare' games with a girl as young as 14. Michael and Jennifer Nicole Magill who were 'house parents' at Christia Charged: Jennifer Nicole Magill and her husband Michael, former house parents at Christian Children's Ranch for troubled youth, are accused of sexually abusing a 14-year act on her husband Michael. The 14-year-old girl told someone at the ranch that she was being abused on August 11. The inappropriate behavior was then reported to officia face murder charges after investigation... Make a career out of your hobby? Share this article Share 30 shares Authorities are investigating whether or not the couple has an income. Deputy Prosecutor Lucy Juarez recommended the bond be set at $500,000 for each of the defendants. She said the facts of the case were 'pretty appalling.' Accordi no criminal history. The bond was ultimately set at 500,000 due to the judge's concern for minors in the community. The couple's children have been placed in custody with Facebook post on the ranch's page, they do full FBI background checks on their employees. The ranch accepts children from a variety of incomes and parents are asked to p their employees Read more: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3203867/Couple-house-parents-Christian-ranch-troubled-youth-played-sexual-Truth-Dare-teenage-gir

Investigators scour Auburn home after foster care child dies and another is hospitalized 1 / 10 Auburn Pheasant Court The 2-year-old child who died while in the care second child is in "extremely critical condition." (Photo from mother's Facebook page) Scott J. Croteau | Print Email By Scott J. Croteau | happened or if anyone was being criminally charged with the death of the young child and the hospitalization of the second foster care child. The state Department of Childr today," state DCF spokesman Andrea Grossman said. "Both children lived in a foster home and were foster children. The Department is conducting its own investigation an referred all questions to the district attorney's office. One neighbor, who lived next to the home, shook her head in the doorway Sunday afternoon as police continued to inv Auburn Police Department were seen taking boxes of items from the 2 Pheasant Court home Sunday. A sport-utility-vehicle that neighbors said is owned by the mother livi told the newspaper that she heard the foster mother yelling that her babies were unresponsive. The Telegram & Gazette said six children lived in the home and three are biol what happened in the home. The crime scene tape was removed from the home Sunday afternoon after investigators left. Source: http://www.masslive.com/news/worcester

Baby's death in Anchorage foster home leads to state payout Lisa Demer August 16, 2015 Email Print Text Size-A +A BETHEL -- Two years ago, a sickly baby from B This summer, the state paid $500,000 to the family of the child, identified only as J.K. in the lawsuit. Related: Alaskans can join hands to care for our foster kids The civil l mother who, according to the events described in the suit, failed to follow well-established public health protocols. A national "Back to Sleep" campaign began in 1994 to u a defendant in the suit against foster mother Patricia Abell, but has a responsibility to defend foster parents, according to Cori Mills, an assistant attorney general and spokes state is responsible when foster parents make mistakes. A fragile baby J.K. was born healthy in January 2013. As a newborn, he caught a cold that developed into respiratory But the baby's conditioned worsened. He ended up in the Bethel emergency room, then was flown to Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage for more advanced care, t lawyer said. Then he improved. On March 11 of that year, he was discharged. He needed close monitoring as an outpatient, the suit said. The Office of Children's Services t whether it was necessary for OCS to take custody, he said. Patricia and Chad Abell were state-licensed foster parents responsible for providing emergency care for the baby, morning, Chad fed him a bottle and Patricia burped him. Then the foster mother put J.K. on his stomach, on her bed, the suit said. "Patricia's mattress had a pillow-top, mak and started CPR. At 8:08 a.m., someone called 911. Medics arrived seven minutes later and kept up efforts to save the baby while rushing him to Providence Alaska Medica the manner of death was accidental," the suit said. In Bethel at the Office of Children's Services, the parents were told of their baby's death. They asked to go to Anchorage Abell either lacked skill or knowledge, or otherwise failed to exercise that care, said the complaint. In July, the state paid $500,000 on behalf of the foster mother to settle th Anchorage attorney John Cashion. Public health experts say it is well established that babies should be put to sleep on their backs -- a message officials have been pushing i sometimes, the sleeping space is just wrong. The Abells had a crib, which is required for foster parents who take in infants, Erickson of OCS said on Friday. Licensing work now advise that babies be placed on their backs for sleeping to minimize the risk of sudden infant death syndrome. Still, the latest public education campaign on safe sleepi Public Health began distributing brochures and posters to hospitals that said babies are safest when they sleep alone, on their backs, in a crib -- the "A-B-C" message. Babie month "in a sleep environment," on their belly or their side, in soft bedding, in a shared sleeping space or in an otherwise risky setting, according to state epidemiologists. T child protection and licensing workers for the past year have been handing out brochures on safe sleeping to families and foster homes, Erickson said. Before that, handouts providers to reinforce a safe sleep message with families. On Friday, Erickson found out the core foster parent training didn't specifically address safe sleeping and said he a place that was supposed to keep him safe. "They have had their troubles," Angstman said. "There are family issues that are being addressed." Maybe, he said, the settleme

DSHS failures are rarely punished | State News | yakimaherald.com DSHS failures are rarely punished By Will Drabold, Seattle Times Updated Aug 15, 2015 Comments state of Washington's largest department is tasked with caring for the state's most vulnerable residents — abused children, foster kids, mentally handicapped adults. But tim most severely injured were children who were tortured, starved or raped. Some died. DSHS employees behind these failures rarely are punished, The Seattle Times has four $750,000 to $11 million, some $75 million in all. Using court records, public records and interviews, the newspaper identified 48 DSHS staffers involved in the failures in t records that affect compensation.) Whether any of the 48 staffers were given lesser forms of discipline, such as reprimand letters, is unclear. DSHS in May said it would tak cases — as well as several dozen interviews with current and former DSHS employees, state employee-union officials, personal-injury lawyers, children's advocates and oth personal-injury lawyer who has sued DSHS many times. Policymakers can suggest reforms, he said, but "often, it's that the worker didn't follow procedures that are already division responsible for payouts of $141.4 million. She would not comment on how her predecessors handled employees who may have made mistakes years earlier. Any fa the agency. Being a social worker is the "toughest job in state government," Strus said. A combination of large case-loads, employee turnover and budget cuts makes it "pre show, they were beaten, forced to overeat, throw up and eat their own vomit, and suffered sexual abuse. According to court records, Schaefer and her siblings said the casew agency for years. In 1998, lawyers for 13 foster kids filed a class-action lawsuit against the state, saying foster children were being harmed across the board by inadequate c improvements, including sharply cutting back on children bouncing from one foster home to another. The court oversight continues, in part because a key court-ordered mar reviews of botched child-welfare cases only when someone died in state care, a "fatality review." As of July 24, under "Aiden's Law," DSHS must review worker actions if such cases "speaks volumes," he said. Most of the multimillion-dollar settlements come from the DSHS Children's Administration division. There more than 1,800 social w social worker in Vancouver who's worked for a decade at the agency, said she has failed to see children once a month, as required by DSHS policy. She blames it on her cas

her watch. No one died in the case of two young Snohomish County boys, ages 3 and 6, who were being starved and beaten by their father and his girlfriend in 2006, but it
DSHS, saying two young boys were being starved and beaten by their parents. She would later say that no one at DSHS ever followed up with her, court records show. The
back a second time after a sheriff's deputy, shopping at Wal-Mart, saw bruises on the face of the 3-year-old, and alerted DSHS. This time, Kilgore required the parents to se
evidence of abuse. Nor did she speak to the more severely abused younger brother, Shayne, records show. A few months later, Ada Sharp, who had no experience or training
authorities that a little boy was being "starved." Paramedics rushed Shayne, now 4, to the hospital where he was found in urine-soaked clothes, emaciated, with a body temp
Mitchell were charged with first-degree criminal mistreatment, the case, with its sickening details and claims of DSHS failures, exploded in the news. Gov. Chris Gregoire
reprimand. Kilgore and Sharp still work at DSHS. Neff resigned from the agency. Screechowl resigned in 2007, came back in 2011 and then re-retired. Screechowl could nc
is a war zone' If the high-profile Snohomish starvation case didn't result in someone being punished, what sort of case would? "This story has been going on for 30 years,"
"Democrats all side with the union. So management gets the short end of the stick in (employee) disputes." It's a proven formula: To effectively serve children and families,
investigate reports of child neglect — is 16, well above the national standard of no more than 12. Also, it takes on average two years for a CPS investigator "to become prof
Some former DSHS officials and child advocates point to his union when noting that individual discipline doesn't always occur. DSHS is required to have substantial docur
union went to arbitration on only two cases of Children's Administration social workers who were terminated, he said. One firing was upheld; the other employee was reins
advocates and files lawsuits to bring accountability to child-welfare systems. Lustbader's organization has filed lawsuits in other states arguing high caseloads are a civil-rig
always explain away mistakes or why they go unpunished. According to interviews with 10 plaintiff attorneys who have brought personal-injury cases against DSHS, none
constellation of warnings and a corresponding constellation of failures by DSHS to heed those warnings," said Moody, lawyer for the Abegg children. "No one is held accou
period. "I understand the solution for some is to blame the caseworker every time a mistake is made, but when we are some 30 percent above a reasonable caseload, that ca
and Children's Ombuds. Director Patrick Dowd says the office plays a neutral role when it intervenes in cases in which DSHS failed to act or was unreasonable. However,

Operator of illegal group home in East Austin arrested | www.mystatesman.com Operator of illegal group home in East Austin arrested Posted: 3:38 p.m. Saturday, Aug.
discovery of an illegally operated group home for older adults, the treatment of seven patients from the home in East Austin and at least one arrest, officials said. Rene Segu
bail was set at $5,000. Source: http://www.mystatesman.com/news/news/operator-of-illegal-group-home-in-east-austin-arre/nnKzq/

Elite Boarding School Student Accused of Rape Says Seniors Had Annual Sex Competition 137,239 30 Gabrielle Bluestone Filed to: senior salute rape st. paul's 8/17/15 1:
gilbertkittens View discussion >> 2 St. Paul's School for the Prominently Be-chinned Medieval Knievel View discussion >> The man accused of raping an underclassman a
year. Owen Labrie, a 19-year-old former prefect at St. Paul's school in New Hampshire, was charged with repeatedly raping a 15-year-old girl on the roof of a campus build
the internet. Labrie, of Tunbridge, Vermont, talked openly about the tradition when he was interviewed by Concord police. On a campus where upperclassmen studiously av
the most girls, keeping a running tally written in indelible marker on a wall behind washing machines. The school kept painting over the scoreboard so it eventually was mo
was planning on having sex with the alleged victim, and even put on a condom, but stopped "in a moment of divine inspiration." When asked why she might lie about the e
the AP, the elite prep school has also produced senators, congressmen, ambassadors, Pulitzer Prize winners, Fortune 500 CEOs and several adult Kennedys—and that's in a
drowned in the school's $25 million athletic center even as two lifeguards were on duty. And in 2003, two grown billionaires were observed fighting on a Park Avenue stree
apparently without irony—that "St. Paul's School has policies in place to ensure that our students are safe, secure, and treated equitably." Source: http://gawker.com/elite-b

Oregon's foster care system needs reform Oregon newspapers 9:08 p.m. PDT August 16, 2015 Sen. Ron Wyden answers questions, Friday, May 1, 2015, during a States
committee hearing in the U.S. Senate. But that wasn't the case Wednesday when Charles Nyby, a program analyst for the Oregon Department of Human Services, testified
thought possible," he said in a hearing on a bill sponsored by Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the ranking Democrat on the committee. Wyden's bill would expand a multi-billi
been shown to be effective in stabilizing families and keeping kids out of foster care and either safe at home or placed with relatives. That's a smart and necessary move if s
funds for children only after they have been placed in foster care. That restriction on the more than $4 billion that is distributed annually to states serves as a perverse incent
reimbursements for up to a full year of family services. Those services would include counseling, family-skills training and other assistance intended to stabilize a family in
proposing expanded assistance to states and emphasizing "the important role of prevention, including parenting skills training and mental health services." Nyby was on tar
and children who are in crisis because of poverty, substance abuse and homelessness. As a result, the state is serving fewer foster children — and keeping more families tog
troubled child welfare system, recently hammered home that point in a letter announcing her departure as director of the state's Department of Human Services. She noted t
being served and how they are faring in the system. The state also has been hit with several lawsuits in recent years alleging that its child welfare system failed to intervene
helping families remain intact, they need more federal funding and greater flexibility in using it. Wyden's proposal would accomplish both, and deserves enthusiastic biparti
good choices about care. And that, in turn, creates incentives for providers and insurers to move to a better health care system. There's nothing wrong with that idealized pre
in the fall of 2016 that will show health care costs by tracking almost all health care billing in the state, as Bulletin reporter Tara Bannow wrote in Wednesday's paper. It cou
serious questions about the variations in Medicare spending across the country. More spending didn't correlate with better health care outcomes. That can help inform decis
bound by guard rails in their health care decisions — time, cost, what their health plan covers and their location — to name a few. Will it have unintended consequences tha
alone would not be smart. Maybe, over the long haul, the new Oregon database or ProPublica's report card will be refined and improved and better understood by consumer
needs-reform/31804681/

Foster parent accused of killing 11-month old pleads guilty By: Nick Rothschild - Email Updated: Mon 9:58 PM, Aug 17, 2015 By: Nick Rothschild - Email Home / He
the deal. White was initially charged with first degree murder and child abuse resulting in death in the case of 11-month old Angel Place. Place was in White's care at the tin
scheduled to be sentenced in November. The District Attorney's office says White could face a range of 16 to 51 years in prison depending upon her sentencing. Until then,

Unemployed young people will be sent to work boot camp, says minister Matt Hancock says plan for jobseekers between 18 and 21 to be placed on intensive activity p
Mason and Frances Perraudin Monday 17 August 2015 04.36 EDT Last modified on Monday 17 August 2015 19.01 EDT Share on Facebook Share on Twitter Share via En
unemployed people to boot camps to prepare them for work was a form of punishment. "We are penalising nobody because nobody who does the right thing and plays by th
plans for jobseekers aged between 18 and 21 to be placed on an intensive activity programme within the first three weeks of submitting a claim. They will get an initial thre
first announced by Cameron before the election, that jobless 18- to 21-year-olds would be required to do work experience as well as looking for jobs or face losing their ben
government's plans. Who should I vote for in the Labour leadership election? Ballots go out on Friday 14 August for the election of Labour's new leader, and the electorate
promised a paid starter job to every young person out of work for more than 12 months, but still threatened they would lose benefits if this was not taken up. The party's fut
The subject of benefits is also particularly sensitive since a row over the decision of acting leader, Harriet Harman, to abstain on the government's welfare bill in July. Since
the announcement, a spokesman for the Corbyn campaign said: "This is another punitive turn by this Conservative government that is failing young people. They have cut f
government is blaming young people rather than addressing the real problems. It proposes more free labour from the young with fewer rights, and will be resisted by young
embedded in some of Britain's most vulnerable communities". He said: "By working across government to make sure that every young person is in work or training, by ope
the generations. "We are absolutely committed to ending long-term youth unemployment and building a country for workers, where nobody is defined by birth and everyon
party wanted to "abolish benefit payments for any able-bodied person under 21 who is out of work for more than three months". Source: http://www.theguardian.com/socie

Executives at second L.A. County youth home are accused of embezzlement 173460_foster-vicki_JLC Jay L. Clendenin / Los Angeles Times Philip Browning is directe
Therolf contact the reporter Prosecutors have charged two executives of a Los Angeles County group home for youth in the juvenile delinquency system and foster care wit
in a year that the district attorney's office has alleged criminal wrongdoing within the multimillion dollar industry that county officials entrust with the care of some of Soutl
wrongdoing at Moore's Cottage may have festered for years as county officials ignored signs of financial mismanagement, records show. "It's my fault that we didn't know
system the department put in place about a year ago. Prosecutors filed the criminal charges against Batchelor and Smith in April with no public announcement. The district
destroying property in excess of $65,000. The lawsuit also accuses them of filing false personal tax returns in 2011, 2012 and 2013 — the same period in which they failed
"Batchelor had no intention of paying payroll taxes with the money he withdrew. His sole purpose was to split the withdrawn money with Smith for personal gain." The cha
bed home in Altadena for boys ages 11 to 17. Supervisor calls for changes at foster youth center after attack on guards Abby Sewell and Garrett Therolf A recent attack on s
center for older foster children with nowhere else to go prompted a call Friday for beefed up security at the facility. (Abby Sewell and Garrett Therolf) County officials hav
In some cases, contractors spent taxpayer money on vacations, luxury cars, fine china and salaries for employees who didn't exist, The Times has reported. More than $11 m
Moore's Cottage since 2008, when a review of 2006 records showed the charity collecting $563,733 in taxpayer money — or $53,748 for each child per year. cComments "
industry of child welfare. Camel Flatmouth at 9:27 PM August 17, 2015 Add a comment See all comments 12 The audit of 2006 records also reported that Moore's Cottage
according to the district attorney's court petition. The search warrant request notes that auditors later initiated another audit for 2011 and 2012 records, which showed "quest
See the most-read stories this hour >>Read the story A 2009 visit to the group homes by county auditors found the children sleeping on old, sagging mattresses, according t
make them more docile. Reports on 2010 visits by Department of Children and Family Services officials and a review of five children's case files uncovered more problems
dignity," the auditors wrote. "It is concerning that Moore's Cottage Group Home was out of compliance in seven of nine areas reviewed," they said. From 2012 to 2014, stat

inattentive and that many young people ran away because they didn't like the environment, state regulators reported last year. Another boy told regulators that a fellow resid causing a bump in the head." Browning, the DCFS director, said "the criminal investigation of Moore's Cottage is still ongoing, but if the allegations prove true, I think it is

SNP outrage at plans to send young jobseekers to boot camp Hannah Bardell contrasted the plan with the inflated salaries earned by executives in the City PA:Press Ass Last updated at 12:01AM, August 18 2015 Scottish Nationalists have attacked the UK government's plans to send unemployed youngsters to three-week "boot camps". The expected to find a job, apprenticeship or study place within six months or lose their benefits. Yesterday the SNP accused the Tories of using "the language of threats and inti

.**S. Senate Bill Could Seriously Impact Federal Funding for Florida Group Homes** A A Facebook 16 Twitter 6 More shares recommend reddit email By Kyle Swenson and caring for trouble kids, there's a serious lack of oversight among the ground floor service providers who are supposed to be watching these kids — leading to sex, drugs Instead of pushing that money toward foster care, the proposal would urge states to place it with front-end services that would hopefully keep kids out of group and foster c spot on). Related Stories With Lax Supervision at State-Contracted Group Homes, Teen Prostitution and Drug Use Are Rampant "Groups home, sometimes referred to as 'c traffickers know where these group homes are and target the children placed in them for exploitation." Hatch went on to propose some kind of legislation that "would refocu youth." He finished: "I know that some might have concerns about limiting federal funds for any type of placement. Here's how I look at it: No one would support allowing conversation is the Family Stability and Kinship Care Act, which was dropped on the committee earlier this month. The legislation is sponsored by Senator Ron Wyden, a D much only goes to foster care. "The current child welfare funding system provides two choices: put kids in foster care or do nothing," Wyden said in a statement following instead of foster care, state's would be encouraged to make " modest front-end investments in family services and kinship placement in order to reduce costly and traumatic following this as it goes through Congress. But the implications of such a shake-up in federal funding streams feeding Florida's foster care system could have serious implic http://www.browardpalmbeach.com/news/us-senate-bill-could-seriously-impact-federal-funding-for-florida-group-homes-7189969

Reports against shuttered group homes included sexual abuse Posted: 6:01 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17, 2015 Email 2Facebook 19Twitter 2ShareThis 26 EmailFacebookTwi residents. The court documents came to light after first responders on Friday found 22 people kept in a 1,400-square-foot home in East Austin who were emaciated and kept sex/nnLsj/

Five Questions Every Presidential Candidate Needs to Answer About Education Sunday, 23 August 2015 00:00 By Paul Thomas, AlterNet | Op-Ed font size decrease f Shutterstock) Want to challenge injustice and make real change happen? That's Truthout's goal - support our work with a donation today! Since the early 1980s, education p legislation shifted even further to national prominence, as NCLB came to represent the "power" of bi-partisan commitments to education reform.[1] In the 2016 presidential candidates are likely to remain trapped inside the failed accountability mindset for reforming schools - one that privileges "standards" and "tests" as the central means of clo social and educational inequities that plague our public schools. Here, then, are five questions about education reform every candidate should have to answer, and a few wo currently available to children - one preferred educational experience for privileged children and another worse educational experience for disadvantaged children? Althoug schools represent a return to segregated education. Although NCLB linked accountability to closing the achievement gap, black, brown, and high-poverty students along wi repeatedly noted the importance of teacher quality - while also misrepresenting that importance - increasing standards-based teaching, high-stakes testing and value-added teacher quality debate is the latest phase of accountability linked to test scores that started with school and student accountability in the 1980s and '90s. While everyone can for about 60% to 86% of measurable student learning. The misguided focus on teacher quality - linking evaluations significantly to test scores - has begun to have a negativ increase their professionalism and effectiveness - not raises. Question #3: Discipline policies are also inequitable for some students, particularly black and Latino kids. How many ways, schools are beginning the school-to-prison pipeline through expulsions and suspensions, beginning as early as pre-kindergarten. For example, according to the moved into the legal system are Hispanic or black. Question #4: Since the era of high-stakes accountability initiated in the early 1980s has not, in fact, closed the achievem of urban education at Davenport University, has noted that accountability has failed educational equity because "having the ability to compare performances among groups their Schools of Opportunity project. This model shifts the focus on reform away from narrow measures, test data and punitive policies and toward creating the opportunitie discourse of education reform has claimed that ZIP code is not destiny, the coincidence of any child's birth is actually a powerful indicator or her future. How will you addre greater educational attainment helps gain advantages for people within their race, great inequities still exist among races. For example, blacks with some college have about promise of education as the great equalizer will continue to be a great lie. The five questions above pose two important challenges for candidates. First, they require the can what schools should be, and what we can do to bring those kinds of educational environments into existence. Currently, the U.S. has a growing gap between the impoverish candidate Barack Obama offered his message of hope and change, advocates for social justice and public education, I believe, had those vulnerable populations in their min there a political leader with the courage to face reality and stand up for our vulnerable populations, in defense of our public institutions? Source: http://www.truth-out.org/o

Sparking Curiosity for Truth in the Classroom: An Appreciation of "Between the World and Me" Sunday, 23 August 2015 00:00 By William Ayers, Truthout | Book range of backgrounds and experiences and orientations - all read The Beautiful Struggle by Ta-Nehisi Coates. I'd put this memoir on the list of required readings because I t thought it might move some of them as well. I chose it because in the details of this one life - the challenges and the obstacles, but especially the elements he assembled to b making energy negotiating and then mapping the territory between his home and the streets and the schools: necessary reading for city teachers, I thought. There was a lot t Reap, Claudia Rankine's Citizen, and Rachel DeWoskin's Big Girl Small. The book was doing work, as I'd hoped it would. My students have all chosen to become teachers share of respect; they've been told by family and friends that they could do much, much better. And still they come to teaching, most saying they want to make a difference vague hope that they will do great things in spite of a system that they know to be corrupt and dysfunctional. But this knowledge is not yet deep enough, for they also accep with an assertion that shaped and marked the course: No matter what the professional talkers tell you, Coates wrote, I never met a black boy who wanted to fail. That simple returns again and again: Fuck what you have heard or what you have seen in your son. He may lie about homework and laugh when the teacher calls home. He may curse h others answered that those contentions skated glibly on the surface of things and failed to go deep enough in search of root causes, accepting as fact the propaganda that loc - let alone reach toward transcendence - until teachers fully faced the friction and gaping contradictions inherent in their teacher-roles. Truth and reconciliation, they argued. to its captives. I was a curious boy, Coates writes, but the schools were not concerned with curiosity. They were concerned with compliance. That nails it: The obsessions th simple: The goal is obedience and conformity, the watchword, control. These schools are characterized by passivity and fatalism and infused with anti-intellectualism, disho surveillance, the laborious programs of regulating, indoctrinating, inspecting and punishing, disciplining, censuring, correcting, counting, appraising, assessing and judging, their purpose is elsewhere: Everyone more or less submissively accepting their proper place in the hierarchy of winners and losers. It doesn't take perceptive young people a almost 10,000 Jewish women were housed in cages. It was an electrifying and terrifying image, and the class rose up, some convinced I was joking (though I wasn't smiling down; the normal world returned. And we returned to Coates: the streets and the schools [were] arms of the same beast. One enjoyed the official power of the state [but] fea word: racism. In one common context it meant ignorance and prejudice, the off-hand comments of Cliven Bundy or Donald Sterling, but there was more: There was the sys hateful words. But Coates won't let anyone off the hook: the people who believe themselves to be white are obsessed with the politics of personal exoneration. Their privile against humanity and added a further dimension to the indictment: It is not permissible that the authors of devastation should also be innocent. It is the innocence which con all, youth are making their wobbly ways toward enlightenment and liberation, the twin pillars of an education of purpose. In 2006, Florida passed a law stipulating that "Am interpretation, would be permitted by the legislators to guide instruction, for example, about the "period of discovery." I read that and did a neck-wrenching double take: Hu altogether? I'll guess that the Florida lawmakers went with the first choice, legislating in effect a pep rally for Christopher Columbus - yes, their own particular constructed their state funding. American history is bursting with stories of dissent from the first revolutionaries onward: Abolitionists, Suffragettes, anarchists and labor pioneers, civil as cherry pie, an apple-core American value and the very engine of hope or possibility - except to the lawmakers of Arizona. A history teacher in a Southside Chicago schoo illustrating our great upward path as a nation. A student who had appeared to be paying no attention at all spoke up suddenly, challenging the teacher: "So you're saying this outlawed school segregation decades ago. It doesn't take perceptive young people anytime at all to sniff out the duplicity and the dirty-dealing in the nothing-but-the-facts a the empire of deception, concluding that the price of the ticket includes winking at the massive hoax and promising to keep quiet and go along - they'll hopefully get reward rejections of a world that is determinedly disinterested in their aspirations and perceptions and insights. There's a genre of jokes that all end with the same punch line: In on eyes?" Kids get it viscerally: Schools are asking them to ignore their immediate experiences and their direct interpretations - their own lying eyes. Who you going to believe would be a help at least to describe things properly, to call things by their right names. Ideally, what should be said to every child, repeatedly, throughout his or her school li to accommodate themselves to a regime of thought laid down by their predecessors. It is a self-perpetuating system ... you ... [must] find ways of educating yourself - educa routinely subjected to an alphabet soup of sticky, inaccurate labels, mistrusted and controlled, and defined as lacking the essential qualities that make one fully human. On a objectivity and consequences. And everywhere you look and in spite of it all, youth are making their wobbly ways toward enlightenment and liberation, the twin pillars of a countless spaces and places organizing small insurgencies and underground railroads, bursts of purpose and power growing through the cracks in the concrete. These are tea reading for those teachers, and it will be on my syllabus in the fall. Get ready. Source: http://www.truth-out.org/progressivepicks/item/32443-sparking-curiosity-for-truth-in

Rosie O'Donnell Bad Parent: "'Rosie O'Donnell stole my baby, but I don't want her money. I just want my daughter back.' Deanna claimed in the interview that Rosie,' said Deanna. 'I believe Rosie has abandoned her. Since about the age of 12, Rosie basically shipped off Chelsea to different boarding schools.'" Source: h

Mass. governor says police logs deserve consideration in foster care process Comment 2 By Andy Metzger State House News Service telegram.com By Andy Metzger By Andy Metzger State House News Service Posted Aug. 18, 2015 at 7:19 PM BOSTON - The death of a foster child in Auburn has raised the question of whether the num occasions before she was licensed as a foster parent. The licensing process involves significant background checks, Baker said. "One of the questions that's been raised com Baker also said that many of the 911 calls were made by the mother about vandalism or other problems in the neighborhood. "I kind of think we shouldn't be punishing peo the state's care of children is soon to be vacant. The Boston Herald reported Tuesday that Child Advocate Gail Garinger plans to step down on Sept. 11. Garinger told the N accomplish some remaining tasks and keep the office moving forward through the first half of the year. The departure date has been moved up to Sept. 11. "I had hoped that On Tuesday, Baker said he was not exactly sure why Garinger is resigning. "I don't know what the reason is," Baker told reporters. Baker said the nominating committee ha oversight role. Garinger also provides oversight to the juvenile justice system and other areas of state government that provide service to children. The office was first estab Patrick's pick to be the first child advocate in 2008. State law lays out a process in which the nominating committee gives the governor three candidates for the post. Baker welfare agency in 2013 and 2014. In 2013, Jeremiah Oliver had been missing for months without any officials knowing about it even though he was purportedly under the one of the things we talked to the commissioner and the secretary about right out of the gate and yet here we are," Baker said. "Clearly we have to do better." After the Oliv http://www.telegram.com/article/20150818/NEWS/150819204

Jackson group home still closed after student's death By - Associated Press - Wednesday, August 19, 2015 JACKSON HOLE, Wyo. (AP) - Operations at a Jackson grou an ongoing investigation has stalled most services at Van Vleck House. The department began reviewing operations at Van Vleck House, a long-term residential placement in the state. A Teton Youth and Family Services spokeswoman says they have been cooperating with officials during the state's investigation and are hoping to resume servi

The government's 'boot camp' idea is built on myths Fiona Twycross 19 August, 2015 (4 days ago) 320 78 14 Good Society Most young people want to work, there just that we should do everything we possibly can to arm young people with all the skills, knowledge and confidence they will need to be as employable as possible. On that bas for believing all young people sit on the dole in need of army style 'bootcamps' and the threat of benefit removal to motivate them. In reality most young people want to wo everyone will turn out to be the next Bill Gates it is government's job to educate and prepare young people for the working world and then, through fair and balanced stewa Many have been badly let down by the decisions made by the current government and by the recent coalition. Some groups of young people find it harder to find work – fo positive. But you have to wonder if we'd need this announcement if the last government hadn't scrapped the Connexions service which provided exactly this type of trainin guidance was a move which Ofsted found led to unequal and poor access to impartial careers advice, which includes skills such as CV writing and interview techniques. Yo withdrawing job seekers allowance for those who refuse to take the course, the government seems to imply it is young 'job seekers' themselves that are the problem – obvio government and its time they took responsibility for that. The other obvious question is why this kind of scheme should only apply to young people; surely everyone who w example, the promise of three million new apprenticeships would make a significant difference – if they are truly high quality and targeted at young people. Apprenticeship cent)(p.21) of the 96,500 apprenticeships started in London between 2012 and 2014 went to people aged over 25 with many of them more akin to subsidised in-work trainin young people are clearly eager to get into work, willing even to tolerate the pitiful minimum wage of £2.73 per hour which uniquely applies to apprentices. Giving unemplo investment in soft skills and careers guidance at school. What this new scheme looks like in practice will tell a lot about the government's intentions. Are we talking high q up excuses in advance for their failure to deliver for the young unemployed. This is neither helpful or acceptable. Source: http://leftfootforward.org/2015/08/the-governme

Family questions arrest of woman who's spoken out about Native Americans in foster care By DIRK LAMMERS Associated Press August 19, 2015 — 4:30pm Text s who has spoken out against South Dakota's handling of Native American children in foster care are questioning whether her arrest on a 13-year-old charge was politically m been able to evade an old warrant. "There's nothing politically motivated here," she said. Howe pleaded guilty Tuesday to one felony count of perjury related to petition sig petition. She was released from the Hughes County jail Wednesday afternoon pending an Oct. 6 sentencing. Howe's husband, Louis Adrian, told the Pierre Capital Journal t believes South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley pursued the arrest because of Howe's outspokenness against the state. Rabern said Jackley wasn't South Dakota's att officials removed hundreds of Native American children each year, sometimes in questionable circumstances, while failing to place the children with their relatives or tribes preference to American Indian families in adoptions of Indian children. Congress passed the act in 1978 after finding a high number of Indian children were removed from t enforcement agencies to make the arrest. Roxanne Sazue, chairwoman of the Crow Creek Tribe, said she didn't have any information on the case. The ballot initiative in que filing amid doubts about their legitimacy. The measure failed. During Tuesday's court hearing in Pierre, Howe also pleaded guilty to one count of forgery related to a 2001 c

State pulls teen inmates from fire line after shooting By KARA KOSTANICH, KOMO 4 NEWS Published 9:32 pm, Monday, August 24, 2015 SEATTLE -- A team of j part of a program working alongside the Department of Natural Resources, helping bring Washington's relentless fires under control. "One of the things Naselle does effecti inmate helping in the fire fight allegedly assaulted a female guard and then escaped. When deputies found him Saturday, he pulled out a hand gun they say he stole from a c went through 40 hours of training to be part of a team that prepared food and helped mop up the fire. The program doesn't require parental approval, but parents are part of t Administration says the program has been highly successful for more than 50 years with only a few serious incidents. Until last week there had never been a situation where Medical Center, is facing serious charges. Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/komo/article/State-pulls-teen-inmates-from-fire-line-after-6463389.php (HEAL Note: St

People Don't Like Current Education Policies, So Why Do Policy Leaders? The big annual poll on how Americans view public schools and education policy is out, and longest continuously running survey of American attitudes toward public education … finds that a majority of Americans, as well as a majority of American public school p Democratic Party and Republicans who are vying for their party's presidential nomination. Recent policy pronouncements in the halls of Congress, from the White House, the "tenets" Strauss refers to is what's become known as the "test and punish" approach to education reform. This approach uses standardized tests to determine whether pu performance, and teacher quality view. When test scores inch up, people at the top of the pay scale say this is proof that education reform is "working." When students don' points out, of those who answered the PDK-Gallup survey "64 percent say there is too much emphasis on standardized testing" in public schools, and only 7 percent say the people aren't so keen on using test results to evaluate teachers, as 55 percent of the public, and 63 percent of public school parents, oppose this idea. Here again, the survey Columbia, has also fallen out of favor with most of the public. Now that the standards are being rolled out, and people are finally seeing the consequences, a majority, 54 pe of the standards. However, in this year's polling, only 12 percent said they had either heard nothing about the Common Core or "didn't know." What do they say about fami they live?" 64 percent of Americans and 67 percent of public school parents give a favorable response. Also, charter schools get about the same levels of support. However, Americans. Second, a glance back at last year's PDK-Gallup survey finds that most do not understand what charter schools are. Currently, only about 6 percent of Americar Core and become more unpopular as people become more informed about them. What Policy Leaders Don't Get Despite clear signals coming from the public that current " Behind act that has set the direction of federal education policy for 13 years, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and US Senators from the Democratic Party recently cam didn't meet those goals. It also would have required states to intervene in their lowest-performing 5 percent of schools and those that graduated less than 67 percent of their and punish" approach to education policy too, most prominently at a recent summit for Republican presidential candidates hosted by American Federation for Children and president, but if I were King of America, I would abolish all teacher's lounges, where they sit together and worry about 'woe is us.'" Other candidates eagerly matched the had made previous to the event. Bloggers at Education Week noticed the Republican candidates generally reinforced arguments for standards and accountability although th to embrace high standards for schoolchildren while shying away from the Common Core." But none of the candidates was bold enough to suggest that the whole drive for s CBS News. Classroom teacher and popular blogger Peter Greene summarized the Republicans' education positions as "wanting to have it both ways." Teachers deserve son important as long as they are not Common Core. What Do People Want Instead? Results from the PDK-Gallup poll clearly rubbed those in the education policy establishme percent of the public expressing opposition" to Common Core standards. Certainly, much of this discrepancy between the two surves is the result in differences between the and accountability as more a less a given, the PDK-Gallup effort goes further to ask more open-ended questions about what people would prefer instead. And in the respons 51 percent giving schools in their own community a grade of either A or B and only 4 percent giving those schools a failing grade. Although there is a great disparity in how who openly bash public schools. Also, when queried about alternatives to tests for measuring the effectiveness of public schools, "A strong majority (about eight in 10) of A important. Testing came in last as a measure of effectiveness with just 14 percent." Further, when PDK-Gallup asked Americans what were the biggest problems facing thei funding versus the need for standards and "quality." So the schools American families participate in are generally doing their jobs, but we need better, more qualitative ways punish" reform policy is the easier path to travel. Stern rhetoric and "tough-minded" policy-making are rewarded as being "very serious" approaches to governing. Taking a know, real leadership. Source: http://educationopportunitynetwork.org/people-dont-like-current-education-policies-so-why-do-policy-leaders/

In Texas, group homes operate in a gray area of regulation By Kevin Schwaller Published: August 21, 2015, 6:51 pm Updated: August 22, 2015, 5:47 pm AUSTIN (KX and Disability Services is looking into Zoe's Place at 8007 Burnet Road after complaints about air conditioning and an insect infestation. Austin Police records show emerg times last year. The state regulator also recently investigated another Austin group home. Austin City Council Member Ora Houston heads up the Health and Human Servic municipalities to regulate certain group homes, but Austin has not implemented those standards. "We are still trying to figure that out," said Houston. "We have been worki though some homes may fall outside of the state and city oversight, Austin technically requires licenses for boarding facilities. The code department says there are currently

Call for Improvement to Protect the Rights of Children in Care 21 August 2015 A new research report released today by the Human Rights Commission examines the R children in need referrals are on an upward curve. Chief Commissioner Les Allamby stated: "In 2015 we are even more aware how very vulnerable children in care are, chil

consideration in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bo system and indicates that reforms are required in a number of areas. Our aim is for improvements be made without delay as it is essential that our laws and practices protect placement moves due to financial pressure within Trusts', for example, moving from private foster placements, to Trust's foster placements. Of the looked after children wh experience placement moves are exposed to "a level of intense disruption" and "a risk to their sense of security and stability". Delay in N.I Adoption Process: The report shi not been reformed. The Commission recommends that Department should expeditiously bring forward new legislation which addresses concerns surrounding adoption in N indicates that inadequate information is available regarding the protection of the right of affected children to be heard and taken seriously, as well as the participation of pare highlighted that young people in residential care were being penalised for offences in a way that they would not if the resided with their parents. They also stated that the pr report at the lack of consistency across residential care settings in how they responded to incidents, and suggested that there was a need for more staff training and learning first proposed in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement (1998) and established in 1999 by the Northern Ireland Act (1998). It is answerable to Parliament at Westminster. 2. However, international standards also require the child's safety to be secured and in certain circumstances the child will need to be placed in alternative care in order to fulfi 2013 there were 2, 807 looked after children in Northern Ireland. • 247 children (9%) were Looked After for more than 10 years. • 529 children (19%) were Looked After fo UNCRC requires the best interests of the child to be a primary consideration "in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare insti Children. Similarly the Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adop continuing care, should be the paramount consideration." 6. Access the Report: Alternative Care and Children's Rights in Northern Ireland Source: http://www.nihrc.org/n

Mauritanian new anti-slavery law: Effective enforcement is the key – UN rights expert GENEVA (21 August 2015) – United Nations Special Rapporteur Urmila Bhoola However, she cautioned, "this welcome development needs to be followed by its full implementation." "Slavery and slavery-like practices can be eradicated only if the exis consequences. The Special Rapporteur commended the Government for taking this important step towards replacing the 2007 anti-slavery law, which had proven to be inefl in courts on behalf of the victims as civil party but noted that the requirements set in the law might impede some of them to do so. The Law also foresees free legal assistanc map on the eradication of contemporary forms of slavery, adopted by the Council of Ministers in March 2014. "It is necessary that the implementing legislation regarding sp slavery, combining the criminal law approach with measures aimed at addressing root causes of contemporary forms of slavery and programmes for victim protection, assis the previous Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery following her official country visit to Mauritania in 2009, and the national action plan stemming from th Urmila Bhoola (South Africa) assumed her mandate as Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences on 2 June 2014. Ms. B five years. She is a former Executive Director of International Women's Rights Action Watch for the Asia Pacific (IWRAW AP). Learn more, log on to: http://www.ohchr.or UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council's independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms that address either specific country situations or them individual capacity. UN Human Rights, Country Page – Mauritania: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/MENARegion/Pages/MRIndex.aspx For more information and me

Texans can help end child abuse - San Antonio Express-News Texans can help end child abuse Kurt Senske, For the Express-News Published 12:00 am, Sunday, August 2 improve the lives of Texas children in foster care. Upbring, the largest nonprofit foster placement and adoption agency in Texas, believes that as members of a caring comm contributions of David and Teresa Ebert. Licensed foster parents since 2000, Teresa is a registered nurse who has a big heart for foster children with primary medical needs adopted. Not expected to live, she was referred for hospice care services. Yet, miraculously, Angelina was released from hospice care four years ago and has been receiving from every sector of our community. Our mission is to break the cycle of child abuse by empowering children, families and communities. With more than 13 percent of U.S improving the well-being of and long-term prospects for children, youth and families across our state. We know that 30 percent of people who were abused as children beco result of a recent study, we now know that over their lifetimes, this abuse and neglect costs the Texas economy an estimated $454 billion. If we intend to break the cycle of of services and partnerships tracking progress across five key markers: safety, life skills, education, health and vocation. Currently, there is surprisingly little long-term data progress and well-being of foster children. With comprehensive data, we will be better positioned to more consistently care for and meet foster children's varied needs — ar cycle of child abuse. Source: http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/Texans-can-help-end-child-abuse-6458428.php

Former employee at group home charged with sexual assault Posted: Aug 23, 2015 11:04 AM PDT Updated: Aug 23, 2015 11:04 AM PDT NASHUA, N.H. (AP) - Poli reports (http://bit.ly/1JpvfIb) 30-year-old Jordan Dorsey of Lawrence, Massachusetts, turned himself into police earlier this month and is free on bail. The home's executive Dorsey could not be found Sunday. It's unclear if he has an attorney who could comment on the charges. Information from: The Telegraph, http://www.nashuatelegraph.com

AAC encounters more scrutiny August 24, 2015 by Julie Miller, Editor in Chief Share on facebook Share on linkedin Share on twitter Share on google More Sharing Serv of its employees. As the only public company solely in the addiction space, AAC faces greater scrutiny than a typical treatment center operation. "Short-sellers have been w patient deaths per discharge than the industry average, and reiterated that AAC is not at fault for the patient death cited in the Riverside County, Calif. indictment. Additiona According to an AAC press release at that time, Menz "voluntarily stepped down from those roles to address these charges." Observers believed Menz had cut ties to AAC very much active in developing business to expand our operations. We anticipate Jerrod will resume his former role once this case is resolved." A new website launched last You Need To Know About the AAC Charges Public company Being a public company, AAC must be far more transparent than other treatment centers, according to Dexter is that transparency is an issue because everyone knows what you're doing," Braff tells Behavioral Healthcare. "Folks think twice about going public because of exactly tha says. "Especially for companies like AAC that see its stock rise dramatically over a short period of time, it is likely when there are stumbles to see it decline fast," Braff say stock. The fact that it's moving in an upward trend now tells a story, he says. Treatment center operations It will be months if not years before the industry knows the ultima residential treatment centers must consider not just the patients' health status but also the patients' ability to make their own treatment decisions before intake. Specifically, recommended against it. "The family or the airline might have culpability," he says. "That's an issue that has not been addressed." Engaging the patient's regular care provi http://www.behavioral.net/article/public-company-aac-encounters-more-scrutiny

--> **Amended case filed against Rhode Island child welfare system** Posted 10:07 p.m. Monday Updated 10:08 p.m. Monday 17 1 16 PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Rhode Children's Rights filed the complaint as a class-action lawsuit on behalf of some 1,800 children in Rhode Island's foster care system. A federal judge last year dismissed the the cases of children it says were abused. One 9-year-old boy has been in foster care for five years and separated from his siblings, the group says. He was hospitalized after DCYF doesn't limit the number of children who can be assigned to a caseworker; children are placed in unlicensed homes; they aren't able to visit their families; and foster consistent licensing and abuse investigation practices. An audit of DCYF last month revealed lapses in management and financial controls within the agency, which has bee children in Rhode Island foster care today continue to suffer the same harms that led to the initial filing of this case," Sara Bartosz, lead counsel for Children's Rights, said i comment. Read more at http://www.wral.com/advocacy-group-files-amended-complaint-against-dcyf/14852023/#6B2KeUGHjoVMWs9V.99

3Qs: Fixing Massachusetts' troubled foster care system August 26, 2015 by Matthew McDonald Last week, the death of a 2-year-old foster child in Auburn, Massachuse limore, an associate professor of communication studies and a foster parent herself, studies the role of communication in the process of organizational learning, including m vention of high-risk behaviors among adolescents in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Northeastern professors Elise Dallimore and Christie Rizzo discuss Mas Dallimore: As an educator who requires students to be skilled in utilizing data to improve organizational decision-making, I am deeply troubled by the lack of assessment d even death while in foster care in Massachusetts. What they do not hear are the frustrations of many committed social workers, lawyers, and child advocates who are constr workers are chronically overworked and under-resourced only to find their efforts scrutinized by an otherwise disinterested and fault-finding public, including stakeholders However, that assumption is based on the notion that it is possible to accurately predict the safety of a home environment every time. I would argue that, even when the con hurdle relates to pragmatics. We are plagued by a dearth of available foster families with whom to place children. A third hurdle relates to the flow of children into the child training, and foster placements that it had when fewer children were in care. In light of recent events, what changes should be made to improve the foster care system? Dalli attention to benchmarking data, which will help identify best practices elsewhere in the country. There are a number of states that have recently made significant gains in th better understanding the challenges faced by our foster system, but equally committed to addressing those challenges. Rizzo: It is vitally important that DCF has adequate asked to do. They should not be asked to carry more cases than is feasible given the expectations of their job. Staff also need to have timely access to all relevant data regard improved and evaluated. What is the role and the importance of a foster parent? Dallimore: The most fundamental role of a foster parent is as a social advocate. As a foster opposition posed by medical and educational professionals, other well-meaning but often uninformed community stakeholders, and even an occasional DCF social worker volunteer to care for children in their own home until those children are reunited with their biological family, are adopted, or can live independently. Frequently, the amount problems. They have a higher and more complicated burden of disease than other youth including physical, mental, developmental, behavioral, and social-emotional concer http://www.northeastern.edu/news/2015/08/fixing-massachusetts-troubled-foster-care-system/

. **State found foster issues in western region** – last year 072315ambertf01.jpg Photo by: Ted Fitzgerald Jack Loiselle 1 Wednesday, August 26, 2015 Print Email 2 Comm and another remains in critical condition, according to a report obtained by the Herald. The investigation by the Department of Early Education and Care — dated July 30, 2 to check on the children during their first month living in the home, which also served as a day care, the report shows. "The investigation found reasonable cause to believe western region have come under fire after 2-year-old Avalena Conway-Coxon died and a 22-month-old girl remains in critical condition after being rushed to the hospital fr father last month. After last year's EEC probe, a DCF spokeswoman said the agency initiated a "corrective action plan" and highlighted moves to hire more social workers,

problem. The Herald reported last week that Hogan, a top administrator for the DCF's western region, was promoted to acting deputy director of field operations on July 26 EEC has done very little to hold state child welfare officials accountable. Last year's probe was one of only two DCF foster care reports produced over the past decade by E used that inspection to renew DCF's foster care license for all nine offices in the western region. In addition, the licensing agency has opened only five investigations into D — about a week after Avalena died and the Herald began inquiring about EEC probes. In contrast, there were more than 70 reports of abuse or neglect of foster kids in 2013 report. Source: http://www.bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2015/08/state_found_foster_issues_in_western_region_last_year

Abuse and neglect cases rising in Kentucky's 'fractured' foster care system Posted: Aug 27, 2015 8:31 AM PDT Updated: Aug 27, 2015 10:26 AM PDT By Jason Riley Biol And they can quickly rattle off the problems they believe the state needs to work on: * The caseload is crushing for the number of social workers in Kentucky, overwhelmin allegations of abuse or neglect have been sustained, sometimes repeatedly "Parents are given chance after chance and it's just not fair for the children," said Debbie Lance, experts don't disagree with the Lances. "If the system's not broken, it's at least fractured or sprained," said Terry Brooks, executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates, protection in Kentucky, appear to support those claims. There were 129,000 calls to a state abuse hotline in fiscal year 2015, up from 108,000 calls in 2011. Of those calls, 6 abuse or neglect has been closing in on nearly 8,000 in the last few months, compared to a little more than 7,000 cases in 2010. "Our caseloads are too high right now," Tere the additional responsibilities for investigations right now. " James said the average caseload is about 20 cases per worker, much higher than it should be, especially given th frankly it will be a significant cost to the commonwealth," she said. Experts say caseloads are rising, at least in part, because of increasing drug abuse, especially the heroin every other case," Sherlock said. Just last week alone, she had 10 hearings to temporarily remove children from their homes -- and six involved parents using heroin. "My o of their children, refusing to go to treatment and often not even showing up to court. "Even losing their kids is not enough motivation to overcome the pull of addiction," sh pill overdoses." It can take several months, if not more than a year, to remove a child from a home in which allegations of abuse or neglect have been substantiated. James a year, she said. "We have to have exhausted all reasonable efforts, is what the law requires of us," James said, adding that foster care is a "last resort," as the goal is to keep f meant to reduce caller wait times and provide better quality. And the state hopes to work with Kentucky Youth Advocates and expand a "Kinship care" program, in which cl Brooks said the number of Kentucky kids in Kinship care has doubled in the last ten years. "If our goal is to reunite kids with their parents, family reunification is enhanced system – and noted that similar issues are plaguing foster care across the country. "I think there is more awareness about the growing number of kids in crisis and a growing come into your home, and most of them are broken … and then to watch them blossom and grow and feel safe and secure - there is nothing that can describe that feeling," I

Lawmaker wants to study issue of unlicensed group homes Posted: Aug 25, 2015 8:55 PM PDT Updated: Aug 25, 2015 8:55 PM PDT By Samuel King Email Connect [Committee to study the issue of unlicensed assisted living facilities. The request comes after two such facilities were discovered in Central Texas this month. Some of the cc bad situations and be able to do it in a timely fashion," said Sen. Watson in an interview with KVUE in Austin. Some East Texas facility directors told us they are often frus are required, our facility is monitored for fire." Since New Creation is a religious-based organization, it is not required to be licensed by the state, but it is required to registe submit recommendations to the Lt. Governor's office is Sept. 4. Source: http://www.cbs19.tv/story/29880226/lawmaker-wants-to-study-issue-of-unlicensed-group-homes

Judge slams foster parents who forced abused child to stand in scalding water By Priya Joshi August 27, 2015 20:19 BST 6 Abuse or neglect in early life activates som accounts of cruelty by the foster mother who referred to the young Zimbabwean girl as a 'dirty little b****' and used the 'N' word. The youngster, who cannot be named, hac the child, recounted an incident they witnessed in the garden of the family's Lancashire home in the summer of 2010. Judge Singleton explained how the neighbours said th girl to clean herself by kneeling in scalding water after she soiled herself. The judge added: "She called her, so far as (that neighbour) could hear, a "dirty little b****" and s and the woman's partner. "On another occasion, (that neighbour) had observed (the girl) picking up faeces in the garden which she, perhaps not unreasonably, thought were "indignantly" denied the allegations, had "failed to be truthful" and had "told deliberate lies from time to time". She said the foster mother had given "frankly incredible" ac disgust and vituperation over the soiling accidents and were likely to be linked with an abusive method of cleaning her up or forcing her to clean herself up." Judge Singleto the animals than the girl when giving evidence at the court hearing. Judge Singleton also concluded the girl had been bitten by the couple's three Rottweiler dogs. "I do not t and to contemptuous treatment that might well cause a dog from time to time to nip her and bite her because that is what the dogs would perceive (the foster mother) or (the abuse' during sessions with a counsellor organised through a school after teachers also expressed their concerns for her well-being. According to Sky News the foster parent counsellor if you are worried about a child Source: http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/judge-slams-foster-parents-who-forced-abused-child-stand-scalding-water-1517377

County zoning board considers overturning Pine Grove decision By Stephen J. Pytak Published: August 28, 2015 Article Tools Font size: [A] [A] [A] Share on faceboo whether a collection of four facilities in Pine Grove it approved "group home" variance permits for this year are actually "treatment centers," Daniel Daub, zoning board cha The question isn't an easy one for a county zoning officer to tackle, according to one of the expert witnesses, Charles S. Schmehl, vice president of Urban Research & Deve under the HIPPA (the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) Privacy laws that limit the ability to find out about medical and health care inforn officer, the mayor of the Pine Grove and a borough police officer who said there have been physical assaults at the facilities in question. With more testimony plus public cc addresses and the number of people residing in them are as follows: 202 Walters St., three residents; 13 Ridge Vista Drive, two residents; 8 Ridge Vista Drive; two residents residential district. On May 5, the county zoning hearing board approved permits allowing Supportive Concepts to open similar homes at 8 Ridge Vista Drive, Pine Grove, reference to both properties, the borough made these statements in the application: • "The neighborhood is single family residential homes and not appropriate for group hor insufficient information with the applicant's application to permit the zoning officer to determine whether the permittee meets the requirements under the zoning ordinance dwelling unit operated by a responsible entity with a program to provide a supportive living arrangement for individuals where special care is needed by the persons served persons who need specialized housing, treatment and/or counseling because of: A. Criminal rehabilitation, such as a criminal halfway house; B. Current addiction to a contr Thursday night, Paul J. Datte, an attorney from Pottsville, who represented Pine Grove borough at the hearing, was concerned with C. When they took the stand Thursday, I included incidents where residents assaulted caretakers or assaulted residents in the home," Datte said. Other members of the zoning board present were: Scott Thomas, the

Web of Secrecy Surrounds Federal Half-a-Billion Handout to Charter Schools Friday, 04 September 2015 10:22 By Jonas Persson, PR Watch | Report font size decreas kept in the dark about which states have applied for the lucrative grants, and what their actual track records are when it comes to preventing fraud and misuse. Already the f from the states and schools that receive the money, as CMD revealed earlier this year. Throwing good money after bad, Education Secretary Arne Duncan called for a 48 pe learners. The clamor for charter expansion comes despite the fact that there are federal probes underway into suspected waste and mismanagement within the program, not t charter school industry in 15 states alone, a number that is likely to be just the tip of the iceberg. Is now really the right time to plow more tax money into charters? Insiders track records? Which states have applied for a grant designed to eviscerate the public school system in the name of "flexibility?" (CMD's review of state applications and re without adequate training or certification, and avoid collective bargaining that helps ensure that teacher-student ratios are good so that each kid gets the attention he or she d have applied would not chill deliberation and might even help better assess which applicants should receive federal money. The agency has even declined to provide a list w in some cases - all at the discretion of charter school interests contracted to evaluate the applications, but without any input from ordinary citizens and advocates concerned the history of fraud and waste in that state. Charter Millions by Hook or by Crook: The Case of Ohio Despite ED's unwillingness to put all the cards on the table, state repor - money that went to schools overseen by a rightwing think-tank, and, more worryingly, to schools overseen by an authorizer that had its performance rating boosted this ye ridicule of its charter school system is giving overseers of many of the lowest-performing schools a pass from taking heat for some of their worst problems." Another compo sword and announced his resignation in June. But Democratic lawmakers suspect that this goes higher up in the chain of command, and have called on State Superintendent history of doctoring data to turn failing charter schools into resounding success stories? After Abysmal Results, States Re-apply for More Money While the known unknown in no small part to the lax "hiring and firing" rules and the lack of certification requirements for charter school teachers - a reviewer contracted by the US Department of Ed $254 million over five years in CSP money, but as the Inspector General discovered in a 2012 audit, the state department of education did not adequately monitor any of the by federal money under CSP. How about Wisconsin? Wisconsin received $69.6 million between 2010 and 2015, but out of the charter schools awarded sub-grants during th exempt from democratic oversight by elected school boards. "[C]harter schools are accountable solely to authorizers under Indiana law," one reviewer enthused, awarding t schools, as CMD discovered by taking a closer look at grantees under the previous cycle: The Indiana Cyber Charter School opened in 2012 with $420,000 in seed money f to a private religious school, but not before receiving $702,000 in federal seed money. Have They Learned Anything? Secretary Duncan has previously called for "absolute no way of knowing if the state departments of education seeking millions in tax dollars: Have supplied actual performance data that reflect the reality for students enrolled i the Colorado Department of Education, for example, boasted of how charter school teachers are "employed at will by the school"; Have corrective action plans so as to avoi charter school growth, which in turn means that money will be diverted from traditional public schools to an industry that resists government enforcement of basic standard secrecy-surrounds-federal-half-a-billion-handout-to-charter-schools

September 4, 2015 **More Kansas parents upset over authorities taking their children away** By: KAKE News Updated: Fri 7:59 PM, Aug 28, 2015 By: KAKE News W says he was raped 17 times, beaten and starved. He claims that one of the men that raped him is now in jail on aggravated indecent liberties charges. McDonald says he and taken out of. "They are just throwing us out there, taking us out of bad situations and putting us in worse," he said. Executive Director of the Sedgwick County Court Appoi hands on the child, but simple things like not getting their medical needs met in a timely manner," Thorne said. She says that there are around 1,200 children in foster care i

they are being abused, the judge will remove that child on the spot in the courtroom," she said. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment confirms that it used to t Families. It has not responded. To read the story on the legal action some parents are taking click here. Source: http://www.kake.com/home/headlines/More-Kansas-people-

When Louisiana lost its foster children BY Laura Santhanam August 29, 2015 at 9:09 AM EDT ? 163 +1 EMAIL 101 Boarded-up Memories — The Boys Town Louisia home uninhabitable. Photo by Josh Brasted Two days before Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Gulf Coast, Herman Clayton packed his two kids and four foster childr lost track of an estimated 25 percent of the foster children living in those storm-damaged areas. The following morning at daybreak, Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans. displacing 400,000 from New Orleans alone. It also shook the Louisiana's foster care system to its core, revealing fundamental weaknesses in its disaster plan. In Louisiana said, according to this NPR report. This was in part due to the fact that shelters were overwhelmed, and many of the staff who handled foster care cases were displaced, said the Juvenile Justice Commission. "It is the core mission of the department to ensure that children are safe," Sonnier said. "What we learned in Katrina is it's very hard to do home Meanwhile, the families of foster children who evacuated faced a number of additional challenges: among them, paying for food and shelter, accessing critical medica children in residential and in-home foster care. But in the days immediately following the storm, a handful of those children remained unaccounted for. Every day on the roa families. But the storm had knocked out cell towers in New Orleans. Most calls were met with busy signals. When they were able to connect, calls often dropped. "We didn who couldn't meet their needs. The storm was another layer of trauma. Cooper vividly remembers the children's terror during the 24-hour drive to Houston — a drive that n their family members were alive. "We wanted to be in touch with what was going on, but we were traumatizing ourselves," Cooper recalled, adding that she still has nightm home they shared when she was in the foster care system. Hurricane Katrina damaged the roof and dumped rain into the home, making it uninhabitable. It remains boarded medication, but were unsuccessful. It would take more than a month before they could access the drugs. Because medical care for foster children is paid for by in-state Med 2005, the federal government issued a waiver that allowed states to temporarily cover Medicaid recipients that Katrina displaced. They ran out of clothes for the girls and re home. "We just don't know if we're really better off today than we were …" — Tanya Weinberg, Save the Children "You had no plans in place. Nobody took the time to say and his wife, Yvonne, had worked as family teachers with Boys Town Louisiana, a nonprofit child welfare agency. They cooked meals and gave hugs like parents but condu hotel in Shreveport, Louisiana, a campground in Marshall, Texas, another hotel in Dallas, Texas, and a converted convent in San Antonio. Even with the support of Boys To because there wasn't nothing to go to," Clayton said. Meanwhile, Boys Town Louisiana staff in Baton Rouge checked off names on a whiteboard as they found children's b survived. "There were some people who never claimed those checks," Dillon said. "We don't know. We didn't get 100 percent." Helper needed help — Before Hurricane K Brasted 'They showed me what family really was' Dedera Johnson was 12 when she entered foster care with the Claytons and 17 when the storm hit. Her childhood home v found herself in front of a juvenile court judge. In 2001, she was placed in the Claytons' white, two-story group house on the corner of Louisiana Avenue and Dryades Stree Claytons, Johnson and the girls learned table manners and job etiquette, attended Celebration Church in Metairie and ate special meals at Ryan's steakhouse restaurant. Yvo anywhere ever. They showed me what family really was… At the end of the day, that's what really matters," Johnson said. Johnson was on a home visit with her siblings wh to leave me," Johnson said. "I wanted to be with Mr. Herman and Mrs. Yvonne because I knew they would comfort me." Within the hour, Herman picked her up in an agenc games and bingo in the car, but also trying desperately to reach her biological family back home. She tried to call her sister, but no one picked up. "They're gone," Johnson region. Herman Clayton, Sonia Cooper and the foster children in their care were among those evacuees fleeing the storm. Clayton and Cooper went in different directions, b people from the Gulf learned to send text messages. That's because phone systems were overwhelmed, and messages took up less bandwidth. Power outages and flooding w a week after the storm. "In the beginning, that was truly the crisis," said Sonnier with the Department for Children and Family Services. People were desperate to hear from status of their child's safety or location to the state. Who would even answer the phone? Many of the state's workers had evacuated. Those who stayed behind were helping Louisiana set up a hotline for foster care parents and providers. But few, especially in the early days, knew about the service. "There really weren't" formal evacuation plans twice as many children in foster care since 2005, and donations since then have doubled to $400,000, said current executive director Lashawna Schofield. Photo by Josh Bra the storm disrupts their evacuation location, foster parents are required to inform the state of new plans. Disaster response and emergency preparedness is now a part of fost became federal law that all states maintain written disaster plans for children in the foster care system. Today, that's more than 400,000 children nationwide. But the degree off today than we were, and that's really concerning,"said Tanya Weinberg, a Save the Children spokesperson. "These are almost like forgotten children, and they don't have Katrina. "We weren't prepared for the disaster to deal with displaced children," said Robert Lowery with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "Today, w voluntary. If you don't submit your information to the database, you can't benefit from it. Another major problem at the time: the helpers needed help. Often, their own hom care system after the storm. For 30 years, Goodman has fixed broken child welfare agencies nationwide as a consultant for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Normally, states manmade thing. It got people around the country to think about what would be their disaster plan for their children's welfare system. What would happen if we had an earth the entire state. He and his staff checked off names of foster children and their own coworkers as they found out they were safe. They also monitored paychecks through dir to Louisiana. In late September, they drove more than 200 miles to the small Louisiana town of Natchitoches where they lived until December. But the evacuation and insta children. "I cried for days. At that point, we were all family." As for Johnson, nearly one month after the storm, she finally made contact with her oldest sister. She had evac graduated high school a year early. But during her final year in high school, the Claytons returned to New Orleans for work and encouraged her to stay in Nebraska to finish complete high school. "That was one of the biggest accomplishments I ever had," she said. Nearly a decade later, Johnson is back in New Orleans where she raises three chi Orleans. She thinks that if she had gone elsewhere or even joined the military, she would have had more opportunities. Instead, she was 18-years-old, enrolling in college ar entered emergency shelters that were quickly overwhelmed, including the now-infamous Superdome in New Orleans. Aside from having adequate sanitation, food and wate learned? It's been 10 years since Hurricane Katrina scattered thousands of foster care children across the country, and questions remain about how effectively states prepare neglect and trauma and who live without their biological families. How much accountability is built into this system? And how closely has the federal government monitore the same. Source: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/katrina-foster-kids/#

State Bungled Earlier Complaints About Group Home by Terri Langford Aug. 28, 2015 8Comments Comment Republish Email Tweet Recommend EnlargePhoto by Ha employee of the attorney general's office may have been unlawfully assisting one of the facility's associates. On Friday, Attorney General Ken Paxton's office obtained a ten living center, the department relocated five people and referred the case to Paxton's office. State law requires any facility to have an assisted living license if it offers person in the group home where the thermostat registered 87 degrees and roaches roamed freely. Some residents went without bed linens, and others without beds altogether. "I ob had been raped. In a press release issued Friday, Paxton praised investigators' work. "The diligent work of DADS protects and supports the elderly and disabled of Texas, ar continue to threaten the health and safety of our loved ones." But the Tribune learned that two previous complaints — in October 2014 and last February — about Zoe's Sa approximately 60 residents living at Zoe's Place had recently been moved from a Belton group home called God's Blessings, which was temporarily shut down on Aug. 20 b DADS about the God's Blessings group home, which is owned by Renee Segura-Livingston. Also on Friday, the Attorney General's office confirmed it was investigating al Medicare sometimes have residents sign over their Social Security checks to pay rent. "We received an allegation of this nature concerning one of our employees and we're McKinney, owner of Zoe's Safe Place, were not successful. Source: https://www.texastribune.org/2015/08/28/ag-shuts-down-facility-after-dads-failed-investiga/

Does public health law apply to assisted living facilities? Aug 30, 2015, 6:00am EDT Updated Sep 1, 2015, 9:46am EDT Industries & Tags Legal Services, Health Care S Estate Home on 6+ Private Acres! See All Homes of the Day Enlarge stokkete Nursing home Public Health Law § 2801-d was enacted in 1975. The statute gives a private r recovery of both compensatory and punitive damages. It was enacted to remediate accounts of abuse by some nursing home operators which was documented in the nursing to enact Public Health Law § 2801-d, as well as to take other remediating measures. Enlarge stokkete Nursing home The statute has been used extensively as grounds for la Events Mix Business With Pleasure - in Ellicottville! September 25, 2015 Medicaid Reform - Power Breakfast September 10, 2015 Women of Influence Awards and Lunch of residents of their facilities. The statute clearly provides that it applies to residents of residential health care facilities. But does it also apply to residents of other types of s right of action to the resident of a group home. Unlike nursing home facilities, group homes are not licensed or regulated by the Department of Health. Instead, they are lice http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/blog/buffalo-law-journal/2015/08/does-public-health-law-apply-to-assisted-living.html

State of emergency: Shortage of foster homes leads to separated siblings, moving far from home Story Comments Print Create a hardcopy of this page Font Size: Defa Posted on Aug 30, 2015 by Kristina Wilder Georgia is in a "state of emergency" when it comes to foster care, and Floyd County was ranked the fifth highest county per cap according to the statistics. That state rate over that time period was 31.2 children per 10,000. Floyd County's rate was 104.5 per 10,000. Why is the rate so high? There are s suspicious things. We have a high number of teachers and law enforcement as well." These individuals are trained to notice signs of trouble, he added. "When you're a mech County Division of Family and Children Services. "We have many families who repeat the cycle of abuse and neglect," she said. "They stay here. Their children have child removed because parents were unable to cope, 88 removed for inadequate housing, 30 were abandoned and 32 were victims of physical abuse. Other reasons include sexual originally removed for neglect or drug abuse," she said. "This is especially true for a younger child who is not in school. If that child is only going to the doctor once a year, problems," she said. "The children have a harder time coming back for court dates and for visits with their families. Also, you have the added trauma for the child, which is is removed from a home is to work with the parents to help them change behaviors if possible and bring their child home," Howerton said. "Having to place that child in a h might not live in the area or may be unsuitable. Issues also often arise because of siblings, she said. "We have a lot of multiple-child families, and the ideal would be to have Bridge, Howerton added. However, these homes can have children who are not from Floyd County placed in them. Winshape Homes is its own entity and does work with D that if people know there is a need, they will be willing to serve as foster families," she said. Potential foster families attend classes, she said. Families are taught about the p

had never seen a toothbrush." Those who want to foster are also given a home study session in which a DFCS agent comes into the home and observes the environment and undergo fingerprinting, background checks and financial checks. "We have to make sure they can handle the extra expense," Howerton said. "We do not so much pay as rei were approved," Howerton said. About 75 percent of the 422 Floyd County children in foster care are placed outside of Floyd County, Howerton said. Of the 25 percent her in this county and this state, we are in a state of emergency." Source: http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/rome/news/local/state-of-emergency-shortage-of-foster-homes

Escape casts spotlight on Washington use of juvenile inmates to fight wildfires Inmate, 16, shoots self in head after escaping Chelan Complex fire work camp Teen 2015 07.00 EDT Last modified on Monday 31 August 2015 07.55 EDT Share on Facebook Share on Twitter Share via Email Share on Pinterest Share on LinkedIn Share or a work camp, after punching a security guard. 'It's unrelenting': inside the Washington town surrounded by raging wildfires Omak is at the epicenter of several blazes that ha nearby road and attempted to apprehend him. He pulled out a .22 caliber revolver and, after a brief interaction, fired one shot to his head. The teen survived, but the program criminal justice lawyer and corrections expert at California's Santa Clara University, said he was surprised to learn of fire camps for inmates under the age of 18. "The word that I have not heard of." The Washington state government said it was reassessing the juvenile work camps, in light of the events. Two deployed crews had been recalled to which houses 76 boys, deploys two fire crews throughout the year. Since the 1960s, camps like this one have supplied the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with ine continued work until the early evening. Receiving orders from a DNR fire crew, they assisted with digging trenches, hauling pails of water to put out hot spots and supporti received between $0.70 and $1.60 per day. Stints could be extended to 21 days, with a day off, and overtime pay or bonus fire pay was possible. "Definitely the skills are tra violent crime. The youth who escaped from the camp allegedly obtained the gun from a parks vehicle, about eight hours after he assaulted a guard and ran. According to a p providing support for". Advertisement The average age of children in Washington's juvenile work camps is between 16 and 17, according to juvenile services. For years, sta talked about working with the DNR for four years and being deployed at 12 fires. He called the work programs, which made him more than $7,000, "irreplaceable" and saic operates 42 adult fire camps, 18- to 23-year-olds are expected to operate closer to the fire. In the 72 years the program has existed, inmates have died working the fire line. A available to both young men and women, and only granted to inmates that were exceptional. "They have to have the aptitude to be in the camp," said Sessa. "They have to b these crews is very good." The point of such camps, as laid out by the state of California, is to "provide the cooperative agencies with an able-bodied, trained work force for for a job with the DNR upon release. "I wouldn't say it's very common," she said, "because there's competing demand for those jobs." Facebook Twitter Pinterest The Chel felony convictions. The Washington DNR conducts what a human resources representative called "extensive" criminal background checks. Certain types of felon are autom important for each state to assess whether such programs were rehabilitating inmates, not least when the inmates were minors. "It might be a great idea for these kids going juvenile-inmates-fight-wildfires-escape

Congress moves toward an overhaul of US foster-care system Help For Our Community, a Fitchburg-based organization, dropped off 100 bags with supplies for children days ago # Comments WASHINGTON >> Congress is moving toward an overhaul of the country's foster-care system, one that reflects a shift in how policymakers and chi in both parties appear to be in agreement on the basic principles of a reform. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, hopes to move legis helping children's biological parents take care of them properly. Depending on the family, the state could pay for psychotherapy or treatment for a parent's alcoholism or ad Advertisement Keeping a child in her biological parents' home if possible is not only better for the child, but will save the government money, too, lawmakers say. They are have helped my mom so that I did not have to go into foster care in the first place," Hatch said at a hearing this month. Hatch's office has been working with Sen. Ron Wyd Washington, said the discussion on Capitol Hill was "a game-changer for child welfare." Little data on children who grow up in foster care is available, but current research Illinois's investigators 20 years ago to determine how foster care affected their lives as adults. He found that if a foster-care child had been visited by a stricter investigator - investigators often do better by kids when when they give parents the benefit of the doubt. "There's this traumatic event of being taken away from your parents, and being t household, that doesn't mean you've taken the abuse out of the child. Foster care is sometimes necessary for the child's safety, said David Sanders, who is in charge of publ parents' mistakes when they have kids of their own, perpetuating addiction, neglect and abuse to the next generation. "It's so easy to think removing children from their fam have been promising, and research suggests that in many cases, the benefits far outweigh the costs. A study found that one therapy program in the state of Washington, for e news/20150831/congress-moves-toward-an-overhaul-of-us-foster-care-system

Boarding schools: A black hole of Native American history Zigmund Hollow Horn (NCR photo/Vinnie Rotondaro) Vinnie Rotondaro | Sep. 1, 2015 The Trail of History town. The engine of his pickup, parked outside, pinged and crackled. Sitting on a couch, his eyes trained outward and down, he began to talk about his life. "I'm a 65-year-o upbringing." Like many in Cheyenne River, and throughout Indian Country, Hollow Horn attended an American Indian boarding school. Boarding schools were governmen newest book: The Chronicles of Francis, the Cartoon Strip, featuring cartoons from the popular series Francis. Buy it now! Hollow Horn's mother died in childbirth. He spe Chamberlain, or any kind of Indian mission school," he said, "they take you down on Aug. 16 and you don't come back till May 21. You're just there. I did that for eight yea children would faint. "And when they faint, there's no mercy," Hollow Horn said. "They just drag you out, take you to the back of the pews somewhere, and they slap you u down. That's an order." Marcella Le Beau also witnessed abuse in a government-run boarding school. "I saw the whipping lines," she said, "when they would punish the boy to bed, "we never talked, and that's strange now that I think back on it. We couldn't be children. We couldn't talk and play. And we never talked about it afterwards either. It River, where she advocates for her people. Hollow Horn wasn't so fortunate. He said his boarding school experience broke him. Moving into adulthood, he fell into alcoholi and when they got older, they went to alcoholism, and they died that way," Hollow Horn said. "They got us when we were young," he said. "I used to speak my native tongu represented a focused effort — a collusion between church and state — to stamp out Native American identity, affecting generations of children. Tsianina Lomawaima, a lea experience," she said, "all different tribal backgrounds, all different ages, all different personalities, and so there were many, many, many different boarding school experien According to Lomawaima, a professor of American Indian studies at the University of Arizona and also a Creek Indian, "about 25 off-reservation boarding schools operated essentially the same manner. However, student reaction "varied dramatically between someone who went into the school as an English speaker from a family that had been again until he was a teenager." "He was one of those that had a very negative experience and feelings about it, but still as an adult could say about some aspects of the schoo educating them in a system of knowledge, language, economy, law, diet, clothing, everything, different from who they are. … And the physical violence on top of all that." you, if it's the only chance for you or your child's education, is that voluntary?" During the Great Depression, "people couldn't feed their kids," she said. U.S. public schools of Canada, very little is known about them. "I regret to say that I don't know of anybody who's looked at Catholic schools in the U.S.," she said. "Welcome to the black hole activists and scholars insist that Catholicism's past continues to affect the present. Papal bulls from the 1400s condoned the conquest of the Americas and other lands inhabit States. Now Native Americans say the church helped commit genocide and refuses to come to terms with it. This is Part Two of a six-part series on the legacy of the Doctrin

Gilead shuttering Cromwell group home after pressure from officials, residents Gilead Community Services of Middletown has decided to close its residence for the m plans to open a group home on Reiman Drive. The decision was announced Monday afternoon, following a meeting between Gilead officials, Mayor Enzo Faienza and Tow residential street in town. The announcement — and a lack of specifics about the likely residents of the group home — generated a wave of questions and concerns from res other group homes, had consistently supported the residents. Town officials said they understood and, in some cases, shared some of the neighbors' concerns. Gilead officia repeatedly said he felt there were better locations in town for the group home. But Gilead officials stuck fast to their plan — until recently. During a joint announcement Mc loggerheads over the issue, "We were able to maintain a dialogue." During those discussions, residents raised their concerns about the presence of the group home "because some four hours later in the company of an attorney who serves as the man's conservator. Faienza and Salvatore "applauded" Gilead's decision and thanked them for "listen the conclusion this was not the right location for both the residents and clients Gilead serves." In a prepared statement, state Sen. Paul Doyle agreed. "It took some time for the country, but the style and delivery of those services needs to work in harmony with a community and its municipal leaders in order to be successful for everyone involve the best possible light for all concerned, Gilead Executive Director Dan Osborne appeared to be a little more grudging in his comments. "It is with great sadness that Gilead and healthy environment for the individuals we serve to be received and thrive in the community." "While this has been a very difficult decision and a difficult time for Gile Services) and to our many dedicated community supporters whose essential assistance make a difference in so many lives," Osborne said. As he has since the very beginnin home and argued against locating it on Reiman Drive. And, Faienza said, "The resistance of the neighbors was not going away." Faienza wished Gilead "the best of luck," a well as that of state officials "over the past few months to bring this matter to an amicable resolution." Source: http://www.middletownpress.com/20150901/gilead-shutterin

Foster mom accused of sexual contact with teen in her care By Andrea Flores. CREATED Aug 31, 2015 OMAHA, Neb. (KMTV)- A foster mother, accused of taking ad foster child. Around 11:30 Thursday night, Bellevue Police approached a car parked behind the Gordman's off 15th and Cornhusker. Inside, they found 46-year-old Kim C old is a ward of the State of Nebraska, placed as a foster child with Carrera by the Nebraska Families Collaborative, less than two months ago. Friday, police took Carrera this agency not to comment on an incident involving minor children or an ongoing investigation, what we can say is the safety and well-being of the children we serve is ou Department of Health and Human Services tells us Carrera was licensed to become a foster parent back in 2006, and also has two adopted children. DHHS confirmed she Saving Institute from December 2014 until she resigned in mid-August 2015. Her position did not include individual work with children. Criminal and abuse background sc http://www.scrippsmedia.com/kmtv/news/Foster-mom-accused-of--323543341.html

Child Safety Department revoking group homes' license Child Safety Department revoking group homes' license 4 Saved Save Article My Saved Items Print Email Resp PHOENIX (AP) — The state Department of Child Safety on Monday said it was moving to revoke the license of a Mesa company that runs four group homes for troubled y

July. Other alleged problems that prompted the unusual step included children being left unattended for hours, failing to provide medical treatment and not intervening in alt children living at the homes were moved out in recent days, department spokesman Doug Nick said. The homes were licensed to care for 35 children and handled girls ages nonprofit's tax returns weren't immediately returned. Pause Current Time 0:00 / Duration Time 0:00 Remaining Time -0:00 Stream TypeLIVE Loaded: 0% Progress: 0% 0:(over the department in February. He also implemented a policy of sharing responsibility for the care and safety of children in the foster care system between the state and gr http://tucson.com/news/state-and-regional/child-safety-department-revoking-group-homes-license/article_dec033ba-2a5e-5e67-a23a-cb36e009efaa.html

September 4, 2015 **DCF responds to allegations of abuse happening in foster homes** By: KAKE News Updated: Tue 6:24 PM, Sep 01, 2015 By: KAKE News Home / H were abused in the Kansas foster care system, the Department of Children & Families responds to the allegations. One man tells KAKE News he was beaten, abused and raj News spoke with administrator Amy Neuman of the Department of Children and Families about the allegations. "It is very, very rare," Neuman said, "within the Wichita reg of abuse, Neuman provided this answer: "We investigate all reports the same. When a concerned person contacts the Kansas Protection Report Center, we look at the allegat we find out what is occurring. From there, we talk to alleged perpetrators, we talk to family members and we talk to collateral witnesses such as schools, daycares, anyone v responsibility of screening foster homes and training from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment. Neuman says this will better streamline the foster care system http://www.kake.com/home/headlines/DCF-responds-to-allegations-of-abuse-happening-in-foster-homes-323769681.html

Special Report: Renowned U.S. drug-rehab program spun out of control SHANNON STAPLETON By Kristina Cooke and Robin Respaut, Reuters September 2, 2015 wooded hills of upstate New York for another chance to clean up. Belle Terre, the former home of a 19th-century copper baron, housed the 168-bed Phoenix House Delawa Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) had twice closed Belle Terre to new admissions after inspectors discovered illegal drug use, insufficient treatment and Szczupak was there said little had changed. Residents trafficked in drugs, cigarettes and other contraband. Nor were residents receiving the 40 hours a week of therapeutic s know it," he wrote. By December 2012, he had given up on the treatment program. He felt he would be stuck going from "dead end job and rehab and jail until I eventually Belle Terre without permission. One day after that, police visited Szczupak's mother, Inez, at her Staten Island home to tell her that her son had been found dead from a drug Democrat Hillary Clinton to Republican Chris Christie have hailed drug treatment as a smart way to tackle the problems of prison overcrowding and excessive sentencing. There's little doubt that quality care in a controlled setting can help. Multiple studies have shown that people who complete drug treatment court, a special court for drug ad foundation is one of the nation's largest drug treatment nonprofits, operating in 10 states and the District of Columbia. In the year ended June 20, 2014, the Phoenix House Financier Pete Peterson chaired a summer fundraiser in 2013 in the posh Hamptons on New York's Long Island. But as the case of Martin Szczupak suggests, the system as reveal a respected institution that in recent years has consistently failed to provide the quality of care necessary to help addicts kick the habit. "PERSISTENT REGULATOR facilities. In a letter to Phoenix House's then-chief executive in November 2014, OASAS said Phoenix House had "persistent regulatory violations and resident/patient care activity among residents; reports of violence and sexual assault; insufficient, inadequately trained or abusive staff; dirty premises; and lax security, with residents coming an closing Belle Terre and its 185th Street facility in New York City. In an open letter to staff, Phoenix Houses of New York's president and regional director, Peter Scaminaci, statement to Reuters, Scaminaci said his organization was "engaged in a strategic effort to re-allocate our resources to locations where we can achieve the greatest impact." Belle Terre's recent run-ins with regulators date back to at least May 2010. That's when Albany City Court Judge Thomas Keefe, who had sent three addicts there, became c surprised by what he described as Pryor's cavalier attitude and "virtual non-action to address the problem," Keefe told state regulators in a subsequent 2010 complaint to OA street inside of a building," she said. "There was a great amount of access to drugs. I used heroin, angel dust, Xanax, whatever was in there for the week." Former residents descended on Belle Terre unannounced. As the inspectors introduced themselves to a staff member, who was leading a house meeting, residents began shouting, "Shut this p widely available illegal drugs, unsupervised outings, sexual activity among residents, diversion of medications, unavailability of staff members, and lack of group counselin declined to comment. A month after admissions were stopped, OASAS conducted a follow-up visit and determined that the facility had stabilized. Admissions resumed. Tw stay. He was sent back to Belle Terre in 2012, after failing a urine test, and later spent time in prison for his initial grand larceny charge. He said that as of August 2015, he h were mixed with residents who were "not addicts, but rather, hardened criminals avoiding jail time." She added: "The bottom line is the understaffing." SUSPICIOUS REC pieced together from information gathered through Google searches the night before, they said. Treatment records were suspect. "There were times when I would say, 'I did synthetic opioid fentanyl around the grounds to keep him out of sight during an OASAS inspection. In November 2011, OASAS again halted admissions. The agency cited in group therapy. OASAS also found that Belle Terre's new director, Henry Bennett, obstructed their request for records in an attempt to modify them before handing them the prize" by emphasizing business considerations over "things they need such as clinical functions and a good medical records system." TOOL OF ABUSE About 75 perce Champlin, a 2011 resident with borderline personality disorder, said he stayed clean for his first four months at Belle Terre, but by the time he graduated, "I was smoking m as short jail stints or can extend their time in treatment. In some cases, offenders end up spending more time incarcerated than if they had eschewed drug treatment. At Belle This system, which counselors and residents called "the Structure," was meant to help residents break bad habits and prepare for working life. Former residents said the syst courts. PARTNERS IN ADDICTION This was the milieu Martin Szczupak entered in the summer of 2012. Szczupak grew up in the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn a age 15, Pardo said. She was hooked at 18. Still, they managed to start college. He studied biology. She studied mortuary science. They missed a lot of classes, mostly to get on Drug Use and Health. Staten Island had the highest rate of heroin-related deaths among all New York City boroughs in 2012. Local officials have called it an "epidemic." home, according to the account he gave to his mother and Pardo, the rehab facility van he was riding in made a stop. Szczupak, woozy and disoriented from prescribed med shouting, "open the door." Inside the Ford Explorer sat a woman and her 3-year-old son. She called the police. Szczupak was charged with attempted grand larceny and resi later, he relapsed. He was arrested for possession on Staten Island, a probation violation. In court, the judge agreed to give him another chance at treatment. When Szczupak former Bank of America contractor who had been remanded to Belle Terre after violating probation on a drug-sales charge, said the place was in chaos. "There were people agent. Szczupak at first rose within the Structure. He was assigned to computer work, where he spent days listening to music, according to a letter to a friend. "I hoped this don't treat me fair.' But I never understood what happened." In December 2012, Szczupak was demoted within the Structure for disrespecting a staff member, his treatment over again in drug court, but he refused, saying he had heard "nightmare stories" from others. "HE SEEMED LIKE A SHELL" "This whole episode here has pushed back m seemed "really mad at the world, very dark, not making any jokes," she said. "He seemed like a shell." The next day, Moody said, Szczupak told him he would rather be in suspended admissions at Belle Terre, as well as four other Phoenix House facilities. State regulators noted high staff turnover and need for improved clinical practices at Be 2015. The Shrub Oak teen residential treatment facility was closed permanently in June 2015. In March, OASAS inspected Belle Terre again, prompted by unspecified com 185th Street facility. Pardo, now 24, lives with her parents on Staten Island and works the night shift at a convention center. She has been sober for three years after receivin and Robin Respaut; Edited by John Blanton) Source: http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/latestnews/2015/09/02/Special-Report-Renowned-US-drug-rehab-program-spun-out-

Report: Increase in Reported Abuse of Mass. Foster Kids | NECN Report: Increase in Reported Abuse of Mass. Foster Kids The release of the 2014 data comes amid rer other out-of-home settings increased in Massachusetts last year, as did deaths among children receiving services from state agencies, according to a report filed Tuesday by Central Mass. Offices The advocate's office counted 633 substantiated allegations of mistreatment in its review of 290 reports of abuse or neglect last year, an increase from total since 2011. DCF: 3 Workers in 2-Year-Old's Death Case Unlicensed Child Advocate Gail Garinger said 184 of the reports involved children in DCF custody, including legislature to ensure that sufficient resources are available." The report documented 136 "critical incident reports" involving deaths or serious injuries among children who three deaths were ruled suicides and two resulted from traffic accidents. Sixteen deaths, including those of two children in DCF custody, were determined to be from natural has yet to officially rule on 10 other 2014 deaths, the report said. Last month, a 2-year-old girl in foster care died after being found unresponsive at an apartment complex in would launch its own internal investigation. In July, DCF took custody of a 7-year-old Hardwick boy who had allegedly been beaten, starved and dehydrated by his father. missing from his home and whose remains were later found alongside a state highway. The case prompted a wide-ranging review of DCF procedures and an eventual shake

Too Many Children In Foster Care Are Getting Antipsychotic Meds : Shots - Health News : NPR California Moves To Stop Misuse Of Psychiatric Meds In Foster Care and lived on the streets for months, and he had been diagnosed with bipolar and anxiety disorders, attachment disorder, intermittent explosive disorder or posttraumatic stres combination of antipsychotics, antidepressants and stimulants, and was told that taking them was his only hope of being normal. Instead, he said, medication made him feel your fears, anxieties and insecurities," he said. i DeAngelo Cortijo, 22, says he benefited more from therapy than from psychotropic medications during his years in foster c assisted therapy — riding a horse, feeding, grooming and communicating with it — helped Cortijo to gain a better perspective on himself. "It allowed me to understand wha Children in foster care are prescribed antipsychotic drugs at double to quadruple the rate of that not in foster care, according to a Government Accountability Office report. approved guidelines. The report found monitoring programs for psychotropic drugs provided to foster children fell short of guidelines established by the American Academy insurer for most children in foster care. That included too many drugs (37 percent); wrong dose (23 percent); poor monitoring (53 percent); or wrong treatment (41 percent) package of laws to regulate the prescribing of powerful psychiatric medications to children and teens in the child-welfare system has passed the Senate and is heading to the the legislation, said an enforcement mechanism is needed to change prescribing practices. "The legislation describes in detail the oversight function — what everyone's role dosages that exceed maximums and the use of antipsychotics where not medically necessary because of physical health risk factors." The push for tougher laws follows last California children in foster care. "It is well beyond time for us to be having this discussion and intervening," said Ken Berrick, president and CEO of the Seneca Family of available right now on demand, and other services are not," he said. "When you don't have a choice, you rely on what you have." Under the reforms, there would be better n control children's behavior. "Drugging and sedating children should never be considered the primary option in lieu of counseling, therapy and appropriate treatment," said th

a structure to provide second medical opinions. Beyond reining in prescribing outliers, the legislation also places a new emphasis on defining what comprises appropriate ca Images/Getty Images Andy Baker/Ikon Images/Getty Images "We're saying, you have to do something else — either first or at the same time — to really help a troubled chi effects from taking psychotropic medications, sometimes unwillingly. And they described how alternatives to drug therapy often led to better outcomes. For Tisha Ortiz, 22, While she lived in various group homes, she often lashed out at adults and resorted to self-harm when her emotions got the better of her. For years she lived with flashbacks weight and found it hard to stay awake, yet she continued to feel abandoned and depressed. "I just felt sedated, and I wasn't really dealing with the problems," she said. Acc through and not because there's all these things wrong with me." Since then, Ortiz has had other therapists who she felt really listened to her, whom she still occasionally ca on the road to getting better." There are a lot of good evidence-based treatments that work, said Shadi Houshyar, vice president for child welfare policy at First Focus, a nati funds to match Medicaid dollars, but that's not enough, Houshyar said. That's why First Focus and other advocacy groups have been big proponents of a White House progr Obama unveiled a two-pronged plan allocating $750 million in grant dollars and incentive payments to address the overprescribing of psychotropics. The demonstration pro problem, we have to make the alternative interventions available at the same level at which medication is available," said Berrick. "It's really a question of access. When tha including child welfare and juvenile justice, youth development and out-of-school-time programming. Source: http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/09/02/43635(

Last teacher in Atlanta cheating scandal gets year in prison By The Associated Pressupdated Tuesday, September 1, 2015 - 8:02pm 0 comments ATLANTA | The final te educators convicted in April by a Fulton County Superior Court jury in a conspiracy to inflate student scores on standardized tests in the Atlanta public school system. Robi had offered Robinson the same deal as her 10 co-defendants — she could have avoided a prison sentenced by admitting her guilt in court. Robinson's defense attorney, Ann pleaded with the judge to show mercy anyway, noting Robinson has a 4-month-old son. "She rejected her avenue out of this mess," Baxter said. In addition to sentencing R it will likely be three years before she has to report to prison. Only two of the 11 convicted educators accepted the judge's offer to avoid prison by admitting their guilt durin cheating-scandal-gets-year-prison

Former Tulsa Foster Care Provider Accused Of Sharing Child Porn Videos Posted: Sep 03, 2015 4:12 AM PDT Updated: Sep 03, 2015 2:36 PM PDT Russell Hulstine, a month long child pornography investigation. According to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the man is a former respite care provider for foster children. OSBI residence in the 6400 block of East 95th Place just off the Creek Turnpike. On September 2, authorities searched Cheatwood's home and computer. When questioned, inve on a $100,000 bond with a court appearance set for September 9. Investigators want foster parents who had contact with Cheatwood to call the OSBI hotline at 1-800-522-8

Ind. pastor accused of battering kids in boarding school Matthew Glowicki, The (Louisville, Ky.) Courier-Journal 7:14 a.m. EDT September 4, 2015 A 47-year-old past TWEET 1 LINKEDIN 16 COMMENTEMAILMORE LOUISVILLE — A Sellersburg, Ind., pastor and fellow church workers are accused of beating multiple children in t classrooms for mostly out of state students, he said. While parents, teachers and caretakers are allowed to discipline children "in a legal way," Mull said, the bruising allege spanking child Harris, 47, and Christopher Williams, 21, were both arrested earlier this week and face preliminary charges of battery and neglect of a dependent, said Clark interviewed children ranging in age from 8 to 19. They told investigators of "various forms of punishment," Palmer said. Christopher Williams (Photo: Clark County Detent behaving." An 11-year-old boy with "very serious bruising" on his buttocks and legs told investigators he was also hit with the paddle by both Williams and Harris when he Harris leads Crossroads Baptist Church in Sellersburg, Ind. He is accused of whipping children in his care with a wooden paddle. (Photo: Matthew Glowicki) Students at th academy who were selling candy bars in Owensboro, Ky., Mull said. One of the children allegedly told a customer he feared he would be whipped if he didn't sell enough c returned to their parents or Child Protective Custody, Mull said. Williams appeared Thursday afternoon in Clark County Circuit Court in Jeffersonville, Ind., where he was a week in court when formal charges are filed against both. A probable cause affidavit represents only one side of the case. Further charges could be filed as the investigation total students attended. "We're looking at exactly what the arrangements were for keeping the kids, what the philosophy was, what the reasonings were for kids being here," years ago stating they were thinking of opening a school on the premises, but no rezoning ever occurred, Majuri said. An order from the Clarksville, Ind., building commiss comply," he noted. Mike Staggs, who operates a mobile home community next to the church, said he sometimes sees the boys out mowing grass or doing other chores on th selling candies and giving out cards with the church's name and number. "I wish I had asked the boys more questions," she wrote to The Courier-Journal. "I remember tryin stated goals include "reaching school age boys heading down the paths of destruction" and "watching the transformation of unwanted, and seemingly ruined lives into Godl

2 NYC Jail Guards Charged in Beating of 18-Year-Old Inmate NEW YORK — Sep 4, 2015, 7:13 PM ET By JAKE PEARSON Associated Press Share 0 Share on ema Kolenovic and Officer Jean Destine pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor assault and official misconduct charges, as well as to felony charges that they altered use-of-force do disciplinary proceedings. Their lawyers didn't immediately return messages seeking comment. Celedonio's beating, first reported by The Associated Press, occurred the wee were routinely beaten by jail guards, each other and regularly placed in solitary confinement. Since then, officials have done away with solitary for teenage inmates and ove verbal argument by Kolenovic in a cafeteria at Rikers. City investigators found that Kolenovic, whose confrontation was partially caught on security cameras, then invited C should never have happened," said Nurse. "These were two grown men severely assaulting not just a kid but also a kid who is mildly mentally retarded." In a statement, jail http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/nyc-jail-guards-charged-beating-18-year-inmate-33544885

The lost boys of the Barrier Save Saturday, 05 September 2015 EmailFacebookTwitterGoogle+ The New Zealand Herald Email FacebookTwitterGoogle+ John da Silva, v classic dystopian novel Lord of the Flies. By Matt Nippert The second time Simon visited Great Barrier Island he says was made to dig his own grave. The man with the sh who'd escaped from the nearby Government-funded Whakapakari Youth Trust camp. The rustic tent facility was used to hold those too young for prison and as a dumping g away. The Coromandel peninsula, the tantalising mainland looming on the horizon, was dozens of kilometres of choppy waves away. This isolation was a boon for containi researcher Dr Ian Hyslop, who has reviewed the facility's files as part of an upcoming job as expert witness for nearly 40 former residents who are suing the Government. T at least 1988 and continuing until the camp shut down suddenly in 2004) to cease its use, a whole generation of kids claim Alcatraz was used as a dump for camp troublema broken into a Department of Conservation hut, ransacked a boat, taken a Casio watch, and stolen some marijuana and smoked it. The dope and watch belonged to the man v hard man with tattoos, understood to be a senior gang member, didn't believe the boys when they claimed they'd lost it. Simon says it was after being interrogated about the holes as well. They were crying. I had just turned 15 - the other boys were younger, 13 or 14. The look on their faces, I'll never forget it. The fear on their faces. We all thou garden slasher. Interviews with nearly a dozen former Whakapakari residents detail claims of regularised violence, which, though not as lurid as Simon's brush with the alle adult supervisors to maintain order through physical discipline. THE CAMP was finally closed in 2004, after a steady stream of complaints about abuse turned into a torrent were traumatised, with one of them telling his social worker: "Before I went to the island I was different, always laughing. People say I'm different now." The camp had lon most notorious hardened criminals, including RSA triple killer William Bell. Former resident Andrew (whose real name is also suppressed by the court) settled his claim wi undertook a formal study of how effective the facility had been at reducing reoffending. Of the 69 boys who attended the camp in 2004, only one in five had not offended, a since, but can recall his last conversation with the three other failed escapees. "As I left they told me 'Get us some help'. I did the best I could - I told mum, told the courts - enough to blow the whistle. The supervisor's complaint included the observation that two of the four boys had, literally, pissed themselves. Documents obtained under the C incident was botched and the opportunity for justice - given the statute of limitations - has been lost. A still from the documentary Breaking The Barriers. The investigation professional wrestler and star of 70s television staple On the Mat, da Silva had run Whakapakari on his family's land since the early 1980s. He claimed: • Gunshots would h investigator concluded that the complaints "need to be viewed in the context of police involvement of arranging the work with the aggrieved neighbour" and that the camp said. But the whistleblower was not satisfied and made another complaint, this time to the Commissioner for Children. Another investigation was opened in 1999, but despi formally denied any involvement in arranging the claimed work detail with the neighbour - a key plank of da Silva's version of events. The report also shows the final decis officer told the Commissioner. "Nevertheless I would not be prepared to pursue a prosecution with evidence of this standard - specifically the unco-operative and unreliable initial complaint by the supervisor made in 1998. Garth Young, chief analyst for historic claims at the Ministry of Social Development said he was unable to comment on w questions of fact and liability, Young agreed that Simon's description of children digging graves and being menaced by dogs sounded horrifying. "I don't think any reasonab Barrier Island and his Whakapakari camp has long been swallowed by the bush. He told the Weekend Herald that the neighbour at the centre of Simon's complaint was now that the four boys involved seemed unharmed, despite the allegations of mistreatment. "They all came back in one piece, there didn't seem to be anything wrong with them.' noting that no one had died. "We certainly never lost a life, but we did have some pretty harrowing moments," he said. His clients were the most difficult young people in th the controversial camp. "John Da Silva never condoned violence. I don't blame him for any of this " but he could have done with a second opinion." According to internal C said Whakapakari had relied on the charismatic leadership of Da Silva, but as he aged and suffered health problems he moved away from living on-site and his influence wa "The very nature of the programme - the remoteness, the primitive living conditions, the lack of managerial oversight and accountability creates an environment where othe the mainland." Nearly 20 years on, he says the memory of that day with the spade, thinking his body would fall into the hole he had dug, has never left him. "Did it last two have witnessed a lot of violent assaults, but not before this. It was all after this. After Great Barrier and Whakapakari I rebelled against the justice system and spend around one would believe him and he still had flashbacks of the man with the shotgun who had made a point of writing down the four boys' names in a book before starting his inte what had happened. But I'm not afraid to talk about it now. "At the end of the day I'm now grown up, with kids of my own - and you just can't do that to children." Some for Oldfriends his 1989 placement, saying though some might call the camp a "doomed place", he had a different experience. "For me I thoroughly enjoyed every minute I sper during an hour-long documentary on TV One. Half-way through Breaking the Barrier - a broadly positive take on Whakapakari, emphasising the facility as a last chance sal

mutilated himself with a butcher's knife. 'Rat' has taken the extraordinary step of circumcising himself." "Rat", no older than 15, with his face blurred out and a bloodied tov extreme reaction. Aboard the rowing boat taking the teen to whatever he calls home, the boy who crudely circumcised himself raises his arms in triumph. "See you in Auckl

'Forced to dig their own graves' Save Saturday, 05 September 2015 EmailFacebookTwitterGoogle+ The New Zealand Herald Email FacebookTwitterGoogle+ Whangara Barrier Island were made to dig what they were told would be their own graves and concerned staff blowing the whistle were ignored, according to a Weekend Herald inves following long-delayed High Court claims by nearly 40 residents of Whakapakari Youth Trust alleging horrific mistreatment between 1988 and 2004 at the Child, Youth an serious mistreatment of children. Sonja Cooper, the principal of Cooper Legal, said the first tranche of her clients' claims were filed in 2006. She blamed government lawye process for our clients." Judge Carolyn Henwood, speaking in her capacity as the chairwoman of the recently concluded Confidential Listening Service, said the situation w concerning that nothing has been resolved," Judge Henwood said. She said a recent report exposing ongoing failures in the state care of children showed lessons from the pa process can be emotional and difficult for claimants," she said. Mrs Tolley said she had recently introduced a fast-track process, leading to 940 settled claims and $14 millio

Foster mother awaits abuse charges Email Newsletters Click here to sign up for one of our email newsletters. For more information The statewide toll-free line is availab parents, call the state Department of HS Director's Action Line at 800-862-6783 or EveryChildInc.org. Sources: Allegheny County Department of Human Services; Pennsyl Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015, 1:31 a.m. A former foster mother from West Tarentum awaits child abuse charges involving three children in incidents that allegedly occurred last charges of child abuse after day care workers at the Allegheny Valley YMCA in Harrison reported in May a significant amount of bruising on the buttocks of a 4-year-old gi Thornhill pleaded not guilty. However, the charges against her were held for court at a preliminary hearing Wednesday before District Judge Carolyn Bengel. All three child overseen through the program. “She is not a foster parent at this time,” Maines said. Witnesses testify At Wednesday's hearing, YMCA day care worker Jessica Swarek testi took photos of the girl's injuries. The state Department of Human Services and Allegheny County detectives investigated. The DHS certifies and licenses foster parents. Cou Services Department who investigates foster care abuse, testified that she sat with the boy, intending to watch him play with toys for a bit before questioning him. But the b when she was unhappy with him, Lewandowski said, demonstrating the one-handed squeeze on her own face. The 2014 case Last year, the 6-year-old girl told police Thorn filed charges in July based on the 2014 and 2015 allegations. In an interview Thursday, county Detective Lt. Tom Ianachione said changes in the state's child abuse law are ordered her to not have contact with the children. Chuck Biedka is a staff writer for Trib Total Media. He can be reached at 724-226-4711 or . Read more: h

Stop sending babies to boarding schools By Mum-in-chief Updated Monday, September 7th 2015 at 12:18 GMT +3 inShare1 Photo:Courtesy This week as schools were looked so innocent, confused and vulnerable; I wondered why their parents were sending them to boarding at such a tender age. What had they done to deserve such mistrea need tender loving care from the parents and close monitoring because they are still young children. I think as parents as much as we are too busy building our careers, send small kids to boarding schools so that we can give undivided attention to our careers. Parents may argue that the boarding schools are first class and that kids are well taken delinquent later in life. My daughter Tasha is in Class One and from what I see she is still too young to be left in the hands of a third party. She still needs close monitoring like respect, hard work, compassion and godliness which will go a long way in molding her into a law abiding citizen. I need to be in close touch with her so that I can answ age when she needs me, how will I know all these fundamental things? How will I know that she is struggling with Mathematics and she needs extra help? How I establish abdicating our responsibilities by shipping babies to boarding. Source: http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/evewoman/article/2000175444/stop-sending-babies-to-boarding-sc

How Jeb Bush's Florida Plan for School "Choice" Created an Industry of Corruption and Chaos Thursday, 10 September 2015 00:00 By Jeff Bryant, AlterNet | Repo on the money." That's Rosemarie Jensen talking, a tone of exasperation creeping into her voice as she describes the influence of money on education policy in South Florida diverse population of students, drawn from the state's most exclusive gated communities as well as neighborhoods wracked by generational poverty. A former K-1 school te something monetary to gain. As a leader of United Opt Out, an organization that advocates boycotting standardized tests in public schools, Jensen has opted her own son, a generation immigrant and high school dropout, who cleaned out tankers so he could raise his daughter in a neighborhood with good public schools and eventually send her entities that operate outside the oversight of democratically governed school systems - are not now what they originally claimed to be: centers of innovation created by teacl state steers funds to charters for new construction. She believes that making public schools compete with charter schools for money dilutes funding that should be paying fo Americans, but many parents and public officials across South Florida, where these schools are now more prevalent than in other parts of the country, openly complain abou bother to look. "Outrageous," is the word former state Senator Nan Rich uses to describe recent decisions Florida lawmakers made to steer more money toward these school As a recent article in Florida's Herald-Tribune notes, for the past two years, only charter schools have received capital outlay funds from the state for new construction. Now tipped the scales to favor them financially." "I'm not one who opposes charter schools that are set up the way they were intended," Rich adds. But she now believes, "The wh particular - that any educational value charter schools were supposed to bring to the state is now overshadowed by corruption and chaos linked to money-making. A new co "motivated by money." So how did this happen to Florida, and to Broward, specifically? Jeb Bush and the Charter School Business Model Most people trace the manic scra charter schools. That same year, he led the effort to open the state's first charter, Liberty City Charter School in Miami. During Bush's first administration, charter school gr 2007, charter schools across the state had grown from a modest 30 in total to well over 300. The number of Florida charter schools has since doubled to over 600. In his init Bush's rationale for charter schools had significantly changed. According to a Palm Beach Post news article published that year, Bush debuted his revamped message at a su supermarket these days and you will find an incredible selection of milk. … They even make milk for people who can't drink milk." Bush would repeat his observation from consumer "choice." "It started as a movement and now it's an industry," Vickie Marble, a well-known Florida charter school advocate, gleefully declared to NPR reporters c opportunity… a half billion dollar opportunity." In short order, news outlets from Forbes to the Huffington Post reported the growing interest among investors in charter sch Walmart family - sponsored a symposium at the Harvard Club for investors interested in the charter school sector." Aided by influencers like the Waltons and others, Jeb Bu Model? When Bush announced his presidential campaign earlier this year, a reporter from BuzzFeed noticed that many of his campaign videos feature the candidate in class for-profit charter school management company." With nearly 100 schools in Florida "and well over $150 million in annual revenue," Academica has been a key player in ch long history of financial wheeling and dealing, so much so the organization is now the target of "an ongoing federal probe into its real estate dealings," as the Miami Herald for the Florida League of Women Voters explains how the scheme works: "Although charter schools must, by Florida law, be overseen by a non-profit board of directors, th vendors for food services, textbook, etc., to hiring principals and teachers and curriculum control." Hall goes on to explain how real estate deals have become another form school." Then they can charge the school district exorbitant rents and leases for the use of the building. This results in an "ever escalating" revenue stream of taxpayer dolla schemes led to a firestorm of land deals in Florida during the Bush years, according to an investigation by Alec MacGillis in the New Yorker. "Developers of new subdivisio wealthy they drew the attention of an investigative report from the Miami Herald. Reporters Kathleen McGrory and Scott Hiaasen found 15 years of steady growth had turn Dade and Broward Counties." Through these complex real estate arrangements, Academica founders Fernando and Ignacio Zulueta - brothers who were former real estate d a Florida television outlet reported in 2014, "Charter Schools USA makes millions by managing schools, but tens of millions building and renting their buildings." The repo school. Then, CUSA charges the school high rent." One charter school paid "a $2 million rent payment to CUSA/Red Apple Development. The payment will equate to appr Hall's research, "The top four charter operators in Florida for 2011-2012 were Academica (72), Charter Schools USA (37), Charter School Associates (20), and Imagine Sch Academy and KIPP - dominate the state. As governor, then later as the head of his influential foundation, Jeb Bush did everything he could to facilitate these sorts of charte Florida State Board of Education, which was appointed by, you guessed it, Gov. Bush. According to MacGillis, Bush also "signed a law to eliminate the state's cap on the nu amenities." There's no doubt Bush's ties to the charter industry will stay strong during his presidential run. When he formally announced his 2016 presidential bid in June, J aides and friends - to thank them and 'get his crying out of the way.'" Hage was one of the chosen few; it was he who was quoted by the Herald. The Charter Invasion of Bro the state's highest real estate valuations and rental prices could be found. "Broward County has nearly two million people who live in relatively small cities," writes Sue Leg more than one-third are charters, and charter school openings continue at a fast clip, with 19 new charters likely to open in the year ahead, says Legg, "What's particularly o district's charter schools, a total 23 schools, finished the 2013-2014 school year with a deficit, "ranging from a low of $4,591 to a high of $318,567." Indeed, as the number 21 occurred in Broward. One charter high school in Broward "shuttered hours before students were to report for class on the first day of school," the article notes. Two othe actually asked for them. Who Wants Charter Schools? "Charter schools open up at will whether there's a need for them or not," explains Laurie Rich Levinson in an intervie were supposed to be created to fill a gap… do things differently for a specific community of students. But at this point there's no collaboration." Levinson complains about Ryan, mayor of the city of Sunrise, a Broward municipality, is another local official who is grappling with the impact of charters without seeing any strongly expressed neec conversation in his office. "We love our schools." One of the clearest signs of the low demand for charter schools in Broward County can be found in the main reason these found that the 48 charter schools that opened in Florida in that year ended up enrolling just 54 percent of what they estimated they would enroll on their charter applications in a strip mall and attracted just 50 students - "less than one-tenth" of its projected enrollment. In the county's official enrollment counts, taken in October of last year, the nu closed Broward charter schools that enrolled as few as 18 students. Only one of the closed schools had over 100 students. And with a new school year just starting in Browa in Broward, who have to deal with the human consequences of the expanding sector, find unsettling. "They seem to go wherever they want," Mayor Ryan says about charte eventually approved the charter trying to locate in an industrial zone, Ryan and his colleagues continue to consider other ways to influence where and how these schools ope transportation. Also, because there is little demand for charter seats from local parents - who generally prefer to have their children attend traditional public schools - charte getting preference over students coming from outside the community.) All these factors governing charter school location seem to amount to a deliberate design to place sch Ryan observes, is clearly "site-driven as opposed to needs-driven," which is the cause of more than just headaches for city administrators. It also potentially threatens the we

required of most other businesses and institutions. "If you want to open a business in this community, you have to meet certain requirements," Levinson observes. "But char Richard Kaplan to take action to provide more regulation of charter schools. Kaplan sees charter school proliferation as a potential endangerment to the health, safety and w for their students." Nevertheless, Kaplan led Lauderhill in placing a moratorium on new charter school development even before Sunrise did, and then imposed restrictions parent would agree they want schools to adhere to, including crossing guards, adequate entrances and exits, insurance, fire escape routes, background checks of employees, going to and from the school, and no traffic lanes for parents to wait in when picking up their children. According to Kaplan, at one charter school, a fire alarm went off and worry about." Kaplan also worries that people who oppose charter regulations of any kind will "run to their state legislator to have him step in." He imagines that a pro-char guards and fire escapes." The Real Cost: Undermining Public Schools The damage inflicted by the spread of charters in Broward and elsewhere does not stop at the corrupt schools in Broward and Miami-Dade was causing financial mayhem for local public schools. As an independent media source reported at the time, charter schools located i downturn," another article from the same news source reports. But it's not surprising that public schools struggle financially when competing charters open near them, given operating funds based on the number of full-time students enrolled. Local public schools receive funds much in the same way. In this practice, where "the money follows th levels to charters, the school can't simply proportionally cut its permanent costs for things like transportation and physical plant. It also can't cut the costs of grade-level teac music teacher - to offset the loss of funding. This damages the effectiveness of the neighborhood school long-term and causes it to slide further into the ranks of "low perfor north of Broward, are "pursuing legal action against two [charter] schools that closed to try to get about $400,000 back. The schools either moved the funds or [they] had be counts of the number of students enrolled in the schools, money the closed schools already collected will be withheld from future payments to the district. As state funding Florida are lobbying to get a share of those funds as well. Thus, the race to the bottom continues, confined to issues of money and finance, rather than debates about how to who made the idea famous - ended up opposing it. These schools, which were originally conceived as laboratories that would experiment with education innovations, today instruction, a strict form of teacher-directed pedagogy that is far from new or groundbreaking. Proponents of charter schools argue it's time to "move on; charter schools are Critics of the charter school industry, like Rosemarie Jensen, have other questions they'd like answered. "When can we get our libraries and librarians back?" Jensen asks. "

Mass. Auditor Suzanne Bump: 2014 report warned of state foster care problems | masslive.com Mass. Auditor Suzanne Bump: 2014 report warned of state foster care Republican Follow on Twitter on September 07, 2015 at 1:48 PM R BOSTON - State Auditor Suzanne Bump says issues of a lack of collaboration between agencies, weak staff raised the same issues of systemic ineffectiveness in a 2014 audit of the state foster care system. (That 2014 report is available at the end of this post.) "The systemic circumstances that landed a child in a coma while under state supervision is a woeful necessity and long overdue," Bump said. On Friday, the state released a report on the I mid-July withing 38 pounds and with bleach burns on his feet. The report says that about 16 caseworkers had interaction with the family for about five months with a total last month. A second foster child from the Auburn home was also hospitalized. Bump wrote: "Of the findings in our audit, one of the most troubling was that we had no way also identified a lack of collaboration between DCF and other agencies crucial to maintaining the safety of the children in its care – specifically the state's Sex Offender Reg Source: http://www.masslive.com/business-news/index.ssf/2015/09/mass_auditor_suzanne_bump_2014_report_wa.html

Foster care and institutional abuse study: Former state ward Priscilla Taylor urges others to share stories at Adelaide forums 891 ABC Adelaide Updated Sun at 8:38pmS payments Related Story: State funeral for champion of reconciliation Related Story: Child abuse remains rife in remote lands Map: Adelaide 5000 A woman who became a "forgotten Australians" - people who were in foster care, orphanages or other institutions between 1930 and 1989. Priscilla Taylor told 891 ABC Adelaide she was taken fro out but his comments on my files are 'The girls are fine, the house is clean and tidy' and we were left there for years. "My files have certainly filled in gaps." Ms Taylor said inquiry," she said. "Until you speak about it, I honestly believe that you cannot move forward and try to begin to heal, I really strongly believe that. "I have been able to mov long dead. Broken marriage and struggles since childhood foster care The Adelaide woman said she had struggled through adult life and a broken marriage. "I'm not sure I r individuals were subjected to very harsh physical punishment, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, neglect of their schooling. Elizabeth Fernandez She said the younger gene are being held in Adelaide from Tuesday to Thursday of this week, as university researchers compile their report. Elizabeth Fernandez is a professor of social work at the U the forgotten Australians, [including] the child migrants and members of the Stolen Generations," she said. "These experiences were not limited to their childhoods, there al brought with them ... this history of trauma and maltreatment, also alienation from their birth families, physical and mental health difficulties and very serious intergeneratic 1516. Source: http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-07/foster-care-abuse-national-study-priscilla-taylor/6755112

4 years on, still no trial for Anchorage adoptive mother accused of abuse, kidnapping Michelle Theriault Boots September 6, 2015 Share on emailEmail Print Text Siz more than four years after she was arrested on charges of assault and kidnapping. The case has not gone to trial. Loren Holmes / ADN Zemira James was a bone-thin 15-yea arrested seven months later, in May 2011, the case made headlines. Prosecutors alleged the Anchorage woman forced a bleak, isolated existence on her six adoptive children withholding food until some of the teenagers and young adults showed signs of starvation. Anya James was charged with 16 felony counts in which she is accused of assaul year-old James is out on bail and on her fourth defense attorney. Her trial date has been rescheduled 22 times. Today, Zemira James is a striking, healthy-looking 20-year-ol grief. Without a trial, Zemira says, she is tethered to the past. She can't go into a Fred Meyer or drive past a McDonald's or dental office in Anchorage without a flood of m look at the city probably in a very different way," she said. "I'd rejoice. I'd walk out of the courtroom crying and smiling at the same time." Until then, she said, "I feel like say. The civil cases represent the best chance the victims will receive money or other restitution from the state. "(Zemira) was 15 years old when she was rescued basically day with nightmares that she's going to run into Anya James, who has been out on bail for four-and-a-half years." Meanwhile, James is "living in a mansion and getting a se has been failing her for a long time. "All my life," she said. "I just haven't seen any good. I know they could do a lot better than what they are doing." 'What's keeping me b experience. "She would always dress me up, buy me dresses. I had nice long hair, and she'd put me in these white nice gowns. She was a really nice lady," Zemira said. "I l the big house he was living in. There were lots of cats and dogs. Prosecutors later said the children at James' home lived with more than 60 animals, part of a pet boarding b them and changed their names. She also withdrew Zemira from Kasuun Elementary -- where Zemira says she had thrived -- and started homeschooling the girl instead. Life isolation and difficulty connecting to people, especially peers her age. "What's keeping me back is fear. Fear of being around people, fear of talking to people I don't know. Anchorage Superior Court Judge Michael Spaan asked her current attorney, a court-appointed lawyer contracted by the Office of Public Advocacy named Jason Gazewood, "following the arrest of the accused." But that doesn't always happen. Serious, complex cases often take years to get to trial, said Taylor Winston, the head of the state Offic and prepare a strong a case for trial, she said. "(These cases) deserve not to be shoved through a system quickly," she said. But there are costs to victims and the system wh to the criminal justice system and to the case," she said. "They really can't be free until its over." So why is Anya James' case taking so long to reach trial? Part of the issue thousands of pages of documents to sift through. The criminal and civil cases against Anya James her span multivolume files that are inches thick. An index that simply lists best to care for them, despite violent behaviors. James was represented for more than three years by Rex Butler, a private attorney in Anchorage known for defending high-p February 2014, Butler pulled out of the case, saying James had run out of money and could no longer pay him. Her trial date at the time was three months away. In a conten do any trial in your courtroom because of your view of me," Butler responded. Spaan said he respected Butler's skill as an attorney but was "distressed" by his actions in th defendants about whether they can afford a lawyer. If they say no, they are assigned a public defender. At the time of the alleged abuse, James and the children lived in a 4,0 indigent clients. Gazewood, a different contract attorney with OPA, recently took on the case, making him James' fourth defense lawyer. At the August status hearing, Gazev courtroom together. She declined to comment, saying she couldn't tell her side of the story right then. Zemira says she and the other children have spent the years since the Correction: The headline of this article originally identified Anya James as a "foster" mother. She is actually the adoptive mother of the children. Source: https://www.adn.c

State looking to revoke foster agency's license after investigation Posted: Sep 08, 2015 2:10 PM PDT Updated: Sep 09, 2015 8:52 AM PDT Posted By Brianna Owczarz investigationMore > BURTON, MI (WNEM) - The state is looking to revoke the license of a foster agency. MOREAdditional LinksPoll Fundraiser begins for Omarion Hu honor of 9-year-old Omarion Humphrey. Humphrey, who was autistic, was found dead in a Davison Township Lake after wandering away while in foster care.More > A fur was sparked after one of its foster children died. Omarion Humphrey died in July at the Lake Callis Recreation Complex in Genesee County. It was his death that put the Al was in charge of taking care of 9-year-old Omarion. The state said the report and the severity of the violations are the reason the agency should lose its license. The Michiga should have been trained for Omarion's needs and how to handle issues due to his communication skills, physical safety and self-care. The report also said Humphrey was p In 2013 a 2-year-old died choking on a peanut butter sandwich. The agency received citations. Earlier this year a foster mother investigated was found to have lied about a p August noting the disciplinary action against her license is recommended. Six foster homes were reviewed in the process. The report even claimed some foster parents train Division of Child Welfare Licensing, we feel that it is not appropriate or useful to air our differences in the public forum that can be created by the press/social media. The S Therefore, we will not be commenting publicly on specifics contained in the Investigation Report. Yvwania H. Richardson CEO Alternatives For Children and Families Rea

Assembly passes three bills to curb psych drugs in California foster care By Karen de Sá Posted: 09/08/2015 02:36:14 PM PDT1 Comment Updated caregivers and court professionals. The three-bill package authored by state senators Jim Beall, D-San Jose, and Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, aims to correct the often da prescribe to foster children. That bill, however, was unexpectedly pulled from the legislative package last week, after heavy lobbying from physician groups and ongoing co vote. "Today's actions by the Assembly to pass these bills that would provide much-needed oversight over the use of psychotropic drugs in the foster care system is a start ir pending bills now head back to the Senate for a final concurrence vote and then are expected to be delivered to Gov. Jerry Brown. The governor has until Oct. 11 to approve

Area substance-abuse treatment center to close 0 Share this with your friends! From To Compose your message Area substance-abuse treatment center to closehttp://ww
Tuesday, September 8, 2015 8:39 pm | Updated: 7:34 am, Thu Sep 10, 2015. Area substance-abuse treatment center to close By Jessica Reynolds Staff Writer The Daily Sta
Phoenix House Delaware County Center, a male-only residential rehabilitation facility in South Kortright, will be closed as of Nov. 15, according to Amy Singer, Phoenix H
can be attributed to a variety of factors, including changing health care policies, fiscal challenges, a remote location and fewer clients. “We've been talking about whether or
absolutely gorgeous facility and we've loved working in the community." New leadership also contributed to the decision, Singer said. On July 1, Phoenix House — the nor
work well with the new vision,” Singer said, “which is a shift toward smaller, community-based outpatient programs. Belle Terre made more sense 30 years ago, but it just
Chimento, a part-time employee at Belle Terre, said he is concerned for the facility's clients because "many of them say it's the best drug facility rehab they've ever attended
anyone who hasn't will either be transferred to another program or discharged. Source: http://www.thedailystar.com/news/local_news/area-substance-abuse-treatment-cent

Too Often in Foster Care, Kids’ Privacy Rights Used to Protect Agencies by Marie K. Cohen September 9, 2015 The privacy rights of children and their families caught
the death of a foster child who was briefly in her care. The story of a child welfare system trying to suppress information about the death of a child is unfortunately all too c
can keep secret the circumstances under which she was allowed to stay with a heroin addict and convicted felon who was unrelated to her. The child in this case had been in
was picked up by a family friend, Shannon Dickinson. The sheriff’s office told the Glens Falls Post-Star that Dickinson was a known heroin addict who overdosed last Dec
approved the placement with Dickinson. Because he was a family friend and the maternal grandmother approved the placement, she could be placed in his home as a “kinsh
care. They later stated that they were not aware that the paternal grandmother had custodial rights. On August 26, the paternal grandmother came to court to request custody
courtroom to be closed for further hearings. The judge has refused this request twice. But DSS announced its intention to appeal his decision, so the judge stated that he wou
not reported her name nor the names of any family members. And according to a reporter who was there, the child’s court-appointed guardian urged the court to allow the c
the Post-Star, and the press can sometimes be an accomplice in blaming individuals when systemic problems are at fault. That is one reason why agencies are so preoccupie
family member after her father kicked her out. There were some concerns about the family member’s home but I knew my client would run away if I placed her in foster ca
choosing the option that appeared the least unsafe. The press can be unfair and uninformed. But the answer for agencies is not in sacrificing their client’s interests to protect
informed, so that those who truly care about children can step in to prevent similar problems in the future. Source: https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/blogger-co-op/agenc

Foster Care Provider Accused Of Child Porn; BA Foster Mom Feels 'Betrayed' Posted: Sep 09, 2015 8:30 PM PDT Updated: Sep 09, 2015 8:30 PM PDT Allison Harris,
foster parent - like a babysitter for foster kids – and one Broken Arrow foster mom said Cheatwood babysat her two foster children. BROKEN ARROW, Oklahoma - Foster
Cheatwood babysat her two foster children, who have special needs, and now she's concerned. Cheatwood went through the same extensive background check she did. It's
The woman said, “We were floored. Sickening, and, I guess it just…the longer I thought about it, it makes sense that somebody wanting to do evil will go to great lengths."
said. He was trained by the Bair Foundation in Tulsa, the same nonprofit the woman went through to become a foster parent. It's a foundation for Christian special needs chi
and had two little boys and he missed being around the kids. Okay, I get that. (nervous laugh)" If Cheatwood is found guilty she knows DHS and the Bair Foundation were
she said. She said, looking back, she believes Cheatwood was grooming them - taking them to fun places, buying them ice cream, those sorts of things. Cheatwood has not
ba-foster-mom-feels-betrayed

State says agency placed 9-year-old boy in home with 'several' infractions 1 / 7 Omarion Humphrey's siblings remain under court's care, judge rules Jamell Humphrey,
their 10 minor children will remain with family or in foster care. Danny Miller | MLive.com Danny Miller | Print Email By Jiquanda Johnson | [email prot
says agency placed 9-year-old boy in home with 'several' infractions Agency that placed 9-year-old boy who drowned may appeal state report Agency that placed autistic bo
Humphrey, who drowned after wandering away at Lake Callis park July 4, placed him in a home that had several infractions including lack of supervision. In August, the st
severely autistic. Body found at Lake Callis believed to be missing 9-year-old boy Omarion HumphreyDavison Township police investigate discovery of child's body Friday
details regarding Omarion's case outlined in the 44-page document, including lack of training specifically for autistic children. When interviewed by the Flint Journal in July
including a 2012 allegation in which a 17-year-old boy was arrested for allegedly having sexual contact with another child living in the home, according to the state report.
properly administering medication to children, not properly securing medications and not having training for children with autism. "Since 2012, the agency completed six sp
in the Michigan foster care system on any given day. Department of Health and Human Services spokesman Bob Wheaton said it is rare that children die while in foster car
resulted in them ending up in foster care." Wheaton said "many" recover but some die due to things that happened to them prior to being placed in care. He also said they oc
case, the agency recognized the infractions but failed to follow through with corrective measures. "One of the findings of our investigation is that Alternatives had a pattern
appropriate recommendations." Other homes had not reported pets, proper income and needed training and background checks. In addition, it was reported that a 2-year-old
Pontiac home, where state officials said he and eight other siblings were living in squalor. He wandered away from his foster family at the Davison Township park on July 4
agency issued a statement saying it is not commenting on specific details of the investigation but plans to appeal the state's recommendation to revoke its license. "The State
Richardson. "Hopefully, a full and fair hearing at which we are allowed to dispute allegations with actual evidence will provide the truth. Therefore, we will not be commen
agency was found to have placed a child with relatives for more than six months without completing a home study or documenting that the home was a safe and an appropri
Alternatives as a remedy for the problems that our investigation found, so we're letting the due process system for revocation play itself out rather than considering other act

Severe Abuse Alleged at Illinois Home for Girls By LORRAINE BAILEY ShareThis CHICAGO (CN) - Illinois regularly sent foster children with a history of sexua
Rock River Academy & Residential Center, a residential treatment center for adolescent girls with severe emotional disabilities run by Universal Health Services. Rock
of Children and Family Services (DCFS) was contracting with the facility to provide female wards of the state with services. They say Rock River failed to deliver on its
victimization of girls under DCFS's care including rape, aggravated battery and sodomy at the Rock River Academy," during a four-year period, according to the complaint.
more easily manipulated and sexually abused." In its investigation , the Chicago Tribune reported that violence was constant at the 59-bed home, with 10 to 20 fights bre
facilities. Coupled with Rock River's very high rate of dispensing psychoactive drugs, wards of the facility had the second-highest rate both of self-inflicted wounds and
experiences at Rock River. Universal did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the new lawsuit. The women are represented by Peter Polansky with

Pennsylvania Foster Kids Prescribed Too Many Psychotropic Drugs In The News September 10, 2015 Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Email Print 7 Comments 233 Viev
children. The report, released in June, found that the rates of psychotropic prescriptions among youth in Medicaid and foster care are higher than previous estimates. In an i
interventions,” Kathleen Noonan, codirector of PolicyLab, wrote. “These medications with less evidence behind them are more plentiful than proven therapies.” To determi
medication, the use of antipsychotics, and the diagnoses of children receiving polypharmacy. They found that youth in foster care were prescribed psychotropic drugs at nea
of multiple classes of medications simultaneously (12% vs. 3%). The researchers point out that the majority of youth prescribed antipsychotics only had a diagnosis of ADH
diagnosis “receive significantly fewer behavioral health visits than youth with more severe behavioral health impairments, and thus, may not be receiving adequate medicati
changes, she suggests laws “related to the use of psychotropic medications in children; the use of multiple medications; the use of medications in very young children; or th
end of the day, we are not going to get ourselves out of this crisis without a serious discussion about trying to provide other therapies for children who have been traumatize
therapy, may be a well-suited alternative to medication.” For the full Medscape interview with the PolicyLab study authors click here → * Matone, M., Sarah Zlotnik, M.
https://www.madinamerica.com/2015/09/pennsylvania-foster-kids-prescribed-too-many-psychotropic-drugs/

Nearly 4,000 foster kids in California live in group homes SHARES: 29 VIEW COMMENTS @inquirerdotnet INQUIRER.net U.S. Bureau 12:48 AM September 12th,
Packard Foundation for Children’s Health. Children fare best in families. To preserve the wellbeing of children who enter the foster care system, out-of-home placements m
the child welfare system grow up in families-cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives whenever possible, or in new permanent homes if not. (See First Entries
Guardians or Kin-Relatives, or in Pre-Adoptive families), between 1998-2014, the proportion of children living in these types of placements did not grow; rather, it saw a sl
4,000 foster children living in group homes, one of the least optimal placement options. The U.S. foster care system aims to provide temporary living arrangements for chil
disabilities or illnesses, and those of African American and American Indian descent, comprise a disproportionate number of youth in the foster care system (see links below
mental health resources and educational support are available to foster children, their biological parents, and their foster parents. Efforts, they say, should also be made to re
kids-in-california-live-in-group-homes#ixzz3laQGxo5U Follow us: @inquirerdotnet on Twitter | inquirerdotnet on Facebook

Children start program to comfort others in foster care | State News | columbiamissourian.com Children start program to comfort others in foster care By ANDRA BRY
a not-for-profit organization to put together bundles of pajamas, stuffed animals, personal hygiene items and a handwritten note to give to children headed to foster families.
know what to expect, or what would happen." He also arrived at that rural Jasper County home between Carl Junction and Asbury with virtually nothing but the clothes on
To date, they've served an estimated 1,000 children in eight counties in Southwest Missouri, Southeast Kansas and Northeast Oklahoma. In the United States, nearly 400,00
three years in foster care before being adopted. Often times, children are removed from their biological families abruptly, noted Emily Hymer. She and her husband, Aaron,
in foster care. Additional input from Mackenzie led to the creation of Bundles of Hope. They would work to gather pairs of youth pajamas, stuffed animals and toothbrushes
with a booth at the Carl Junction schools Christmas bazaar. Their handcrafted poster announced the project and requested donations of items and funds. That day, they colle
service. They also have an adopted little brother, Cooper, now 6. They put their heads together with the Hymers and got busy. "We started a bank account and called Jasper
by the Hymers' dad, Aaron, to serve all surrounding counties by September rekindled their passion. "We spent the month of July talking to supervisors, setting up appointme

dial in their cellphones. They routinely speak to groups of as many as 40 about their project. They also have a website and Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. They garage, Mason climbs onto a step stool to reach one of several gray, Rubbermaid totes on a wall of shelves. It's carefully labeled "10 and bigger boy's winter pajama packets assembled the backpacks and tied a hand-made tag on each with a verse from the book of Proverbs and a checkmark to indicate whether the recipient should be a boy or gir about giving kids hope." They also demonstrate how a "Car Bundle" is assembled — a new idea they conceived to help ease what could be a scary car ride for a child leavir and Mackenzie's mom, Emily Hymer, who popped in to the interview only briefly. She said she prefers to allow them to be the spokespeople since the project is "all theirs." as they give. "We like to have responsibility," Mackenzie said. "It shows us what we'd have to do as adults." They also enjoy the camaraderie and the feeling of being in cha video reveals something Mason, Mackenzie, Mati and Abbey had forgotten to share: That one day two years ago, two young siblings, Adam and Eve, were brought to the H had. It hit home." They plan to continue, "as long as God will allow us," Mackenzie said. But they don't want the glory, they added. They credit their church, Christ's Churcl shopping for Bundles of Hope. "We've all grown a huge passion for it," Mati Goebel said. "God has given us a passion for it." Currently serving Jasper, Newton, McDonald now," Mason said, crediting Mati Goebel with thinking of it. "Today our county, tomorrow the world." "And it all started in a car ride." Source: http://www.columbiamisso

The Miseducation of Foster Youth by Sade A. Daniels September 11, 2015 I'm currently in the midst of my first semester of graduate school at the University of Californi school since the beginnings of time, with an even more horrid experience once I entered foster care, school will never be a true priority to me, especially when my livelihoo skills and talents while honing in on possible career paths. Our children not only learn about the Pythagorean theorem and verb conjugation, but how to aspire and dream. B school becomes a low priority to foster youth: When foster care placements offer little support in transportation to and from school When school administrators use foster ca about learning plans and educational supports needed for foster youth When physiological needs aren't being met (seriously, no one is paying attention in class when hungry of system-dependent children or of available resources to facilitate supports When foster care placements are made and/or changed with little regard to current school proxii When academic excellence isn't the expectation for foster youth When academic mediocrity is the accepted norm for foster youth When teachers and other school personne professionals in youth and education services don't care enough to ensure smooth transitions and efficient support to foster youth in school, then how can we expect foster y academia is regarded with low reverence. That lack of connection is a byproduct of substandard treatment and supports while in school. There is hope that some of the issue top priority, we have to ensure that all environments cultivate that belief. We cannot expect our young people to excel in school if we're not doing our best to support them i youth/12880

Paxil isn't safe for teens Updated: Sep 17, 2015 6:49 AM PDT Share on facebook Share on twitter Share on email _© Comstock / Thinkstock Health More cavities seen in common among kids whose mothers suffer from chronic stress, according to a new study. Teens copy parents' smoking Teens copy parents' smoking Although many teens d Vraylar approved for schizophrenia, bipolar disorder Vraylar approved for schizophrenia, bipolar disorder Vraylar (cariprazine) has been approved by the U.S. Food and Dr adults, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Childhood vaccines debate rekindled at GOP presidential debate Childhood vaccines debate rekindled at GOP presidential debate simmering concerns over the safety of childhood vaccines received unexpected -- and, in some quarters, unwelcome -- notice during the second Republican presidential can When it comes to ridding your hands of bacteria, plain old soap is just as good as many "antibacterial" soaps, new research contends. See More Articles Children's Health Dental cavities are more common among kids whose mothers suffer from chronic stress, according to a new study. Teens copy parents' smoking Teens copy parents' smokin or dad -- smoking. Childhood vaccines debate rekindled at GOP presidential debate Childhood vaccines debate rekindled at GOP presidential debate Some parents' long-sin safety of childhood vaccines received unexpected -- and, in some quarters, unwelcome -- notice during the second Republican presidential candidates' debate. This year's flu a better match than last year's for circulating flu strains, U.S. health officials said Thursday. Paxil isn't safe for teens Paxil isn't safe for teens A controversial clinical trial of came to the wrong conclusion when it declared the drug safe and effective for treating troubled teenagers, according to a reanalysis of the original data more than... See Mo teenagers, according to a reanalysis of the original data more than a decade later. This new look finds Paxil (paroxetine) can make some teenagers suicidal and likely to harr Psychoanalytic Institute in Atlanta. "Ours says paroxetine is neither safe nor effective in the treatment of adolescents," Nardo added. "And I don't know of any example whe Nardo said. RIAT calls for the public release of data behind unpublished or questionable clinical trials so that outside experts can check the findings, he explained. The origi marketed in the United States by the drug company Apotex, GSK officials said. A year after Study 329's release, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration declared it should b by a marketing campaign that said Study 329 had demonstrated Paxil's "remarkable efficacy and safety," Doshi wrote. In 2003, the FDA mandated a "black box" warning -- GlaxoSmithKline agreed to make the data behind Study 329 publicly available as part of a 2004 court settlement in New York, Nardo said. The drug manufacturer has since depression. They were split into three groups and received either Paxil, the antidepressant drug imipramine (Tofranil), or an inactive placebo. The new reanalysis revealed th original results appear to have been skewed by several decisions researchers made during data analysis, Nardo said. For example, the way the researchers classified teenage masked differences in suicidal behavior between Paxil and placebo, the reanalysis found. The new paper also pointed out that the trial researchers ignored unfavorable data professor at the University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health and co-author of a second editorial accompanying the BMJ paper. "It's not clear whether it was de need to know they are effective and safe, and sometimes the results are wrong." Henry said that people concerned about the credibility of future studies should stick with est GlaxoSmithKline said the new results reaffirm concerns that have become widely known since Study 329's initial release. "Importantly, the findings from this team's analys warnings have been in place on the product label for more than a decade. As such we don't believe this reanalysis affects patient safety." This particular trial, conducted in th http://www.kait8.com/story/30053332/paxil-isnt-safe-for-teens-new-analysis-says

Sheriff's office search for runaway teens by Jessica Lindley Cherokee Tribune September 17, 2015 12:06 AM | 1632 views | 0 | 6 | | Adriania Berndt slideshow Sarah C Adriania Natasha Berndt and 15-year-old Sarah Grace Graham. A third teen, Deshaun Tiller, also had been reported as a runaway Monday, but he has since been located, sh office Tuesday afternoon. Berndt is about 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs about 115 pounds. She was last seen wearing a black zip-up sweatshirt and blue jeans shorts, accor (Wednesday)," Baker said, adding that the girl did not show up at school. According to a sheriff's office release, Graham is described as being 5 feet 3 inches tall and weigh potential for dangers exist. "Maybe not the same type of dangers you think of when you are talking about a missing 10-year-old, but there are real hazards juveniles often do related to sex, drugs and alcohol use." Baker said there was no evidence, however, to suggest that the teens were being lured into any type of sex trafficking ring. The Cherc Cherokee, had left the facility for troubled youth in an unknown vehicle and their current location remains unknown. Beacham, 16, was described by investigators as being Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of any of the missing teens is asked to call detectives at (770) 928-0239 or 911. Source: http://cherokeetribune.com/vi

Adoptive parents of abused child rap DCF Comment By Paula J. Owen Telegram & Gazette Staff telegram.com By Paula J. Owen Telegram & Gazette Staff Posted Sep. Gazette Staff Posted Sep. 12, 2015 at 9:01 PM Updated Sep 13, 2015 at 5:36 AM Zoom An undated family handout photograph released in 2005 of Haleigh Poutre, shown a coma, the Department of Children and Families is still making the same mistakes that led to her near death, including not following a law created in light of the case to ha the most severe injury was to her brain stem, which doctors said was partially sheared, leaving her "brain dead" and in a vegetative state. DCF, at the time called the Depart determined that DSS was at fault for failing to protect Haleigh. DSS received at least 12 reports of abuse or neglect of Haleigh between 2001 and 2005, and had been involv admitted, and it was ultimately upheld by the state Supreme Judicial Court. But on Jan. 18, 2006 - the day doctors were scheduled to remove her life support - Haleigh regai inspired many changes in the way the state handles abuse reporting, including a special review requirement of cases where three or more reports of abuse and neglect are ma severe child abuse or neglect in the state. The adoptive parents of Haleigh Poutre - now Haleigh Arnett, a 21-year-old woman who loves music and Disney, but cannot walk same mistakes with other people's children that it made with Haleigh. The state, they said, is not learning from its mistakes. "Policies and procedures fall by the wayside an allowed to happen, and it probably could have been prevented. It is pretty intense for me. We've gone through a lot to adopt Haleigh - so many studies, checking backgroun inexcusable." Mr. Arnett is referring to Jeremiah Oliver, the 5-year old boy from Fitchburg whose body was found in a suitcase in Sterling a year after he disappeared; and J multiple reports of abuse and neglect were made, but not investigated by DCF. Moreover, in Haleigh's and Jack's cases, social workers believed their caretakers' explanatio the room. Haleigh, Mr. Arnett said, is a blessing to his family, and adopting her was a dream come true. He quit his job as a special education teacher and started a small tru have been taking in foster children for almost 10 years and knows how the child welfare system operates, Mr. Arnett said. Haleigh's social workers have been amazing, he s place and we love her to death," he said. "I'm encouraged by her and strengthened by her. It is a great joy taking care of Haleigh. She is just awesome. She is perfect. But, I they did in Haleigh's case. "No one wants to take responsibility for kids dead or dying, and that is the way it has been," he said. "The fact continues that reviews are not don The system is so big it doesn't look at kids as individuals - just policies and procedures - and that is where the system really got it wrong. They are so far removed from wha abuse. The results of that review were intended to be evaluated by prosecutors and police. At the time, Mr. Patrick said the new law was "a giant step forward," and that "no DCF officials said, "Despite the best of intentions, the Department does not have an up-to-date intake policy and is working diligently to develop a new one that will be exe screening process and decisions regarding ongoing cases, and have implemented a protocol where a clinical review team will review complex and difficult cases. DCF is co Loiselle case, Gov. Charles D. Baker Jr. said the special review requirement was an "unclear policy" within DCF. Elizabeth Guyton, a spokeswoman for Mr. Baker, said, "K putting in place with the CWLA report and continue to enhance as new information becomes available will make a great impact." However, retired Judge Martha Grace, wh a second set of eyes, where does it come from? If you can't answer that question, there is no hope new directives will be implemented today, tomorrow or in the future. The enough manpower' for why they are not implemented; but, ask how you can implement them with what you have." Source: http://www.telegram.com/article/20150912/NE

SLED investigates S.C. MENTOR group home death Christina Elmore Email @celmorepc Sep 12 2015 10:25 pm Sep 12 11:10 pm × State Law Enforcement Division a MENTOR. The facility cares for intellectually and developmentally disabled adults, in addition to other services. Paramedics transported Noland to Bon Secours St. Francis

surrounding the death were not immediately available Saturday. Lindsey declined to comment on the nature of the medical emergency or what may have brought it on, citin MENTOR was the subject of a similar investigation after an autistic man died while in its care in 2013. Forrest Carlton, 22, of Charleston wandered from the facility and wa since moving into the facility in November 2012, alleged Nathan Hughey, an attorney for Carlton's family. The home's staff failed to heighten its supervision accordingly, h individual in its program. "As an organization we are committed to continuous quality improvement and place great emphasis on safe environments and providing services t each person requires." The facility's staff receive CPR and first aid training to ensure the safety of those in its care, Butkus said. "As a matter of course, we are required to r http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150912/PC16/150919709/sled-investigates-sc-mentor-group-home-death

Rock River Academy & Residential Center sued over allegations of abuse Mark TrammellSep. 14, 2015, 11:04am 1 2 0 13 Several former residents of a Cook County **Health Services Inc., doing business as Rock River Academy & Residential Center**. According to the complaint, Rock River is a residential treatment center for adolesc by the Chicago Tribune cited by the complaint, over a four-year period of time there were more than 700 reports made to the Rockford Police Department concerning allege abuse and neglect, including but not limited to various incidents of alleged sexual abuse, battery, inappropriate touching, fondling, sexual assault, and administration of psyc properly screen their staff for potential sex offenders, failure to provide proper counseling when such alleged incidents were brought to light, failure to protect their resident restitution of more than $50,000 each for their mental, physical and emotional injuries, and subsequent medical and psychiatric costs in the past and future, as well as attorn academy-residential-center-sued-over-allegations-of-abuse

Legislature Approves Foster Care Overhaul Katie Orr Monday, September 14, 2015 | Sacramento, CA | Permalink playpause 00:00 / 00:43 Update Required To play the the foster care system in the state.. Democratic Assemblyman Mark Stone authored the bill. "What this bill does is move the care away from congregate care, group homes, children to their families or find them new permanent homes. Foster parents will also receive more training and support. The bill includes recommendations from a 2015 De

Husband and Wife, Operators of Foster Care Homes, Pleaded Guilty to Misappropriation of Public Funds and Embezzlement September 15, 2015 9:44 am by: Staf today to misappropriation of public funds and embezzlement. CSJ Kidogo, the former executive director of Little People's World, pleaded to one felony count of misappropr and embezzlement by an officer. LPW group homes were closed as a result of the arrests. "Money intended to care for children in foster homes instead lined the pockets of t foster care to buy real estate and pay mortgages on properties not used in the foster care program. CSJ Kidogo is expected to be sentenced to six months in jail and five year $109,093 to the county when they return for sentencing. Source: http://westsidetoday.com/2015/09/15/husband-and-wife-operators-of-foster-care-homes-pleaded-guilty-to-

Walt Investigates: Austin Foster Kids Crisis Updated: Wed, Sep 16 2015, 10:31 PM Thirteen Texas children died in foster care in just the past two years. The state legisla in the system. "I know what it feels like to be that kid that is followed around by a file and tagged as bad because of their circumstance when they're just really longing for a around for a long time." She says was lucky. She wasn't abused as a child but she was invisible, lost in the system. "I remember being in a home and it was as if we were ju because if you don't do it nobody else will," Todd says. "There is nobody else. You are it." Ron Brown is the director of Texas Foster Care. "I think there's always been a sh children in Austin who need foster homes. But there are only 750 foster families in this region who are actively fostering. That means nearly 1000 children have nowhere to placed away from home the less likely they are to be adopted. Then they age out of the system alone. Brown knows there are willing and qualified foster parents out there w important resources you need are an unending supply of love and grace. "I knew going in that these kids are not what they're tagged," Todd says. She says she also knows th

Ombudsman criticises Dudley Council's handling of foster care complaint in "shocking" report Ombudsman criticises Dudley Council's handling of foster care comp complaint about their treatment in foster care. The Local Government Ombudsman has told the council it must "review its policies and procedures to ensure it takes compla smacked them, made one wear a nappy meant for a disabled child and given them cold baths. A report by the Ombudsman says the council failed to arrange a meeting with allegations before social workers had chance to speak to the mother and children. The incident was recorded as 'unsubstantiated' and the council decided no further action sh properly. Promoted stories But at that meeting it was decided any investigation might be traumatic for the children and cast doubt over whether enough evidence would be a government guidance which states authorities must ensure any complaint proceeds through the stages if the complainant wishes it. The mother had also complained the fost Christmas photographs, were missing. Local Government Ombudsman, Dr Jane Martin, said: "While I recognise councils often have difficult judgement calls to make, the s has now ordered the council to review how it investigates allegations and remind staff to ensure complaints are progressed through the statutory process. The authority has a £200 to each child in recognition of the distress caused to them by not ensuring their carer passed on their belongings. Dudley's Conservative leader Councillor Patrick Harl failed to address fundamental flaws flagged up by Ofsted three-and-a-half years ago. Both, however, said they were "not surprised". Cllr Brothwood said: "It's very sad but member for children's services, Councillor Ian Cooper, said: "As a local authority one of our absolute priorities is our parental role to children in care, but in this case it is c local government, while at the same time, ensuring looked after children have the best care and support for their start in life. "In this case we have acknowledged the report _care_complaint_in__shocking__report/

White Plains group home mishandled abuse complaint Ernie Garcia, 1:55 p.m. EDT September 18, 2015 Many group homes in Westchester, Rockland 2015(Photo: Ernie Garcia) 35 CONNECT 13 TWEETLINKEDINCOMMENTEMAILMORE WHITE PLAINS — A group home serving developmentally disabled adults v instructions and failed to document whether the resident received any medicine after an emergency-room visit, leading to a second trip to the hospital, according to state doc including nurses, is one of many group residences in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties that serve developmentally disabled people and those with mental health i Law requests for adult group residences in the three-county area that are regulated by the state Office of Mental Health and the state Office for People With Developmental record keeping. OPWDD oversees Padwe House, which has been operating since 1980. It is in a little neighborhood called Bryant Estates, a cluster of 10 group homes run b regulations. State officials redacted portions of a corrective action plan for Padwe House dated Nov. 18, so the nature of the abuse or mistreatment complaint is unknown. T recent visit to the home, staffers declined to discuss the conditions there, saying they were not authorized to do so. Jennifer O'Sullivan, a spokeswoman for the OPWDD, wo improvements that are needed are immediately addressed," O'Sullivan wrote in an email about the corrective action plan. "Due to strict confidentiality laws we must adhere confidentiality rules are barriers to ensuring that group-home residents receive proper care. "This is not a single incident and it's not limited to the state-run houses or a singl or guardian is notified. Across the board this does not happen." State Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti, D-Greenburgh, is the sponsor of the family bill of rights legislation, w people with developmental disabilities the right to have "meaningful input" into a resident's care plan, be notified "within a reasonable time" of any event affecting a resider are downsides to it. It could lead to interference in the operations of the facility. I've made the decision that the scrutiny is better than the possible interference." The 16 insp Dominic's vice president of strategic partnerships, government affairs and communications, said the home's issues were resolved as quickly as possible, with weather permit Support Services was cited for its Pleasant Manor Community Residence in Katonah. The 12-bed facility's violations included inadequate records, one of which misstated a have been a printout of an outdated residents list. "They were not happy with how accurately things were summarized," Lesczynski said of the inspectors' record-keeping ci

Man arrested for allegedly hitting elderly woman at Great Neck group home Posted 9:02 PM, September 16, 2015, by Alyssa Zauderer Facebook188 Twitter4 Reddit F woman in a Long Island group home. According to Nassau County police, Randolph Bien-Aime, 26, allegedly punched a female resident, 71, in the face at the ACLD group the welfare of an elderly person. He will be arraigned Thursday at First District Court in Hempstead. According to ACLD's website, the organization is a "leading not-for-pr

Former group home employee charged with sexual exploitation 7 hours ago BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A former disability services worker has been charged with explo with a developmental disability. His bond has been set at $25,000. Oland had worked for the disability services organization, COR Enterprises, when he met the teenage girl said the teen was his girlfriend. Oland's attorney noted that Oland also has mental deficiencies. Source: http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/former-grou

Medical Biller Sentenced to 45 Months in Prison for Role in $4 Million Health Care Fraud Scheme U.S. Department of Justice September 18, 2015 WASHINGTON— Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney Zachary T. Fardon of the Northern District of Illinois, Special Agent in Charge Lamont Pugh III of the U.S. Department of Health and Hu May 2015 following a jury trial of one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud, six counts of health care fraud and three counts of false statements relating to a heal medical biller at Medicall Physicians Group Ltd., a physician practice that visited patients in their homes and prescribed home health care. The evidence at trial showed that showed that Talaga and her co-conspirators billed Medicare for other services that were never provided, including services rendered to patients who were deceased, services presented at trial, during the five-year conspiracy, Medicall submitted bills to Medicare for more than $4 million in services that were never provided. Medicare paid more t was previously sentenced to serve more than seven years in prison. Lucero, Medicall's Medical Director, pleaded guilty and will be sentenced at a later date. The case was i This case was prosecuted by Trial Attorney Brooke Harper and Senior Trial Attorney Jon Juenger of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section. Since its inception in March 200 Medicaid Services, working in conjunction with the HHS-OIG, are taking steps to increase accountability and decrease the presence of fraudulent providers. To learn more releases/2015/medical-biller-sentenced-to-45-months-in-prison-for-role-in-4-million-health-care-fraud-scheme

Operator of toddler boot camp sent to jail A woman who offered intensive potty-training classes abused a child By Gary T. Kubota POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Sep 19, 2 toddler. A Maui woman who operated a potty-training "boot camp" has been sentenced to three months in jail. After a trial, Wailuku District Judge Kelsey Kawano found R

A third of foster children in South West move homes several times a year By Plymouth Herald | Posted: September 19, 2015 SHARE PICTURE Copy link to paste in shock as Japan beat South Africa 1 Plymouth memorial service will commemorate 75th anniversary... 1 Reports of crash on Wolseley Road in Plymouth this evening 1 Con children in the South West – more than 1,400 – move home two or more times a year. Children and young people who regularly move between foster care homes are more l

Children is warning that too many children in foster care are still being disrupted by repeated moves to new homes, and has launched an appeal to find thousands of new fos house. It means leaving a family, friends, school and everything that's familiar to start all over again. "It is impossible to imagine the damage to a child or young person, wh times in less than a year before finding a stable family home. "Sadly we know that it can be necessary to move children from their current foster homes as relationships betv why we urgently need more dedicated foster carers to help children and young people overcome trauma by helping them to love and trust again, feel safe, rebuild their sens make sure that the children who stay with us have everything they need to have secure, happy and healthy lives. It is the most satisfying thing we've ever done. "There are c people across the South West who can provide a secure and loving home to children who have experienced trauma and loss. Lots of people can foster; it doesn't matter if yc to help them recover. If you would like to find out more about being a foster carer visit actionforchildren.org.uk or call 0845 200 5162. Read more: http://www.plymouthhe

3 Police Officers Charged With Child Cruelty At A Boot Camp For Troubled Youths September 19, 2015 1:17 PM Share on email 3 View Comments Photo of boot ca have been charged with abusing 10 children at a boot camp for troubled youths in the mountains of San Luis Obispo. Friday, San Luis Obispo County prosecutors filed misc instructors at a weeklong boot camp held in May. According to the Los Angeles Times, the $400 police-sponsored boot camp for Los Angeles County youth was at a militar returned home with a fractured hand. The arrests were the result of a 2-month investigation "that included searching the cellphones, computers, vehicles, photos and belongi immediately clear whether Larios had a lawyer. Huntington Police Chief Jorge Cisneros this is the first time he's ever heard any accusations of this kind about the LEAD pr child-cruelty-at-a-boot-camp-for-troubled-youths/

Advocates address harsh reality for LGBTQ youth in state care By CR Staff At a panel discussion Wednesday night, members of Children's Rights and advocacy group eight times more likely to attempt suicide. From left to right: Artist and Philanthropist Molly Gochman, Senior Attorney with Lambda Legal and Director of the Youth in Ou Manhattan to discuss the wide-ranging vulnerabilities of LGBTQ youth in state custody systems. The event was hosted and moderated by artist and philanthropist Molly Gc panelists emphasized that no federal protections currently exist for those in juvenile justice systems or foster care. "As shocking as it may be, nowhere does it say you cannc foster care after being rejected, neglected or abused by their biological families because of their identities. But instead of finding a safe haven, these young adults often cont gender identity or sexual orientation, and 56 percent chose to live on the street rather than in foster care because they felt safer. "When you're talking about children in foste care are more likely to be from low income backgrounds. She described a heartbreaking example of a young LGBTQ man who said he felt safer on the streets than in foster homophobia, physical and emotional abuse," she told the audience. "He found himself homeless after hurricane Katrina, squatting in houses. The roofs were caving in and t need for federal protections in juvenile justice and foster care systems. They also emphasized the need for better training and policies. "These systems don't require that the people." "You would think that these foster care systems are taking these children in, protecting them, and helping them heal … but instead kids are being tortured in the ve policies for LGBTQ youth." Source: http://www.childrensrights.org/advocates-address-harsh-reality-for-lgbtq-youth-in-state-care/

'**Enough is enough': Troubled Long Beach group home's lease terminated** The Bayfront Youth and Family Services building on Fountain Street in Long Beach, CA on Varley, Press-Telegram) By Karen Robes Meeks, Long Beach Press Telegram Posted: 09/23/15, 6:25 PM PDT | Updated: 1 day ago # Comments A sign in front of the Bayf terminate its lease with the children's home at the end of the year. (Photo by Scott Varley, Press-Telegram) After a three-year battle with residents, a group home housing 40 Family Services at 4151 E. Fountain St. at the end of the year, though Bayfront announced later in the day that its board of directors voted to cease operations at the Long B "too little, too late," said Kathy Hughes, the director of Long Beach-based ChildNet. "It was a very difficult decision to make, but I had no choice," Hughes said. "I felt like unannounced visit at Bayfront Sept. 16. The report cited a "lack of oversight and program accountability by management." Bayfront, which has been operating in Long Bea Michael Weston, deputy director of Public Affairs and Outreach Programs for the California Department of Social Services. It's among more than 50 facilities statewide tha which last month detailed many of the troubles at the Long Beach group home. In one instance, a woman in her email to the California Department of Social Services wrote published by ProPublica. "The male staff member held her with such force that at times this little girl was literally lifted off the ground." Hughes said she had not heard one and the Long Beach Police Department. As a result, Los Angeles County suspended the admission of more youths to Bayfront, according to ProPublica. Bayfront officials s was a necessary one. "Enough is enough," she said. Evan Lamont, a spokesman for Bayfront, said it was too early to say where Bayfront would relocate, adding that the org her office has been working closely with Bayfront to ensure a seamless transition of the handful of teenagers belonging to the county to other living situations. Supernaw sa affairs/20150923/enough-is-enough-troubled-long-beach-group-home-bayfronts-lease-terminated

September 22, 2015 **New York Military Academy Closing After 126 Years, Boarding School Counts Donald Trump, John Gotti Jr. Among Alumni** Joanna Jaguar Aft celebrated musical composer Stephen Sondheim among its ranks — has been facing financial troubles in recent year, as enrollment numbers have dropped from over 500 in academy's website on August 28, stating that school will indeed begin in September as usual. "On behalf of NYMA Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, I am pleased to an NYMA's legacy as an exceptional preparatory academy to continue forward in great stride." The surprise for many, however, came when the academy failed to open their d York Times. "It was an emotional rollercoaster. When we were supposed to be visiting colleges in the spring, we were visiting high schools. My son is angry. He's still angr creditors and remain open — though it's doubtful. According to the New York Times, in 2011, Trump was asked for $7 million to aid the failing academy, but the presidenti million, and the winning bidder has no obligation to maintain a school on the property. The original plan to sell the academy to a group of California-based investors fell thr as being the source of his maturation as a teenager? Sound off below. [Image Credit: New York Military Academy] Source: http://www.inquisitr.com/2439018/new-york-m

Foster Families Speak Out on Child Welfare System Public News Service - MI | September 2015 | Foster parents will be at the Michigan State Capitol today to share the residents, as advocates for foster children believe the political climate is favorable for making improvements to the child welfare system. Michele Corey, vice president with Capitol today about what the state is doing to support foster families. "We're talking about foster parents, adoptive parents, guardians in some circumstances and even the bi one of the most common frustrations expressed by foster youth and parents is a lack of stability, as many children are uprooted and moved several times. She says targeted i these kids." Since many foster children are vulnerable – having already suffered trauma, abuse or neglect – Corey says the policies and choices the state makes can speak vc scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in the Speaker's Library at the Capitol. Mona Shand, Public News Service - MI - See more at: http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2015-09-22/

Report: **More monitoring needed of children in foster care taking psychotropic drugs** Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Latest news and weather fr Gabriel Myers was found hanging from a shower fixture in his foster home in south Florida in 2009. Gabriel's death changed the policy for the Florida Department of Ch State University said the state still needs better policies. Latest News Headlines from Action News According to the report, as of July, 11 percent of kids in foster care were mood stabilizers and anti-psychotics. Action News Jax has been looking into the number of kids in northeast Florida taking one or more of the drugs that include Prozac were four kids in Baker County. While the report said DCF has good policies in place, they say more monitoring needs to take place. Action News Jax has reached out to

Police charge group home employee with rape of teenage resident Brittany Horn, The News Journal 6:27 p.m. EDT September 22, 2015 Joniequa Macklin(Photo: DEL police said Tuesday. Police began investigating Joniequa Macklin, 32, of Lincoln, on Sept. 4 after receiving reports of a young man who voluntarily left the group home at a weeks later, police received another tip that the two may be in a home in the 100 block of Bright Way in Milford together and went to the home, he said. Macklin attempted endangering the welfare of a child, reckless endangering, knowingly abusing a resident, sexual abuse of a child by a person of trust, continuous sexual buse of a child and d Social Services. Due to the nature of the incident, police said specific details will not be released to protect the teenager. Contact Brittany Horn at (302) 324-2771 or [email

Experts: **Kinship Care Better Alternative To Foster Care** Posted: Sep 21, 2015 3:10 PM PDT By Jenifer Abreu, Weekend Anchor/Reporter Email Connect [email protect the Exchange Club's meeting. Kinship care is a better alternative to foster care, according to experts. It's when children are placed with a relative or someone they already h with family members who they know. It's a lot less traumatic for them. They are usually able to stay in the same school system," said Shelly Conrad, Family Stability Super

Frustrated father pulls mentally disabled daughter from group home | Appnews | waaytv.com Frustrated father pulls mentally disabled daughter from group home Chri he decided to take matters into his own hands. Family members who have loved ones in the facilities say they received a call from the state about relocation and very vague organization was in violation of state codes, citing safety concerns. Ross Pruett pulled his 19-year-old daughter, Nikki, from Restore Care Wednesday. Pruett says he's not u call Wednesday only added to Pruett's stress. "I was contacted by a facility in Athens. They told me they were going to pick her up this afternoon. That is unacceptable," say Alabama Department of Mental Health says legal guardians can remove their loved ones from the facilities on their own free will. But, they would not give any further deta

Former employee: Clay group home for disabled adults a 'house of horrors' | jacksonville.com Former employee: Clay group home for disabled adults a 'house of horr Forest group home in the Orange Park area becuase of "health and safety" issues. The group home, which houses six profoundly developmentally disabled men, is run by B residents, according to a former employee. Although the home on Pine Forest Drive was designated as "behavior-focused," staff members were not trained and licensed in h from her own frustrations at management failing to address her concerns about conditions there. The lack of staff training, she said, led to violence on the part of at least on what to do with him." The Pine Forest location was one of four group homes run by BASCA, an Orange Park-based nonprofit that serves intellectually and developmentally at the group home had standard training and were scheduled to receive additional behavior training when the closure occurred. He denied that any resident became aggressi but intelligent. "He knew what he needed," she said. "If he had cancer and was denied services ... people would be outraged." Also, there was no indoor access to — or air c closed, echoed Barger's complaints about the lack of staff training. Her 26-year-old grandson, who is autistic, never attacked anyone else at the group home, she said, but hu 'Leave,' " she said. BASCA also received state money for her grandson to receive a one-on-one day-care trainer, but that help was never provided, she said. "They didn't do

said BASCA met or exceeded staff requirements, including one-on-one assistance, and "appropriately" used all state funding. Barger and Herzog said they decided to go pu will be barred from direct management responsibility, access to the group homes or have direct contact with the people who live there — other than his own disabled son. Ir Cone on staff was a mistake, given his history. The state order that initially closed Pine Forest on Aug. 7 stemmed from complaints about how BASCA and Cone handled re resident, according to the order. Reports that were prepared about those and other incidents were altered or not filed at all, according to the order. Not so, said Scott. "Allega denies any violation occurred in regard to incident reports," he said. BASCA did not object to the organizational restructuring, which was already "occurring in practice," ac accept, despite BASCA's knowledge that the alleged violations ... were unsubstantiated," it said. BASCA did not object to training and monitoring mandated in the settleme termination of BASCA's Medicaid waiver, which allows providers to be reimbursed by Medicaid for their services. A separate investigation by the Clay County Sheriff's O 23/story/former-employee-clay-group-home-disabled-adults-house-horrors-residents

California prison advocates say suicide checks are inhumane treatment Since August, inmates at Pelican Bay state prison say they have been awoken every half hour by 2015 11.52 EDT Last modified on Friday 25 September 2015 12.05 EDT Less than a month after inmates at a California maximum security prison reached a landmark settl have been awoken every half-hour by prison guards in a practice that amounts to sleep deprivation. The policy, known as security and welfare checks, requires prison guard court order in a class action lawsuit (Coleman v Brown) between a group of prisoners with severe mental disorders and the state of California, which determined that CDCR California. The timing has raised the ire of inmates and their families, occurring a month before advocates reached the settlement to curb solitary confinement measures that of the nonstop banging of the metal doors, stomping by the guards, buzzers, and the guards shining a flashlight in your eyes two times an hour," said Akili Mims, a Los Ang 10ft concrete room, and are denied all physical contact with visitors, phone calls, and educational and recreational programs. There about 2,700 inmates currently in Pelican Thornton, a spokeswoman for the CDCR said the agency received complaints from Pelican Bay prisoners as soon as the checks started and that the department has provided seen him like this. He couldn't think and he fell asleep while I was talking with him from across the glass partition," said Dolores Canales, whose 38-year-old son John Mar deprivation is Torture." Through his attorneys, Martinez has written to CDCR leadership saying that the checks are in violation of his rights, under the US constitution's eig Martinez's attorney representative, Deborah Cain, to the CDCR chief ombudsman, Sara Malone, on 28 August. Canales says that Martinez is serving time for second-degree ruling, Coleman v Brown, doesn't specifically order CDCR to do the checks and that it is up to CDCR what kind of suicide monitoring system they develop. Fama said he a reports from multiple prisoners that custody officers in the SHU are intentionally awakening each and every prisoner in the SHU every 30 minutes through not only aggress guards] finish one round they have to start another. They hate it and so they take it out on the prisoners," said Mims. Canales and other prison rights advocates say the imple mother of prisoner John Martinez. Canales is referring to the legal settlement on 1 September that ended the state's ability to indefinitely lock up prisoners in solitary becaus physical threats to other prisoners. Thornton says the new checks are not connected to the Ashkar settlement but didn't answer questions about why the checks started at the when done in "treatment" settings, including youth "treatment" settings.)

Buffalo may consider boarding schools By Mike Desmond • Sep 28, 2015 ShareTwitter Facebook Google+ Email The Buffalo School Board is fighting over boarding sc has long pushed for boarding schools, citing the SEED schools in Washington and some other public examples. The idea hasn't gone far in the past but he's bringing it up ag said boarding offers an option to many students who have few options for a better life. "Many of the students in the BPS are from highly at-risk homes or are characterized a lives," Paladino said. Cash has agreed to study how much need there is here for a boarding school. The proposal is strongly opposed by some members of the school board a public schools are considering ripping children from their families entirely. This is unacceptable.]

For private foster agencies, a new layer of scrutiny Brett Kelman, The Desert Sun 9 a.m. PDT September 28, 2015 Adina, a 23-month-old Imperial County girl, poses for bedroom of a Calexico home, alone. It was Dec. 9, and she was slipping away as blood pooled inside her skull, the result of a powerful blow to her forehead. Two days later proof. One fact was clear, however. Adina's death was a dramatic failure of the foster system that has grown to depend heavily on privatized care. A rambunctious toddler, v required to know CPR, law enforcement documents say these parents didn't know the basics. "They were supposed to keep my granddaughter safe, and they failed," said Sc about two dozen foster homes spread throughout Riverside and Imperial counties. Over the last 30 years, corporations like Alba — called Foster Family Agencies, or FFAs lawmakers responded this month with unanimous support for increased standards in the private foster system. A new bill, which is likely to become a new law, will require accredited. Over the next 15 months, these agencies will need to either open their doors to accreditors — who will scrutinize their recruiting, training and oversight procedu this anymore,'" said Carroll Schroeder, executive director of the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, a statewide trade association that accepts FFAs as membe reform California foster care on several fronts. Gov. Jerry Brown hasn't taken a public stance on the bill, but even if he were to veto it, lawmakers already have more than e with that leeway, accreditation will be a difficult hurdle for FFAs, said Sandra Austin, the founder of a local foster agency. Buy Photo Sandra Austin is the CEO of Family H Austin is the CEO of Family Health and Support Network in Palm Desert that began in 2004 and runs 39 foster homes in Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange counties. A substandard caregivers might inadvertently shut down some first-rate ones too, Austin said. "I believe in setting standards," Austin said. "But it would be really cool if the st per year. Although AB 403 has been widely supported, not everyone is convinced the accreditation mandate will make a huge difference. Audrey Karen Brandon, 19, a form Sometimes her foster mother would punish her by making her pull cacti with her bare hands. Sometimes she was made to sleep outdoors. Would accreditors have caught tha any different." "It's worth a shot, but I don't think it's a guarantee it's going to improve anything." Buy Photo The entrance to a Riverside County Department of Public Soc Privatized foster care has continued to grow since then, and today the state has about 250 of these agencies — plus another 170 "sub-agencies" — licensed by the state. Tog homes five to one. In return for housing all those children, the FFAs receive more than $30 million per year from the county. Those numbers are no surprise to Silvia Signor better at recruiting than their public counterparts. The Coachella Valley faces a constant shortage of foster parents, so it is no wonder that many kids — and so much money a written statement that it has an ongoing need for foster parents, and recently tapped state funding to prepare a countywide recruiting plan. SOURCE: UC Berkeley data, as foster parents. Of the rest, half are in privatized care. SOURCE: UC Berkeley data, as of April 1 CHART: Robert Hopwood, The Desert Sun Foster care, by the numbers Th announcements, social media and prominent local officials, the agency said. "We are constantly recruiting foster and adoptive homes, because we can never have too many who wants to help foster kids is first trained, vetted and licensed by either the California Department of Social Services, or in some cases, a county subsidiary agency. Once state but are instead recruited and "certified" by their individual FFAs. The agencies also employ their own social workers, who place children and oversee care. In return, tl operate in Riverside County, at least one third pay their CEOs a salary of $150,000 or more, according to tax filings reviewed by The Desert Sun. In the eyes of critics, this it could hire more foster parents, take more foster children and collect more revenue. DESERT SUN They stumbled upon a child porn ring, then did nothing "To me, it just lawsuit against Alba Care Services and Imperial County. Alba CEO Antonio Romero declined to comment on the death or the lawsuit. In court, Alba has denied all wrongdo show exactly why. Jill Duerr Berrick, a foster care expert at UC Berkeley, said that FFAs are liable for the parents they recruit, so they have a business incentive to raise star work," Berrick said. "Because every time you expand the number of service providers, even if it expanded your revenue, it also expanded your liability." Reporter Barrett N foster-agencies-new-layer-scrutiny/72945626/

Federal judge orders ex-charter school director in SC to prison – now | The State Federal judge orders ex-charter school director in SC to prison – now Bishopville educ poor children Benita Dinkins-Robinson File photo/The State i Benita Dinkins-Robinson File photo/The State By John Monk LinkedIn Google+ Pinterest Wooten's order likely will end a weeks-long effort by Dinkins-Robinson, 40, a mother of two school-age children, to stay out of prison. Instead, the former Bishopville publ female inmates, most of whom are serving time for non-violent offenses. Financial fraudster Martha Stewart served time there in the early 2000s. It has no barbed wire fenc prosecutors present evidence that the total she took was some $1.5 million, Wooten sentenced her to 42 months in prison. In orders last week with the U.S. Clerk of Court, Prison Camp Alderson on (Tuesday)," Wooten ruled. During Dinkins-Robinson's nine-hour sentencing hearing in August, Wooten indicated he had little patience with her a said, "This is a very serious matter." Wooten has a record of giving prison time to public officials who betray the public trust. Earlier this year, he rejected a proposed plea d Lexington County jail. During Dinkins-Robinson's March trial and August sentencing hearing, FBI case agent Julie Bitzell testified about how the former educator siphone Victoria's Secret and Carnival Cruise Lines, the FBI investigation showed. Dinkins-Robinson had refused repeated FBI requests to produce invoices to show how she spent spending at the school, from about 2007-12, during which time it received more than $5 million in state and federal funds. Dinkins-Robinson's case focused attention on the school in Bishopville, the Mary Dinkins Academy, which later moved to Sumter County, was set up to help disadvantaged children. The federal money that Dinkins-Robins a "money launderer," and Benjamin Gardner prosecuted the case. Lawyers for Dinkins-Robinson were Eleazer Carter and Johnny Watson, both of Columbia. Read more he

It will take more than smartphones to stop boarding school children being damaged A new claim that modern technology means boarding pupils no longer feel cut off Images/Corbis Nick Duffell Tuesday 29 September 2015 12.03 EDT Last modified on Tuesday 29 September 2015 19.03 EDT Two things are infinite, suggested Einstein: t an article in the Telegraph this week celebrating the fact that: "Today's boarders are no longer cut off from their overprotective parents." This is apparently due to the smartp the evidence: not one child development theory supports the British habit of sending children away from their homes. Leading neuroscientists and attachment theorists now therapeutic treatment outstrips supply. This is to say nothing of what damage boarding does within families, or that the rise of Nicola Sturgeon and Jeremy Corbyn is not un vulnerability in others. Moriarty declares: "Boarding schools have counsellors, house staff and the latest technologies." Ever since I wrote an article, 25 years ago, explainin Parents also write to me. Last year, a distressed mother of a smartphone-equipped 13-year-old wrote: "Everyone is saying, 'He'll get over it, he needs to detach,' but it's bee minutes, then hang up on him." I also hear from despairing school counsellors. "As with a number of other children I have seen, I question [the value of] helping 'A' to cope psychotherapist and psychohistorian. He founded Boarding School Survivors in 1990 and is the author of Wounded Leaders: British Elitism and the Entitlement Illusion – a

Haley, DSS chief agree to increase protections for children in foster care By Glenn Smith and Jennifer Berry Hawes Sep 29 2015 1:41 pm Sep 29 8:17 pm DSS Directo action lawsuit that alleges “dangerous deficiencies” in the system. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel on Monday signed an interim consent agreement that will launch char in the federal lawsuit, said Christina Remlin, senior staff attorney for Children’s Rights, one of the advocacy groups that filed the civil rights lawsuit in Charleston nine mon advocacy groups say were abused, overmedicated with powerful prescriptions, separated from their siblings, kept in solitary confinement and fed moldy or expired food, ac manage and that children enrolled in foster care have not been receiving the basic health care that they need. Haley, DSS Chief Susan Alford and attorneys for the children a limits, which will apply to all workers and supervisors. The agreement doesn’t address how the agency would pay for additional caseworkers. Within 60 days, DSS will con longer recommend that children remain in juvenile detention simply because workers can’t find foster care placement for them. A DSS spokeswoman said that Alford has b restructured the child welfare division, streamlined the foster home licensing process and improved the support structure for existing foster homes, DSS spokeswoman Mari said in a statement. Earlier this year, The Post and Courier documented a number of problems with the state’s foster care system in its series “Warehousing our Children.” T home employees indicate some young people are neglected, beaten and molested in these facilities even as the outcomes of investigations into such allegations are kept secr of disturbing stories alleging ill treatment of foster children. Among them: A girl named “Michelle H.” was repeatedly beaten with a belt by her foster mother in Beaufort. “ Jenkins staff but no action was taken.” A 13-year-old named “Sammy V.” was inappropriately touched by another resident after he was placed at New Beginnings of Charle The medication is commonly prescribed to treat bipolar disorder; yet Andrew had never been (and has never been) diagnosed with bipolar disorder.” According to federal da some real fundamental needs.” The lawsuit was filed by Children’s Rights, the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center and attorney Matthew T. Richardson. Althoug will be able to reach agreement on this,” Remlin said. Source: http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150929/PC16/150929268

Arrest Warrant Issued for Woman Working at Group Home By: Vicky Nguyen - Email Posted: Tue 2:29 PM, Sep 29, 2015 By: Vicky Nguyen - Email Home / Headlin minor in South Central District Court. The victim told Bismarck police he was raped by Barclay several times. A detective contacted her about the case, but she declined to http://www.kfyrtv.com/home/headlines/Arrest-Warrant-Issued-for-Woman-Working-at-Group-Home-329977651.html

Man charged with sexually assaulting girls in foster care YELLOWSTONE COUNTY Text Size: Small Text Medium Text Large Text Print BILLINGS, Mont. - A 68-ye 14. He did not enter a plea. Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore Lance Lundvall set Smith's bail at $75,000. Smith remained jailed on Tuesday. Charging documents say t inappropriately. Court records say Smith's wife told officers that he said he'd done something he wasn't supposed to do. Source: http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/Man-

Oregon lawmakers ask scathing questions about foster kids 1 / 6 Oregon foster care dashboard A key slide on foster care safety in the Department of Human Services' M Twitter on September 30, 2015 at 5:06 AM, updated September 30, 2015 at 5:08 AM 2015 Oregon Legislature SALEM — Oregon lawmakers have begun casting a critical Services over accusations that a publicly funded foster care agency abused or neglected children with little apparent oversight from state officials. Those accusations — that providers might be experiencing similar treatment. More hearings are planned before February's legislative session. The committee's chair, Sen. Sara Gelser, D-Corvallis, sa of abuse. "Every child has the same right to safety, security and dignity," Gelser said in an interview, making clear her fears stretch beyond one provider's alleged misconduc financial problems, reports of abuse and a state Department of Justice investigation over its nonprofit status. Willamette Week detailed the agency's struggles this month. Sta accusations that left lawmakers and Department of Human Services employees stunned. Rosas accused Give Us This Day staffers of doctoring time sheets and rewriting inc beds. She said the agency added cameras to bedrooms to monitor employees' use of force. But some rooms, she said, had the cameras taped over. Rosas said state workers t Sen. Alan Olsen, R-Canby. "Why wasn't DHS able to see through this smokescreen?" Rosas replied: "The problem is people aren't coming around to ask questions. This pro to safety, security and dignity. How do we make sure that whatever safeguards failed in one place aren't failing someplace else?" — Sen. Sara Gelser, D-Corvallis She defen contributing to Give Us This Day's struggles by not promptly paying reimbursements. She said the accusations of abuse and neglect are fabrications from disgruntled worke abuse investigation managers. Olsen and Gelser said the department's license inspections, which happen every two years, need to be more rigorous. "We get greater scrutiny looking into its rules around licensing and abuse complaints to make sure they're stringent enough. Overall, the state is responsible for more than 8,000 foster children on an consequence of not doing" regular check-ins. The state made sure 83 percent of Oregon foster children received a monthly visit from a caseworker in May. That's up from a message," she said, "does that send to these kids?" — Denis C. Theriault Source: http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/09/latest_abuse_accusations_feed.htm

PBSO: Lake Worth woman slapped and choked 5-year-old with Autism | www.palmbeachpost.com PBSO: Foster care parent slapped, choked 5-year-old with autism 5 newsletters. Travel, News, Golf and more. Choose your favorites and we’ll deliver. LAKE WORTH — Deputies arrested a West Palm Beach foster care parent on child abu according to the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office. Haye, 47, had three children and one teen all with special needs in her white Volkswagen hatchback at the time, althou removed and placed elsewhere, she said. A witness contacted police after she saw Haye “slapping, punching and shaking [the 5-year-old’s] face like a sack of potatoes,” the tantrum in the car, which sent the other passengers — two 12-year-olds and a 14-year-old — into tantrums, Haye told police, denying that she ever disciplined them with fo contacted police to report the roadside abuse, but declined to be interviewed, the report said. When Palm Beach County Fire Rescue examined the boy, he was bleeding fro that he was “being bad at school” so Haye slapped him with her shoe and choked him while in the back of the car, then gave him a popsicle to calm him down. A DCF inves http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/pbso-lake-worth-woman-slapped-choked-5-year-old-au/nnqxC/

Roane Academy leaders leave embattled center WBIR Staff, WBIR 4:58 p.m. EDT September 30, 2015 Two Roane Academy officials have left the embattled center.(Ph operates the Roane Academy, which treats juvenile males. Over the last several months, several boys have left on their own from the center, and four employees and a teen would move to improve security. More: Roane Academy concerns persist despite promise of fence According to Omni Visions, facility director Mark Akers and clinical dir the changes the operator said it would make is building a new fence around the property. Neighbors said the fence was promised before the facility received approval in 201 center/73109276/

Judge dismisses state's case against Madison County group home accused of abuse, neglect Print Email By Crystal Bonvillian | The Huntsville Times group home that state officials accused of abuse and neglect. Restore Care, a Toney-based facility that serves about 35 mentally disabled residents, will be able to continue that the state also failed to show that the hardship caused by relocating the residents would not outweigh the benefit of removing them. "To the contrary, the Court is satisfi than a dozen homes in Madison County for its clients, went before Pate on Monday as the state sought a preliminary injunction that would allow it to remove the residents. medication errors, delayed medical treatment and a staff member hitting a resident - warranted the state's intervention. The home had 140 complaints of abuse or neglect log Family members of some of Lloyd-Turney's clients also testified that any issues pertaining to their loved one's care had been addressed and that they wanted them to remain

Judge: Child foster care lawsuit can move forward - SFGate Judge: Child foster care lawsuit can move forward Updated 7:25 pm, Wednesday, September 30, 2015 0 PH It claims the state fails to provide needed mental and other health care, and enough foster homes for children removed from their families. The lawsuit names as defendants plaintiffs prevail, the court could fashion a remedy that doesn't impinge on decisions made by juvenile courts in specific cases. Source: http://www.sfgate.com/news/crime/

DHS flunks the common-sense test in ignoring foster-care home's red flags: Editorial Sen. Sara Gelser, pictured in this 2014 photo, chaired a hearing this week in whic Twitter on October 01, 2015 at 3:00 PM, updated October 01, 2015 at 4:24 PM Reddit Email Get The Stump content in your inbox every Sunday. Sign up for email updates piling up. A lack of documents to show it was providing the services it claimed to. You would think DHS' child welfare employees or investigators would be all over the no years of failing to file IRS returns. The investigation, about which DHS had been alerted, ultimately turned up evidence that director Mary Holden used money meant for ca been taken from Give Us This Day accounts. Meanwhile, the foster children often went hungry, relying on food-bank donations, according to a former employee who testif Rosas, who worked at the home from 2011 until 2013. The attitude by Give Us This Day management, she said, was that these were "the kids that nobody wants" and that " Hester, Helen Jung, Erik Lukens, Steve Moss and Len Reed. To respond to this editorial: Post your comment below, submit a commentary piece, or write a letter to the edit agency didn't ask questions, even though the child-welfare division was well aware of the nonprofit's difficulties making payroll and paying taxes. Child Welfare Director L division did not take any steps beyond its normal monitoring and checking of children to ensure that the financial problems weren't affecting child safety. She noted that cas was at risk," she said. It makes you wonder what kind of information would actually sound an alarm. A story by Willamette Week earlier this month documented a long list according to the story. Even if the financial issues were the only problems the agency knew about, DHS flunked the common-sense test. How could a foster-care organizatio for payment of a judgment over unpaid wages? Why would it not alert its caseworkers or its investigators to take an extra close look at the facility and make sure the kids w documentation, interviews and answers despite months of delay, accusations of racist behavior and other roadblocks from Holden. DOJ negotiated a Sept. 18 settlement tha too the legislators who are not letting this go. Sen. Sara Gelser, D-Corvallis, who chairs the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood, and vice-chair Sen procedures as well as going through its record of complaints at the foster home, Day said. Her agency is also looking at whether it needs to bring more financial expertise in DOJ's Smith and Holden's attorney. While Holden addressed one failure right away, Smith didn't stop there, noting that "such issues can be symptomatic of larger managem http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/10/dhs_flunks_the_common-sense_te.html

Head of foster care agency accused of misusing millions of dollars Posted: Sep 30, 2015 9:15 PM PDT Updated: Sep 30, 2015 9:15 PM PDT By FOX 12 Staff Email Co organization has been shut down. MOREAdditional LinksPoll The agency called Give Us This Day has been caring for foster kids in group homes and placing them with fo churches and places that donated food to pick that up on our own time. When we weren't getting paid. Just to make sure the kids had food to eat, or we'd bring our own lunc

money for groceries, linens and clothes, but she said her paychecks were late on a regular basis. When she asked managers about it, they told her the state wasn't giving ther dollars were spent on travel, dining out, Las Vegas Casinos and clothing at Victoria's Secret and Louis Vuitton. Rosas testified before a senate committee about the agency a is not allowed to work for a non-profit for 7 years. Rosas feels that a lot of neglected children are finally getting a voice. "The foster kids will contact me. They've aged out Rosas. FOX 12 was not able to locate Mary Holden to get her side of the story. FOX 12 asked state officials if she could face criminal charges and they said they can't comr

Employees say former DA is now the one breaking the law Employees at a Clayton County daycare say they want to be paid a fair wage and on time. WXIA Rebecca Li paychecks that isn't right. They claim they're not getting paid on time, if they get paid at all. When they do, they say there's no indication taxes are being taken out. The own she has worked full time, serving as the director of the Champion House, a group home for older teens transitioning out of the foster care system. Former employee expresse operated by the same people. But do the math and that's $3.75 an hour for a 40 hour week. It's well below the legally mandated minimum wage of $7.25. "I cannot afford to often says "volunteer expenses." "It's a little disheartening, it's very upsetting. I'm kind of confused," said another former employee who asked not to be identified. He says l services. But according to our open records request, the state says it paid the daycare more than $162,000 in the past two years and the group home more than $5,000 – payr because I need it, but more so the fact that I earned it.," said one employee. Employees also want to know why none of their paychecks show any sign of state or federal tax keep enough staff and make sure that they are properly background checked and trained. One child was found sleeping in a room unsupervised. Another report says a class have been no complaints about the quality of care at that location. Jewel Scott offered to meet with investigative reporter Rebecca Lindstrom, but made it clear she would n said: Ms. Lindstrom my response is and please feel free to quote me "you have been played." Legal counsel & CPA advise against any further response at this time. Howeve

SeVon Jobes charged with texting naked pictures to teenage boy Michelle Quesada 6:38 PM, Oct 7, 2015 5:37 AM, Oct 8, 2015 Caregiver in charge of looking after tro Office In Loxahatchee WPTV WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. - Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies say a caregiver who looked after troubled teens was arrested for sending figure. The teen was transferred out of the facility but kept in touch with Jobes until the conversations started making him feel uncomfortable. The company Jobes worked guy always on - work, he worked real well, worked with the kids real good," said Marcus Harwood, a current caregiver at the Loxahatchee facility. Harwood worked in the "We try to get them on the right track, sometimes they have troubled homes, and things like that, we send them to school, we give them a place to stay," added Harwood. H doing paperwork," said Harwood. The report says Jobes started asking the teen questions about his private parts and was asking for him to send a picture. The teen became dcf-supervised-teens-arrested-for-texting-naked-pictures-to-minor

$12.5 million awarded to Logan family after child sex abuse case Saturday , October 03, 2015 - 7:01 PM Image by: Comstock By ANDREAS RIVERA Standard-Exami 2008. The five-day trial against Northeastern Services wrapped up Friday, with the jury attributing at least 12 percent of the fault to the company, 85 percent to the former e Northeastern Services. The child lived nearby the facility and, according to a press release from the victim's attorney, kids from the neighborhood were routinely invited to He was arrested and later convicted of aggravated sexual abuse of a child. He is currently serving a 15 years to life in prison sentence at the Utah State Prison, according to according to the release. Cooper was reportedly fired from a similar job for abusing a disabled adult in his care. After the victim's family filed the lawsuit against Northeaste Services) accountable for its negligence in hiring, and failing to train and supervise its employees," the victim's family wrote in a statement. "We hope this verdict will not supported living and consultations for behaviorally and mentally disabled adults, across eight different locations in Utah. Contact reporter Andreas Rivera at 801-625-4227

Group home counselor arrested for assaulting resident October 5, 2015 By BENJAMIN BRANCHAUD WEST KINGSTON – A resident counselor at and struck him twice in the face. According to police reports, Francis Zwolinski, 33, of North Kingstown, a resident counselor, was eating dinner in the staff office at the gr reportedly struck him twice in the face and picked up the chair for use as a weapon. The victim of the assault, a South Kingstown resident, was also arrested and charged wi Wednesday morning. Ken Lombardi, an employee who witnessed the assault, said Zwolinski was the aggressor in the incident and described his punches as "hay-makers", t of the group home was also arrested during the incident on one charge of disorderly conduct and one charge of obstructing an officer in the line of duty as he was allegedly home at 46 Liberty Lane since January of 2014. Those who list 46 Liberty Lane as their address have been arrested 26 times in the same time span. Source: http://www.rice

California foster care: New laws signed to restrict psychiatric drugs By Karen de Sá Posted: 10/07/2015 05:59:47 AM PDT12 Comments Updated: of California's most traumatized children, Gov. Jerry Brown on Tuesday signed the nation's most comprehensive set of laws to curb the overprescribing of psychiatric drugs rely too heavily on the medications to control kids' behavior. Child welfare advocates cheered the long-awaited reforms inspired by this newspaper's ongoing investigation have the best chance to thrive in life," said Frank Mecca, executive director of the County Welfare Directors Association of California. "And these bills give us the tools to authored by state Sens. Jim Beall, D-San Jose, and Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles. Advertisement "The 'Drugging Our Kids' documentary put the state on notice," Mitchell Department of Social Services, said in an email Tuesday that the state has already been working on reforms. "The approval of these bills helps the state and counties continu majority of medicated foster youth were prescribed antipsychotics, which often lead to debilitating side effects from lethargy to morbid obesity. The series showed how the courts where the medications are approved. And public health nurses who work with foster youth will have greater access to children's medical files, and play a larger role i allow excessive prescribing could face corrective-action plans. "I hope that the child welfare agencies across the nation -- not just in the state of California -- will take heed sweep. "There's already a lot of discussion going on nationally on this subject and I think people are realizing that overmedication is a huge problem in group homes and the caution. "These bills are a step in the right direction for foster children in California who are being administered psych meds," he wrote in an email. "However, they are not following multiple amendments and intensive lobbying by associations representing physicians and group homes. Senate Bill 253, which would have called upon doctors to according to its author, state Sen. Bill Monning, D-Carmel. Although physician groups pushed back against Monning's bill and many of the other bills' provisions, on Tuesd intended and that they improve care." Holloway went on to say that his organization -- which fired a last-minute salvo against Monning's bill that delayed its progress -- inte based National Center for Youth Law, which led the reform efforts. "We can cut side effects earlier, we can notice if a kid is gaining weight or losing weight, we can notice i emotional for former foster youths Rochelle Trochtenberg and Tisha Ortiz -- who both testified repeatedly in the state Capitol as the legislation was being considered. Ortiz, enough to be able to have a voice in preventing other foster youth from experiencing the debilitating effects of being overmedicated," she said. "It's better healing than any

October 8, 2015 The drugged children of foster care By Gerald K. McOscar A February, 2014 Wall Street Journal article, "Drugged as Children, Foster Care Alumni Spe has or may have contact with the child welfare system. I have been a court-appointed attorney for indigent parents in the Chester County, Pennsylvania Juvenile Dependenc disturbing of cases is the widespread use of antipsychotic medication to treat behavioral problems in children. Children, both in home and in foster care or other institutiona majority of these kids are exhibiting normal childhood behaviors, albeit writ large, not because of mental illness, but because of the vacuum, and resultant absence of structu foster care take these medicines. That compares with about 2% for children on Medicaid but not in foster care and about 1% for those with private insurance. The largest di that is different from not being in touch with reality," a key element of psychosis, he says. I agree. Chris Nobles, who became a ward of Pennsylvania at age 15, is the cente medication, "not even Nyquil." Another foster-home alum, testifying in spring of 2013 before a Senate Finance Committee roundtable discussion on psychiatric drugs, cited deficit disorder, and bipolar disorder. "How do you develop as a person and find out who you are when you have been given all these diagnoses?" she asks. Their stories mi adults at age 18. Chris Nobles altered his destiny. Many do not. A University of Chicago study on foster alumni in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa found that by age 26, fewe the groundswell of foster-care alumni sounding the alarm about how freely psychiatric drugs are doled out to kids. It's long past time. A February, 2014 Wall Street Journa parent, teacher, counselor, caseworker, and judge who has or may have contact with the child welfare system. I have been a court-appointed attorney for indigent parents in For me, the most disturbing thing about these most disturbing of cases is the widespread use of antipsychotic medication to treat behavioral problems in children. Children, and poor grades. From my observations, the majority of these kids are exhibiting normal childhood behaviors, albeit writ large, not because of mental illness, but because insurers, estimates that 12% to 13% of kids in foster care take these medicines. That compares with about 2% for children on Medicaid but not in foster care and about 1% focusing attention or controlling behavior – but that is different from not being in touch with reality," a key element of psychosis, he says. I agree. Chris Nobles, who becan lives on his own, works full-time, and refuses any medication, "not even Nyquil." Another foster-home alum, testifying in spring of 2013 before a Senate Finance Committe variously diagnosed with depression, attention deficit disorder, and bipolar disorder. "How do you develop as a person and find out who you are when you have been given findings. There are others. Kids are not magically adults at age 18. Chris Nobles altered his destiny. Many do not. A University of Chicago study on foster alumni in I generation of dependent children. The Journal report highlights the groundswell of foster-care alumni sounding the alarm about how freely psychiatric drugs are doled out

Kids in care want foster family stability and contact with their siblings Duncan BarrySaturday, 10 October 2015, 11:00Last update: about 2 days ago Children who live when the Child Out-of-Home-Care Protection Bill was first drafted. Speaking to The Malta Independent, Paul Gatt, who is the president of the Foster Care Association, que Mr Gatt said, hoping that the government will introduce permanent fostering as part of the bill. He said that the ministry only consulted with the association briefly and afte was told that it is to be discussed by Cabinet. The government is currently reviewing amendments to the long-awaited Child Out-of-Home-Care Protection Bill. However, b Farrugia had assured this newsroom in an interview that by the end of summer the amendments should have been reviewed together with the Ministry of Justice, since it is care association, among others, on any new amendments. In reply to our questions, the ministry said that the child protection bill is being concluded together with the Minis Gatt also claimed that he spoke to the Prime Minister in person to set up a meeting, but that hasn't yet materialised so far either. Benefits of permanent fostering Mr Gatt ex offered peace of mind through stability and permanence in their placements. "Permanent fostering will do the job since children will no longer feel a lack of belonging," he any potential stressors that may arise from multiple placement changes. Youths who experience minimised placement changes are more likely to experience fewer school ch

He pointed out that international research shows that state residential care is not ideal for most children. Explaining further, he said that those caring for children at residenti parents He said that the natural parents of children may be experiencing issues such as substance abuse, mental illness, or domestic violence which can potentially lead to m team to review such cases is roped in, he added. On the fact that Minister Farrugia said that added financial help will be given to foster parents who accept to care for siblin pointed out that siblings are not kept together in all cases. “It is only if the board entrusted to review such cases advises that it is best that in certain cases siblings live togeth for siblings. “This home has dormitories which allows young siblings to live together but when they reach a certain age, they are moved to another dormitory for boys and g Foster Care Association is not in agreement with the Minister. Paul Gatt explained that in situations where children require long-term care for a long time, possibly throughc benefits of being brought up in a family environment, with the opportunities this usually offers children, should not be underestimated. Mr Gatt went on to say that the long exactly? Permanent fostering is when children will stay with their foster family until they reach the age of 18 and, for many, will continue to be part of that family well beyc relationships and because, as Jackson and Thomas (1999) outlined, it is likely to be a pre-condition for continuity in schooling, friendships, health care, and familiarity with

Far-Reaching Bill Promises Overhaul of Calif. Group Homes by Jeremy Loudenback October 12, 2015 California Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation yesterday that air Assemblymember Mark Stone (D-Monterey Bay), AB 403 will phase out the way treatment and services are currently provided at group homes by January 1, 2017, in favo homes and foster family agencies. Carroll Schroeder, executive director of the California Alliance of Child and Family Services (CACFS), calls the bill “a once in a generat significant effort that aligns our state’s policy with what developmental science is telling us, that congregate care is really detrimental to the development and well-being of the place of existing group homes in the state. STRTCs would be licensed by the CDSS to provide only short-term, specialized and intensive treatment to those children wit directors, and most facilities would be incentivized to provide health services that resemble hospital stays rather than semi-permanent living arrangements. These centers wi provided through contracts with foster family agencies. SB 403 would also require counties to pay attention to the needs of foster youth involved with the probation system that would allow them to live with relative caregivers when possible. Under the current system, many of the state’s children with the highest level of mental health needs re AB 403 would boost the amount of money provided to counties to recruit, retain and support foster parents and relative caregivers. Families will be able to receive financial of foster youth living in congregate care, the Continuum of Care Reform report serves as a foundation for many of the ideas included in AB 403. Concerns about upsetting t worried, and saying ‘But what will we do with these kids?’ That’s what we’ve seen in congregate care.” Implementing the sweeping overhaul of the state’s group-home poli experience in California has never been that bills can instantly self-implement,” she said. “They always phase in over a very long period of time. [AB 403] sets a course for the reforms coordinate mental health care and other supports for families and relative caregivers. “You have to find more resource parents, more people in the community w https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/featured/far-reaching-bill-promises-overhaul-calif-group-homes/13720

Fort Lauderdale Moves to Close Crescent House Group Home After Years of Complaints A A Facebook 154 Twitter 6 More shares recommend reddit email 0 By Kyle dull smacks of fists finding skin. “Swing, Carrot Top! Swing! Swing! Swing!” one boy screamed, using a nickname Donna recognized. “If he rush you, kick his ass.” Then Lauderdale group home among the facilities described in an August New Times investigation. At the property at 1135 NW Seventh Ave. and others in Broward, New Times awful,” Donna says, recalling the overheard brawl. “‘Menacing’ is the right word for it. Most of the neighbors are also scared.” Though residents of South Middle River say have in the past six weeks jumped into action with fines and code violations. “What you have there is absolute chaos,” says Dean Trantalis, city commissioner for the neigh group-care facilities operated by Chrysalis Health, a private for-profit health-care company based in Fort Lauderdale. The property has been owned by the state since 1984 a the facility is one trained personnel for every four residents — which is above the state-required ratio of one staff member for every six residents. “These are children who a Supervision at State-Contracted Group Homes, Teen Prostitution and Drug Use Are Rampant But according to homeowners, Crescent has ruined the neighborhood. As Exhi discovered hundreds of tiny plastic baggies — the kind used for crack cocaine — littering the area. “When you’re driving up the street, the kids jump in front of your vehicl to the kids or snap a photo of the threatening behavior, he says they pelt his car with rocks. “I’m from New York. I’ve seen the South Bronx — I’ve seen the ghetto, the slun taunt him almost daily when he passes. “They’ll yell, ‘Fag!’ or ‘What you looking at? You want to suck my dick?’ when I drive by,” Emerson says. Next door to Crescent, I says. Emails show that residents have been complaining since at least 2009. Fort Lauderdale has also been trying to jump into the situation. In 2012, City Manager Lee Feld to hash out an action plan pledging curfew checks and better communication. Surprisingly, that same year, Crescent House earned glowing marks from the agency tasked w gave the facility a perfect score on an evaluation, making no note of the issues in the neighborhood. A report said it was “clean and free of safety hazards” and that none of t at facilities run by subcontractors. In one suit, an unidentified mentally disabled teen alleges he was repeatedly assaulted by another boy over four months. In a lawsuit filed At Crescent House, things have worsened in recent years. City records indicate that from January 2014 to June 2015, kids from Crescent were arrested 138 times — for 74 f the lack of accountability and oversight in the group home system. Neighbors doubled their efforts, and Commissioner Trantalis agreed enough was enough. “A couple mo ago, and it seemed clean and a pleasant environment. But the reality is that the facility is not intended for juvenile delinquents.” The commissioner says the Department of J Crescent House. The state has basically abdicated their responsibility to the children.” But Trantalis is synched with his constitutes. “This is an emerging neighborhood. We didn’t work. Windows and doors were improperly blocked. Doors couldn’t be opened from the inside. Illegal double-keyed deadbolts were used. Work had been done on th general counsel for Crescent operator Chrysalis , says the company is more than happy to fix the violations. But he says the code enforcement is obviously part of the large neighborhood.” Lacasa says Crescent has made every effort to work with the neighbors — the neighbors have simply refused to play along. Indeed, the city is pulling out al “The city views this case as a violation of the permitted uses,” says Chaz Adams, a city spokesperson. “The property... constitutes a nuisance.” On October 15, a special mag neighbors.” Source: http://www.browardpalmbeach.com/news/fort-lauderdale-moves-to-close-crescent-house-group-home-after-years-of-complaints-7322395

Seattle acknowledges American Indian Boarding Schools KING 5's Ryan Takeo reports Ryan Takeo, KING 5 News 7:38 p.m. PDT October 12, 2015 Monday the Seattle COMMENTEMAILMORE SEATTLE – Monday the Seattle City Council unanimously approved a resolution that acknowledged the "historical trauma" of American India said Inez Bill, a member of the Tulalip Tribes who was sent to the Tulalip Boarding School. "They were not allowed to speak their language there," she said of her tribe's na Inez says the healing will take generations, but she's glad the council took the step it did Monday. "Hopefully this is part of that healing," she said. Monday's resolution also schools/73845716/

Gov. Brown signs Assemblyman Stone’s bill to phase out use of foster group homes Assemblyman Mark Stone By Samantha Clark, Santa Cruz Sentinel Posted: 10/12 Scotts Valley, advances California’s long-standing goal to move away from the use of long-term group home care. “When you look at kids in group homes, a lot of them lan assessment process to help make sure that the first out-of-home placement is the right one. Counties also are to receive more funding and support to better recruit and train f In 2014, about 3,000 of the 60,000 foster youth in California lived in group homes, according to the state. More than two-thirds of them have remained there longer than tw implements a number of recommendations from a California Department of Social Services report released in January, which were developed with feedback from foster you trauma-based services are provided to support successful development and relationships,” said Will Lightbourne, director of the state Department of Social Services, which what their needs are,” Stone said. “As we learn more about that and assist families with implementation, the cost will be better clarified.” Source: http://www.santacruzsent

Former head teacher at Perth boarding school guilty of molesting former pupils By Kirsty McIntosh, 15 October 2015 3.50pm. 6 Share 6 Twitter Email Perth Sheriff C School. At Perth Sheriff Court the jury of nine men and six women unanimously found him guilty of embracing one girl before kissing her in an inappropriate manner and t the 1970s when the victims were in their teens. The court had earlier accepted a plea of no case to answer in relation to an assault charge. Sheriff Lindsay Foulis deferred se 1.905284

Man accused of raping teen ran Milwaukee group home for boys Posted: Thu 4:57 AM, Oct 15, 2015 Home / Headlines List / Article MGN Online Posted: Thursday, O reports that 37-year-old Jermarro Dantzler is charged with first-degree sexual assault of a child using the threat of force or of violence. He's accused of raping the teen July **Center** group home for boys ages 14 to 16. Police records show officers frequently are called to the house and at least six residents have been arrested in the past year. Cou

F**ederal Report Calls for an End to Conversion Therapy** Wednesday, 21 October 2015 00:00 By Lindsay Patton, Care2 | Report font size decrease font size increase font Administration (SAMHSA) is pushing for a national ban on the controversial practice. "Conversion therapy" is used on LGBTQ individuals to, essentially, turn them straigl reports - in addition to SAMHSA's - that not only prove that conversion therapy does not work, but that it is extremely harmful to individuals. In April, President Barack Ob SAMHSA report: Same-gender sexual orientation (including identity, behavior, and attraction) and variations in gender identity and gender expression are a part of the norm behavioral health interventions can alter gender identity or sexual orientation. Interventions aimed at a fixed outcome, such as gender conformity or heterosexual orientation licensed and have religious - not medical - backgrounds, adding to the harm this practice causes. LGBTQ children and adolescents are the primary audience that conversion who they are. The SAMHSA report focuses on how families, loved ones and educators can support and provide information to youth about gender identity and sexual orient the only way to find love and acceptance is by changing the very nature of who they are," he said. "Today's new health report shows the extensive damage that so-called cor accessible to those who need it. Source: http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/33320-federal-report-calls-for-an-end-to-conversion-therapy (HEAL Note: A federal ban will

New Report: Federal Funds For Charter Schools Go Into A ‘Black Hole’ America’s experiment with charter schools has thus far generated academic results that are mixed, have spent over $3.7 billion the federal government has used to fuel expansion of the charter industry since 1995. That’s the principal finding of a new report published by t information is often “severely lacking.” According to the report, the federal government, state governments, and charter authorizers have generally not provided the public v how state government handles charter oversight. The report contends, “Unlike truly public schools, which have to account for prospective and past spending in public budge

from the CSP for start-up and "planning" expenses. In examining charter recipients of federal grants in just 12 states, mostly from 2010-2015, CMD investigators found mil lawmakers who have favored "flexibility" for these schools rather than accountability to the public. "That flexibility has allowed an epidemic of fraud, waste, and mismanag charter proponents." The report calls this "a classic example of 'industry capture' of the agencies charged with oversight by the industry they are tasked with overseeing. Wi concludes, is for the U.S. Department of Education, which oversees the Charter School Program, to provide a list of charters receiving federal grants and to institute much n charters that have received federal grant money under CSP have produced very little education benefit for students wile channeling taxpayer money to unknown pockets. In online of how that money was spent," the report notes. Another California charter uncovered by the report "voluntarily surrendered its charter" after the local fire marshal sh charter that received $700,000 in planning and implementation grants but was forced to close in 2015 "because of poor student performance." Another Indianapolis charter for charter school malfeasance, CMD reports that out of the 88 schools created with CSP grants between 2008 and 2013, "at least 15 closed within a few years; a further sev charters between 2010-'15, are particularly startling. In Michigan, where flour out of five charters are run by for-profit management companies, "charter operators in the sta eventually pleaded guilty of two felony counts for tax evasion and "conspiracy to defraud the United States." CMD found 25 charter schools in Michigan that received near Academy for Aviation and Aerospace. This school received $109,550 in federal funding and continues to maintain a presence on the Internet. But a phone call by this autho opened at its original location in Roseville. Oakland-Macomb Montessori, along with three other Michigan ghost schools, appears to be related to an entity called Project Te $96,748, no longer exists on Internet searches or state records of either existing or closed charter schools. So where does money for charter schools go if it doesn't pay for r federal funding. Neither opened, but they appear to have marketed their schools through Manta, a small business promotional company in Detroit. The marketing effort didn just three days prior to announcing his resignation, to send $249 million in new federal funding to the charter school industry. Under Duncan's watch, the charter school ind warned states receiving waivers to the onerous provisions of No child Left Behind not to do enact any new policies that would undermine charter schools' "autonomy." Acc generally big-city school districts, more than 30 percent of students attend charter schools. "Eleven school districts saw increases in charter school enrollment ranging from Duncan is sending to the state is to be targeted for expansion of the Nobel charter school chain in Chicago, Duncan's hometown and where he is planning to relocate after le opposition to the prospect of more charter schools." CMD's revelation that federal funds to charter schools generally go into a "black hole" further calls into question Secret

Baby girl's death in foster care leaves family with unanswered questions By NAOMI MARTIN Follow @NaomiMartin Staff Writer Published: 16 Oc contact for 5-month-old Serenity. But Texas Child Protective Services, the state agency responsible for her care, didn't call him. Since Serenity's death Thursday, Nickelber Both his daughter and Serenity's father were in jail when the baby died. "We want answers," Nickelberry said Friday. "We've been getting information on the status of the k answers to questions specific about Serenity's case, but responded more generally about procedures. Department policy, she said, requires staff to notify the child's parents v children. "It is up to them to decide what, if any, further information is provided" to other relatives, she said. Serenity's mother, Whitney Nickelberry, 25, was in Collin Cou father, who is in Dallas County Jail on a murder charge, also was notified. The Nickelberry family found out about Serenity's death from one of his relatives, Richardson sa foster care: three boys, ages 6, 7 and 9, and a girl, 4. Richardson said the surviving children have been moved to another foster home. Nickelberry said he believed he was g with a relative such as Nickelberry. "It is always our goal that children who are in court-ordered CPS custody have the best and most appropriate placement," she wrote in a and the baby seemed fine, he said. A CPS staffer called the baby's godmother about 6 p.m. Thursday and asked how to contact Serenity's doctor but refused to say whether tried to contact CPS Thursday night but was unable to get in touch with anyone for a long time. Eventually, someone told her she would have to call back at 8 a.m., she said breathing" while she was in the care of a "qualified baby sitter." He said he was told the foster parent was out of town. "This is unacceptable," he said. Source: http://www.

State report details Glade Run violations Source: Eagle Staff Writer Written by: By Amerigo Allegretto Published: October 17, 2015 ZELIENOPLE — A state report that violations and instances that occurred at Glade Run between March and September. The DHS recently revoked Glade Run's license for one of its residential treatment facili decision immediately after being told of the license revocation by DHS. Glade Run is allowed to continue operating the facility during the appeal, but must follow guideline standards of the department. Staff neglect was cited in the report. On July 30, at Sandcastle Water Park, two children ages 12 and 15 ran away while two staff members were notify the department. The children went missing for four days. They had been taken to an abandoned house in Penn Hills, Allegheny County, where they were forced to pe treatment. They were returned to Glade Run on Aug. 4. The staff members received "progressive discipline" as per agency policy. On May 23, a resident used a broken piec construction site between the school and cafeteria. Also on May 23 after dinner, a staff member pushed a resident onto a bed and used CPR motion on the resident's chest, r lesser violations included improper fire drill procedures, incomplete health assessments and inconsistent medication logs. Glade Run follows procedures and guidelines set i cottages in the residential treatment facility. The report says that staff members failed to check on the children every 15 minutes during sleeping hours and were "routinely" duties and ultimately fired. The department reiterated that staff must follow a protocol aimed at having periodic and frequent checks on the residential rooms. Eight children child will be criminally charged and that there "is no identified perpetrator." Investigators said some of the boys may have been more intimidating, but did not believe any a with specific training in interviewing children with these needs." Gillis said law enforcement were present at the interviews so children wouldn't have to be interviewed mu forensic interviews at the same time as the child advocacy center. The DHS provided the police department additional evidence and an investigation summary. - See more at

Family accuses Vermillion group home of negligence in death Family accuses Vermillion group home of negligence in death Saved Save Article My Saved Items Print E who died in a Vermillion group home is seeking money damages for wrongful death. The Argus Leader reports (http://argusne.ws/1OOjPnL) trial is being held this week in days without taking him to a hospital. They also say the facility and Red Bear's state-appointed legal guardian decided to donate his organs and cremate his body without fa http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/family-accuses-vermillion-group-home-of-negligence-in-death/article_0bd781e0-6cac-59e8-a42a-4b28601fba5a.html

Attorneys Want State Monitored Another Year After Latest Foster Care Progress Report By Matt Trotter • Oct 19, 2015 ShareTwitter Facebook Google+ Email _Cred work is not easy. "When you're dealing with children's lives, it shouldn't be easy. It should be hard," Lowry said. "It should be hard work, and the state should be working ha monitoring is up to the neutral monitors who are monitoring our progress, and they haven't made a determination yet," Powell said. The monitors, referred to as "co-neutrals but it has made progress in lightening social workers' case loads and getting more foster homes. The co-neutrals' latest report on Oklahoma's progress in a five-year settlem under the so-called Pinnacle Plan. "What is the state doing? What are the citizens of Oklahoma doing with their tax money if they're not even taking care of the children tha http://publicradiotulsa.org/post/attorneys-want-state-monitored-another-year-after-latest-foster-care-progress-report#stream/0

L**awsuit alleges foster abuse Second complaint mirrors earlier one;** county says its been proactive in investigations Comment 0 By Shea Johnson Staff Writer VVdailyp A recently filed lawsuit accuses two Victorville foster parents of abuse over a period of two-and-a-half years and when combined with a similar complaint filed early last ye under the license of Children's Way Foster Family Agency were subjected to "acts of physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect and mistreatment and denials of thei between 13 and 17 years old right now, making them between 8 and 12 years old when the alleged abuse began. No criminal charges have been filed against the parents nan shower, dress, brush their teeth and hair; not allowed to choose which clothes they wore; barred from practicing their religion of Christianity or celebrating Christmas; provi behalf of two other foster children in the family, who were about 6 and 7 years old when the alleged abuse began. Anthony said the foster parents have since been decertifie environment, among other things. The most recent suit had not yet been served to the defendants, according to Anthony, while the suit filed last year remains in the discover of abuse leading to foster children's deaths. Anthony said Tuesday he was in the process of trying to confirm the accounts of FOX 11's confidential sources. "If they were ac cases noted in the news station's report)," according to a copy of its statement provided by the county Tuesday. "In August of 2014, CFS moved into action to ensure that it children." According to the county, efforts have included adding a safety protocol for removing children from potentially abusive homes, where social workers can obtain co simulation training lab that became operational last month, officials said. Additionally, the county plans to hire 65 senior social services practitioners, launch an after-hours recruitment process. As it stands, officials said the county receives nearly 30,000 calls yearly to investigate child abuse and neglect, and 7,000 children are under the county their homes, died. It's a number county officials acknowledge is "unacceptable." "The County is committed to continuing to improve how it protects its children — their saf Wallace Pate, an expert in foster care liability within private and government agencies, said Tuesday the lawsuits by Anthony were "not surprising," saying abuse in the fost in November 2014, the suit claims the agency failed to properly supervise two allegedly abusive foster parents who were evicted from four residences over a seven-period a charged with any crime, according to court records, but the civil case continues. Pate chalked up cracks in the U.S. foster care system to the over-filing of cases, saying only Pate said too many children are being removed from their homes without evidence of being injured or immediately threatened to be harmed, adding children were 10 times now," she said. "They're warehousing children. This is not a local phenomenon." Meanwhile, Anthony said the foster parents targeted in his lawsuits likely had 40 foster chi on record," Anthony told the Daily Press. "I'm not fully aware of the specifics, why they were not on the record the way it should be." Source: http://www.vvdailypress.com

Lawsuit challenges Mississippi 'debtor's prison' 10/21/15 10:58 AM—Updated 10/21/15 12:27 PM facebook twitter 3 save share group 103 By Amanda Sakuma A coast threatened jail time if fines weren't paid up front and in full, and often followed through on those threats. It's the latest step in a broader push by advocates for civil liberties Biloxi's system. "Bottom line: people are jailed because they don't have money." RELATED: How falling behind on child support can end in jail It's been more than three heightened scrutiny and public awareness have led to significant reforms across several states in recent years, Biloxi is not alone. Similar lawsuits filed by the ACLU and So lives in Biloxi. Photo by William Widmer/ACLU The suit filed Wednesday—which names as defendants Biloxi Police Chief John Miller, Judge James Steele, and the for-p like traffic violations and misdemeanors. and it charges that the city adopted a policy to aggressively chase down court fines and fees. Indigent people who couldn't pay we traffic and other misdemeanor cases," the suit alleges. Vincent Creel, public affairs manager for Biloxi, said the city had not yet received the lawsuit. "However, based on m

cases where defendants are unable to pay their fines," Creel said in a statement. RELATED: Ferguson sued over alleged modern-day debtors' prison According to the lawsu
The suit goes on to allege that city officials routinely prolonged jail time for indigent people in order to coerce them into paying off their fines. The alleged victims include
had issued a warrant for his arrest until they stormed into his home and took him away in handcuffs. He spent seven nights in jail before being brought before a judge, and s
violations. The single mother of two says she lost her part-time job at a cleaning service because she was behind bars. "I was scared," Kennedy told msnbc. "I can't make m

Utah man sentenced for stealing from residents at care facility By JESSICA MILLER | The Salt Lake Tribune First Published Oct 21 2015 06:45PM • Last Updated
he supervised was sentenced to jail Wednesday. Before handing down the 180-day sentence, 2nd District Judge Ernie Jones told 29-year-old Jordan Jeffrey Jack that the fac
is significant because of who you preyed upon in this case. They were elderly people, they were disabled people. People that relied on you." The After a two-day bench tria
felony convictions carried a possible prison sentence, but Jones suspended the prison time and instead ordered Jack to serve in the Weber County jail. He will spend 90 days
monitoring, saying that he now worked as a stay-at-home dad to his three children since he was fired last year from his position as assistant director at Chrysalis, a Weber C
to marry young, start a family and buy a home. She said many of the items Jack purchased with the stolen money, such as coloring books, stickers and jewelry, were for his
more than $400 per night. While working at Chrysalis, prosecutors say Jack used "false receipts and altered financial statements to deceive his employer and steal money fr
really cared about them," he said of the residents. "I know my actions indicate otherwise. … I was supposed to be an example and a leader, and I was more of a hypocrite."
disabled son about it because he thought so highly of Jack. "These people trusted our employees would take care of their family members," he said. "… It was really their tr

R.I. child advocate raises concerns over some group homes Comment 3 Related images Regina M. Costa By Jennifer Bogdan Journal State House Bureau Posted Oct.
called attention to Liberty Lane, a South Kingstown group home that was shuttered this month after a staff member allegedly assaulted a youth. In her final annual report, C
most troubled youth are sent. Despite seven complaints about the program — three by Rhode Island Family Court — the state continues to use the facility that housed 15 ch
and mental health challenges and behavioral problems. She said in a September report she cited concerns including lack of staff experience, the need for significant police i
16-year-old girl placed in the program because she hadn't been going to school didn't attend class for a year while she was there. There were also reports of inappropriate re
Human Services, said Liberty Lane, which is operated by Child and Family Services, was shut down Oct. 1 and six youth were removed and placed in alternative housing.
myriad financial problems, announced earlier this month that she will not reappoint Costa and has launched a search committee to find her replacement. The litany of proble
contracts. "As these changes in the delivery of services to children and families occurred, the staff at the OCA [Office of the Child Advocate] responded by what could only
resulted in stalling or curtailing efforts to collaborate on making improvements in the provision of services to children and families," Costa wrote. "The child advocate's effo
families who attempted to raise awareness about the declining health of children and families in state care under these contracts met similar fates with (DCYF) often imposi
had a cooperative relationship with Costa. "She has sent memos and raised issues for us to address. We have included her and her staff in various meetings and workgroups,
reviews deaths and "near fatalities" of children in state care. Costa said she hasn't been part of any review process since February 2014. Three children have died in state car
the membership of the team varies in each case, and there is no set list of team members. Source: http://www.providencejournal.com/article/20151022/NEWS/151029705

Former worker at Bellevue group home charged with sexual assault Posted: Saturday, October 24, 2015 1:00 am Former worker at Bellevue group home charged with
Office on Friday charged Adrian D. Galbreath, 38, with first-degree sexual assault and abuse of a vulnerable adult. Both are felonies. According to a search warrant filed by
people with developmental disabilities. The warrant describes the victim as "mentally diminished." Authorities allege that after the victim became intoxicated, Galbreath pu
"We do take the safety of our clients very seriously," she said. "That's why if there are allegations we try to take immediate action." Source: http://www.omaha.com/news/r

Counselor, teen charged in RI group home confrontation A counselor at the Liberty Lane group home in South Kingstown, where adolescent boys in state care are sent,
Journal State House Bureau Posted Oct. 23, 2015 at 11:15 PM By Jennifer Bogdan Journal State House Bureau Posted Oct. 23, 2015 at 11:15 PM By Jennifer Bogdan
punched him in the face because the boy would not leave his office. It was that incident described in a Sept. 29 South Kingstown Police Department report that resulted in t
police report, the incident unfolded around 7 p.m. when Francis Zwolinski, a 33-year-old resident counselor in the program was seated in a staff office. He asked the juvenil
twice in the face with closed fists." Zwolinski then picked up a chair and the teen ran to the kitchen and picked up a knife, and then the two entered a standoff. The teen inv
Jesse W. Duarte. "We are shocked and dismayed by these outrageous allegations made against my client, an experienced youth services worker, who, as the arrest report ind
maintains that his actions were completely within facility protocol and affirms his innocence. " Ken Lombardi, another staff member at the home, told the police that Zwoli
comparison, Duarte said his client is roughly 5 feet, 10 inches tall and 165 pounds. Police accounts of the incident describe the scene at the home at 46 Liberty Lane as cont
custody and charged with disorderly conduct and obstructing an officer. The program at Liberty Lane, which was state licensed as a home for eight boys between the ages o

Ham: DCF problem is foster care system Comment 0 MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA Writer Posted Oct. 25, 2015 at 12:38 AM Posted Oct. 25, 2015 at 12:38
children are being further confused and harmed by placement in foster homes that have little or no ability to help them. It's an empty bed somewhere. With the current scrut
necessary to undo the harm that caused them to be ordered to DCF in the first place. To then transfer the frightened children to a strange and possibly negative home enviro
months when the DCF management of children in crisis was exposed. It is reported that the budget for DCF was $907.6 million last year plus $2 million is pending for mor
current foster care system. The DCF children need professional guidance, treatment and understanding to overcome the present issues and to achieve a healthy future. Perha
http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/article/20151025/OPINION/151027084

Our Voice: Privacy law can hinder foster care safety The Desert Sun Editorial Board 5:02 p.m. PDT October 24, 2015 Buy Photo The entrance to a Riverside County De
shed light on a troubling situation involving some of the state's most vulnerable residents. Kelman found that in Riverside County and across California, the overwhelming
investigations end up with either "inconclusive" or "unfounded" findings. In foster homes, where the county's responsibility to wards of the state is even more pronounced,
that in the 80 percent or so of cases that were unsubstantiated over a five-yer period in Riverside County are cases of real abuse that just got away. Kelman found one such a
a report of a Desert Hot Springs man allegedly molesting two boys was closed as "inconclusive" even though the two investigating social workers found, as they had been t
license. Months later, John David Yoder is behind bars awaiting trial in an alleged Desert Hot Springs child porn ring that authorities believe victimized as many as 15 youth
Thompson of Nevada, the alleged ringleader -- also await trial. Part of the problem appears rooted in California's strict privacy laws regarding Child Protective Services ca
disclosure exceptions for law enforcement and hospital officials but few others. There are at least 17 states where CPS officials would be free to answer questions about thei
states, Social Services could answer questions about the case because The Desert Sun already knew Yoder had been investigated. But in Riverside County, neither of those
and families deserve privacy, even if they are being investigated. That's a noble ideal, but it must not be used as a shield to protect those who should be held accountable in
California's foster care system in various ways, such as boosting training for foster families, setting new standards for homes and requiring group homes and Foster Family
advocates to help police those who are supposed to be guarding these vulnerable children should be the next order of business for lawmakers in Sacramento. Source: http://

FOX10 News Investigates PART 1: Saving Youth Foundation Posted: Oct 29, 2015 7:18 PM PDT Updated: Oct 29, 2015 7:19 PM PDT By Renee Dials, FOX10 News A
details on Mobile abuse investigation MOBILE, AL (WALA) - Three people charged with aggravated abuse at a residential youth facility in Mobile will go on trial in a few
Foundation say the church-based operation is responsible for positive changes in the lives of children in its care, but, the facility was shut down by DHR, and a police inves
Foundation in March when the Alabama Department of Human Resources shut down the facility amid allegations of abuse. Owners John Young Junior, William Knott, and
excessive exercise, and even denied prescription medication. The felony charges are new, but the allegations involving the church-based operation and the three defendants
Bob Norman in 2013. Litsky said Pastor Young hit her so hard in the face she almost passed out. Another teen, William Vargas, said he was attacked by William Knott wher
while the facility was located in Prichard, and called Restoration Youth Academy. "Punching them in the face, punching them in the stomach repeatedly. They would put th
abuse until after she removed her 15-year-old son from the facility. "I just think he was afraid of what the consequences would be," Simmons said. Simmons said her child's
But, Simmons believes the staff at the boot camp knew about the injury. "What they would do is if he acted up or did something they would come and pull his arm or poke
much to say about the current charges against the three defendants, following a court hearing in September. Young has repeatedly denied the allegations of abuse. This is
this is a controlled environment," Young said. Even though the facility is now shut down church members say they still support their pastor and the former boot camp faci
has available. He's an awesome man of God," Marquis Jacobs said. "These letters that you see right here were letters that were sneaked to me by the boys," Charles Kenne
of the most frustrating things that I have had. I was a police officer for many, many years, and this is probably one of the most frustrating things that I have ever dealt with
scheduled to go on trial in February. Saving Youth Foundation is the new name for the same group that started out in Prichard under another name, Restoration Youth Acac
Station). All Rights Reserved. Read more: http://www.fox10tv.com/story/30386115/fox10-news-investigates#ixzz3q704ezca

FOX10 News Investigates: Part 2: Saving Youth Foundation Posted: Oct 29, 2015 7:20 PM PDT Updated: Oct 29, 2015 7:20 PM PDT By Renee Dials, FOX10 News A
people accused of abusing children at a residential facility in Mobile are headed to trial. The new allegations stem from a long history of controversy surrounding the operat
Secretary of State in Montgomery. It's the only document FOX10 News was able to locate for the residential facility for troubled teens. One of the SYF leaders recently in
"He started choking me. He picked me up from the floor and started choking me. He started stomping me on my back. I still have nightmares about it every night," William
been the focus of complaints from other teens. It apparently started at another facility in Lucedale, where Knott worked. The Bethel Boys Academy and the dormitories that
houses, they had rec rooms, everything was built right here. We just tore all these slabs up back in the winter," Lee Gibson explained. Gibson said the Bethel Academy clos
the home. Sometimes they ran to nearby homes including his. "They wanted somebody to help them, the guy was mean to them you know. But, you couldn't get involved w

according to the civil complaint was the victim of torture. A few years later Knott along with John Young opened RYA in Prichard. The operation moved to Mobile in 2013 the facility might not need a license if it was under DHR for example. But, DHR said SYF was not affiliated with the state agency. And in fact, it was DHR that shut it dow have a state license with our program," Young said. But a state official told me even church run facilities are required to file for exemption, which according to the State Dep paid more than a thousand dollars a month to keep her son in the facilities care. She says she didn't find out about the alleged abuse until she took him out last year. "I had one of the teens removed from SYF has been back since the facility was shut down. "He came back to tell Bishop Young what an impact he made on his life. It was like a T The teen residential facility that was shut down in Mobile is not the only one to come under criticism in the country. We'll take a look at what's being done in other areas t

Youth group leader sentenced on child porn charges NEXT STORY Baltimore Ravens' safety Matt Elam suspended Text Size: ASmall Text AMedium Text ALarge Text —A Baltimore County youth group leader who pleaded guilty to child porn charges in July was sentenced Monday. Cockeysville man enters plea in child porn case A 63-ye youth group leader at a local church is charged with possession and distribution of hundreds of thousands of pornographic images of extremely young children. More A fede group leader at a church in Baltimore County, working with children ages 9 through 18. Gibson also assisted with childcare at his wife's unlicensed home day care, which in images and videos of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Prosecutors said that officials found child erotica and images and videos depicting infants and toddlers e

How N.Y.'s Biggest For-Profit Nursing Home Group Flourishes Despite a Record of Patient Harm The state's "character-and-competence" reviews are supposed to w wound that turned gangrenous during a 2013 nursing home stay. (Allegra Abramo for ProPublica) Charlie Stewart was looking forward to getting out of the nursing home in flesh made it difficult to sit near her husband. The small wounds on his right foot that had been healing when Stewart entered the nursing home now blackened his entire shi they would have to amputate above the knee. Stewart had spent about six weeks recovering from a diabetic emergency at Avalon Gardens Rehabilitation & Health Care Cer SentosaCare founder Benjamin Landa, partner Bent Philipson and family members have been able to expand their nursing home ownerships in New York, easily clearing re nursing home oversight in New York, an investigation by ProPublica found, and exposes gaps in the state's system for vetting parties who apply to buy shares in homes. Sta maker in these deals is the state's Public Health and Health Planning Council, a body of appointed officials, many from inside the health care industry. The council has subs information about all the violations and fines at nursing homes owned by or affiliated with applicants it reviewed. That's because the Department of Health, which prepares consistent high level of care" – the standard owners must meet to receive council approval. Yet the agency's assessments in 15 separate ownership applications since 2013 d serious deficiency. Many of the nursing home deals ProPublica reviewed received a go-ahead despite rules saying they "shall not be" approved when facilities have repeat v weren't the only applicants to get incomplete vetting, but the council has had repeated opportunities to scrutinize their records. Landa, Philipson or relatives bought shares in review of an applicant's character and competence," said Richard Mollot, director of the Long Term Care Community Coalition in New York. "The failure to provide compl operators for deficiencies in care. New York is also among a minority of states that don't mandate minimum staffing ratios, even though research shows a strong link betwe nurse staffing. Inspection reports also show that at least seven residents have wandered away from the SentosaCare affiliated facilities in recent years — including one who The Stewarts said the staff at Avalon Gardens showed "no sense of urgency" when they complained about missed meals, soiled sheets and unanswered call bells. Even thou records and photographs at ProPublica's request, said that the two quarter-sized lesions on his foot when he was admitted to Avalon Gardens could not have "become what i to comment on Stewart's case for reasons of patient privacy. Fensterman defended Avalon Gardens and other SentosaCare facilities, however, saying that when inspectors h them to provide administrative and rehabilitation consulting, regulatory advice and purchasing services. Records show, however, that Landa and Philipson, or family memb health council, as is Landa, who entered the nursing home business in the late 1980s and emerged as one of the sector's biggest players over the next decade. Landa, Philips more than $11.5 million for financial, staffing and other services, and spent nearly $630,000 with Fensterman's law firm. The nation's $137 billion nursing home industry h struggles to provide safe care for many. One-third of Medicare patients suffered preventable harm within a month of being admitted to nursing homes for short-term rehabil year on the state's 627 nursing homes, which collectively care for more than 100,000 residents. The Department of Health is charged with day-to-day oversight of safety, bu violations and low staffing, and several of the company's homes have above-average ratings on Medicare's Nursing Home Compare web site, which rates them with one to state average of 24 violations over the past three years, and three had double that number. SentosaCare's New York Nursing Homes Medicare rates nursing homes on a scal Avalon Gardens Rehabilitation & Health Care Center Smithtown 353 2 1 4 2 Bay Park Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation Bronx 480 2 2 1 5 Brookhaven Nursing and R Rehabilitation and Health Care Center Staten Island 238 4 4 2 2 Grace Plaza Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Great Neck 214 4 4 2 4 Little Neck Care Center Little Neck 1 1 1 4 Pathways Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Niskayuna 112 4 3 4 4 Rockville Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Rockville Centre 66 3 2 4 4 Seagate Rehabilita Care Center Brooklyn 188 1 2 1 2 The Grove at Valhalla Rehabilitation and Nursing Center Valhalla 160 4 4 3 4 The Hamptons Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing South Rehabilitation and Health Care Center Woodmere 336 1 1 3 4 Sources: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services data as of Oct. 1, 2015; Nursing Home Inspect The most New York homes were cited for four or more immediate-jeopardy violations in recent years. By comparison, Avalon Gardens was cited for 10 immediate-jeopardy violation each have been cited for four. Elopements — where residents leave the premises without the knowledge of a home's operators — have been a repeat problem for Avalon an head count, one of the 19 residents, a 55-year-old with dementia named Dennis Buckham, was missing. Buckham wasn't found until four days later, face down on a Brookl procedures, and that the state signed off on an official plan of correction. Two years later, however, a 64-year-old Woodmere resident with schizophrenia left a secure unit 1 later, the woman walked past a security guard and was found in the road. Fensterman said no harm resulted, the home fired the security guard who let the resident slip out, a 2014, according to state inspection reports. The reports also document dozens of cases of delayed treatment at SentosaCare homes. At Woodmere in 2012, staffers failed to chest X-ray or assess his breathing or vital signs. Fensterman said that each SentosaCare home is distinct. "There is no pattern of delayed treatment among facilities," he sai at SentosaCare facilities tried to cover up lapses in care — allegedly lying about elopements or the failure to spot bedsores, for example. After a 2012 investigation by New walking on the highway five hours later. The administrator was sentenced to a $2,500 fine and probation. In June, after another investigation by Schneiderman's office, four Researchers and patient advocates say that insufficient staffing is one of the biggest contributors to poor outcomes for nursing home residents. The issue is important enoug of harm to patients. "Direct bedside nursing home staff is probably the most important factor in nursing home care — end of story," said Dr. Michele Bellantoni, clinical dir report to CMS. Fensterman said CMS' overall staff ratings are not a good measure for comparing homes because they don't reflect the different nursing needs of homes' pat often patients get bedsores or infections. On the other end of the scale is Avalon, with nearly 45 percent more complaints and double the number of complaint-related citatio did not have sufficient nursing staff. Tom Bennett, 60, spent about a month in short-term rehabilitation at Avalon Gardens in 2013. Obesity and a back injury made it impos telling me, you know, we just don't have enough help to take care of everybody," Bennett said. "And you can hear the buzzers going off constantly — meep, meep, meep, n interest of more than 30 percent. In 2013, the home reported paying $1 million to SentosaCare for services and $90,000 to Fensterman's firm. Although New York doesn't n is one reason that the state rarely cites homes for insufficient staffing. Health Department officials, in response to an email asking about the agency's citation rate, also noted past three years. Patient advocates say lack of staff is one of the most common complaints from residents and that state inspectors should be following federal guidance, wh introduced in the New York Legislature for at least a decade, according to the office of Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, D-Manhattan, the health committee chairman. Hos law "just becomes another requirement that's not enforced," he said, "what good is it?" When nursing home ownership changes hands in New York, character-and-compete with. "If some bad actor wanted to buy a new nursing home," said Susan Regan, a lawyer who spent 18 years on council, "we could say no." Except the council seldom say volunteers appointed by the governor — follows the department's recommendations. Although the department's reviews summarize past violations and fines at an applicant But the council doesn't always get a look at the complete record. Thanks to home purchases and shuffling of ownership shares, Landa, Philipson, their family members and violations" a dozen times when there had been multiple citations for the same problems. Since 2011, Woodmere has been cited and fined several times for the same class of federal government also temporarily halted payments for new admissions at Woodmere, a stiff penalty for homes with ongoing problems. None of those actions was noted i department wrote that Woodmere had "no enforcements" or made no mention of the home. In each case, the department recommended approval, and the council voted in fa clients. When SentosaCare's South Point Plaza was part of reviews in 2013 and 2014, the department also said it had "no repeat enforcements," even though the home had b omissions, the department initially said its character-and-competence process includes federal investigations and fines. In a later statement, it said federal fines are not curre department doesn't always flag serious violations if there was no state fine, or if the amount isn't finalized. The state did not settle $18,000 in fines for elopements at Woodr appending copies of its website pages on citations and quality ratings to council review documents. A list of deficiencies and their severity isn't always included. Concernin "identical." Mollot said it was "extremely alarming" that violations and fines might be omitted. In interviews, three former or current council members expressed uncertaint many of her years on the council, Regan chaired the establishment committee, which reviews applications to buy or build facilities. Members would often ask for more deta what, if you're in business to find every opportunity to game the standards, and do the minimum, and give the shoddiest care you can possibly give while still getting out fr information about quality of care, not just violations, especially for dialysis centers. Levin is director of the Center for Medical Consumers and the council's lone representa as part of a regulatory overhaul requested by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Among the proposals was one to give the department and council more discretion to disqualify applicant standard quality record, there should be a presumption of disqualification which may be rebutted in limited circumstances," says the recommendation, which is still on the s 2013. In his short stay at Avalon Gardens, Charlie Stewart remembers waiting for hours for help getting from his bed to the toilet. One time, when no one answered the call Stewart. "It's not nice feeling helpless. And several times in that place, I gotta say, I felt like I was helpless." On multiple occasions, Stewart said, no one brought him dinne starving," he recalls telling his wife. "I felt more could have been done sooner," Jeanne said of her husband's care. "And it just shouldn't have gotten as far as it did." (Alleg about the missed meals and lack of help getting to the bathroom. When a representative finally called back to follow up on her complaint, she told the caller she was sitting

to walk up stairs on his prosthetic leg. Jeanne limits the hours in her job at a grocery store so she can care for her husband. She still finds the episode difficult to talk about. ' Abramo is a freelance writer and photographer living in Seattle. Jennifer Lehman is a writer living in New York City. Source: http://www.propublica.org/article/new-york-f

Senate Bill Would Overhaul Florida's Foster-Care Placements to Child-Centered Approach FlaglerLive | October 27, 2015 Where next? (Rianne van de Kerkhof) A bi that are handy. Sponsored by the Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee, the bill (SPB 7018) would require the use of a process to determine which settings — fro lead agencies to create what's called a continuum of care for foster kids, with options ranging from adoption by close relatives to being placed in therapeutic group homes. I homes in the first place. "Right now, group care is the luck of the draw," said Carole Shauffer, who is with the San Francisco-based Youth Law Center and leads Florida's Q parents) or the group home ejects you." Of teens who leave foster care without families, according to the Children's Home Society of Florida, 33 percent will be homeless v demonstrate that children are recovering from trauma while in their care. That provision was already in the works before news reports alleging that several South Florida gr member of the committee, told The News Service of Florida. "We're not looking to put them out of business. We just want to make sure the good ones do well and the bad Children Are Still Being Medicated Without Proper Oversight Florida's Foster Care System Loosening Up Restrictions While Extending Eligibility to 21 5 Years After 7-ye KidCare Coverage to Children of Legal Immigrants The bill represents a different approach from a group-home measure that Detert proposed for the 2015 session. That me Accountability, which found that roughly 11 percent of Florida children who are removed from their families are placed in group homes rather than with relatives, friends o per month, or $6,324 per year. The report also found that 57 percent of Florida group homes use shift workers, who some children's advocates said are less likely to develop homes as well as community-based care lead agencies. The new bill has received cautious indications of approval from those players, including Shelley Katz, chief operatin beginning with services to support families and maintain children safely in their homes through a variety of out-of-home placements is aligned with the reality that our child week, but as yet has no House companion. "We do see it going in the direction that the department's going, that our secretary is an advocate for," said Janice Thomas, the D –Margie Menzel, News Service of Florida Source: http://flaglerlive.com/86842/foster-care-overhaul/

N**Y agency to protect the disabled rarely brings charges In this Tuesday**, Oct. 27, 2015, photo, the Northeast Parent and Child Society is seen in Schenectady, N.Y. The Press LinkedIn Google+ Pinterest Reddit Print Order Reprint of this Story SCHENECTADY, N.Y. In a video he made with his PlayStation, a 12-year-old developmentally video. One calls the boy "stupid ass," and another warns: "I'm gonna kill a kid and you might be the one I kill. ... You want me to f--- hurt you, boy?" The recording ends wi accountable, investigated and said it substantiated allegations the boy had been physically and psychologically abused. But a judge refused to sign off on charges. In fact, ar Center — established to protect the 1 million disabled, addicted, mentally ill and young people getting state care — has received more than 25,000 allegations of abuse and prosecuted only one. The figures, obtained by the AP from the Justice Center and through Freedom of Information requests, have some critics questioning whether the agen Justice Center but has been disappointed by the way it has turned out. The Justice Center's executive director, Jeff Wise, defended the agency's record. "The Justice Center d short of a criminal offense." For example, inadequately supervising a patient, improperly restraining someone, failing to make sure a person is properly cleaned, or not givir 61 percent for neglect, mostly for improper supervision. Justice Center officials also said that the administrative standard of proof they use to substantiate misconduct allega people on a hiring blacklist because of serious or repeated acts of mistreatment and requiring more than 20,000 corrective actions by state and nonprofit providers. National "These are people that are invisible in the larger world." Experts note that mistreatment allegations can be hard to prove because caretakers are reluctant to testify against ea Massachusetts, the Disabled Persons Protection Commission. "That's one of the challenges — when they report, they're not believed." Nevertheless, the Massachusetts agen attorneys. And she said that prosecuting difficult-to-prove cases can at least put suspected homes and caretakers on notice that they are being watched and let victims know working with district attorneys and others where they really can deliver prosecutions?" The Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs was created in m said at the time. Among the tools at the center's disposal: a statewide hotline and a staff of 429, including investigators and seven prosecutors empowered to bring criminal file. They include a Westchester County mental health counselor charged with raping a client, and four workers from a Long Island group home accused of encouraging two received inadequate oxygen overnight. Tanya Lemon pleaded guilty last year to endangering the welfare of a disabled person, lost her nursing license and was sentenced to finding that just one person was charged in connection with a death. "Isn't it suspicious?" Carey asked. "Where are the other negligent deaths if this Justice Center was actua lawsuit brought by the mother that contends he was assaulted repeatedly over five days by the staff. In one instance, he was choked with the power cord to the very game he and/or striking him on his face, which resulted in a swollen and/or bruised eye." The center didn't conclude the boy was throttled with the electrical cord, but did find that a warrant in the case, alleging endangerment of an incompetent person. City Court Judge Robert Hoffman declined to sign either one, the second accompanied by the video, f protect the identity of her underage son, is seeking unspecified damages on behalf of the boy, who she said has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and autism. Her attorney. The mother said the boy, identified in court papers only as R.W., has been moved to another facility and hasn't been the same since the beatings. Once active and playful, he White, spokesman for Northern Rivers Family Service, which runs the home, said the allegations are "undoubtedly disturbing," don't reflect the nonprofit organization's cul

Teen program dismantled Phoenix House moves some services to Rhode Island uCZ8QDXhaHEp3rvzXRJFdy0KqPHLoMevcTLo3h8xh70Y6N_U_CryOsw6FTOdKL_j %26amp%3BCONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26cachebust%3D10302013&notes=http%3A/www.ledgertranscript.com/csp/mediapool/sites/dt.common.streams.StreamS %26CONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26CONTENTDISPOSITION%3DduPhoenixHouse-ml-102915_004.jpg%26cachebust%3D10302013"> Purchase photo reprints at uCZ8QDXhaHEp3rvzXRJFdy0KqPHLoMevcTLo3h8xh70Y6N_U_CryOsw6FTOdKL_jpQ- %26amp%3BCONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26cachebust%3D10302013&notes=http%3A/www.ledgertranscript.com/csp/mediapool/sites/dt.common.streams.StreamS %26CONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26CONTENTDISPOSITION%3DduPhoenixHouse-ml-102915_003.jpg%26cachebust%3D10302013"> Purchase photo reprints at uCZ8QDXhaHEp3rvzXRJFdy0KqPHLoMevcTLo3h8xh70Y6N_U_CryOsw6FTOdKL_jpQ- %26amp%3BCONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26cachebust%3D10302013&notes=http%3A/www.ledgertranscript.com/csp/mediapool/sites/dt.common.streams.StreamS %26CONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26CONTENTDISPOSITION%3DduPhoenixHouse-ml-102915_005.jpg%26cachebust%3D10302013"> Purchase photo reprints at uCZ8QDXhaHEp3rvzXRJFdy0KqPHLoMevcTLo3h8xh70Y6N_U_CryOsw6FTOdKL_jpQ- %26amp%3BCONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26cachebust%3D10302013&notes=http%3A/www.ledgertranscript.com/csp/mediapool/sites/dt.common.streams.StreamS %26CONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26CONTENTDISPOSITION%3DduPhoenixHouse-ml-102915_007.jpg%26cachebust%3D10302013"> Purchase photo reprints at uCZ8QDXhaHEp3rvzXRJFdy0KqPHLoMevcTLo3h8xh70Y6N_U_CryOsw6FTOdKL_jpQ- %26amp%3BCONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26cachebust%3D10302013&notes=http%3A/www.ledgertranscript.com/csp/mediapool/sites/dt.common.streams.StreamS %26CONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26CONTENTDISPOSITION%3DduPhoenixHouse-ml-102915_010.jpg%26cachebust%3D10302013"> Purchase photo reprints at uCZ8QDXhaHEp3rvzXRJFdy0KqPHLoMevcTLo3h8xh70Y6N_U_CryOsw6FTOdKL_jpQ- %26amp%3BCONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26cachebust%3D10302013&notes=http%3A/www.ledgertranscript.com/csp/mediapool/sites/dt.common.streams.StreamS -%26CONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26CONTENTDISPOSITION%3DduPhoenixHouse-ml-102915_011.jpg%26cachebust%3D10302013"> Purchase photo reprints a uCZ8QDXhaHEp3rvzXRJFdy0KqPHLoMevcTLo3h8xh70Y6N_U_CryOsw6FTOdKL_jpQ- %26amp%3BCONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26cachebust%3D10302013&notes=http%3A/www.ledgertranscript.com/csp/mediapool/sites/dt.common.streams.StreamS %26CONTENTTYPE%3Dimage/jpeg%26CONTENTDISPOSITION%3DduPhoenixHouse-ml-102915_012.jpg%26cachebust%3D10302013"> Purchase photo reprints at More Sharing Services 8 The Phoenix House Academy in Dublin, the sole state residential treatment center for adolescent substance abuse, is closing its Dublin program. T on the campus of the Phoenix House in Dublin, which serves residents aged 18 to 25 in a separate 32-bed facility. After Nov. 9, the 12 adolescent beds will be made availab oversees the Academy in Dublin, an adult residential program on the same campus in Dublin, an outpatient treatment center in Keene and a sober living home in Northfield. are 24 state-certified psychiatric residential treatment centers for youth that offer substance abuse programs, said Eileen Mullen, an administrator at the Division of Childrer in part, on a dwindling number of referrals from the state. While DCYF can use up to 6 of the 12 beds at the Phoenix House for adolescents it refers, DCYF is filling only o patients. "We are still invested in delivering services. We just have to find the right combination of services to meet [adolescent] needs and also have responsible business m John Wozmak, otherwise known as the state's Drug Czar, said Wednesday that this is the "right move." "We don't have adolescents on waiting lists. We do have adults on w most current research suggests structured, intensive outpatient programs are more beneficial than a 30-day residential program. Polly Morris, formerly of Monadnock Voice Monadnock Drug Abuse and Alcohol Prevention wasn't sure. "We're already in a very dark light," said Drew, about New Hampshire and its substance abuse problem. "It's Phoenix House staff. "Not a lot of parents want to send their kids to Rhode Island." Source: http://www.ledgertranscript.com/news/19204559-95/teen-program-dismantled#

Man claims family member locked out of Alief group home in rain Small Text Medium Text Large Text Print Man claims family member locked out of Alief group hom overnight in the rain in her hospital gown," Michael Little said. Michael Little's sister, 51-year-old Quenta Little, is schizophrenic and had been living at Angel Personal Car out in the rain," Michael Little said. The house manager told Channel 2 that's not what happened. "She gets in that state of mind you can't hold her, she'll break out of doors, said his sister has never wandered away before. He's just grateful to the officer who found her. "I really think you saved her life, I appreciate that," Michael Little said. He h family-member-locked-out-of-alief-group-home-in-rain/36109518

Document: **Youth jail guard sexually abused teen inmate** 12 News, Phoenix 8:57 a.m. MST October 29, 2015 Patrice Dawson's initial appearance at Maricopa County co Dawson was fired after allegations of "sexual misconduct." An arrest report says the victim is a male inmate over the age of 15. Dawson was booked on suspicion of sexual http://www.12news.com/story/news/local/valley/2015/10/29/document-youth-jail-guard-sexually-abused-teen-inmate/74798170/

New victims come forward after operator of boys home arrested Man arrested on multiple child molestation charges Posted:Oct 30 2015 02:20AM PDT Updated:Oct 3(Richmond Wednesday on multiple charges of child molestation. According to authorities, he molested at least three victims on several different occasions. On Friday, police the 2015 Fortune 500 CEO survey are in…Fortune.com Undo Dugar is a known sex offender who is registered on the Mega's Law website. On Friday, Richmond police we in Richmond One day after KTVU reported a convicted sex offender was operating a group home for teenage boys, more alleged victims have come forward. Dugar also w an official with the West Contra Costa School District, Dugar was allowed to be on campus to oversee students that he was listed as a guardian. Dugar was on campus for at believed to be under 18 years of age and committing lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14 years of age. Richmond Police say Dugar was convicted in 2009 and serv The Remember Us Peoples Project for. On Friday, the non-profit group, Prisoner Reentry Network, listed TRUPP has one of its projects on its website, but the link had bee seriously right now, because we don't know how he's able to operate," said Stonebreaker. Related Stories Reported Lyft kidnapping a 'misunderstanding' Halloween at Lucil contact Dugar at the address listed on the Megan's Law Registry.The person inside the home shut the door. The area where Dugar lives is less than a 30 second walk to an el you're a registered sex offender you do have to register once a year on your birthday within five days of your birthday. That's all you have to do at this point," said Stonebrea they want to hear from them. Source: http://www.ktvu.com/news/41093783-story

FOX10 News Investigates: Part 3: Saving Youth Foundation Posted: Oct 30, 2015 2:26 PM PDT Updated: Oct 30, 2015 2:29 PM PDT By Renee Dials, FOX10 News A abuse. MOBILE, AL (WALA) - FOX10 News continues our investigation into a teen residential facility and its owners now accused of abuse. The allegations that led to the MOREAdditional LinksPoll The recent indictments and arrests of three people in Mobile charged with abuse at a church run residential facility for troubled teens is being f down by the FBI in 1991," Hobbs said. Hobbs calls institutional abuse a nationwide problem. "They're not qualified nor trained, don't have a degree, nor license to use this l allegations of abuse. Not everyone believes the charges. "All of this will soon blow over, and I believe that God already has it worked out," Marquis Jacobs said. But, some me in the head," William Vargas said "I witnessed a boy being beaten by William," another teen said. Former Prichard Police Captain Charles Kennedy said he's been tryin ax to grind against boot camps, church run operations, or church run residential schools if they are run under supervision. If we know who is there, who is operating it?" L educated staff, it would require them to have a therapist, a licensed therapist present," Hobbs said. But, Alabama Congressman Bradley Byrne doesn't believe it's an issue fo don't know that this is an area where the federal government should get involved," Byrne said. Byrne said similar legislation has failed in the past. When SYF was shut do allegations but if it's true and charges were brought against him, he would go to jail," Young said. Young, Knott and Aleshia Moffett are all now charged with aggravated ab

Foster father is accused of molesting children in his care | Local - Home Foster father is accused of molesting children in his care Small Text Medium Text Large Text Pr statutory rape, two counts of first-degree statutory sodomy, and first-degree child molestation; the first charges involve a child under age 12 and the fourth one involves a ch in prison for fatal drunken crash Waynesville woman wins $250K on new Missouri Lottery game In asking a judge for a $75,000 bond, prosecutors wrote this: "Multiple ch removed from the defendant's care in 2013, the defendant is reported to have driven by their new residence on multiple occasions. Based on this behavior, it is a concern tha allegations surfaced that Clark had abused children who were, at the time, approximately ages 14, 12, 9, 5, and 7. The children lived with Clark and his wife from April 201 no admissions made." On Aug. 27 of this year, Greene County sheriff's deputies went to the home where the children now live, after being adopted. The deputies heard "al probable cause statement. The children were interviewed again at the Child Advocacy Center on Sept. 16 of this year. One girl, now 7, "discussed Harry locking her in the g a dream, but it wasn't happening.' (She) said Harry also used rope to tie around her legs and body while she was seated in a wooden chair. She then said Harry would kiss h Harry called her into his room to check and make sure her bra fit properly. (She) stated Harry grabbed the collar of her shirt and placed a hand down the shirt, touching her b her by Harry in a closet there. After entering the home, Harry would abuse (her) throughout the course of her time inside the Clark residence. (She) disclosed Harry taking not keep up with him or whatever." (She) described other times when it would occur in the kitchen or living room area if no one was home," the probable cause statement sa abuse occurred to her between the ages of 7 and 9. On Thursday, a detective talked to Clark after police executed a search warrant at his home. "During the interview, Harr and statutory rape, and between five and 15 years for child molestation. He was in the Greene County jail on Friday afternoon. Online court records do not list a defense at

Foster parents sue for subsidies Associated Press INDIANAPOLIS – The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana has filed a lawsuit on behalf of two foster parents aga grandsons, the Indianapolis Star reported. The couple claim the state agency violated federal law by calculating the adoption subsidy without considering "circumstances of they can't pay for services needed. Medicaid covers the boys' medical needs. Their grandparents receive $145.72 per day as licensed foster parents to help offset the boys' e care for the children" at that amount, according to the lawsuit. The lawsuit seeks to have a judge force the department to negotiate. "We're not trying to get rich," David Art

Mother of Severely Abused Toddler Speaks Out, Says She Warned Foster Agency | NBC Bay Area Mother of Severely Abused Toddler Speaks Out, Says She Warned F supervised visits. By Vicky Nguyen, Michael Bott and Mark Villareal View Comments (1) | Email | Print Mother of Severely Abused Toddler Speaks... Link Embed Email (foster care. She says she took over 100 photos documenting the girl's wounds during supervised visits, but says she was ignored when she tried to show them to social work unthinkable abuse suffered by her 4-year-old daughter while she was in foster care. The woman, whom we are identifying as "Ana" to protect her daughter's identity, has fil what may be a much larger series of problems within the DSS regarding how the agency responds to abuse reports, which were highlighted in a county audit from 2013 and report the ongoing abuse of her daughter. Court records show others tried to sound the alarm, including the child's preschool teacher. "I wish somebody [did] something and 2013 audit issued by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, there were likely many other cries for help that went unanswered during that same period. The audit fou percent, high turnover at the department and rising caseloads for social workers continue to be an issue. That means slower response times and less one-on-one time betwee returned voicemails, Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese says he's not satisfied. Cortese was the chair of the county committee that ordered the 2013 audit of DSS. Children CASA associate and legal director Phil Ladew explains how you can volunteer to be a "Court Appointed Special Advocate" and make a difference for foster childr advocate programs in the state. But Ladew also grew up in the foster system, a personal history that drove him to devote his career to improving outcomes for the state's mo when children don't see the same social worker on a consistent basis, Ladew says spotting patterns of abuse becomes even harder. "If you have a high caseload it can be ver social workers and caseloads are high. InvestigativeNear Death of Foster Child Sheds Light on Flawed System "The caseload has been in the low-to-mid-20s, but through t effective." Menicocci said recent studies have shown that a caseload in the 15-to-20 range is ideal. Menicocci and other social workers named in the lawsuit declined intervi addition to the issues with the child abuse hotline, the civil grand jury report found that surrounding counties had more robust systems in place to respond to voicemails left the call. In comparison, the Grand Jury was told by both Alameda and San Mateo County three or four attempts are made to return voicemails." Ana says social services sh until it was almost too late. "The first time I talked to the social worker and tried to explain to her and tried to show her the picture, she [didn't] want to see it, she [didn't] w potentially send her to prison for life. Others in the home are charged with felony child abuse for allegedly being complicit. Near Death of Foster Child Sheds Light on Flaw recorded numerous complaints about the injuries from caregivers, relatives and teachers before taking action. Investigative Reporter Vicky Nguyen reports in a story that fir know there's evil in the world," Ladew said. "People are going to abuse children. But once we know about it as a society, once we discover it, once we receive a phone call, the civil case against the county. He says agencies like the Department of Social Services are supposed to provide a safety net for the vulnerable. In this case, he says the saf fails, it's devastating to everybody. It's devastating to society in general." We Investigate: More from NBC Bay Area's Investigative Unit As for Ana's daughter, she's recove behavior, without exposing this type of failure, the law doesn't change and neither does the procedure," Mezzetti said. Cortese said DSS leaders are expected to detail progre Severely-Abused-Toddler-Speaks-Out-Says-She-Warned-Foster-Agency-338989182.html

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Convictions Of Two Former Group Home Workers For Endangering The Welfare Of Developmentally Disabled Residents Of A S Developmentally Disabled, From Abusive Caregivers HAUPPAUGE – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced today that James P. Brown, Jr., a former Direct S is a group home for developmentally disabled adults in Melville, NY. In a separate prosecution arising out of Melville Estates, Allexy Chambers admitted that in February 2 removed from the state payroll and are awaiting sentence. "These acts of abuse by health care workers on the disabled and other vulnerable members of our society will not for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs for their assistance in conduct William Condon in Suffolk County Court in Riverhead. Chambers, 21, of Brentwood, pled guilty to Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Pers are being prosecuted by Special Assistant Attorney General Lara Merchan of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) Hauppauge Regional Office. Jane Zwirn-Turkin is t Kelly Donovan. Source: http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-convictions-two-former-group-home-workers-endangering

Racialized and Gendered Violence Permeates School Discipline Monday, 02 November 2015 00:00 By Connie Wun, The Feminist Wire | News Analysis font size decrea experiences with the educational system to the nineteenth-century prohibitions against slaves learning how to read and write. In the words of Douglass, if he [the enslaved] l resides in the heart of the white man." She placed these teachers and her life at one end of the continuum and Douglass' on the other. A century after Douglass, instead of be worksheets, poor classroom management, and frustrated students suffering from either boredom or confusion. For white teachers to be able to be in a position of power to d misbehave because they don't understand, and (sic.) ashamed to ask for help.[1] In this essay, she executed an impassioned and brave indictment of her white teachers for de received two different responses to her essay. The Frederick Douglass Foundation, a conservative organization, awarded Williams their first Spirit of Freedom award. By co today. Almost immediately, the staff labeled Williams a "problem" and "angry." She received D's, although prior to the essay she had consistently earned A's. She received d been exceptionally poignant and candid, her experience with school discipline is not anomalous. Disciplining Violence Throughout the United States, students of color, part bringing guns or weapons to school. Today, students are increasingly being suspended for behavioral "problems" such as truancy and disobedience. These experiences of be

discipline data. Their numbers mirror the disparities in incarceration rates. Scholars and activists have examined prisons as violent institutions. For instance and most recent more activists, scholars, and researchers are examining the problem of racial disparities in school discipline numbers. The federal government has begun to intervene in sch these programs provide conflict resolution training, life skills development, and counseling services to marginalized youths. Other strategies include restorative justice prog jobs skills development. The logic behind these violence prevention strategies, it seems, is that if children of color learn how to manage their behavior and feelings better, it and temper a kind of rage that is actually necessary to incite political resistance. Under a neoliberal context, which favors criminalization and incarceration over social welfa problem. Under traditional school discipline policies, most students get into trouble for nonviolent behaviors and as a result of racial biases.[4] Most of the efforts and even economic contexts that may propel children to act out or the racial/gendered phobic impulse to characterize the child as a problem and then legitimize punishing her, the chi examine racial and gendered violence as dimensions of the policies. By focusing the gaze toward students, other forms of violence are obfuscated including the violence sar policies, even when reformed, do not generally highlight police as instruments of violence.[5] Discipline policies that target sexual harassment have not examined the explic guard accused [her] of having a knife…They took [her] to a room and made [her] take off [her] shirt and pants to check [her] bra. They didn't call [her] parents or let [her] ta from some of their teachers and other faculty. Put differently, as we focus on the problem of the student something disappears from our framework: In a society that is shape includes this function. Whether the teachers and other staff consciously or unconsciously know or actually do it, they are authorized to perform this duty. In other words, alt context where their lives simply do not matter. Little credit is given to the child who is trying to understand and navigate through this reality. Instead, when a child finds the disciplined, and punished, their various experiences with violence often fail to qualify as "violence." Instead, sometimes the violence they experience simply does not matte the layers of violence to which girls of color are subject, [8] especially those who are labeled defiant or problematic, are unintelligible and negligible. Many of the young gi hyper-surveillance, and mass incarceration; they include sexual assaults and murders by community members, partners, and strangers.[9][10] There is also the violence of th wrong. Some young women of color, particularly Black girls, are rendered intolerable because they are imagined to embody the set of morals, ethics, and needs that threaten its institutions, and good people. At the same time as she extracts resources from society, she is ungrateful for its generosity. Other times, she is too private, foreign, alienati complexities of her existence and needs. Little or no attention is paid to her life, what it means or entails. Generally speaking, discipline policies and violence prevention ref away from a society that sanctions and performs racial and gendered violence. Society and its schools compulsively organize around containing, disciplining, and reforming policies. However, because her story is not anomalous and mirrors a historical and structural condition, the discipline policies and the efforts to reform them have to be cont harass, and punish those it deems a problem. In order to address the problems with school discipline policies and their effects, perhaps we should start with examining the ra student population, they are 37 percent of the students who are penalized by suspensions and 43 percent of the students expelled (Department of Education, Office of Civil R prison nation. New York: New York University Press. [4] Ferguson, Meiners [5] In Oakland, Raheim Brown, a 20 year-old Black male was shot and killed by an Oakland U cis and trans gendered females of color. I currently use "woman of color" even though I am working examining the politics of "women of color." I believe that a more nuanc prohibited. [9] http://articles.cnn.com/2010-07-07/justice/grim.sleeper.arrest_1_lonnie-david-franklin-serial-killer-case-family-members?_s=PM:CRIME [10] http://www.ip

Mental Health Bill Caters to Big Pharma and Would Expand Coercive Treatments Friday, 06 November 2015 00:00 By Oryx Cohen, Truthout | Op-Ed font size decrea Committee headquarters in Washington, October 23, 2013. (Gabriella Demczuk / The New York Times) On its surface, the mental health reform bill introduced by Congress inspection, however, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act (HR 2646) - commonly known as the "Murphy Bill" - appears to cater more closely to the desires of hospitals and the National Rifle Association, and his campaign contributors include no less than nine pharmaceutical companies and a law firm that represents Big Pharma. Energy and Commerce Committee to vote on moving the bill forward, followed by the House vote. A timetable has not yet been set. Although the bill is gaining momentum One way the bill will do this is by creating a financial incentive for states that implement "assisted outpatient treatment": court-ordered treatment (including medication) for Mental Diseases exclusion," which currently makes mental health institutions ineligible for funding through Medicaid. By enabling psychiatric hospitals to access this fundi to be in the least restrictive setting possible. If passed, the Murphy Bill will lead to large-scale re-institutionalization in hospitals for longer periods of time for people who n psychiatric interventions have worked so hard for over the last 40-plus years to create for those most in need. In particular, the bill would dismantle the federal Substance Al peer-run respites (short-term crisis centers managed by people living with mental health concerns and available to "self-referred" individuals seeking to avoid hospitalizatio crisis), Wellness Recovery Action Planning and much more, all of which would suffer if SAMHSA were dismantled. The bill would also threaten people's rights by weaken supporters criticize opponents of the bill for being "against families." They fail to acknowledge that families are not united in support of this bill. While the national headqua interventions are frequently approached by desperate family members who are looking for alternatives to coercive and institutional responses to mental health crises. We are Coalition for Mental Health Recovery because her son Nick was trapped in the mental health system. Currently, he is in the Arizona State Hospital. "Nick has been placed i forced into these situations when these homes are not an environment for healing. No wonder so many people with emotional and mental distress commit suicide: They feel Network has begun visiting with him and providing peer support, as they are both voice hearers. He is doing so much better that the doctors at Arizona State Hospital are tal life; it is the family and community support they have once they leave the hospital. Murphy Bill proponents point to a lack of institutionally or medically directed mental he health conditions and violence is minuscule, as many studies have shown. Mentalhealth.gov, a website run by the federal government, says: The vast majority of people wit people with severe mental illnesses are over 10 times more likely to be victims of violent crime than the general population…. When economist Richard Florida took a look control laws have fewer gun-related deaths. We should probably be doing more questioning of the treatments themselves. For example, many antidepressant medications, su mental health screenings and forced treatments (including psychiatric medication) on unwilling individuals is neither an ethical nor an effective way to accomplish this, esp Thus far, the many activists who share the concerns I have outlined here have been denied a seat at the table in congressional discussions of the Murphy bill, despite the rec survivors of extreme emotional distress say if we were at the table with Congressman Murphy? Many of us would say that our mental health crises occur when we feel alon dependence on the system itself. Let's take Dan, who as an adolescent contemplated shooting up his middle school. It wasn't medication or therapy that prevented this terrib of a mental health screening? He likely would have been removed from his social circles and placed in an institution, perhaps becoming permanently dependent on the syste The Recovery Learning Community helps people to establish much-needed social connections and gain a sense of belonging. This community is there when Dan needs it, a not separate from it. But if the Murphy Bill passes, places like this might cease to exist. By requiring expensive clinical oversight and unprecedented congressional control to local peer-run organizations such as the Recovery Learning Community. Critics dismiss many opponents of the Murphy bill as being "anti-medication," but in fact many suicide and the alarming fact that people in the public mental health system die an average of 25 years younger than the rest of the population, shouldn't researching and sup out.org/opinion/item/33557-mental-health-bill-caters-to-big-pharma-and-would-expand-coercive-treatments

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Convictions Of Two Former Group Home Workers For Endangering The Welfare Of Developmentally Disabled Residents Of A St Jr., a former Direct Service Assistant at the state run group home Melville Estates in Melville, was found guilty of violently punching a 53 year-old, severely impaired, intel admitted that in February 2014 while he was employed as a Direct Service Assistant at Melville Estates, he punched a 56 year-old, profoundly intellectually disabled adult i of our society will not be tolerated," said Attorney General Schneiderman. "My office will continue to aggressively pursue and prosecute those individuals who prey upon o their assistance in conducting the investigations. Brown, 33, of Farmingdale, was convicted of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in Physically Disabled Person in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor. The case was investigated by Special Investigator Stephen Clarke and Special Investigator Greg S Office. Jane Zwirn-Turkin is the Regional Director of the Hauppauge Regional Office. MFCU is led by Acting Director Amy Held and Assistant Deputy Attorney General F home-workers-for-endangering-the-welfare-of-developmentally-disabled-residents-of-a-state-run-group-home/

Family searches for cause of daughter's death in group home | www.wftv.com Family searches for cause of daughter's death in group home 1 5 2 19 ORANGE COUNT suspicious, so there was never an official autopsy. But her family called Channel 9's Jeff Deal when the family's own doctor found some things it said raised serious questi grappling with," family attorney Zachary West said. Kencia had cerebral palsy and in 2012 was moved into a group home in Sorrento operated by Betty's Home & H the case. The death certificate indicates she died of natural causes: cardiac arrest related to her cerebral palsy. But the family, still looking for answers, hired a private fore "This is an attempt by the family to try to harm this wonderful, wonderful company," group home attorney Lisa Augspurger said. Augspurger said she believes there's no in Kencia's death. The Lake County Sheriff's Department said there is not yet a criminal case; it is considered an open death investigation. Augspurger said the group hom

Group home for teens has lease terminated after not paying rent Posted: Nov 06, 2015 3:47 PM PST Updated: Nov 06, 2015 4:00 PM PST By Adam Murphy Email Co after not paying rent. MOREAdditional LinksPoll Residents complain after police called to halfway house 28 times in 6 months Neighbors are complaining that lax supervi times in the last six months for various types of disorderly conduct. Dylan Goldman installed security cameras around his home after the nearby halfway house moved to hi and even a call about an assault. Neighbors have become accustomed to seeing the police. "Oh, it's regularly, it's all the time," said Goldman. "I would say at least once a we incident in reference to teens shooting at people with BB guns. CBS46 went to the halfway house in search of an explanation. There was only one supervisor on site and she 2015 WGCL-TV (Meredith Corporation). All rights reserved. Continue reading >> Police were called to the group home in Tucker 28 times in six months for disorderly co terminated the lease on Oct. 29 because management failed to maintain and pay for utilities and defaulted their payment agreement by not paying nearly $10,000 in rent. "W learning about all the police calls to the group home from our report, which aired after the group home's lease was terminated. "I apologize to the neighborhood for this happ said, "Not at all. The first time I ever heard it was from you." "If you said three times this happened, I would say, Okay, that's a real problem," said Walker. "But 28 is compl

in reference to teens shooting at people with BB guns. "We have not heard anything about any source of disruption in the neighborhood, which would have been a violation assured rent has not been paid and the lease has been terminated. Read more: http://www.cbs46.com/story/30459120/group-home-for-teens-has-lease-terminated-after-not-p

So many children in foster care seeking stability and permanence Placement with relatives not always an option Finding adoptive homes is a challenge Help by adoptin child deserves a loving and enriching home environment. Every child deserves joy and the opportunity to grow up happy and healthy. In some homes, however, childhood e child. To help ease the distress of separation, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services looks for relatives to care for children rather than placing the child in children in foster care, the term emergency aptly describes their reality. During a recent trip to Corpus Christi, I was blessed with the chance to visit The Ark, an emergency year-old girl immediately ran up to me and asked, “Can I have a hug?” It warmed my heart to wrap my arms around her and give her a loving embrace. Another child ran up comprehend, they were open-hearted and eager to experience the kindness of a hug, even from a stranger. I remain inspired by their resilience and ability to connect with oth state foster care system? Far too many children grow up in foster care in Texas without ever obtaining stability and permanence in their home lives. What if you and your co adults who have aged out of foster care long to be adopted or to connect with relatives — to find a forever family. Every November, our nation celebrates Adoption Awarene course for that child. This November, let us be mindful of the extraordinary opportunity we each have to change a child’s life for the better. And let us greet that opportunity achieve a brighter future for children in need. The Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has more information. Justice Eva M. Guzman

My Turn: Arizona foster care is still broken Fred Klein, AZ I See It 3:06 p.m. MST November 6, 2015 My Turn: We've decided that foster care is a law-enforcement mat Board, one of more than 50 in Maricopa County. The boards’ charge is to advise the juvenile courts that oversee the foster-care system, mainly to ensure that cases move tov managers and, sometimes, the kids themselves. They give us a look into Arizona’s foster care system most citizens lack. My take-away from this exposure is anything but ei overburdened system. AZCENTRAL My Turn: DCS is just rearranging deck chairs for kids The brunt of responsibility for DCS functioning still falls on the case managers, with the (sometimes many) adults involved in each case, sit through court appearances that sometimes drag on for hours because of delays and lawyer wrangling over sched addiction is the main cause of child removal in Arizona, and the families involved almost always are poor. Babies who are born drug addicted commonly have continuing m are suddenly removed by death or incarceration must stand in line to get the counseling they need to help cope with their losses. Extra educational services such as tutoring homes we’ve increasingly seen children as young as 7 being placed in dormitory-style group homes with scant parental oversight. Problems are greatly exacerbated when th reunification or adoption often fall by the wayside while this process plays out. AZCENTRAL Suit details kids' troubled time in foster care Foster care typically gets public system that was (and still is) swamped by a burgeoning case load triggered by the Great Recession. In early 2014 Gov. Jan Brewer changed the agency’s name from Child P Phoenix police officer. Abruptly changing agency heads rarely is a good idea, and whatever his other qualifications, McKay’s appointment signaled mainly that the new gov can’t be solved anytime soon. That’s especially true in a state that isn’t known for generously financing social services. Gov. Brewer’s reorganization reportedly involved th immediately, as would beefing up the other services foster care needs to succeed. Fred Klein is a freelance writer who has lived in Scottsdale the last 18 years and has been

DSS screens out child abuse reports that don’t merit investigation Lauren Sausser Email @laurenmsausser Nov 7 2015 7:00 pm × The South Carolina social services ag series, go to postandcourier.com/group-homes. Some reports were sent to law enforcement agencies for investigation. Others were “screened out” because they failed to me more specific information about 994 abuse and neglect reports that were not investigated. She did not know how many abuse allegations were handled by police or simply c statement that DSS receives allegations on a wide range of issues, “a number of which do not rise to the level of abuse or neglect, even if all of the allegations were true.” Fe year data, published on the agency’s website, resembles data from previous years. During the 2014 fiscal year, the department received 1,055 out-of-home abuse or neglect psychiatric institutions for children. Investigators rarely found enough evidence to support the claims, their numbers show. For example, the agency opened 104 investigatio cases of abuse or neglect in foster homes. The agency provided the names of group homes and institutions where it opened investigations last year. But DSS would not disc the public to know where children have been abused or neglected. Meanwhile, South Carolina sends its youngest foster children into group homes and institutions at a highe cannot evaluate where children are kept safe. The newspaper’s series reported that child welfare experts have expressed long-running concerns that the embattled social serv DSS Oversight Committee. “They don’t have enough people to follow up on all those complaints. They’ve requested more staff. We’ve given them the money to hire more that the agency discards reports alleging child-on-child sexual abuse inside group homes and foster homes. “It’s not investigated ... because it’s not an adult that’s harmed a on-child sexual abuse. “If we receive a report of sexual abuse that is child-on-child sexual abuse, we don’t necessarily screen those out,” said Davis, the deputy DSS directo against DSS in Richland County. The man, a former foster child named K.C. in court records, alleges the agency failed to protect him from sexual abuse in various group hc homes with his sister and other children even though his caseworkers knew that they engaged in sexual activity with each other. They should have been separated and treate should have gotten the treatment and isolation that he needed, so he wouldn’t have ended up in the DJJ system,” Butcher said. “That’s the problem. We’re socializing peopl http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151107/PC16/151109476/1177/dss-screens-out-child-abuse-reports-that-don-x2019-t-merit-investigation

Terrorizing Students: The Criminalization of Children in the US Police State Wednesday, 11 November 2015 00:00 By Henry A. Giroux, Truthout | Op-Ed font size de Twentieth Century is the problem of color line."[1] For Du Bois, racism was one of the most pressing problems of the time and could not be understood outside of the gross ideology and attitude of racist hostility would later mutate in the new millennium into a raw display of police brutality and state terrorism, camouflaged under the guise of a wither under the weight of neoliberal capitalism and "post-racial" racism. Giving way to the poisonous logics of self-interest, privatization and the unfettered drive for wealt titillates the multitudes and moves markets. A free-market mentality now drives and corrupts politics, destroys social protections, celebrates a hyper-competitiveness and de of disdain. [3] Consequently, under such circumstances, governing principles such as equality, justice and fairness begin to disappear from the discourse of politics. As polit people. [4] One consequence is a vast and growing landscape of human suffering, amplified by a mass-mediated metaphysics of retribution and violence that more and mor dissolving the bonds of sociality and undermining social obligations. One outcome is the proliferation of neglect, exploitation and suffering among diverse populations, incl and culture of cruelty forces people out of Medicaid, pushes millions into poverty and eliminates social protections. [6] Alain Badiou rightly calls those who run our current Abolish all aid for everyone except the banks. Don't look after the poor; let the elderly die. Reduce the wages of the poor, but reduce the taxes on the rich. Make everyone w institutions such as schools, prisons, detention centers, and our major economic, cultural and social institutions are being organized around the production of violence. Rath dominates popular culture and increasingly is used to criminalize a wide range of social behaviors, especially among Black people. [9] The punishment "creep" that has mo color, terrorize immigrants, wage a war on minority youth and menace individuals and groups considered disposable or a threat. Not only does such violence destroy the co ultimate force propagating what might be called punishment creep. The punishment "creep" that has moved from prisons to other public spheres now has a firm grip on both for putting their children in school, for acting the way children act, and even for having children who are killed by other people. We are punished, in short, because we still slavery and a persistent racism that extends from the horror of lynchings and chain gangs to current patterns of mass incarceration, which subject many Black youth to the s actively or passively, to complicity in everything from police shootings to real estate redline, which crowds blacks into substandard housing in dangerous neighborhoods ... racist individuals - is difficult to abstract from an expression of white supremacy, which functions as an index for demanding "the full privileges of the state." [12] Police vi what seems like a torrent of video footage showing unarmed Black people being assaulted by the police. For instance, there is the shocking video of Walter Scott being shot police officer, was put in a police van and purposely given a jarring ride that resulted in his death; and the unbearable shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice for playing with a crimes have attracted national attention, the "use of force by cops in schools … has drawn far less attention [in spite of the fact that] over the past five years at least 28 stude disciplinary problems to the police, there is a proliferation of cops in schools. There are over 17,000 school resource officers in more than half of the schools in the United S accompanying surge of police officers are driven by the fear of school shootings, particularly in the aftermath of the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999 and the massa refuse to acknowledge is that the presence of the police in schools has done nothing to stop such mass shootings. While the fear of school shootings are overestimated, the f "remains in a state of permanent, endless war," a war that is waged through militarized policies at home and abroad. [16] Following Stanley Aronowitz, I think it is fair to a includes, although it is not necessarily associated with, incarceration." [17] Violence against young people in schools is a troubling index of the loss of faith in young people into criminal violations has often resulted in absurd, if not tragic results. What has become clear is that cops in schools have not made schools safer. Erik Eckholm, reporting children for misbehavior that many believe is better handled in the principal's office." [19] In Texas, police officers have written "more than 100,000 misdemeanor tickets ea criminal violations has often resulted in absurd if not tragic results. For instance, in 2009, in Richardson, Texas "A 14-year old boy with Asperger's syndrome was given a $ had "passed gas." [22] Similarly, a number of civil rights groups have reported that the presence of police in schools often "means more suspensions, which disproportionate "police-driven policies have not made schools more secure. But they do make children more likely to drop out and become entangled with the justice system. And they disp severe disabilities that made it difficult for them to follow classroom instructions, were handcuffed by a deputy sheriff for misbehaving. One child was writhing and crying is that schools in general have become combat zones where it is routine for many students to be subjected to metal detectors, surveillance cameras, uniformed security guard race, class and disabilities - rather than educate them. For the many disadvantaged students being funnelled into the "school-to-prison pipeline," schools ensure that their fut maintain policies that fuel this expanding edifice of law enforcement against the young and disenfranchised. Underlying the repeated decisions to turn away from helping yo criminalized and arrested through a form of penal pedagogy in prison-type schools provides a grave reminder of the degree to which the ethos of containment and punishme arrested for behavior that used to be solved through a trip to the principal's office or the intervention of a counselor. In Florida, a 14-year-old was arrested and charged for th fight. [28] How many more images of young schoolchildren in handcuffs do we have to witness before it becomes clear that the educational system is broken? Schools are lesson that young people are learning about themselves is that they can't engage in critical thinking, be trusted, rely on the informed judgments of teachers and administrator

virtue and punishment the reward for not conforming to what amounts to the dictates of a police state. How many more images of young schoolchildren in handcuffs do we Advancement Project, schools have become increasingly intolerant of young people, imposing draconian zero tolerance policies on them by furthering a culture steeped in c violence to which they are often subjected by school resource officers. In a report published in Mother Jones, Jonathan Hardin, a Louisville Metro Police officer, in 2014 "w student in a chokehold, allegedly knocking the student unconscious and causing a brain injury." [30] In a second incident that year, "Cesar Suquet, then a 16-year-old high s with a police baton, injuring him on his head, neck and elsewhere." [31] Y'Barbo claimed that beating a student with a police baton was "reasonable and necessary" and "rer Detroit who, after a troubling interaction with a school police officer, speaks for many young people about the dread and anxiety that many students experience when police are Black, Brown or suffer from disabilities, there can be little doubt that US society is failing. As the United States increasingly models its schools after prisons, students ar general are now viewed as a potential threat, Black students are regarded increasingly as criminals. One result is that schools increasingly have come to resemble war zones authority in many of the schools is often handed over to the police and security forces who are now asked to deal with all alleged disciplinary problems, however broadly de forces who report directly to local police departments. In most cases, the disciplinary problems that take place in schools involve trivial infractions, such as violating a dress become sites of control, testing and punishment all too eager to produce pedagogies of repression, and more than willing to erect, once again, what has been called the schoo listening to music, not walking down the street, not in school. For black children, for black people, to exist is to be endangered. Our bodies receive no sanctity or safe harbo jail for minor incidents - and that such draconian practices could take place in a society that views itself as a democracy. Stripped of their public mission as institutions that legal system. [35] Rather than assume responsibility for students, too many schools have abdicated on their authority and are more than willing to turn discipline problems, justice systems. Youths are finding themselves increasingly at risk of falling into the school-to-prison pipeline through push-outs (systematic exclusion through suspensions unforgiving, overly harsh zero tolerance discipline practices that turn kids into criminals for acts that rarely constitute a crime when committed by an adult. No one is safe fr have teamed up with law enforcement to make this happen by imposing a "double dose" of punishment: suspension or expulsion and a trip to the juvenile justice system. [3 Shakara took out her cell phone in class. The teacher asked her for it, and when she refused to hand it over, she was asked to leave the class. The teacher called the vice prin to begin filming because, as she put it, "I told them to get the cameras out, because we know his reputation - well, I know his reputation." [37] In what follows, one of the vi seat, slams her to the ground and drags her across the floor before handcuffing her. The video is difficult to watch, given the extreme and disproportionate violence used aga "disturbing schools, a crime punishable by up to ninety days in jail or a thousand dollar fine." [38] After the incident went viral, information emerged indicating that Fields l should be asked as a result of this shocking act of police violence against a young Black student is not how Fields got a job in a school working with children, but what kind student would not turn over her phone. Even worse, when Sheriff Leon Lott announced his decision to fire Fields, he pointed out that the classroom teacher and administrat problem that should have been handled by responsible educators. Students should not be treated like criminals. It is one thing not to assume responsibility for students, but a refuse to acknowledge that the United States has become a suicidal society willing even to sacrifice its own children to an expanding punishing state that protects the interes warranted because Shakara did not respect the officer, as if the beating of a Black child by a police officer, who happens also to be a body-builder who can lift 300 pounds, refused to fall in line. Grassroots Resistance The other side of this racist script finds expression in those who argue that any critique of the police endangers public safety. In strident voices opposing any critique of police violence come from police unions. As William Boardman observes, "Two of the biggest police unions in the country are now particularly visible when film director Quentin Tarantino gave a talk criticizing police violence in New York as part of Rise Up October, three days of protest against police the unions began calling for a nationwide boycott of his films. This repressive discourse not only refuses to recognize the growing visibility of police violence; it also shores police to do their jobs, they need to have free rein to be abusive. It also implies that the public would be safer if Americans with cellphones never started circulating videos and other professionals. Educators, young people, parents and others concerned about violence in schools need to organize and demand that the police be removed from sch teachers, social workers, teachers, community intervention workers and other professionals who are trained to provide a secure and supportive environment for young peopl that produce it. At the same time, more profound change must take place on a national level, since the violence waged by the police is symptomatic of a society now ruled b The increasing visibility of police brutality in schools and in the streets speaks to a larger issue regarding the withering of democracy in the United States and the growing la default register for addressing important social issues. As the movement for Black Lives has made clear, the Spring Valley High School case and others are part of a larger t attention because they are not caught on cell phones) are the rudiments of a growing police state. Violence is now a normalized and celebrated ideal for how the United Stat violence. Source: http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/33604-terrorizing-students-the-criminalization-of-children-in-the-us-police-state

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Search Life and Death in a Troubled Teen Boot Camp A tragic accident exposes the dangers of an out-of-control billion-dollar industry By Jesse Hyde November 1 closely. She and Bruce's stepdad had even installed a motion detector on the porch of their doublewide trailer to keep him from sneaking out at night. Around 4:30 a.m., his decision that would hurt you." Sidebar Trying to Fix America's Broken Juvenile Justice System » Over her shoulder, two men in cowboy hats and Wranglers hovered near h these men," his mom told him. "This is for your own good." The cowboys nudged him out into the cold morning air and loaded his things into the bed of a pick up. They he The truck lurched and heaved as the paved road turned dirt. Eventually, Bruce would come this way again and see it all—the dry creek beds and narrow slot canyons, the cr shoulders, braces and a mild case of acne, he rarely went to school, spending his days smoking pot and skateboarding instead. A few months earlier, he had run away and hc location of Tierra Blanca Ranch, which for almost 20 years had reformed troubled youth. The camp's owner and director, a man named Scott Chandler, emerged from the tr standing in a clearing surrounded by towering strands of pine. A thin plume of smoke rose from a cooking fire and two industrial grade Army tents loomed in the distance. I soon learn, were trouble. The worst cases didn't approach at all; they were firewalled, which usually meant they couldn't speak to anyone except staff. Each looked Bruce de the boys who now surrounded him. And he could never have imagined the decision to send him here would result in his death. A working cattle ranch spanning 30,000 acre and discipline. The program operates on the fringes of what's known as the troubled teen industry, a booming business that generates as much as $1.2 billion a year and take sir" and didn't complain when asked to do the dishes. Bruce Staeger was on the path to "real change" before his death in 2013. Courtesy of Carla Campbell-Moffat When B the ranch with Bruce. "As you became more trusted, more things were explained to you by the other guys. The only way you learned about the place was just a trickle of inf leaders like Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. Tuesdays and Fridays a retired elementary school teacher known as Miss Allie came to the ranch and handed out assignmen wandering off. To soften up the rocky ground for fence posts, the biggest kids ran the digger, an unwieldy contraption with sharp metal spikes, or they just used "ghetto dyn time to run up and down the mountain, 10 fucking times with a 20 pound rock in your hands.' And then it was back to work. That's all we did, run and work." Exercises vari and their lungs were on fire. "The bigger you were and the stronger you were and the more you liked fucking up the little guys, the more powerful you were," says Hatton. I bigger you were and the stronger you were and the more you liked fucking up the little guys, the more powerful you were." If Bruce did what staff asked, and didn't give the for a visit, rent a movie (as long as it wasn't R-rated) or play on the Deming football team. Those who broke the rules or tried to run away were taken to a special closet full who said they spent weeks in shackles, and one showed me scars on his ankles and wrists from times the cuffs and shackles cut into his skin until he bled. "Sometimes kids tattooed themselves using ballpoint-pen ink and cactus needles. Others tried to run away. A boy named Jordan Almanza tried twice, once stealing a hacksaw to cut off his ha had to look at his homework packet from Miss Allie to figure out his name. "He was hard to read," recalls Bruce's fellow camper, Nathan Bailey. "At times he would just sta listening, he talked about his ex girlfriends, the metal band he fronted back home and how much he missed his mom. "This shit really sucks," Bruce often said. "But I deser Bruce, were in orange for breaking camp rules. Because they were in such a remote location, roughly 100 miles from ranch headquarters, there was limited electricity; much that was there so you just cooked it and fried the crap out of it and just ate it." (Chandler denies this. "I ate everything the boys ate and 90 percent of the time there were left boys were loading up to return to Tierra Blanca headquarters when Chandler realized his wallet was missing. After hours of searching, he became convinced one of the kids is your one chance to come forward and admit you did it." No one said anything. The next morning, Chandler told the boys they'd stay at the camp until the wallet turned up down to just rice, canned beans and tortillas. To turn the boys against Bruce, the staff sat him in a lawn chair, gave him water and forced him to watch the other boys do "Ha really the only thing we had left was sleep," Hatton says. "When he took that from us, it felt like we were losing our minds." The other boys tried to figure out why Bruce w taken the wallet and burned it. Either way, after a few weeks, several boys say that Chandler subtly suggested how to end the ordeal. As Hatton later told police, "He wanted tell him, 'You know what's about to happen,'" Hatton recalls. "And then we'd beat the shit out of him." Several boys say they'd beat Bruce in plain sight of ranch staff, some one of the boys who participated in the beatings. "They never once intervened." When beatings alone didn't work, the boys grew more inventive. They hung Bruce from the cuffs and shackles and paraded him around camp like a pig on a stick, while other boys beat him. Eventually the boys decided the only way to end the ordeal was for one of met again. This time they decided they'd have to kill Bruce, but ultimately abandoned the plan. And then one day a staffer found the wallet in a five-gallon bucket of electric the boys I talked to who participated in the beatings had trouble admitting what they had done to Bruce. "It's something I have a really hard time forgiving myself over," one country, but conservative estimates put the number in the hundreds. Some are tough-love boot camps; others are wilderness-based programs whose philosophies can vary fr the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in 2007 that found "thousands of allegations of abuse, some of which involved death" at residential treatment programs abuse and neglect over the past decade. Children have complained of being pinned to the ground for hours, held in seclusion for days and made to stand until they wet them the faith-based facilities as well. Most troubling about the growth of the industry, advocates say, is that there's no proof any of it works. In fact, research highlighted by the arbitrary rules and unpredictable and severe punishments and make them live in a constant state of fear," says Julia Graff, of the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in W get out." In the past 15 years, as many as 86 kids have died in troubled teen programs. At least 10 kids have died at wilderness programs like Tierra Blanca, most of them be for several nights in freezing temperatures in the canyons of southern Utah without a sleeping bag or blanket. When his body began to shut down, and he lost control of his tactics can keep them in line," says Maia Szalavitz, who interviewed hundreds of kids who had attended tough love programs for her 2006 book, Help At Any Cost: How th

Programs (NATSAP)—says that tough love programs like Tierra Blanca are outliers and not representative of the industry as a whole. The group requires its 166 member pr programs because it's a black eye for the field as a whole," says the NATSP's spokesperson, Megan Stokes. "Programs using outdated tough love methods with no science, t CYFD to complain that his son had been kicked in the head by a staff member for "faking" a seizure. Two years later, a 16-year-old escaped with a satellite phone, until stat policies or procedures to explain the ranch's rules. There was also no working landline, meaning the only way anyone could communicate with the outside world was throu monitored and letters were screened. "If I wrote, 'This shit is happening, they ran me until I was coughing up blood,' they wouldn't have sent it out," says Ryan Houghton, w to transport kids had a fire extinguisher, a first aid kit and enough seat belts. Otherwise, CYFD warned, Chandler would be shut down. Bruce poses with his mom, Carla M camp. That meant the program would no longer fall under the state's purview. "I don't think anyone can explain why the state agreed to that," says Liz McGrath, Executive I repeated requests for comment.) By the time Bruce was in elementary school, his family was coming apart: his dad left them when Bruce was 10 and his mom worked long "He was a really fun, energetic kid, but he didn't really have anybody. He was pretty lonely." Bruce started skipping school when he was 12, and then fell in with a group of room. When the family moved to the trailer park outside Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, a flyspeck of a town known for farming and meth, in 2010, things got worse up in jail, or even end up dead," Carla Moffat says. "If he ran away one more time I didn't think I'd ever see him again. People don't understand how few options parents hav would require additional overtime, she felt like it was worth it. On the phone, Chandler explained how the program worked: she wouldn't hear from Bruce for several month family will always exist in the family.' That should have been a red flag right there." Despite the violent episode in the Sacramento Mountains, Bruce began to adjust to the s steak that Chandler's daughters cooked. His grades began to improve under Miss Allie too. All signs to Chandler that Bruce was on the path to "real change." "He was on m things going on in his life." When Bruce's mom and stepdad visited him, in the winter of 2013, he seemed like a different person. He had gone in with big gauges in his ear asked one to baptize him. "The program seemed to be working," Carla Moffat says. "He looked happy. He was polite. He was calm. He had direction." In the meantime, pr boys who had contemplated suicide and at times felt like they were starving, along with details of an incident in which a staffer had allegedly beaten a 15 year old with a nig shackled, and handcuffed, deprived of food…and threatened by staff at Tierra Blanca Ranch if they make disclosures about abuse." Pegasus urged an investigation. And the road too fast and rolled the truck. Because there weren't enough seats in the cab, Bruce had volunteered to sit in the bed of the pick up, and the crash ejected him. The remot The crash was the last straw for CYFD and the governor's office. Less than three weeks later, state police raided the ranch, search warrant in hand, only to find no one there 18 and decided to return to the ranch with Chandler). A week later, Chandler and his wife, Colette, appeared on the Today show with Matt Lauer. "People don't understand.. raided the ranch. Pete Kramer/Getty When I visited Chandler this spring, he carried himself like a man under siege. He called the raid and what followed "the burn down," a records and were violent with him and his staff. "You're only getting a part of the story," Chandler told me. "Some of the things these kids are saying, they're just flat out not intimidating. When we stopped at a local Mexican restaurant for lunch, nearly everyone there seemed to consider him a close friend. Many Tierra Blanca graduates speak of he'd seen the difference it made in the kids' lives. After his dad allowed a wilderness program to operate on portions of his ranch in the late 90s, Chandler decided he could d doesn't work like that," he said. "It's not something that's easy to replicate." Chandler says he doesn't practice what he calls the "medical model" of treatment. And while he's become such a pill society, we mask our emotions. We don't just learn how to resolve a conflict, they have to have something else to control their emotions up and down." F business telling parents how to raise their kids. "People don't understand what we do," Chandler says. "We were trying to make productive citizens out of a group nobody ca help on the ranch), and Chandler introduced me to several program graduates still there. All of them disputed the allegations made in the lawsuits: namely, that staff had enc about six years and they are the most amazing family I've ever met. They've tried to help every person that's come through here, even those who are now trying to hurt them against him. He didn't deny subjecting kids to intense exercise or cuffing them. And when I asked if a former staffer had used a night stick to punish a boy, Chandler said, "I the back seat of the truck. "Let's just say this," she said of the incident. "Do you remember when you were a kid in the school yard and there was some kid out there who jus exercises he imposed as discipline during that period were roughly similar to "what guys do in the military," he said. But he did acknowledge that sometimes "kids took mat charge filed against me or any of my staff?" Chandler's supporters, and there are many, are intensely loyal (after the raid, he says, a petition he prepared got over a 1,000 sig experiences to those now suing Chandler: grueling physical exercise, being so hungry he ate grub worms and staffers who enforced strict rules. And yet, Cook says, those v adulthood, told me the same thing: that they went in adrift, with no work ethic or sense of purpose, and left with a sense they could do just about anything. "If somebody yo exactly what they were getting into. So I think some of the blame has got to fall on them." Last year, Chandler reached a civil settlement with the state, allowing limited ove determine the fate of the program. For now, however, Tierra Blanca is open for business. A week after Bruce died, his family and friends gathered for a memorial service at signed, a small way to memorialize the good times they'd had playing games on the ranch. When Carla realized the boy who was driving the truck during the accident hadn' wasn't their fault." The long-term answer, Szalavitz and other advocates say, is federal legislation that would put the industry under a uniform standard. Former California c physical restraints for emergencies. The bill also would have created a national hotline for kids to report abuse, but it was never signed into law. A similar piece of bipartisan possessions: the black cowboy hat he wore everywhere, the blue T-shirt he'd earned once he attained privileged status and the Bible he had marked up after his baptism. Br asked her not to read some of the details. And while the incident that claimed her son's life was an accident, Carla says it's a direct reflection on the way Chandler runs the r desert, and it's in the middle of nowhere, kids who felt like they were starving to death. That place was an accident waiting to happen." Carla showed me the truck Bruce us honestly, there are days I don't know if I can go on," Carla said. "But if it can result in some kind of lasting change, if it saves another kid's life, maybe some good can come

Alone and at risk Set up to be safe havens, some group homes for the disabled have become remote "prisons," where residents are vulnerable to violence and neg

cognitively impaired, has attempted suicide seven times since she moved hours away from her grandparents. Late one night this summer, George Daly woke abruptly to the with a piece of glass and thrown herself in front of a speeding car. It was the seventh suicide attempt since Ashley, who has bipolar disorder and a cognitive impairment, wa down. "She has no place to call home in this world and this is her way of crying out for help." Each year, hundreds of Minnesotans with developmental disabilities and men Ashley, see violence and self-injury as their only means of escape. Minnesota's far-flung network of group homes is another sign of how it has fallen behind other states in t abuse. A Star Tribune review of hundreds of public documents has found: • Minnesota relies more than any other state on group homes to house adults with disabilities, spe neglect, exploitation and serious injury at Minnesota group homes. In 2013, a federal judge became so alarmed at conditions facing group home residents that he appointed analyzed records for more than 5,000 individuals and found that one-third were placed in group homes outside their home counties. Of these, hundreds live more than 100 m even when they were capable of taking care of themselves. "This feels like a prison," said Joshua Burt, 28, standing outside the Rochester group home where he was placed through local psychiatric wards and clinics after they ran away from group homes. "My heart breaks for these people," she said. "They're hundreds of miles away from thei raise the number living independently. But the increases are modest, and the plan does not call for closing group homes or reducing their state payments. FAR FROM HOM and friends, they can contribute to neglect and violence. In 2010, a 44-year-old man with schizophrenia went missing after wandering away from his group home north of D by the woods where the man's remains were found. "But about the only community out here is woods and swamps." In Lewiston, a man with schizophrenia and a degenerat investigators found. In a case last year, a 26-year-old man living at a group home in Princeton, Minn., was found dead on his bedroom floor after staff had lost contact with schizophrenia, to wander off into the forest near Stillwater with a plastic bucket full of his personal belongings. Later that night, his body was found floating down the St. C leave for a weekend with his two children, ages 13 and 15. "They treated my son like a prisoner," his mother said, sobbing. In far northern Minnesota, the consequences of i and group home workers. "It's not right for human beings to live this way," said Cody Jakowski, a crisis responder at Stepping Stones for Living, a company that operates g beyond belief," Phillips said. "It's like hundreds of little train wrecks dotting our landscape." Remote clusters Minnesota's reliance on group homes dates to the late 1970s, subsidized them through Medicaid and other programs. Many of these early group homes sprouted up near the shuttered state hospitals, in outstate cities such as Faribault a area, state data show. The biggest cluster is in St. Louis County, where half the group home residents come from other parts of the state. Some local officials now refer to th system," said Mark Nelson, division director of adult services in St. Louis County. "If you concentrated this many people of color in one area, there would be accusations of with services to support independent living. And though group homes were meant for people needing 24-hour care, such as patients with severe mental illnesses, many acce up to $80,000 per person per year. "We are spending hundreds of millions of dollars a year for 24/7 care for people who don't want it and don't need it," said Nancy Fitzsim plastic blinds of his one-room apartment. He could hear a police siren in the distance, then some loud shouting, then a heavy silence. Top state administrators and group hon 2016. "There are people living in group homes who probably could live in other settings, but either don't know the options or don't trust the options," said Alex Bartolic, di one-room apartment. He could hear a police siren in the distance, then some loud shouting, then a heavy silence. "I wish I lived far, far away from this ..." he paused, search job counseling, but he eventually found work on his own. 'Most people get to choose' Every so often, Joshua Burt stares out the basement window of his Rochester group h stop, using the neighborhood trees and bushes as cover. ESCAPE PLAN: Joshua Burt, who has a mild developmental disability, lives in a group home outside Rochester an decision came, he said, on the day he and his siblings learned that their mother had lung cancer. "My brother came up to me and said, 'Mom wanted you in a group home,' a unfair," said Burt. "Most people at least get to visit the places where they live and choose who they get to live with." Burt works two part-time jobs — at a Wal-Mart and a his county case worker, group home provider, and his older sister, who is also his guardian. At this year's meeting, Burt said, he was told he still lacked adequate "financial Ashley Daly's grandparents grew too frail to handle her bipolar disorder and violent mood swings, so they moved her to a group home hundreds of miles away, a wrenching that still brings them to tears. A pattern of scars No one ever asked Ashley Daly either. When her grandparents, who adopted her as an infant, decided they had grown too fra George and Ruth Daly worked their way through the list. George asked each provider a series of 10 questions — "Do you have locked doors?" and "Do you involve them in When a provider from northern Minnesota finally called them with an opening, the Dalys were elated. Though it was a long way away, the couple hoped the remote locatio was only after arriving in Hermantown that she began her suicide attempts, each one prompting a faxed report to her grandparents. More than a dozen deep, zigzagging scar

grandparents' house and her pet terrier, Holly, who stayed behind. "I had a dream last night that I finally got to see Holly," she said. "Why has everyone abandoned me?" O
away. They even considered shipping all her bedroom furniture up north to make her feel more at home. But, like thousands of other Minnesota families, they were beginne
Daly and Holly the terrier were happy to see each other on a holiday weekend. Ashley Daly and Holly the terrier were happy to see each other on a holiday weekend. BEST
Ashley Daly was excited about a weekend with her grandparents and her terrier, Holly. When she learned that she was moving to a distant group, where she was cared for b
sport-utility vehicle. Ashley's voice got louder and more animated as the family neared the suburban landscape of her youth — the day care center and the playground wher
weekend with her grandparents in Minnetrista. George and Ruth have kept Ashley's bedroom exactly as she left it — walls painted with pink butterflies and windowsills lin
from the back seat. "Tonight, after we get home, can we watch the stars? Like we did when I was little?" "Honey, we told you this before," George Daly said, as he pulled i
determined it lacked adequate staffing to keep her safe. The new home is in a residential neighborhood, but Ashley said she's still lonely — she still misses Holly and stayin
a pool of blood or hanging from a noose. Among the assorted letters is one she wrote to herself on the October night her grandparents first dropped her off up north. "I beca
and added, "I just want to go home." 612-673-4308 612-673-7192 Source: http://www.startribune.com/Alone-and-at-risk-in-Minnesota

2 Rancho Cucamonga caregivers held in group home abuse investigation Detectives Looking for Additional Victims in Adult Caregiver Abuse Case On Friday, Novem
November 6, 2015, detectives from the Rancho Cucamonga Police Department in cooperation with other local and State authorities, served a Search Warrant at the Anyelir
group home in Rancho Cucamonga. The two caregivers, Marselyn Sihotang, 36, and Roselina Sihotang, 38, were arrested Friday after a former employee contacted state re
found two victims of abuse, though neither person could communicate with authorities, police said. Detectives reviewed security camera footage that allegedly showed abus
chairs lining the walls. A person who appears to be a caretaker stands off to the side for a few laps then pushes the client in the back as the person passes by. The caretaker d
person who appears to be a caretaker, but not the same person from the earlier footage, is seen cutting off the client's path and shoving the client forcefully back toward a ch
shoves the client in the back, sending the client tumbling to the ground and into the chair, which bounces to the side. Both women were arrested Friday on suspicion of depe
follow @JosephSerna. Source: http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-rancho-cucamonga-caregiver-abuse-video-20151110-story.html

Bismarck Group Home Worker Accused of Rape Small Text Medium Text Large Text Print BISMARCK, N.D. - A group home worker in Bismarck is accused of raping
other staff members at **Charles Hall Youth Services** that the boy sexually assaulted her if he didn't comply with her demands. She also is accused of threatening to have rel

Protecting the vulnerable vs. civil rights Advocates say guardianship too often trumps the rights of disabled adults. Story by Chris Serres • Star Tribune NOVEMBER 12,
routinely barred at the door by group home supervisors or court-appointed guardians, who often exercise broad powers over their wards. As a result, group home residents c
silenced," she said. Guardians and group home operators say they must protect vulnerable adults whose cognitive disabilities or mental illnesses can lead them to make poo
Association for Guardianship and Conservatorship. "And it's a tool that we as a society tend to overuse." During its six-month investigation, the Star Tribune was prevented
Another guardian prevented an interview with a woman with a mild cognitive disability, saying the conversation could cause her anxiety. Lawyers with advocacy groups sa
Minnesota Disability Law Center. "But unfortunately, those lines keep getting blurred." 612-673-4308 2 View Comments Read our comment standards St
racial slurs or personal attacks. Comments with web links are not permitted. Comments that violate the above will be removed. Repeat violators may lose their commenting
Newest | Oldest wandap12345ptsFeatured Nov. 12, 15 6:36 AM charlie112 Nov. 11, 15 at 1:45 PM stated: "This reporter ... and he uses derogatory words like segregated to
emancipated son into one of these segregated work programs against his will. Kudos to Chris Serres and the Star Tribune for reporting such and shame on those who have
good series. It's very slanted, does not tell the whole story. I've worked in the field for over 37 years, in about every setting, we still provide foster care. I've seen many chan
the... oh those poor people, think about it for a second, put the paper down and go on with their lives. This puts a few stories out there, and leaves countless more untold. M
deeper, and tell the whole story..... not a great series Chris. Report as inappropriateShare LikeReply Show More Comments Powered by Livefyre Source: http://www.start

Coroner's jury: 'Punishment' shower death of Murray Center resident was homicide Patient choked while being given 'punishment' shower Case referred to prosecut
Print Order Reprint of this Story The death of a resident at Warren G. Murray Developmental Center in Centralia while being given a "punishment" shower has been ruled a
he choked and died on March 30. According to testimony at a coroner's inquest Thursday night, a Murray Center employee was giving Clementz a punishment shower whe
"punishment" shower. Marion County Coroner Troy Cannon said evidence suggests the employee had given punishment showers to residents on multiple occasions. "Basic
kind of thing in the past with this resident — and other ones, as well, even before this took place. Marion County Coroner Troy Cannon The matter has been referred to Clin
of an ongoing criminal process and IDHS will not comment on that process until it is concluded. Illinois Department of Human Services statement "The Illinois Departmen
since," the agency's statement read. "Yesterday's hearing is part of an ongoing criminal process and IDHS will not comment on that process until it is concluded. The depar
to give the names of the two employees, who were placed on administrative leave shortly after the death. Vera said one of the two employees has been fired, while the other
manner of death: homicide, suicide, accident, natural or undetermined. Murray Center was the subject of months-long battle over a state plan to close some state-operated d
State Rep. Charlie Meier, R-Okawville, was a lead supporter of keeping the Murray Center open. He said the case is not a bad reflection on state-operated developmental ce
accidental death." It was Murray workers who questioned what happened and got this investigation going. If this would have happened in a group home, it never would hav
wanted Clementz to stay awake. A different employee had given Clementz a bath about 90 minutes earlier. Meier said the employee who gave Clementz the shower had bee
here: http://www.bnd.com/news/local/article44769120.html#storylink=cpy

Oregon Lawmakers To Get An Update On State Foster Care Oversight By Chris Lehman • 23 hours ago ShareTwitter Facebook Google+ Email Chris Phan Flickr Ori
foster care system. This after Oregon Governor Kate Brown removed the head of the state agency in charge of child welfare programs. That was less than two weeks ago. T
at a prominent foster care provider in Portland. Lawmakers will also take a first look at possible bills for the 2016 legislative session. Those include a possible hike in the le

The Gates teacher evaluation system in action—a costly and ineffective adventure in Hillsborough, Florida November 13, 2015 Gates Foundation by Carol Burris E
a $10,000,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The initiatives in the grant included: the establishment of an evaluation system based 40% on student test
students' scores; the use of data for hiring; and the use of "data dashboards" to make instructional decisions. By 2012, the Hillsborough district had spent a whopping $28.4
test scores. The $24.8 million was considered a "lower bound" estimate by AIR, which studied the spending. Winning the grant was heralded as a reform in which a teacher
Clements, as a union president who was "willing to embrace the Jeb Bush reforms rather than take a hardline against them." Brill reported that Clements collaborated on the
Hillsborough. In 2012, thirty Hillsborough teachers went to Jacksonville, Florida to participate in a televised discussion on merit pay and the evaluation of teachers by test s
During that review, the once enthusiastic Clements voiced concerns. She told the School Board that the system she helped put into place is considered by teachers to be "de
Tampa Bay Times that during the last four years of her tenure the district went on a "spending jag" using more than half of all of its over $300 million in reserves in order t
it promised the district through 2016, and will not pay the balance. The experiment is over. The district is dismantling the Gates teacher evaluation program which was not
experiment. [1] According to Brill, AFT President Randi Weingarten said that she was involved in the negotiations of the Gates teacher evaluation grants. Source: http://w
experimentation&email;_referrer=15-years-of-bill-gatess-experimentation&email;_subject=15-years-of-bill-gatess-experimentation

Boy who died at Lord of the Flies bootcamp November 17, 201511:32am Bruce Staeger - teen ranch death. Picture: Carla Campbell-Moffat. Emma Reynoldsnews.com.a
was the place he would suffer and die. His mother and stepfather were like any desperate parents trying to help an out-of-control teenager. They had run out of ideas for hov
where teenagers reported being beaten, chained, handcuffed and starved by abusive leaders. Most disturbing is the punishment peers say they doled out to Bruce — a story
and abuse Bruce in gangs, or turned a blind eye. He was the perfect scapegoat. Several say they still have nightmares about their own vile actions. Bruce's death came in Se
mobile phone coverage, so it took some time to get help. Bruce died of internal bleeding in El Paso. The tragic accident marked the beginning of a major investigation into t
of ranch rules, the Alberquerque Journal reported. Witnesses told police the staff member hit one boy with a "Kubaton" baton and another youngster was made to run all da
uncooperative. New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez said authorities were particularly concerned when they arrived to search the site and found nine boys and owner Sc
of his site's reputation for helping at-risk teens. "Most youth get on track to successful and rewarding lives outside the ranch," he said in a statement. He claimed he had sim
centre to pick up a child that has been court-ordered before a judge or something to have him placed in our program." But he added, "that is actually very minimal of what
treatment for 20 years. In 2000, the ranch's website says, 104 pre and early teens visited for summer sessions funded by the National Institutes of Health, in partnership wit
program" rather than a "residential program" and therefore not under its jurisdiction. HOGTIED AND DRAGGED IN DIRT A year after Bruce's death, his family filed a la
having jalapeño juice poured in his eyes. They alleged the teenager was carried from a pole by his bound hands and feet, like a pig. "His death was the end result of a patter
and rocks, and made to work and sleep in restraints that left scars. They said staff encouraged them to "help" out-of-shape Bruce, by dragging him or punching him in the g
on his chest. Another family have now also sued, with James and Cheryl Morgan claiming their grandson suffered physical and emotional abuse and naming the CYFD as a
program. It is critical that the State of New Mexico exercise its authority to license and oversee these types of programs to ensure that the kinds of abuses reported in the Ro
as long as we don't have supervision for this kind of program, there's potential for that." TROUBLED TEENS INDUSTRY There are hundreds of extreme teen rehab progr
around 10,000 teenagers from around the world in its care at any one time. In 2007, the US Government Accountability Office found "thousands of allegations of abuse, so
Las Vegas, told the BBC British families would pay up to $8000 to have him get their kids. "It's a wonder no one has died out there before," said Bruce's stepdad, Jim Mof
program turned their lives around. Bruce's mother hoped it would save him from an early grave — instead it sealed his fate. Source: http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real

Camp for troubled teens closes Camp for troubled teens closes See it in Print 12 Saved Save Article My Saved Items Print Email « Buy Now Buy Now Buy Now Buy No
Corrections closed the camp and handed over the property to the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks. 2015-11-16T05:30:00Z Camp for troubled teens closesTom Grifl
southeast of Legion Lake, nestled amid the ponderosa pines and straddling a gurgling brook, the idyllic East Campus of the STAR Academy has closed. For nearly 50 years
and gain perspective and guidance on what it would take to become productive members of society. “This was always the hidden jewel of juvenile corrections,” said Doug I
said he did so reluctantly. “It’s a great facility, and I started my career there in ‘85,” Herrmann said last week. “In closing it, I felt like I was losing a little something.” Autho
technical education, building trades, small engine repair and programs that assisted young men in transitioning back into the community, Herrmann explained. In 1996, juve
early 2000, the two campuses were treating 218 14- to 18-year-olds, most sent there by the court system, Herrmann said. Today, due to a variety of factors, that number stan
got smarter at how we did intervention.” Herrmann credited the development of partnerships and programs for reducing the number of troubled teens sentenced to treatment
and worked with places like the McCrossen’s Boys Ranch near Sioux Falls. Advertisement Play Current Time 0:00 / Duration Time 0:00 Remaining Time -0:00 Stream Typ
Herrmann added. “These are the outcomes we always wanted.” On Nov. 1, the Department of Corrections turned over the East Campus to Custer State Park and consolidate
services and maintenance. About two weeks after the consolidation, STAR Academy Superintendent Jeff Haiar, who has been on the job 19 years, said his staff had encount
were studying potential uses for the facilities. “We’re still in the process of determining what we have and how we will use that in the future,” Snyder said. “The buildings a
1.7 million visitors in 2015, is always in need of facilities, Snyder said. The park’s concessionaire, Custer State Park Resort Co., had already shown an interest in using a sh
Source: http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/camp-for-troubled-teens-closes/article_48282098-a61a-5800-8bc3-4255380388e8.html

What Education Policy Makers Can Learn From A ‘Failing School’ “How can someone make a decision about a school they’ve never even walked into?” That question is a
Mother Jones—to involve readers in the lives of students and educators at Mission High, a San Francisco public school with a proud history but a “failing school” label. Th
schools in the country. Only 30 percent of the school’s students score at proficient or above on the state standardized tests in English, and only 40 percent score proficient in
into his school, she observed something that frustrates students, parents, and educators across the country: As these schools do everything in their power to serve their stude
came to see a very different story about the school—one of committed educators and persevering learners doing all they can to succeed despite the judgments and prescripti
that a deliberate decision you made, to be really at the ground level? Or did that just evolve? In my research as an education reporter, I always started in libraries and with b
ideological wars with no on-the-ground evidence supporting the positions. I felt that if I could follow the stories of students and teachers and learn what were their needs an
I read some 200 studies written by academics. I consulted with researchers, such as Linda Darling-Hammond, Larry Cuban, and others. There are three chapters in the book
impacted by the system. I looked at some of your earlier writings for Mother Jones from 2010 and saw you’re from Latvia. You described the schools you attended in that c
country that one of the most shocking things to me was how unequal the funding is for schools. In Latvia, and just about every other Western and Asian country, public scho
student while in Palo Alto, one of the most affluent suburbs in the United States, schools receive $14,000 per student. I found an elementary school in Sausalito, another affl
and teachers you met at Mission High? It’s obvious to the teachers and students in that school. San Francisco is one of the wealthiest cities in the country and in the world. A
furniture hasn’t been replaced since the 1950s, it looks like. The school looks more dilapidated than my high school in Latvia looked, which is one of the poorest countries i
work much longer hours than teachers in places like Palo Alto. Because the students at Mission High come from all over the world—from El Salvador, Guatemala, China—
population is relatively homogenous. Also, many of the students at Mission High come from some of the poorest neighborhoods in San Francisco. Their families are often u
teachers at Mission High actually get paid $10,000 less than a typical teacher in Palo Alto. So lack of resources and demands on teachers’ time are big problems at a school
restructuring, management practices, data collection systems. They tend to ignore the most important things about teaching and learning. Like what? So many things that ha
what education is all about. But much of what goes into teaching and learning is invisible unless you’re the actual teacher, such as the pace of the class, the variation in instr
who wanted to write a book that’s above the “ideological wars,” that sounds pretty ideological. After four years at Mission, I’ve spent enough time to know the importance
practice from a social justice frame. Isn’t that pretty controversial? I can’t speak about the history of a social justice teaching approach. I can speak about what I learned fro
anti-racist teaching lens. So where does academics fit in with correcting social problems? When the teachers at Mission School look at their work through an anti-racist lens
are they allowed to learn about things going on in society that they care about? When it comes to the craft of teaching, are teachers recognizing the needs of African Americ
parents, and access to computers? Another thing you’re adamant about in the book is that a copy-and-paste way of replicating education policies doesn’t work—that you ca
some main things that just about any school can learn from your experience at Mission High School? Yes, there are many important principles and ingredients at Mission Hi
not the standardized tests. Second, there is an enormous focus on the craft of teaching. Both the administrators and the teachers make sure there is always time set aside to g
and equity. Teacher leaders at Mission High are always disaggregating school-based data—not just the standardized test scores, but data on absences, grades, referrals, and
supports teachers need. This is the type of support teachers are generally thrilled to receive because it’s respectful. It is based on relationships, not to fire them or give them
http://educationopportunitynetwork.org/what-education-policy-makers-can-learn-from-a-failing-school/

Involuntary Hospitalization of Drug Users Is Bad Policy Thursday, 19 November 2015 00:00 By Susan Sered, Truthout | Op-Ed font size decrease font increase font
stories like it! Massachusetts appears to be on the cusp of adopting legislation proposed by Republican Gov. Charlie Baker that would allow doctors to hospitalize drug user
few states give judges similar power to take away the freedom of individuals not accused of a crime. (1) Does allowing people to be forcibly confined really serve the intere
Massachusetts' district attorneys have come out in favor of the bill (H.3817). Hampshire County Sheriff Robert Garvey's comments represent the growing opinion that, "The
of drug users - we are currently experiencing a cultural and judicial movement away from criminalization and toward medicalization of substance abuse. Massachusetts mig
("Romneycare") that later became the law of the land nationally ("Obamacare"). However, does allowing people to be forcibly confined in any space - whether it is a jail or
criminalized women, most of whom struggle or have struggled with addiction issues, I am far from convinced that the governor, sheriffs and district attorneys have got it rig
violations. Our legal system, like that of other modern democracies, insists that an individual should not lose his or her freedom without the due process of law. A doctor, co
uncomfortable and untenable position vis-à-vis their patients. Knowing that doctors have this power will, I fear, serve to discourage people who could benefit from immedia
upon drug users. I understand that the motives behind the proposed bill are benign. However, I assume that the image of the doctor-patient relationship in the minds of the g
medical and social background. However, it is likely that the doctors who will be committing patients under Governor Baker's plan are emergency room doctors or hospitali
I have great respect for doctors and I understand their frustration at treating patients for overdoses, only to watch these same patients walk out the hospital door immediately
day commitment for psychiatric patients under Massachusetts General Law, Section 12, though, since no reason is articulated for the three-day idea it might just as easily (a
three-day involuntary commitment, there is no reason to think that they will not return to their former drug use. In fact, having abstained from opiates for several days may s
the proposal. But I do not see that Governor Baker's bill includes such a plan, or a way to fund it. As I've seen repeatedly among the women with whom I work, even the "g
the drug use/detox cycle. A Gap in Standard US Medical Training We in the United States have great respect for physicians and we trust that their medical training is among
of addiction treatment is progressing, their knowledge in the field may well be outdated. (4) I personally have spoken with physicians who know nearly nothing about Subo
more than one or two addiction medicine specialists on staff, which means that non-specialists will be tasked with the responsibility of deciding whether or not to commit p
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) are effective in treating addiction when, in fact, there is no evidence showing that NA participation (and especially coerced participation) leads
independent of social and structural conditions - and that people living with alcohol- or substance-abuse disorders lack the capacity to make sound decisions. (This is why th
medical abuses - including medical experiments on prisoners and on Black men (e.g. the infamous Tuskegee syphilis experiment) - which warrants that all medical research
oversight. Decades of research show that doctors tend to treat patients differently depending on the gender or race or both of the patient and of the doctor. (6) Particularly w
requirement for any sort of oversight. It certainly should raise eyebrows that the popular push to relabel addiction and send addicts to "treatment" rather than prison is taking
are labeled as flawed individuals who have failed to take responsibility for their own lives. In both cases, the onus for "deviance" lies on the individual rather than on the so
course, those people labeled as "addicts" or "drug abusers" are not all that deviant. Throughout the United States, the normative way for dealing with misery is through doct
white opiate users exposes an important and seldom discussed reality of US society: class matters. The white opiate users in Massachusetts overwhelmingly come from poo
the most part, poor and white, and they represent a tragic social trend. According to research published in 2014 by sociologist William Cockerham, "For the first time in mo
among white men. (8) Opiate use is one of the factors explaining declining life expectancies in impoverished white communities, but it is crucial that we understand that op
anything other than intensify those forces. Acknowledgments: I wish to thank Barak Sered M.D. for his expert advice and input into this paper. All opinions and errors are s

NZ adoption laws 'breach human rights' Updated at 11:17 am on 16 November 2015 Share on Twitter Share on Facebook Share on Google Plus Share on Reddit Share o
overhauling. Advocates say the present law breaches human rights, children's rights, and the Bill of Rights drastically needs an overhaul. Sitting in a small room filled with
me and I was brought up in a very nice, normal family... all through that I was told I was adopted." Peter Jamieson, who was adopted as a baby, said knowing about his histo
going to faze me," he said. "My whakapapa was really important to me - just knowing about my history meant a lot to me - I had felt detached and didn't know anything abo
drafted without any mention of the biological parents. "It's important for them to maintain contact with their birth family, but also, as they get older, to have more informatio
was generally good at telling parents that adopt to be open with children, but said there still needed to be a law change to enforce that. Dr Anne Else of the group Adoption A
other again," Dr Else said. "It is entirely orientated around adult interests. The birth mother can sign a consent when the child is 10 days old, which is one of the shortest per
percent from five years ago, and many of those were people adopting family members. The number of applications for adoption also fell from 253 to 207 in that period. In 2
needed to be changed because it perpetuated discriminatory practice and created a system open to abuse. Three years later, a Human Rights Commission report highlighted

chair Allan Cooke said the law lacked regard for children's cultural background and their heritage, which he said was important for Maori and Pasifika groups. "The other is dates from 1955 and effectively fossilises the attitudes and values of that time. It's legislation that desperately needs overhaul." Mr Hague has tried to push a bill updating th programme due to competing priorities for law reform in the justice sector". When asked to explain, a spokesperson said "there are other things on the minister's agenda tha What's your adoption story? Contact Source: http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/289764/nz-adoption-laws-'breach-human-rights'

2 Investigates: Local charity accused of helping itself... | www.wsbtv.com 2 Investigates: Local charity accused of helping itself instead of children 51 11.6K 37 12.1K R 1990s, it did so as a residential group home with the mission of providing "a nurturing environment" for "state-confiscated children," according to IRS filings. A Channel 2 Care Home, like no foster kids … period," said Christy Cunningham, who worked as the Noah's Ark marketing director. The Noah's Ark name is best known around metro address, one website and money, according to the whistleblowers. "You get into a really sticky situation when you start taking money meant for one non-profit and putting i anything like they pretend they are," said Phillips-Lingen. All three women had access to the Noah's Ark records and say they were fired when they began to question discre Human Services sent a letter to Noah's Ark confirming that the Children's Care Home had closed "in response to financial failure." The charity's founder, Jama Hedgecoth, on the Noah's Ark website. As recently as last February, that website was still soliciting and accepting donations as the Children's Care Home. The same month, it changed i registered as a charity since 2012. "Absolutely, I think the state of Georgia should be investigating this organization," said Sandra Minuitti, who runs the watchdog website boards. She also found it unusual that the children's home could have brought in so many contributions without any fundraising expenses. The charity's own audits show ter makes roughly $65,000 each year from the animal sanctuary. Channel 2 investigative reporter Jodie Fleischer initially scheduled an interview with Hedgecoth, but her gener was not necessary, he left a voicemail message claiming that Hedgecoth was suddenly getting on a plane to Haiti and would be unavailable for two weeks. Two days later, F except it was spent on children," Hedgecoth replied, dismissing the allegations as trumped-up claims by disgruntled former employees. Hedgecoth admitted that five of the that are medically fragile," replied Hedgecoth. UPDATE: Charity watchdog website issues advisory for Noah's Ark "Online, you say the money you're raising is going to ab "Putting them out there as foster kids, and people are giving them money, I mean, once you adopt them, they're your kids. It's not up to everybody else to raise your kids," s latest IRS tax return for the children's home charity lists a $950,000 building as an asset, along with $150,000 worth of equipment. "I have never misspent one penny, not or charities, based on the whistleblowers' claims. After Hedgecoth's interview, Noah's Ark changed its website to specifically say that it does not take in foster children through

Oregon Governor Orders Independent Review Of State's Foster Care Oversight By Chris Lehman - N3 • Nov 16, 2015 ShareTwitter Facebook Google+ Email Matt H ignored warning signs at a prominent foster care provider in Portland. The problems ranged from squalid conditions to poor financial management. Brown removed the lead service possible and ensure the safety of our foster children," he said. "We must do better. The children of Oregon deserve no less." Saiki said he supports the governor's cal oversight

Kansas Legislators Call For Scrutiny Of Foster Care Contractors By Andy Marso • Nov 18, 2015 ShareTwitter Facebook Google+ Email Wichita police officer Brian Children and Families announced major changes to its standards for substantiating child abuse Tuesday. But lawmakers want more reform of a privatized foster care system "clear and convincing evidence." The change comes after the Wichita Eagle and Topeka Capital-Journal reported on children who were injured or died after multiple reports employment at child care facilities. The agency also added a category between unsubstantiated and substantiated — "affirmed" — that will describe cases in which abuse or remove the custody rights of children's legal guardians. The changes were announced during a hearing of a special legislative committee formed to vet the state's foster care infant who died in a hot car after the foster parents she was placed with forgot her, also was mentioned in Tuesday's hearing. Privatized system questioned After Gilmore's a majority party members expressed serious concerns as well. "The kind of system we've created isn't working," said Sen. Julia Lynn, a Republican from Olathe. The foster and DCF briefly halted new foster care placements with that agency after her death last year. In recent years the state has consistently set records for the number of Kansas about the cost to dismantle the system and have the state take over again but was told it was difficult to calculate because the Legislature never fully funded it prior to privat said the next contracts should require more accountability. "We need to have in place measurables for our contractors," Lynn said. State agency also scrutinized DCF also fa attendance of foster children. Ed Klumpp, a lobbyist who represents several law enforcement groups, said local police and county sheriffs get little help from DCF on calls i minimal. "When you go into a law enforcement conference and mention the DCF hotline, eyes roll," Klumpp said. "We've got to fix it." He said more foster parents need to said. Lynn said blame should extend to the legislative branch as well, telling the committee that the Legislature had "lost a collective will" to protect the "weakest of the we after its members requested five days. "Children are not a legislative priority," Kiegerl said, "and this committee faces an impossible task to find solutions to intractable, lon Source: http://kcur.org/post/kansas-legislators-call-scrutiny-foster-care-contractors#stream/0

State agency shuts down another Hutto group home By David Barer Published: November 17, 2015, 5:44 pm Updated: November 17, 2015, 5:57 pm Click to share on T home State investigation: Hutto group home had numerous violations HUTTO, Texas (KXAN) – A state agency has moved to decertify and terminate its contract with the o Inc.'s home at 202 Peaceful Haven Way. The series of complaints received by DADS since July alleged problems with nursing practices, quality of care, the living environn decision to terminate the company's Home and Community-Based Services (HCS) contract. "The allegations, that is not true," Eweka said. HCS locations are typically hom homes receive payment through the state, which can range from an average of about $2,500 to more than $5,000, depending on the type of home and services provided, acc Falsely documenting medication administration records No RN monitoring use of medications Unlicensed, untrained staff use of psychotropic drugs without calling RN for According to records provided by DADS, the previous operator of the home was Michael Smith, former CEO of A Step Beyond. DADS shut down his company in June. Sn 18 other Central Texas locations, according to DADS records. Cavuto said, if necessary, local authorities would continue to offer choices of service for clients under Assura Peaceful Haven location digging in the garbage outside, and he saw one patient bang his head against a window until it broke. Rushing said his children "used to play outsic Department of Family and Protective Services. DADS, she said, has the capacity to investigate contractual obligations of service providers. DFPS, which is under Texas Ad

--> **Easter Seals cited for not reporting sex assault at Wilson group home** Posted 6:53 p.m. Tuesday Updated 7:10 p.m. Tuesday image: http://wwwcache.wral.com/asset UCP has been cited by state regulators after managers of a group home it operates in Wilson didn't promptly report that a resident of the home sexually assaulted another res state Division of Health Service Regulation, the crime was never reported to police even though the suspected assailant confessed to raping the resident repeatedly. The mar do anything until she spoke with a regional manager and that the man didn't have any money to pay for a doctor's visit. Two days later, when the staffer said scratches were the report. The staffer then took him to a hospital emergency room, where police were called. Wilson police turned their findings over to local prosecutors who, according to significant disabilities or limitations," said Vicki Smith, director of Disability Rights North Carolina. Smith added that locking up an intellectually disabled person isn't nece do? How long did this go on, and what were there response?" she asked. Easter Seals Regional Director Jean Kenefick acknowledged that "an incident" occurred at the Wils and we report and respond to all allegations as required by law," Kenefick said in an email to WRAL News. "Whenever an incident like this occurs, our staff carefully follo the staffer who first reported the abuse has been fired, according to the state report. Read more at http://www.wral.com/easter-seals-cited-for-not-reporting-sex-assault-at-wi

Department of Labor orders foster care firm to pay $218,000 in back wages and fines Paul Giblin, The Republic | azcentral.com 7:47 p.m. MST November 18, 2015 B Labor says The U.S. Department of Labor ordered a Phoenix foster-care housing provider on Wednesday to pay more than $218,000 in back wages, interest and fines for un Ave., provides short-term and long-term residential housing for at-risk youth. The company receives funding from the state's Department of Child Safety. Officials determin than 40 hours a week. The practice violated the Fair Labor Standards Act, according to the Labor Department. Under the terms of a consent judgment filed with the U.S. Di will pay $30,184 in civil penalties, bringing the total in wages, interest and fines to $218,352. Some employees will receive more than $5,000 in back pay, said Jesus Olivar His wife, Alta, was not available for comment Wednesday. Family Support provides services to address a range of needs, including substance abuse, interpersonal skills, hu "Shorting workers their hard-earned wages not only harms the workers and their families, but also harms other employers who are playing by the rules," he said in a stateme "That, unfortunately, was not the proper way to pay these employees," he said. In general, most wage investigations are prompted by complaints from employees or compet serve as an example for others in the sector, he said. "Many of these employees work long hours taking care of children, the elderly, the ill, disabled loved ones, but unfortu according to the agency. To qualify for an exemption, employees generally must meet certain tests regarding their job duties and be paid on a salary basis at not less than $4 every hour they work beyond 40 per week. The law also requires employers to maintain accurate records of employees' wages, hours and other conditions of employment, a members and clients, according to the company's website. FOR MORE INFORMATION The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division offers assistance to emp confidential, so there is no reason for employers or employees to ever doubt calling us," agency spokesman Jesus Olivares said. Source: http://www.azcentral.com/story/m

State lawmakers told of problems in foster care By John LyonArkansas News ROCK — Caseworkers in Arkansas' foster care system are overworked t Fort Smith said during a joint meeting of the Senate Children and Youth Committee and the House Aging, Children and Youth and Legislative and Military Affairs Committ County alone."Any day we have 20 to 40 kids that we're looking for placement for. We have to overload foster homes in order to have beds for our children so they don't sl placing children in homes means that Jensen's caseworkers are working 60-hour weeks and sometimes not getting home until midnight or the early morning hours, she said "They get reassigned to another worker who already has 30 cases on their workload. So then they get five or 10 more because somebody left, and now they have to try to le shortage of daycare, which she said has resulted in losing some foster homes in her area."Sometimes it's just that we're over so over-burdened we can't meet their needs," s Drew counties, told the panel of similar problems in the Delta. She said there are more than 300 children in the foster care system in her area and about 47 foster homes, so grow."DCFS conducts between 3,000 and 3,200 child welfare investigations monthly, she said.Turnover at the division is so high that 50 percent of caseworkers were hired

in July found that between January and April, 22 children spent the night in a DCFS office because of limited placement options. The report contained a number of recomm
lawmakers-told-problems-foster-care-system

Phoenix House Academy is now closed for good Adult substance abuse residential treatment program to continue in-state, while teens served outside of New Hampshire I
Services 2 The last teen to complete Phoenix House Academy has been released and the residential treatment facility is preparing to accept 18- to 25-year-olds currently on
substance abuse residential treatment center for adolescents in New Hampshire. The Academy was located on the same campus as Phoenix House's adult program. The Pho
residential program for this demographic from 32 to 44, he said. The waitlist for 18- to 25-year-olds was at nine Monday and has been as high as 20 in late October. The tee
said close the Academy is the "right move," and that it's better to provide treatment to 18- to 25-year-olds than it is to leave beds empty. Wozmak is the senior director for s
Wozmak to open four intensive, outpatient treatment programs for adolescents in regions most affected by substance abuse. Pratt said Tuesday he envisions these outpatient
30-day residential programs, and emphasized the importance of enrolling an adolescent in a treatment program period. If an adolescent requires residential treatment, they c
and Families was able to provide referrals for up to 6 of the 12 beds at the Phoenix House for adolescents, DCYF chose instead to refer teenagers to residential treatment ce
Although the Academy was the last center in the state designated solely for substance abuse, there are 24 state-certified residential treatment centers for behavioral health fo
for boys, with plans to expand to 40 and potentially become co-ed, said Pratt. The Phoenix House New England operates treatment facilities in New Hampshire, Rhode Isla
. Follow him on Twitter @BenjiRosenMLT. Source: http://www.ledgertranscript.com/news/townbytown/wilton/19532064-95/phoenix-house-academy-is-

Bill Would Limit Bad Group Homes, Improve Placement Options Howard Talenfeld, Daily Business Review November 18, 2015 | 0 Comments share share on linked
Florida, the Florida Department of Children and Families has contracted with lead agencies like ChildNet and Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe Inc. to operate the system c
http://www.dailybusinessreview.com/id=1202742766512/Bill-Would-Limit-Bad-Group-Homes-Improve-Placement-Options#ixzz3s6CLhyyd

Tuckahoe group home worker lied about woman's injury Michael D'Onofrio, 5:57 p.m. EST November 19, 2015 Kimm Thompson(Photo: Submitted)
accused — with two other employees — of injuring the developmentally disabled woman at a group home at 1A Ridge St. on Oct. 9, 2014. The three women were accused
Court jury Thursday of offering a false instrument for filing, a misdemeanor, for lying in her reports about the woman's injuries, according to the Justice Center for the Prot
declared on a second endangering count. No new trial date on that charge has not been set. Thompson was fired after the incident. She is scheduled to be sentenced on the fa
in April to offering a false instrument. Dindi, 54, also pleaded guilty to second-degree endangerment and was sentenced to five years probation. Smith, 44,three years proba

How Prison Reform Could Turn the Prison-Industrial Complex Into the Treatment-Industrial Complex The private prison industry is exploiting prison reform efforts
his parole officer. (AP Photo / Rich Pedroncelli) With one in 45 adults on probation or parole and one in 100 behind bars, America looks like a nation of captives. From a bu
of incarceration in criminal policy, and to facilitate "second chances" for the formerly incarcerated as they transition into work and family life. Yet, while politicians ostensi
communities on the outside. Reform initiatives like rehabilitation and employment programs focus on making "corrections" less punitive. But they maintain the political fra
shifting from brick-and-mortar carceral facilities to outsourced social services. In other words, many of the dollars expected to be "saved" from shuttering prisons may simp
called "treatment-industrial complex." According to AFSC's research, the corporatization of prison reform is an outgrowth of a long-standing trend of prison privatization—
rebranded for the outside world and profits from these sectors appear to be on the upswing: There is growth potential in halfway houses and treatment centers—perhaps mir
thousands of detained migrants who've been released on bond). Most Popular 1 What I Discovered From Interviewing Imprisoned ISIS Fighters 2 The Big Idea That Could
privateers, private prison is a dirty business. Prison giants like Corrections Corporation of America are notorious for cost overruns, inadequate staff training, and abusive co
"are financially dependent on the growth of supervised populations, providing a perverse incentive not to rehabilitate." While prison alternatives are billed as "cost-efficient
privatization." But, she adds, the unforeseen collateral damage—recidivism, abuse, and economic losses for communities—should serve as an object lesson that a system ca
rehabilitation services. For example, many convicted on drug charges undergo mandatory regimented therapy. While treatment is favorable to strict incarceration, radical an
rehab ultimately discourage the treatment population from developing an organic political consciousness? Should rehabilitation be rooted in communities, or managed by a
"we do believe that it is the state's authority and very, very grave responsibility to deal with the justice system, that it should not be given to the hands of profiteers." Anothe
and outside the prison gates. Consider the multinational 3M, maker of Post-Its and surveillance technology. An incarcerated person may be surveilled at his facility constant
warehouse, joining a workforce infamous for its links to the prison-industrial complex as well as labor and environmental violations in the mainstream economy. And both i
variation of convict leasing, in which industry and state collude to "redeem" society's undesirables. If the price of "reentry" is a softer state of unfreedom, the formerly impr
feel like there's very little for us to do against big corporations and big systems of control like this," Baum says. But now that there is political momentum for a policy overh
social inclusion. Community groups can champion post-release voting and employment rights or develop restorative justice programs that elevate reconciliation over harsh
policies serve the public good, not private gain. Source: http://www.thenation.com/article/how-prison-reform-could-turn-the-prison-industrial-complex-into-the-treatment-i

Pa. medical driver accused of sexually assaulting teen girl on way to hospital Medical van driver Scott Weimer, 26, of Altoona, will stand trial on charges that he sexual
Email the author | Follow on Twitter on November 20, 2015 at 7:02 AM If true, the allegations represent the ultimate violation: A medical driver transporting a troubled 13-
the case. And it is not just the world of a troubled teen against the driver. WPXI reports that a police officer in Allegheny County saw the vehicle pulled over on a road arou
commitment earlier this month, WPXI writes, adding: According to investigators, Weimer asked police if "he would be in trouble if he had sex with her in the van." Meanw
Source: http://www.pennlive.com/news/2015/11/pa_medical_driver_accused_of_s.html

Sent to US for Drug Rehab, Puerto Ricans Endure Humiliation at Unregulated Centers Wednesday, 25 November 2015 00:00 By Adriana Cardona-Maguigad, Truthou
connect some of them with certified drug addiction services in Chicago. (Photo: Bill Healy) Do you want media that's accountable to YOU, not to corporate sponsors? Help
that hang from a dispenser below the windshield wipers near the gas pumps. He walks unsteadily: Every time he takes a step, he winces while placing his hands on his stom
him panhandling at another nearby corner. I interviewed him soon after I released an investigation last April that aired on WBEZ Chicago Public Radio and NPR's "This A
run by the Puerto Rican state police and other programs run by municipal agencies in Puerto Rico, hundreds of Puerto Ricans have come to Chicago expecting to enter com
addiction find themselves sharing overcrowded rooms, sleeping on dirty mattresses or on the floor, and facing routine humiliation as part of a protocol supposedly intended
and "padrinos" (godparents) - the leaders of the groups. Feeling deceived by the false promises, many like Erick have left these "rehabs" to venture out on the streets of an u
way they treat you there might help others, but it doesn't help me," he said slowly heading back to the corner where he had been panhandling all day. Many former drug use
like Erick, the tough treatment is too much to bear, especially since many of them already have been victims of abuse, have mental health issues and have experienced traun
Adequate Services Melissa Hernandez volunteers her time during the week to deliver infection control supplies, food and clothes to drug users who came all the way from P
Chicago have angered elected officials, service providers and even residents who want to establish a network of services to help this new population. One of them is Melissa
Yards, Little Village and Humboldt Park, looking for drug users that were sent from Puerto Rico to the 24-hour rehab homes, aiming to assist them in finding real support. D
Puerto Rican neighborhood on the city's west side. She was on the phone talking about a person who needed drug addiction services. She had a heavy pile of papers tucked
was trying to help. Hernandez's family is from Puerto Rico, too. Although she grew up in Chicago, her Spanish has a slight Puerto Rican accent. Her warm personality make
whom are now homeless. On Monday and Friday nights, she visits the places where she knows she will find her clients and delivers food, infection control materials and clo
services. She begins by asking how they came to hear about the program, while in Puerto Rico. "I ask them, who they talked to … who picked them up, how long did they v
addiction. But even as she tries to build a network of services for drug users, securing full access to those services has been challenging, Hernandez said. Some of the men a
be really honest with you, I am really, really sick. I am gonna try to get some money, I am gonna panhandle and once I am feeling better, I'll call you,'" she said. Being a for
commit to recovery. "I guess a major challenge is just going back and forth and staying on top of it, telling them that there is help and professional services," Hernandez said
incidents happened as a form of punishment for relapsing in two different 24-hour rehab groups, Hernandez said. And there are other sad stories. "We actually had one youn
ended up leaving, he couldn't find a job, he couldn't get an ID, he had nothing. He tried to kill himself, didn't know what to do. It's sad but it's a story I hear all the time." Th
their IDs and important documents are stolen or lost there, and once they walk out of the groups they find themselves in the streets, alone, many times in the middle of winte
immigrant neighborhood just two weeks after he arrived. The 24-hour rehab home he was sent to is called Segunda Vida (Second Life), and it's a dilapidated gray brick buil
out, alone and without his documents. Manuel was finally able to get his birth certificate, Puerto Rican ID and medical records back after I accompanied him to Segunda Vi
Manuel also has serious mental health problems that have been getting worse since he arrived in Chicago. He has been arrested multiple times and complains that he is ofte
times due to my health issues, I have been in the psychiatric hospital three times, I have been dealing with depression," Manuel said. When he is not in jail, he lives in an en
rushed from a halfway house where he was under house arrest with an electronic ankle monitor to an emergency room due to complications with his liver. He also spent sev
Rico for Answers Melissa Hernandez is kick-starting a campaign (or organization) to help Puerto Ricans who came to Chicago looking for drug rehabilitation treatment, but
investigate the unregulated rehab homes and work with authorities in Puerto Rico to establish an adequate referral system for those seeking rehab services in the future. Wit
service agencies or family members. Hernandez said she is collaborating with at least six licensed rehab agencies in Chicago, including Rincon Family Services, Haymarket
our own services, despite our own deficit," Delgado said. Aside from connecting drug users to services, Delgado said he's been trying to communicate with Puerto Rican go
particularly caught his attention is Bayamon and its program called Nuevo Amanecer. Delgado said the mayor of Bayamon, Ramón Luis Rivera Cruz, and the director of Nu
homes; sometimes, the municipality of Bayamon pays for a one-way plane ticket to Chicago. I have made several attempts to speak with Cintron and the municipality of Ba

that have been certified and legally established in Puerto Rico and in the United States." The statement said that once the patients are placed in a program, they are monitore Hernandez said she met with Cintron during her short visit to Chicago last October. Cintron wanted to find the drug users whom she had referred under Nuevo Amanecer ar streets in Chicago looking for her "children," as she calls the drug users in the program. In her post, Cintron wrote that she was happy to learn that none of her "children" we motives. According to the April statement from Bayamon, the municipality has sent 40 people to Chicago. In the last decade, the Puerto Rican police De Vuelta a la Vida pr referred to Chicago. The municipality of Caguas said it has only referred 25 people in the last three years. But service providers are skeptical about those numbers. In some Delgado said he has been in communication with the agency that oversees drug addiction programs in Puerto Rico, which is known as ASSMCA (Administración de Servic am working with County Sheriff Tom Dart to review and to recommend any legal course of action that needs to be taken here in Chicago to assure people are not trapped in happening as part of the 24-hour group system. Abdon Pallasch, the director of public affairs for the Cook County Jail, didn't provide any specific details about the investiga there are some challenges when trying to identify and connect these drug users to rehabilitation services, Pallasch said. "Most of the guys aren't there long enough for us to program." Pallasch said the jail has identified eight individuals sent from Puerto Rico to Chicago group homes who have been in and out of the Cook County Jail system, cc Development (HUD) warning that the agency could have possibly been funding De Vuelta a la Vida and Nuevo Amanecer. The 24-Hour Group Homes Persist Unregulated part of larger networks - like the International Movement of 24-hours, with locations in Chicago and other cities in the US and also in other countries including Mexico, Col hours of group therapy for several months. They make their own rules, borrow concepts from Alcoholic Anonymous and many times bring the tactics they've learned in oth survive on donations and contributions made by current and former members. Individuals who have lived and received group therapy in these group homes also said that in demonstrates the existence of a huge, largely unmet need in Chicago: accessible around-the-clock services where drug users can find shelter, food and a community of peers elementary school on the South Side of Chicago. In 2006, a man fatally stabbed another man with a kitchen knife at Vida during a group-counseling meeting that was going therapy session. Shortly after that, Vida closed its doors. In addition to the stabbing incident, nearby neighbors and school officials complained to local authorities that stude simply joined existing ones. Some of the Puerto Rican drug users whom I have talked to know each other well in and outside of the 24-hour groups. Many have attended the (godparents) know the lives of many drug users as well. They have been sober longer than the people they work with. They don't have formal training, and their knowledge persistence of these groups demonstrates the existence of a huge, largely unmet need in Chicago: accessible around-the-clock services where drug users can find shelter, foo group sessions used at the 24-hour groups have helped some drug users stay sober. They even hold annual events where they celebrate each other's sobriety. But others do a green shirt. He was tall and handsome and had a strong Puerto Rican accent. He talked about how he lost the past 10 years of his life struggling with his heroin addiction. H the times when he walked away from the 24-hour group, adding that regardless of the rough treatment he experiences there, Blanco y Negro is still the one place he can call because that's where he can truly get the spiritual strength that he needs to keep fighting his addiction. My recent investigation focused on two 24-hour rehab groups where had been displayed. But the group is still up and running. Leaders have denied any mistreatment, ID theft or use of members' LINK cards. Its members said they are just a s in one location along Cermak Road in Chicago. That rehab group also took down its signs. The Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Alcohol and Substance criminal allegation, that is subject to the jurisdiction of law enforcement authorities, or in the case of building code or zoning violations, subject to the jurisdiction of the Cit matter either. In the meantime, some 24-hour rehab groups like Blanco y Negro still advertise themselves as rehabilitation centers that offer psychotherapy and treatment to options available for people struggling with drug addictions. Even though drug users know they may be subject to verbal abuse and humiliation at these centers, some conti humiliation-at-unregulated-centers

Foster care, abuse -- Laquan McDonald's tragic life Protesters march after shooting video released NEXT STORY Arrest in killing of Tyshawn Lee Text Size: ASmal walking away from a police officer who, in the span of 15 seconds, shoots him 16 times. What to know: Laquan McDonald case Protesters took to the streets of Chicago aft attorney for Officer Jason Van Dyke argues that his client was justified, crowds of outraged protesters chant and march. They are demanding that the right thing be done for the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services. When Laquan was 3, child welfare officials took him from his mother, Tina Hunter. DCFS found evidence to suppo welfare department conducted an investigation into alleged abuse of Laquan happening in that foster home. The department did not provide CNN with information on the o remained in that home for barely seven months before the state moved him again on September 17, 2001, to the home of his great-grandmother. On May 8, 2002, Laquan w giving the child back to his mother resulted in more pain for Laquan. In June 2003, when he was 5 years old, the state determined that his mother's boyfriend was abusing h Attorney Michael Robbins declined to comment and said that she would not be available for any interviews. A home with his grandmother In July 2003, Laquan was sent o stayed with his great-grandmother for five more years. She died in the waning days of summer in 2013. Laquan was 15. In the middle of January of the following year, he w released and moved back in with his uncle. Two months before Officer Van Dyke shot Laquan to death on Chicago's Southwest Side in October 2014, the teen, still a ward basketball and wanted to get his life on track, Gattuso said. Laquan showed up to school everyday and demonstrated commitment to his classwork. The principal said he wa million to McDonald's mother. Over the summer, freelance journalist Brandon Smith filed a lawsuit pressing the Chicago Police Department to release the dashboard camer ending to -- unfortunately -- a tragic life of a young man, who was betrayed on a number of different levels," said McCarthy. On Tuesday, attorneys representing Laquan's m video not be released we understand that a court has ordered otherwise. "We ask for calm in Chicago," the statement continues. "No one understands the anger more than us

Town hall focuses on link between foster care, sex trafficking - Wave Newspapers Town hall focuses on link between foster care, sex trafficking November 25, 2015 Wr welfare systems. (Photo by Daniel Castillo) Category: Lead Story, West Edition permalink Tagged under: child prostitute, county Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Ang Rep. Karen Bass Don Wanlass LOS ANGELES — The sexual exploitation and abuse of children in the child welfare system and what can be done to prevent it was discuss leading the conversation. “This is really about all underage girls and boys who are involved in sex trafficking and the majority of them happen to be in foster care,” Bass sai that every child is safe. However, nearly 60 percent of the children who were arrested on prostitution charges in Los Angeles County spent time in the foster care system. Pr forced into prostitution are actually the victims of rape. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas also spoke at the town hall meeting on the exploitation of children in the fo levels. It is a moral crisis with true consequences in the lives of these children. “I intend to do everything in my power to address this problem and help these young people old. Sex trafficking also has become a highly lucrative business run by many street gangs. The National Foster Youth Institute, which convened the town hall meeting at the director of child trafficking in the Los Angeles County Probation Department. The Nov. 21 meeting came the day after law enforcement officials and prosecutors met downt we are after them,” Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. “I hope we also send a clear message to the victims of human trafficking, who are still in bond men and women ensnared by sex traffickers each year. The unit will include personnel from the Sheriff’s Department, the FBI, the District Attorney’s Office and other agen received more than 2,000 reports of human trafficking cases in California since 2012, the most of any state. The hotline has received 477 reports of trafficking cases in Calif to relief resources for trafficking victims. Roughly 85 people from various law enforcement and social service agencies will be assigned to the task force, officials said. Bas in the community and county here who have been making some very significant gains. So now there are programs and places for people to go and there are ways for us to a

Authorities: Health aide had sex with boy, 17, in group home | Lights and Sirens Authorities: Health aide had sex with boy, 17, in group home November 28, 2015 | File of Pahokee, Saturday in connection with a sexual battery investigation that began in March. She was released the same day on $10,000 bail. According to the Palm Beach C text messages. But an unidentified witness told deputies he walked into the room and saw Alexander and boy having sex, a sheriff’s arrest report said. When deputies spoke deleting text messages, photos and a call log between her and the teen. Source: http://crime.blog.palmbeachpost.com/2015/11/28/authorities-health-aide-had-sex-with-boy-

State foster care reform ends group homes By Karen de Sá, Bay Area News Group Posted: 11/29/15, 4:58 PM PST | Updated: 4 days ago 0 Comments Vowing to raise its place for them to live. Under a new law taking effect in January, the state’s Department of Social Services will begin a multiyear plan to replace privately run group homes policy director for the leading foster youth advocacy group California Youth Connection. “But like with many, many large reform efforts, we all kind of have to wait with b Will Lightbourne, director of the California Department of Social Services, is leading the reform effort backed by his department. He anticipates that the more than 5,800 fo has to be a core goal.” Youth in group homes tend to have greater emotional and psychological needs than most foster kids. They are among the most likely children in foste as trauma in youth who have been sexually exploited or the effects of clearly diagnosed mental illnesses. With indefinite stays no longer an option, social service workers w special training and additional 24-7 support to care for youth now in group homes. An additional $30 million ensures that relative caregivers receive the full state foster care Foreground Background Window Font Size Text Edge Style Font Family Advertisement So far, there is widespread support for the law from Assemblyman Mark Stone, D- now in California’s foster care system. Despite long-standing difficulty recruiting enough foster homes, the plan relies upon vast new reserves and better trained foster pare such as precisely how individualized mental health care will be delivered to children in family homes. Currently, there are 333 private agencies running a total of 1,022 lice investigation “Drugging Our Kids” found that foster youth in group homes are the most likely to be prescribed excessive amounts of psychotropic medications, with more t continue to suffer far worse outcomes than foster children raised with relatives or foster parents. Studies cited in a recent state report show they have higher rates of school the message, ‘Maybe I don’t belong in a normal family’ — they’re not normal situations,” said Sporleder, who raised his two siblings in the foster care system. “It makes th business. Others are expected to adapt to the new treatment requirements, or to expand their programs to offer home-based services — wrapping care and treatment around monitoring and training about drugs that are too often used for behavior management, rather than the mental illnesses for which they are designed, leaving kids to suffer de resort to chemical restraints. It gets kids into situations where there is a commitment to their future.” Contact Karen de Sá at 408-920-5781. Source: http://www.santacruzse

Florida health care aide arrested for having sex with teen in group home: cops BY David Boroff NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Monday, November 30, 2015, 12:06 PM 26-year-old Florida health care aide was busted for having sex with a 17-year-old boy in a group home where she was working, authorities said. Tykea Lasjara Alexander of

sexual relationship with the teen, but she admitted to deleting text messages and photos during a phone conversation with him that was monitored by cops, the newspaper re

Morgan Hill mentor to troubled youth accused of sexual battery on teen A mentor to troubled youth has been arrested for sexual battery on a teenage boy and now polic know if there are more victims. Police say the suspect worked with as many as 10 kids at a time, which is why they believe more victims may be out there. Morgan Hill pol disturbing. "We often times tell youth to reach out to counselors and facilitators, to be open and honest, to work through their problems and it's very disturbing that this one statement, Dauphin's employer, Unity Care, says he has since been "terminated" and that "this is the first time in the organization's 22-year history that a Unity Care employ to hurt him. I think it's deliberately mean," Chade said. Dauphin used to care for her husband and now rents a room from her. "Very caring. You know, gives his whole heart hill-mentor-to-youth-accused-of-sexual-battery-on-teen/1104841/

Ex-youth counselor sentenced to prison on teen sex charges Monday , November 30, 2015 - 1:59 PM Image by: Davis County Sheriff's Office FARMINGTON --- Keldo four prison sentences for having sex with a teenage boy in Bountiful. “What you did was not only illegal, but morally wrong,” said Judge Michael Allphin at the sentencing felonies. RELATED: Ex-youth counselor pleads guilty to Bountiful teen sex charges Allphin sentenced Cook to serve four terms of up to five years at the Utah State Prison. **for Youth**, according to court documents. EFY is a week-long religious seminar sponsored by the BYU Division of Continuing Education, according to the BYU website. C statement from a yellow-lined piece of paper. His hands shook as he unfolded the statement and he broke into tears more than once while reading it. “I’m embarrassed and a The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and attended BYU, where he was a cheerleader. Cook’s attorney, Melanie Cook, said her client, who has no previous crimin Cook chose not to have a preliminary hearing or a trial because he knew “this process can be painful for the victim and the family.” He also “wanted to keep it quiet and out for help. “This was a young man who had some issues and the defendant took advantage of him,” Ortega said. The Standard-Examiner does not publish the names of victim presentence report that he has had 30 to 40 other sexual partners and she believes Cook poses a risk to reoffend. “Your sexual activity from the time you encountered this v the young man who is the victim. I need to remind you, you are 12 years older than this young man.” You can reach reporter Loretta Park at or at 801-625-

Feds Open Investigation into Troubled Portland Foster Care Provider By Nigel Jaquiss Updated 2 days ago The federal government is investigating Portland foster car the agency's payments to Give Us This Day from Jan. 1, 2007, until now. The feds are seeking documentation of licensing, complaints and details of the care provided to ea problems included the theft or diversion of $2 million in the past five years, much of it by director Mary Holden. A lot of that money originally came from the feds—which

Worthington residential center for children with behavioral problems will close | The Columbus Dispatch Worthington residential center for children with behavioral pr stronger, Kelly Meara was effectively housebound. Audrey’s rages spared no one. “She would not leave and she attacked everyone who came in the house,” Meara said. “I l year-old Audrey in August. Relief was short-lived. The new, 14-bed Elijah Glen Center — the only program of its kind in central Ohio — is closing at the end of the month was to relinquish custody in hopes that their county Children Services agency would pay for the residential treatment, Root said. The Elijah Glen Center, on the Worthingto residential part. Surrendering children to secure treatment is a terrible choice for parents, Root said. “It’s scary. They didn’t understand why that had to happen.” State and f in the custody of county agencies in 2013 were there for reasons other than abuse or neglect. “I’m pretty down,” Root said. “We have families waiting to get in. How can it and make recommendations for improving care. And at the federal level, advocates say, legislation could soon be introduced in Congress that would allow federal foster-car executive director of the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies. “ The family is often on the hook.” Root went through the nightmare with her son Elijah, now 19 and t adults with developmental disabilities. He now lives in a group home. Even when insurance coverage does work out, options are scant. “The need is so great, but there are n initially was hospitalized at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, still needed more help, Meara recently made the difficult choice to surrender custody to Franklin County Child found this help, and it’s being taken away, and it’s just stunning,” said Meara, who lives on the Far North Side, just 4 miles from the center. “I just don’t know what to say.” know she’s not doing it on purpose. I know that.” But that doesn’t make it any easier for the Mearas, and many other families, to manage sometimes-violent teens at home. ‘ autism-center.html

Program at Long Beach Unified aims to keep children out of juvenile hall, probation camps By Sarah Favot, Los Angeles Daily News Posted: 12/06/15, 5:02 PM PST High School. A Juvenile Day Reporting Center operated by the probation department opened in September. The partnership is set to be formalized Tuesday by the Board of Deputy Chief Reaver Bingham said the students receive programming that is tailored to them and includes academic study, cognitive behavioral therapy, pro-social behavio now enrolled. Rather than moving from classroom to classroom, as is the case in a traditional high school setting, the students are taught in the same room by the same teacl enforcement when they skip out on school. “These are kids that never went to school or hardly ever went to school who now come to school on a daily basis because they h Bocklen said. “I call them my kids. They’re super awesome kids.” Bingham said the program is geared toward prevention because many of these students are at-risk for re- program can also be for youths who are not on formal probation but who can enter the program through an agreement with the child’s parents and the school district. Advert than rely on juvenile halls, group homes and camps. Bingham said similar programs operate in East Los Angeles, at Lynwood High School and through an after-school prog school district is nonfinancial. A spokesman for Long Beach Unified did not respond to several requests for comment. Source: http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20

Richland County Sheriff’s Department Should End Programs That Humiliate Children Plus: Muschamp … Really? By Free Times Readers Wednesday, December 9, termination of the officer. But this video is troubling not only because of the way that the officer brutally assaulted a helpless student but also because it is the tip of the iceb less attention placed on the other questionable programs within the department’s Youth Services Division. Richland County has pioneered several “diversion programs” that County Sheriff Leon Lott. Local news footage of the boot camp shows several Richland County deputies verbally assaulting and humiliating a group of boys — almost all A program Beyond Scared Straight. In this program, parents pay a $10 fee to have their children — some as young as 11 — transported in shackles, suited in a prison jumpsui Richland County schools, the sheriff’s department helps create a perverse demand for its programs. Often after a school resource officer arrests a student for a low-level offe is not the way to help them. Extensive research has shown that boot camps and scared-straight programs are the least effective programs in preventing crime. In fact, severa programs, the Richland County Sheriff’s Department should partner with proven programs in schools and communities that successfully divert young people from the court Restorative justice, teen courts and mentoring programs are much better alternatives to police in schools, boot camps and scared-straight programs. In order to prevent more National Field Director, Youth First InitiativeNew York Muschamp … Really? Please say it ain’t so, Gamecock Nation. Our esteemed athletics director had 60 days and a n with some of the best football talent in the country and was summarily fired by Florida barely two years ago for not being able to win the big game. Is this what Carolina ne would have taken to secure him — and will always be the big fish that got away. Oscar Ott Columbia Source: http://www.free-times.com/news/richland-county-sheriffs-de

New Report Shines A Light Into The Charter School Black Box Charter schools are now the most rapidly growing form of schools in the nation’s education system, bu charter industry reports, more than 500 new public charter schools opened during the 2014-15 school year enrolling an estimated 348,000 additional students, representing a in-depth investigations conducted in communities where these schools proliferate find that government officials who have to deal with the impact of charters generally are p So little is known about how charter schools are organized and operated that they’re often referred to as a “black box.” A new policy brief from the National Education Polic profiteer from public tax dollars and privatize public assets. The brief “The Business of Charter Schooling: Understanding the Policies that Charter Operators Use for Finan Eastern Michigan, respectively – detail how the very structure of the charter school business introduces new actors into public education who skim money from the system taxpayer dollars are used to purchase property from the public. Thus, the public ends up paying twice for the school, and the property becomes an asset of a private corporat arrangements, and many others documented in the brief, constitute a rapidly expanding parallel school system in America, populated with enterprises and individuals who w really public schools, despite what charter advocates say. As Baker and Miron explain, charters generally aren’t subject to the same disclosure laws that apply to state operat private entities has the potential to make transparency laws – for open meetings, public access to records, and financial disclosures by public officials and state operated inst public-private arrangement of charter schools often place new limits on the constitutional (and some statutory) protections that are customarily guaranteed to school employ advocates put so much energy and resources in marketing their operations as “public” schools. How The Charter School Gravy Train Works Just as the complexity of public management organizations do not report relevant, detailed, and comprehensive expenditures in the same format or with comparable documentation as public districts, charte salaries, wildly inflated administrative fees, acquisitions and transfers of buildings and property, and “asset hoarding” where school supplies and materials purchased with p private investors and their firms. In one such financial arrangement, charter operators will use independent, though often closely affiliated, private nonprofit or for-profit ent to the public taxpayer. Yet, this lease payment, the brief notes, “doesn’t need to be approved by local taxpayers.” This arrangement also leads to excess debt service expense the authorization of most charters will have to be renewed. In another questionable financial scheme, taxpayer funds are used, without voter approval, to purchase a property these taxpayers will no longer own it. Worse, in the process of transferring the property, taxpayer dollars have subsidized substantial fees and interest to various parties. The dealing, charter schools also “enhance revenues,” as the authors phrase it, by engaging in practices public schools would never get away with. “Some charter schools have b count” game in which they inflate enrollments before a cut-off date in the fall and then retain money given to them by the district as students dis-enroll from the charter thro related to students and parents, they go after teacher salaries and benefits. The brief documents how charter chains, such as KIPP, slash teacher personnel costs at the same t schools spend. Often, these lower personnel costs are accomplished by keeping a relatively inexperienced staff of teachers who frequently leave the school and are replaced more expansion of the charter sector. As the authors state, a “substantial share of public expenditure intended for the delivery of direct educational services to children is bei Popular Democracy and the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools uncovered over $200 million in “alleged and confirmed financial fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement” c seems every day brings a new revelation of how these schools misappropriate and misspend public money. However, many of the financial arrangements and business oppo

of the brief ask us to consider whether “that which is legal is not necessrily ethical, or in support of the public interest.” While charter schools can claim to be doing “a reasc of our education system. Given their findings, Baker and Miron argue that as these public-private relationships have become increasingly complex and opaque, state charter recommendations they lead the authors to constitute an invaluable service to all who care about our children’s education. Source: http://educationopportunitynetwork.org/n

Foster parents ‘were let down by back-up services’ 0 Comments CHILDREN’S Services did not offer enough support to foster parents and did not investigate concerns r unsupported by Children’s Services. She said she raised concerns about some of the children’s behaviour, but that nothing ever seemed to be done. Miss B was jailed in 201 yesterday she continued to deny that she had tipped off the man, who was jailed for two years for sexual abuse of child A. Source: http://jerseyeveningpost.com/news/2015/

Nurse describes harsh conditions inside group home before fire 1 day ago December 09, 2015 Dec 9, 2015 Wednesday, December 09 2015 Wednesday, December 09, 2 not to be identified, said people were barely being treated as human beings in apartment units in the 600 block of Donmoor. The apartment was rented out from its owner by interview with WBRZ reporter Brett Buffington Wednesday night. On TV, the woman's face was hidden and her voice disguised since she worked as a home health nurse at had concerns with the property. Inspectors found fire code violations and even questioned the conditions of the people who resided at the facility. "Codes for independent as discounted," she said. The woman claims people were living in cramped, one bedroom apartments and said sometimes, air conditioning was not working. The woman stopp fire. Source: http://www.wbrz.com/news/nurse-describes-harsh-conditions-inside-group-home-before-fire/

Grand Jury Indicts Unlicensed Care-Home Group In all, nine people face 53 charges in the running of about a dozen Snellville-area homes. Snellville, GA By Doug Gro The homes were exposed in a December 2 raid by Gwinnett County Police and other law-enforcement agencies. Authorities say they discovered 12 homes in the Snellville a government benefits directly to the people running the homes. In all, nine people face 53 exploitation charges in the case. An attorney for the defendants told the Gwinnett I were great with my family?’ ” lawyer Jack Harrell said to the paper, after filing bond requests at the Gwinnett County Courthouse. Harrell said the homes were primarily ru upscale options. The December 2 operation stemmed from a May domestic-dispute call at one home, at 4126 Wrexham Dr. in Snellville. There had been an “extensive call l investigation that followed revealed other homes and suspects. Numerous people suffering from a range of mental and physical illnesses were being housed in the homes, ac Neonard Precious Kumassah, Sasha Chantel Alphonso, Stefani Amoi Walker, Yulanda Natasha Walsh and Reggie Benard McKenzie and Jacqueline Pamela Mitchell, who h

Report blasts Goshen group home, state agency over disabled teen's death Comment 2 By Associated Press recordonline.com By Associated Press Posted Dec. 14, 201 2015 at 3:51 PM ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A mentally disabled teenager who died while under state care in 2013 writhed in excruciating pain for months when a doctor igno in the state, issued a highly critical report that was provided to The Associated Press before its release Monday. The report calls for a new investigation by the state's Justice October that its investigations have rarely resulted in criminal charges. The agency has received more than 25,000 allegations of abuse and neglect by caretakers since 2014 as "M.H.," was being cared for at Dominican Hall in the Hudson Valley town of Goshen. It said the teen had been fed through a stomach tube that he became unable to toler months before his death from peritonitis and sepsis at a hospital after a new tube attached to his intestine was inadvertently removed. The report said the Justice Center, whi period despite having inherited the authority of its predecessor agency. The Justice Center said the teen's case largely predated its purview, which began when it became ope Ward said. The state agency said in a statement that it did a thorough investigation and concluded M.H.'s medical care "appeared to be inadequate and inappropriate" by the disagreed with the report's findings and called M.H.'s death "tragic" but referred back to the Justice Center investigation. Saint Dominic's Home President Judith Kydon did services, nurses and that other staff repeatedly reported frustration with the doctor's lack of accountability. It also said the staff reported being verbally reprimanded by the d Organizations like Disability Rights operate under federal authority in all 50 states and U.S. territories. The legal services group has federal funding and offices in Brooklyn http://www.recordonline.com/article/20151214/NEWS/151219687

Drugging Our Kids: California courts step up scrutiny of foster care use of psychiatric drugs By Karen de Sá Posted: 12/15/2015 11:19:07 AM PS psychiatric drugs that are now too freely prescribed to foster children. The state's juvenile court judges have long had the responsibility for signing off on those prescription prescribers and others who care for foster children, from social workers to foster parents and legal advocates. Sacramento Superior Court Judge Jerilyn Borack, who preside a package of bills signed into law late last year by Gov. Jerry Brown to curb rampant use of psychiatric drugs in foster care. The problem received far-reaching response afte address rare mental illnesses they are designed to treat. Under the new proposals, judges will probe deeper into a child's overall mental health care: If nondrug therapies hav willingly, or was it a struggle? Indeed for the first time, children's input -- no matter their age -- would become more central to the courts' decisions. Children would not hav "a lot of check boxes, and a lot of teeny-tiny lines that doctors may or may not write on, and we didn't feel that met the requirements of the new law," Borack said. "If we ju adequate. The doctors say, 'Well, I'm the doctor. Just trust me and sign off on it.' " The public has until Jan. 22 to comment on the new proposed rules and forms now posted nation for requiring juvenile court approval of all psychotropics prescribed to foster children. But in many counties, the approvals rarely provide a meaningful review of wh harming -- the children. This newspaper found that over the past decade, almost 1 in every 4 teens in foster care receives psych meds, the majority prescribed the most powe rules follow some of the provisions of Senate Bill 238, one of three new laws taking effect in January to better protect foster youths from unsafe medications. A fourth bill, They would be required to discuss specifically whether prescriptions alleviated symptoms. Social workers and probation officers would have to state specifically, in the nex medications, as well as fill out more paperwork. Mark Edelstein, medical director of EMQ FamiliesFirst, a Campbell-based nonprofit providing mental health services to fo requiring even more paperwork would give them less time to provide direct clinical care to foster youth, an already underserved population," Edelstein said. "This kind of a prescriptions to foster youths -- called the changes "realistic, balanced and smart." Together, Friedman added, "they will save countless kids from unnecessary and excessive impeded through "red tape." But she remains hopeful that more accountability "will halt the practice of medicating for convenience the foster children we are supposed to p

UPDATE: Richland juvenile home official charged with sex with teen Juvenile home administrator charged with custodial sexual misconduct Mindi M. Stoker of P who are transitioning back into the community. File Tri-City Herald i By Ty Beaver LinkedIn Google+ Pinterest Reddit Print Order Reprint of this Story T first- and second-degree custodial sexual misconduct with the young offender. Investigators said she allegedly kept a “To do” list on her cellphone of the sexual experiences bail. She works at the Twin Rivers Community Facility, which helps offenders sentenced as juveniles to transition back into society toward the end of their sentences. A rele inexcusable for any of our staff, and especially intolerable for someone in a position of authority,” said Assistant Secretary John Clayton. This is inexcusable for any of our St. in north Richland has 15 beds for offenders. The Richland School District provides educational programs at the home but is otherwise not involved in its day-to-day ope the two were having sex. That triggered an investigation by DSHS, Child Protective Services, the Washington State Patrol and Richland police. “We take these extremely se denied having any inappropriate relationship with her, court documents said. But after being told he was not in trouble, the teen told a Richland detective the relationship wi and had sex in a bathroom at Twin Rivers. Richland police said there are witnesses to some of the instances when the pair engaged in sexual contact. Investigators found 36 said they are cooperating with those efforts. A decision on Stoker’s continued employment with the state agency also is expected in a few days, DSHS officials said. Ty Bea

Kids Get Hurt at Residential Schools While States Look On Some residential programs for kids have settled on better ways to handle children. But the best practices are After slamming his fists into the wall until his knuckles dripped with blood, the raging teenage boy turned to a staff member and shoved him. The teen had recently been ad physical: The boy would have been forced to the ground and restrained until he grew calm, which sometimes could take up to 45 minutes. But this time, Sean Hennessey, a When tears rolled down the boy’s face minutes later, Hennessey moved in and offered a reassuring side hug. “It’s exhilarating when you’ve avoided a restraint,” Hennessey When children violently acted out, staff would hold them or even strap them down, and sometimes inject them with sedatives. Trish and David Cocoros, the directors of the alternatives to restraints such as the approach Hennessey used. Now, the program averages less than one restraint a month. Youth Development Institute is part of a growing more rigorous classes. But best practices like these are almost entirely self-imposed. There are few federal requirements for residential programs involving children, and a p all programs. Efforts to bolster federal standards have drawn fire from some providers and industry groups, which have lobbied lawmakers. Legislation to modestly increase story about one for-profit company, AdvoServ, that has used its deep pockets and influence to bully weak regulators and evade accountability.) Because of the wide latitude detailed how AdvoServ workers at one campus used mechanical restraints 28,000 times in less than five years. (AdvoServ told us workers only use restraints as a last resort died after being restrained, most often because of asphyxiation. The job of monitoring the wellbeing of children at the programs is spread across so many state and local age they discovered public school students were being mistreated. School officials in just seven of the 44 states that responded to the survey said they had levied penalties on or abuse allegations occurring in programs on their turf,” Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., told ProPublica in an email. Schiff reintroduced a bill earlier this year that would require strengthen best practices in the face of lax national oversight. (Annie Waldman/ProPublica) Youth residential centers originated in the 1940s to fill a gap in the therapeutic s abuse problems to profound disabilities like severe autism. They use a diverse array of approaches and include so-called “wilderness” programs, boot camps and other beha educate students with severe impairments that local classrooms can’t handle. Some of the programs provide 24-hour care and take children from across the country. Many o the programs. Despite the public funding, there is little data on residential schools. One federal database collects state data on abuse incidents, but submission is voluntary. T facilities across the country, housing more than 50,000 children annually. Ira Burnim, legal director for the Bazelon Center for Mental Health, believes that the current data reports of chronic abuse and neglect. A government report in 2008 found gaps in state regulation increased the risk of abuse and neglect at some youth residential programs. licensing and do not have direct regulation. The report also found state agencies did not routinely share negative findings on programs, or even inform other agencies when Sisson, executive director of the American Association of Children’s Residential Centers. To help reinforce standards, some states and federal agencies require programs to good measures,” said Robert Friedman, a clinical psychologist at the University of South Florida. “But they are not there that often.” Unrestrained While evidence of abuse

that the for-profit school she trusted with her son had strapped him down again and again, one time after not picking up his Legos. Read the story. With few enforcement po to promote changes at children's residential centers, such as eliminating the use of restraints. In 2006, Blau organized the first "Building Bridges" summit to bring residentia practices, others were resistant to any kind of culture change. "There were residential facilities that had built fortresses around themselves," Blau said. "They kept kids in an more work to be done," Blau said. For facilities that are resistant to change, "that's where I would look to state licensing and say that we need to include these principles in including limiting restraints. "The data made it impossible to walk away from," said Janice LeBel, the director of system transformation at Massachusetts' Department of M watch, the state has reduced the use of restraints in children's psychiatric facilities by 89 percent. They are now implementing the reduction strategies across children's resid service advancement," she told ProPublica. Industry groups and providers have at times aggressively sought to fend off federal regulation of their programs and worked to u getting resources." The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs, also known as NATSAP, represents over 150 residential treatment programs and was on right kind," said Clifford Brownstein, the executive director of NATSAP, which requires that its members be licensed and accredited. "We have found that, for a variety of r $100,000 since 2013 lobbying Congress on mental health bills, including legislation on residential program oversight, according to congressional disclosure reports. Joy Mi and does not necessarily indicate lobbying, described the recent legislation as a "work-in-progress." Additional reporting by Heather Vogell and Meral Agish. Source: https

Georgia foster care death: Worker overlooked signs of abuse | www.myajc.com DFCS worker failed to investigate signs of child abuse Posted: 9:06 p.m. Wednesday, D protection worker and her supervisor failed to investigate injuries spotted on a 2-year-old girl in foster care, who police say later died of abuse, according to documents obta state Division of Family and Children Services. The AJC obtained the summary through the state open records law. Related Gallery Photos: Emotional bond hearing in foste children, but in this case, the agency placed Laila in the hands of a caretaker who police say eventually beat, starved and killed the child. The case summary details a broker child was not even enrolled in a gymnastics class, the summary said. "It was definitely a screw-up. That's where the ball was dropped," said Gina Banks, the girl's maternal "swindled her way through the system and pulled the wool over everyone's eyes." White and her supervisor, Tamara Warner, have since been fired for violating agency poli summary also pointed to warnings about Rosenbaum from a woman who had been the girl's prior foster care mother. Patricia Lambert was caring for Laila before the girl w provided by the Rosenbaums," the summary said. The caseworker did not file a report on these injuries or investigate them, the summary said. + Laila Marie Daniel, 2, in a husband, Joseph, charged with child cruelty, had earlier received a $10,000 bond. Laila died Nov. 17, about five months after she was placed in the care of the Rosenbaums. injury." The warrant noted that Laila was "injured about her body in its entirety," suffering severe bruising on her back, legs, head and abdomen, and breaks of her legs and chicken. Mull said the force of the compressions may have caused the injury to the pancreas. Mull attributed Laila's and her sister's other injuries to either abuse prior to the agency is supposed to check whether the person has a criminal history or any accusations against them of child abuse or neglect. The agency also inspects the home to make Rosenbaum's maiden name when determining whether she had a history of accusations of child abuse or neglect. Rosenbaum had no such history, Fielding said, so the chec

Judge: Foster care system violates children's rights Emily Ramshaw and Edgar Walters, The Texas Tribune 2:11 p.m. CST December 17, 2015 Judge: Foster Care Syster Texas has violated foster children's constitutional rights to be free from an unreasonable risk of harm, saying that children "often age out of care more damaged than when t incarceration or otherwise," the ruling states. "... Although some foster children are able to overcome these obstacles, they should not have to." The class-action lawsuit, bro placed too far away from home into settings where they do not get appropriate care. In it, Children's Rights asked U.S. District Judge Janis Jack, of Corpus Christi, to order better staffing ratios in group foster homes. In the ruling, which the state is expected to appeal within 30 days, Jack orders child welfare officials to "establish and implemen certain foster children in unsafe placements like "foster group homes that lack 24-hour awake-night supervision." Texas' roughly $1.2 billion-per-year Child Protective Serv at the agency, raising questions about whether state lawmakers would need to reconvene during a special legislative session to implement — and allocate money for — refo

Anchorage juvenile justice officer charged with sexual abuse of teen inmate, helping plan her escape Jerzy Shedlock December 22, 2015 Email Print Text Size-A +A the facility. The charges say Phillip Bigham, 47, resigned Nov. 24, the same day his superiors called a meeting where they questioned Bigham about outings he took with th charges say. But Bigham kept his job for another week; he requested the time to gather his belongings and say goodbye. Related: Former McLaughlin justice officer accuse Bigham until he took a position with the Girls Treatment Center. After Bigham left the facility, the girl got letters from the Anchorage area despite having no relatives in the McLaughlin officials searched the girl's cell, discovering a letter with handwriting similar to Bigham's, according to the charges. "Cuaresma stated that the letter talked abo had set up a room for her in his garage, which included hair dye and new clothes, according to the charges. The girl was at first reluctant to come forward with more inform Bigham began treating her differently in July by giving her candy and letting her use his phone and computer. Their relationship became more sexual in October, she said; s plan fell through. On Dec. 18, Bigham was secretly recorded speaking with the girl on the phone, the charges say. The two discussed the best time for her to escape and whe at or on Twitter Source: https://www.adn.com/article/20151222/anchorage-juvenile-justice-officer-charged-sexual-abuse-teen-inmate-helping-plan

Supporters Of New Law: Let's Find Homes, Not Group Homes, For Foster Kids Bob Moffitt Tuesday, December 22, 2015 | Sacramento, CA | Permalink In this Tues new California laws that take effect on Jan. 1, 2016. A new law signed by California Governor Jerry Brown this year will require group homes meet treatment standards for homes. Democratic Assemblyman Mark Stone wrote the law and says it's part of an effort to get kids out of group homes and into family settings. "It is a major push away f intensive care treatment facilities for those kids who need that." Studies cited in a Department of Social Services report from this year say increased time in group homes c and finding out from them what resources they have available, what group homes they have, how they're going to be able to do this transition, what their inventory, if you w http://www.capradio.org/articles/2015/12/22/supporters-of-new-law-lets-find-homes-not-group-homes-for-foster-kids/

Henn. Co. Sheriff Investigates Sex Assault At Juvenile Treatment Center December 23, 2015 4:36 PM Filed Under: County Road 62, Hennepin County, Hennepin Cou report of a sexual assault at a county treatment facility for troubled teens. The assault allegedly occurred at the Hennepin County Home School on the 14000 block of Count Nexus, who works with the county's human services office. The date of the incident and information about those involved have not been released. Nexus released the follow Additionally, we are conducting our own internal investigation to get to the facts of this allegation. The safety of the youth in our care is always our highest priority, and our http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2015/12/23/henn-co-sheriff-investigates-sex-assault-at-juvenile-treatment-center/

Prosecutor: Ex-group home workers convicted of endangering residents for encouraging fight | Fox News Prosecutor: Ex-group home workers convicted of endangeri care to attack another resident for their own amusement have been convicted. Newsday reports (http://nwsdy.li/1OMHBwJ) 30-year-old Erin McHenry was found guilty of four workers fired by the Independent Group Home Living Program after cellphone footage taken by one of them showed a fight between two men under their care. Prosecu http://www.foxnews.com/us/2015/12/24/prosecutor-ex-group-home-workers-convicted-endangering-residents-for.html

--> **Kansas lawmaker seeks end of privatized foster care system** Posted 4:57 p.m. today Updated 4:58 p.m. today 0 0 reactions More on this The Topeka (Kan.) Capital-J homes. What do you think? Rep. Mike Kiegerl, an Olathe Republican, wrote a report titled "When Children Die We Must Act" in which he concluded that the mid-1990s pr that this program as currently in place ought to be eliminated. Perhaps another method of privatizing services could be studied," Kiegerl wrote. What do you think? His repo Department for Children and Families, which oversees the state's foster care contractors, has been facing questions and criticism in recent months over the deaths of multipl multiple foster and adoptive children. What do you think? Kiegerl prepared his report before the couple, Jonathan and Allison Schumm, were arrested. The report notes that disrupts procedures and increases expenses. It concludes that contractors must have healthy profit margins in order to pay a CEO of one of the contractors $650,000 a year. adequately care for abused and neglected children. What do you think? DCF Secretary Phyllis Gilmore told lawmakers last month there are about 6,600 children in foster ca What do you think? "I believe it's been an abject failure, particularly in taking the best interest of children in mind. I believe too many decisions are made that are based on

Youth Villages Oregon plans to end residential services in Lake Oswego Created on Wednesday, 30 December 2015 16:43 | Written by The Review | inShare Share 0 Co Oswego and begin laying off or transferring workers on March 1. LaTonya Pendleton, the managing director of human resources for Youth Villages, told the Clackamas Co teacher/counselors, night monitors and therapists. Some of the workers will be offered positions in other Youth Villages programs in Oregon and outside the state, Pendleto Oregon Department of Justice to draft "intent to revoke" letters to Youth Villages, which also operates a facility in Oregon City and a family intervention program in Redmo December and would move the children who were already there to other placements. But Connie Mills, manager of public relations for Youth Villages, told The Review on agreement could be finalized as soon as Thursday, but that negotiations could stretch into next week. Youth Villages established itself locally in 2011 when it merged with C problems.It also provides intensive in-home support for children who might otherwise be placed in foster care, residential treatment, detention centers, hospitals or juvenile providing care for Oregon's youth who face some of the biggest challenges, and our commitment to caring for them is steadfast," Mills wrote. Source: http://portlandtribun

Former county home worker indicted Filed on December 30, 2015 by Brad Dicken 2 Comments ELYRIA — A former child care worker at the Lorain County Juvenile C Lorain County Jail on Monday on two counts of conspiracy and a single charge of corrupting another with drugs. The 29-year-old was released Tuesday on bond. The charg client plans to fight the charges. "He may have used poor judgment on occasion, but nothing that rises to a criminal offense," St. Marie said. "He fully expects the judicial p Stone, where he was hired as a relief worker in September 2012 and became a full-time employee in January 2013. In March 2013, a juvenile probation officer reported that http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2015/12/30/former-county-home-worker-indicted/

Out of Options, California Ships Hundreds of Troubled Children Out of State One 14-year-old boy's search for care takes him to Utah as his home state struggles to sa Veronice Becton walk away from the Mount Pleasant Academy in Mount Pleasant, Utah. Short of options in his home state of California, Deshaun is now living in a Utah p

foster families and in five different group homes. Now he is among the more than 900 children that California sends to out-of-state residential facilities, most of them in Uta
late 1990s, after a 16-year-old boy died from abuse at an Arizona boot camp, California pledged not to export its troubled youth to out-of-state group homes and juvenile de
almost all beds for children in psychiatric hospitals. It has moved to curtail the use of group homes, partly because, as ProPublica has reported, several have melted down in
same time, California is sending more and more children to facilities out of state — some as far away as Florida. Indeed, the number of children sent from probation and chi
saying we don't want locked facilities here and we don't want group homes, so instead we're sending kids to Utah where we can't monitor them. What's that about? It's just
They couldn't provide a total. Using several different sources of state data, ProPublica calculated that county probation departments in 2015 had some 235 children living o
out-of-state facilities where California agencies have placed children. Earlier this year, records show, at a facility just over the Nevada border, California inspectors respond
Colorado, inspectors worried in October 2014 that a facility housing California children was vulnerable to targeting by sex traffickers. It took a year before children were re
the children remained safe. Michael Weston, a spokesman for DSS, sent a general response acknowledging that California had run out of options for many of the children b
finances. Lamont Becton, Deshaun's father, is a firefighter; Deshaun's mother, Veronice, is a registered nurse. They have met with dozens of experts, driven thousands of m
can California not be capable of better for Deshaun? His problems — post-traumatic stress, mood disorders, violent outbursts – are significant. Yet can it really be best for t
children? It's not. If it was, you'd want these kids to be near their families." The Bectons recognize the challenge Deshaun presents. He consumes a daily diet of anti-psycho
county and the state of California. The family has also experienced the risk of out-of-state placements firsthand. In May of 2012, Deshaun was sent to a home in Kansas wh
to pornography. Officials at the ranch quickly realized it was an inappropriate placement for Deshaun, but before his parents could remove him, he wound up with scrapes a
will be safe, and that he might make some small progress toward stability with the right combination of medication and therapy. "We can paint a picture to somebody that m
Lamont Becton have grown accustomed to living without Deshaun in their home in Antioch, California. (Jessica Dimmock, special to ProPublica) Deshaun's mother was 14
they ricocheted up and down the state, sometimes together, often apart. When Deshaun was three, a young couple considered adopting him. But medical records show he su
almost by accident, Veronice and Lamont Becton, a working class, African-American couple from Oakland and its suburbs. The Bectons had casually discussed adoption fo
three-bedroom home in Antioch. The couple first agreed to take Deshaun in as a foster child. When he arrived, all his possessions had been packed into a single trash bag. It
had my little luggage." Deshaun wasn't easy. He stayed up far later than had their older son, Jonah. He would scream and cry. But two months in, it did not feel like anythin
balloons and relatives. Deshaun was giddy from all the attention. But as home life took on its long-term routines— shifts at the hospital for Veronice; commutes to the fireh
Deshaun kept Jonah up all night, throwing toys, smearing feces on the bedroom walls, carving deep scratch marks into the sheetrock with his tiny nails. During the day, the
this setting," the teachers would say, trying to be polite. A social worker told them Deshaun likely had something called "reactive attachment disorder," a condition that dev
the time Deshaun was in kindergarten, his parents began the process of enrolling him in an "Individualized Education Program," a plan laid out by the school district for chi
driver's seat. Eventually the school district opted to take him to school privately, in his own van. "It was such a horrible feeling," Lamont said, bowing his head. "To rely on
special to ProPublica) He and Veronice rattled off all the activities they experimented with to relieve their son of his boundless, often destructive energy: physical outlets lik
scrubbing graffiti off walls at a nearby public school. The janitors grew to love the Bectons. Lamont kept a list of all the professionals they'd met over the years: teachers, p
team of social service workers would come to the Becton home and tend to Deshaun directly. Soon there were five people, working in shifts, in and out of the home. The co
to have to suture that wound and put pressure dressing on it." Wraparound care, she said, was like a Band-Aid and "we were like… hemorrhaging blood." California offered
Psychiatrists and therapists would be on hand. The $10,000 a month in costs would be borne by the family's home county. Deshaun arrived at the home, known as Families
the arts center and the Bectons noticed that his emotions had steadied. He could cool his temper using techniques his therapist had taught him. But FamiliesFirst came undo
April 2015 ProPublica examination – one that revealed a wholesale failure of care and protection involving the home administrators, government overseers and the local po
fled the facility the night before and something terrible happened. He'd been "assaulted in the community," she said. The Bectons raced to reclaim their boy. They took his
solution got underway. "So how do you find a place?" Lamont asked. "You go to your laptop and you type in 'boys group home' and you go, 'Wow, those are lovely picture
symptoms of autism, yet not in a manner severe enough to qualify him for some of the most advanced care. But some of it feels like a lack of consistency and coordination
screening panels can feel perfunctory, and his resulting placements determined more by the availability of a bed somewhere – anywhere – than by a considered strategy for
Treatment Center in the foothills of Northern California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. The home serves 38 boys in six houses on a bucolic 1,000-acre ranch. The Bectons vie
recreation. But the administrators did not mention that Milhous had recently been in trouble with the California Department of Social Services for a string of violations. Rec
staff had strip-searched children. For each violation, the department demanded the home provide a "plan of correction" – a legally binding document that is meant to show
arrival. Staff turnover contributed to Deshaun changing therapists four times. Veronice said that at the end of Deshaun's time there, the home had also lost its staff psychiatr
he was found on the side of a highway wearing a T-shirt, shorts, and cowboy boots. In an interview, Milhous Children's Services Chief Executive Officer Dan Petrie defend
hunts for marijuana. It happened on a single occasion, he said, and the staff member been properly disciplined. Petrie said Deshaun had been "easily in the top 10 of the mo
with Deshaun. The family hired yet one more consultant to plot out yet one more alternative. Under California law, public school districts must provide an education to all s
treats children with sexually aggressive behavioral disorders. (Kim Raff, special to ProPublica) Deshaun and nearly 600 other California children did not end up in Utah by
sends them a range of children who have been through California's juvenile justice, foster care or special education systems. The niche industry traces its roots to homes fou
and willing to do this work within the Mormon population than you would have out in the world," said Dr. Robert Crist, a psychiatrist and a co-founder of the Provo Canyo
Therapeutic Schools and Programs, a national trade organization that represents such facilities in Washington, D.C. Trade group officials say all members must prove they e
network of homes operated by a former worker at Provo Canyon. A lawsuit on behalf of 350 children against the network's founder, Robert Lichfield, had for years tarnishe
sometimes violent methods of discipline, including long periods of solitary confinement or even beatings. For more than a decade, the suit wound its way through state and
willing to deal with these hard and large issues," said Windle Turley, the attorney who filed the suit. In an emailed statement, Lichfield sought to distance himself from the t
very upset with being sent to the schools where they couldn't do drugs or other inappropriate behaviors." Many of the homes tied to Lichfield in Utah and across the country
incidents, Utah's legislature passed a bill in 2005 expanding the number and type of homes it would formally license and oversee. But efforts at adopting national standards
worst actors in the business even when some programs are outstanding. "They haven't been well thought out," Brownstein said of the federal proposals. He said his membe
met in order to protect the well-being of all residents" at the homes and facilities. "Regardless of who the players are, we license each facility to a set standard of criteria pro
Salt Lake City attorney who has filed 25 lawsuits against facilities in the state, said whatever regulations Utah has are clearly ineffective. Otherwise, he said, he wouldn't ha
in 2014 to multiple counts of sexually abusing three teenagers in his care, one of whom was just 13. The facility did not properly report the abuse to Utah regulators or the p
Mount Pleasant Academy, and the Bectons realized almost immediately it was not a good fit. A month after Deshaun arrived, Veronice received a copy of notes recorded by
What he needed, they wrote to the Bectons, was intensive, individualized care – something the home said it did not have the staff to provide. They suggested he be sent to R
some gravel in the parking lot of the home. When Lamont visited that month, he was surprised by the severity of Deshaun's injury. The scrape stretched from above his son
Deshaun's face showed up on her computer screen, she saw the faint outline of a black eye. Deshaun, in his halting way, said it happened during a restraint triggered by a di
himself. Veronice made plans to remove Deshaun immediately. And there was no way she was going to send him to Red Rock Canyon. Jerry Spanos says his Heritage Scho
Heritage School, a 19-acre residential treatment center set in a narrow valley that divides the outskirts of Provo from the snow-capped Wasatch Mountains. The campus is c
heated, indoor pool. Spanos' staff includes 17 therapists and two psychiatrists. They are meant to get to know the kids as individuals: their triggers, their trauma, their histor
was just retrieving their son. Thus on Dec. 3, Veronice pulled up to the log cabin walls of the Mount Pleasant Academy horse ranch. The building is tucked at the end of a cu
waited. He was disheveled and bleary-eyed. There was dirt in his hair, dust on his blue jeans and mud on his black parka. Veronice held Deshaun tight, and the two of them
gloves that lay loosely atop two half-full garbage bags: one carried a tangled of shirts, pants, drawings, and Star Wars books. Another mostly held dirty socks and video gam
to ProPublica about the ranch and Deshaun's stay, but over several weeks he did not make himself available. On the road, Deshaun opened up. "Mom, can I tell you someth
great feeling." Deshaun rambled on, his long tangents of thought sometimes leading to keen, surprising insights about himself and the world around him. He was remarkabl
his natural gift for art – he can make something remarkable out of almost anything, be it bottle caps or duct tape. "Mom didn't really look that excited to pick me up," he sai
been the most challenging piece. Because when he gets in a program, they go 'This kid's going to be a dream. And his family is involved?' And then, you know…" "Every
years ago, California was shaken by a tragedy that grew out of sending children out of state with little oversight to ensure their safety. On March 2, 1998, a 16-year-old fron
began to rebel against itself. He ultimately collapsed and succumbed to a respiratory infection. His chest cavity had swelled with two-and-a-half quarts of pus. California of
camps, juvenile detention centers and other programs in other states. California lawmakers quickly discovered the wave of children sent across state lines had been set in m
it was often cheaper. After Contreraz's death, then-Gov. Pete Wilson signed a bill prohibiting California children from being sent to out-of-state facilities that permitted corp
reasons are familiar enough. California's detention facilities grew so bad they have been all but eradicated. And its group homes proved such failures that the latest reform p
challenged to deliver individualized services to children at home, have come to see the financial appeal of sending away children caught up in the juvenile justice system or
that can handle what we have been seeing," said Amy Jacobs, deputy probation officer for Stanislaus County in California's central valley, which sent 16 children to out-of-
for the overwhelming majority of the out-of-state placements, also say it's an option of last resort. But a last resort that's being used plenty. No Place for a Kid to Go In Lon
largest district in the state. "We try to find the least restrictive settings in our community first." Kauffman said she's managed to place fewer children out-of-state in recent y
they have been sent elsewhere. But ProPublica's reporting has showed the department often has trouble effectively monitoring the care of children in its own networks of ho
homes in other states and a review of some recent incidents suggests such worries are warranted. The Rite of Passage Silver State Academy on tribal land in Yerington, Nev

volatile environment" than in previous years. An inspector did not visit the home again until Feb. 19, 2015— a full six weeks after there had been violent clashes involving the resident had already been moved. Nine days later there was another riot. Described in one report as a "student rebellion incident," on the night of February 28, two build students stated with confidence that the amount of food is inadequate," said the final report, dated March 16 — 17 days after the buildings had been burned. Over the next s did not respond to requests for comment. Michael Weston, a spokesman for the Department of Social Services, said the department acted responsibly in its oversight of the 120 to 50. Then, in August, it changed leadership. Today, DSS allows teen girls from California to be housed at the facility. Benchmark Behavioral Health systems operates run by a company called Benchmark Behavioral Health Systems. The company's website advertises the facility as a place "high in the Rocky Mountains" that offers "progr the facility was charged with sexual assault for allegedly raping a 16-year-old resident. Benchmark officials did not respond to a request for comment. Kelly Criddle of the inspectors did not visit the facility to inquire specifically about the sex abuse charge, opting instead to accept documentation from the facility showing how it planned to adc apprehension in a 12-year hunt for help. Their home is filled with evidence of the family's enduring devotion to Deshaun. Its walls are adorned with photographs of his smil There is a quote from Martin Luther King inscribed across his chest. It's drawn from a book of sermons published by King in 1963 called "Strength to Love." "The ultimate they can imagine for Deshaun is a life of modest independence and contribution. A simple job. A safe place to sleep. As for the next facility that might assist him in that purs child welfare and juvenile detention, email Source: https://www.propublica.org/article/california-ships-hundreds-of-troubled-children-out-of-state

Mother Seeks To Press Charges For Alleged Caretaker Abuse At Stillwater Facility Posted: Dec 31, 2015 12:54 PM PST Updated: Dec 31, 2015 4:12 PM PST By Aarc with Autism was taken to the hospital Thursday, after his mother says he was brutally beaten by his caretaker. Christopher Leverett, 26, was all smiles as he left the hospital one time" Robin Drinnon said of her son, "And Lord knows what it's done to him inside and he can't tell me." The group home manager noticed the bruising Wednesday an Christopher "Hit me four or five times in the face, and I hit him back. I didn't mean to, and I didn't want to, it was just an instant reflex". There are bruises on both sides of the company that runs the group home also apologized, but, "I'm sorry doesn't fix it. It don't change the fact that someone hurt him. Chris can't take care of himself," said I staff members, and that his caretaker simply snapped. Hammock said while he empathizes with the caretaker, the caretaker has been fired. Drinnon has taken Christopher to http://www.news9.com/story/30862846/mother-says-son-with-autism-was-beaten-by-caretaker-at-stillwater-facility

Foster system abuses needs attention now - San Antonio Express-News Foster system abuses needs attention now Express-News Editorial Board Published 12:00 am, Sat fixes. Here, retired Judge John Specia, Commissioner of Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, takes questions after speaking to CPS workers, at an office of fixes. Here, retired Judge John Specia, Commissioner of Texas Department of Family ... more Photo: BOB OWEN /San Antonio Express-News Foster system abuses needs system is broken and the problems need to be addressed now, not years down the road after all the appeals have been exhausted and another generation of foster children ha cited the constant moving of children and their placement in unsafe places. The judge also took the state to task for its failure to hire enough people to handle the workload, Your Turn: January 3 The Trump way — what Constitution? How a suicide bomber is made — a Pakistan story Foster system abuses needs attention now A third condition cannot image in which "children have been shuttled throughout a system where rape, abuse, psychotropic medication, and instability are the norm." The judge has ordered t are not new. Jack points out that the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services has for decades largely ignored reports that detailed the problems and possible solu reviewing its option. An appeal appears inevitable. This has all the appearance of the state simply not caring. And this is unacceptable. Prolonging the court battle serves no foster care. Time does not stand still for children in foster care. The system needs immediate fixing. Any judge who has handled child abuse and neglect cases will acknowl uniform plan that looks at the bigger picture. In Bexar County, court officials recently announced the creation of a court program aimed at addressing the needs of children v violence — along with housing and employment issues — so families can remain intact. The local program is being made possible through the generosity of the Baptist Hea dealing with the broken system. Texas is notorious for exhausting all appeals before begrudgingly doing what the courts have ordered when it finds itself on the losing end neglect, and shuttling between inappropriate placements across the state has created a population that cannot contribute to society, and provides a continued strain on the go problems within the foster care system sooner rather than later. The lives of too many children are at risk. Waiting around and doing nothing until another round of litigation

Methodist Children's Home to close Jayton facility Ministry cites declining number of children serviced at Sammy Baugh Foster Group Home Posted: January 1, 2016 - in a county-owned building that once served as a senior citizens center, served about 100 children since 2006. The ministry's decision to close that Jayton branch was in resp described the Sammy Baugh home as a partnership between his agency and Kent County; the county provided the building and Methodist its occupants. Young clients atten Services, birth families and foster families. An optimal conclusion is for parents to work through the troubles that led to the separation with their children, then get them bac the program is considered another happy outcome. Others have left the program by graduating Jayton High and becoming legal adults, Rankin said. Kent County commissio based on bureacracy rules and regulations, it made it difficult to continue." Jayton is a tiny town about an hour and a half east of Lubbock. Certain health care and other serv children that came through it and blessed our community, and we hope that these children and these families realize the world is not entirely disfunctional — that there's lov

A Primer on the Damaging Movement to Privatize Public Schools Friday, 08 January 2016 00:00 By Marion Brady, The Washington Post | Op-Ed font size decrease fon heard about it. They didn't want to trigger the debate that such a radical change in an important institution warranted. If, like most pundits and politicians, you've supported Teachers deserve most of the blame. (d) The lazy ones need to be forced out by performance evaluations. (e) The dumb ones need scripts to read or "canned standards" telli Public ("government") schools are a step down the slippery slope to socialism. Tactics Education establishment resistance to privatization is inevitable, so (a) avoid it as lon "They're eating our lunch!" message. (d) Contribute generously to all potential resisters - academic publications, professional organizations, unions, and school support grou MOOCS, etc. (e) Pressure state legislators to make life easier for profit-seeking charter chains by taking approval decisions away from local boards and giving them to easie standardized tests, you'll see how grossly they're being misused, but they're the key to privatization. The general public, easily impressed by numbers and mathematical razz the Common Core State Standards do. To get the job done quickly, Bill Gates picked up the tab, important politicians signed off on them, and teachers were handed them as often quote the late Dr. W. Edward Deming, the world-famous quality guru who showed Japanese companies how to build better stuff than anybody else. In his book, "The What's turned standardized testing into a privatizing juggernaut are pass-fail "cut scores" set by politicians. Saying kids need to be challenged, they set the cut score high en Left alone, it'll gradually privatize most, but not all, public schools. Those that serve the poorest, the sickest, the disabled, the most troubled, the most expensive to educate - demonstrated, or (c) reward an ability to second-guess whoever wrote the test item. Because kids didn't ask for the information, because the skill they're being asked to dem means no real learning. Period. What makes standardized tests look like they work is learner emotion, but it's emotion that doesn't have anything to do with learning. The ov value, automatically erases from memory. Before You Write… If you want to avoid cranking out the usual amateurish drivel about standardized testing that appears in the o (b) How wise is it to only teach what machines can measure? (c) How fair is it to base any part of teacher pay on scores from tests that can't evaluate complex thought? (d) consequence, first, of a decision in 1893 to narrow and standardize the high school curriculum and emphasize college prep; second, from a powerful strain of individualism educating means "delivering information." In fact, educating is the most complex and difficult of all professions. Done right, teaching is an attempt to help the young align t realize those aims. Historically, out of the institution's dysfunctional organizational design came schools with lots of problems, but with one redeeming virtue. They were "l Notwithstanding their serious problems, America's public schools were once the envy of the world. Now, educators around that world shake their heads in disbelief (or may steadfastly refused to do - listen to people who've actually worked with real students in real classrooms, and did so long enough and thoughtfully enough to know something

R**eport finds Mississippi foster care system still worsening** Posted on January 7, 2016 by Daily Journal in News By Jeff Amy Associated Press JACKSON – A new repor in a row to find the state is backsliding in efforts to meet settlement obligations in a long-running Olivia Y federal lawsuit. The case is named after a then-young girl who w desert with no kind of structure around them," said Marcia Lowry, one of the lead lawyers for plaintiffs in the case. Gov. Phil Bryant in December named former Supreme C the system is broken and that drastic improvement must be made to avoid federal takeover," spokesman Knox Chandler wrote in an email. "Justice Chandler and Gov. Brya entering state custody in early 2015. The infant died while sleeping in bed with the foster parents, a prohibited practice. The foster parents' own child had died the same way been convicted of a crime. The report also faulted the state for how it handled the investigation afterward, saying files in the case were difficult to follow and a death review custody," wrote a consultant hired by Lopes. In the wake of the child's death, the department also disclosed that local officials weren't following rules on training foster fam from mid-2013 to mid-2015, placing "significant strain on the agency's understaffed workforce, contributing to a decline in defendants' performance." In Hinds, Harrison, J requirements. Lopes said increasing populations don't bear all the blame. The monitor said the state has struggled with "demonstrable shortcomings" in management and ac

Foster care scandal deepens: 'Every single staff person has a criminal record' 1 / 3 DHS hearing Donna Keddy, the Oregon Department of Human Services' licensing a Oregonian/OregonLive The Oregonian Email the author | Follow on Twitter on January 09, 2016 at 7:04 AM, updated January 09, 2016 at 10:04 AM 2016 Oregon Legislatu 'Lack of food,' vulgar names: Abuse complaints at school for troubled teens Fed-up officials call for overhaul of Oregon Energy Department All Stories Back in February 20 most serious of which is that every single staff person has a criminal record," Erinn Kelley-Siel wrote to the Department of Human Services' director, Bruce Goldberg. "I kn our activities support yours. Thoughts or suggestions on how to proceed?" The department eventually stopped placing children at Give Us This Day — but not until almost hundreds of pages of records in advance of a key legislative hearing next week on her proposals. The details revealed in those records show senior officials knew of signific state officials' willingness and ability to crack down on troubled providers. Just months after the 2009 discussions about Give Us This Day, department leaders announced a involving abuse, in some cases fatal, over the past several years. Costly allegations: Click here to see a list of the state's 12 most expensive abuse settlements. "We need a ve But behind the curtain, decisions were being made to sacrifice the safety of kids," Gelser said. "That's not a red flag. That's a giant neon sign." Give Us This Day's financial

rewrote reports, tolerated mold and rodents, and let workers use improper force. Gov. Kate Brown ousted the Department of Human Services' interim director in November lawmakers and advocates, is set to meet for the second time this month, a spokeswoman for Brown's office said. Last month, after changes by Brown's handpicked human s closing the residential program in question. Another provider, the Scotts Valley School south of Eugene, received a letter from the state that mentioned children enduring hu put an exclamation point on her argument that state law must change to help stop further abuse. One of Gelser's bills would tighten licensing requirements and financial rule abuse and neglect. For example, messages sent between 2009 and 2014 show back-and-forth discussions over licensing, abuse complaints, worries about poor care and supe provider's "willingness to take almost any child any time" and its "experience with children and families of color." Officials have repeatedly said they turned to Give Us Thi authority of the licensing agency to actually hold providers accountable." Gelser warned of another possible hit from Give Us This Day: penalties over Medicaid fraud. On "on multiple occasions" that it lacked a license. She said the inquiry could come with "a big bill" and, potentially, federal criminal charges. "I hope people are held accounta

Boys group home closed after one year in operation 0 Tweet this to your followers! From To Compose your message 87 Boys group home closed after one year in operat home-closed-after-one-year-in-operation/article_51c97b7f-d1ce-568a-b84b-ef13d4eb5d2f.html Story Print Create a hardcopy of this page Font Size: Default font size Large Council of Youth Services and was hotly contested in city council, closed down after one year of operation. The doors to Attollo Boys Group Home at 3900 Chandler Road thought we'd focus our efforts on short-term residential services." Preceding the closure was an inordinate number of calls for police to the group home, mostly for missing 7, there were 30 reports for missing or runaway juveniles, at least three assaults, one burglary and one report of vandalism, according to police reports. "It would take me av biggest issue with responding to a place repeatedly, especially in a situation such as that one, is that it isn't fixing the problem." The children and teenagers who were house of MCCOYS Mark Winters spearheaded the effort to rezone the property, which was voted down by the city council on Oct. 8, 2014. Source: http://www.muskogeephoeni

Miami foster group home under scrutiny for video of kids fighting Judge rips into child welfare providers for provoking "cockfight" Lawyers for other parents will Roberto Koltun El Nuevo Herald i By David Ovalle LinkedIn Google+ Pinterest Reddit Print Order Reprint of this Story A Miami group home for foster c Circuit Judge Michael Hanzman said in court last week, describing the video as showing the employee "provoking and encouraging violence" while "these two boys battled the group homes through Our Kids of Miami-Dade, a nonprofit child welfare agency itself under contract to the Florida Department of Children and Families. "What is real and agencies who throw them in these group homes with incompetent people who stand around watching them have cockfights." The brawl led to one of the kids being bea Wednesday as lawyers for some of the parents of foster children seek to be included in the legal proceedings involving Children's Home Society group homes. There is reas filed to the court Friday. The two children — known only by their initials J.W. and N.L. — have since been moved out of the group home. The court motion filed by the Reg of Children's Home Society, said in a statement to the Miami Herald. "The employee was terminated and did acknowledge that she did not follow our de-escalation protoco "troubling matters raised in court" and said all three agencies are "conducting a thorough review" of the incident. The judge's venting is nothing new. Over the past several Florida child welfare agency that oversees 100,000 children in 67 counties. The agency made news in July when Microsoft awarded it $7.2 million in grants to help train em angrily asked. Many of the details of the case, such as the location of the foster-care group home or the identity of the suspended staffer, have yet to be made public. Exactly According to the testimony in court, J.W. at some point had apparently been "hit with a heavy object" thrown by the other child. Instead of stopping the fight, the staffer "to person lost her composure," Dante said. "Oh she was very composed," the judge retorted. "She encouraged the kids to fight. She said, go ahead and fight, just don't use wea officers committed J.W. against his will to a hospital for days for psychiatric evaluation under the state's Baker Act. Hanzman said the staffer clearly "lied to" officers about engage in brutal violence and stands around watching and cheering." Hanzman also raised concerns about the group homes having enough staffers at each group home and

Foster Care Company's "Abnormal Level Of Lobbying" Aram Roston BuzzFeed News Reporter Tweet Tumblr Stumble Bookmark it View this image › The for-profit c **Senate Finance Committee for its practices in privatized for-profit child foster care has hired a phalanx of expensive and high-powered lobbyists and lawyers, incl** Makan Delrahim, used to advise Republican Senator Orrin Hatch (Utah), the committee chairman. The for-profit firm markets itself as "The Mentor Network," though it tra scale, though routine in fields such as defense contracting or banking, is rare in foster care, which few people realize is a profitable business to companies such as Mentor. " the foster homes run by Mentor. The series disclosed how the firm has turned the business of foster care into a cash cow, with double digit profits in some states. It's paid by Small should not be a foster mother. Yet Mentor placed two-year-old Alexandria Hill in her care. Small swung her by her feet into the floor, killing the little girl. In Marylan company spokesperson, emailed BuzzFeed News a statement that read in part, "We appreciate the interest of the Senate Finance Committee in the important work done ever inquiries," according to the most recent Civitas Solutions annual report. "It is possible that the inquiries could result in negative publicity or other negative action that could foster care contracts." (Title IV-E foster care is federally subsidized.) Kardon is considered so close to Wyden that when he left Wyden's office in 2011 to move to K street, possible care for all foster kids." Josh Kardon is seen in an undated Facebook photo. Facebook / Via facebook.com ID: 7749901 Samantha Offerdahl, a spokesperson for W facts until the investigation is complete." The company also brought in a lobbyist with a past connection to Senator Hatch. It retained the lobbying firm Brownstein Hyatt Fa Committee under then-chairman Hatch. Delrahim's bio says he was a "principal legal and policy advisor" on judiciary matters to Hatch. View this image › Makan Delrahim Mentor paid Brownstein Hyatt $100,000 for the services of Delrahim and another lobbyist. "I am proud of my and our firm's relationship with MENTOR," Delrahim said in Makan Delrahim, both of whom have significant experience working with Congress—including the Senate Finance Committee—to help us communicate with the Committ children in the foster care program might have been compromised by Mentor." Among the elite lawyers Mentor has brought in to deal with the Senate, Magazine emailed, is Although Mentor got its start as a for-profit foster care company in the 1980s, it has expanded into other lines of business, such as group homes and caring for the developm nothing new for the company. It has spent $1.6 million on lobbyists since 2006. The firm's filings with the SEC emphasize that almost all of its revenue for "human services government agencies, primarily at the state and local level but also including federal agencies." In 2014, the firm announced it was giving an award called the "Ripple of Ho receiving the award. Mentor has been doing some work with the VA, in a business where it tends to veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury. Source: http://www.buzzfeed.com

State Releases Investigation Log for Troubled Foster Care Provider Give Us This Day Documents show numerous and longstanding allegations of abuse and negle now-defunct Portland foster care provider Give Us This Day. DHS, which was responsible for funding and regulating Give Us This Day, previously refused to provide such Sara Gelser (D-Corvallis), the chair of the Senate Human Services Committee, filed a series of public records requests of her own. The 40 pages of documents released toda other problems. Some of the allegations were sustained by investigators. Many were not, although the notable characteristic is how numerous and consistent the complaints calls to the police were reaching a "public nuisance" level. (That continued. Between 2005 and 2015, records show, police responded to Give Us This Day facilities more th minor, rape and possession of a weapon." Give Us This Day fired that employee but overall problems continued. In an October 2005 letter, DHS issued Give Us This Day a operations last October, after finding the organization wasted or diverted more than $2 million. The Senate Human Services Committee will hold its third hearing on DHS' h

Oregon Militia Spokesman Says Foster Children Were Removed From His Home Brendan O'Connor Today 11:56am Filed to: oregon lavoy finicum oregon militia 55.0K 7 his wife on their Chino Valley, Arizona, ranch have been taken away. "I hope people are seeing the sacrifices we're making here," he said. The rancher estimated that more t Finicum traveled between the Malheur Wildlife Refuge, in southeastern Oregon, and Utah, as part of a press tour. "We went fast, and came back fast," he told OPB. "I doub they need people to send them supplies, then?) Advertisement According to Finicum, his wife Jeanette was caring for the children while he was busy in Oregon. He said a s to get them out of there." From OPB: Sponsored That represents an enormous loss of income for the Finicums. According to a 2010 tax filing, Catholic Charities paid the fa day in 2009. "That was my main source of income," Finicum said. "My ranch, well, the cows just cover the costs of the ranch. If this means rice and beans for the next few neither Catholic Charities nor the Department of Child Safety in Arizona for comment. "I want to show what my government is doing. You need to understand the cost bein

Elite Rhode Island boarding school stayed silent on sex abuse cases for decades Some alumni have charged that St. George's School hushed up the abuse to protect its l influential families. Astors, Vanderbilts and Bushes have attended the exclusive boarding school, where students can go sailing, play on world-class squash courts or simply George's School in Middletown, R.I., over the past 40 years. The charges began to come to light when a Boston Globe article reported on one of the alleged victims. The As month. The Associated Press Search photos available for purchase: Photo Store → Dozens of former students have come forward to say they were raped or molested by emp leadership has characterized the abuse as a problem of the past and said it discovered the extent of the misconduct only recently. But many accusers have disputed that, and Associated Press. Many alumni are calling on Peterson to step down. Some want the entire board swept clean. "It's like a charade of arrogant exceptionalism that is endemic charged that the school's leaders hushed up the abuse to protect the reputation of St. George's, which was founded in 1896 and counts among its graduates the poet Ogden N spokeswoman for both the school and Peterson declined to comment on specific allegations, citing an independent investigation underway. St. George's previously issued a Separately, Rhode Island state police are looking into possible sex-crime charges and other offenses, including failure to report abuse. There is no statute of limitations on ra athletic trainer Al Gibbs as a 15-year-old in the 1970s. She sued the school as "Jane Doe" in 1988. St. George's tried and failed to reveal her identity publicly and aggressive preventing her from speaking about it. More such allegations quietly piled up in following years. It was not until last spring that St. George's sent a letter informing the enti MacLeish, a St. George's alumnus and a lead lawyer in the Boston Catholic Church sex abuse lawsuits, said he is aware of at least 40 people who say they were abused at th 1970s and '80s, according to its December report. They were: – Gibbs, who was fired in 1980 and died in 1996. The school acknowledged he raped or otherwise abused at l White, who abruptly left in 1974 after a parent accused him of inappropriate sexual conduct with a student. The school said White abused at least three students. White refu child welfare authorities on the advice of its legal counsel. MacLeish said he has now spoken to six of Coleman's alleged victims. Coleman did not return messages seeking The man told the AP that he reported it to the school the following year, after he learned Coleman had asked another boy to sleep in his bed during a choir tour. The man sai

wrong," Peterson wrote to the man in a 2006 letter obtained by the AP. He added that the school's willingness to pay for therapy was "in no way an admission of responsibil candidate, told him that in some past cases of teachers accused of abuse, the school would quietly let the educator go with a lump-sum payment, a nondisclosure clause and testify and that their parents might also bring an "avalanche of lawsuits" against the school. Hamblet and Dean are now dead. "I do believe they were honestly wrestling anc POLICE NEVER NOTIFIED In the 2004 case, three students reported to then-Dean of Students Tim Richards that a teacher "was touching them in ways that made them ur was advised that the school was not required to contact authorities, the spokeswoman said. Another alumnus, Harry Groome, said he was raped by an upperclassman with a but it cannot thrive until we flush out the bad, and Eric Peterson has got to go," Groome said. "This stuff can't go on anymore. It's ruined lives." Source: http://www.pressh

The hidden harms of the US foster-care system The hidden harms of the US foster-care system January 22, 2016 6.02am EST Lenette Azzi-Lessing Author Lenette Azzi-Le and has disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond the academic appointment above. Children in the U.S. foster care system can languish for years. Firestorms regarding chi family known to the state agency charged with protecting children at risk. Having worked – in both the programmatic and policy arenas – to improve the US child protectiv has fallen. Some may express outrage that the child wasn't removed from the dangerous home sooner and placed in foster care – the intended social safety net for children v 415,000 children in the United States spent time in the foster care system. This system works best when used to provide nurturing, short-term care to vulnerable children un spend in foster care is just over a year and a half. About 30 percent remain in temporary care for more than two years. In 2014, 64,300 children had been stuck in the foster multiple placement changes and the disrupted relationships caused by such changes. Unfortunately, more than 40 percent of children placed in foster care are moved to a dif changes of placement, as do two thirds of those remaining in the system for two years or longer. Studies suggest that as many as 70 percent of placement changes have noth welfare workers fail to place siblings in the same foster home from the start, and are later forced to move the children into a single foster home to comply with federal mand commonly removed from foster homes because the foster parents were found to be unprepared to meet their needs. A system with more appropriate foster homes and care fa attachments that undergird healthy social and emotional development. This is an especially grave concern for children ages five and under - by far the largest group of child problems. Frequent moves also contribute to other mental health problems and poor educational achievement, as children are shuttled from school to school. Moreover, eacl children get stuck in the system, having neither their biological family nor a permanent adoptive family. In 2014 alone, more than 22,000 young people, ages 18-20 were dis outlook for most is grim, given their histories of broken relationships and unstable educational experiences. They are far more likely to become teen parents, be chronically held for prostitution in California, for example, most had come from foster care. A lack of political will The problem is complex but not without ready solutions. Providing prepared to meet their often challenging needs. More aggressive recruitment of adoptive families would help as well. So would hiring more social workers to ensure that chi system, these measures require more funding to a system that typically takes a hit whenever state and federal budgets are squeezed. Changing this requires political will; the

Experts: Punishments touted by Babeu are child abuse, torture Dave Biscobing 5:39 PM, Jan 26, 2016 5:55 PM, Jan 26, 2016 investigations | babeu Old IRS scam over experts about the abusive practices used at the DeSisto School in Stockbridge, Mass. KNXV The ABC15 Investigators spoke to multiple independent experts about the abus institutional abuse. Experts said the discipline discussed by Babeu and used at the school constituted "child abuse" and "torture" SPECIAL SECTION: Abusing the Truth N the treatment of students. The experts said the discipline discussed by Babeu and used at the school constituted "child abuse" and "torture." The experts also discuss the dar Szalavitz Maia Szalavitz is a journalist and author who has written extensively about the troubled teen treatment industry. Her 2006 book "Help at Any Cost: How the Troul Government Accountability Office to conduct a national investigation into the abuse and death at residential treatment facilities. Dr. Mark Wellek Dr. Mark Wellek is a Ph interviewed by ABC15 in 2012 about the school. Jodi Hobbs Jodi Hobbs is an advocate who formed Survivors of Institutional Abuse, an organization that works "to help shut down by the FBI after scathing accusations of abuse were leveled against the proprietor. Source: http://www.abc15.com/news/local-news/investigations/experts-punish

Family of teen victim files $1.5 million lawsuit against Laurel Ridge Sharon Ko, KENS 5 11:19 p.m. CST January 28, 2016 Laurel Ridge Treatment Center(Photo: KEN was sexually assaulted. 24 year-old Alexander Williams was arrested on multiple charges of sexual assault of a child. Investigators said he sexually assaulted the victim who devastated all throughout this," attorney Alberto Velazquez said. The attorneys said Williams was a former counselor at Laurel Ridge, where he accessed the victim's medica He had the motive to do it," attorney Edgardo Baez said. "Not only did he gain access to medical records, he gained access personally to the child," Velazquez added. "Thin County Juvenile Probation Department as a residential treatment officer, despite being investigated by police. The probation department says Williams did not list the treatm Ridge is held accountable. Alexander Williams, Laurel Ridge (Photo: KENS 5) "Hurt them where it hurts them the most. It's a business and you hurt them in their pockets. I campus, treats the safety of its patients as its number one priority. Upon learning of the recent allegation, Laurel Ridge contacted the appropriate authorities and state agency police investigation and associated patient privacy laws under HIPAA, however, the facility is unable to comment further at this time." Source: http://www.kens5.com/story

Four employees suspended at facility after teens escape Aaron Mesmer reports By: Aaron Mesmer, FOX 13 News Posted:Feb 02 2016 06:52PM EST Updated:Feb 02 20 ran away from the **Falkenburg Academy** off Columbus Drive by climbing through a hole that was cut in a chainlink fence. The teenagers remained on the run more than 4 one supervisor were suspended and an internal review is underway. Top fox13news.com Searches Apps Baby Snow Sex Calendar Cast Chipotle Clo Four employees suspen G4S spokesperson Monica Lewman-Garcia wrote: "Our initial investigation raises questions whether proper procedures were followed. Accordingly, four staff members (th fully implemented to help prevent a re-occurrence." The DJJ initially indicated law enforcement was immediately contacted about the escape. But, according to the Hillsbor a time lapse. G4S and the DJJ said they are also working on a "corrective action plan" to fix the mistakes that were made. Related Stories Pinellas burglaries caught by surv Petersburg. Both were charged with grand theft auto. Crime Stoppers of Tampa Bay is offering a reward of up to $3,000 for information that leads to the location and arrest www.crimestopperstb.com or send a mobile tip using the P3 Tips Mobile application, which is a free download for iPhones and Droids. Crime Stoppers must be contacted

Grace House to close its doors after 20 years Maddy Hayden, Carlsbad Current-Argus 4:59 p.m. MST February 1, 2016 The Carlsbad Current-Argus(Photo: File Photo) 1996 to treat boys ages 13 to 18 with educational, emotional, behavioral and social issues, according to their website. Melissa Roberts has been Grace House's executive dir unable to stem. "There's a lot of demand for services and not a lot of money," Roberts said, adding that group homes have gone out of favor as a preferred method of treatm are detrimental to their treatment progress or abusive. "I think they're (group homes) important because not every home is safe," Roberts said. Some of the children have sub are working on placing clients in group homes in Artesia and Hobbs, or possibly living back at home and receiving outpatient services. Once they are all placed, the Grace H out there for "brick and mortar" (new buildings or additions) and for the children, the money to actually sustain an operation are hard to come by. "Cars, insurance, food, clo the community and Grace House staff. "I wish everybody who we've touched and have touched us all the best," she said. Maddy Hayden can be reached at 575-628-5512.

Boys home employee charged with sexual misconduct with teen at facility Matt Elofson Crime and courts reporter | Posted: Monday, February 1, 2016 4:01 pm Shon Cl Lt. Will Glover said police investigators arrested Shon Christopher Holton, 43, of Gordon, and charged him with 10 felony counts of custodial sexual misconduct. Glover sa teenage boy, who was inappropriately contacted on multiple occasions between February and June of 2015. Glover said some of the offenses occurred at the facility where t (custodial sexual misconduct) is not commonly used. "This is the first time I've actually seen this type of charge, Glover said. Holton was taken into custody after his arrest mode=print

Foster care scandal: Bill requiring public reports on abuse clears Senate panel Print Email Denis C. Theriault | The Oregonian/OregonLive By Denis C. Theriault | The reports listing confirmed findings of abuse and neglect every three months under proposed legislation that emerged from a Senate panel Wednesday. Senate Bill 1515, shepl off to a tense start. Gelser spent months drafting the bill amid outcry over the Department of Human Services' handling of a provider named Give Us This Day. The provide add licensing inspectors for child-care facilities, give officials more power to shut down or take over troubled agencies, and treat the failure to pull children from unlicensed Rep. Duane Stark, R-Grants Pass, one of three House members who testified in support of the bill. He noted the difficulty in vetting such complicated legislation in a 35-da move that bill right now, so we get the positions in place right now, to get the licensing we need right now, to protect children right now. So they're not waiting." Gelser's bil Brown's interim human services director, Clyde Saiki, to show support for the bill. "Our caseworkers have some of the toughest jobs in the state," Saiki said. "We also have officials released thousands of pages of internal documents detailing abuse concerns at other providers and showing that top officials had known about Give Us This Day's investigations. Gelser's bill, because it seeks money for two licensing inspectors, heads next to the Legislature's budget-writing committee. Oregon currently has just three i and concrete change," Gelser said in an interview. "I'm so grateful for how hard people worked." — Denis C. Theriault 503-221-8430; @TheriaultPDX

Congresswoman Katherine Clark: Sheriff Babeu stonewalled abuse case while running boarding school Dave Biscobing, Shawn Martin 6:31 PM, Feb 4, 2016 10:45 representing the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services for the Attorney General's Office. KNXV Copyright 2012 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This materi Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services for the Attorney General's Office. KNXV Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu obstructed and stonewalled a state child abuse inve In an exclusive interview with ABC15, Rep. Clark said the case involving the DeSisto School is the most horrendous case she ever worked while representing the Massachu badges and guns, and that he thinks he is fit to run for Congress." Clark continued, "The things that went on at that school still really haunt me, and I think they should haur investigators opened a case to stop abusive and inhumane practices and force the school to obtain a license. ABC15 first exposed Babeu's ties to DeSisto and the horrific ab damning home video recorded in 1999 that shows Babeu discussing abusive punishments in detail. "As the video shows, the Sheriff knew exactly what was going on and de known what was going on." DeSisto was a therapeutic boarding school for teens. Many of the students had a wide range of special needs, including eating disorders, depres one of the most punitive practices "amazing." He tells family members that the students "need to feel hopeless and feel depression." The goal is to make them "bottom out." investigation that occurred during or after my two-year employment at the school. As headmaster, I oversaw administrative issues with the school and had no involvement i

child care officials launched a civil licensure case to curb DeSisto's dangerous practices in May 2000 – directly in the middle of Babeu's tenure. But Babeu left the school A "He had a high role there," Clark said. "When he was there, he really stonewalled our investigations at every turn, as did the school." During Babeu's time as DeSisto's adm statements about him stonewalling the state's case or what state documents show on the matter. The rest of his written statement said, "But what this does show is the Demo Clark is a Democrat representing a district surrounding Boston. She pushed back the claim that her comments are political. "This case wasn't about who's a Democrat or Re egregious things like students strip searching other student when they arrived at the school," Clark said. "That was the type of allegation we were trying to investigate when katherine-clark-sheriff-babeu-stonewalled-abuse-case-while-running-boarding-school

Retired St. Paul cop repeatedly punched juvenile in group home, charges say The suspect, Clemmie H. Tucker, Sr., previously pleaded guilty in federal court on drug ch Share on Google+ Share on Pinterest Copy shortlink: Purchase:Order Reprint A retired St. Paul police officer working as a counselor in a group home punched a juvenile "t boy's face bruised and swollen. Tucker, who retired from the department as a sergeant in the 1990s after 23 years, has a troubled past. In 2006, he pleaded guilty in federal c prison. "I made a mistake." In his most recent run-in with the law, he allegedly assaulted a teenager, talked over the boy while police were questioning the boy and then left that Tucker assaulted him "for no reason." The boy said that he had argued with another teenager over video games and that he had punched the other teenager. Tucker calle punched him in the face and head, 'too many times to count,' " the complaint said. The account was corroborated by a witness and surveillance video, which showed the bo [expletive] you up.' " The juvenile said that was when the boy stood up in front of Tucker and was assaulted. "The juvenile male stated that once [the boy] was on the groun away from the scene and was later fired from the group home. He was a Golden Gloves boxing champion in his teens, according to the complaint. Twitter: @ChaoStrib S

Martial arts hold used on teen before detention center death by Curtis Figueroa on 06/02/2016 "The staff performed an Aikido restraint hold to safely conduct a pat-dow found her unresponsive, they waited 11 minutes to administer CPR. According to a spokesperson for the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, McMillen refused to ren martial arts, includes various techniques. McMillen was placed in the cell on January 10 and detention center workers allegedly didn't check on her again until she failed to and then at 8:17 a.m. and 8:53 a.m. The troubled teenager also remained silent and passive when her mother tried to contact her later that morning. Recordings released Satu When the 911 operator asked the nurse at the detention center (about 90 seconds into the call) if CPR was in progress, the nurse said, "No it's not". Indeed, given the fact tha was used on the teen, Lincoln Village Juvenile Detention Center employee Reginald Windham was placed on administrative leave. Juveniles alone in cells are under constar you this". Officials have said it appears that McMillen died in her sleep. That footage has been turned over to investigators. Source: http://cinemablaze.com/2016/02/06/ma

Man arrested in rape was foster parent, youth leader Rebecca Butts and Cameron Knight, 4:29 p.m. EST February 5, 2016 Joseph Niemeyer(Photo: Pr New Banklick Baptist Church in Walton. He was also a resource for Benchmark Family Services, a foster care service, according to the Cabinet for Health and Family Serv agency has completed all requirements associated with the foster home's initial certification and annual re-certification. We are deeply saddened by this tragic news." Bench Department, where he was arrested Monday. He is facing first-degree sexual abuse, rape and sodomy charges, all against a girl younger than 12, police said. Capt. Mike Tha are listed as youth ministers on the church's website, but pastor Tim Cochran said Becky Niemeyer actually leads the youth program. Joseph Niemeyer will not be allowed t was sickened at the news of Niemeyer's arrest. "Our church, we are all just sick about what has happened," Cochran said. "He was a good friend of mine. Never in a million methods have improved." Programs, including those in schools, are teaching kids about what is proper contact and what isn't. This has resulted in more cases involving sexu http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2016/02/04/nky-church-youth-leader-accused-rape/79808012/

Juvenile centers make hundreds of 911 calls Kendra Conlon, WTSP 11:18 p.m. EST February 10, 2016 There are 10 state-funded facilities in the Bay area, and there have how many 911 calls to these facilities are costing you -- the taxpayer. Bay area juvenile detention facilities are supposed to be putting troubled teens on the right path. 10Ne past, we've seen the aftermath from riots, fights and escapes caught on camera, staff arrested and accused of sex acts with the teens inside the detention centers. Leaders hav hole in the fence, only to be captured days later. Two workers got fired, two others are being punished and retrained. It's the latest in the long list of problems for company C 21, 2016, there have been 291 calls. Seventy percent of the cries for help turned out to be founded. There have been founded reports of child abuse, assault, and sexual batt Luther King Boulevard, from 2013 to 2015, Tampa police handled another 71 calls. 2013: 20 calls 2014: 21 calls 2015: 30 calls "I'm sure they're going to take a look at wha unlimited access to the Department of Children and Families Abuse Hotline, they expect every time there's an accusation of child abuse, it will be investigated, and say staff tells 10News that it has a plan to make sure an escape doesn't happen again. We requested a copy of the corrective action plan from the Department of Juvenile Justice and prompted changes at some of the G4S facilities. Source: http://www.wtsp.com/story/news/2016/02/10/juvenile-centers-make-hundreds-911-calls/80213702/

Youth treatment center counselor arrested Comment 0 1 By Joe Goldeen Record Staff Writer recordnet.com By Joe Goldeen Record Staff Writer Posted Feb. 9, 2016 at a youth treatment center has been arrested and charged with suspicion of having sex with a minor and committing lewd acts with a child younger than 14. Tracy police arres County Jail in French Camp in lieu of $1.55 million bail. At the time of the reported incident on Jan. 15, Salas had worked for Manteca-based **Valley Oak Residential f**or a old. It operates a six-bed home in Tracy as well as homes in Stockton, Manteca, Ripon and Modesto. "We just became aware that there were some boundary issues and we j had been a long-term employee before being terminated. He said she typically worked an eight-hour swing shift alongside other counselors in the Tracy home. Valley Oak c the Tracy Police Department, said the department declined comment because of the sensitive nature of the case. Court documents referred to the victim as John N.M. Doe ar protection order has been issued restricting Salas to no direct or third-party contact with the victim, including by electronic means. She also must stay more than 100 yards a It was continued to 8:30 a.m. Feb. 19. — Contact reporter Joe Goldeen at (209) 546-8278 or . Follow him at recordnet.com/goldeenblog and on Twitter @

A Louisiana foster care worker faces criminal charges that she faked documents to cover up her failure to visit foster children THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Publishe (http://bit.ly/1QhPTgP) reports that Kimberly Deann Lee, a 49-year-old Calhoun resident, faces 20 counts of filing false public records and one count malfeasance in office He said the misconduct isn't linked to child abuse, but says the case is significant because there is a potential for abuse or other problems when children are not properly sup reports, the warrant says. Foster parents in four foster homes confirmed that Lee did not conduct the visits, according to the document. The investigation started with a comp In an interview with OIG investigators held in Monroe in June, Lee explained her actions by saying she was committed "to getting things done no matter what." She said he will seek to hold people criminally accountable whenever we uncover this kind of misconduct," Street said Monday. Street said he does not expect more arrests in the imme

Teen Treatment Center Won't Allow Disability Rights Iowa To Investigate By Sarah Boden • Feb 15, 2016 ShareTwitter Facebook Google+ Email A residential treatme **Dodge** last year alleges a staff member slammed him against a wall. P.F. also claims an center employee provided boys at the treatment center with alcohol, tobacco, and oth over copies of the P.F.'s records. DRI says it also wants access to the facility, staff, residents, photographs, video/audio records, and other documentation on Rabiner's buildi does not provide mental illness treatment. Rabiner's attorney, Eric Eide, says he does not yet know how the treatment center will respond since he has yet to meet with the b

State investigation leads to changes at girls' inmate facility By Cory Pippin (WPEC) Wednesday, February 17th 2016 Share Video Share MARTIN COUNTY — A braw page report goes into specific detail about violations committed by the administrator of the facility as well as a security officer. It began after a juvenile inmate was jumped inmate involved. According to documents released by the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Martin County sheriff's office responded and "Posey acknowledged she inform youths timely access to the abuse hotline." Investigators say that action was a failure of policy. Also according to the state, "surveillance video shows Watkins tackled (an in the five suspects involved. They also forced the Girls Academy to install a direct access abuse hotline which allows youth to make abuse calls without restrictions or limitati fights and regular police service calls. State investigators say the Department of Children and Families is also involved and they're currently reviewing policies to see if othe

Death of Boys Town teen under investigation By 10/11 News | Posted: Tue 11:26 AM, Feb 23, 2016 | Updated: Tue 5:13 PM, Feb 23, 2016 OMAHA, Neb. - The recent 7:15 a.m. Monday morning. He had last been seen around 10:45 p.m. Sunday. Investigators have found no signs of injury, struggle or other disruption in the room, the Sheri Laferla says counselors and grief support will be available for youths and staffers on campus. Source: http://www.1011now.com/content/news/Authorities-investigating-dea

More boarding schools unregulated by DHS Lee Rood, 9:42 a.m. CST February 24, 2016 In this photo taken on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016, a Uhaul is par officials with the FBI and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation returned to Midwest Academy on Thursday to execute a search warrant for records following an initia facility where accusations of sex abuse and other crimes are being investigated. Cono Christian School, a tiny boarding school north of Walker for struggling seventh- to 12 by the state. Likewise, the Maharishi School's boarding program, for almost 60 international high school students in Fairfield, and Scattergood Friends, a college prep progr MORE: Legislators to investigate Midwest Academy after abuse reports Any private boarding school in Iowa — including Midwest Academy should it reopen after this yea by DHS, and overseen by the departments of education and inspections and appeals. Such legislation would not only necessitate licensing visits and far more reporting, but officials are reviewing the legislation. The state is also mulling other action, such as a possible certification process, that might be considered less onerous for owners of priv The new bill came after a 17-year-old one-time student at Midwest Academy claimed she was sexually abused by owner-director Ben Trane. Court records also show crimir unaware of the proposed legislation. However, she said, "Certainly, we fall in the category of very much being for school choice." The Maharishi boarding school differs fr reports (of students) and check in with families on a regular basis," she said. Iowa's DHS has always had the authority to conduct child abuse probes at any school or facility methods Quirmbach, chairman of the Senate's Education Committee, said he believes whether a boarding school receives public funding or not, it needs to be regulated if it floor action would take place," he said. "It's still a work in progress." Midwest Academy was in the process of applying for foster care facility licenses for its Keokuk and M

was expected to give DHS a recommendation on whether to approve the application and license. Source: http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2016/02/23/more-h regulation or oversight. And, even where approval or licensing is required, often the State exempts faith-based schools from any regulation leaving children in harm's way.)

Norfolk foster parent accused of soliciting sex from boy he adopted BY World-Herald News Service/Paul Hammel | February 25, 2016 Home › News › LINCOLN — A fondle a boy, then 17, he had adopted after serving as the boy's foster parent. The man — whose name is not being published to protect the identity of the teen — has pleade March 8 in Madison County District Court. According to court records, the Norfolk man has been a foster parent to at least 13 boys since the 1990s. A court document from placed under temporary custody of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services after telling police that he had been assaulted in April 2015. Now 18, he lives i the state for foster care. He said that when the department hears of a serious criminal charge, it will put a hold on placements at such locations pending the resolution of the soliciting-sex-from-boy-he-adopted/

Fmr. Mountain View employee says she's witnessed inmate abuse By Heather Burian | Posted: Thu 11:53 PM, Feb 25, 2016 | Updated: Fri 12:18 AM, Feb 26, 2016 K and houses the most serious youth offenders. A former employee said she's aware of staff physically abusing inmates and despite her attempts to bring attention to it, nothin accusing staff of physically assaulting them while they're in handcuffs, in confinement, and when they're being transported. According to Holliday, she couldn't let the accus restrain an aggressive inmate. "He does end up assaulting guards. That does happen. But once we got the situation under control -- we were able to get the handcuffs, we we said, adding she found another inmate last week covered in blood, his face swollen, his lip busted. Holliday said she doesn't care that she lost her job, what's most important eat, because that's where the main office is. "If your son or your daughter was to accuse somebody of abuse, would you instinctively think of all the bad things they've done certain meeting areas, bedrooms nor in confinement, which is where a lot of the abuse happens, according to Holliday. DCS has investigated some recent sexual abuse cases

Criminologists: Boot out boot camps By COREY CONNELLY Sunday, February 28 2016 Criminologist and founder of the Caribbean Ant-Violence Institute Renee Cum shows, boot camps garnered attractive public appeal. Politicians and citizens like the military style which is naturally seen as being tough on crime,"she said in a Sunday Ne of the programme which is usually three to six months," she said. Cummings was responding to Government's plan to consider establishing boot camps as a way to curb de juvenile delinquency best practices and youth development suggest that teenagers do not respond to a short term physical programme that includes punishment, threats and solution, it is now viewed as a failed experiment," Cummings said. Given the nature of the initiative, Cummings argued, participants in boot camps were constantly at risk c physical and mental health has made the boot camp a deadly experience for some young people," Cummings added. Cummings, who is also a criminal psychologist and pro said. Cummings said young people need an opportunity to change their lives and re-invent themselves in a caring and supportive environment. "Weighing in on the possible camp aims to accomplish, how it should operate, who will be executing it, how it will be monitored to see if it worked. It has always been talk, talk and more talk.," he told has not been talk about where the boot camps will be located, its costs and whether there will be qualified persons to deliver the Government's mandate Noting there were n not been any national discussion with the critical stakeholders on how it should be patterned. These stakeholders include the parents/ guardians, teachers, police, corrections problem itself. "Two weeks from now, no one will be talking about boot camps since no technical discussion has been held on what types of delinquent problems will qualif

Our opinion: Iowa must regulate youth facilities Story Comments ShareShare Print Create a hardcopy of this page Font Size: Default font size Larger font size where we Our opinion: Iowa must regulate youth facilities BY THE TH MEDIA EDITORIAL BOARD Telegraph Herald One month ago, news broke about a raid at an Iowa facility the kind of place you don't hear about or find -- unless you really need it. Desperate parents seeking help for troubled teens sought refuge there. Midwest Academy is the kir seemed like a small price to pay if it could get these struggling youth back on track. So parents bought in to the school, and sent their children off into the care of the facility not beholden to any state rules that regulate those kinds of institutions. Midwest Academy quite literally made its own rules. In the month since the raid, the FBI continues t charges have been filed. Because it was not governed by state regulations, filing charges might be complicated. Whether there was criminal behavior on the part of Midwest investigation on behalf of the state. Because the facility had no burden of regulation, there's no obvious state department to turn to for oversight. The Legislature is right to s oversight. Senate Study Bill 3154 would require places offering services like this to more than six youth be licensed by the state. With that oversight would come audits, ins likely incredibly tempting. They exist all over the country. But many of these programs fly under the radar of state and federal regulation. Parents have no guarantee that the billed as a refuge for struggling teens. We must be more vigilant about ensuring that these facilities aren't allowed to operate within our state's borders without government c

Denver County Human Services to close center for foster teens More than 60 Family Crisis Center employees learned Monday they would lose their jobs By Jennifer Br in foster care will close in July, and 64 workers with the Human Services Department will lose their jobs. Family Crisis Center is home to 29 teens, most placed by court orc in three months, said department communications director Julie Smith. Closure of the center, which costs nearly $6 million annually, comes as residential treatment centers Denver County Human Services cut that number to 30 in recent years as caseworkers aimed to send more kids to families and group homes. Denver County is the only cour conflicted with the county's goals of reducing the number of children in residential treatment centers. Advertisement By July, human services will pay private centers to hou mental health. The county has scheduled two job fairs and two workshops to help the 64 employees find new positions in the Denver area. "We recognize this is not an easy

Treynor man arrested for alleged group home sexual abuse - The Daily Nonpareil - Council Bluffs, Iowa: Local News Treynor man arrested for alleged group home sex Johnson nonpareilonline.com | 0 comments A Treynor man employed by REM Iowa Community Services is facing charges for sexual exploitation by a co and September 2015, according to Sgt. Chad Meyers of the Council Bluffs Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division. Krauth is being charged at the level of an a employee at the time the allegations occurred. She said he was hired last fall after passing a background check. REM Iowa's Council Bluffs operation offers services to chil Pottawattamie County Jail on Monday on $10,000 bond. He has requested a public defender, and his preliminary hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 10. Correction: home-sexual-abuse/article_6547e42d-edbc-5354-9db7-8f6822a0df0e.html

Sex Abuse, Drugs, Lack of Food Pose 'Immediate Risk' to Kids at State-Funded Group Homes | NBC Bay Area Sex Abuse, Drugs, Lack of Food Pose 'Immediate Risk Bott and Jeremy Carroll View Comments (3) | Email | Print UP NEXT X Sex Abuse, Drugs, Lack of Food Pose... Link Embed Email Copy Close Link to this video Copy C throughout the state. California is in the midst of overhauling its child welfare system, but the reform could take years. In the meantime, the Investigative Unit found eviden the most vulnerable children in California have been forced into living conditions that threaten their health and safety. An NBC Bay Area investigation reveals dreadful viol years. In the meantime, the Investigative Unit found evidence of 815 violations at Bay Area group homes that posed an "immediate risk" to children and teens over the past group homes are substantially worse compared to outcomes for children placed with relatives or foster families. As a result, the state is now undertaking one of the largest o The reform would require counties to do a significantly better job in recruiting foster families and relative caregivers for foster youth. "When you look at the suicide rates, d into," said Assemblymember Mark Stone, who authored AB 403, the legislation behind the continuum of care reform effort. Stone says group homes were originally intende transformed group homes into long term placements for many children. Stone says his legislation would address these shortfalls by increasing resources for the recruitment reduce the amount of suicides, we want to reduce the amount of drug abuse, we want to reduce the amount of failure that kids suffer coming out of the foster care system," S 100 children. To find out what foster kids were enduring at Bay Area group homes, NBC Bay Area obtained hundreds of pages of inspection reports from the Department of gun" into a group home Several violations over a lack of food for children Failing to provide medical attention to a child "after a seizure" Not reporting an injury to a child t 30 documented occasions," which can cause drowsiness Despite the seriousness of these violations, the group homes where these violations occurred all remain open, altho Lightborne to discuss whether the state was doing enough to ensure the safety of children housed in group homes, however, the agency said their spokesperson Michael We "These group homes were designed to deal with children who needed therapeutic services," Weston said. "What they've become for some kids, particularly at the lower leve "immediate risk," Weston said the department is doing enough to keep children in group homes safe. "We have a system for dealing with facilities that are out of compliance meeting with group homes to discuss improvements, putting them on probation, or even shutting them down. Inspectors with the department's Community Care Licensing shutting down a problematic group home can be a long process. "The administrative process does not give the authority to the department to close a facility without doing a homes in California have had their licenses revoked between 2011 and 2015. Mariah Corder, 16, spent much of her childhood in group homes after her biological father wer purpose of a high level group home is to help a youth deal with any trauma they've had before," Corder said. "But I really believe that pretty much all of the group homes I confirmed that once she was transferred to a different group home, the staff there took her completely off the medication, saying she didn't need it. "I never should have bee homes, I wouldn't have." Corder did spend some time in foster homes as a child, which she says made her realize how poor the conditions were at group home facilities. "It continuum of care reform, but does have some reservations about whether counties will be able to recruit enough foster parents and relative caregivers to phase out group ho the past two decades. "I think just knowing the horrible things that I went through and never wanting any other youth to have to go through that, that's what gets me going e

Request sent to DHHS for formal investigation of faith-based foster care agencies Posted: Thursday, March 3, 2016 12:17 pm | Updated: 3:01 pm, Thu Mar 3, 2016. Re Morfeld of Lincoln sent a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services to request a formal investigation of faith-based foster care agencies, including Compass of letter listed Bethany Christian Services of Lincoln, Christian Heritage of Omaha and Compass as agencies discriminating against children or families on the basis of religion Source: http://www.kearneyhub.com/news/local/request-sent-to-dhhs-for-formal-investigation-of-faith-based/article_beeb9639-ab00-5cd7-86ab-61f55c5

Top Texas CPS Official Stepping Down AP FILE PHOTO: J. Michael Short by Lana Shadwick6 Mar 20169 6 Mar, 2016 7 Mar, 2016 The top official for the Texas Depar Commissioner on December 1, 2012. Commissioner Specia is a former family law judge with a distinguished legal history, especially in Child Protective Services (CPS) ca

never cease to be amazed at the way our team fights for our kids and vulnerable adults, no matter the circumstances. I know they will continue to put at-risk Texans first as t
said in a statement obtained by Breitbart Texas. “His career will always be defined by his commitment to children, preventing child abuse and making Texas a safer place.”
the Family Drug Treatment Court in that county and it became a model for the Lone Star State. He was vice-chair of the Supreme Court’s Permanent Judicial Commission f
judge for Bexar County district courts for four of those years. He also served as Master of the 289th Family and Juvenile District Court (1985-1988). Commissioner Specia
After retiring from the bench in 2006, Specia served as partner in a law firm where he practiced mediation and arbitration. He also served as a visiting judge. Judge Specia h
the 2011 Lone Star Award for his work in substance abuse prevention and treatment. He was a recipient of the Dale Wood Award for outstanding protection of children by th
University of Law. The Department of Family and Protective Services is the agency in Texas that works to protect both children and the elderly from abuse, neglect and exp
agency is not, and has not been, without its critics. Breitbart Texas has reported about the abuses, problems, and overreach in the agency, particularly among CPS caseworke
Hill and eleven month old Orien Hamilton. Both died of blunt-force head injuries suffered in foster and kinship homes. The homes were approved by child-placing agencie
March 2015, Breitbart Texas reported that Texas Governor Greg Abbott directed the DFPS to implement comprehensive reforms after three children died under the supervis
reported by Breitbart Texas. The CPS worker, Rebekah Ross Thonginh, is one of three individuals who were charged in connection with a CPS investigation of a case involv
more caseworkers should be investigated for their constitutional overreaches with parents, custodians, and guardians. In 2014, a Texas judge ordered the removal of a YouT
year-old boy that exposed the sexual and physical abuse that he and his brother and family say they endured while in CPS foster care. The video, obtained from someone ou
Texas at the time “they are trying to rake this abuse under the rug.” A Children’s Advocacy group brought a class action lawsuit against CPS in December of 2014, as report
successfully sought and received an order from U.S. District Judge Janis Graham Jack to have the State of Texas enact reforms for its children’s services. The judge ruled th
and Judge Specia have “the best intentions” but the system is underfunded. She called the long-term foster care system in the state “broken.” Lana Shadwick is a writer and

Oklahoma Man Gets 40 Years in Prison in Kenya Orphans' Abuse By tim talley, associated press OKLAHOMA CITY — Mar 7, 2016, 3:37 PM ET 147 Shares Email S
sentence to Matthew Lane Durham, 21, who had faced up to 30 years on each of four counts of engaging in illicit sexual conduct in foreign places. He also ordered Durham
statement before sentencing in which he asked the court for mercy but did not express remorse for the offenses he was convicted of. Durham showed no emotion when the s
specializes in caring for neglected children. "All I wanted was to follow God's plan for me," Durham told the judge. He said he will try to commit himself to serving others
Durham said. In a sentencing memorandum, prosecutors said Durham's actions have had a chilling effect on the lives of dozens of foreign volunteers in Kenya and elsewhe
local Kenyan community that more pedophiles lurk among the volunteers, especially the young male volunteers," prosecutors said. A jury convicted Durham in June on sev
States. Defense attorney Stephen Jones has said Durham plans to appeal his convictions. The orphanage's founder, Eunice Menja, read a statement in court Monday in whic
caught, he still denied." Menja told reporters after the hearing that she hopes Durham's 40-year sentence is long enough to prevent him from being a threat to anyone else. "
sought a sentence of just eight years, followed by probation. Evidence produced by prosecutors included handwritten, signed confessions that Durham gave orphanage offic
for security cameras. Jones has described Durham, who was 19 when he was charged in 2014, as "an emotionally vulnerable teenager" who was struggling with "sexual ide

Lawsuit: State could’ve saved children raped by foster dad Attorneys for girls say DSHS failed to act on misconduct report 2 years before Granite Falls man rape
Henry Phillips, pictured above, have sued the claiming child services workers failed to act on a warning of sexual abuse in the Snohomish County foster home. less Attorne
Phillips, pictured in a Department of Corrections photo. John Henry Phillips, pictured in a Department of Corrections photo. Image 3 of 3 Attorneys for two Washington chi
foster father have sued the claiming child services workers failed to act on a warning of sexual abuse in the Snohomish County foster home. Photo: Rachel La Corte, ASSO
Snohomish County home. Attorneys for the girls claim Department of Social and Health Services workers failed to act on a 2012 report of sexual behavior in foster father J
horrifically abused in our state's foster care system,” attorney Michael Pfau said Friday. “This lawsuit is hopefully the beginning of a long journey toward healing for them.
Vertetis Amala, filed a lawsuit on the girls’ behalf earlier in March. They are seeking compensation for harm they claim was caused by state negligence. A Department of Sc
physically and sexually abused elsewhere. Phillips, aware of what the girls had already endured, won their trust and then sexually exploited them. Two years before that, th
exposed himself to “exercise … on someone’s butt.” The girls’ attorneys claim the state didn’t properly investigate the strange report and instead allowed three children to b
abuse came to light in August 2014, when the younger foster daughter when to Phillips’ wife and said she had “done something bad.” The girl went on to say Phillips had to
though he would later make nonsensical claims that the children enticed him into raping them. “Although he readily admits to his actions he refuses to take actual responsib
know what he would’ve done had his wife not threatened to turn him in. Authorities arrested Phillips and removed the foster children from his former home. He ultimately p
with Phillips said both have struggled because of the betrayal. “They both trusted John and (his wife) to be their adoptive parents,” the social worker said in the June memo.
ve-saved-children-raped-by-6873013.php

Youth home closed after sex acts, meth Records show porn exposure, broken bones at brawl By Greg Moran | 7 a.m. March 8, 2016 The former home of the **Phoenix**
a contract with San Diego County abruptly closed last fall, following a series of incidents involving staff and residents that led child welfare officials to stop sending childre
for “the safety and welfare of dependent and probation youth” placed in the home. In a February 2015 memo, the county demanded a plan to correct 11 areas, including sup
Phoenix House submitted a 60-page plan to correct the flaws in March. But by September, the group informed the county it was closing down, citing a change in funding ar
investigations. They included: In April 2014 a female staff counselor was found to have engaged in sex acts with a male resident on at least two occasions, and providing th
incident. The report indicated the staff member had been disciplined once before and “had issues with inappropriate boundaries with residents at Phoenix House.” On Jan. 3
Aug. 30 last year, about a week before the announcement to close, two female youths walked away from an outing at the Mission Valley mall and were missing for hours. T
Bray, executive director of the organization that operates 120 programs in California and nine other states, declined to comment on the specific incidents detailed in the repo
led to the decision to no longer accept youth under the contract, which was set to expire in 2017, Bray said. Phoenix House still provides rehabilitation services for county y
location, that was built in the 1940s,” she said of the Descanso campus. The referrals to Los Angeles are done under an amended annual contract that could pay Phoenix Ho
specialized care that some youth need. Until it closed, Phoenix House in Descanso was the only place such youth could go to within the county, Fleming said. She said the c
to questions about the facility. She said the county stopped referrals there from Feb. 18 to March 13 last year. In all, the county has paid $2.8 million to Phoenix House sinc
relatively small number of clients placed out there had concerns other than reports of misconduct by staff there. “They didn’t feel like it was helping them, or the group cou
about it wasn’t a good fit.” Bray said that the organization now plans to convert the Descanso site from a licensed treatment program for youths, to a post-treatment recover
problems with the facility, which is not a locked or secured camp. There have been problems with youth trespassing on private property, thefts and traffic hazards from vehi
which said the youth had a history of depression and making suicidal threats. “Ever since they opened the doors it’s had problems,” Leavitt said, “Kid-created problems, sta
2014-15, and 23 from July 2015 until it closed down. Since the closure, the county has placed 10 children in the Los Angeles Phoenix House facility. Also see County-contr
http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/mar/08/phoenix-house/

Paddles, Stun Guns and Chemical Sprays: How US Schools Discipline Students Friday, 11 March 2016 00:00 By Eleanor J. Bader, Truthout | News Analysis font size c
One day he said something smart-alecky, and our teacher grabbed him by the collar, lifted him up, opened up the coat closet, threw him in and locked the door. The rest of u
still vivid in her mind's eye. "I remember that he was wearing a white shirt and when the teacher finally opened the door, he was covered in blood. My first thought was that
the blood." Despite the lasting impact of this incident on Parrent -- we can only guess how it affected Brian as he continued his schooling and came of age -- it's tempting to
are students still being locked in "isolation rooms" and physically restrained, but 19 states also continue to employ corporal punishment against "disobedient" pupils. What's
fights and suppress "unruly" behavior. First, let's look at corporal punishment. Since there are no federal policies regarding the paddling or physical punishment of students,
ban private schools from doing the same. The practice remains pervasive, particularly in the South. To wit: Available statistics show Texas leading the nation, with 49,197 st
Oklahoma with 14,828. Children with disabilities are between two and five times more likely to be hit than other students. For those unfamiliar with this type of chastiseme
tardiness or violating a school dress code. Equally noteworthy, boys of color receive the stick far more frequently than white males or females, regardless of race. Indeed, m
and regardless of whether they have learning disorders, are autistic or have illnesses ranging from cerebral palsy to asthma. According to the Gundersen National Child Prot
Disabilities Historically, time-outs, also known as seclusion or isolation, have been used to give students a means of stepping away from stimuli. "People typically couch re
against punishment-happy school systems. "What isolation teaches is trauma." New Mexico, she adds, like most other states, does not require parents to be notified when th
when sequestered," Stewart told Truthout. "You can see blood and snot, and smell urine, in these holding rooms. " "No one has solid numbers on the number of officers wit
from one activity to another may throw a book or push a desk," she said. "The teacher then calls security. In some cases, the room will be cleared of other students, leaving t
Albuquerque's Pegasus Legal Services for Children, "zero-tolerance" policies in some schools complicate things further by prohibiting teachers from using discretion when
This is especially true when punishment includes being tased, zapped with a stun gun or sprayed with chemicals. That said, no one knows how often, or even where, these n
email from Truthout requesting hard data. "No one has solid numbers on the number of officers with Tasers or sprays, how much is spent by school districts, or exactly whe
should be used exclusively by "sworn, certified and trained police officers," not educators. Many Ask Why Police Are in Schools at All Many, however, believe law enforce
failed since chemicals and stun guns have the potential to cause permanent physical and psychological problems. Ebony Howard, an attorney at the Alabama-based Souther
from one class to another when a boy walked up to her and started calling her foul names like bitch and whore. She tried to get away from him but he and a group of his frie
color, police departments are criminalizing adolescent conflict." Fortunately, KB recovered and her fetus was unharmed, but a SPLC lawsuit challenged the officer's handlin
decision "sends a signal to other school districts" about calling police at the first sign of discord. "Here in Alabama and across the country, in schools where the students are

prison pipeline and Howard is clear that it represents a gross violation of students' rights to test boundaries and resolve conflicts on their own. Still, Howard notes that if law anyone." Rukiya Dillahunt, a former teacher and school administrator from Raleigh, North Carolina who now works with the Education Justice Alliance, favors peace circle had to either talk directly to one another or to one of the other people in the room. From what I saw, the method worked. It gave the parties involved a way to process the iss or both been arrested, Dillahunt said. Suspension would have been similarly disruptive. "When kids are kept out of school they become demoralized and angry," she told Tr than fail, they drop out." While some may re-enroll later, excessive discipline is associated with other negative consequences including increased aggression, anxiety, depres Training Center, is completely avoidable if school personnel look at the underlying issues -- including poverty, hunger, domestic abuse and homelessness -- that typically ca of excitement and wonder into a site of angst and upheaval. Eleanor J. Bader Source: http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/35173-paddles-stun-guns-and-chemical-sprays-ho

Dangerous use of restraints plummets at Minnesota homes for people with disabilities By Chris Serres Star Tribune March 9, 2016 — 9:08pm Text size comment2 sha isolation rooms at facilities for people with developmental disabilities. Eight years after reports first surfaced of metal handcuffs and leg shackles being used as punishment restrictive measures dropped from 8,602 two years ago to 5,124 in the most recent fiscal year, according to a report state officials filed last week in federal court. The sharp last year that found Minnesota had fallen behind other states in integrating people with disabilities in mainstream life, and often isolated them in group homes far from fami far back as 1949, Gov. Luther Youngdahl lit a giant bonfire of straitjackets, cuffs and leather straps on the grounds of the state mental hospital in Anoka, while condemning Health and Developmental Disabilities. In 2008, Opheim's office reported that scores of residents at a state-operated facility in Cambridge, Minn., were being routinely han restrained for behavior as minor as touching a pizza box, bumping into someone or threatening to run away. The findings led to a federal class-action lawsuit by METO resi little or no therapeutic value and can be extremely dangerous. After Minnesota changed state law in 2014 to prohibit a long list of restrictive procedures, from leg shackles a identifying the individual needs of their clients, and to de-escalate situations without resorting to restraints. And, for the first time, the state required providers to report all ir said Alex Bartolic, disability services director at DHS. "We drew a very hard line in the sand," she said. "We decided that we no longer wanted to do things that caused peo drop, say state officials, has been in the use of forced isolation. Until recently, many providers still thought it was acceptable to use "time out," or seclusion rooms, to correc rights or privileges, such as visits from family and participation in group activities, if they fail to correct certain behaviors. "We said, 'You should never take away somethin that documented incidents of restraint were not properly investigated, after highlighting the case of a 33-year-old woman strapped to a metal-framed chair in a group home i found that a patient at Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center was placed intermittently in a wheelchair restraint, without being evaluated for the restraint and without pro providers may resort to punitive methods because they lack staff trained in more positive approaches. "We saw a big drop," Bartolic said, "but it's going to take a lot of dilig cautiously optimistic that we're on the right track," she said, "but we still have a long ways to go." Source: http://www.startribune.com/dangerous-use-of-restraints-plumme

Girl in city-contracted foster care molested, suit alleges - NY Daily News EXCLUSIVE: Girl in city-contracted foster home was repeatedly molested, then blamed for 'a repeatedly molested while under the care of city-contracted foster home is seeking $18 million in damages. A girl under the care of a city-contracted foster home provider w complaint, was removed from her birth home when she was 2-years-old. Abbott House, a foster care organization that receives some $50 million in public funds, was charg permanently remove the girl from the home, the lawsuit charges. She was sent to therapy at Arista Center for Psychotherapy, Inc., and the foster mom whom she alleged ass the same therapist, who blamed her for the molestation, claiming she was "acting out." Arista staffers wrongly described her behavior as "giving oral sex to an older boy" ar Abbott House and treated the minor 10-year-old child for years for her guilt instead of investigating the causes and making sure there was a safe foster home setting." The la foster homes. "We trust and presume they're helping troubled children," Young said. "But that presumption — that they're safe — needs greater scrutiny." The woman is see care-molested-suit-alleges-article-1.2559041

City shuts down illegal group home By Vanessa Murphy | , Neb Solomon Published 03/10 2016 10:57PM Updated 03/10 2016 11:22PM LAS VEGAS A that's not what was happening. Police say it was being used as an illegal group home. "It's just been people coming and going," said nearby resident Eileen Lanahan. She say individuals came from is known to be frequented by the homeless. Metro Police say the tenant renting the house was renting it to others. It was operating as an unlicensed g living there had to leave. Now, they're back on the streets. "We've got to do something about the homeless," Lanahan said. Merideth Spriggs connects the homeless with res southern Nevada. 28 percent of them reported suffering from mental illness. Spriggs says there are not enough places they can go in southern Nevada for long-term treatmer health services, even if they do have insurance." Spriggs says she's waited up to twelve hours with some clients to get them a bed in a mental health facility. She says police person who was renting the place out to others. Source: http://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/city-shuts-down-illegal-group-home

Legality of group home being investigated following Taylor fire that injured three men Published: Thursday, March 10, 2016 0 Comments More Photos Click thumbna Facebook By Jessica Strachan Click to enlarge A fire from a discarded cigarette destroyed this house on John Daly street in Taylor Wednesday afternoon, l resident and two firefighters to the hospital for treatment. All three men have reportedly been released and are recovering, but the blaze has sparked an investigation into the Portis said. One man, described as being in his mid-to late- 60s, was still inside and had to be rescued. As a result of battling the fire, one firefighter was treated for smoke ir started after a man who lives in the home attempted to toss a cigarette butt on the ground, but instead set fire to two mattresses that were stacked outside on the deck, Hager man employed by Habib Capital, LLC on scene and that the home had six adult residents, five of whom were there when the fire broke out. Smoking is not allowed inside tl the state, based on criteria like services provided and mental status, but are not always registered with the cities they are a part of. Those with fewer than seven residents are and figure out if we need an ordinance (to keep track of group homes)." Continued... 1 2 See Full Story "Especially with the (residents') mental status, it was challenging tr mentally ill, developmentally disabled or physically disabled" for five or more days a week, two or more consecutive weeks — for compensation. Nineteen adult foster care Thursday afternoon confirmed that a complaint had been received and that they will be making contact with the owner to determine if the operation was legal. Source: http

Decades in prison for Tucson couple who imprisoned children Decades in prison for Tucson couple who imprisoned children By Curt Prendergast Arizona Daily Star Ar more Girls not mistreated, mom in Tucson confinement trial says Sophia Richter took the witness stand as the trial against her and her husband, Fernando Richter. Read mo ease by showing them what a trial is like. Read more The husband and wife convicted of keeping their three daughters imprisoned in their house were sentenced to 58 years counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. The girls testified to having been physically abused, taken out of school and held captive for several months before the t Paul Tang after a morning of hearing statements from the couple's daughters and relatives. "This was a tragedy to us all," Tang said as he announced the sentences. The dau the gallery. "I rescued myself from a condition that no child should go through," said the 16-year-old daughter, who was 13 when she escaped. "I know she could have left i Her younger sister also spoke to the judge, saying she was consumed by fear of people around her after she was rescued and for a time wanted to go back to be with her mot the rules of the trial unfairly restricted her mother from testifying that she also was a victim. Fernando is a "really evil person" who manipulated her mother, she said. Tang said. As for Fernando, he "truly deserves to rot in prison." Robert Richter, stepfather of Fernando Richter, read a statement saying Fernando cannot read or write properly ar "not a monster." Records of Fernando's mental illness go back to early childhood and were "not something put together for the defense." The daughters testified that Fernan became "withdrawn" after meeting Fernando Richter and "kind of slipped away." Fernando Richter was given 58 years in prison and credited with 835 days of time served "We were not allowed to present a defense," he said, citing the fact that Sophia Richter could not testify that she was under duress. Source: http://tucson.com/news/local/cri

Man Gets 20-Year Term for Starving, Beating Foster Children By The Associated Press SAN ANTONIO — Mar 11, 2016, 8:10 PM ET 33 Shares Email Star 33 Shares the 20-year sentence in a deal with prosecutors in which he pleaded guilty to injury to a child with serious bodily injury by omission. His sentencing comes a week after his Judge Ron Rangel that the three adopted the children, who had been born drug-addicted, to collect the state support of more than $90,000. "They got $90,000 tax-free and b Rangel told Archuleta that he "buried his head in the sand" while the children were abused and starved. The children, 8 to 10 years old at the time, had been taken from an a a bucket served as toilets, and boxes were stacked against the glass door to prevent the children from opening it. They ate mostly bread and butter, with some broth and the bruised. The case had highlighted long-standing questions about the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, which a federal judge last year ruled was unconst and struggle to provide necessary oversight, with only about 100 residential Child Care Licensing investigators to ensure that the state's roughly 10,000 foster homes are pro 37592535

Mother: 'My son was murdered and I want to know the reason' Katie Nelson, 6:46 p.m. CST March 11, 2016 Buy Photo Courtroom file photo(Photo: know the reason behind it," the boy's birth mother, Nina Stead, said in a Facebook message to Argus Leader Media. "I cannot begin to tell you what I feel inside. My family his death. "I grew up in the system and I know that there are people who foster children and mistreat them," Stead said. "I began to cry just at the thought of how he was trea abuse in Brule County in 2009. That charge was dismissed by the prosecutor. ARGUS LEADER Foster mother charged in child's death The South Dakota Department of Sc per year. "South Dakota has a rigorous process for licensing of foster parents that is set out in administrative rule," Kafka wrote. Potential foster parents are required to pass Foster homes are inspected weekly for the first month after a child comes to live there and monthly after that, Kafka said. Jennewein was licensed to become a foster parent showed only three minor charges, all traffic-related, between 2004 and 2014. Kafka described the licensing process as "rigorous," but said the department was reviewing its mistreated and that she prays the truth will be made known. "An innocent child was taken and he lived a short life," she said. "My son will not be forgotten." Follow Katie N

Midwest Academy highlights child welfare worries Lee Rood, 8:27 a.m. CDT March 13, 2016 In this photo taken on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016, a Uhaul reports officials with the FBI and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation returned to Midwest Academy on Thursday to execute a search warrant for records following students at a southeast Iowa boarding school near Keokuk stampeded through the facility's kitchen and across an open field on the 70-acre property. All but one of the runav

into picking up their children. “Please re-enforce with all your children that emotional terrorism is not tolerated anymore,” he wrote in the email, obtained by The Des Moin
been warning for years about the risks associated with residential foster care facilities for troubled youths. MORE: Midwest Academy-inspired bill held up in House | Prose
children’s rights lawyer representing a student who recounted the incident. “No matter what one thinks of therapeutic boarding schools, putting a child in a segregation roon
abuse and other mistreatment of children at Midwest Academy, some Iowa lawmakers have been moving swiftly to require oversight of private-pay facilities that foster stru
Dubuque, which has been providing government funded residential care for years, is expected to open one more. Awakenings Academy will be a private-pay, six-bedroom p
Iowa Senate would at least mandate certification of those homes — requiring that they meet basic health and safety needs, protect children from abuse and neglect, conduct
residential group homes for troubled youths that receive taxpayer money are coming under increased scrutiny. In states such as California and Illinois, scandals have erupte
Midwest Academy case The number of children in any kind of foster care, including residential and group homes, has dropped by almost one-third since the late 1990s. Stil
Iowa's Chuck Grassley, co-chair of the Senate’s caucus on foster youths, has been looking to shift funding away from group care that isn't deemed clinically necessary in fa
Kohomban, CEO of Children’s Village in New York City, said group care is “simply the wrong intervention for most youth, including teens.” Kohomban said reforms are n
they could no longer handle their sons or daughters at home. And few places would take them. “I didn’t sleep at night until I put him in there,” said Jeff Rolczynski, who br
acting out. “My son’s psychologist said I basically had two choices: either I need to come home every day and handcuff him to a bedpost, or find a boarding school of some
students and parents likened to brainwashing. Boys and girls reported being stripped of their possessions and shoes, cut off from communication with family, and prohib
to how he could get back on track,” he said. While some parents loved the rigid atmosphere at the boarding school, others complained that it was a traumatizing, one-size-fi
spectrum, “which explains why he couldn't understand how to get out of isolation.” Gillings said her son, now 23, was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder after a
care. “I am still in debt … paying for the schools that ruined our family,” Gillings said. Source: http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/investigations/readers-watch

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Centers to Treat Eating Disorders Are Growing, and Raising Concerns By ERICA GOODEMARCH 14, 2016 Inside Photo Ashley Bilkie, 29, at home in Northville, M
New York Times Advertisement Continue reading the main story Continue reading the main story Share This Page Email Share Tweet Save more Continue reading the mai
center sends out invitations to a reception with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres. Another offers doctors and therapists all-expense-paid trips to visit and experience their offerin
the clinicians who treat them. The programs have proliferated in recent years, with some companies expanding across the country. Continue reading the main story Related
Treating Eating Disorders and Paying for ItDEC. 3, 2010 The rapid growth of the industry — there are more than 75 centers, compared with 22 a decade ago, according to
directors say, fill a dire need, serving patients from areas where no adequate treatment is available. “Only 15 to 30 percent of people have access to specialized care for eatir
advertising and the profusion of centers, which typically cost $1,000 a day but can run much higher, is raising concerns among some eating disorders experts, who worry th
some programs is so comfortable that it fosters dependency. “For the most part, the people who are running and working in these programs believe they’re doing the right th
patients require the supervision of residential programs and benefit from the treatment. But studies showing the programs’ effectiveness are scant, Dr. Guarda and other exp
treatment — with little or no scientific evidence behind them. Some programs have full-time psychiatrists and medical doctors on staff, but others lack the expertise to hand
like pens and key chains dispensed at professional meetings. Critics liken them to pharmaceutical industry tactics that led to laws and policies requiring financial disclosure,
Treatment Center Choosing a residential treatment program for eating disorders can be challenging. Click here for advice from specialists who treat eating disorders about v
Columbia University Medical Center, and four colleagues called for more transparency about the financial relationships between residential centers and the professionals wl
recognized by the professionals they target,” wrote Dr. Attia and her colleagues, who included Dr. Guarda. Several industry representatives said that while they had not seen
world is giving out swimming pools and trips to Europe and things like that,” Dr. Bunnell said. Jillian Lampert, president of the Residential Eating Disorders Consortium, a
conversations.” A Deadly Mental Illness Eating disorders are among the most difficult mental illnesses to treat. Anorexia, in particular, has stymied many of psychiatry’s be
uncomfortable. The most severely ill patients — the prognosis is grimmer the longer someone has anorexia, studies suggest — require hospital treatment just to stay alive. I
stay was 83 days. In the past, health insurance companies placed strict limits on coverage for eating disorders, treating them differently from other medical illnesses. Few in
Lawsuits brought by the families of patients who were denied coverage added to the pressure on insurers. In 2012, a federal appeals court ruled that health plans must cover
Advertisement Continue reading the main story They also attracted the attention of Wall Street investors, who saw profits in providing treatment for so-called behavioral he
firm BDO noted last year in an article on its website, referring to the effects of the legal changes. Advertisement Continue reading the main story As the industry has expanc
who recovered from an eating disorder, began with a center in Malibu. But in 2012, with financing from Centre Partners, a middle-market equity firm, Monte Nido began o
story Sign Up for the Science Times Newsletter Every week, we'll bring you stories that capture the wonders of the human body, nature and the cosmos. Last year, noting th
Monte Nido’s [sic] approach to eating disorder treatment is what you and others like you have been waiting for,” Ms. Costin wrote in a letter to potential patients on the con
others who treat eating disorders, offering to inform them about a program’s advantages and inviting them to visit. The Denver-based Eating Recovery Center has a call cen
its website, the company, which began with a single center, bills itself as “the only national health care system devoted to serious eating disorders at all levels of care.” Craig
education, not entertainment. “We’re delivering lectures,” Dr. Johnson said. Some therapists see the offer of free trips as a chance to view the facilities that they might recon
absolutely promotional,” she said, “But it was actually really educational. They took us in depth into what they did.” Advertisement Continue reading the main story Her lat
not even realize they were being swayed by financial interests. Dr. Brown recalled being offered a “V.I.P.” trip to a treatment center, with the representative telling her, “We
Jillian Lampert heads a group representing eating disorder centers that is seeking to establish standards for accreditation. Below, some centers’ promotional images. Credit J
centers, evaluating the staff, critiquing the food and noting whether cellphones are allowed. Many reviewers have spent time in more than one residential center and the opi
initially useful. “Residential treatment is vital when you are at your ultimate rock bottom” she said. But once home, her illness worsened because “you’re going back into yo
she was 21, she found a residential center in the Southwest on the Internet and spent six weeks there. The center, which she described as “more like a resort,” was “somewh
rock climb.” Last year, she spent two months at Eating Recovery Center in Denver, moving from residential care to day treatment, and began to gain control of her illness. “
program — her fourth stay in an inpatient program for treatment of anorexia and her second at E.R.C. — “I was getting sicker and sicker,” she said. She lost the weight she
Bilkie’s parents, who for years had watched their daughter’s health decline, grew frantic. Ms. Bilkie would disappear, her father, Robert Bilkie, said, and he would find her
worst nightmare,” he said. It was also expensive. Mr. Bilkie, a financial adviser in Michigan, calculated that over three years, he paid at least $350,000 for unreimbursed inp
“We spent an outrageous amount of money for what really amounted to ineffectual treatment,” Mr. Bilkie said. Last fall, Ms. Bilkie entered the eating disorder center at the
at the center in Denver, including high doses of Xanax, a tranquilizer, and Adderall, an attention deficit drug and a stimulant. In group therapy, other patients put pressure or
will do once they leave, rather than, say, elevated mood — her weight returned to normal. She was discharged in November and continues to do well. “I hated every single s
other patients have fared poorly at academic centers and then done well at E.R.C. Despite Ms. Bilkie’s perception, he said, therapists at the program did not try to divide pat
and the degree of fragility they bring to any treatment experience.” Dr. Anne Marie O’Melia, a psychiatrist at the recovery center, said Ms. Bilkie was on Xanax when she a
ups and downs is not unusual for patients with eating disorders. “In many cases, you see one step forward, two steps back,” said Dr. Mark Friedlander, the chief medical off
system across states make it difficult for Aetna or other insurers to evaluate care. “We would love to see greater consistency and higher standards,” he said. To that end, a gr
independent company that accredits health care facilities, has adopted the requirements, which go into effect July 1. Dr. Lampert, president of the consortium, said the cente
will continue to rely on word of mouth and any information they can find online. “These are black boxes,” Dr. Scott Hadland, an adolescent medicine specialist at Harvard
anorexia-bulimia-treatment-centers.html?_r=0

Police investigating allegations of unreported abuse at boys ranch Print Font [+] [-] Leave a comment » By Pat Reavy, Deseret News Published: Wednesday, March 16
newly unsealed search warrant reveals. Shuttterstock Enlarge photo» Summary The Sanpete County Sheriff's Office is investigating allegations of sexual abuse and obstruct
of justice at a southern Utah residential treatment center, a newly unsealed search warrant reveals. Sheriff's deputies went to the Mount Pleasant Academy, 70 W. 1100 Soutl
looking for documents, data, emails, photographs, filings and other evidence of multiple sex crimes as well as evidence of attempts to conceal the crimes, the affidavit state
members of the home were aware of the activity and not reporting to the proper authorities," according to the warrant. A staff member from the academy who wished to rem
also makes allegations that the director of the youth home is sharing video surveillance with other staff members," the affidavit states. Six days after the division contacted t
the warrant. Sanpete County Sheriff Brian Nielson confirmed Tuesday there is an active investigation, but he said it will likely take some time to complete. Until then, he sa
pornography addiction, and/or digital addictions." The director of the academy on Wednesday referred all calls to the executive director. A call left at the executive director's

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Investigation underway in Winter Park foster care agency Updated: Mar 16, 2016 - 5:20 PM 1 Tweet this to your followers! From To Compose your message 114 Thanl
investigates/investigation-underway-in-winter-park-foster-care-agency/165156176 WINTER PARK, Fla. — Eyewitness News uncovered one of the largest foster care agen
that a whistleblower complaint sparked the investigation at the state’s oldest and largest statewide organization. The facility based in Winter Park has a stellar reputation, pr
those families. Now, an investigation is underway to find out if the agency over-billed the government for those claims. A spokesperson later sent Eyewitness News a staten
transition, we experienced some implementation challenges related to billing errors which resulted in allegations of fraud. Once management was made aware of the allegat
allegations. The investigation concluded there was no fraud committed. CHS assigned a team comprised of senior management to perform a claim-by-claim review of every
repayment process. All claims submitted were for services that were actually provided. Because there were no findings of fraud, no CHS employees have been disciplined i
independent whistleblower hotline, which reinforces our commitment to transparency. Going forward, CHS has engaged outside consultants to resolve any outstanding issu
depend on our strong and committed workforce. We will continue to review our billing implementation systems while maintaining the same high level of quality services to

challenges related to billing errors, but allegations of fraud were unfounded. Eyewitness News asked if their internal investigation was related to the recent departu investigation. The state attorney general would not confirm or deny an ongoing investigation on that level. They did confirm they have received five complaints against the agency/165156176

Controversial youth program director seeks House seat By Dan Boyd / Capitol Bureau Chief Friday, March 18th, 2016 at 12:01am .... least one of which is still pending – is running for an open seat in the state House. CHANDLER: Says he's conservative, independent Scott Chandler, the owner of Tierra B no one affiliated with the ranch's youth program has faced criminal charges. "If anything, I think it shows I've been vetted." Chandler, a Deming Republican, is one of four play a role in determining which political party ends up controlling the House. Republicans currently hold a 37-33 edge and are seeking to retain control after a historic take Blanca is a 30,000-acre working cattle operation in New Mexico's Black Range. The ranch's High Country Youth Program is intended to "teach responsibility, self-disciplir shackled and fed starvation rations. New Mexico State Police agents and social workers, responding to abuse allegations, showed up at the ranch in October 2013 to try to t Meanwhile, three lawsuits have been filed by families alleging their children were abused at the ranch. Two of those lawsuits have been dismissed, state court records show, Susana Martinez's security detail when he was asked to leave a GOP event in Luna County that the governor was attending. Chandler said this week that his family is "very The other candidates running for the open seat are Democrats Candie Sweetser and Frederick Sherman, and Republican Vicki Chavez. All four are Deming residents, accor

Foster care scandal: Human services director fires top child welfare officials 1 / 6 foster care feb. 3, 2016 Oregon's then-interim human services director Clyde Saiki, le Theriault/staff Denis C. Theriault | The Oregonian/OregonLive Print Email By Denis C. Theriault | The Oregonian/OregonLive The Oregonian Email the author | Follow on services director, Clyde Saiki, has fired two of the agency's most senior child welfare officials. Ousted are Jerry Waybrant, the agency's chief operating officer over child we DHS," Saiki said in a statement, "she made it very clear that one of my top priorities was the safety of children entrusted to our care. She had serious concerns about some o additional personnel changes, as needed," he continued. The decision also came as the agency learned of a $60 million lawsuit that accuses officials of allowing two small c program." Jerry WaybrantDenis C. Theriault | The Oregonian/OregonLive Waybrant briefly served as the agency's acting director last year, until he was replaced by Saiki. I complaints and financial problems. Day was also among that group. She had retained her job atop the child welfare program, even as lawmakers led by Sen. Sara Gelser, D- reports on abuse, tightens licensing rules for providers and makes it a crime for officials to knowingly ignore neglect. Day, repeatedly called to testify in front of lawmakers November, "to ensure this doesn't occur again." The records released by Gelser show officials had known about problems at provider Give Us This Day for more than a dec serious questions about the way human services officials handle complaints of abuse and neglect. Many serious complaints against Give Us This Day and its employees nev foster parents, bruises and death threats. Oregon's foster care system, in charge of thousands of kids on any given day, has long faced troubles — paying millions of dollars t keeping children safe: monthly visits from caseworkers. Federal audits have repeatedly dinged the department for falling behind benchmarks. Saiki has presided over a stea directly to employees and others who worry mid-level managers aren't heeding their concerns. Earlier, some foster care programs, despite racking up complaint after compl Villages in Lake Oswego, closed one of its programs as part of a settlement with the state. Saiki has also been asked to shepherd an outside review of the department's child decisions and changes, sometimes difficult ones, to restore that focus on safety. The governor expects it, and Oregonians deserve it." — Denis C. Theriault

Long Island Foster Parent Accused Of Sexually Abusing Kids In His Care « CBS New York. Suffolk DA: Long Island Foster Parent Accused Of Sexually Abusing Boy prosecutors described as a "house of horrors." Cesar Gonzalez-Mugaburu, 60, of Ridge, pleaded not guilty to child endangerment and sexual misconduct charges at his arra them, denying them meals, making them stand out in the cold," Spota said. Neighbors claimed they saw some of the children rummaging through garbage cans in search of until now to admit the heinous abuse, CBS2's Jennifer McLogan reported. The district attorney said Mugaburu also abused the family dog. The victims said he threatened a and the kids doing yard work, tidying up the place," neighbor Christine Stein told CBS2. "I've talked to them, played baseball with them, never complained. It's insane. I n Services is aware that the Suffolk County District Attorney has filed charges against a former SCO foster parent in connection with allegations of abuse and maltreatment," York City's Administration for Children's Services didn't immediately comment on the allegations. The defense attorney denies Muguaburu was ever abusive, calling him a more victims. He is being held on $500,000 bail. He faces up to 50 years in prison if convicted. Source: http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2016/03/18/long-island-foster-parent-s

Youth Services International history of problems dates to 1989 | www.mypalmbeachpost.com Detainees forced to pay for forks; shackled teen coughing up blood News James Slattery and YSI's predecessor companies have been under fire for far longer than other firms, in more states and for many of the same issues. 1989: Hoteliers James two men found Esmor Correctional Services and strike a deal with the federal government to house immigrant detainees. 1995: One year after Esmor begins operating a Ne withheld. Severe understaffing forced 16-hour shifts. And the facility administrator said corporate policy was to keep the government "in the dark." The contract was cancel County Circuit judge reports "physical and psychological conditions bordered upon child abuse." The state defends its contractor and Slattery denies reports of problems. T days before he was shackled in leg irons and taken to a hospital. A suit was settled for more than $38 million. 2004: The U.S. Justice Department concluded teenagers at the as young as 14 and psychiatric drugs used to sedate teens. 2010:The Southern Poverty Law Center sued YSI over management of Broward County's Thompson Academy. T which was settled and sealed. 2012: The Pembroke Pines Police Department filed misdemeanor battery charges against two Thompson staffers. According to police records, Department found that of 41 teenagers at the YSI-run Palm Beach County Juvenile Correctional Facility who filled out a confidential survey, 16.2 percent reported sex abus substantiated cases. Source: http://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/news/news/detainees-forced-to-pay-for-forks-shackled-teen-co/nqn7b/

Santa Teresa youth facility faces state sanctions Diana Alba Soular, Las Cruces Sun-News 5:47 p.m. MDT March 19, 2016 Company says it's making improvements Pict A Santa Teresa mental-health and substance-abuse treatment facility for teens is under a six-month-long period of intense state scrutiny after findings that it routinely neglec options for psychiatric treatment. Meanwhile, Peak Behavioral Health and its parent company, Strategic Behavioral Health, issued a statement, saying they're collaborating Behavioral Health failed to protect its teen residents from attacks by other residents and used questionable physical restraints and chemical restraints — the use of medicine designated disability rights watchdog group — found there were 80 incidents of "resident-on-resident violence or aggression" that resulted in "numerous injuries," including Center on 21 occasions, according to the report. More than 50 suicide attempts and self-harming incidents were reported. Disability Rights New Mexico reviewed 316 incid environment" that was the "result of a pattern and practice of neglect" in violation of state regulations, according to its report. "The frequency of resident-on-resident violen that end, DRNM is deeply concerned about the safety of residents on the RTC (Residential Treatment Center) units at the Peak under the care of Strategic Behavioral Health nose; and a resident who was "straddled by a peer and kicked and punched in the face 4-5 times," while another resident was a "lookout" on the watch for staff. Some reside the Peak," the report states. It also recommended that judges and court officials "seek alternatives to the Peak" when ordering teens to attend residential treatment facilities. use of restraint for incidents that did not meet the criteria of an emergency situation," according to the document. And there was "frequent" use of medication restraints after last resort. They're not a form of treatment and shouldn't be used lightly, especially because teens can have backgrounds of physical or sexual abuse and find the restraints tr restraints after instances of physical restraints, at Peak Behavioral Health during DRNM's monitoring period was a sign of a break-down in its treatment program, Koenigsb Questionable uses of restraints identified in Disability Rights New Mexico's report include a resident who was "restrained for 37 minutes after throwing a tennis ball at a sta Families Department was carrying out an investigation of its own last year that resulted in sanctions because of similar findings, said Henry Varela, spokesman for the agen on the underserved population of children with significant mental health issues." "We have been working collaboratively with the state's Children, Youth and Families Depa organizations. That's after a treatment authorization by one of the insurance plans — also called Managed Care Organizations — in New Mexico, officials said. Clients can based on its findings. A Nov. 23 letter from the state to the center indicating the state planned to issue "formal sanctions," including directing corrective actions and implem after the Compliance Monitor begins." And after the freeze, Peak Behavioral Health would voluntarily cap the client population in the center. Varela said the existing clients intensive care. A Nov. 24 memo from CYFD to the state to the company specified that an independent professional, Katie Cosper, had been appointed to serve as a compliar how to correct violations and "improve overall programming," according to the document. Santos said Peak Behavioral Health Services has submitted an action plan to the training at our facility, and we have brought on new medical and administrative leadership. We have also revamped our assessment methods, and improved management of noted the facility is "fully accredited" by The Joint Commission, the "leading agency in healthcare." He said it's been "recognized by The Joint Commission for the past thre parent company — notifying it that the state had received the facility's revised policies and procedures regarding the use of restraints and seclusion practices. Daphne Rood- 2 girls per week for the next 4 weeks for a total of 16 admissions," the letter states. Varela said the gradual addition of clients is a way to resume the needed service, while e also meant to help it develop sound practices because there is a big need for mental health services. "We assist in any way we can to make sure they have the resources they Twitter. Source: http://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/local/2016/03/19/santa-teresa-youth-facility-faces-state-sanctions/81874650/

City sent me to therapy with my abuser when I asked for help: suit By Kathianne Boniello March 20, 2016 | 1:02am Modal Trigger Photo: Shutterstock More On: lawsuits I lawsuit against the Administration for Children's Services workers, foster-care program and therapists who oversaw her case, claiming they never investigated her reports o parents before she was 2, "learned that her cries for help . . . would be ignored or reported directly back to the perpetrator of harm, until she learned to no longer ask for help there or checking the sleeping arrangements, she claims in Manhattan federal court papers. In 2003, the girl told a teacher that Smalls abused her, but social workers and the therapy-with-my-abuser-when-i-asked-for-help-suit/

EXCLUSIVE: **Accused Long Island pedophile foster parent kept terrified children locked in rooms** BY Ross Keith, Joseph Stepansky, Larry Mcshane NEW YORK D unsettling months with him in 2009. An accused pedophile foster parent who preyed upon boys tried to keep a 1-year-old in his Long Island house of horrors, while striving

according to mom Sue O'Keefe. "He just wanted my son," O'Keefe told The News in a Saturday interview at her Staten Island home. "He didn't want my daughters. … It c million bond. Prosecutors say there were likely more victims among the 140 kids he took in over the past 20 years. L.I. FOSTER PARENT ABUSED CHILDREN FOR 20 kept foster children locked in their rooms, barred them from playing with other kids and once sliced all the cables to the television as punishment. Her children began recou said — he was gay. The four children spent two unsettling months with the suspect in 2009, their mother said. The kids shared the place with one of his adopted sons, who v was permitted out of his room with Gonzales-Mugaburu while his sisters were often kept behind closed doors, the oldest of the three told The News. New York Daily News responded to the house, insisted that she had threatened to kill him. Another time, two of the girls had to free their terrified little brother when Gonzales-Mugaburu locked h the TV. I started crying. We all started crying." Gonzales-Mugaburu punished the same girl by taking her phone and throwing it into the woods. He would push dressers in f never got a good vibe from" Gonzales-Mugaburu, said Sue O'Keefe, whose children were in his custody. Over the years, needy kids were sent to the serial foster parent by t with authorities. Additional charges against Gonzales-Mugaburu were blocked in some cases by statutes of limitation, officials said. He was due back in court Monday, and LONDON COP SUING AFTER NYC ARREST, BABY PUT IN FOSTER CARE There were two cars parked Saturday in the driveway of Gonzales-Mugaburu's home, bu house behind the wheel of a white Lincoln Continental. "No comment," he said, before zipping away. Prosecutors said another of Gonzales-Mugaburu's adopted sons coope has custody of all seven of her kids, although all were at one point in foster care. Over the last two decades, the suspect kept as many as eight children at a time in his two-st Paddock Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/pervy-foster-parent-terrified-kids-locked-rooms-article-1.2570784

Yet Another Scandal Rocks Utah Home for Vulnerable Children Police raided the home after an employee reported sex among residents and misconduct by staff. by Joa 2014, an employee at a group home for troubled children in Utah said they informed superiors that a staff member was having sex with one of the boys the home was charg Mount Pleasant Academy. It was allowed to continue housing as many as 16 boys, almost all of them sent to the home to be treated for a variety of sexual addictions or diso employee said they made another grim discovery: several boys, at least one as young as 13, were having sex with each other with the full knowledge of members of the hon home, taking computers, surveillance tapes and other possible evidence. A search warrant based on the employee's claims lays out the suspected crimes: forced sexual abus said Moore, the state licensing director. "Even if violations are found, facilities may remain open while addressing corrective action plans and timelines as long as there is n the latest developments. Kiefer is the man accused by the employee of sharing sex videos with his staff. Brian Pace, executive director of Red Rock Canyon, the parent orga our internal investigations and if disciplinary measures are necessary we take them." In 2015, ProPublica examined the raft of problems plaguing group homes for vulnerab suffered a variety of scandals involving its own group homes, including one that led to a lawsuit on behalf of hundreds of children who said they had been abused at facilitie investigation found that the facility did not properly report the abuse to the Department of Human Services, which oversees group homes throughout the state. Again, no act ProPublica and laid out what the employee said was a deeply disturbing series of events and failures to act. The employee has since quit and would not be identified for fear locations at the facility that were not monitored by surveillance cameras. The employee said they were told their only responsibility had been met – to report it to their super charged with a misdemeanor count of sexual battery of a minor at the home in 2015. He pleaded guilty in Sanpete County District Court. Efforts to contact him were not suc licensee and their program. We assess to ensure that no rule violations contributed to the incident. Our inquiries include but are not limited to verification of incident notific that unfortunate event to specific rule violations by the licensee in order to take action against the licensee." The latest set of incidents, the former employee said, had taken said. "We were told to go through our chain of command." The employee said that at least one child connected to the activity had been arrested. Last December, Mount Plea before landing in Mount Pleasant in the summer of 2015. Out of Options, California Ships Hundreds of Troubled Children Out of State One 14-year-old boy's search for ca because she was completely out of options. Deshaun's often violent outbursts had exhausted the resources of several other group homes meant to provide intensive care to e disheveled. As a result, when she learned last week that officers with the Sanpete County Sherriff's department had begun investigating allegations of sexual abuse, Veronic was just me, but I felt like they did not appreciate any kind of questions or inquiries at all. They were very hostile towards us." The former employee remembered Deshaun sorry," the employee said of Veronice. "I care deeply for their son." Michael Weston, a spokesman for the California Department of Social Services said no children from th https://www.propublica.org/article/yet-another-scandal-rocks-utah-home-for-vulnerable-children

Danger in the psych ward Safety issues plague a chain of mental-health hospitals in Texas and across the United States By Miles Moffeit | Staff Writer March 18, 20 jumping from a Dallas bridge. In San Angelo, hospital employees created infection risks by leaving an observation room covered in vomit and a kitchen black with grease a of mental-health hospitals owned by one giant chain: Universal Health Services Inc. Across Texas and around the country, government inspectors investigating patient comp company hospitals that The News identified as receiving taxpayer money to treat the poor and elderly. Inspectors found safety breaches at 13 of the company's 26 such facil large number of investigations aimed at misconduct within this hospital system is appalling,'' said Dr. Peter Breggin, a New York-based psychiatrist who has consulted for t valued by Wall Street at over $11 billion, says its overall safety record is excellent. It cites rising patient-satisfaction scores and above-average results on hospital-accreditati has come up with plans to fix them. "We are mindful that over the course of treating approximately 2.5 million patients per year, irregular and unpredictable events occasion on hospitals that receive funding from Medicaid and Medicare. For example, government inspectors investigating complaints found serious problems at 8.4 percent of Univ fragmented and you can't easily compare Universal Health to its peers. And the company operates hospitals under a variety of names that can make it difficult for patients a another by the Chicago Tribune revealed problems at Universal Health hospitals. Source: http://interactives.dallasnews.com/2016/danger-in-the-psych-ward/

Student's death investigated decades later Phil Williams Jr. was a student at school for troubled teens in Poland when he died in 1982 NEXT STORY Maine police depar troubled teens. The cause of death for Phil Williams Jr. was listed as "probably a ruptured aneurysm" on his death certificate in 1982. He was 15 years old and living at Pola contacted by a former student working on a documentary who had names and phone numbers of witnesses. They told her Williams was accused by staff of faking headache or so they called the ambulance. They took Phil and they never saw him again." The Elan School closed in 2011 after being criticized for its controversial therapies – one of police can uncover what really went on that day. "I thought it was a wonderful place. I thought they were helping my brother. I thought he was coming home. He came hom

St. Paul Facility for Troubled Teens Forced to Suspend Referrals after 'Serious Concerns' Brett Hoffland Updated: 03/23/2016 8:58 AM Created: 03/22/2016 5:34 PM resident who lives right across from the facility, says usually the neighborhood is pretty quiet, but she did have a run-in with some teens who decided to escape. "One day I occasions," Geff Crowell, a St. Paul resident, said. Last month, 29-year-old Karen Anne Meyer, a contract therapist, was charged, accused of helping two teens escape from a separate event, according to Warner, a young man "ran from Boys Totem Town, stole a neighbor's vehicle, and then tried to run over the neighbor." Since Feb. 19, there ha County Community Corrections director. Klavins says these are medium- to high-risk teens who he says committed mainly property crimes or low-level personal offenses. facility. The county says the independent investigation should be finished in a couple weeks to determine whether Boys Totem Town can start accepting children again. Sou

Kansas lawmakers vote to overhaul juvenile justice system AP File Photo. Enlarge photo. In this March 6, 2014, file photo, Sen. Greg Smith, R-Overland Park, asks a qu Kansas lawmakers have voted to overhaul the juvenile justice system by allowing more low-risk offenders to stay at home while participating in community-based program nationwide. The measure passed 117-6 in a final-approval House vote Monday, after it passed 38-2 in the Senate last month. Senators will review the changes before it is se http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2016/mar/21/kansas-lawmakers-vote-overhaul-juvenile-justice-sy/

Ex-EGF treatment center director accused of rape faces lesser charge By Becky Jacobs on Mar 23, 2016 at 7:04 p.m. News Grand Forks,North Dakota 58203 http://ww http://www.grandforksherald.com Ex-EGF treatment center director accused of rape faces lesser charge Grand Forks North Dakota 375 2nd Ave. N. 58203 CROOKSTON– cards Bruce Lee Biddlecome, who was the director at Douglas Place, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center, was charged last May with one count of third-degree criminal that applies when a caregiver or staff person in a facility engages in seuxal contact with a patient or client. While both charges are linked to the same alleged incidents from different trips to Wal-Mart and Gordmans in November and December while she was a patient at the center, according to a court document. Both times, Biddlecome deman on Christmas Eve when he went into her room at Douglas Place and said he had come "for an early Christmas present and that it was her," according to a court document. T felony charge should be dropped because the charge didn't apply to him. His initial charge accuses him of having sex with a patient to whom he was a counselor, but Biddle sessions with female patients in his office, but he "never documented these incidents," a court document states. The prosecution argued that Biddlecome was a licensed drug Biddlecome was ever the woman's counselor. Biddlecome was charged with the wrong crime, Gudmundson argued, and said a gross misdemeanor in which it is illegal for a he faces a maximum of one year in jail and $3,000 fine. For his original felony charge, he faced a maximum of 15 years in prison. The Polk County assistant attorney prose Court on his new charge at 1 p.m. May 17. Source: http://www.grandforksherald.com/news/crime-and-courts/3993665-ex-egf-treatment-center-director-accused-rape-faces

Abuse in Foster Care: The Denial Runs Deep by Richard Wexler March 24, 2016 Here's the latest foster care horror from Oregon, according to the Oregonian: Under the Those facts, largely supported by the state's own examination of the case, are laid out in a complaint filed against the state Thursday. It says the children ended up resembli flags… A caseworker saw the children less than a month before doctors at Randall Children's Hospital determined they were suffering from chronic starvation, but the case course, there are plenty of horror stories about how children are treated by their own parents. In fact, the current child welfare system was largely built on such stories. Whe government show that the proportion of children in foster care who were the subject of substantiated maltreatment in foster care ranged from 0 to 1.34 percent." But the figu the case file. If the figures Cohen cites are to be believed, there are three states – Delaware, Vermont and New Hampshire – where absolutely no children at all were abused former foster children were gathered in a room and asked, "How many of you were abused over the course of a year?" only one would raise his or her hand. That's not what than if the accused is a birth parent. In contrast, research has revealed alarming rates of abuse in foster care. One independent study after another has found abuse in one-qua

abandons the fiction of the official figures and simply tells us the homes from which the children were removed must be even worse because the children were removed fro foster care could prevent recurrence of abuse in the cases in which children were removed. But the real question is: How does the rate of abuse in foster care compare to wh typical cases in which the researcher made exactly the sort of comparison Cohen demands: What happens to children placed in foster care and left in their own homes, in th is an extremely toxic intervention that should be used sparingly and in small doses. Cohen wants to further increase the dose. I prefer less toxic options. Source: https://chr

LDS Church named in lawsuit alleging sexual abuse of Navajo children in foster program | fox13now.com LDS Church named in lawsuit alleging sexual abuse of Nav of the Navajo Nation have sued The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, alleging the church placed Native American children in Mormon foster homes where they Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of the LDS Church, LDS Family Services and the LDS Church itself. The allegations stem from a foster care program formerly carried program in Utah from 1976-1983. "It was kind of a series of ongoing sexual abuse situations of varying degrees while in this program," said Craig Vernon, one of the attorn placed in an LDS home in Oak City, Utah in 1978 at the age of 10, where he was allegedly sexually molested on several occasions by an older stepbrother. The boy was ren Church leaders, he was placed with another family in the LPP, where he was again allegedly abused and also witnessed the alleged abuse of a younger sister. He said he rep The girl was allegedly raped by a friend of her stepbrother, who was 40 years old at the time. A few years later in 1983, after being placed in a different foster home in Cent when they reported this to LDS social services, we don't believe that the police was ever contacted," Vernon said. "First and foremost, that's what needs to happen." Other s protect the church and its leaders from culpability rather than ensure that abuse is reported to authorities and justice pursued. The lawsuit cites a policy that states, "'To avoi And another policy that encourages church leaders to contact an LDS Bishop about abuse first rather than the police. "We want clear policy changes… that the Church is no named in abuse allegations from contact with children. Plus, the attorneys request that the LDS Church change their policy about directing leaders not to testify in civil or c restore Navajo culture, which they allege was damaged by years of efforts to assimilate native children into white, Mormon culture. The LDS Church released a statement T [sic]. The Church will examine the allegations and respond appropriately." Another attorney on the case, William Keeler, said the Church has 30 days to respond to the laws B.C. The lawsuit states Mormons believe Native Americans were "cursed" with dark skin for wickedness, and the lawsuit alleges Mormons felt a cultural and religious duty live with white, Mormon families through the LPP. Source: http://fox13now.com/2016/03/24/lds-church-named-in-lawsuit-alleging-sexual-abuse-of-navajo-children-in-fos

Most drug, alcohol group homes in City of Prescott not state-licensed Photo by Les Stukenberg. Dayton Turberville sits on a bench outside Prescott House, one of the o Prescott. PRESCOTT – Of the 160 or so drug-and-alcohol-treatment group homes identified in the City of Prescott, only about 40 are listed as having a license through the beds (behavioral health facility-adult); outpatient treatment centers; and detox centers (behavioral health inpatient facilities-subacute). The Arizona Department of Health Se Valley. The number of inpatient (behavioral health-adult) facilities totals 10 for Prescott, and four in Prescott Valley, along with three counseling facilities in Prescott. (Some Likewise, West Yavapai Guidance Clinic is listed as having licenses for five outpatient facilities – two in Prescott, three in Prescott Valley – and one behavioral health facili Prescott in recent years. 'IT HAS EXPLODED' Officials at Prescott House (one of the licensed inpatient residential facilities), say the Prescott landscape has changed dram Jeff Martin, program manager for Prescott House, say things started changing about nine years ago, and then, "In the last five years, it has exploded," Martin said. They say clock. "If we have a crisis here, there is someone to deal with it," he said. Unlicensed facilities have no such requirement. "I think that's a world of difference," Martin adde licensed outpatient centers for their treatment. Under that model, the state requirement for licensing of outpatient treatment facilities is covered, but the people who use the f the mild weather and beaches, which provided "an enticing recovery environment." The website maintains that the Florida model has been effective – not only because of th community's proliferation of "structured sober-living homes." In several instances, the same operators that are licensed through the state for outpatient-treatment facilities a records show that A Sober Way Home also has a half-dozen or so other homes in residential areas, which are not listed on the state's licensure list. Sandra Tillman, owner of Gurley Street motel, she said. The move is being made, Tillman said, in order to get all of the treatment centralized in one licensed facility. "It will be a one-stop facility," sh program and are successful," she said. "It's a sad thing to see how it's being portrayed." She added: "The problem is not the halfway houses; the problem is heroin." LEGIS property values. That situation led Arizona Rep. Noel Campbell to introduce a bill in the State Legislature this year that aims to give cities and counties more authority in re cities, towns, and counties the right to craft more regulation for structured sober living homes (although it would not require the municipalities and counties to take on the n Senate, the bill would then have to go back to the House of Representatives for another vote on the amended version. Campbell has maintained that the structured sober-livi Prescott's issue, and would open the community up to a discrimination lawsuit. She also questions the city's list, which identifies about 160 group homes within city limits. regulation, all of the local experts emphasize that some effectively run sober-living homes already exist in Prescott. Bill Orick of Triple Point Recovery Homes considers hi live out in the community, Orick said, "If they screw up," they could be eligible for Triple Point, as an alternative to jail. Clients are required to participate in a 12-step prog life," Orick said. He sees programs such as Triple Point as necessary because it serves "the less fortunate" – those men who have no insurance, cannot afford other treatmen for more regulation. "I'm so frustrated with all of these programs that are opening up," he said. City actions such as the recent approval of stricter code enforcement and the

City of Prescott's group homes list reveals web of owners, operators By Les Bowen Originally Published: March 27, 2016 6:02 a.m. NewsyLesBowen PRESCOTT – A information about four entries on the list, explaining those are emergency shelters and, in the interest of protecting the privacy of people who own, operate or patronize the Prescott city officials did not indicate what type of support services the home provided. The city categorized the remaining 148 as either focused on drugs and alcohol addic records and the state's database of corporations, compiling a database of every identifiable company or individual connected to the group homes industry. First, it should be In some cases, home ownership was transferred to a corporation with connections to the drug and alcohol rehabilitation industry. However, in other cases, it appears homes further explained that the list contains a fair amount of historical artifacts that may not reflect the ownership and operation of group homes currently in the city. One notable there. "The house sat vacant for about a year and a half ... the group home closed, before I bought it," Paladini said, confirming that he lives in the house. The city has mark two houses previously listed as operated by Embark Sober Living. The city indicates one home is now operated by Carleton Recovery Center, but there's no new informatio 24 group homes, according to the city's list, some of which are owned by subsidiary companies including The Bridges Network and LNK Holdings. An address cross-check organizations with connections to A Sober Way – Clean Adventures of Sober Living and Oasis Addiction Counseling – apparently operate another six. • Carleton Recovery their corporate officers and have ties to company called DPC Behavioral Health. • The Next Step Transitional Living runs 10 homes, according to the city records. Most of Further analysis of the list also reveals connections between seemingly separate organizations. For example, two companies, Footprints Recovery Home and New Freedom operates a home whose owner's address is the same as one of the corporate agents listed for Footprints Recovery Home and New Freedom Recovery House. There are a fe shows the sheer size of the group homes industry: More than 300 individuals or companies are connected to the ownership and operation of group homes in Prescott. Sourc

Keep the foster kids safe, Bill NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Sunday, March 27, 2016, 4:10 AM A A A facebook 14 Tweet email Share this URL A Look Inside The Home Inside The Home Of A Pedophile Foster Parent Cesar Gonzales-Mugaburu Inside the Long Island home where an accused pedophile foster parent preyed upon already-suff Parent Cesar Gonzales-Mugaburu Inside the Long Island home where an accused pedophile foster parent preyed upon already-suffering boys is a shrine of sorts to films of serial foster father Cesar Gonzales-Mugaburu with subjecting kids as young as 8 to sexual abuse in a Long Island house of horrors. For two decades, New York City sent cl explanation, let alone accountability, behind the confidentiality that protects children's privacy. And that enables officials to hide the failures of their agencies. A LOOK INS operate a money-making orphanage that concealed entrenched abuse. Based on the horrific circumstances, the mayor would be well advised to order a Department of Invest county agencies to find and oversee foster homes. Through ACS, New York City paid Gonzales-Mugaburu as much as $2,400 per month per boy, six to eight at a time. Pros are designed to prevent adults from making a cottage industry out of taking in foster kids as a way to improve their own lifestyles. The more children, the more money. The the cold and even witnessing Gonzales-Mugaburu having sex with the family dog. He has pled not guilty, and the district attorney bears the onus of carefully verifying each government ultimately responsible for foster care, the state was also a defendant. Gov. Cuomo agreed hire a monitor to scrutinize ACS under a settlement that's pending bef for needy and often troubled youngsters, perhaps for years on end. Against that backdrop, private and public agencies appear to have accepted at face value Gonzales-Muga Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/foster-kids-safe-bill-article-1.2578266

Lawyers for foster kids fighting to obtain ACS case files - NY Daily News Attorneys for foster kids claiming abuse fighting to obtain ACS case files needed for lawsuit F agency is battling lawyers trying to obtain case files for foster kids who are suing the city and state. Lawyers for 10 children alleging abuse while in foster care are fighting sexually. Their attorneys blame systemic failings by the city Administration for Children's Services and the state Office of Children and Family Services. The lawyers are n being shuffled from place to place. N.Y. SENATE GOP TOO BUSY TO FIX KID-RAPE LAW The plaintiffs have hit a wall, they argue, because the city is blocking access agreed in October to certain reforms, the city continues to fight the lawsuit. A Manhattan federal judge agreed in November that city and children's lawyers could share cert said the city's move just drags out the legal process. "The longer they're withheld, the longer the case is going to be delayed," she said. The city Law Department defended case-files-article-1.2584724

Family says 'mysterious circumstances' in teen's death at Allendale Facebook 0 Twitter 200 Google+ LinkedIn 200 Email Print Comments 0 hello Article to: (required) Photographer Shaquan Allen, 16, died Wednesday at the Allendale Association campus in Lake Villa. Attorney Cannon Lambert Sr., seated left, is joined by the family of Wednesday night at the Allendale Association campus in Lake Villa. Steve Lundy | Staff Photographer Shaquan Allen, 16, died Wednesday at the Allendale Association can Their attorney, Cannon Lambert Sr., said at a Chicago news conference that Shaquan Allen was found dead in "very mysterious circumstances" and that the family has been responsible for the occurrence." The attorney said authorities have told him there are two suspects in custody. Lambert declined to reveal additional details of the investigati

Shaquan Allen's mother, Willie Mae Allen, said an employee at Allendale who befriended her son advised her to seek an attorney. "I wanna know how could this happen to officials did not return messages seeking comment Friday. An Allendale official said Thursday the entire staff was "saddened beyond words" and was cooperating with the i Director George H. Sheldon said. "We are gathering all the facts and are working with authorities and Allendale officials to get to the bottom of this incident." The state age not a problematic facility" and doesn't have a history of serious issues. Lake Villa police and rescue were called to the Allendale campus at 9:58 p.m. Wednesday for the rep findings have been released. The family plans to have an autopsy of its own done as well. Willie Mae Allen said her son had been receiving treatment at Allendale for three family counseling sessions with her son. She said she last spoke with Shaquan two days before his death, and he talked about coming home for spring break. Allendale was website. The organization says more than 1,200 clients between the ages of 7 and 18 are served annually. The Lake Villa campus has residential services for 150 clients and http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20160401/news/160409877/

Mentor-on-the-Lake man gets 9 1/2 years in prison for sex acts against four girls Duncan Scott – The News-HeraldDaniel Taeusch listens as one of his victims makes a imposition. At right is defense attorney Mary Catherine O'Neill. By Andrew Cass, The News-Herald Posted: 03/31/16, 5:33 PM EDT | Updated: 8 hrs ago 0 A Mentor-on-th 25, Taeusch agreed to plead guilty in Lake County Common Pleas Court to a reduced charge of sexual battery and three of the gross sexual imposition counts. Taeusch, a dr girls were strangers to Taeusch and all were under the age of 16. Advertisement The 9 1/2 years was the maximum Taeusch could serve on those four counts. "The victims c victim was molested at a Mentor-on-the-Lake home between Sept. 14, 2010, and Sept. 14, 2011, with the threat of psychological force, Azouri said. Between March 1 and M Navy after a court-martial. Although Taeusch ended up pleading to a misdemeanor in that case, he spent 16 months in a military prison. One of Taeusch's victims read a stat affected and traumatized. She's had signs of paranoia, depression, anxiety and constantly feels unsafe and has trouble trusting people. "I cry about what's happened to me at things like, 'Stop lying, you're ridiculous,' and 'I can't believe you made that up," she said in the statement. Taeusch's attorney, Mary Catherine O'Neill, said that Taeusch t however, ultimately felt prison time was necessary. "The effects are irreversible, most of them can't be helped and I have to live with them for the rest of my life," the victin

Two Employees Charged After Boy Dies At Lake Villa Troubled Youth Facility April 2, 2016 9:58 AM By Mike Krauser Filed Under: Lake Villa, Mike Krauser UPDA County Major Crimes task Force says Shaquan Allen was having behavioral issues at the Allendale Association residential treatment center. Lake Villa Police Chief Craig S Somerville said. Covelli said Davis had the teen by the throat and Serak was holding his legs and Covelli said both lied to investigators, saying all three slipped on water. " time for the family and we can't imagine the pain they're going through right now. State's Attorney Mike Nerheim asked for a million dollars bond for Davis, who's charge 911 for 15 minutes. "Anytime you have a case like this it's a tragedy and that's always compounded when you have a child," he said. The victim's family said they were tol the state and his mother said she pressed for him to be admitted to the facility because she didn't want to lose him to the streets. Source: http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2016/0

Private Prison Companies See Dollar Signs in 'Treatment and Care' Facilities April 3rd 2016 By: Alex Mierjeski@amierjeski ShareTweetMailSMS In recent years, pri in revenue, operating correctional and detention facilities on the behalf of overburdened states; last year, the combined revenue for CCA and GEO exceeded $3.5 billion. Bu businesses had been largely dependent on putting and keeping people behind bars, have diversified and now include the treatment and care of those within the criminal justi confinement, electronic monitoring, and various supportive services such as educational classes and job training," Arjun Sethi, who teaches law at Georgetown University, a the incentives of corrections companies "whose bottom line depends on the growth of supervised populations, rather than their rehabilitation and treatment," Sethi and Graz executive director of Grassroots Leadership, said in a statement. Grassroots Leaderships released a report on private operation of mental health facilities back in March. As treatment and care providers. There have already been lawsuits brought by prisoners against private care providers in New York, and calls for federal intervention after a gru companies'] treatment and rehabilitation programs." Source: http://www.attn.com/stories/7024/private-prison-turn-to-private-treatment-care

Why Are K-12 School Leaders Being Trained in Coercive Interrogation Techniques? Wednesday, 06 April 2016 00:00 By Kali Holloway, AlterNet | Op-Ed font size de any other country in the world. This tendency toward suspicion, hyper-enforcement and punishment is so pervasive it even trickles down to our kids. CNN cites a National schools. In addition to the school resource officer, the over-policing of American society has now given rise to a new figure: the educator-interrogator. As the Guardian note insubordination. Instruction in the interrogation arts is provided by John E. Reid and Associates, a global interrogation training firmthat contracts with police departments, a an increasing number of students 'fessing up, even when they have nothing to confess to. As the New Yorker notes, "like the adult version of the Reid Technique, the school psychologically rigorous process that is designed, according to Reid's workbook, 'to obtain an admission of guilt.'" Reid's methods are built on what Bloomberg writer Drak excuses for it -- "you just meant to scare her" or "anyone in your situation would have done the same thing." Maximization plays it up, confrontationally presenting incrimin Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, who attended one of Reid's educator-focused training sessions early last year. The instruction included a run-down of tells "closed, retreated posture" ("crossed arms...reflect decreased confidence or lack of emotional involvement"), "constant forward lean" ("a controlling and defensive posture") sweat, knuckle popping. An anxious liar, according to the Reid Technique, is a squirmy liar. One of the many problems with this approach is that it's notoriously fallible. Ty behaviors associated with lying don't necessarily tell us anything at all. "Behavioral cues that are discernible by human perceivers are associated with deceit only probabilist expect similar results, so do real-life interrogators. Minimization and maximization interrogation methods, like those used by Reid and others, are good at yielding confessic produces false admissions of wrongdoing in innocent subjects. "Guilty people are more likely to confess," Russano told Bennett. "The problem is, so are innocent people." agencies and other organizations for $20 million, a figure he was granted in an out-of-court settlement. John E. Reid and Associates paid $2 million of that sum. The false c that certain forms of interrogation "can induce a frighteningly high percentage of people to confess to crimes they never committed." Another glaring issue is that children a (suspension/expulsion/etc.) The Innocence Project, highlighting figures provided by the National Registry of Exonerations, notes that "in the last 25 years, 38 percent of exc 1989 and 2004 discovered "42 percent of the cases of juvenile exonerees involved false confessions, compared with 13 percent of the cases of adult exonerees. Among the y 2012 study of interrogations of around 300 juveniles charged with felonies in Minnesota -- the largest such empirical study available -- University of Minnesota law profess in schools...In the Minnesota study, 93 percent of juveniles gave [their Miranda rights] up. Juveniles waive at such high rates either because they do not understand the warn easy to put together and often leading to a quick plea bargain. These issues are particularly relevant in schools, where protocols such as reading kids their Miranda rights an among police, training in the Reid Technique skewed perceptions of juveniles, making them appear more adult and less trustworthy. University of Virginia psychologists re to believe that adolescents were just as capable as adults of withstanding psychologically coercive questioning, including deceit." That's not a particularly surprising outcom isn't enough to show how problematic interrogations in schools are, consider how the practice contributes to the school-to-prison pipeline, a cluster of education policies tha vulnerable students, have resulted in an unprecedented rise in suspensions and expulsions. The Vera Institute of Justice finds that around the country, the number of high sch likely to be punished in this way. Though schools have multiple options for disciplining students, under zero tolerance they often resort to the harshest available, despite evi the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M; University shows how the culture of zero tolerance became so pervasive in that state that harsh punishments are meted point in middle or high school. Moreover, the majority of those suspensions and expulsions appear to be for offenses that did not involve behaviors that fell within the paran chose to use harsh punishments even when they had the discretion to do otherwise. Considering that a 2012 study from Johns Hopkins found that a single suspension in nint the highest levels, there's new recognition that turning schools into prisons simply isn't working, and neither is turning educators into interrogators. Instituting low-grade for media and culture at AlterNet. Source: http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/35524-why-are-k-12-school-leaders-being-trained-in-coercive-interrogation-techniques

Employees Of Youth Care Charged in Teens Death Send to friend Comments (0) Add to Favorites Get National News Alerts 4 Apr 2016 12:29 PM EST CBS Chicago re Lake County Major Crimes task Force says Shaquan Allen was having behavioral issues at the Allendale Association residential treatment center. Lake Villa Police Chief C a brief struggle." Covelli said Davis had the teen by the throat and Serak was holding his legs. Covelli said both lied to investigators, saying all three slipped on water. He a http://www.allmediany.com/news/63571-employees-of-youth-care-charged-in-teens-death

Palm Beacher's documentary indicts Florida's foster care system | www.mypalmbeachpost.com Palm Beacher's film indicts Florida's foster care system Entertainment opens the door wearing the Palm Beach uniform of a cotton tunic and narrow pants, her tanned glow the result of tennis games and paddleboarding sessions on the Intracoas Florida's foster child system as an inept failure when it comes to protecting the children in its care. Called "Foster Shock," the film will be shown twice during the Palm Be mother and another couple disappeared without a trace aboard Muer's 40-foot sailboat in a 1993 storm off the coast of Palm Beach County. + Richard Graulich Mari Franke shown at the PB International Film Festival which begins April 6. She is sitting in the backyard of her home in Palm Beach. (Richard Graulich / The Palm Beach Post) Fran appointed advocate for children, that she felt compelled to make public what she says is a system geared more toward making a profit from abused and neglected children t child welfare system, premiering at the 2016 Palm Beach International Film Festival, April 6 - 13. "There's unacceptable," she says, "and then there's reprehensible." Frank executives often earn large salaries while warehousing children, she says. "They have a $2.9 billion dollar budget and these kids aren't getting their basic needs met," Frank happened. The therapist turned to me and said, 'These kids say these things all the time. I don't believe it.' They put another kid in there that night and he was also raped," s "because I know how to make a film. What I need is the passion of someone who is fighting injustice and wants to fix it. That's what I liked about Mari." The story is told b "Most (group homes) have more than 200 police calls a year. A lot have 500 a year. Some had more than 800 per year, in group homes that usually have 9 to 12 kids," Frank mother's death two days after it happened. "She was so lost in the system that her caseworker couldn't find her," said Frankel. Bayerl said they hired researchers to back up know if any of them have watched it. IF YOU GO Foster Shock is scheduled to be shown at the Palm Beach International Film Festival. When, where: Saturday, April 9 at http://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/news/entertainment/palm-beachers-film-indicts-floridas-foster-care-sy/nqwXt/

Research suggests children require stability to ease trauma of long foster care stays By Hannah Frommelt CKN Contributor MISSOULA — Limiting the time a child i research shows extended stays in foster care can also be harmful. In 2014, 46 percent of youth were in foster care for 11 months or less, but 14 percent had been there for th diagnosis in the past twelve months and over the course of their lifetime, as compared to youth that spent less time in foster care and the general population. Symptoms of P physical illness as well. Pecora said the lack of stable support systems is potentially the main reason for these troubling outcomes. Children are often reassigned social work workers," he said, illustrating the disheartening effect of trading hands between nine different caseworkers. Increasing stability through lowing the number of home placeme improve the mental health of children in foster care. Pecora said, "Remember, the glass is half full." Pecora said that slightly less than half of the individuals with prolonged level. Foster care improvements were also coming from an unlikely place, said Pecora. "Even in this dysfunctional Congress," Pecora said, "legislation was passed to help c until the age of 21; and a key phrase change in the FAFSA to make higher education more accessible to foster care individuals. Peter Pecora is a research investigator for the with all fifty states, and a handful of tribal entities, including, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Pecora presented his research as part of the McNall Lecture Seri

37-year-old woman charged with sexual assault of a minor | 911 News | journalstar.com 37-year-old woman charged with sexual assault of a minor By the Lincoln Journ that he was living at the Epworth Village group home in York when he and Jamie Bishop began having sex two to three times a week from January 2015 to July 2015, accor place in the victim's room at Epworth Village, or outside on the facilities grounds. A Bishop and the boy were seen together several times on surveillance video and her Inter fathered Bishop's now 5-month-old son, documents say. In Nebraska, children younger than 16 cannot legally consent to sex. Bishop was arrested March 15 and charged wi 555c-ab86-f6f7162deac3.html

Judge orders state to fix Yakima mental-health facility Originally published April 11, 2016 at 12:17 pm A federal judge ordered the state of Washington to stop sending r stop sending mentally ill defendants to a new treatment facility in Yakima after learning that the renovated jail poses a safety risk. Lawyers for the defendants had sought a r appropriate setting for treating the mentally ill, and said the facility hadn't been properly renovated to ensure that patients would not harm themselves or others. U.S. Distric risks are addressed," said Emily Cooper, a lawyer with Disability Rights Washington. Pechman's order focused on two critical issues, Cooper said. Pechman said the stairwa again to seek judicial relief due to DSHS' failure to protect class members," Cooper told The Associated Press in an email. "We look forward to when DSHS will step up an department officials said security is being enhanced at state psychiatric hospitals after a man accused of torturing a 20-year-old woman to death escaped from the Western S March in an effort satisfy a previous order that requires it to provide competency treatment services within seven days of a judge's order. Pechman made that order last year spokeswoman for the state agency and the private group running the center, Comprehensive Mental Health, said they have already begun to make changes to satisfy the judg addressed." The state agency planned to meet with the court-appointed monitor on Monday to clarify any long-term solutions and address concerns so that the facility can a

Two more leaders resign amid problems with CPS and foster care | www.statesman.com Two more leaders resign amid problems with CPS and foster care 10:48 a.m. T Resignations among a growing number of departures by top level employees in recent months. MyStatesman Get complete, in-depth analysis and more with our interactives child protection agency stepped down this week, the latest in a series of high-level resignations to hit the flailing agency as it is battered by high profile child deaths, profou announced her resignation to employees in an email this morning. McCall's operations have come under fire over the last few weeks because of high turnover in Dallas and current employees call toxic and abusive. "Delinquent" cases, as they are called, have been a factor in child deaths across the state In an email obtained by the American-Sta them some quality time after so many years of putting my CPS duties first. The email says that her last day is May 19. Meanwhile, assistant commissioner of residential chi with an emphasis on emergency response and business continuity. "I also want you to know that it has been an honor and a privilege to work with such a dedicated team of small staff and resources is demonstrative of your unwavering dedication to our children." That division was harshly criticized by U.S. District Judge Janis Jack, who ruled many abused children—for whom a preponderance of evidence indicated that they were physically abused, sexually abused, or neglected—go untreated and could be left in the Dallas region CPS operations retired last week after a Dallas Morning News report exposed problems in those operations. On Sunday, the American-Statesman publishe American-Statesman published "Missed Signs, Fatal Consequences," a three-day series of stories in which the paper reviewed 779 child death reports by Child Protective S Journalism award from the national nonprofit Investigative Reporters and Editors. Source: http://www.statesman.com/news/news/breaking-news/two-more-top-leaders-resi

F**oster care failures** Writer Posted Apr. 12, 2016 at 2:01 AM Posted Apr. 12, 2016 at 2:01 AM Posted Apr. 12, 2016 at 2:01 AM For some time, Rhode Island has faced sign state care are living in more than 320 unlicensed foster homes. Of that number, more than 100 have gone unlicensed for more than six months, contravening state law. The h children outside the home are with relatives. In Rhode Island, the proportion is much higher, more than 60 percent. Frequently, children are taken to a relative on an emerge Last December, Lillianna Burt, an infant under state care, died in a relative's unlicensed home. An autopsy linked her death to unsafe sleeping conditions. Another infant, ur and is to be succeeded by Gov. Gina Raimondo's pick, Jennifer A. Griffith, who was confirmed last week. Ms. Costa's tenure has been marked by communications struggles other states, as well as with common sense. It is time for the General Assembly to spell out firmer requirements in these cases, and clarify DCYF's responsibility for providi declared the agency dysfunctional shortly after she took office, has embarked on an ambitious restructuring, assigning a leadership role to Jamia McDonald. Unfortunately, the state's strategy. But, given the relatively low financial support offered, the results are apt to be modest.

Page 2 of 2 - The OCA report argues that the licensing process for relatives' homes should be improved, to include greater supervision and more frequent visits by social wo and are a cause of frequent turnover. Improving the lot of children under the state's care is clearly a tall order. In the near term, certainly, it is urgent to do a better job on the

Drugging Our Kids: Foster care bill targets excessive prescribing of psychiatric drugs By Karen de Sá, Posted: 04/11/2016 01:18:44 PM PDT Upda overcame the powerful physicians lobby in the Capitol on Monday, as a bill to identify and investigate California doctors who overprescribe psychiatric drugs to traumatize McGuire's Senate Bill 1174, which passed on an 8-0 vote from the committee overseeing the state's businesses and professions, would give the California Medical Board gr Healdsburg, testifies on Monday, April 11, 2016 at the California state Capitol in Sacramento, Calif.,during a hearing on Senate Bill 1174, which would strengthen the powe during the hearing. (Dai Sugano/Bay Area News Group) (Dai Sugano) California's foster care system has come to rely on powerful antipsychotic drugs to sedate troubled t majority of medical professionals are doing their job well, but as in any industry there are going to be outliers, and medical professionals are no different," said McGuire, D Association, the California Psychiatric Association and the California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry oppose McGuire's bill, unless it is watered down to incl regulated." Under McGuire's bill, the medical board would monitor physicians through quarterly reports of prescription claims that would not reveal patient names, but rath rights to defend themselves, ultimately the worst offenders could lose their licenses. The new scrutiny of psychotropic prescribing is similar in some ways to curbs on the ov health officials and the medical board. "But what we do have a problem with is, this is going to be a retroactive look at prescribing practices." Thompson proposed that inste Testifying before state senators, Ortiz said as a young teen she took as many as 12 pills a day in foster care, including a combination of an antidepressant, an antipsychotic, a that prescribers "distinguish between behavioral issues and mental illnesses." McGuire's bill expands on a series of laws passed last year to restrict the excessive use of psyc Beall, D-San Jose, counties would be required to submit a local plan each year detailing mental health services available to children in foster care and the juvenile justice sy which was successful in passing a package of reform bills last year. Beall's Senate Bill 1291 passed a key Senate committee last week. With McGuire's bill now moving tow single one came from a parent or advocate for a foster child. "These kids don't have anyone standing up for them, and they don't have a voice, and they're suffering the cons

Investigation Exposes Failings of Oversight in NYC Group Homes City investigators say oversight was so lax at homes for juvenile offenders that violent episodes were chance at reform. Spur Reform in 2016 Support ProPublica's mission to expose abuses of power and corruption. The Boys Town home in Park Slope from which three teen to happen. That's what the New York City Department of Investigation concluded in a 24-page report on a violent rape committed last year by three troubled youngsters wh report, the agency, known formally as the Administration for Children's Services, lacks sufficient protocols to respond to escapes or violent incidents at the homes; its inspe evaluate the performance of the homes. A spokeswoman for ACS did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report, but DOI notes that ACS officials agre agency's "systemic failure" to oversee the homes — small facilities meant to house juveniles who have committed low-level crimes — last year's rape was "all but inevitab Nebraska-based nonprofit that ran the home in Brooklyn. Drawing on hours of surveillance footage recorded by Boys Town, DOI investigators found that the workers failed latest blow for a program that New York policymakers had envisioned as the future of treatment for juvenile offenders. The program, known as Close to Home, was institute homes would provide the teens a better chance at rehabilitation and reform than had the notoriously violent and scandal-ridden youth prisons upstate. The homes in the city organizations who contracted with the city complained that they were insufficiently prepared. Children ran away on hundreds of occasions, sometimes committing violent c subsequent arrests when, in June 2015, three boys ran away from the Boys Town home in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn. The boys, according to authorities, met a won ProPublica reporter interviewed one of the boys on Rikers Island, where he had been jailed. He said that he and his accomplices had frequently and easily run away from the rooms, the boy said. New York City terminated Boys Town's $6.4 million dollar contract to oversee troubled youth as part of the Close to Home program in June 2015, thre with which Boys Town employees conducted bed checks. Over the 12 nights following the rape, employees only conducted 98 of 192 required bed checks, a rate of 51 perc for juvenile offenders. Read the story. According to the most recent figures available, there are currently about 30 homes caring for more than 150 boys and girls each montl that they do not happen in the future. Our focus remains on our core mission: changing the way America cares for children, families and communities." Update, April 13, 20 and communities, which negatively impacted both the youth and the communities they returned to," the spokeswoman said. "Close to Home is a massive transformation in t

York Police Department to increase the safety of Close to Home facilities. She said that Mayor de Blasio had authorized a $4 million dollar budget increase, allowing for 35 its report to say only three people had been arrested. Help us investigate: If you have experience with or information about Close to Home, juvenile detention or child welfa

Group Home Workers Are Charged With Falsifying Records By NIKITA STEWARTAPRIL 13, 2016 Continue reading the main story Share This Page Continue readin Department said. The homes were closed last year after three teenagers sneaked out during the night and raped a woman in Manhattan. The three employees, Andrew Best, they had, the Investigation Department said. Mr. Best was on duty at the group home in Park Slope where the three teenagers slipped out, while Mr. Stephens and Ms. Delar Stephens and Ms. Delancey, would also be charged. The arrests followed a monthslong investigation that found staffing shortages, pervasive deception by overnight employ develop policies to address it, making security lapses "all but inevitable," the Investigation Department's report said. If the child welfare agency does not take significant ac program, which supervised the Boys Town group homes and was started four years ago through state legislation calling for a new approach to juvenile justice. The program which is a great idea, and the execution of that idea," Mark G. Peters, the Investigation Department's commissioner, said in an interview on Wednesday. "At all levels, this p the program with "an all-time-low youth crime rate." The agency, which terminated its contract with Boys Town last year, is also working with the New York Police Depart In a review of 37 nights of video footage after the assault on June 1, 2015, investigators concluded that 10 out of 22 overnight workers at the homes run by Boys Town did n in a statement that if the allegations were true, they "fail to meet the core values of Boys Town and our mission of caring for at-risk children and families." "We have taken attention to the Administration for Children's Services, still grappling with the arrest last month of a longtime foster father on charges of sexually abusing five adopted sons Over the four years of the Close to Home program, the child welfare agency warned six out of nine contractors, including Boys Town, to improve security. But the agency c broken alarm in their home in Park Slope. They made their way to an Internet cafe in Chinatown in Manhattan, where they forced a woman into a nearby stairwell and robb tell the two overnight employees, so no one took precautions, such as moving the boys to rooms with functioning alarms. More troubling, however, was that no one was wa after he admitted he had not checked on the boys despite notes in a logbook that he had done so every 30 minutes of his shift. Mr. Thompson, who has pleaded not guilty, w was routine. Even after the woman was attacked, investigators found that overnight employees made bed checks only 50 percent of the time. Source: http://www.nytimes.c

Attorneys: Seattle foster parents abused kids on state's watch Foster children sexually assaulted, fed dog food BY LEVI PULKKINEN, SEATTLEPI.COM STAFF P endured physical and emotional torture for years without relief, according to their attorneys. They were forced to eat dog food, raped and molested by a man living in the ho million. Documents provided by attorneys Lawand Anderson, Lincoln Beauregard and Julie Kays show DSHS began receiving concerning reports about the couple within n the couple's home. A DSHS spokeswoman declined to comment on the allegations, citing a department policy against discussing potential litigation. "They want accountabi nearly drowned at couple's home. That child had also suffered burns to his chest and feet. In the years that followed, Seattle police investigated numerous instances of suspe followed by in-home reviews meant to teach the couple how to discipline the children they were being paid to care for. It appears the couple collected about $35,000 annual reflect that the … residence was viewed as a clearing house for foster children and that (the couple) treated the home as a profit center," the attorneys said in a statement We documents provided by the attorneys, Seattle Police Detective Al Cruise told state regulators in 1998 that both foster parents had been convicted of crimes in other states. Tl clients are owed $25 million to $30 million. The tort claim filed April 7 given the state 60 days to reach a settlement before a lawsuit could be filed. Beauregard, whose prac paying the costs of protracted litigation once a settlement is reached. "DSHS never seems to take the opportunity to approach the clients seriously early in the process," Bea Seattlepi.com reporter Levi Pulkkinen can be reached at 206-448-8348 or . Follow Levi on Twitter at twitter.com/levipulk. Source: http://www.seattlepi.cc

Owner of 9 north Alabama mental health group homes decertified Print Email By The Associated Press The Associated Press on April 15, 2016 at 3:14 PM 3 shares Th immediately revoking her license, the Decatur Daily reported. Smith was licensed to operate group homes in Decatur that serve patients with intellectual disabilities. "I find Thursday to Smith. Perdue said the state made visits on March 1 and March 31. Smith had 15 working days in which to appeal the decision, according to Perdue's letter. Th "health and welfare" of clients. Smith could not be reached for comment. Some parents said they need more information, and opted to take their children home. "I think all t gotten a lot better." Decatur police and state officials converged at her group homes looking for the 16 patients in Smith's care. Department of Mental Health spokesman Ter visits, but it references inspections of Smith's nine group homes on March 15, 2015. They all received scores of 84, which falls in the one-year certification category. State c http://www.al.com/news/huntsville/index.ssf/2016/04/owner_of_9_north_alabama_menta.html

Coconut Creek Police officer accused of molesting boys denied bond Posted: Apr 14, 2016 6:28 PM PDT Updated: Apr 15, 2016 3:54 PM PDT Close X Embed Video C surfaced that he had inappropriately touched two boys. According to the Broward Sheriff's Office, Coconut Creek Police Officer Daniel Rush was arrested at his police depa and Coconut Creek Police Chief Albert "Butch" Arenal spoke about the arrest with reporters at a news conference, Thursday night. "The allegations against the former offic "The victim threw the note in the garbage. The parishioner, who we're so grateful for his due diligence and attention to detail, retrieved the note from the garbage," said Isra alleged victim, and during an independent interview at a sexual assault treatment center, they learned the alleged incident occurred last year in Coconut Creek. Investigators **the co-founder of the mentoring organization Men of Virtue and Ethics (MOVE), mentors troubled teens. Investigators said the victims were boys he was suppose** within their power to fact-find and make sure justice is served." "We'll continue to work closely with Broward County Sheriff's Office investigators, and we are 100 percent boys. "[These are] serious allegations of sex offenses that he denies, yes, adamantly," said Johnny McCray. Rush was part of a Taser incident last February in which 39-year are concerned there may be more victims. "For this reason, our agency is not only in a state of shock, but this has been a blow to everything we stand for," said Arenal. Rush fight these allegations," he said. United Church of Christ officials released a statement saying that they are deeply saddened by this devastating news. They went on to say th anonymous, and you may be eligible for a $3,000 reward. Source: http://www.wsvn.com/story/31730371/coconut-creek-police-officer-accused-of-molesting-boys-denied-b

Sparring continues over Utah charter school linked to treatment center for troubled youths By BENJAMIN WOOD | The Salt Lake Tribune First Published Apr 15 20 2016. (Rick Egan | The Salt Lake Tribune) Maria Olsen and Josh Graham, attended West Ridge Academy, a youth residential treatment center based in West Jordan. Friday, youths generated more debate between Utah's top school boards on Friday. During a visit to the Utah Board of Education's monthly meeting, members of the state Charter S application in February to allow for an investigation into allegations of financial insolvency and child abuse at the private school currently operated by West Ridge Academy the youth residents of the treatment center. But Howard Headlee, chairman of the charter school board, said there was no need for the added provisions because they are alr identifying specific laws in agreements between Eagle Summit and the State Charter School Board could downplay the importance of other laws. "It creates ambiguity in th majority vote of board members. Belnap said the hybrid structure of Eagle Summit, which will enroll students from the West Ridge treatment center as well as trauma-sensi funds with a private and a charter entity are part of that." Eagle Summit is scheduled to open its doors next fall. It will replace the private school at West Ridge Academy an director, Paul Keene, is slated to run the new charter school During debate over the charter school's application, the charter board and state school board heard testimony fro against West Ridge that were settled out of court. Representatives of Eagle Summit were joined by Dan Griffiths, a former member of the state school board, when the chart members during a March meeting to encourage support for Eagle Summit. In the text messages, sent separately to Belnap and board member Jennifer Johnson, Fillmore req

Midwest founder helped create troubled-teens industry Lee Rood, 9:08 p.m. CDT April 16, 2016 Cindy Iutzi/Daily Gate City The Iowa Division of Cr Midwest Academy in Keokuk, Iowa. Federal, state and county law enforcement officials have returned to the southeast Iowa boarding school for troubled teens following al academy on Jan. 28 and 29.(Photo: Cindy Iutzi, Cindy Iutzi/Daily Gate City) Without the benefit of a college degree, Robert Browning Lichfield parlayed his work into a m Lichfield eventually came to run the Brightway Adolescent Hospital in St. George, Utah, south of Salt Lake City, in the Mojave desert near the Utah-Arizona border. Youths series of stories published by the Deseret News in Salt Lake City, the Independent Mail in Anderson, S.C., and other media, WWASPS referred families to other residential employee says student spent 47 days in isolation Fifteen years after opening the first facility, Lichfield had 10 other schools and several other related businesses based in St. In 2003, Lichfield bought the old Lee County Home near Keokuk for $500,000 to transform it into Midwest Academy. Though Midwest Academy owner Ben Trane denied including Adolescent Programs Consulting, Parent Teen Guide and Midwest Outsource Services. Efforts by The Des Moines Register to reach him over two weeks by telep

Fate of school for troubled teens rests with Legislature Story Comments Print Create a hardcopy of this page Font Size: Default font size Larger font size 1 Posted: Mon the lives of South Carolina's troubled teens has lost its accreditation, leaving its fate to the Legislature. Lawmakers have long wanted to revamp John de la Howe School in n school's money to the Department of Juvenile Justice and requires a coalition of state agencies to recommend a less costly way to help at-risk youth. State officials say the s school-for-troubled-teens-rests-with-legislature/article_8614f924-6c23-5e15-865e-0147b93062aa.html

Carbon County group home has license revoked Small Text Medium Text Large Text Carbon County group home has license revoked ALBRIGHTSVILLE, Pa. - A child Albrightsville. Investigators said teens at the group home are at the center of the sexual abuse and a beating, but according to a state violation report, a staff member knew a 2016 a teenager was sexually abused by two other teens. Then it states on April 2, several children beat the two teens accused of the sexual assault. In the report, it states a s the staff member to "go into your room" while the assault happened. It goes on to say the staff member went into an office and closed the door. The group home also has a v offices in Allentown, but no one wanted to make a comment. Child First has 10 days to appeal the revocations, and if they appeal they must submit a plan of correction. So

Former Tenn. youth center guard arrested for having sex with inmate WATE 6 On Your Side Staff Published: April 22, 2016, 11:55 am DANDRIDGE (WATE) – A for Department of Children's Services confirmed Garber worked at the facility from November 2015 and resigned February 14 of this year. The suspect faces charges for sexua sex-with-inmate/

Teen Liberty News Archive

This section of our site contains news articles in mostly chronological order from earliest to most recent. We have included a .pdf copy of the full articles at the end of each teaser paragraph where the articles were available at time of archiving. News reports regarding individual programs are now shared primarily on the background information/staff list pages of our website unless the program referenced was closed prior to creation of a staff/background information page or is located outside of the USA .

Bashing Youth--March/April--1994--"Unplanned pregnancies. HIV infection and AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases. Cigarettes, alcohol and drug abuse. Eating disorders. Violence. Suicide. Car crashes." The 21-word lead-in to a Washington Post (12/22/92) report sums up today's media image of the teenager: 30 million 12- through 19-year-olds toward whom any sort of moralizing and punishment can be safely directed, by liberals and conservatives alike. Today's media portrayals of teens employ the same stereotypes once openly applied to unpopular racial and ethnic groups: violent, reckless, hypersexed, welfare-draining, obnoxious, ignorant. And like traditional stereotypes, the modern media teenager is a distorted image, derived from the dire fictions promoted by official agencies and interest groups. During the 1980s and 1990s, various public and private entrepreneurs realized that the news media will circulate practically anything negative about teens, no matter how spurious. A few examples among many: * In 1985, the National Association of Private Psychiatric Hospitals, defending the profitable mass commitment of teenagers to psychiatric treatment on vague diagnoses, invented the "fact" that a teenager commits suicide "every 90 minutes"--or 5,000 to 6,000 times every year. Countless media reports of all types, from the Associated Press (4/4/91) to Psychology Today (5/92), continue to report this phony figure, nearly three times the true teen suicide toll, which averaged 2,050 per year during the 1980s(Vital Statistics of the United States). * In a 1991 campaign to promote school-based clinics, the American Medical Association (AMA) and the National Association of State Boards of Education published a report that inflated the 280,000 annual births to unmarried teenaged mothers into "half a million," and claimed a "30-fold" increase in adolescent crime since 1950. In fact, 1950 youth crime statistics are too incomplete to compare, and later, more comprehensive national reports show no increase in juvenile crime rates in at least two decades. (Contrast, for example, the FBI Uniform Crime Reports for 1970 and 1992.) The facts notwithstanding, the national media (e.g., AP, 6/8/90) dutifully publicized the organizations' exaggerations. * In the early '80s, officials hyping the "war on drugs" orchestrated media hysteria about "skyrocketing" teenage drug abuse at a time when, in fact, teenage drug death rates were plummeting (down 70 percent from 1970 to1982). In the late '80s, the same media outlets parroted official claims of a drug-war "success" when, in reality, youth drug death rates were skyrocketing (up 85 percent from 1983 to 1991--see In These Times,5/20/92). Today, official and media distortions are one and the same. Who's to blame for poverty? Teenage mothers, declares Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala in uncritical news stories (see Los Angeles Times, 12/12/93) that fail to note that teenage mothers on welfare were poor before they became pregnant. Who's causing violence? "Kids and guns," asserts President Clinton, favorably quoted by reporters (AP, 11/14/93) who neglect to mention that six out of seven murders are committed by adults. Who's dying from drugs, spreading AIDS, committing suicide? Teenagers, teenagers, teenagers, the media proclaim at the behest of official sources, even though health reports show adults much more at risk from all of these perils than are adolescents. For complete story, click here.

Teens Claim Abuse at Prison--July 2nd, 1998--Eight boys formerly jailed at a privately run juvenile prison are claiming that employees assaulted them when they were hogtied. The boys claim in separate lawsuits that prison employees squeezed their crotches when the boys' hands and feet were bound behind their backs. The teenagers claim Corrections Corporation of America employees often choked and hogtied boys at the prison off Farrow Road near Interstate 20. The boys also allege workers improperly used pepper spray on them. "CCA's conduct in authorizing and condoning the practices... is extreme and outrageous and exceeds all possible bounds of decency in a civilized society," Gaston Fairey, the boys' attorney, wrote in the lawsuits. The lawsuits, filed in federal court in Columbia, don't identify the boys because they are juveniles. They are similar to one that another boy filed in February. James Cooper, a lawyer who represents CCA, said he couldn't discuss the lawsuits because he hasn't seen them. The firm denied any wrongdoing in response to the lawsuit that was filed in February. Five of the eight teenagers are home. Two are at state mental hospitals. One remains in prison. The youths and their parents declined to comment, Fairey said. After allegations of misconduct, Gov. David Beasley ended the state's contract with CCA. On July 1, 1997, the Department of Juvenile Justice started running the prison, now called the Northeast Center. Treatment has improved at the prison since the Juvenile Justice Department started running it, Fairey said. "I'm still struggling with the Juvenile Justice Department about programming and other issues," Fairey said. "But the agency doesn't authorize the techniques CCA taught its employees to control juveniles. It fires employees who are abusive." Several reports sent to Beasley showed CCA employees too frequently resorted to physical force to control juveniles. For complete story, click here.

Senator: Videotaped CYA Beating Warrants Charges--April 1st, 2004--SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- A videotape released Thursday that shows the beating of wards by California Youth Authority guards has prompted one senator to call for local prosecutors to reconsider filing charges in the case. The videotape, taken Jan. 20, 2004, shows a correctional officer punching one CYA ward 28 times even after the teen was already lying face down on the ground. The videotape, shot inside Stockton's N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility, also shows a second correctional officer punching and kicking a second ward. The Stockton District Attorney's Office has declined to file criminal charges against the youth counselors involved in the beatings. The matter is currently under review by the California Attorney General's Office. For complete story, click here.

Pfizer Health Solutions Challenges Industry Leaders to Put Prevention and Wellness Models Into Practice at 2005 DMAA Leadership Forum: NEW YORK, Nov. 2 /PRNewswire/ -- Pfizer Health Solutions Inc (PHS) today announced it is donating $10,000 in scholarship money to Healthy Living Academies (HLA), a division of Aspen Education Group, which operates the first therapeutic residential boarding school for overweight children and young adults. (Webmaster's Note: This isn't the first time the drug companies have openly funded abusive behavior modification programs. Just more evidence that they do.) For complete story, click here.

9 Ways to Keep Tabs on Troubled Teens: November 1, 2005 -- One well-used specialty of Spy-Moms.com, two Moms Private Eyes, is taming out-of-control teens. Like them, you can find out exactly what is going on and where it is happening with the combination of these techno gadgets and Mom or Pop's intuition. We know that these methods can be distasteful and may seem over to top to some parents but desperate situations sometimes require extreme methods to secure the safety of our children. (Webmaster's note: Yes, instead of investing time, love, compassion, and earnestly listening to your children you can now be an ultra-spying police force to watch every move your child makes helping them get used to the police state we are slowly entering… Great!) For complete story, click here.

Panel to begin work regulating youth homes: Is solitary confinement in an isolated "hobbit hole" appropriate behavior-changing therapy for a troubled, defiant teenager? Are leg restraints appropriate when bringing such teens to Montana against their will (but at their parents' insistence) to live in a private boarding school? Who is responsible when an untrained youth "counselor" seduces teenagers half his age while they're in his care at a church-based residential facility? These are some of the questions facing - but unlikely to be quickly answered - by the state's newly formed Board of Private Alternative Adolescent Residential or Outdoor Programs. (Webmaster note: Sounds promising but for the fact that WWASPS facilitator is head of the Board set to regulate facilities…What a slap in the face to all of us who desire real regulation. It's not a battle that will be easily won. But, it must and will be won. Keep on working!) For complete story, click here.

Abuse of power: Recent coach, teacher misconduct no surprise to experts: Just two weeks before Giordano's Aug. 18 arrest, the director of a youth emergency response training program was charged with videotaping and having sexual relations with three teen-aged girls in separate incidents. He now faces up to 12 years in prison. In a third case, a highly-involved soccer coach and substitute teacher was convicted of giving alcohol to four 18-year-old women members of his private soccer club team. For complete story, click here.

Doctor had revealed secret role as mentor: For years, Dr. Bill Schnall was to many the perfect pediatrician: a hardworking man who rose to the top of his field while going out of his way to help teens in trouble…On Tuesday, the state medical disciplinary board suspended Schnall's medical license, saying that relationship and others with male patients crossed ethical boundaries, endangering the public. For complete story, click here.

Academy at Ivy Ridge Settles Over Diploma Issues: The Academy at Ivy Ridge has agreed to pay a $250,000 fine and offer restitution to some parents of its students as part of a negotiated settlement with the New York State Attorney General's Office over its accreditation and granting diplomas…The Attorney General had accused the

school of issuing diplomas illegally because the association did not have a license to do business in New York State and misleading parents into thinking the school could issue diplomas that would be recognized by colleges. For complete story, click here.

New York Times Underplays Boot Camp Abuse, Lack of Success: The Times played down abuse allegations (and confirmed cases) which have long plagued the industry, quoting unnamed "officials at several companies" who blamed the incidents on "a handful of less reputable programs." That "handful," however, is made up of some of the biggest organizations in the industry. For complete story, click here.

These kids face harsh reality: Regarding "Brat Camp"…It was exactly what Andrea Watson had feared. Since the show launched, the founder of the local advocacy group Parents for Residential Reform has been railing at ABC for returning kids to their communities with continued troubles and newfound public profiles. She has helped to circulate a letter calling for a boycott of the show's sponsors, and asked local ABC affiliate WCVB (Channel 5) to pull the show. And in part, she blamed SageWalk -- whose officials did not return calls seeking comment -- for agreeing to take part. "The more I look, the sicker I am," Watson said. "Any responsible provider would never allow this to be."Shay Bilchik, president and CEO of the Child Welfare League of America, said he fears the show sends desperate parents a dangerous message: that all outdoor programs are effective and safe. Bilchik said he is penning a letter to Congress asking for a General Accounting Office inquiry into residential treatment programs. For complete story, click here.

Doctor sounds alarm over medicated juvenile inmates--January 9th, 2005-- Soon after taking over as chief psychiatrist at San Diego County's Juvenile Hall in 2000, Dr. Marjorie Shuer said she discovered many of the children were being given such heavy doses of psychotropic drugs that they couldn't function in school and didn't want to leave their cells. Shuer reported the problem to her superiors at the County Department of Health and Human Services. A few months later she was fired. In a wrongful termination lawsuit she filed in 2002, Shuer said she lost her job because she blew the whistle on staff psychiatrists she believed were endangering children in Juvenile Hall. For complete story, click here.

An uncomfortably close look at nine troubled teens: There is something creepy and unfair about "Brat Camp," which premieres with a two-hour episode tonight at 8 on Channel 5. It reminds me of a despicable A&E; series called "Intervention," in which addicts of all kinds are fooled into an intervention and scooted off to rehab, all on camera. Not only have the addicts been filmed for our entertainment at their lowest of lows, but they're clearly in no condition to have given away their permission to be filmed in the first place. "Brat Camp" similarly captures its confused kids undergoing extremely personal psychological breakdowns on TV. And really, what 14-year-olds -- on the edge or not -- are able to judge whether they want to cry, yell, and reveal their darkest secrets in prime time? Do they realize this isn't "The Real World"? Are they truly equipped to decide that they want to spend their lives as TV's Lexie, "Hostile Outcast," or TV's Jada, "Compulsive Liar"? I think not…But the show about SageWalk makes me uncomfortable, not least of all because the title itself reduces some pretty deep-seated problems to mere brattiness. It may be hard to turn away while seeing footage of these kids smoking pot and drinking, or of their parents sobbing with despair. But Jada, the 15-year-old from Boston who has trouble being honest, deserves privacy when she falls apart hours into the camp experience. Words like "crying" understate what she goes through on-screen, rocking madly and ranting. For complete story, click here.

A Gay American Teen's 'Blog' Reveals the Hell Some Can be Put Through by Parents and Others: Excerpts from the story… "And perhaps describing his current mood as "worried" is a bit of an understatement. "My parents lied to me. …[they said] that they didn't know what the rules were exactly. … I see now why they "didn't know what the rules were". It's horrible.. they' posted below.. and I [am] so worried. It's like boot camp, but worse. I obviously was not supposed to see this, seeing the bottom say "Parental Rules (not to be given to client)"," he writes…The next posting is June 3: "It's been a week of torture – anger, and crying." For complete story, click here.

Youth prison officials have much to explain: Workers at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility reported abuse of inmates and other problems to a legislative committee. HEARINGS before a state House-Senate committee have verified continuing abuse at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, despite efforts by the Lingle administration to deal with guards' mistreatment of inmates. Blaming the problems on the bureaucratic process will not satisfy complaints in lawsuits brought against the state or bring the facility into compliance with federal standards. For complete story, click here.

Kids As Young As 12 Are Being Put On The Kansas Sex Offender Website: Just playing doctor could put your child on the Kansas sex offender website. The sex offender website is filled with information about people who have committed horrible crimes against children. But KAKE News has learned kids not even old enough to drive are being called sex offenders. For complete story, click here.

Psychiatric Hospital CEO Target of Probe: Indiana authorities are investigating whether the top administrator of a troubled psychiatric program in Allegheny County violated state regulations in that state. An Indianapolis woman contends Southwood Psychiatric Hospital CEO Lisa Machado practiced counseling without a license at Resolute Treatment Facility in Indiana. The Indiana Attorney General's Office is investigating. Machado joined Southwood as CEO in September. Earlier this month, Pennsylvania welfare officials downgraded operating licenses for three Southwood facilities to provisional status. The Allegheny County Department of Children, Youth and Families responded by removing seven children who had been placed there for treatment. For complete story, click here.

At Some Youth 'Treatment' Facilities, 'Tough Love' Takes Brutal Forms: If this was therapy, it sure didn't feel like it. From September to January, Claire Kent spent her days digging up tree stumps from a barren field, her mind and body battered by the elements. The work was part of her "treatment" for the drinking and sex that had landed her at a boarding school for "troubled teens." In the Montana woods, Kent and a couple dozen other adolescent girls had been committed by their families to a disciplinary program that included chopping wood, exercising to the point of physical breakdown, and being regularly bullied and insulted by "counselors" – all in the name of what the private treatment industry calls "emotional growth." "It was just based on, 'How badly can I scare you?'," said Kent, now in her late twenties and still suffering from anxiety that she attributes to her experience. During her two-year stay, she said, "they gave me the reality that life was just completely unfair and was going to keep being that way." For complete story, click here.

Behavior Modification Money Trail: The controversial world of youth behavior-modification facilities intersects with a web of intricate political connections. And where the treatment industry sees cooperation with government entities, activists warn, these links could cloud the prospects for public oversight of the "teen-help" market. The influence of the behavior-modification industry is felt on Capitol Hill. Four members of the House of Representatives and one senator serve as honorary board members of Kids Helping Kids, a company with corporate links to a now-defunct behavior-modification program for teen drug users known as Straight Incorporated. The various franchises of that program dissolved in the early 1990s following allegations of child abuse, as well as criticism for using cruel, prisoner-of-war-style brainwashing techniques on adolescents. For complete story, click here.

Mother, son found dead in apparent murder-suicide: OCALA - A woman whose 12-year-old son died in 2000 after being pinned down by a youth camp counselor was found dead in her garage with her 7-year-old son in an apparent murder-suicide, authorities said. Linda Ibarra, 36, was found late Tuesday lying outside the driver's side door of a sport utility vehicle. Her son Lorenzo was found dead in the passenger seat, Marion County Sheriff's investigators said. For complete story, click here.

Del. illegally jails child suspects: They show up in pairs in the middle of the night, a cop and a kid. Some of the kids are silent, unsure about what's happening to them. Most appear indifferent, trying to maintain a semblance of cool in a situation they can't control. Some were hanging out on street corners late at night. A few got into shoving matches with family members. Some said the wrong thing in anger. All of them wound up in one of Delaware's two juvenile detention centers. None of them should have. For complete story, click here.

Center for troubled U.S. teens shut down by Mexican officials: A center for troubled adolescents operating outside Ensenada has been shut down, and 13 American teenagers enrolled there have been returned to the United States, Mexican authorities announced yesterday. The U-Turn For Christ Youth Ranch, a behavioral modification center supported by the Perris-based Calvary Chapel, was closed Friday after Mexican inspectors said they found a range of violations. Four American adults at the center were expelled and have been banned from Mexico for at least five years. For complete story, click here.

Science tries to find secrets of teen brains: New brain research is shattering assumptions held for generations about the adolescent mind, fueling a battle over teen mental health, the rights of parents and the effectiveness of treatment. (scary…We've recently read articles on surgical behavior modification aka lobotomies. Watch closely..) For complete story, click here.

Boy Claims He Was Sexually Assaulted At Valpo Shelter: A 13-year-old boy claims in a lawsuit to have been sexually assaulted in May by a fellow resident of the Hanson House, an emergency shelter for troubled teens. For complete story, click here.

Troubled teen escapee injured in shooting: An early morning shooting in New London leaves a teenager in intensive care. Police say the victim is a 14-year-old and had escaped from a facility for troubled teens… Police say the 14-year-old victim is not cooperating and is not providing police with information. They say he was shot either in the back or side and remains in the intensive care unit at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital… Police say several days before the shooting the teenager had

escaped from Mount Saint John 25-miles away here in Deep River. (At time of archiving we were unable to locate full story. Source: www.wtnh.com Date: December, 2005)

Lawmaker seeks probe of teen boot camps to root out possible fraud, abuse: WASHINGTON - California Rep. George Miller is asking for a congressional investigation of teen boot camps, citing alleged child abuse and fraud at the facilities in the United States and abroad. Miller sent a letter Wednesday to the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, asking for a report on the how the boot camps and boarding schools are regulated and financed, as well as a review at allegations of abuse and fraud. For complete story, click here.

Teen Mother Ruled a Sex Offender: SALT LAKE CITY The Utah Court of Appeals is upholding a judge's refusal to dismiss a sexual abuse allegation against a 13-year-old Ogden girl who became pregnant by her 12-year-old boyfriend. The appeals court on Friday ruled that the law's ``rigorous protections'' for younger minors include protecting them from each other. The decision leaves the teens in the position of each being both a victim and a perpetrator in the same offense. (At time of archiving, story was no longer available online. Source: www.kutv.com Date: December 31, 2005)

Bad Kids Inc.: What's to be done about out-of-control teenagers? The man who gave us Citi Habitats has a plan to turn a parental self-help group into a company as popular and profitable as Weight Watchers.: According to the doctor, the symptoms are everywhere. The school shootings and the self-mutilation. The vulgar soaps in prime time. The designer drugs and the oral-sex orgies, which, the doctor is confident, are not a myth propagated to sell newsmagazines. "Twelve-year-old girls, in my office, I have them," he says. "They line up and give blow-job parties. No, it's for real. I did an MTV show about this." Ron Zodkevitch, a 47-year-old psychiatrist from Forest Hills who some twenty years ago migrated to Beverly Hills, is making these pronouncements in his office on Wilshire Boulevard. Seated in the sort of high-backed leather chair that gives one the look of being on a throne, he props up his feet on a grand wooden desk. He is wearing cowboy boots. Beat-up, knocked-around black leather cowboy boots that let you know he is not your typical child psychiatrist. For this reason, he prefers being called "Dr. Zod," although the talent agents who are grooming him for his as-yet-unconfirmed appearances on Oprah have informed him that Dr. Zod sounds a bit too out-there, kooky in an unmarketable sort of way. And so Dr. Zod was recently rebranded as Dr. Ron, which everyone is hoping is a more authoritatively casual persona to introduce to America. Dr. Ron is what you might call a psychological Renaissance man. His current professional duties can be described as follows: a therapist for the troubled children of entertainment executives; a paid confidant of pro athletes with confidence issues; a defender of insurance companies against workers'-comp hucksters; an associate clinical professor at UCLA; and a hand-holder to the diaspora of child actors who have grown up to be drug abusers, depressives, and serial divorcés. It is a living made in a shadow world of tormented egos and stunted maturity, though all of that, if Dr. Ron's plans come to pass, is about to change. A good deal of effort is currently being spent to turn Dr. Ron into the Dr. Spock of the teen pandemonium years. For complete story, click here.

Academy at Ivy Ridge Withdraws From World Wide Association of Specialty Programs & Schools: OGDENSBERG, N.Y., Jan. 6 /PRNewswire/ -- The Academy at Ivy Ridge (AIR), a boarding school in upstate New York, today announced that it had concluded its relationship with the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs & Schools (WWASPS). "On November 29th we received word from WWASPS that it had accepted our letter of withdrawal," said Jason Finlinson, director of AIR, "therefore we are officially no longer a member of the organization." While WWASPS has faced significant scrutiny over the years, Finlinson cited his primary reason for leaving the organization as being one of "not needing" the affiliation any longer. "The Academy is now capable of providing educational programs and seminars with its own staff or by contract," said Finlinson. (Webmaster Note: It is speculated and in cases confirmed that WWASPS is slowly dismantling in order to continue business through franchises that are independently owned and operated to avoid legal difficulties and prosecution.) For complete story, click here.

Teen dies after admission to Panama City juvenile offenders camp: PENSACOLA, Fla. - A 14-year-old boy died Friday after officials said he had to be restrained by guards when he became uncooperative during the admission process at a boot camp for juvenile offenders. Florida's director of Juvenile Justice said the state will investigate procedures at Florida's six juvenile boot camps because of the death of Martin Lee Anderson of Bay County. (Unable to locate complete story for archive. Source: www.bradenton.com Date: January 6th, 2006)

Dateline's Disgrace: Soft on Tough-Love Teen's Manslaughter: Dateline NBC devoted an hour last Sunday to the appalling death of a 14-year-old boy in an Arizona boot camp for troubled youth and the recent trial and conviction of the man who ran the camp in that killing. Anthony Haynes died in the American Buffalo Soldiers Re-enactor's Association boot camp in July 2001 after being made to stand in 115-degree heat for hours and denied water and medical attention. Last year, the founder and operator of the camp, Charles Long, was convicted of reckless manslaughter in Haynes' death and of aggravated assault for menacing another teenager in the camp with a knife. But Dateline — like 48 Hours, which covered the case in a 2003 segment — failed to mention that there is absolutely no evidence that "tough love" programs like boot camps help kids. The Justice Department lists boot camps for youth under "What Doesn't Work," – and a meta-analysis of the research on youth boot camps that conducted for Congress in 1998 found that it was no more effective than juvenile prison. (Unable to locate complete story for archive. Source: www.stats.org Date: January 6th, 2006)

Details About Corrections Officer and Inmate: January 9, 2006 - Newly released court documents are revealing more about the alleged relationship between a former Fresno County corrections officer and an underage inmate. Adriana Rivera worked at the Elkhorn Boot Camp for troubled teens. That's where prosecutors say she met the then 17-year-old inmate. For complete story, click here.

Teen Collapses, Dies At Boot Camp: PANAMA CITY, Fla. -- The family of a teen who collapsed during his admission to a boot camp is suing the Bay County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. The mother of Martin Lee Anderson says the 14-year-old was in good physical shape. She says he had a broken nose, a cut lip and other bruises on his face when she saw his body. She was told her son "bled from the inside," but she says she doesn't know exactly how he died. For more on this visit: http://www.workers.org/2006/us/boot-camp-0518 or click here.

Attachment Therapy on Trial: The Torture and Death of Candace Newmaker: Candace, endured painful physical stimulation, was dangerously restrained, and eventually suffocated to death. In the name of "curing her" with Attachment Therapy, Candace's therapists ignored her begging, screaming, and gasping; eventually they were convicted in criminal court. The extent to which some therapists embrace such unvalidated fringe treatments is one of the greatest scandals in today's mental health system. This damning indictment should stir a badly needed national debate about these practices, and aid in the fight against them. For complete story, click here.

SWAT Team Shoots Teen Carrying Pellet Gun: LONGWOOD, Fla. - It was in an instant, with a SWAT team surrounding him, that Christopher David Penley slipped into an alcove in a school bathroom and raised what officers believed was a black 9 mm Beretta handgun, authorities said. Moments later, a deputy shot him. For complete story, click here.

Govt open to teen work camp idea for vandals: South Australia Premier Mike Rann says he sees merit in a plan by state Independent MP Bob Such to force vandals into work camps. Dr Such says vandals should be made to attend camps where they would fix damaged bus shelters or train stations, or carry out environmental work and attend seminars. For complete story, click here.

Contraband communications: Children at Spring Creek Lodge Academy near Thompson Falls live highly supervised lives. They're sent to the secluded backwoods boarding school from all over the country for "behavior modification," isolated from the opposite sex and warned not to exchange phone numbers or e-mail addresses. Possession of a friend's contact info is considered a major infraction; punishable by extra months tacked on to the time it takes to graduate the program. "You come here alone, you leave here alone. That's what they always told us," recalls Scott Stewart, a 2001 graduate of Spring Creek. "They think if you meet up with these people outside of the program your 'non-working' lifestyles start coming back." Stewart says students used coded Bible passages and tiny notes stuffed into the tubes of Bic pens to exchange contraband information at Spring Creek. Now it's getting much easier for those same students to get in touch on the outside, thanks to the increasing popularity of Internet blog sites and forums. Online communities like MySpace.com and Fornits Home for Wayward Web Fora (www.fornits.com/wwf) now give former students of Spring Creek and other programs in the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASPS) a place to meet and share their thoughts and past experiences. For complete story, click here.

No More Nightmares at Tranquility Bay?: …As a teen at Tranquility Bay, you can't call home and are escorted between rooms by Jamaican "chaperones." Talk out of turn and your punishment might be that a trio of guards wrestles you to the ground. "They start twisting and pulling your limbs, grinding your ankles," a student told the British newspaper The Guardian. Not knowing when you'll go home, you might take cold showers and watch "emotional growth" videos. The promise is that you will return a respectful, happy teen. But many WWASPS alumni who've banded together at online survivor websites like Tranquility Bay Fight and Fornits say their lives haven't been saved, they've been devastated. Several WWASPS schools have been shut down after abuse claims. Tranquility Bay's counterpart, High Impact, a WWASP affiliate in Mexico, closed in 2002 after dark stories emerged. Teens said they were kept in dog cages. Two parents, Chris Goodwin and Stephanie Hecker, told the Rocky Mountain News their children were made to lie in their underwear for three nights with fire ants roaming over them and were threatened with a cattle prod if they scratched. For complete story, click here.

Charter school lead fades in H.S.: Charter school students outperform conventional school students at the elementary level but not in high school, according to a state report released Monday. The report, based on state achievement tests, shows differences of only a few points between charters and conventional schools in reading, writing and elementary school math. But the gap is dramatic for high school math, with 10th graders in conventional schools scoring more than 12 points above charter school youngsters. The gap is more than eight points for ninth graders. The results come as no surprise, said Jim Griffin, the director of the Colorado League of Charter Schools. Many of the high school level charters are targeted at troubled teens who do not succeed in conventional schools. "Almost half of them are designed that way," Griffin said. For complete story, click here.

Saving Troubled Teens Through 'Safe Schools': At Arizona's Department of Juvenile Corrections, there are pat downs, cell doors and razor wire. The arrivals come in handcuffs, are photographed and go through a 21-day evaluation to determine their issues — like anger, sex crimes, mental health or substance abuse. But the 300 boys at the Adobe Mountain School, and the 80 girls across the yard at the Black Canyon School, aren't exactly in prison. Arizona's juvenile corrections system calls these facilities "safe schools" — they are part prison, part school. For complete story, click here.

The Trouble With Tough Love: … Many anguished parents put their faith in strict residential rehab programs. At first glance, these programs, which are commonly based on a philosophy of "tough love," seem to offer a safe respite from the streets -- promising reform through confrontational therapy in an isolated environment where kids cannot escape the need to change their behavior. At the same time, during the '90s, it became increasingly common for courts to sentence young delinquents to military-style boot camps as an alternative to incarceration. But lack of government oversight and regulation makes it impossible for parents to thoroughly investigate services provided by such "behavior modification centers," "wilderness programs" and "emotional growth boarding schools." Moreover, the very notion of making kids who are already suffering go through more suffering is psychologically backwards. And there is little data to support these institutions' claims of success. Nonetheless, a billion-dollar industry now promotes such tough-love treatment. There are several hundred public and private facilities -- both in the United States and outside the country -- but serving almost exclusively American citizens. Although no one officially keeps track, my research suggests that some 10,000 to 20,000 teenagers are enrolled each year. A patchwork of lax and ineffective state regulations -- no federal rules apply -- is all that protects these young people from institutions that are regulated like ordinary boarding schools but that sometimes use more severe methods of restraint and isolation than psychiatric centers. There are no special qualifications required of the people who oversee such facilities. Nor is any diagnosis required before enrollment. If a parent thinks a child needs help and can pay the $3,000- to $5,000-a-month fees, any teenager can be held in a private program, with infrequent contact with the outside world, until he or she turns 18. For complete story, click here.

'Benign neglect' leaves youth inmates in squalor, review finds: SACRAMENTO (AP) - California's youngest inmates are living in squalid conditions that endanger guards and youths, while managers operate in daily crisis because of a lack of funding, according to reports obtained by The Associated Press. Shower doors at some youth prisons are so rusty that wards can break off pieces of metal to use as weapons. Two-way radios and personal alarms worn by employees only work intermittently. And there are holes in dorm walls and perimeter fences. "Benign neglect ... appears to permeate" the Division of Juvenile Justice, a special security team found after touring four of the state's eight youth facilities last summer. For complete story, click here.

Teen Opens Fire In Gay Bar: "He was shooting at everyone," said the bartender, who asked to be identified only by his first name, Phillip, because he was concerned about his safety. Police found the hatchet and a machete in the bar, he said. Robida graduated in 2001 from the city's Junior Police Academy, a "boot camp" that teaches discipline to 12- to 14-year-olds, Acting Police Chief David Provencher said. A family friend who answered at his home Thursday said his mother, Stephanie Oliver, had no comment. For complete story, click here.

Devils in the Outfield:… Huffman's side story is another tale, with a Utah link. His girlfriend had him kidnapped and sent to the Provo Canyon School to try to get him cleaned up. "I looked out my window at the mountains and thought, 'how the hell do I get out of here?'" he remembers. "The Mormons seemed so fascistic. I had a friend who tried running away in winter and got hypothermia from hiding in a snowbank." For complete story, click here.

Boy, 6, hit with sex harass rap: An irate Brockton mother is refusing to let her 6-year-old son return to school after he was suspended for alleged sexual harassment, a term deemed "preposterous" for a first-grader by a leading sexual harassment expert. For complete story, click here.

Two South Florida lawmakers who saw a video of a teen's final hours say he was abused at a juvenile boot camp. The boy died later that day.: A 14-year-old boy was "brutally" beaten by guards and "flung around like a rag doll" at a boot camp for juvenile delinquents in Panama City hours before he died at a Panhandle hospital, according to two lawmakers who on Wednesday saw a videotape of the incident. The video, which recorded the last 20 to 30 minutes of the teen's stay at the Bay County Sheriff's Office Boot Camp, shows officers at times kicking, punching and choking Martin Lee Anderson after he refused, or was unable, to comply with officers' orders to run or do other exercises, the legislators said. To view video footage of the attack visit: http://news.tbo.com/news/metro/MGBN7T3WSJE.html and/or http://www.wpbfnews.com/news/7158290/detail.html. For complete story, click here.

Juvenile center study notes staff violence: Cook County's study of its Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, delivered Friday to commissioners, finds a pattern of violence by staff members toward the teenagers in their care. The report, compiled by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, cites "multiple instances of battery or assault by staff on residents." One staff member shoved a youth and threw him to the floor, the report recounts. Others used chokeholds. The 40-page study mirrors episodes previously reported in the Tribune and cited by the American Civil Liberties Union in its court action against the county. (Unable to locate complete story for archiving. Source: www.chicagotribune.com Date: February 11th, 2006)

Teen arrested in rape, slaying-Victim was employee at home for troubled youths: CLEARFIELD — Police arrested a 17-year-old boy accused of raping and stabbing a woman to death late Wednesday in a group home for troubled teens. Police were called at 10:45 p.m. to 286 Marilyn Drive where officers found a car that had crashed into the side of a small red-brick home. A pair of tire tracks extended from the street through the fresh snow, over the curb and through some bushes to where they abruptly stopped outside Doug Mahlstede's home. "I heard a loud pop like someone dropped something huge and heavy, and the house shook like it was an earthquake," Mahlstede said. Outside he found a Honda Accord against his house. A young man was in the driver's side of the car, barefoot but wearing a bloody shirt and jeans. Mahlstede reported the young man said he had committed a crime, "he was a bad person, and he should die," Mahlstede said. "He tried to kill himself by driving into the side of my house." (Webmaster Note: Whether it's rape, homicide, or suicide…the cause is the same. When children are abandoned in every way by their parents and sold down the river to be enslaved, brainwashed, and tortured instead of receiving actual help through patience, understanding, compassion, and love, things like this are bound to occur. The adults are to blame. The adults who refuse to take responsibility for the welfare of children in our care. Apathy and resentment are the two main characteristics of parents who end up subjecting their children to institutionalization. Our advice, help your kids get emancipated if you find the transition from child to adult too inconvenient for you. It's much more effective and loving than paying to have them enslaved and tortured by frauds. Thank you.) For complete story, click here.

Teen crime, adult time: Laws converge to put teens away forever: A teenager serves life in prison because authorities found his fingerprints at the scene of a murder. But jurors doubted he killed the victim, and police failed to fully investigate other key suspects. "I'm just a ghost now," writes Sam Mandez, who was 14 at the time of the crime in 1992 and had no previous violent offenses. "I'm the living dead." Another teen faces life behind bars for killing his mother. Jurors didn't hear his story of parental abuse because his attorney never investigated. Testimony in the trial of 16-year-old Nathan Ybanez lasted only a day. A third teen with a history of alcohol problems is serving a life sentence for a fatal hit-and-run incident after a day of heavy drinking. Prosecutors cast the circumstances as a gang killing - a theory even the victim's mother discounted. At 17, Dietrick Mitchell became a "throwaway" into the prison system. For complete story, click here.

Mother Of Teen At Boot Camp Says Guards Routinely Abused Juveniles: TALLAHASSEE, FL (AP) -- The mother of a teenager who was at the same bootcamp where a 14-year-old boy died after an encounter with guards says the guards routinely abused juveniles at the boot camp. Shauna Manning also accuses the Bay County camp's nurse of dismissing juveniles' medical issues because she believed the boys were faking to try to get out of the program. Martin Anderson died hours after a confrontation with camp guards. A medical examiner says an autopsy shows the teenager died as a result of complication with sickle cell anemia, a usually nonfatal disorder of the blood. Medical experts are casting doubt on that conclusion. For complete story, click here.

Father seeks answers for Kern River crash: BAKERSFIELD - A 14-year-old teen on the run from Camp Owens died Sunday when he crashed a stolen truck into the wall of the Kern River Canyon. The boy's father wants answers in his death. According to California Highway Patrol, Curtis Eugene Vaughan escaped from Camp Owen, a minimum-security facility that serves as a boot camp for troubled teens, around 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon. The boy was on the run from the camp when he crashed the truck he was driving into the canyon's wall. His grieving father, Curtis Vaughan Senior, is questioning if more could have been done to keep his kid safe. He explains, "I was there an hour before and he was fine." "They said he'd be safe up there, and he's not safe he's dead," said Vaughan Senior. "If he'd had been with me,

he'd be safe," he adds. Now Vaughan Senior says," I'm not ever going to be able to see or hold my boy again." (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.kget.com Date: February 21st, 2006)

Superintendent fired over state juvenile prison problems: The Indiana Department of Correction responded to a spate of problems including excessive force at the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility by firing the prison's superintendent and replacing her for up to six months with a team of senior agency officials. Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue fired Superintendent Jane Burns from the agency for what he termed "unacceptable practices" and "missteps of management at the facility," including not following department policies. Three guards currently face criminal charges over their actions at the juvenile center about 20 miles northeast of Indianapolis. The actions Thursday follow a settlement with the U.S. Justice Department this month in which the state agreed to correct civil rights violations at three state juvenile facilities dating to 2003. The violations included physical abuse by guards, physical and sexual abuse by other inmates, and mental health and special education problems. The department no longer operates one of the cited facilities as a juvenile prison. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.indystar.com Date: February 24, 2006)

Tough-love industry too rough on rebellious teens: When teenagers defy authority, as most do, their behavior might be seen as admirable, a stage in their path to adulthood. But admirable defiant behavior, like physical beauty, is located in the eye of the beholder. As a result, defiant behavior might be labeled as pathological by parents, schoolteachers, clergy, police officers and other authority figures. At that point, discipline behind a time-out or grounding might kick in. The forms of discipline constitute what journalist Maia Szalavitz has labeled the "troubled-teen industry." It might involve a boarding school far away from home. It might involve a 12-step program to deal with the abuse of alcohol and other drugs, or with sexual promiscuity, or with gambling. It might involve a psychiatric ward. It might involve a juvenile detention center if the police become involved. Or it might involve the specific sector of the troubled-teen industry that most troubles Szalavitz, a tough-love approach that often includes expensive fees that pay for teens to experience physical hardship in life-threatening wilderness areas such as mountains, forests or deserts. Szalavitz focuses on four specific tough-love programs that she considers especially greedy financially, often ineffective despite advertising claims and sometimes physically dangerous — so dangerous that parents enrolling their teenagers need to worry about sudden death. They go by the names of Straight Incorporated, North Star, KIDS and World Wide Association of Specialty Programs. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.desmoinesregister.com Date: February 26, 2006)

Highfields: Change must come at youth home: Upon allegations of abuse of children in the public charge, there is a natural revulsion - a desire to sever ties with those who would betray such a sensitive responsibility. But when it comes to the scandal at Highfields Inc., severing ties is at best a short-term strategy. What Ingham County and the state need is a properly managed, safe Highfields to continue its work with troubled teens. When abuse reports surfaced at Highfields, Ingham County judges pulled 18 boys they had sent there. Ingham County commissioners halted payments on a $2 million contract with Highfields, and the state withdrew 15 teens under its supervision. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.lsj.com Date: February 27, 2006)

Judge to let DNA tests on youths start Federal database won't get access pending a final ruling: FRANKFORT, Ky. -- Kentucky can begin taking DNA samples from juveniles who have committed felony sex offenses or burglary under a temporary court ruling yesterday.But the state cannot share the results with federal authorities -- as it does with DNA from adult offenders -- until the judge rules on whether state law permits expanding DNA testing to juveniles. The data, which could go into a state databank, would be removed if the judge rules against the DNA collection. The state wants to collect the DNA samples to help solve crimes. State Juvenile Justice Commissioner Bridget Skaggs Brown said her department would start drawing blood from youths for the DNA samples within a few days. "We intend to take steps to protect the public, and we intend to start testing," she said after the ruling. But public defenders representing juveniles, who filed suit last month to block the procedure, said they will press to bar the Juvenile Justice Department permanently from testing. The plans have created a lot of concern, said Gail Robinson, a lawyer representing the youths. "The kids are scared, and their parents are calling," she said. State officials contend a 2002 change in the law gives them the right to carry out the DNA testing but it was never enforced. Lawyers for the youths say the change does not allow the Juvenile Justice Department to collect DNA from anybody. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.courier-journal.com Date: March 2, 2006)

Teens removed from troubled drug rehab center: Deputy Chief Probation Officer Michael Stauffer declined to comment on exactly why, on Feb. 2, he pulled the four probationers from Daytop Village Inc., the 43-bed residential rehab center with properties in Belmont and Redwood City. Four youth placed in rehab through the Human Services Agency remain at Daytop, HSA Director of Substance Abuse and Shelter Services Director Stephen Kaplan said…"It could be that we're going to stop using Daytop, it could be that Daytop will have to reform some things … there will be an examination as to whether Daytop is providing appropriate services for us at the moment," Gordon said. "This is absolutely the right course of action for the county to take." (Unable to locate full story at time of archiving. Source: www.examiner.com Date: March, 2006)

Florida empties boot camp where teen was beaten by guards: Dallas Morning News (subscription) - TX, USA TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – All juvenile offenders have been removed from a Panama City boot camp where a 14- year-old boy was hit and kicked by guards before he died... (Webmaster Note: They mean the boy that was killed by guards at the boot camp, not physically tortured until he died of "natural causes", right?) More on this story…: Prosecutors confirm boot camp teen didn't die of natural causes. Bradenton Herald - FL, United States TAMPA, Fla. - The mother of a 14-year-old boy who was beaten and kicked in a Panama City juvenile boot camp said Tuesday she wants justice now that a second ... Allegations Of Cover-up In Teen's Boot Camp Death All Headline News - USA Tampa, FL (AHN)–A forensic pathologist observes a second autopsy on the teen who died at a juvenile boot camp and says results seem to show his death was ... Teen in youth camp did not die of natural causes, 2nd autopsy ... Myrtle Beach Sun News - Myrtle Beach,SC,USA... The teen entered the Bay County Sheriff's Office Boot Camp Jan. 5 after being convicted of going joyriding in his grandmother's jeep. ... For complete story, click here.

Australia Does Expose' On WWASPS: To find out more, visit: http://www.smh.com.au/news/tv-reviews/ the-cutting-edge-tranquility-bay/2006/03/13/1142098386255.html More on this story: The Cutting Edge: Tranquility Bay Sydney Morning Herald - Sydney,New South Wales,Australia... Here's a disturbing look at the murky world of the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs (WWASP), America's leading provider of so-called behaviour... For complete story, click here.

Youths can use hot lines to report prison problems: The Indiana Department of Correction has installed hot lines at its seven juvenile prisons so offenders can confidentially report abuse and other problems by staff or other offenders. The hot lines will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and all "serious allegations" will be checked out by the DOC's internal affairs investigators, the agency said in a news release Monday. Among the incidents the hot lines are intended for are physical, verbal or sexual abuse by other offenders or staff or major breaches of security, the department said. The announcement followed a settlement last month with the U.S. Justice Department in which the state agency agreed to correct civil-rights violations at state juvenile facilities dating to 2003. The violations covered by the settlement included physical abuse by guards and physical and sexual abuse by other inmates. (Webmaster Note: If phones are not readily available to call these hotlines and a youth must ask permission to use the phone and the person that must grant permission is the person they wish to report, how likely is it that these so-called hotlines will do a damn bit of good? Not bloody likely!) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.indystar.com Date: March 14, 2006)

From Foster Homes to the White House: It wasn't until Mickey Ibarra moved with his younger brother from Utah to California at age 15 that he routinely heard his name pronounced correctly…"It was tough," Ibarra said, yet he would grow up and out of those humble and difficult beginnings to work in the West Wing of the White House and to open a boutique lobbying shop specializing in Hispanic outreach…Ibarra had settled into a comfortable life in Utah, where he was a member of the freshman football team and was reluctant to leave. Still, Sacramento proved a good move and Ibarra now considers it a crossroads, especially for his brother, who grew up to be a successful businessman…At his foster parents' request, he returned to Utah to enroll at Brigham Young University. But out of money after one year, Ibarra joined the military, like his father before him, for the benefits of the GI bill, a risky move in the midst of the Vietnam War. Initial orders to go to Saigon were changed at the last minute, and he spent two years in Frankfurt, Germany, before returning to Utah to graduate, cum laude, from BYU with a bachelor's degree in political science. Ibarra then spent five years teaching, including at an alternative school for troubled teens in Spanish Fork, Utah. He went back to school at the University of Utah for a master's degree in behavioral disorders. "Both degrees have served me well in our nation's capital," he jokes. While a teacher, Ibarra volunteered with the local branch of Utah Education Association, an outgrowth of the powerhouse political lobby, the National Education Association. From there he made a jump in 1984 to a permanent spot in Washington as a "political education specialist." He helped organize local chapters of NEA. (Webmaster Note: Most (likely all) alternative programs in Utah are abusive. BYU is the leader in brainwashing and using "trauma-based" behavior modification. Anyone with a degree such as this and experience working for an abusive teen facility deserves to be jailed, not celebrated and promoted to powerful positions in the US.) For complete story, click here.

Former juvenile prison guard convicted of assaulting inmate: DELAWARE, Ohio (AP) — A former guard at Ohio's only youth prison for girls, who was one of 12 corrections officers accused of a range of crimes including assault and sexual battery, has been convicted of assaulting an inmate. Stanley Gates, 38, of Columbus, could face up to a year in jail when he is sentenced in April in Delaware County Common Pleas Court. He entered an Alford plea Wednesday to charges of assault and falsification, which means he denied guilt but acknowledged prosecutors had enough evidence to convict him. Gates was fired from his job at the Scioto Juvenile

Correctional Facility, located about 15 miles north of Columbus, in May 2004 and was indicted in December of that year. Assistant Prosecutor Paul Scarsella said Gates struck an inmate, puncturing her eardrum, in December 2003 and then gave false information to State Highway Patrol investigators questioning him. For complete story, click here.

Boot Camp Death Leads to Questions in the Use of Force: Orlando, Florida (PRWEB) March 16, 2006 –- The second autopsy of Martin Lee Anderson, the teen who died at a Bay County Sheriff's Office boot camp, indicates his death was caused by a beating and not a sickle cell trait. A videotape of the incident shows officers kicking and striking Anderson, after he stopped his exercises. For complete story, click here.

More Kids Are Getting Anti-Psychotic Drugs: CHICAGO (AP) - Soaring numbers of American children are being prescribed anti-psychotic drugs - in many cases, for attention deficit disorder or other behavioral problems for which these medications have not been proven to work, a study found. The annual number of children prescribed anti-psychotic drugs jumped fivefold between 1995 and 2002, to an estimated 2.5 million, the study said. That is an increase from 8.6 out of every 1,000 children in the mid-1990s to nearly 40 out of 1,000. But more than half of the prescriptions were for attention deficit and other non-psychotic conditions, the researchers said. The findings are worrisome "because it looks like these medications are being used for large numbers of children in a setting where we don't know if they work," said lead author Dr. William Cooper, a pediatrician at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. (Webmaster Note: Many physicians and psychiatrists believe in drugs over dietary and environmental improvements and psychotherapy. Many parents don't care about their child's welfare and are glad when drugs work to sedate their children. If you do not wish to sedate your child, but, wish to have a healthy family, please do not place your child on drugs. Thank you.) For complete story, click here.

State agency has cited youth camp, Highfields board members say: The state Department of Human Services has cited Highfields, Inc., for a number of violations, according to board members of the Youth Opportunity Camp for troubled teens. The sanctions are contained in an investigative report sent Friday to the Onondaga- based social services agency. "I understand there are citations issued pertaining to incidents here," said Highfields board member Brian Cavanaugh of the residential treatment program for youth. "And it's our sincere desire to do whatever we have to in order to satisfy the state." The citations, which the members declined to detail, give Highfields a set amount of time to remedy, said Highfields Board Chairman Charles Corley. For complete story, click here.

'Sky is falling' headlines a disservice to teens: Regarding "More teenagers engaging in risky behaviors" (Republic, Sunday): Nowhere in the article is a single fact that clearly supports the headline. It doesn't inform, but merely alarms already jittery parents. I know: I'm the mother of a teen. In reality, our kids are doing better than ever. U.S. government statistics show: *Murders of teens are down 47 percent since their peak in 1995. *Violent crime in schools dropped 50 percent between 1992 and 2002. *Teen drug use, drunken-driving deaths among 16- and 17-year-olds, teen pregnancy, the number of teens with more than four sexual partners, and teen abortion rates - all have dropped in recent years, in percentages ranging from 23 percent to 60 percent. Fueled by misinformation, the fears of parents, and urging "pre-emptive action" against kids, a billion-dollar-a-year "troubled-teen" industry has grown in the United States. Let's get the straight facts about how (and what) teenagers are doing so we can respond in loving and effective ways to our kids' real problems: physical, mental or spiritual. Let's skip the "sky is falling" headlines and marvel at how well our kids (and we parents) are doing in a complicated world - and then resolve to do even better. - Cynthia Clark Harvey, Phoenix (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.azcentral.com Date: March 18, 2006)

More Miami-Dade students face detention for misdemeanors: Tonia Green's sobs pierced the tiny courtroom, causing everyone to stare at her 13-year-old son who stood with cuffs gripping his wrists and ankles. "Judge, please . . . the school didn't even notify me!" Green wailed. ``They just carted my son away like some criminal." The charge -- kicking another student during a school fight. Miami-Dade Juvenile Court Judge Lester Langer glanced at the boy's paperwork, set a trial date and ordered the teen released into the mother's custody. "Oh Lord Jesus, thank you," Green sighed. Minutes later the scene replayed itself, this time with an anguished Hailaine Jerome rocking in joy after Lester agreed to release her teenage son, who also got into a fight. Langer says his and other courtrooms in the Juvenile Detention Center are packed with more and more cases of kids arrested for minor offenses, as school officials strictly enforce a zero-tolerance policy in an effort to deter violent crimes on campus. "'The juvenile judges are seeing a lot of school-related cases that could have been handled at the school, such as schoolyard fights and kids acting out in class," said Langer, who has been on the bench since 1992 and in juvenile court since 1997. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.miami.com Date: March, 2006)

We Are A Torture Nation: Simply put under the "leadership" of the Bush family the United States has become a torture nation. We have allowed ourselves to be reduced to reactionary violence blindly lashing out in disregard of all that makes us good people. The evidence of this is overwhelming ... going light years beyond a reasonable doubt into the galaxy of absolute proof. During Attorney General Gonzales Senate confirmation hearing Senator Leahy asked "Do you think that other world leaders would have authority to authorize the torture of U.S. citizens if they deemed it necessary for their national security?" And Gonzales reply? "Senator, I don't know what laws other world leaders would be bound by. And I think it would -- I'm not in a position to answer that question." (Text: Gonzales Nomination Hearing, Washington Post) Bush administration legal adviser John Yoo on 12/01/05 was asked in a debate "If the president deems that he's got to torture somebody, including by crushing the testicles of the person's child, there is no law that can stop him?" To which Yoo replied "No treaty." This was immediately followed by the this question/answer exchange: Doug Cassel: "Also no law by Congress -- that is what you wrote in the August 2002 memo..." John Yoo: "I think it depends on why the President thinks he needs to do that." (full audio available here) In a previous posting on this web site I asked "Have you ever wondered what it takes to get someone to masturbate in the dark dank halls of one of Iraq's most notorious prisons, Abu Ghraib, while guards took photos?" As shown in that article the answer is simple: the Bush doctrine of torture. (We are a torture state, 10/21/05) In Iraq the Bush led military has taken over not only Saddam Hussein's prisons and torture chambers, but under the Bush doctrine we've also assumed responsibility for carrying on the treatment we've so long associated with despicable tyrants: "In the windowless, jet-black garage-size room, some soldiers beat prisoners with rifle butts, yelled and spit in their faces and, in a nearby area, used detainees for target practice in a game of jailer paintball." (Before and After Abu Ghraib, a U.S. Unit Abused Detainees, New York Times, 03/19/06) Down in brother Jeb Bush's Florida this doctrine is given domestic illustration. "A teen who died after guards punched and kicked him at a boot camp likely was suffocated during the confrontation and was brain dead when he was brought to a hospital, a pathologist told lawmakers Friday." (Update 4: Doctor: Boot Camp Teen Likely Suffocated, AP, 03/17/06) Governor Bush passed on the torture apologists' line the death was result of illness, and in response called it "one tragic incident". (Parents want charges in boot camp death, MSNBC, 02/18/06) A fellow human being murdered by a deliberate Bush family doctrine of torture and beatings for those deemed unworthy. For complete story, click here.

Gunned down: the teenager who dared to walk across his neighbor's prized lawn: "I just killed a kid," Charles Martin told the emergency services operator. "I shot him with a goddamn 410 shotgun twice." He had gunned down Larry Mugrage, his neighbors' 15-year-old son. The teenager's crime: walking across Mr. Martin's lawn on his way home. Mr. Martin opened fire from his house and then, according to the police, walked up to the wounded boy and pulled the trigger again at close range, killing him. Even in a country with a long history of gun violence, the killing of Larry Mugrage in a quiet Cincinnati suburb on Monday stands out as particularly senseless. Mr. Martin seems to have been liked well enough in the neat bungalow-lined streets of Union Township, but he appears to have been obsessed with the territorial integrity of his patchy lawn. Neighbors said he would work himself into a rage if they mowed a foot over the invisible dividing line separating their gardens. "He was really warped on that stuff," one local resident said. Even after killing a young boy, who was apparently running home to fetch a video game, Mr. Martin, 66, seemed indignant. "I've been being harassed by him and his parents for five years. Today just blew it up," he told the operator. "Kid's just been giving me a bunch of shit, making the other kids harass me and my place, tearing things up." For complete story, click here.

Sex tourism thriving in Bible Belt: ATLANTA (Reuters)--In a sleazy hotel room, "Brittany", then aged 16 and drugged into oblivion, waited for the men to arrive. Her pimps sent as many as 17 clients an evening through the door. A "john" could even pre-book the pretty young blonde for $1,000 a night, sometimes flying in and out from a nearby airport. None of this happened in Bangkok or Costa Rica, places that have become synonymous with sex tourism and underage sex. It took place in Atlanta, the buckle of the U.S. Bible Belt, where the world's busiest passenger airport provides a cheaper, more convenient, and safer underage sex destination for men seeking girls as young as 10. "Men fly in, are met by pimps, have sex with a 14-year-old for lunch, and get home in time for dinner with the family," said Sanford Jones, the chief juvenile judge of Fulton County, Georgia. A new federal law passed in 2003 ensures that American sex tourists landing on foreign soil and hiring prostitutes under the age of 18 can get 30 years in prison. But in Georgia, punishment for pimping or soliciting sex with a girl under 18 is only five to 20 years, according to Deborah Espy, the Deputy District Attorney of Fulton County. "Men are coming to Atlanta to have sex with a child," said LaKendra Baker, project manager for the Center to End Adolescent Sexual Exploitation (CEASE). Half of the street-level prostitutes in Atlanta are believed to be under 18, according to experts. For complete story, click here.

Too much boot: Florida boot camps have long needed a thorough evaluation of their effectiveness in rehabilitating juvenile offenders. It's too bad it took the death of a Bay County teen to put the boot camp concept under the microscope. That is, however, the catalyst for a review by law enforcement and legislative officials into whether boot camps do more harm than good in motivating juveniles to turn around their lives before becoming hardened criminals. The videotape of Martin Lee Anderson's manhandling by burly guards before being pronounced dead hours after being admitted to the Panama City boot camp was a shocking example of the boot camp

philosophy run amok. Boot camps were a product of a 1980s juvenile crime wave that threatened the state's tourism industry. After a series of violent attacks on tourists by young hoodlums that made sensational headlines, a boot camp program for adults was adapted to include younger offenders. It combined the "scared straight" approach of exposing delinquent youths to real jail conditions with the "tough love" approach then seen as an effective form of drug rehabilitation. It was thought that the harsh conditions of military-style boot camps would instill discipline and respect in youths to whom such principles were foreign. Angry, in-your-face confrontations with trained drill instructors, especially in the intake phase, were intended to break down the rebellious attitudes that got teens in trouble with the law and to establish a foundation for positive change. But many juvenile advocates dispute the effectiveness of the angry confrontations. Young brains still developing don't always connect consequences with actions, they say. And while the harsh discipline may bring about compliance after a time, it also builds anger - anger which the youths may suppress while there but which erupts when they are released. (Unable to locate full story at time of archiving. Source: www.bradenton.com Date: April, 2006)

Teen gets 30 years in fatal shooting: A teenage boy was sentenced to 30 years in prison this morning for fatally shooting a 34-year-old man last year. The first dozen years of 16-year-old Kevin A. Roy's sentence are minimum mandatory, meaning he will not receive time off for good behavior during those years. After his release, Superior Court Judge Charles H. Toliver IV ordered that Roy spend a year in a halfway house, followed by 18 months probation. "I think it was an appropriate sentence," prosecutor Cari Ann Van Dyke said, adding that Roy had been given opportunities in the past, such as boot camp, to straighten himself up, but didn't. (Webmaster Note: How anyone can call "boot camps" or "residential treatment programs" an opportunity to straighten up, is beyond me. These programs are not effective, do more harm than good, create anger and post traumatic stress, and likely directly contributed to this tragedy. That's the reality of it!) (Unable to locate full story at time of archiving. Source: www.delawareonline.com Date: April 5, 2006)

Police Searching For Missing Girl, 16: BOSTON -- Police are searching for a Pembroke, Mass., girl who left a school for troubled teens nearly a week ago and hasn't been seen since. Family members said Brenda Santos, 16, doesn't have her medication with her, so they're desperate to find her. NewsCenter 5's Mary Saladna reported that Santos' family is distraught. "We love her and we miss her and you know, she needs to know that if she has control of this situation, you know, we're not mad. We just want her home," her mother Amy said, breaking into tears. Amy and Bob Santos have not seen their daughter for six days. The couple adopted Brenda at age 5 to rescue the girl from a childhood of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. The teen attends Pelham Academy in Lexington, a school and residential treatment program where she receives medication, counseling and support for her special emotional needs. But last Friday morning, Brenda, who is supposed to be closely supervised, was allowed to walk out of the school with another student. "They have acknowledged the fact that the staff were not trained appropriately," Amy said. (Webmaster Note: If you know anything about Pelham Academy, please report to us so we can add them to the list. Thanks.) For complete story, click here.

Update: First Death by Suicide = Anthony Soltero, 14 Year-Old Son Terrorized by Vice-Principal: 04-09-2006: 14 year old Chicano who killed himself after his principle told him he was going to send him to jail for 3 years for organizing immigrant rights walkouts at his school, didn't let him take part in graduation activities, and told him he was going to fine his mother. (Webmaster Note: Public Schools are supposed to protect Constitutional Freedoms of students, not act as a police state using threats and abuse to insure conformity. Our hearts break for Anthony and his surviving family. What a sorrowful state of affairs. Ideas for actions on this? Let us know!) For complete story, click here.

2 youth camp counselors sued in abuse case: Two counselors who shoved broomsticks, a cane, a flashlight and a mop handle into the rectums of 18 boys at a youth camp were sued this week in Maricopa County Superior Court. Two victims accuse Clifton Bennett, 18, and Kyle Wheeler, 19, of committing physical and sexual assaults on boys who were attending a leadership camp in Prescott. Bennett's father, state Senate President Ken Bennett, is also named in the suit. Bennett and Wheeler were initially charged with 36 counts of kidnapping and assault. But the Yavapai County Attorney's Office last week offered Bennett and Wheeler a plea deal that could result in probation and conviction on misdemeanor charges. (Webmaster Note: This is unfortunately what happens when uneducated, unqualified, and unsupervised people are allowed charge over children. Parents beware.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.azcentral.com Date: April 12, 2006)

Man who ran program for teens in Michigan charged in Minnesota: MINNEAPOLIS The former executive director of a Minneapolis agency that works with children and families who ran a program for troubled teens in Michigan has been charged with sexually assaulting a teenager. Police say the abuse began in 2002 and the teenager was known to Richard Pahl Junior -- but NOT through his work with the Minneapolis human services organization Freeport West. Pahl has been fired. Forty-four-year-old Pahl was a director of the Link Crisis Intervention Center in Saint Joseph (Michigan) before he moved to Minnesota in December. A criminal complaint says a search of Pahl's Eden Prairie (Minnesota) house yielded 18 binders with pictures of naked boys from ages five to 16. Many of them were engaged in sexual activity with other children. (Webmaster Note: Facilities for troubled teens are not regulated by any third party or gov't agencies. This is what happens when free enterprise runs amok. We must regulate these facilities. Tell your representatives to support HR 1738, the "End Institutionalized Abuse of Children Act" now!) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.wlns.com Date: April, 2006)

Students cited for truancy at immigrant-rights rally: Sabado, 04-15-2006 : Truancy citations were handed out Friday to 28 Chaparral High students who were at an immigrant-rights rally along Rancho California Road during school hours . "We are setting the tone that in Temecula the Police Department is not going to tolerate planned truancy," Capt. Mitch Alm said. School resource officers heard Thursday about the possibility of a march and notified the school district, he said. For complete story, click here.

Military-style camps get boot after teen's death in Florida: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) -- Putting juvenile delinquents into a military-style boot camp would seem to be a logical means of transforming rough-and-tumble kids into young ladies and gentlemen. Many camps were opened in the early and mid-1990s when corrections officials were convinced it was the best method to help troubled teens mature and stay away from further problems. But that idea has fallen out of favor nationwide in the wake of research by criminologists that indicates the programs simply don't work any better than normal juvenile detention facilities. The programs faced increased criticism after 14-year-old Martin Lee Anderson died in January after he was kicked and hit by guards at a Florida Panhandle camp -- an altercation that was videotaped by camp surveillance cameras and broadcast nationally. That camp, run by the Bay County Sheriff's Office, was closed last month, but Florida still has four open, housing about 130 teens -- down from a peak of nine camps and 364 inmates about eight years ago. At the concept's peak in the mid-1990s, about 4,500 teens were housed nationally in juvenile boot camps. Some expect that downward trend to continue. "As we know boot camps today, they're not going to exist," said Florida state Rep. Gus Barreiro, chairman of the House Criminal Justice Appropriations Committee. "Intimidation- based programming ultimately has very short-term results, and what we want is long-term results." But the boot camps still have powerful supporters who say the programs work, including Gov. Jeb Bush, who said he has no intention of closing any more camps or changing their methods. (Webmaster Note: If you expect the Bush family to do anything to protect human rights or children's welfare, you are an idiot! They are in partnerships and social relationships with the most notorious child torturers in the US. They will never side with justice. They must be impeached and removed from office now!) For complete story, click here.

Students in governor's office protest boot camp death: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. A group of protesters is demanding arrests in the boot camp death of a 14-year-old -- and the protesters want to take that demand straight to Florida Governor Jeb Bush. About 30 college students took over the foyer of the governor's office in Tallahassee today. Students from Florida State University, Florida A-and-M University and Tallahassee Community College also want Bush to apologize to the boy's family. (For more on growing protests, visit: http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/14399173.htm and http://www.wftv.com/news/8887440/detail.html) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.wlns.com Date: April, 2006)

Child Abuse for Profit is Occurring in America: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."-- Article 5, U.N. Declaration of Universal Human Rights… "You wouldn't believe the terrible things that were done to me," says Alexia Parks' niece in An American Gulag. [1] But she continues: "I know now it was for my own good." Thus ends Parks' account of her struggle to help her niece after she was enrolled in several behavior modification schools. The similarity to the end of 1984 is striking: a previously headstrong individual returns from months of torture as merely a shell of their former self, having learned to love their tormentors. The difference is that Parks' story is true. Usual definitions of torture include the use of practices such as solitary confinement, non-medical application of psychiatric drugs, unprovoked beatings, starvation, and verbal abuse as means to change a person's behavior. Many Americans are reluctant to support the use these techniques even on criminals, much less teenagers with behavioral problems. Unfortunately, this is exactly what is being done on a large-scale basis as "tough-love" programs have become a booming industry. These programs come in several varieties, including boot camps, "therapeutic" boarding schools or academies, and wilderness programs. At the cost of several thousand dollars per month (up to $40,000/year), these schools supposedly provide a climate where troubled teens can continue their regular education while receiving treatments designed to improve their behavior. In the philosophy of these schools, reform involves two goals: to break kids down through strict discipline and routine, then to build them back up through self-examination and therapy of various sorts. Usually, only the former is accomplished. So successful is the breaking down process that former inmates of these institutions often suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress syndrome, even years after being freed. Ex-students call themselves, with good cause, "survivors". For complete story, click here.

License To Harm: To be a manicurist in the state of Washington, you must take 600 hours of training and pass both a written exam and a skills demonstration. To cut hair, you need 1,000 hours of training and the two tests. But to be a registered counselor, someone who will help guide troubled clients through some of their most difficult life challenges, you need take only a four-hour AIDS-awareness class. That's it — that and a $40 registration fee. You don't even need a high-school diploma. That sounds like an invitation for trouble — and it is. In the past decade, the state has sanctioned 104 registered counselors for sexual misconduct. That's more than for any other health profession, and more than the cases involving doctors, dentists and registered nurses combined. It's just a fraction of the actual incidents of abuse, since, experts say, most go unreported. "It's kind of scary," said David Kaplan, chief professional officer of the American Counseling Association, based in Virginia. "If someone who has an eighth-grade education can walk in and be a counselor, how in the world is Washington protecting the public?" For complete story, click here.

Lives Lost: Brittani Head was set to graduate from Crossroads Christian Academy in May. Shortly before Brittani died, her mom just finished paying for her senior trip to Cancun, where Brittani planned to go with some local friends, and some friends from Florida. She loved sports: soccer, softball and cheerleading, and was a big LSU tiger fan, said her dad, Glynn Head. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.theadvertiser.com Date: May 7, 2006)

Tough love: Juvenile offenders say some discipline goes too far: ...Unlike most government-regulated industries, Michigan has no clear outline of what is and is not accepted when restraining out-of-control kids in youth institutions. A state administrative rule simply prohibits "cruel and severe discipline" and "excessive chemical, mechanical or physical restraint." Nowhere does it detail what that entails. "It leaves too much open for interpretation, and when you have a lack of policy, there is more room for error," said Fred Woelmer, director of the Genesee Valley Regional Center and vice president of the Michigan Juvenile Detention Association. "It makes a difficult job even more difficult." But for the first time in more than 30 years, that rule is up for review this summer by state officials. Those in the juvenile justice field hope to see significant changes made. Adding weight to their plea are recent problems at the beleaguered Camp Highfields in rural Ingham County where the three above scenarios played out earlier this year. Counselors' reactions in two of those cases and another led to the suspension of the residential program in February and uncertainty about whether the program will continue. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.lsj.com Date: May 7, 2006)

Commentary: Behavior Modification Facilities Are Not Safe: The nation was recently shocked by the beating death of 14-year-old Martin Lee Anderson in a Florida boot camp. Sadly, this is not the first case of a death occurring in a "behavior modification" facility; in fact, there have been three deaths in such facilities throughout the country since December 2005. Although the camp that Anderson attended has recently been shut down, many similar ones are still in operation throughout the country. You've probably seen people from these programs on daytime TV. They're the "drill sergeants" that yell at kids until they break down (at least that's all they do on live TV). They say that their version of "tough love" is completely safe, and effectively treats problems such as defiance and drug use. The evidence shows otherwise. One hundred and nineteen deaths have been reported due to treatment received in these facilities. Many are caused by asphyxiation due to the use of restraints. These are not typical handcuff restraints, as you may be thinking. Some of these cases have involved arms being twisted behind the back to the point of breaking and staff members lying or sitting on top of the child for upwards of 30 minutes. Restraints are commonly used to punish such horrendous offenses as talking out of turn and making eye contact with another student. It should be noted that restraints have caused at least 30 of the 119 deaths. First-hand accounts from students and former staff members of these facilities are equally disturbing. Their statements and experiences make these facilities seem less like boot camps and more like Abu Ghraib. Stress positions, beatings, hog-tying, humiliation (including making students soil themselves), and sexual abuse are among the charges. Fox News ran a three-part expose last year on one of the main groups of facilities that operates under the name of WWASPS, or World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools. The former president of WWASPS admitted under oath, in WWASPS v. PURE, that abuse "probably" happens. In the same court case the current president of WWASPS, Ken Kay, stated that most allegations of abuse are not investigated. He further explained that because these children are not the typical "college prep type," sexual relations between staff members and students may not constitute abuse. For those who doubt this, the court transcripts are available at www.isaccorp.org. Much of the other information given above can also be verified at that site. (Webmaster Notes: You can also learn more at www.heal-online.org/childtortureusa.htm.) For complete story, click here.

More Revealed About Teen Suspect Shot by Las Vegas Police: Metro is investigating the connection between a body found in the desert over the weekend and the deadly officer involved shooting that claimed the life of a teenager. (Webmaster Note: Swuave Lopez was handcuffed and not a threat to police at the time of his death by police gunshots. Lopez was a survivor of Summit View, a "program" for troubled teens. How many kids have to suffer before something is done to stop this torture industry?) For complete story, click here.

Hope Youth Ranch Responds To Allegations of Negligence: "Our entire staff is heart broken and full of grief." Those are the words from the ministry administrator at the Hope Youth Ranch in Webster Parish. Eight former and current ranch employees were indicted Monday on charges surrounding the death a thirteen year old boy their care. The death is reminding people of recent national tragedy's involving young children sent to youth camps. In this case, the charge does not imply intent. In other words the accused did not intend to kill the boy, but they did nothing to stop it. The charge against the eight accused is negligent homicide. The allegation is denying a young boy a drink of water after making him run for bad behavior. For complete story, click here.

Families: Boot camp medical examiner covered up other deaths: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. Some Florida families are accusing a medical examiner of botched work and cover-ups. Doctor Charles Siebert is currently at the center of controversy for ruling that a teenager kicked and struck by boot camp guards died of a blood disorder. A second autopsy concluded the teen died of suffocation from having ammonia pills forced up his nose while his mouth was covered. Another family accuses Siebert of covering up the 1977 death of a suspect allegedly beaten by police. At a news conference in Tallahassee, the families called for Siebert's license to be revoked. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.kxan.com Date: May or June, 2006)

Do you know your teen?: Navigating the teenage years isn't easy for parents or their children. Adolescence brings major physical and emotional changes. Today's world has grown more connected, competitive and complex in the past generation, only adding to the challenges. But two counselors at Quincy Junior High School say that's all part of growing up. Janice Pillay and Jackie Martin conducted independent research and came up with a snapshot of what life is like for a Quincy teen. Inspired by an article in the Aug. 8, 2005, issue of Time magazine, the two counselors surveyed 1,344 students at QJHS, then compared the results with those from the magazine's online survey of 501 13-year-olds. They asked about home life, school, dating and whether they think their life is tougher than their parents' was. The exercise was aimed at improving communication between the generations by asking parents: How well do you know your teen? (Webmaster Note: How dare any parent think of institutionalizing their child instead of communicating with him/her. If you are so far removed from reality that you no longer see your child as an individual human being, you are the one who needs help. Learn basic communications skills and take a parenting class!) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.whig.com Date: May or June, 2006)

Prozac Found In System Of CYA Teen Found Dead: SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- An autopsy report on two teens who committed suicide in a California Youth Authority facility showed something that came as a big surprise to one of teen's parents. Deon Whitfield, 18, and former Stockton resident Durrell Feaster, 17, were found hanged inside a Preston youth facility dorm room in mid-January. Officials believe the acts were suicides. The autopsy report shows that at the time Feaster died, he had significant amounts of Prozac in his system. Feaster's mother, Gloria Feaster, said neither she nor her husband ever gave the California Youth Authority permission to administer such a drug. California Youth Authority officials did not comment specifically about the case Thursday, but they did explain their psychotropic drug policy for minors. The CYA says it always sends out a consent form to parents. If the parents don't respond within 21 days, a parole agent visits their home to try and gain consent. If that proves unsuccessful, the CYA can and does ask a judge to grant permission to administer drugs --like Prozac -- without the parents ever being notified. For complete story, click here.

Woman distraught: denied visit with sister at Ivy Ridge Academy: A Michigan woman drove nine hours to Ogdensburg to visit her 18 year old sister at Ivy Ridge Academy. But Rachel Stachowicz says she was turned away at the door and told to leave the grounds. "She was out of bounds," said Ivy Ridge Executive Jason Finlinson. The Academy At Ivy Ridge calls itself "a boarding school for the future." Its website says "We are a passageway to assist in the forgiveness, healing and reconciliation of families." Parents pay $30,000 per year to enroll their teenagers in the program, according to the Watertown Daily Times in a 2003 story. Stachowicz said she wanted to visit her sister Lindsey for Lindsey's 18th birthday and thought that as an adult, Lindsey would be free to receive any visitor she wanted, especially a sister. She also wanted to ask her sister whether she wanted to leave the facility. "I'm her sister," she said, her voice trembling. "Why couldn't I see my sister? She's 18; she has the right to choose to see me or not and they're saying she can't." (Webmaster Note: Apparently, you can take Ivy Ridge out of WWASPS, but you can't take WWASPS out of Ivy Ridge.) For complete story, click here.

Psychologist's trial to begin on Tuesday--Group home operator accused of practicing medicine without license.: PLYMOUTH --Associates in Clinical Psychology was supposed to be a safe place, where troubled teens could receive treatment for mental illness. But prosecutors allege that the group home was the scene of improper physical examinations performed on patients, by a man who was not licensed to perform them. On Tuesday, a jury in Marshall Superior Court will begin hearing the case leveled against psychologist Marc A. Zackheim, who is facing one Class C felony count of practicing medicine without a license and three Class B misdemeanor

counts of battery for a series of incidents that reportedly took place at the home in 2004. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.southbendtribune.com Date: June 10, 2006)

Juvenile center restrictions draw fire: CHICAGO (AP) - When the school day ends at Cook County's temporary juvenile detention center, hundreds of students must leave essential education tools behind: their textbooks. Such centers commonly prohibit the unsupervised use of hardcover books and basic school supplies like pencils out of concern the youths could use the items for violence. Child welfare advocates, however, say the rules can create a prison-like atmosphere that discourages rehabilitation. "Any facility ought to be safe and secure enough for kids to have books," said Betsy Clarke, president of the Juvenile Justice Initiative. This month, a judge appointed a former state corrections official to oversee changes at the detention center, stemming from a 2002 settlement of a lawsuit that claimed the facility was mismanaged. Juvenile advocates say some of the problems cited in the lawsuit extended into the center's classrooms. "Teachers consistently said they do not assign homework because staff do not allow the youths to bring books or even pages to come back up the unit," the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative concluded after reviewing practices at the facility in December. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.fresnobee.com Date: June 21, 2006)

Rough Love: Shannon Levy-Rowley is 21 years old and five feet seven inches tall. She weighs 108 pounds. During the past five and a half years, she has endured three major surgeries and diets ranging from fourteen weeks of consuming only liquids to sipping blended meals through a straw. But the brunet's meager weight has nothing to do with a tummy tuck or an eating disorder. In December 2000, Shannon's parents, Jayne Levy and James Rowley of Coral Springs, enrolled their only child in Tranquility Bay (TB), a boarding school in Jamaica for troubled teens. "I was smoking pot, I was popping pills, drinking, doing acid, just experimenting with everything 'cause I was just really unhappy with my life," Shannon says. Tuition would cost almost $40,000 annually, but after attending a support meeting in South Miami and speaking with families who claimed the school had done a lot for their children, Jayne signed an enrollment agreement granting TB custodial rights. "It got very good reviews, and Shannon needed to go somewhere," Jayne laments. "I was fearing for her life." On a mild winter day about two weeks after the Rowleys signed up, three people Shannon had never met arrived at the family's home. "A lady and two big men came into my house and sat me down on the sofa," Shannon recalls. "They handcuffed me and said I could cooperate or they were gonna throw me over their shoulder." The group drove to the airport and boarded a plane. The journey ended in Treasure Beach, a remote hamlet on Jamaica's southern coast, where Shannon spent the next thirteen months. She describes it as an unforgettable nightmare and recalls being severely depressed, crying constantly, and within one week of arrival, trying to throw herself off a second-story balcony. Shortly after her failed suicide attempt in early 2001, Shannon alleges staff aggressively restrained her when she took a swing at one of them. "One staff held my arms behind my back when I was standing up so I couldn't grab onto anything," she says. "Another staff ripped my feet out from underneath me so I fell with all my weight right onto my chin. I immediately started gushing blood everywhere, but that didn't stop them. They still continued restraining me." Jayne Levy contends she wasn't told of the severity of Shannon's problems until school officials telephoned on Christmas eve 2001 to say, "You have to come and pick up your daughter; she can't open her mouth to eat. " Shannon could barely open her mouth wide enough to insert a toothbrush, mother and daughter agree. They claim the injuries were largely untreated and consequently Shannon's condition deteriorated. (She has lost about 40 pounds since sustaining the injury.) (Webmaster Note: WWASP tortures children and should be closed down immediately!) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.miaminewtimes.com Date: June 22, 2006)

State wards denied parole rights given to adult inmates, suit alleges: SACRAMENTO (AP) - About 4,000 juvenile offenders are routinely denied the parole rights granted to adult convicts accused of violating their parole, lawyers said in a class-action lawsuit filed Wednesday in federal district court in Sacramento. An earlier court settlement requires the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and parole board to supply adult parolees with legal representation and probable cause hearings. The settlement also requires officials to consider alternatives to sending adult parolees back to prison if they are found to have violated conditions of their parole. But young parole violators can be sent back to youth prisons without those protections, the suit alleges. Nearly half of all young parolees are reincarcerated within two years, the inmate rights attorneys said. "Youth can be warehoused at one of the terrible juvenile detention facilities for months before they receive any hearing, even for technical violations of parole such as drinking alcohol," Michael Bien, one of the attorneys, said in announcing the suit. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.fresnobee.com Date: June 22, 2006)

Youth facility faked records-Detention center workers missed required training, monitor reports: Officials at a state-run juvenile detention center in Prince George's County falsified records for more than a year to make it look as if workers were getting training, required by law, on how to deal with the troubled youths housed there, an independent monitor has found. In response to the findings by the state Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit, a spokesman for the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services said the training coordinator at the Cheltenham Youth Facility was dismissed last week and officials are reviewing training practices elsewhere to see whether similar problems exist at other juvenile jails and youth treatment centers. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.baltimoresun.com Date: June 29, 2006)

WWASP Slammed by Federal Court: SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (July 9, 2006) – The World Wide Association of Specialty Programs (WWASP), a highly controversial and monster-size corporation, with a reputation for crushing everyday moms and dads, lost yet again--this time in the U.S. Court of Appeals. Jeff Berryman, a Pennsylvania advocate for children, was vindicated in his efforts to blow the whistle on WWASP for child abuse, neglect, and fraud. Robert Browning Lichfield, the founder and self-described consultant to WWASP, met those claims of abuse by dragging Mr. Berryman into Utah with a lawsuit designed to silence him once and for all. Mr. Berryman, however, prevailed. The Federal Court of Appeals gave examples of news media description of child abuse and neglect at World Wide schools: “[T]he news magazine 48 Hours reported a child’s allegation that he had been handcuffed for two consecutive days and had his mouth covered in duct tape. The Miami Herald ran an article describing a mother’s report that her teenager came home from a World Wide school with ringworm scars and chemical burns. Forbes Magazine reported that children were punched, kicked, thrown, and forced to sit on cement floors for twelve hours at a time. The teenager quoted in the article also claimed that students who tried to flee from such punishment were locked in a small cell for days.” For complete story, click here.

Update: Highfields Reopens Doors: Four months after closing its doors, Highfields is open for business. The residential treatment center finally re-opened. In February, claims of abuse forced Highfields to temporarily shut the facility down. The first new tenants are arriving. (Webmaster Note: This is the main problem. Even when programs are proven to be abusive, after a slap on the wrist, they get to re-open and continue harming kids. This has to stop. Real criminal and civil penalties should be imposed on these greedy child abusers.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.wlns.com Date: July 11, 2006)

Comment: Bad discipline hits too many students: Texas may be known for its oil and gas pipelines, but the newest Texas pipeline funnels children from schools to prison, by way of alternative education programs and juvenile detention centers. While students who present a danger to classmates must be segregated, too many students are falling into this pipeline. The Legislature must stem the tide of schoolchildren who are being unnecessarily written up and written off. For complete story, click here.

Man defied order, saw Youth Ranch girl: A 20-year-old Nashville man accused of having sex with a female minor at the Youth Ranch in Lebanon had been ordered to stay away from her, court records show. Christopher Carver is mentioned by name as the person barred from any contact with the 15-year-old girl during her stay at the privately run facility for troubled teens, according to court documents. Carver was arrested Thursday on a charge of statutory rape, Lebanon Police Chief Scott Bowen said. Two other adults wanted in the case are: Amy Morrison-King, 40, a former Youth Ranch worker accused of bringing men to the workplace to have sex with teens; and Geary Jackson, 24, accused of having sex with a juvenile at the ranch. "Apparently, there was some kind of involvement between the two before," Bowen said referring to Carver and one of the girls. Youth Ranch is a nonprofit program that the state Department of Children's Services has used for several years to work with and house children and teens who were neglected or convicted of minor crimes. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.fairvewobserver.com Date: July 14, 2006)

Controversy surrounds Tranquility Bay: Since 2002 the Cayman Islands Government has quietly been sending troubled youth to a high security privately run educational institution in Jamaica called Tranquility Bay. The facility treats special cases as an alternative to juvenile detention on Grand Cayman. The first young Caymanian was sent at the family’s request in 2001. The Cayman Islands Government has since sent five young people; three boys and two girls over the past five years. The last government–funded student left in July 2005. Health and Family Services Minister Anthony Eden has confirmed that despite the fact that no students are currently at the facility, the Ministry has no intention of eliminating the just–in–case Tranquility Bay funding of $30,000 allocated in this year’s budget...Billed to have a positive effect on troubled young people aged 13 to 18 going through problems associated with the difficult teen years, the Tranquility Bay website states it is a “specialty boarding school and therapeutic behavioural modification facility, with an excellent academic program and therapy for kids who have been very defiant and hard to manage . . .” The site describes how its program opens up new ways to help young people build character in order to achieve family peace and harmony. The facility opened in 1997 and is in a remote area of Treasure Beach near St. Elizabeth, west of Kingston, on the premises of a former oceanfront hotel. It is owned and operated by the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools, a 19–year old organization that holds about 2,400 children and youth ranging from seven to 18 in facilities in the United States, Jamaica and Mexico. The benign name masks a different reality: In the past four years, five WWASP facilities, Casa by the Sea, Sunrise Beach and High Impact, all in Mexico, Dundee Ranch in Costa Rica, Morava in Czech Republic, and Paradise Cove in Western Samoa, have all been shut down for child abuse and neglect. The

High Impact Mexico operation was shut down when investigators discovered children being held in dog cages in the desert, reported John Gorenfeld of AlterNet. Chris Goodwin of San Francisco said his son was forced to stay outside in his underpants for three nights at the Mexico facility, lying on his stomach with his chin on the ground. If he moved to try to brush off fire ants that roamed over him, he was threatened with a cattle prod, said Goodwin. The punishment left scars on his son's chin, he said in a news story in the Rocky Mountain (Colorado) News in January 2002. For complete story, click here.

Rep. Matheson holds big money edge: ...Christensen received $12,000 from the Lichfield family of southern Utah, owners of several treatment facilities for troubled teens. The Campaign for America's Future donated $5,000 to his campaign. And the two-term state legislator collected donations from several of his GOP legislative colleagues, including Draper Rep. Greg Hughes, Spanish Fork Rep. Mike Morley, St. George Rep. Brad Last and Kanab Rep. Mike Noel. (Webmaster Note: With the GOP in the back pocket of child torturers, it's no wonder why more isn't done to stop this evil industry.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.sltrib.com Date: July 15, 2006)

Police search for missing teens, 14 and 19: NEWPORT, N.H. --Newport Police are looking for a 14-year-old boy and 19-year-old woman believed to have left the state together. Chief David Hoyt said police are seeking leads on the whereabouts of Randy Gentner of Salem, who ran away from a group home in Newport on Wednesday. Hoyt believes Gentner met up last week with Jennifer Newcomb of Croydon, a teacher's aide at his middle school. Police have issued an arrest warrant for Newcomb on a charge of interference of parental custody, taking a minor over state lines without permission. Newcomb's car was found on Saturday night in Lime Rock, Conn. The two are believed to have traveled through New York City and on their way to Florida or Mexico, said Rodney Forey of New Hampshire Juvenile Justice Services. Police in Ocala, Fla., were asked to check the bus and train stations for the pair. Gentner's parents said they're worried about their son. The teenager had been receiving court-ordered drug and depression counseling at the Orion House in Newport, WMUR-TV reported. Letters written by Gentner were found in Newcomb's bedroom, but authorities aren't sure what the nature of their relationship is. "There's nothing we've uncovered that says they're involved in an intimate relationship," Hoyt said. "In fact, we have just the opposite -- that it's more a mother-son-type relationship." For complete story, click here.

WWASPS Back in Court: SYRACUSE, NY (July 28, 2006) Attorney Christopher Todd of Hancock & Estabrook, LLP, confirmed their firm filed a class-action lawsuit Tuesday on behalf of 25 plaintiffs and against Academy of Ivy Ridge, WWASPS, Robert Lichfield, Lifeline Family Services, Premier Educational Systems, Jason Finlinson, among others (see link to Complaint below.) Plaintiffs alleged in their Complaint that defendants fraudulently advertised Academy of Ivy Ridge (AIR) as an accredited boarding school licensed to issue credits and diplomas to its students. AIR allegedly falsely and fraudulently certified to educational lending institutions, including Sallie Mae and Key Bank, that they were a licensed and accredited private boarding high school authorized by the State of New York to issue diplomas in order that parents could qualify for restricted educational loans to pay their monthly tuition of about $2,800 to $4,000. Jason Finlinson, Alyn Mitchell, and Joseph Mitchell, allegedly failed to operate under the laws of the State of NY. Robert Lichfield allegedly purchased the property for AIR and used his personal connections with Ivy Ridge's accreditation agency, Northwest Assoc. of Schools, to blindly allow WWASP to claim accreditation though they did not meet Northwest's own standards. For complete story, click here.

Christian Military Academy's Training and Leadership Corps campout. The students, who are around ages 9 to 15, had been camping since Wednesday, Lynda Browne, the school's principal and owner, told the South Florida Sun-Sentinel for Sunday's edition. The boy got out of bed in the middle of the night to tell a drill sergeant he didn't feel well, Browne said. He boy collapsed on the way to the restroom. For complete story, click here.

Teen Boot Camp Cadet Dies During Orientation in Florida: NORTH MIAMI, Florida — A 13-year-old cadet at a private military academy died during an orientation camping trip, the school's principal said. Authorities rushed the child from Oleta State Park to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead Saturday, North Miami police said. The cause of death was undetermined, pending a medical examiner's report, police said. No additional information was released. The boy was one of 33 cadets attending the Back to Basics . For complete story, click here.

For parents and kids: Summary: How does a parent deal with a child who has behavior, alcohol or drug problems? Boot camp-style programs have tried to deal with these issues through participant isolation, hard labor, restraints, name-calling, humiliation, sleep and food deprivation and hiking into the wilderness or desert. These programs often hire kids off the street to be counselors working for minimum wage. Some workers, she discovered, had criminal records or little training, education and experience with troubled children. She says it was rare if there was even a psychologist on the grounds. Among the programs she tackles are Synanon, Tough Love, The Seed, Straight Incorporated, the Challenger Camp, Elan School, KIDS and World Wide Association of Specialty Programs (WWASP). Public officials including Nancy Reagan promoted these programs in the 1980s as the solution to drug abuse. Talk shows used them to teach ungrateful rich kids how to behave, and other media outlets publicized boot camps as a miraculous cure. Some children were sent because they admitted to being gay. Parents thought the camps could "straighten their children out" and make them heterosexual. Szalavitz examines these programs through the eyes of the children who endured them. She also speaks to parents of children who died horrific deaths in these programs. There were about 30 kids who died, many of them because counselors had little training to deal with desert conditions and lack of water. Szalavitz investigates the lack of education provided to these kids during camp. She also looks at the way panic-stricken parents are manipulated into sending their children. For complete story, click here.

Foster Boy's Death Ruled Homicide: Foster Boy's Death Ruled Homicide The Wayne County Medical Examiner has ruled the death of a 2-year-old boy at a Detroit foster home was a homicide, Local 4 reported. Isaac Lethbridge suffered bruises to his face and burn marks to his chest, according to police. Police said there was also evidence that he was sexually assaulted. The child was dead on arrival at Children's Hospital Wednesday, according to police. Emergency crews said the toddler stopped breathing. he child was living at the foster home for more than a month along with his 4-year-old sister, according to police. Child Protective Services removed the sister and several other children from the home, Local 4 reported. No arrests have been made in connection with the boy's death. For complete story, click here.

Rights group sues youth hall-Suit claims abuse and neglect, asks for reforms: A lawsuit filed Monday by a prisoners rights group claims that Sacramento County juvenile hall is filthy and overcrowded and that its staff members routinely douse teens with pepper spray and grind their faces into the floor. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.sacbee.com Date: August 30, 2006)

Troubling Times for Troubled Teens: A jury will likely decide whether a counselor at the Ella J. Baker House raped a 17-year-old in one of the center's bathrooms, as she alleges. But do we really need any more evidence to prove the Rev. Eugene Rivers has lost control of the ex-cons working at the Baker House under his supervision and serving as "role models" for troubled kids who come to the center for help? (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://news.bostonherald.com Date: August or September, 2006)

Behavior Modification Money Trail: The controversial world of youth behavior-modification facilities intersects with a web of intricate political connections. And where the treatment industry sees cooperation with government entities, activists warn, these links could cloud the prospects for public oversight of the "teen-help" market. The influence of the behavior-modification industry is felt on Capitol Hill. Four members of the House of Representatives and one senator serve as honorary board members of Kids Helping Kids, a company with corporate links to a now-defunct behavior-modification program for teen drug users known as Straight Incorporated. The various franchises of that program dissolved in the early 1990s following allegations of child abuse, as well as criticism for using cruel, prisoner-of-war-style brainwashing techniques on adolescents. For complete story, click here.

The Franklin Scandal Tried in Civil Court: U.S. government mind control programs, like MK-Ultra and Monarch, directed against helpless victims--human guinea pigs--have been virtually ignored by the Big Media Cartel. On Feb. 27, 1999, however, U.S. District Court Judge Warren Urbom found former Franklin S&L; manager Lawrence E. King guilty of numerous crimes committed against mind control victim Paul A. Bonacci. King, serving a 15-year sentence for his role in the theft of $40 million from Franklin, an Omaha, Neb., credit union, was ordered by Judge Urbom to pay Bonacci $800,000 in compensatory damages and an additional $200,000 in punitive damages. This legal judgement against a notorious perpetrator of satanic-ritual child abuse is unprecedented. In the Memorandum of Decision, Judge Urbom wrote, "King continually subjected the plaintiff [Bonacci] to repeated sexual assaults, false imprisonment, infliction of extreme emotional distress, organized and directed satanic rituals, forced the plaintiff to 'scavenge' for children to be a part of the defendant King's sexual abuse and pornography ring, forced the plaintiff to engage in numerous sexual contacts with the defendant King and others and participate in deviate sexual games and masochistic orgies with other minor children. "He [Bonacci] has suffered burns, broken fingers, beatings of the head and face and other indignities by the wrongful actions of the defendant King," the judge declared. "In addition to the misery of going through the experiences just related over a period of eight years [1980-1988], the plaintiff has suffered the lingering results to the present time. "He [Bonacci] is a victim of multiple personality disorder, involving as many as 14 distinct personalities aside from his primary personality," wrote the judge. "He has given up a desired military career and received threats on his life. He suffers from sleeplessness, has bad dreams, has difficulty holding a job, is fearful that others are following him, fears getting killed, has depressing flashbacks, and is verbally violent on occasion, all in connection with the multiple personality disorder and caused by the wrongful activities of the defendant King." Franklin Cover-up--Bonacci's lawyer, John DeCamp, has waged a long, lonely and expensive legal campaign in exposing crimes involving an international pedophile-pornography ring. In 1991, DeCamp filed a 12-count suit in federal court, charging 16 prominent individuals and

institutions, including Lawrence E. King, Omaha World Herald Publisher Harold Andersen and the Omaha Police Department with conspiracy to deprive Paul Bonacci of his civil rights. DeCamp's suit detailed slander, false imprisonment, child abuse, assault, battery and infliction of emotional distress suffered by Bonacci. The complex case also involved high-level politicians, business leaders, judges and police officials with connections to the drug distribution/money laundering operations known as "Iran" -Contra which goes back to then Vice-President George Bush. DeCamp, a former Nebraska State Senator, even wrote a groundbreaking book about the sordid history of the case called The Franklin Cover-Up: Child Abuse, Satanism and Murder in Nebraska. Monarch Project--The horrendous Monarch Project "refers to young people in America who were victims of mind control experiments run either by U.S. government agencies such as the Central Intelligence Agency or military intelligence agencies," writes DeCamp. "The story told by Monarch victims--one of whom was Paul Bonacci--is that they were tortured for the purpose of creating 'multiple personalities' within them," DeCamp continues from his book. "These multiple personalities could then be programmed--as spies, 'drug mules,' prostitutes or assassins." An article by Anton Chaitkin, quoted in the book, states that "professionals probing the child victims of 'Monarch' say there are clearly two responsible elements at work: the government/military, and cooperating satanic cults. These are multi-generation groups, whose parents donate their own children--who are proudly called 'bloodline' or simply 'blood' cultists--to be smashed with drugs and electric shock and shaped. Other children are kidnapped and sold into this hell, or are brought in gradually through day care situations. For complete story, click here.

Congress Considering Strip Searching Students --Congress to vote on HR 5295 Tuesday or Wednesday 18 Sep 2006 (drugpolicy.org) The Student Teacher Safety Act of 2006 (HR 5295) is a sloppily written bill that would require any school receiving federal funding (essentially every public school) to adopt policies allowing teachers and school officials to conduct random, warrantless searches of every student, at any time, for essentially any reason they want. These searches could be pat-downs, bag searches, or strip searches depending on how far school administrators wanted to go. For complete story, click here.

Guard accused of sex with juvenile girl is fired State Police will conduct criminal investigation of case at former Girls School: A state prison guard was fired Wednesday after he was accused of having sexual contact with a girl at the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility on the city's Far Westside. Octavious Tyler, 25, was terminated after an internal affairs investigation at the state-run facility, formerly called the Indiana Girls School. The case has been handed over to the Indiana State Police for a criminal investigation, as well as Child Protective Services. The Department of Correction did not disclose when the contact occurred, whether it happened more than once or any details about the girl involved, including her age. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.indystar.com Date: September 22, 2006)

Governor planning a frugal campaign: Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr...Since the last disclosure deadline, the special projects fund reported raising $40,000 from Utah's dietary supplement industry, $10,000 from Robert Lichfield, founder of a controversial chain of schools for troubled teens, and $25,000 each from Ian Cumming's Leucadia National Corporation and venture capitalist James Swartz. Huntsman used the money to cover much of his out-of-state travel, the cost of holiday receptions at the Governor's Mansion, a state dinner for outgoing Mexican President Vicente Fox and for china plates and coasters emblazoned with the Utah State seal for Asian ambassadors. After paying more than $8,000 in accounting fees, another $6,100 for a business summit at the Davis Convention Center and $15,300 to Huntsman for Governor, the special initiatives fund has $101,000 in cash on hand. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.sltrib.com Date: September, 2006)

Teens Killed By Train Identified As Azleway Runaways: Officials confirm two teens, killed by a train in Hawkins, were runaways from Azleway Boys' Ranch, a facility for troubled boys in Chapel Hill. Officials say they were Harry Rutledge, 15, of Bestrop and Chris Hill, 17, of Dallas. Officials say the teens had been living at Azleway for the past few weeks, but ran away last Saturday, hiding out behind Hawkins High School in a pine thicket. For complete story, click here.

Report: Girls Are Abused in Jail: A new report says girls at New York's two detention facilities for juvenile females are sexually and physically abused by staff members. They are also denied mental health, educational and other rehabilitative services. Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union released the report. The inmates, ages 13 to 17, are in for offenses ranging from shoplifting to assault. For complete story, click here.

Finding The "Straight Edge" In Fiji: The $14 million psychological thriller "Straight Edge" starts shooting October 2nd in Fiji with Peter Stormare, Mila Kunis and Gregory Smith headlining reports Variety. Story's about a group of troubled teens sent to a rehabilitation program housed in a remote camp on the island of Fiji. What their parents believe is a state-of-the-art deluxe institution in a beautiful natural environment turns out to be a prison- like boot camp where they are abused and brainwashed. (Webmaster Note: Art imitates life. This film's name was changed to "Boot Camp") For complete story, click here.

State Supreme Court says no right of jury trial for juveniles: The Tennessee Supreme Court has overturned a 36-year-old ruling by a state appellate court that said juveniles can appeal their convictions to an adult court system and have the case decided by a jury. The appellate court first issued the ruling in 1970. A year later, however, the U.S. Supreme Court opined that the U.S. Constitution did not guarantee a jury trial for appealing juveniles. Despite that decision, Tennessee's courts continued to uphold a juvenile's right to a jury trial. (Unable to locate complete story at time of archiving. Source: www.tennessean.com Date: September 28, 2006)

Supporters rally for teen who killed grandparents: A woman who says Christopher Pittman changed her life held a vigil on the steps of the South Carolina Supreme Court on Wednesday night, the eve of the teen's appeal of his murder conviction for killing his grandparents when he was 12 years old. "We're going to show support to Chris, and his family and the attorneys," said Janet Sisk, director of the North Carolina-based Juvenile Justice Foundation. "It's kinda like it's coming full circle." Pittman was convicted last year of murder in the 2001 shooting deaths of his grandparents in their Chester County home and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Defense attorneys argued that Pittman, who was 12 at the time of the slayings, was involuntarily intoxicated by the antidepressant Zoloft and did not know right from wrong. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.thestate.com Date: April 9, 2007)

School Says Police, Social Services Will Snatch Kids Of Late Parents Indiana junior high threatens prison custody if child not picked up on time from mandatory homework class: A junior high school in Indiana threatens parents with police and child protective service involvement if they fail to pick up their child on time after mandatory Friday classes for missed homework. Outraged parents forwarded us a letter from the Tell City Junior High School in Indiana in which they were given a days notice that their child had to attend a Friday class to catch up on missed homework. The letter stated in bold that if a parent didn't arrive at the agreed time to pick up their child, "arrangements have been made with the Tell City Police Department to have them housed at the police station." The letter then states that intervention by the police will also necessitate involvement of the Perry County Office of Family and Children. For complete story, click here.

New claims of abuse at boys camp: GREENVILLE - Three separate state agencies are investigating whether caretakers used banned, excessive and harmful restraints at a camp for delinquent boys, some of whom are mentally retarded or have other special needs. At least one youth might have suffered a broken collarbone at the Greenville Hills Academy in Greenville just last week, according to records obtained by The Miami Herald. One 16-year-old claimed he was ``choked." And in another episode, guards also reported using a technique called a wrist lock that was banned two years ago by Anthony Schembri, secretary of the state Department of Juvenile Justice, an agency still reeling from the death of a 14year-old at another Panhandle facility earlier this year. For complete story, click here.

Parents of child-sex suspect ran youth home: TORONTO -- Michael Stratton knew how to identify with troubled kids -- he'd spent a lot of time around them. The Globe and Mail has learned that the man now facing almost 300 charges in connection with alleged sexual abuse of children spent several months living in a home for troubled children in Richmond Hill. Mr. Stratton, in his early 20s at the time, wasn't there because he was sent by an aid agency or because he was employed there, but because his parents ran the home and he needed a place to stay. Police now fear the 39-year-old may have learned how to build trust with troubled children from his time at the home in the 1980s. His mother and stepfather, who ran the Richmond Hill home for 14 years until 2000, were described by those who knew them as exemplary foster parents to children over the years. And those who met Mr. Stratton during his time at the home had no suspicions he may have been involved in anything criminal. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.theglobeandmail.com Date: October 26, 2006)

Teen referred to ex-officer as his girlfriend: The former Elkhorn boot camp officer accused of having a relationship with a teenage cadet had a reputation for being intimate with cadets at the juvenile facility, the boy told police in reports issued Tuesday. Adriana Rivera pleaded no contest in August to a felony charge of accessory after the fact and a misdemeanor charge of obstructing police. She was sentenced to three years of probation and four months in a work-furlough program. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.fresnobee.com Date: November 1, 2006)

Teen Accused In Counselor's Death Finishes Testing: SALT LAKE CITY A teen accused in the rape and slaying of a youth counselor has completed his psychological testing. However, 17-year-old Robert Cameron Houston's lawyer says he needs two more weeks to work out a trial schedule with prosecutors. Houston is charged with capital murder in connection with the February killing of 22-year-old Raechale Elton. She worked for an agency that housed and counseled troubled teens. The teen also faces rape and aggravated sexual assault. His next court appearance is set for November 14th. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.kutv.com Date: November, 2006)

Foster parent pleads guilty to sex assault: Kenneth Charles "Ken!" Puhler, a Durango resident who trained adults who worked with troubled teens and took in at least 130 foster children, has pleaded guilty to sexual assault on a child in a position of trust. Puhler, 50, formerly sheriff of Dolores County, pleaded guilty to one of 10 counts and was sentenced Nov. 1 to 10 years to life in prison, according to court documents. If he is released, he will be placed on parole for 20 years to life. As part of the plea

agreement, District Attorney Craig Westberg dropped the other nine counts, which alleged abuse of children younger than 15 as far back as 1993. In return, Puhler stipulated that he sexually abused a 14-year-old boy who was in his care as a foster child in February 2004, and that "there were various times, both previous and subsequent to this event, when the defendant had sexual contact" with the boy. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://durangoherald.com Date: November 7, 2006)

Sexual exploitation trial begins for ex-youth worker: A lawyer defending a former Batshaw youth worker charged with abusing his authority by having sex with troubled teens tried Wednesday to stop the media from publishing details of the trial, including her client's name. But Quebec Court Judge Gilles Cadieux rejected the request, saying the argument that publication could damage Evon Smith's future career prospects could apply to anyone accused of a crime. Smith faces charges of sexual exploitation, sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching involving two teens from a Batshaw group home. For complete story, click here.

Just Listen: ..."You know," Elaine Roberts told Denton, "as parents we're so used to staying positive. Instead stop and say, 'What do you mean by that?' How does that make you feel?' They might not answer you because teens are very private. But just maybe they will." In the flash of that remark, I saw my own shortcomings. I realized how guilty I have been at times of not really listening to people – my children in particular – but instead of simply jumping in with proposed solutions to their problems, or stock reassurances. In this, I know, I am not alone: Roberts is right – parents want to stay positive and want to fix things. But there's a lot to be said for simply listening, asking gently probing questions, and listening some more. Unfortunately, many of us are not very good at it. And as a rule, we seem to be getting worse with each passing year. I'm not just talking about listening to troubled teens or depressed friends. I'm talking about our capacity to listen in all spheres of life... (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.portfolioweekly.com Date: November, 2006)

Guidance counselor charged with molesting teen: A guidance counselor who, investigators say, molested a 16-year-old girl at a Hollywood center for troubled teens is now facing jail time. Felman Reddick, 41, abused the girl at the Starting Point, the non-profit agency where he worked at the time, said Capt. Tony Rode, a Hollywood police spokesman. The center provides rehabilitation and counseling services for local youth. Reddick is charged with six counts of unlawful sexual acts with a minor, Rode said. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.miami.com Date: 2006)

Eight Charged With Manslaughter In Florida Boot Camp Death: PANAMA CITY, FLA---Seven former guards at a now closed Bay County juvenile boot camp and a nurse have been charged with aggravated manslaughter in the death of Martin Lee Anderson, the teenager who died in January while in custody at the camp. For complete story, click here.

Ivy Ridge Academy accreditation rejected: The Academy at Ivy Ridge will not be allowed to resume issuing high school diplomas. The State Education Department has rejected the Academy's application, according to stories Friday in St. Lawrence County newspapers and The Watertown Times. A letter from the State Education Department to Ivy Ridge quoted in the Watertown Times says, "The Department's review revealed that AIR is principally a behavior modification program and not a school..." For complete story, click here.

Second suit hits juvenile facility: As one major lawsuit against the Sacramento County juvenile hall nears an end, with millions of dollars promised to teens who were strip-searched, another suit is gaining momentum that claims a culture of abuse and neglect prevails at the hall. Together, the suits highlight a history of problems at the crowded, understaffed and aging facility on Kiefer Boulevard, say the civil rights lawyers who filed the complaints. So far, nearly one-third of the 8,000 juveniles who were strip-searched have applied for payments under a $6.28 million court settlement, a response rate that Sacramento attorney Mark Merin, who filed the suit, said is unusually high. The deadline for applying is Jan. 8. Search practices have been changed, but Merin said serious problems persist at juvenile hall. "They're overwhelmed, and they don't have a good, productive method of dealing with the kids who are incarcerated, " Merin said. "Instead they're just sort of warehousing them, and it doesn't lead to positive results." (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.sacbee.com Date: Uncertain--Likely Late 2006)

Woman kidnapped teenager by seducing him, prosecutor says: NASHUA, New Hampshire: A woman who ran off to Florida with her teenage lover entrapped the 16-year-old with sex, a prosecutor said as her trial on kidnapping charges opened Tuesday. A national search for the couple ended in June when a worker at a bus depot saw them "making out." "This case is about a 32-year-old woman enticing, befriending and seducing a 16-year-old boy," Assistant Hillsborough County Attorney Justin Shepherd said. Jennifer Malone is charged with kidnapping Christopher Cole, whom she met while working as a teacher's assistant at a residential school for troubled teens. For complete story, click here.

The Trouble with Troubled Teen Programs--How the "boot camp" industry tortures and kills kids: ...Every time a child dies in a tough love program, politicians say—as Florida Gov. Jeb Bush initially did on hearing of Anderson's death—that it is "one tragic incident" that should not be used to justify shutting such programs down. But there have now been nearly three dozen such deaths and thousands of reports of severe abuse in programs that use corporal punishment, brutal emotional attacks, isolation, and physical restraint in an attempt to reform troubled teenagers. Tough love has become a billion-dollar industry. Several hundred programs, both public and private, use the approach. Somewhere between 10,000 and 100,000 teenagers are currently held in treatment programs based on the belief that adolescents must be broken (mentally, and often physically as well) before they can be fixed. Exact numbers are impossible to determine, because no one keeps track of the kids in these programs, most of which are privately run. The typical way to end up in a government-run program, such as the camp where Martin Lee Anderson was killed, is for a court to give you the option of going there instead of prison. The typical way to end up in a private program is to be sent there by your parents, though judges and public schools have been known to send kids to private boot camps as well. Since they offer "treatment," some of the private centers are covered by health insurance. For complete story, click here.

Police ponder arrests of teens: ..."That's why it's important for parents to listen to their children. Be involved with them. Watch them. Watch their friends. Be respected as a parent. Give then a deadline, and make them stick to it." About 21 percent of the more than 2 million juvenile arrests in 2003 were for burglary or larceny-theft, according to the 2006 National Report of Juvenile Offenders and Victims, published by the U.S. Department of Justice. The study defines juveniles as ages 10 through 17. Smith said troubled teens could benefit from parental attention... (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.myrtlebeachonline.com Date: January 8th, 2007)

Troubled times at youth facility: The Berkshire Farm residential center for troubled teens is under investigation by the attorney general's office as former staffers and at least one former resident claim the institution continues to be plagued by sporadic violence and, some say, poor supervision of the residents there. Among the problems: One youngster's parents went days before they were told he had tried to commit suicide. In another instance, a grandmother didn't learn for months that her grandson had run away from the facility. "I was worried sick. I thought maybe he was dead," said Elaine Fiske. Located in rural Canaan, Columbia County, Berkshire Farm has long been known as a progressive facility for young men aged 12 to 17 who have been sent there by family courts across the state. The farm includes residential and educational programs. Some of the clients are juvenile delinquents; some suffer emotional disturbances or were chronically truant. Others may come from unstable families. Approximately 150 youngsters live there, although there have been as many as 250. The farm made headlines in 2005 when the board of directors said it had hired a former federal prosecutor, Zachary Carter, to investigate allegations of drug dealing and sexual abuse at the center. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://timesunion.com Date: January 21, 2007)

Pregnant Girls Attack Group Home Director, Escape: Three pregnant teens living in a group home in Utah whacked the director in the head with a frying pan, tied her up and fled in a minivan, police said. According to a report by CBS affiliate KUTV-TV in Salt Lake City, the girls, two 15-year-olds and a 16-year-old, are from California, Texas and Illinois. Police believe they left the state after restraining the director with power cords Tuesday and tying up another pregnant teen. The director "was able to break free and then she went up and untied the 17-year-old female and then they contacted the police," American Fork police Sgt. Shauna Greening said. New Hope, a privately owned maternity home in Utah County, is a place for struggling pregnant teens, 30 miles south of Salt Lake City. Girls attend school in the area and are taught prenatal care, child birth, adoption and parenting skills. A call to a phone number listed for New Hope went unanswered Thursday. But the owner, Spencer Moody, tearfully told a Salt Lake City TV station that he would close the rural home. He said about two dozen girls had given birth after living at New Hope. (Webmaster Note: Rumor has it that the directors of New Hope are affiliated with WWASP. WWASP is notorious for torturing children. No wonder these girls felt desperate to escape.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.topix.net Date: January 19th, 2007)

The REAL School?: Brian was so doped up on something that he could not keep his head up. He slumped over the desktop. The bottom line was that he had taken too many Valium before coming to the REAL School. "REAL" equals "Regional Educational Alternative Learning" and the building is located in South Windham, ME. That's where I tried to teach. The school's director phoned Brian's mother at her work. That meant she had to take time off, drive to the school, and somehow get her son to slosh himself into her car for a ride home. Was this the first time she had been called at her work about her son? No. Of course if Brian had been in his clear head, I had no teaching materials by which to see through another day at this alternative learning school. It was alternative learning all right. It was so alternative that it fell off the charts. As teaching staff, we had a shared stapler, some chalk, erasers, no textbooks, no teachers' manuals, no supportive supplies, a meager stash of lined paper,

pencils and pens. There were a few cast off computers that tried to work. No wonder the Superintendent of Schools praised the director for being the most outstanding alternative learning head in the state. That was even printed in the local newspaper. After all, he kept below budget. There was rarely a visit from anyone close to the Superintendent's office. We basically were left to warehouse these troubled teens on our own. If one of the bureaucrats came into the school, it was a swift in and out. I would see the car drive up to the building, a well- dressed individual disembark, and then climb the stumps for stairs. (The school was a very old brick building buried in a residential neighborhood). Then that educator would click heels down the hallway, disappear into the director's office, and in short order reappear for exiting. When I was hired at that school, I actually felt that I could make a difference in teen lives. So I gave it my all. It takes some time for naivete to strip away until there is nothing left but bald, needling facts. With that, I trudged on. Because there were no teaching supplies, I went to the shopping mall where homeschoolers bought their materials. I purchased the paperback math, English and spelling texts. Then I duplicated the pages on the school's copy machine to use as handouts to pupils. That's how I managed to get through lessons. When I presented the receipt for the purchases to the director's secretary, she looked up with a scowl to ask if I really needed to spend that much. The amount was less than fifteen dollars. The director was an Australian. He sported quite the charming accent as well as packaged his own brand of vulgarity. Somehow his potty mouth did not seem to turn off the Superintendent's office. With such charisma, he managed to hoodwink the officialdom, slip far below budget, and thereby hoist the teaching burden sans materials onto frazzled teachers. When I asked him one day how I could teach with nothing to teach with, director responded by saying that that was what made the alternative learning school so marvelously different from other schools. We were left with our own unique creative skills, our sparkly imaginations by which we could manufacture our own curricula. So it was that teachers daily bent their brain cells in attempts to create something from nothing. Most of the time it did not work. That's why the police cruisers drove up to the school several times a week. When desks flew across rooms, doors were punched through and teachers were told to go to hell, there were occasions when the cops had to be called in. Yet this was the REAL School. There was no other school quite like it. We were the example for other schools to follow. The director reminded us that we were a model showcase. That's when I drove out to Pineland estates to investigate their Collaborate School, another term for alternative learning. The director took me on a tour. There I noted rooms laden with supplies, teachers smiling as they went about their daily routines, nary a sound from the students, and well-lighted rooms, carpeted floors and a staff kitchen. The student population was composed of the same troubled sorts as those enrolled at the REAL School. We had a kitchen at the REAL School. The problem was that its sink was crudded over with mold. Dirty trays lined the counter tops. Pots and pans were left to clean themselves. Fill in the blanks. After three-plus years on the job, I appealed to the teachers' union. I was told that my union representative would go to bat for me. In short, she did nothing of the sort. Nothing but stall. I provided her with copious detail as to what was actually going on at the school. She rarely responded to my appeals. Keeping hope alive, I believed that when it came down to the final push, she would be there to hold me up. Not. As finally the message was coming through loudly and clearly that I was standing alone in the middle of a dark warehouse for messed up adolescents, I prepared my voluminous copy for the governor's desk. Then I mailed it to his office, telling no one. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.theconservativevoice.com Date: January, 2007)

Staff Thought Teen Was Faking In Prep School Death: WJZ/AP) KEYMAR, Md. Staff at a private residential school for juvenile offenders where a 17-year-old Baltimore youth lost consciousness and died after being restrained, initially believed he was pretending to be asleep, according to the school's report to the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. As WJZ's Mike Hellgren reports, Isaiah Simmons was pronounced dead at Carroll Hospital Center last week after staff at Bowling Brook Preparatory School, about 40 miles northwest of Baltimore, placed him in prolonged physical restraint confrontation with staff. The death is being investigated by the Carroll County's sheriff's department amid allegations from some witnesses that staff restrained Simmons inappropriately. (Webmaster Note: Just one of hundreds of deaths in this industry. When will the excuse "we thought he was faking" be revealed for what it is? A rationalization for killing.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://wjz.com Date: January 23, 2007)

Youth restraint challenged: The head of a Maryland association of juvenile programs said yesterday it would be "indefensible" for staff to sit on a struggling youth for three hours to restrain him - something at least four youths have told their lawyers happened last week in the death of a teenage boy at Bowling Brook Preparatory School. But Jim McComb, executive director of the Maryland Association of Resources for Family and Youth, said it isn't clear that such behavior by staff at Bowling Brook - a private residential program for juvenile offenders - would have violated state law. "We have regulations that prescribe what is doable and not doable in every private and public school, and in treatment centers for children with mental and emotional problems. But we don't have anything comparable for children's residential programs," McComb said. The death of Isaiah Simmons, 17, after being restrained by staff at Bowling Brook has raised questions about state law governing privately run facilities, the training required of their staff and the way the state monitors and regulates such programs. The Carroll County Sheriff's Office is investigating the death. For complete story, click here.

Sex Allegations Prompt Methodist Youth Home to Move Teens: VERSAILLES, Ky. (AP) - Officials said a central Kentucky church-affiliated home for troubled youth has moved more than 30 teenagers to other facilities after accusations that a worker had sex with a girl in the home's care. The Rev. Alex Carmichel said the incident between a male employee and the teenage girl led to the firing of that employee as well as another employee who did not immediately report "indicators" that something had happened. Carmichel is the president of the Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children & Youth in Versailles. Janis Stewart, spokesman for the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services, confirmed that the state Inspector General is investigating the home. For complete story, click here.

Troubled indeed: In his State of the State speech, Gov. Martin O'Malley reserved just two words for Maryland's juvenile justice system - "deeply troubled" - and the governor isn't usually a man of few words. The juvenile offenders in state custody deserve more than a mention, especially after the questionable death Jan. 23 of a 17-year-old boy at the private facility in which the state had placed him. The state's juvenile services system isn't only deeply troubled, it's dysfunctional, understaffed, overwhelmed, inefficient, poorly funded, ill-equipped and, most alarming, impervious to change. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.baltimoresun.com February 4, 2004)

Davenport boot camp scrutinized for resident treatment: DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) -- A boot camp for delinquent boys is under scrutiny after a state investigation showed its juveniles often went hungry, were subjected to corporal punishment and were sometimes denied timely access to the bathroom. SUMMIT's troubles come five years after former director John Bolsinger was charged with molesting teenage boys under his watch. He was convicted and is serving a prison sentence scheduled to end in 2012. The camp's latest problems were documented in a state report based on interviews and an onsite inspection last month. For complete story, click here.

Chinese clinic treats teen internet addicts with hypnosis, shock therapy: According to the Post, one clinic in the Beijing suburb of Daxing keeps some of its 12 to 17-year-old patients locked in rooms with barred windows for most of the day, treating them with a combination of counseling, medication, and military-style discipline. While some residents clearly have no need for such a facility -- one young man who only surfed four to five hours a week said he came to Daxing to "get away from my parents" -- there do seem to be more hardcore cases of lonely individuals spending all their free time online at the expense of their careers and social lives. At the Daxing clinic, these troubled teens whose "souls are gone to the online world" are housed together on the third floor of the building, where they are subjected to hypnosis and even mild shock therapy in an attempt to rid them of their love of surfing. It's not really clear from the article what the success rate is for veterans of the clinic, but we imagine many of them find the conditions so distasteful that they swear off technology altogether simply for fear of being sent back. (Webmaster Note: It's happening in the U.S. too! Manchurian Candidate, try Manchurian World!) For complete story, click here.

Committee looks into sex abuse claims at youth prison: AUSTIN — Allegations that troubled youths at a West Texas juvenile prison were sexually preyed on by staff members despite repeated warnings to supervisors are "the tip of the iceberg" in a system where "wrongdoing is becoming the norm," a state senator said Monday. Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen, said his office has received 90 allegations of Texas Youth Commission staff members sexually assaulting juvenile offenders since 2000, with only a few instances of disciplinary action taken. "This is a problem all over the state," said Hinojosa, vice chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, which today will hear testimony on the sex abuse allegations in the state-run facilities. For complete story, click here.

Three Teens Arrested for Rape at School for Troubled Kids: MOUNT PLEASANT, N.Y. (AP) -- Staffers at a school for the emotionally disturbed conducted their own investigation of a 13-year-old girl's rape and even tried to collect evidence before reporting the attack, a police chief said Tuesday. "I'm not certain it's criminal but it's certainly not advisable," said Mount Pleasant police Chief Louis Alagno. "They should be calling, notifying the police and calling in the professionals." He said the school delayed calling police for nearly four hours after the Monday night attack at the Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls School in Hawthorne, about 25 miles north of New York City. Three teenage boys were arrested and charged as adults. For complete story, click here.

O'Malley criticizes juvenile officials: Gov. Martin O'Malley sharply criticized juvenile authorities yesterday for failing to respond to a school nurse's formal complaint last year about mistreatment of youths at the Bowling Brook Preparatory School, where a Baltimore teenager later died. "It's just unacceptable that a health professional would notify authorities there were problems and they didn't follow up," O'Malley said...The Sun reported yesterday that Bowling Brook's nurse notified the state Department of Juvenile Services in August that a youth had been badly bruised and scraped while being restrained by staff members. Five months later, 17-year-old

Isaiah Simmons of East Baltimore died after being similarly restrained at the privately run residential program for juvenile offenders. Bowling Brook officials responded to the publication of nurse Janis Miller's complaint by imposing a gag order on the school's employees, threatening to fire any who speak to the press...Nancy Forster, the state's chief public defender, urged Bowling Brook employees to speak candidly to police and investigators, even if workers choose to abide by the gag order. "Whether or not employees of Bowling Brook speak to the press is inconsequential, " Forster said. "What is important is that those employees feel free to ... cooperate fully with those investigating Isaiah's death and the reported mistreatment of other children there." For complete story, click here.

Claims about 'orphans' key in shady adoptions: ...Federal authorities say the FOC scam involved more than 80 children - eight to 10 of whom were placed in Utah - and began no later than March 2002 and operated until June 2005. The birth parents believed the youngsters were being temporarily placed in U.S. homes and would return when they reached adulthood, according to the indictment. Instead, FOC placed the children permanently with U.S. parents, the indictment says. Facing federal charges are Scott and Karen Banks, of Wellsville; Dan Wakefield, of Utah; Tagaloa Ieti, of Samoa; Julie Tuiletufuga, of Samoa; Coleen Bartlett of Evanston, Wyo.; and Karalee Thornock, of Tooele...The defendants are charged with conspiracy, immigration violations - including visa fraud - and money laundering. The maximum prison terms for the offenses range from five years to 20 years. Wakefield, who for years lived in Samoa, will have an initial appearance Monday at 9:30 a.m. in U.S. Magistrate Judge Sam Alba's courtroom. FOC charged adoption fees of $13,000 for one child and $20,000 for two. In addition, adoptive parents had to pay other expenses, including the cost of traveling to New Zealand to file immigration forms at the U.S. consulate there. The agency reportedly persuaded Samoan parents to turn over their children to FOC, offering money, food and other "humanitarian assistance" and promises the children would be educated abroad and later returned home. The agency also allegedly claimed to be affiliated with the U.S. government or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the indictment said...At least one of those charged has ties to another troubled venture. Wakefield was a partner in New Hope Academy, a residential treatment facility set up in Apia, Samoa, in mid-1998. It closed just months later, stranding five teens. Wakefield blamed the failure of New Hope Academy on a consultant it hired, Steve Cartisano, who left Utah after a teen died in a wilderness therapy program he founded. The indictment alleges Wakefield lied to Samoans and adoptive parents about the circumstances surrounding the adoptions, the conditions in which the children lived and why their birth parents would relinquish them. Allegedly, he and other recruiters also actively solicited and pressured Samoan parents to give their children up for adoption... (Unable to locate complete story at time of archiving. Source: www.sltrib.com Date: March 3, 2007)

Police investigate claims of sexual abuse at 22 Texas youth prisons: AUSTIN, Texas — Police were sent to 22 Texas Youth Commission facilities and the agency headquarters Tuesday to investigate claims that young inmates were sexually abused and that agency officials covered it up. Jay Kimbrough, appointed by the governor to look into the allegations at a West Texas youth prison, said the officers would conduct interviews at the prisons and halfway houses, secure equipment and collect documents if necessary. He also issued a warning to agency employees. "If you are part of this gig, you need to move on or we're going to find you and prosecute you," Kimbrough said. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.usatoday.com Date: March 6, 2007)

ACLU lawsuits seek release of kids from immigrant detention center: The American Civil Liberties Union said today that it has filed lawsuits on behalf of 10 immigrant children, challenging their detention at the T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility, an immigrant detention center in Taylor. The lawsuits filed in federal district court in Austin charge that the children are being held under inhumane and prison-like conditions while their parents await immigration decisions. They name U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and five officials with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "There is simply no justification for imprisoning innocent children who pose no threat to anyone," Vanita Guptaan ACLU lawyer, said at a press conference in Austin. "This is an affront to our core values as a nation. We need practical, realistic immigration policy, not draconian methods that are harming vulnerable kids." (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source www.statesman.com Date: March 7, 2007)

High-powered therapy targets troubled teens, families : ...Unlike detention centers, boot camps or some other youth programs, multi-systemic therapy doesn't isolate the teens. Rather, it deals with them in their own environment. Therapists visit the juvenile's family, relatives, neighborhood and school several times a week, keeping the youths away from undesirable peers and making sure they stay in school. The therapists also help the parents set rules. It's a tough job that puts them on call 24 hours a day. Sometimes they respond in the middle of the night, often in unsafe neighborhoods. In about 60 percent of cases, officials say, a single parent is raising several children while overburdened with two or three jobs, leaving little time or energy to deal with a difficult teen. "A lot of these children do not have good relationships with their parents," said Linda Baker, who supervises the four therapists in the Bergen County programs... (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.northjersey.com Date: March 14, 2007)

Area teen learns tough lesson through door-to-door sales: Pope spent six months in an industry under growing scrutiny for allegations that its young sales people are encouraged to spin stories to meet quotas and are either induced or coerced to stay on the job by easy access to drugs, limited access to their paychecks and mental and even physical abuse from managers. Earlene Williams, whose organization Parent Watch Inc. filed a racketeering lawsuit against the door-to-door magazine sales industry in 1982, says she has been trying for 25 years to get Congress to end the industry's exemption from labor practices laws. For complete story, click here.

Ex-employees question safety for troubled teens at rehab facility: PHOENIX A lockdown rehabilitation facility for troubled teens in north Chandler is under fire from former employees who claim the place is plagued by violence, poor management and lax care. Several say they are in talks with child advocates at the Arizona Center for Disability Law and are seeking legal action against the facility. Also named is the facility's operator, Austin, Texas-based Youth and Family Centered Services. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://kvoa.com Date: March 17, 2007)

Ivy Ridge students run away: Police went door to door, even buggy to buggy, looking for the missing boys. "If you see them, let someone know," a trooper said. Early Monday morning, four students ran free from the Academy at Ivy Ridge, a school for troubled teens. Tom Nichols, Academy at Ivy Ridge Spokesperson, said, "These individuals forced their way out of the building and the dorm parents tried to stop them and there were just a few individuals who managed to get outside the building." (Webmaster Note: Run boys run!) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://news10now.com Date: March 19, 2007)

Abuse trial ends deadlocked: A Charlottesville jury deadlocked Monday on the question of whether a former mental health specialist at Whisper Ridge sexually abused two girls receiving treatment at the facility for troubled teens. After three and a half hours of deliberation, the 10-woman, two-man panel revealed it was hopelessly deadlocked in the case of Bryan Antwann Vaughan, one of five former Whisper Ridge employees charged with misconduct. Vaughan, 32, faces 10 years in prison if he's convicted on two counts of custodial sex abuse in December 2005 and January 2006. Prosecutors will seek to try Vaughan again for the charges, according to Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Elizabeth Killeen. Vaughan's was the first of five cases stemming from allegations of abuse at Whisper Ridge, a facility that had previously changed names but remains plagued by allegations of misconduct in recent years. Formerly known as the Brown Schools, Whisper Ridge is a 60-bed facility on Arlington Boulevard that provides psychiatric care for 13- to 17-year-olds suffering from mental health or drug abuse problems. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.dailyprogress.com Date: March, 2007)

Teen terror? British society confronts its fear of the young: ...The government has its own lexicon for dealing with troubled teens, from NEETS - young people "not in employment, education or training" - to ASBOs, or "anti- social behavior orders," used to control the wayward... With such an attitude, children's advocates say, it's no surprise Britain placed last in a recent UNICEF survey of children's well-being in 21 developed countries. A British think tank has a catchy term for it: pedophobia. "There has always been a culture in Britain that's a bit anti- children," said Julia Margo, one of the authors of a report on British youth for the Institute for Public Policy Research, a center-left think tank. "In the newspaper letters pages, you see constant debates about noisy children on trains." "There are (also) a great number of children on the streets without anything to do," she said. "This is what's contributing to pedophobia." The institute's research found that British adults, more than those in other European countries, view teenagers as a menace. Britons were much less likely to intervene than those in other countries if they saw teens vandalizing a bus shelter - 34 percent said they would try to stop it, compared with 65 percent of Germans and 52 percent of Spaniards. Surprisingly, many kids share that view. It turns out that they're afraid of each other. The group of hoodie-wearing skateboarders honing their skills on the concrete steps and sidewalks of London's financial district may appear just the type to annoy their elders... The UNICEF report, released in February, said Britain's young people were the unhappiest in the developed world. While Britain sat in the middle of the table for health and safety, it came second from bottom - just above the United States - for child poverty, and last in "family and peer relationships," which measured indicators such as single- parent families and time spent with friends and family. In the UNICEF study, only 40 percent of British respondents said they found their peers "kind and helpful," compared with more than 80 percent in Switzerland. British youth scored on top for risky behavior such as drinking, drug use and sex. Almost a third of 11- to 15-year-olds reported having been drunk twice or more, the highest level of any country surveyed. The report claimed a country's wealth was not a sufficient guarantee of happy children, saying there is "no strong or consistent relationship between per capita GDP and child well-being." Britain's poor performance may be one of the downsides of the country's embrace of American-style free-market competition - a move that has unleashed enormous economic energy since the 1980s, but widened inequalities and left many without a safety net. The countries that scored highest - the Netherlands and the Nordic countries of Sweden, Denmark and Finland - displayed relatively low poverty rates with supportive networks of family and friends and low levels of risky behavior by teens. (Webmaster Note: So, basically, a sick over-capitalistic society that puts profit over people creates unhappy, unhealthy, and therefore "troubled" children and families. Let's keep that in mind

and stop the "pedophobia" and scapegoating of society's ills onto those most powerless to change things, our children. See "Reclaiming Our Children" by Dr. Peter Breggin for solutions.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.azcentral.com Date: March 20, 2007)

ADHD drug use for youth obesity raises ethical questions: ...Several pediatricians contacted by CNN say they suspect other pediatricians are prescribing ADHD medications off label for weight loss. "No one admits it," says Dr. John Lantos, professor of pediatrics at the University of Chicago. "It's morally and medically questionable, so I don't think anyone's proud of doing this." The Food and Drug Administration warns that some patients on ADHD drugs with pre-existing heart problems have suffered sudden death. The agency also warns that some on Adderall develop psychiatric problems, such as hearing voices and becoming manic. Pediatricians like Lantos say it's wrong to prescribe Adderall for weight loss when risks are known and the benefits are questionable. The drug has never been studied for weight loss, so they suggest that Ziai's success stories may be anecdotal. "Doctors who prescribe this could end up killing kids by giving them a medication that doesn't work for the reason they're prescribing," Lantos says. (Webmaster Note: Parents and pediatricians put kids on amphetamines as "treatment" for quack diseases of ADD/ADHD (see www.ablechild.org), yet, punish their children for using amphetamines recreationally... Hmmmm... Hypocrisy? Are parents and doctors creating lifelong addictions through pharmaceuticals as opposed to environmental/social/psychological/nutritional solutions? Let's stop introducing kids to addictive substances and creating confusion... Okay?) For complete story, click here.

Girl's Overdose Death Raises Questions: HULL, Mass. (AP) - In the final months of Rebecca Riley's life, a school nurse said the little girl was so weak she was like a "floppy doll." The preschool principal had to help Rebecca off the bus because the 4-year-old was shaking so badly. And a pharmacist complained that Rebecca's mother kept coming up with excuses for why her daughter needed more and more medication. None of their concerns was enough to save Rebecca. Rebecca - who had been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity and bipolar disorder, or what used to be called manic depression - died Dec. 13 of an overdose of prescribed drugs, and her parents have been arrested on murder charges, accused of intentionally overmedicating their daughter to keep her quiet and out of their hair. (Webmaster Note: See www.ablechild.org for alternatives and opposition to ADD/ADHD/ODD diagnoses and medications.) For complete story, click here.

TYC Abuse Scandal Continues To Unravel: The Texas Youth Commission abuse scandal could have been going on for years in secrecy. Dr. Ben Raimer heads UTMB's program to provide medical care to kids in the TYC and brought attention to unusual fractures in TYC inmates three years ago. "We saw a trend and were told corrective action was being taken." The UTMB's findings have been published in a medical journal and turned over to the Inspector General investigating the case. The first top official to be arrested is Jerome Parsee, Superintendent of the intake facility in Marlin. He is accused of lying to a Texas Ranger about activity in his facility. There are more than 1000 active investigations underway into abuses of TYC kids by prison guards, including over 200 cases of sexual abuse. For complete story, click here.

The great ADHD myth: The psychiatrist who identified attention deficit disorder - the condition blamed for the bad behaviour of hundreds of thousands of children - has admitted that many may not really be ill. Dr Robert Spitzer said that up to 30 per cent of youngsters classified as suffering from disruptive and hyperactive conditions could have been misdiagnosed. They may simply be showing perfectly normal signs of being happy or sad, he said. 'Many of these conditions might be normal reactions which are not really disorders,' he continued. Dr Spitzer developed the bible of mental disorder classification in the 1970s and 1980s, which identified dozens of new conditions including ADD and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Since then hundreds of thousands of children have been diagnosed with ADD, a behavioural disorder linked to poor attention span, and ADHD, which adds an element of hyperactivity. The disorders describe disruptive and restless behaviour that results in children having difficulty focusing their attention on specific tasks. ADHD is most commonly noticed at the age of five, and as many as one in 30 British children is said to have it. It is often treated with drugs, with Ritalin being the most commonly prescribed. Some scientists say ADHD is a genetic disorder that does not disappear with adulthood. But sceptics believe the diagnosis is a 'biobabble' label, which has evolved from a soundbite culture that is too prepared to medicalise anti-social human traits. Dr Spitzer, professor of psychiatry at Columbia University in New York, now says the classification led to many people being diagnosed as medically disordered when their mood swings and behaviour were simply normal feelings of happiness and sadness. For complete story, click here.

Every child to be screened for risk of turning criminal under Blair justice plan: A new-style "11-plus" to assess the risk every child in Britain runs of turning to crime was among a battery of proposals unveiled in Tony Blair's crime plan yesterday. The children of prisoners, problem drug users and others at high risk of offending will also face being "actively managed" by social services and youth justice workers.* New technologies are to be used to boost police detection rates while DNA samples are to be taken from any crime suspect who comes into contact with the police. The "early intervention" approach is part of a package of proposals on security, crime and justice produced by Downing Street which underline the scale of criminal justice reform Mr Blair believes is still needed despite passing 53 law and order bills since he came to power in 1997. The shadow home secretary, David Davis, focused his criticism on the extension of the DNA database to any crime suspect and the early intervention plans for children. He described the proposal to assess every child for risk of offending as the "nanny state gone mad" while he said the Conservatives would have "great and grave concerns" about any extension of the DNA database. For complete story, click here.

At Some Youth 'Treatment' Facilities, 'Tough Love' Takes Brutal Forms: If this was therapy, it sure didn't feel like it. From September to January, Claire Kent spent her days digging up tree stumps from a barren field, her mind and body battered by the elements. The work was part of her "treatment" for the drinking and sex that had landed her at a boarding school for "troubled teens." In the Montana woods, Kent and a couple dozen other adolescent girls had been committed by their families to a disciplinary program that included chopping wood, exercising to the point of physical breakdown, and being regularly bullied and insulted by "counselors" all in the name of what the private treatment industry calls "emotional growth." "It was just based on, 'How badly can I scare you?'," said Kent, now in her late twenties and still suffering from anxiety that she attributes to her experience. During her two-year stay, she said, "they gave me the reality that life was just completely unfair and was going to keep being that way." The facility where Kent was held, the Mission Mountain School, is still in business today. Though staff declined repeated requests for comment, the recent explosion of hundreds of other so-called "private residential treatment facilities" speaks to the growing popularity of the "tough love" approach to "reforming" youth. Behavioral health experts estimate that the industry deals with roughly 10,000 to 14,000 children and teens, charging typical tuition rates of tens of thousands of dollars per year. The patrons are anxious parents hoping for a solution to issues ranging from attention deficit disorder to drug abuse. Worth approximately $1 billion, emotional growth programs thrive on the promise of turning "bad" kids "good." ALSO see: Behavior Modification Money Trail: Government connections enable "teen help" industry to thwart regulation...Growing alongside the teen "help" industry is the political and legal backlas h against tactics that some view as cruel and bizarre. In recent years, several facilities have closed following abuse investigations. Activists are also promoting the End Institutionalized Abuse Against Children Act, which would fund state and local monitoring of treatment facilities, along with the Keeping Families Together Act, which would enhance access to community-based behavioral healthcare. Yet youth advocates and former program participants caution that legislative action would merely dent the complex culture surrounding institutions that aim to "fix" youth...Advocates calling for tighter regulation of residential facilities say that some programs bank on desperation and lure parents with deceptive advertising. Critics of the industry say consultants and recruiters market programs to families by rapidly "diagnosing" serious emotional problems in children and sometimes offering help in securing a fast tuition loan. Meanwhile, parents are left unaware that the program is not clinically licensed, or lacks an adequate trained staff. Nicki Bush, a psychology graduate student who interned at a rural residential treatment facility, said administrators convinced parents to sink their savings into behavioral treatment that their children supposedly needed. While many children did have serious psychological disorders, she observed it was not uncommon for kids to end up at the facility "because they were having sex with some 20-year-old guy, and [the parents] found a joint, or something like that." Cristine Gomez, one of the plaintiffs in the WWASPS lawsuit, said aggressive marketing persuaded her to send her son, who was having trouble in school and suffering from attention deficit disorder, first to Spring Creek Lodge and eventually to Tranquility Bay. She told TNS, "I took for granted that they were licensed and regulated. I assumed that somebody was keeping track of basic indications of the safety of the children." In the end, troubling letters describing the conditions in the Jamaica facility compelled her to bring her son home. Four years later, she said he suffers from deep psychological trauma and refuses to speak openly about the experience. Calling the decision to send her son away "the biggest mistake I ever made in my life, " Gomez said, "It's just the opposite of what our intent was, what we were sold."..Mental health advocacy groups say that in order to prevent mistreatment, the government must hold private treatment facilities to some clinically based standard of care. As an initial step, they are pushing the End Institutionalized Abuse Against Children bill, which would provide seed money to develop state-level regulations. While some service providers, including WWASPS, have publicly supported moderate state-based regulation, the industry group National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs has contended that bureaucratic monitoring could hinder innovation, and that the government should defer to the industry's own internally developed guidelines. But Robert Friedman, chair of the Department of Child and Family Studies at the University of South Florida, warned that given the evidence of mistreatment, "there's a danger that if left to self-regulate there may be the illusion that there's adequate accountability. And that, in some cases, could be worse than at least not having any illusion."...But enhancing treatment options is only part of the picture, according to Shelby Earnshaw, who underwent a behavior modification program as a teen and now directs the advocacy association International Survivors Action Committee. What fuels the private treatment industry, she argued, is a societal willingness to stigmatize youth with behavioral problems. For complete story, click here.

Child Psychiatrist Accused of Molesting: SAN MATEO, Calif. -- A child psychiatrist who once headed the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry was arrested amid allegations he had molested male patients dating back to the 1960s. Dr. William Ayres, 75, was taken into custody Thursday at his San Mateo home and charged with 14 felony counts of lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14. The charges involve multiple victims, but authorities declined to say how many. The arrest followed a four-year investigation. Ayres, a prominent psychiatrist who retired last year, had been honored in 2002 by the San Mateo board of supervisors with a lifetime achievement award for "his tireless effort to improve the lives of children and adolescents." He also served as president of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry from 1993 to 1995. "The real tragedy here is that parents entrusted their children to this doctor for help, and they were victimized while in his care," San Mateo police Capt. Mike Callagy said. "That's so tragic." (Webmaster Note: And, tragically, NOT uncommon) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.chicagotribune.com Date: April 6, 2007)

2 Juvenile Justice Employees Fired After Teen Is Choked, Thrown: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Two Department of Juvenile Justice employees will be fired after an ongoing investigation revealed the use of inappropriate force that knocked an 18-year-old resident unconscious at a Marianna facility, department Secretary Walt McNeil said Friday. The investigation into the incident has made it clear that the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys has widespread deficiencies, McNeil said. The department has made management changes and hired an independent consulting firm to oversee the facility, which is a high-risk residence currently housing 162 boys from 14 to 21 years of age. "We recognize that there are systemic operational problems at our Dozier facility that span the chain of command from top to bottom," McNeil said. "It is clear that we have to act decisively to change the culture of our Dozier facility." On Feb. 11, resident Justin Caldwell was choked and thrown to the floor by Alvin Speights, a residential officer at the Dozier school, McNeil said. On the way down, Caldwell hit his head on a table and was knocked unconscious. For complete story, click here.

SON OF A BITCH: THE grandfather of Cho Seung-Hui said yesterday: "Son of a bitch. It serves him right he died with his victims." Kim Hyang-Sik, 82, said he had a doom-laden dream of Cho's parents the night of his murderous rampage - and woke to hear the news of the massacre and his grandson's death. He watched Cho's sick video of himself holding a gun to his head. His sister Kim Yang-Sun, 85, who also saw it, told the Mirror that afterwards her brother was so distraught he had "gone away for a few days to calm himself down and avoid more questions". She too repeatedly referred to the killer as "son of a bitch" or "a***hole" and said his mother Kim Hyang-Yim had problems with him from infancy. (Webmaster Note: See how cruel, demeaning, and hateful families create disturbed children. See how they take no responsibility for their hateful and cruel ways and blame the innocent child. See how they send him to involuntary behavior modification treatment. See how cruel families and institutionalization creates a mass murderer. Now, how many are responsible for the massacre?) For complete story, click here.

How Free is Free Speech?: ...Over the course of time, I discovered (Sue) Scheff referred families to the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs (WWASP) before becoming their competitor. I learned Sue Scheff was also responsible for placing kids into unregulated and risky programs. I discovered Sue Scheff does not have the education or professional credentials that qualify her to determine if a program is safe and meets the necessary requirements to treat at-risk teens. When I learned of Sue Scheff's prior affiliation with WWASP and realized Scheff was doing the same things she accused WWASP of doing, I shared that publicly on internet bulletin boards, specifically www.fornits.com. Sue Scheff sued me for defamation of character. She claims that the words I used to describe her business and business associates caused her harm. What she shares with the public is the names and terms I used when describing her and the industry as a whole. I used terms such as "ed con", "fraud" etc. What she doesn't share with the public is why I used these terms. And the why is what this case is all about... (Webmaster Note: Anyone or any organization that works with PURE or CAICA, or works under the guise of helping families while fraudulently making money off the illegal incarceration, false imprisonment, and torture of children is a shill for the "troubled teen" industry and should not be trusted by the survivor community or the public.) For complete story, click here.

HISD claims charter 'falsified records': APRIL 28th, 2007-- An HISD charter school for at-risk teenagers inflated its attendance by more than 200 students last year and must now repay the extra $358,000 in state funding that it pocketed for those students, Houston school district officials said Friday. ALTA Academy "falsified records either by intention, improperly trained staff or by failure to perform its due diligence," according to a report by the HISD inspector general's office. Allegations levied last year by a former ALTA employee led to the investigation. Though leaders of the southeast Houston campus admit to some recordkeeping mistakes, they said they plan to appeal the $358,000 repayment figure to the school board. "I am deeply troubled and embarrassed about the allegations and subsequent findings," said Roberto Gonzalez, manager of Houston-based School House Management, a for-profit company that runs the school. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.chron.com Date: April 28, 2007)

PAC donations from Utah raise doubts in Maine: May 6th, 2007--At $250,000, it was the largest private contribution of the 2006 Maine governor's race, helping to pay for TV commercials supporting Republican Chandler Woodcock in his bid to unseat Democratic Gov. John Baldacci. But the money didn't come from a donor in Portland, Lewiston or Bangor. State records show that it came from a small city near Zion National Park in southwestern Utah, from a contributor listed as RECAF Inc. What is RECAF Inc.? And why did it donate $250,000 to a political action committee established in Maine by the national Republican Governors Association? There is no sign of any such company at the firm's listed address. But the paper trail links RECAF to a controversial network of treatment centers for troubled teenagers affiliated with Robert B. Lichfield, a fundraiser for Republican Mitt Romney's presidential campaign. Among Maine political contributions, the RECAF payment stands out. It raises questions about the effectiveness of both Maine's Clean Elections law, which is designed to reduce the influence of money in politics, and of disclosure requirements, which are meant to identify donors to the public. And it illustrates how the stream of unregulated money through the U.S. electoral system allows out-of-state donors with no apparent stake to have the potential to shape the outcome of Maine elections. (Webmaster Note: The "teen help" industry is enmeshed in politics and works to undermine democracy at every turn. From violating the civil and human rights of families and children...And, using brainwashing techniques to convert children and families to their political/social/religious beliefs...To "buying" our representatives, using wealth to quash regulatory laws, and shutting down any attempt to effectively regulate their abusive, torturous, and deadly industry. Bush Administration liaisons recently applauded the abusive and torturous methods used at Provo Canyon School and other programs affiliated with NATSAP, a shill "accreditation" agency founded and regulated by "teen help" industry leaders. Andrea Barthwell, associate of George W. Bush, spoke at this event stating, "While H.R. 1738 is a bill to 'End Institutionalized Abuse Against Children' and intends to improve the quality of care in therapeutic settings serving our young people, its most recent iteration could have caused a collapse of the system of care that your clients depend upon." As you can see, regulation of this industry will cause its collapse because it is nothing more than an industry of fraud, abuse, torture, and death. Just say "NO" to behavior modification!) For complete story, click here.

Electroshock Children: The estimated 1 in 155 children in the U.S. said to be autistic, represent an untapped and apparantly growing market waiting to be exploited by the electroshock (ECT) industry. And now a first move has been made. At least two electroshock proponents are promoting the notion that ECT may be an effective treatment for children diagnosed as autistic. Psychiatrists D.M. Dhossche and S. Stanfill (Deptartment of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson) have recommended that "All child specialists -- psychiatrists, neurologists, psychologists, and developmental pediatricians -- should independently review the feasibility, potential, and risk of using ECT in autism." To back their recommendation, the psychiatrists wrote, "ECT is considered as a safe, effective, and life-saving treatment in people of all ages who suffer from affective disorder, acute psychosis, and, in particular, catatonia. There are recent speculations that certain types of autism may be the earliest expression of catatonia and that both disorders have identical risk factors. Therefore, ECT may improve autism and, if started early enough, may prevent further development of autistic symptoms in some children. The use of ECT in autism has never been systematically assessed. There have been two large ECT studies in children in the 1940s. Autism was not assessed in these studies because the autistic syndrome was just then being recognized as a separate entity. Findings from these studies add little to the hypothesis that ECT may be effective in autistic children, but attest to the safety and feasibility of ECT in children.... Unless anti-ECT prejudice can be overcome, it is unlikely that any ECT trial in autism is forthcoming. Research areas that may support the hypothesis that ECT is effective in autism should be pursued." ("Could ECT Be Effective in Autism?" Medical Hypotheses, 63(3):371-6., January 2004) Dhossche and Stanfill have falsified and omitted certain key facts about ECT. Not only is electroshock unhelpful, it is also a memory-destroying, intelligence-lowering brain-damaging, and life-threatening procedure that has worsened the lives of millions of people since its introduction almost 70 years ago. For complete story, click here.

Psychiatrists, Children and Drug Industry's Role: When Anya Bailey developed an eating disorder after her 12th birthday, her mother took her to a psychiatrist at the University of Minnesota who prescribed a powerful antipsychotic drug called Risperdal. Created for schizophrenia, Risperdal is not approved to treat eating disorders, but increased appetite is a common side effect and doctors may prescribe drugs as they see fit. Anya gained weight but within two =years developed a crippling knot in her back. She now receives regular injections of Botox to unclench her back muscles. She often awakens crying in pain. Isabella Bailey, Anya's mother, said she had no idea that children might be especially susceptible to Risperdal's side effects. Nor did she know that Risperdal and similar medicines were not approved at the time to treat children, or that medical trials often cited to justify the use of such drugs had as few as eight children taking the drug by the end. Just as surprising, Ms. Bailey said, was learning that the university psychiatrist who supervised Anya's care received more than $7,000 from 2003 to 2004 from Johnson & Johnson, Risperdal's maker, in return for lectures about one of the company's drugs. Doctors, including Anya Bailey's maintain that payments from drug companies do not influence what they prescribe for patients. But the intersection of money and medicine, and its effect on the well-being of patients, has become one of the most contentious issues in health care. Nowhere

is that more true than in psychiatry, where increasing payments to doctors have coincided with the growing use in children of a relatively new class of drugs known as atypical antipsychotics. These best-selling drugs, including Risperdal, Seroquel, Zyprexa, Abilify and Geodon, are now being prescribed to more than half a million children in the United States to help parents deal with behavior problems despite profound risks and almost no approved uses for minors. For complete story, click here.

Fat camp 'horribly damaging': May 20th, 2007--OBESE teenagers taking part in a new weight-loss show could be left psychologically scarred, health experts warn. Channel 10's Teen Fit Camp will follow the journey of six obese Australian teenagers at an American boot camp, where food is controlled and exercise is unavoidable. The show was titled Teen Fat Camp, but was changed to avoid controversy. Dieticians and psychologists say the show is exploiting overweight youngsters for the sake of entertainment. For complete story, click here.

Question troubled teens' treatment: June 1st, 2007--...Dr. Derele Miller, a leading child and adolescent psychiatrist at Northwestern University, said: "The truth is that too many people are making money and not enough concern about the effects on children. Many parents have forgotten to be parents." Everybody wants two Volvos and a suburban home. The narcissism of the '60s has led America to abandon limits for their children and disregard the concept of self-sacrifice. Americans are now searching out experts for every kind of thing, how to manage their children. In 1989 research at the University of Michigan found that as many as 75 percent of adolescent psychiatric hospitalizations are inappropriate during a long-term stay in a hospital...In any case, there should be a lot of investigating before a child is placed with the services of many of the burgeoning clinics. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://news.galvestondailynews.com Date: June 1, 2007)

Teacher, Aide Accused Of Sex With Troubled Teens: June 4th, 2007--ORANGE COUNTY—A teacher and teacher's aide at a New York school for troubled children have been charged with performing sexual acts on two 16-year-old boys during a Memorial Day weekend of sex capades at a house in New Windsor. Rebecca Becker (left), 28,of Walden and teacher's aide Maria E. Zurita (right), 28, of New Windsor who worked at McQuade Children's Services, are facing charges of third degree rape and endangering the welfare of a child. They have been terminated by the school which serves children who have been referred by family court, social service agencies and school districts from Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster and Sullivan Counties. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.northcountrygazette.org Date: June 4, 2007)

Site recruits summer-camp predators: June 6th, 2007--Now, get ready for this mom and dad. Make sure you prepare Jane and Jimmy with mace and a sawed off shotgun when they leave for summer camp. Several months ago, I received an email from retired Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, U.S. Army, one of the nation's leading law enforcement trainers. Lt. Col. Grossman stumbled on a massive cache of children and "teens" enslaved by the business of prostitution we now dub Internet pornography. He then started looking for the government justice agency that would clean out the vipers nests and help these youngsters."The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children line doesn't seem to be set up for anything but reporting a single URL," he said. "The matter is a little more complex than that." He discovered that one site links to another (feeder) site and another to another until finally staring up at you, here in the USA, are thousands of very young brutally violated girls – modern sexual slavery. I checked out Grossman's "first-level feeders" several times and landed at an "incest" site. The pimping incest site, however, also advertised a list of bona fide "teenage camps." How could that be? The incest feeder site claims to have "3,056,886 listings" of pedophiles and pederasts who enjoy sadosexual violence, degradation, child sexual abuse and such activities. How many of those 3 million-plus deviants will visit or apply for work in those "teen camps"? On the "incest" site, predators can link to a teenage science camp and then to a teenage wilderness camp. The "incest" site links their "community" of sexual deviants to a camp for "troubled children" and another for "struggling teens." Professorial pedophiles might apply to "academic camps" or become advisers and counselors at "teen adventure" camps on the site. Some might try the "boot camps" or "travel camps," etc. Clerical predators could volunteer at the Christian teen camps that are advertised. The link is there, phone numbers, all the information any sexual psychopath needs. For complete story, click here.

Cook County chaos: June 6th, 2007--The Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center is out of control. Children languish there like warehoused animals, while millions of dollars are wasted on do-nothing jobs filled by unqualified workers and patronage stooges. ... Kids live in filthy surroundings, with little guidance, under the supervision of workers whose behaviors cheat the residents even more than they cheat Cook County taxpayers. That's how this page described Cook County's juvenile center in August 2005. Nothing has changed since then. In the last two years a slew of experts has detailed that the facility, which houses children ages 10 to 17 who are accused of crimes, remains plagued by filth, professional incompetence and dangerous conditions. Children at the center face "an alarming risk of suicide and inadequate mental health services" and "a climate of fear and violence," say attorneys who represent them. Kids are beaten by staff members and other kids. Attorneys point to "a culture of chaos and incompetence" and "a persistent failure to provide basic necessities. " More than four years ago, the federal court mandated a step-by-step plan to rescue the juvenile center. Cook County leaders agreed to that plan, but they have utterly failed to honor the agreement. And now things have reached a perilous state. For complete story, click here.

FDA grants priority to test antipsychotic drug for use by teens: June 6th, 2007--Bristol-Myers Squibb yesterday announced its application to market Abilify for schizophrenia to teenagers was granted priority review by the Food and Drug Administration. If approved, it would keep Bristol-Myers in step with its competitors and expand the market for Abilify, whose sales last year surged 41 percent to $1.3 billion. Eli Lilly announced last month it received conditional approval to market its schizophrenia drug, Zyprexa, to adolescents. Johnson and Johnson's application has been pending since December to sell Risperdal, its schizophrenia and bipolar disorder therapy, to teens. While no drugs are currently approved in the U.S. to treat schizophrenia in adolescents, all three medicines awaiting FDA approval, known as atypical antipsychotics, are widely prescribed off label for teenagers, despite concerns about side effects, including weight gain and involuntary movement syndromes. Antipsychotics rang up $18.2 billion in sales last year, with Risperdal accounting for $4.6 billion of the total, according to IMS Health, a pharmaceutical information clearinghouse in the United Kingdom. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.nj.com Date: June 6, 2007)

DCFS pulls teens from school: June 12th, 2007--ROCKFORD, Ill. -- The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is pulling 22 teenagers out of a Rockford residential school called The Mill as it investigates recent incidents there -- a move that may threaten the nonprofit facility's future. Officials at the treatment facility for emotionally and mentally troubled youth recently reported an allegation by one female resident that another female resident had been having sex with a male staff member. The staff member also allegedly gave both girls marijuana. "Less than 24 hours later, I got a call from DCFS saying they were going to begin to remove all of their youth from The Mill," said Jim Spruyt, president of facility. "It shocked me. I was stunned." Spruyt said the state's action would force the center's closure, putting 110 staff members out of work. For complete story, click here.

Taking Time to Save Our Teens: June 15th, 2007 (July, 2007 Issue)--...What is the cause of messed-up teens? We could point the finger at many things: our failing school systems, the entertainment industry, the music industry, drug pushers, pornography, violent video games or any other modern malady. But the stark truth is that the main cause for troubled teens is troubled parents. Too many parents are so self-absorbed and caught up in their own personal crises that they can't focus on the right rearing of teens. To save our teens, parents must take on their God-given responsibility to nurture, love, lead, teach and discipline their children. Let's face it: We have become the generation that has abandoned our teens. Mr. Armstrong warned about the damaging effects of parental neglect. He wrote over 20 years ago, "Family life has undergone a radical revolution! Teens have sex games at home in bed while Dad and Mom are at work. Children do not eat with parents. They seldom go to movies with parents. Parents have their lives, associates and friends apart from the children. Parents never think of teaching children, being with children, maintaining a family relationship! Parental responsibility is totally neglected. In due time parents are going to be brought to account for this neglect of basic responsibility" (The Missing Dimension in Sex). Admitting responsibility for teen neglect is difficult for any parent. Yet it is the only means to an effective solution for our teen crisis... For complete story, click here.

MGH psychiatrist's work stirs debate: June 17th, 2007--...Part of the criticism of Biederman speaks to a deeper issue in psychiatry: the extensive financial ties between the drug industry and researchers. Biederman has received research funding from 15 drug companies and serves as a paid speaker or adviser to seven of them, including Eli Lilly & Co. and Janssen Pharmaceuticals, which make the multi billion-dollar antipsychotic drugs Zyprexa and Risperdal, respectively. Though not much money was earmarked for bipolar research, critics say the resources help him advance his aggressive drug treatment philosophy. Numerous psychiatrists say Riley's overdose suggests that bipolar disorder is becoming a psychiatric fad, leaving thousands of children on risky medications based on symptoms such as chronic irritability and aggressiveness that could have other causes. Riley's father, for example, had only recently returned to the home after being accused of child abuse, according to police. Since the girl's death, state officials have stepped up a review of the 8,343 children taking the latest antipsychotic medications under the Medicaid program for conditions including bipolar disorder, to be sure the treatment is appropriate. Psychiatrists too often prescribe these medications, which carry side effects such as weight gain and heart disease risk, without addressing problems in the children's lives, said Dr. Gordon Harper, director of child and adolescent services at the state Department of Mental Health. He likened the approach to "tuning the piano while the subway is going by."... For complete story, click here.

Lawsuits hit a Romney money man: June 20th, 2007--Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney (R) has collected hundreds of thousands of dollars through the fundraising efforts of a supporter targeted by several lawsuits alleging child abuse. In a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah, 133 plaintiffs have

alleged that Robert Lichfield, co-chairman of Romney's Utah finance committee owned or operated residential boarding schools for troubled teenagers where students were "subjected to physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse." (George W. Bush also received much of his financing from Lichfield and other teen torture facility leaders. And you wonder why these programs remain unregulated and protected? Think about it.) For complete story, click here.

Justice Department: Abuse remains at Ohio youth prisons: June 20th, 2007--COLUMBUS, Ohio - A crisis atmosphere continues to exist at a state girls' prison where a dozen guards were indicted in 2005 on charges of sexual assault and inmate abuse, and boys at a second prison remain at risk of excessive force, abuse and trauma, a federal investigation concluded. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.ohio.com Date: June 20, 2007)

Teen ranch evades law: Case shines light on child programs that go unlicensed in Utah: Call it the "problem child" of Utah's teen-help industry. Majestic Ranch in Randolph - one of four Utah boarding schools that cater to troubled teens - has, until recently, failed to become licensed as required by law. It is the only school to fall short of health and safety benchmarks imposed in October 2005. The hang-up: minor changes to an employee handbook, say regulators, who permitted the school to operate without a license for the past 18 months. Regulators say no harm was done; because Majestic is in good standing, they granted the school a probationary license on June 25. But the school's slow road to compliance points to a larger problem with Utah's oversight of adoption agencies, wilderness camps, schools and other programs for vulnerable children: a loophole in state law. Operating these businesses without a license is a class A misdemeanor - but only if someone is harmed, said Ken Stettler, Human Services licensing director. "Usually if it's a new program just coming on, then they simply don't begin operation until they're licensed," said Stettler. "What was uncommon in [Majestic's] case was that we had an existing program that was already operating when the laws went into effect. In this case we don't close them down." But at least one new business venture - an adoption agency - slipped through the loophole. Focus on Children, now defunct and facing federal charges of running a baby smuggling operation in Samoa, did business in Utah for 2 1/2 years without a license. The agency's owners applied in March 2001, but did not submit all the paperwork. After nudging from regulators, they were licensed on August 1, 2003. No one, to Stettler's knowledge, is lobbying to give regulators stronger powers to insist on licensing. Utah's Republican- dominated Legislature has traditionally opposed government meddling in the private sector. "Therapeutic" boarding schools, including 21-year-old Majestic Ranch, went unregulated until 2005. The law defines "therapeutic schools" as serving students "who have a history of failing to function at home or public school" and that offer room and board. Majestic initially fought regulation through its partner World Wide Association of Speciality Programs, a Utah-based chain of get-tough treatment programs. Later, after it came to light that Majestic had been investigated three times for abuse, the boarding school became a proponent of regulation. Only one probe ended in a criminal charge and conviction when a staffer - who was eventually fired - pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault. Child welfare caseworkers received another complaint of abuse in 2005, but dismissed it as having no merit, said Carol Sisco, Human Services spokeswoman. Tammy Johnson, Majestic Ranch director, said the licensing process has helped foster better relations with the state, but it hasn't changed the school's curricula or practices. "The only thing that changed is we have to file more paperwork; quite a bit more paperwork," said Johnson. Johnson blames some of the licensing delays on regulators who took a year to review Majestic's policies, but stressed, "they've been wonderful to work with." Bad press, stemming from "frivolous" complaints from disgruntled employees, have hurt Majestic, said Johnson. Over the past two years enrollment has dropped from about 60 students to 32, Johnson said. The school caters to 7-to-14-year-olds; annual tuition costs about $42,000. "We lose on average of five kids a month to negative publicity on the Internet. It's unfortunate," said Johnson. "I wouldn't be able to come to work every day if I didn't feel I was making a difference in these families' and students' lives. It's not an easy job." (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.sltrib.com Date: July 16, 2007)

Mississippi Sued Over Alleged Abuse at Girls Detention Center: July 12th, 2007--JACKSON, Miss. — Girls at a Mississippi detention center were sometimes shackled for 12 hours a day and subjected to "horrendous physical and sexual abuse," a youth advocacy group claims in a federal lawsuit. The Mississippi Youth Justice Project sued the state Wednesday on behalf of six girls, ages 13 to 17, and called for the shutdown of the troubled Columbia Training School. For complete story, click here.

The Police State Takeover Of Schools-Conditioning the kids for their future on the global plantation: July 24th, 2007--Schools have become hi-tech prisons. Children all across America and the UK are being conditioned to accept that they are not free and that they must submit to draconian laws and measures for their own safety. Soon enough children will not even know what it is like to act as a private individual within society. Don't believe this? Read on. All over the United States and Britain children are increasingly being subjected to measures that wouldn't look out of place in maximum security prisons. Everyday we post reports from mainstream news sources documenting this disturbing trend. Today The Philadelphia Inquirer reports that schools across America are banning backpacks that are made of non see-through materials . If students walking between classes want to use a backpack, it must be made of clear plastic or mesh so its contents can be seen at a glance. Cloth backpacks can be carried into the school in the morning but must be stored in lockers. So the students should all now feel much safer due to the fact that they can all see each other's personal items right? Wrong. The move has unleashed a torrent of protest from some Wissahickon students, who say high schools are coming to resemble "prisons or police states," in the words of one. Brandon Hemmen, a senior, said the clear bags will make it easy for thieves who already rip off students every day. And "bags will get mixed up; we'll have to use name tags," he added. "This is wrong. They can't take all our freedoms away." A second item today comes from Security tech website Security Park which reports that Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania is to deliver the convenience and security of contactless payments by cell phone to students and the faculty. Beginning in July, Slippery Rock University's 8,500 students, faculty and staff will receive a new official campus ID card and a separate contactless token designed for use with their mobile phones. Using either the card or the phone, they will be able to make payments at on-campus locations as well as participating merchants in the surrounding community... . The new mobile phone tokens incorporate the same standards-based contactless technology (ISO 14443) used worldwide by MasterCard, Visa and leading card issuers in the payment and identity sectors. Good, prepare the kids first and then bring in the cashless society nationwide, with an ID card of course, which you will need to be able to buy and sell. We have long warned of the dangers of a cashless society putting total control into the hands of state regulated and private corporations and the break down of basic freedoms that it encompasses. Still don't feel there is anything to worry about in schools? Do a prisonplanet. com google search on the word "school", you will be confronted with literally hundreds and hundreds of news articles from the past few years that detail the police state takeover of schools all over the US and throughout the UK. For complete story, click here.

Friends Talk About Teen Accused Of Capital Murder: July 23rd, 2007--News of 17-year-old Joshua Loften's alleged involvement as the gunman in the murder of 40-year-old Dean Worden Sunday afternoon spread quickly through the Argenta District of North Little Rock. "That's my homeboy and everything. I can't believe he did this," said Lamar Tenner. "I never thought he'd commit a crime like that or anything," said Lashara Bryant. But police believe Loften was capable of pulling the trigger outside the Wal-Mart on East McCain, killing Worden in cold blood. They arrested the teenager Monday around 3 a.m. which is something his neighbor, who wishes to be known only as "Pamela," says she couldn't believe. "I was in shock, like I am now," she said. "He was a nice, respectable, caring young man." But "Pamela" says that kind, caring side of Loften wasn't always so easy to see. "He was heading down the wrong path," she said. "He went to boot camp for a couple of months." She says he'd been back home for about two months, showing a considerably different attitude. "He was more mature, more grown, more stable and not rowdy." She says that change in behavior makes news of his alleged involvement as both purse snatcher and fatal gunman so difficult to understand. "I don't know. Something clicked," she said. "He's not that type of person, out to hurt anyone." (Or, at least, he wasn't, until he survived a "troubled teen" boot camp.) For complete story, click here.

Skyrocketing numbers of kids are prescribed powerful antipsychotic drugs. Is it safe? Nobody knows.: July 29th, 2007--More and more, parents at wit's end are begging doctors to help them calm their aggressive children or control their kids with ADHD. More and more, doctors are prescribing powerful antipsychotic drugs. In the past seven years, the number of Florida children prescribed such drugs has increased some 250 percent. Last year, more than 18,000 state kids on Medicaid were given prescriptions for antipsychotic drugs. Even children as young as 3 years old. Last year, 1,100 Medicaid children under 6 were prescribed antipsychotics, a practice so risky that state regulators say it should be used only in extreme cases. These numbers are just for children on fee-for- service Medicaid, generally the poor and disabled. Thousands more kids on private insurance are also on antipsychotics. Almost entirely driving this spiraling trend is the rise of a class of antipsychotic drugs called atypicals. These drugs emerged in the 1990s and replaced the older, "typical" antipsychotics like Haldol or Thorazine, which are often associated with Parkinson-like shakes. The atypicals were developed to treat schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in adults. But once on the market, doctors are free to prescribe them to children, and for uses not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. There is almost no research on the long-term effects of such powerful medications on the developing brains of children. The more that researchers learn, the less comfortable many are becoming with atypicals. Initially billed as wonder drugs with few significant side effects, evidence is mounting that they can cause rapid weight gain, diabetes, even death. (Webmaster Note: Please see www.ablechild.org for alternatives and support for parents and kids dealing with ADD/ADHD/ODD/etc. diagnosis. Thanks!) For complete story, click here.

Ex-TYC guard indicted in sexual assault case--August 8th, 2007--ABILENE — A former guard in the Texas youth prison system has been indicted on charges of sexual assault and indecency with a child for allegedly having sex with a female inmate younger than 17, officials said. Jaime Segura, 30, of Brownwood, was suspended without pay Friday as the Texas Youth Commission began the process of firing him, said Jim Hurley, a commission spokesman. Segura had been on paid suspension since Feb. 24 from his job at the Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex in Brownwood, 120 miles southwest of Fort Worth. Segura is the fifth former guard at the Brownwood facility to face felony charges since Texas officials launched investigations and sweeping reforms to the state-run youth prisons in response to a sex scandal and a possible cover-up by agency officials. A Brown County grand jury indicted Segura on felony charges including one count of sexual assault, three counts of

indecency with a child and four counts of improper sexual activity with a person in custody. He was also indicted on four misdemeanor counts of official oppression. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.chron.com Date: August 8, 2007)

Local Minister, Helper Charged With Assault--August 10th, 2007--SAN ANTONIO -- A local minister and one of his assistants Friday were charged with aggravated assault in connection with a Nueces County dragging incident. The accuser is a 15-year-old girl who attended their summer boot camp for troubled teens. KSAT's Johanne Lochard reported that Rev. Charles Flowers is the minister at San Antonio's Faith Outreach Center. On Friday, he had to answer to a higher authority -- a magistrate judge. Flowers was charged with aggravated assault along with Stephanie Bassitt, 20. "These are the specific people she says caused her injuries," said Nueces County Lt. Mike Lowrance. The injures that the victim's mother had photos of were suffered while attending the boot camp, police said, where Flowers served as the self-proclaimed "commandant" and Bassett acted as training assistant. The teen said Bassett held her down while Flowers tied her to the back of a vehicle, Lochard said. She was dragged after being forced to run behind a moving van. Bobbi Greer said she witnessed the dragging. She worked as a cook at the Nueces County Ranch, where the alleged assault happened in early June. "Every time she would fall, they would drag her," Greer said. For complete story, click here.

The Cult That Spawned the Tough-Love Teen Industry--August 20th, 2007--The idea that punishment can be therapeutic is not unique to the Rotenberg Center. In fact, this notion is widespread among the hundreds of "emotional growth boarding schools," wilderness camps, and "tough love" antidrug programs that make up the billion-dollar teen residential treatment industry. This harsh approach to helping troubled teens has a long and disturbing history. No fewer than 50 programs (though not the Rotenberg Center) can trace their treatment philosophy, directly or indirectly, to an antidrug cult called Synanon. Founded in 1958, Synanon sold itself as a cure for hardcore heroin addicts who could help each other by "breaking" new initiates with isolation, humiliation, hard labor, and sleep deprivation. Today, troubled-teen programs use Synanon-like tactics, advertising themselves to parents as solutions for everything from poor study habits to substance misuse. However, there is little evidence that harsh behavior-modification techniques can solve these problems. Studies found that Synanon's "encounter groups" could produce lasting psychological harm and that only 10 to 15 percent of the addicts who participated in them recovered. And as the classic 1971 Stanford prison experiment demonstrated, creating situations in which the severe treatment of powerless people is rewarded inevitably yields abuse. This is especially true when punishment is viewed as a healing process. Synanon was discredited in the late 1970s and 1980s as its violent record was exposed. (The group is now remembered for an incident in which a member placed a live rattlesnake—rattle removed—in the mailbox of a lawyer who'd successfully sued it.) Yet by the time Synanon shut down in 1991, its model had already been widely copied. In 1971, the federal government gave a grant to a Florida organization called The Seed, which applied Synanon's methods to teenagers, even those only suspected of trying drugs. In 1974, Congress opened an investigation into such behavior-modification programs, finding that The Seed had used methods "similar to the highly refined brainwashing techniques employed by the North Koreans." The bad publicity led some supporters of The Seed to create a copycat organization under a different name. Straight Inc. was cofounded by Mel Sembler, a Bush family friend who would become the gop's 2000 finance chair and who heads Lewis "Scooter" Libby's legal defense fund. By the mid-'80s, Straight was operating in seven states. First lady Nancy Reagan declared it her favorite antidrug program. As with The Seed, abuse was omnipresent—including beatings and kidnapping of adult participants. Facing seven-figure legal judgments, it closed in 1993. But loopholes in state laws and a lack of federal oversight allowed shuttered programs to simply change their names and reopen, often with the same staff, in the same state—even in the same building. Straight spin-offs like the Pathway Family Center are still in business. Confrontation and humiliation are also used by religious programs such as Escuela Caribe in the Dominican Republic and myriad "emotional growth boarding schools" affiliated with the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs (wwasp), such as Tranquility Bay in Jamaica. wwasp's president told me that the organization "took a little bit of what Synanon [did]." Lobbying by well-connected supporters such as wwasp founder Robert Lichfield (who, like Sembler, is a fundraiser for Republican presidential aspirant Mitt Romney) has kept state regulators at bay and blocked federal regulation entirely. By the '90s, tough love had spawned military-style boot camps and wilderness programs that thrust kids into extreme survival scenarios. At least three dozen teens have died in these programs, often because staff see medical complaints as malingering. This May, a 15-year-old boy died from a staph infection at a Colorado wilderness program. His family claims his pleas for help were ignored. In his final letter to his mother, he wrote, "They found my weakness and I want to go home." For complete story, click here.

Young people say family, friends make them most happy--August 20th, 2007--NEW YORK — So you're between the ages of 13 and 24. What makes you happy? A worried, weary parent might imagine the answer to sound something like this: Sex, drugs, a little rock 'n' roll. Maybe some cash, or at least the car keys. Turns out the real answer is quite different. Spending time with family was the top answer to that open-ended question, according to an extensive survey — more than 100 questions asked of 1,280 people ages 13-24 — conducted by The Associated Press and MTV on the nature of happiness among America's young people. Next was spending time with friends, followed by time with a significant other. And even better for parents: Nearly three-quarters of young people say their relationship with their parents makes them happy. "They're my foundation," says Kristiana St. John, 17, a high-school student from Queens in New York. "My mom tells me that even if I do something stupid, she's still going to love me no matter what. Just knowing that makes me feel very happy and blessed." Other results are more disconcerting. While most young people are happy overall with the way their lives are going, there are racial differences: The poll shows whites to be happier, across economic categories, than blacks and Hispanics. A lot of young people feel stress, particularly those from the middle class, and females more than males. You might think money would be clearly tied to a general sense of happiness. But almost no one said "money" when asked what makes them happy, though people with the highest family incomes are generally happier with life. Having highly educated parents is a stronger predictor of happiness than income. (Webmaster Note: Love, respect, and spend time with your children!) For complete story, click here.

In the shadow of sexual abuse--August 20th, 2007--Vera has learned to walk softly through the emotional minefield left behind by the man who sexually abused her husband three to four times a week for 11 years. "He can flip back and forth so much and so quickly," says Vera, who asked that we not reveal her last name. She lives south of Seattle with her husband, Mark. "The toughest thing is to constantly remind myself that there's something bigger here than us." Vera represents an often-forgotten population — the partners of childhood sexual-abuse victims. For these couples, ordinary relationship struggles are often compounded by the legacies of abuse. Adult survivors often experience depression, anxiety, substance abuse, career problems, inability to achieve physical or emotional intimacy and shame about sexuality. Janice Palm, a therapist and executive director of Shepherd's Counseling Services on Capitol Hill, recites the oft-quoted stats — one in three girls will be molested by the time they're 18; one in five boys. Unwanted sexual experience affects different people differently. As Palm notes, not all such experiences cause lifelong trauma. As in Mark's case, the effects were significant. As he and other survivors of abuse mature and move into adult relationships, they take with them all the baggage of their abuse. (Webmaster Note: If your child is exhibiting behavioral or emotional problems, they are likely dealing with a trauma such as sexual abuse, humiliation, or other abuse. Even if you've never abused your child, they may have been abused by another trusted adult. If you find yourself too busy to actively engage in a relationship with your child, you may be guilty of neglect which is abusive and can result in behavioral and emotional issues. Please take inventory on your own action/inaction and areas for improvement prior to and/or instead of scapegoating or blaming your child for your own errors.) For complete story, click here.

What Works for Troubled Teens?--August 20th, 2007--The most effective treatments for troubled teenagers have these things in common: They use family-based therapies; they treat adolescents with empathy, dignity, and respect; and, except for very short periods of emergency stabilization, they keep teens at home. Research has proven the effectiveness of a number of methods for treating youth with behavioral and other problems— including functional family therapy, cognitive-behavioral family therapy, and multisystemic family therapy (the latter, ironically, is available almost exclusively to kids in the juvenile justice system). All of them focus on improving communication between children and parents, setting clear boundaries, and ensuring that teenagers' developmental needs for increased freedom, social connection, and responsibility are recognized and met in safe and healthy ways. Inpatient treatment happens only on a short-term basis when a child is a threat to himself or others. For complete story, click here.

How Faith Based Initiatives help unlicensed reform schools thrive-2007--When George W. Bush became president, he created the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives (www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/ mission.html). Mr. Bush created Centers for Faith-Based Initiatives in seven cabinet departments: the United States Agency for International Development, and the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Justice, Agriculture, Labor, and Education. The purpose of the Centers was to eliminate regulatory and contracting obstacles for faith-based and other community organizations. This act has made it possible for religious boarding schools to avoid becoming licensed and regulated leaving those inside no protection. It began when Mr. Bush was Governor of Texas. Texas' legislature passed the Faith Based program there in 1997 allowing deregulation for faith based boarding schools. The legislature then passed a bill allowing the creation of alternative accreditation programs in which faith-based child-care centers could forego state licensing and instead receive accreditation from one of these newly created private agencies. Deregulation was an essential component of the faith-based initiative because it ensured that more faith-based providers would be eligible for government funds (see Texas Freedom Education Fund at www.tfn.org/aboutus). This plan created new licensing laws for religious facilities; self-regulation that substantially reduced health and safety requirements and oversight. The state of Texas approved the Texas Association of Christian Child-Care Agencies (TACCCA). The board of TACCCA was comprised of eight pastors, three of whom also operated homes accredited by TACCCA. Upon TACCCA's creation, the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) no longer held jurisdiction over these programs. Therefore, TDPRS could not investigate complaints of

abuse. Also upon creation of TACCCA, then- Governor Bush invited the Roloff Homes to return to Texas, even thought the State of Texas closed down the Roloff Homes in 1985 after numerous allegations of abuse. The State's position was that the Roloff Homes should either comply with licensing requirements or close its doors. The Texas Supreme Court agreed and the United States Supreme Court dismissed the appeal from this decision (State v. Corpus Christi People's Baptist Church, Inc., 683 S.W.2d 692 (1984) and Corpus Christi People's Baptist Church, Inc. v. Texas, 474 U.S. 801 (1985). TACCCA was supposed to uphold the same standards as TDPRS. TACCCA, however, never conducted a single legally required surprise-inspection at any of its facilities (see letter from Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to Rev. Davis Blaser, Texas Association of Christian Child-Care Agencies (Mar. 8, 2001) (on file with the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services). In 1999, the state of Texas found evidence of physical abuse and neglect at the Roloff Homes' Rebekah Home for girls. Charges were filed against Faye Cameron, the home's supervisor (and wife of Pastor Wiley Cameron). As a result of the charges, Faye Cameron was convicted and banned from ever working with children in Texas again. Nonetheless, TACCCA reaccredited the home. Pastor Cameron served on the board of TACCCA at the time of reaccredidation. Sadly, this would not be the first case of conflict of interest we would see with these faith based self-appointed organizations. The rate of confirmed abuse and neglect at alternatively accredited facilities was 25 times higher than that of state-licensed facilities. This can be confirmed by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. Because of the problems incurred, the Texas legislature had to discontinue its alternative accreditation program in 2001. Luckily someone was watching and paying attention: because of past problems with these facilities, the Texas Freedom Network was created by concerned citizens. This is a watchdog group that was founded in 1995 and is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization of more than 23,000 religious and community leaders - www.tfn.org/aboutus - it monitors far-right issues, organizations, money and leaders. FACCCA – Florida is the new safe haven for unregulated religious schools Although Texas was forced to abandon its alternative accreditation program, those who wished to avoid state interference were not left without options. The Florida Association of Christian Child Caring Agencies (FACCCA) was created to do the same thing TACCCA did in Texas. When Faye Cameron was banned forever from working with children in Texas and TACCCA was discontinued, FACCCA and the State of Florida welcomed the Camerons. FACCCA also welcomed the Palmers after the State of California shut down their facility in Ramona, California; the school I was in. There have been numerous complaints of abuse against FACCCA facility employees. Rebecca Ramirez's sexual assault allegation against VCA's Palmer (Secrets in the Schoolhouse by reporter Mollye Barrows) is not an isolated allegation. In 2003, a former student of FACCCA's Camp Tracey filed a lawsuit against the facility alleging that he was forced to perform sex acts with two camp counselors (Paul Pinkam, Man Sues Church, Alleges Abuse - Harvest Baptist's Camp Tracey Cited, THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION, May 10, 2003, available at http://www.nospank.net/n-k92r.htm). A grand jury investigated Camp Tracey in 1987 after years of physical abuse allegations by children and parents. Allegations leading to the investigation included excessive corporal punishment and the use of ropes and handcuffs to restrain children. The grand jury criticized the absence of procedures allowing residents of Camp Tracey to contact authorities in the event of abuse (www.isaccorp.org/faccca/camptracey1.pdf). In 2004, John Burt was convicted of molesting a fifteen-year-old girl at another FACCCA-accredited facility, Our Father's House (Activist Gets 18 Years for Molesting Teen, AP, May 12, 2004, www.isaccorp.org/faccca/ourfathershouseconviction.pdf). Shockingly, FACCCA allowed Burt to open the home, even though he had served jail time in the eighties for his anti-abortion activities. In May 1993, Burt was present at the fatal shooting of a Pensacola Medical Services doctor (Associated Press, Troopers Nab Anti-Abortion Figure Sought in Sex Case, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, June 11, 2003, www.isaccorp.org/faccca/johnburtarrested.pdf). He led a demonstration on one side of the clinic, while his follower, Michael Griffin, shot Dr. David Gunn on the other side of the clinic. When Burt was arrested on the molestation charges, FACCCA President Ed MacClellan said the charges were "out of character with his public persona." (Associated Press, Preaching Life While Preying on Their Fears, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, June 12, 2003, www.isaccorp.org/faccca/ourfathershouse1.pdf). In 2003, authorities shut down Teen Transformation Ministries, another FACCCA-accredited school, after a former resident made an abuse complaint against the facility (Associated Press, Boys' Home Closes after Abuse Reports, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, June 11, 2003, www.isaccorp.org/faccca/teentransformation.pdf). The thirteen-year-old boy was denied medical attention for a broken shoulder. He also alleged that he was thrown into a septic tank and made to stay there for ten minutes. He further alleged that he was forced to pull down his pants and sit on a fire-ant mound. Each of these complaints show what program participants may be subjected to in the absence of state regulation. There have been other allegations made against FACCCA's facilities, but because FACCCA seems not to require the facilities to allow participants access to victims' services, it is impossible to provide statistical data about the actual occurrence of abuse. The allegations that have been made, however, indicate the absence of any real regulation by FACCCA. Deregulation systems such as those in Texas and Florida are unconstitutional. Deregulation violates the program participants' Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection rights by placing them in a less protected class than children in state-regulated programs. Deregulation also violates the First Amendment Establishment Clause by allowing special treatment for religious groups. In a state regulated program, it would be rare to find staff members who are child molesters or abusers because in order to work in a state run facility, you must pass a criminal background check to work with minors. Anyone with a questionable background would be immediately disqualified. But at these unregulated FACCCA run schools, a staff member's background goes unchecked and they rarely have anything but a high school diploma making them unsuitable candidates to work with kids who have mental health issues. All they have to say is that they are a "Christian" and they are deemed suitable to work in the facility with your kids. This is horrifying at best. This paper written and researched by Candice Aiston, and edited by Michele Ulriksen. Contact Michele Ulriksen at: www.westhillscommunications.com For complete story, click here.

DHS asks U.S. judge to dismiss abuse suit lawsuit--August 23rd, 2007--The state Department of Human Services asked a federal judge this week to throw out a lawsuit alleging eight girls were abused at Columbia Training School in May. DHS Executive Director Don Taylor said he could not comment on Monday's request to dismiss the case before U.S. District Judge Dan Jordan. In court documents, officials argue the girls, who allege they were shackled for 12 hours a day, have no basis to ask for a financial payment. One girl also alleges she was sexually abused. "It's so unfortunate that the state's going to use its resources to defend the indefensible instead of using its resources to resolve this matter in the best interest of the children," said the girls' attorney, Sheila Bedi of the Mississippi Protection and Advocacy System. Bedi states in court documents the state should have provided mental health treatment to the girls, some of whom were suicidal while in custody. Assistant Attorney General Shawn Shurden argues in court documents that legal mandates to provide mental health or rehabilitative treatments applies only to the mentally ill, not teens. He does not address whether the treatment would be mandatory for teens if they were suicidal and might have been mentally ill. Since several of the teens have been released or soon will be released from the campus, their claims are moot, he states. The school houses teenage girls who committed crimes, including drug possession and assault. They typically stay six weeks to a few months, depending on the sentence. After allegations surfaced that girls were shackled for longer than a week, the investigation widened when state representatives learned male guards asked one girl for sexual favors and guards gave the teens cigarettes. Taylor said his agency's investigation is ongoing. One employee has been fired and five have been suspended with pay. In 2006, the state agreed to end a lawsuit federal officials filed two years earlier over allegations of abuse. A federal monitor visits both Columbia and Oakley Training School for boys and recommends improvements. (Webmaster Note: It is very common that the government agencies charged with child welfare are complicit in the abuse of children. Often, abuses are covered up by the very people who should be investigating and taking action.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.clarionledger.com Date: August 23, 2007)

'Kid Nation' Parents Gave Show Free Rein--August 23rd, 2007--LOS ANGELES (Aug. 23) - Children who participated in "Kid Nation," a CBS reality show that has come under fire over questions of whether it violated child safety and labor laws, were required to do whatever they were told by the show's producers, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or risk expulsion from the show, according to a copy of the contract signed by the children and their parents. The contract also specifies that while the children could be paid for their participation, those payments or the agreement to be fully under the producers' direction did not constitute employment under the producers' interpretation and therefore was not subject to any state or federal labor laws. The agreement, which was provided to The New York Times by the New Mexico attorney general's office under an open records act request, appears to anticipate the arguments that were later made by New Mexico state authorities that the show's producers might have violated state labor laws and licensing requirements for child housing. "Kid Nation," which is scheduled to have its premiere on CBS on Sept. 19, took 40 children, ages 8 to 15, and placed them in a New Mexico desert "ghost town" near Santa Fe for 40 days, during which they had little to no contact with their parents. The program has been criticized by New Mexico state authorities who have said that they were not notified in advance of the conditions, which they said appeared to violate state laws. The parent of at least one participant has complained to New Mexico authorities that the conditions were abusive and that several children were harmed during the production. The 22-page agreement leaves little room for parents to argue that they did not know what their children might encounter. As is standard in such agreements, the parents and the children agreed not to hold the producers and CBS responsible if their children died or were injured, if they received inadequate medical care, or if their housing was unsafe and caused injury. But while such agreements might be standard for adult participants in a reality show, it also takes on a different tone when the minor and the parent are being held solely responsible for any "emotional distress, illness, sexually transmitted diseases, H.I.V. and pregnancy" that might occur if the child "chooses to enter into an intimate relationship of any nature with another participant or any other person." The agreement also imposes extensive confidentiality requirements on the parents and the children, including that any interviews they grant must be approved by CBS. Those confidentiality conditions extend for three years beyond the end of the show, not the individual 13- episode cycle in which a child participates but the entire series, however many cycles it includes. The producers of "Kid Nation" have already begun interviewing children to take part in the second installment. Violating the confidentiality agreement carries a $5 million penalty. CBS and the production companies, Good TV Inc. and Magic Molehill Productions, retained the rights to the children's life stories "in perpetuity and throughout the universe." And that right includes the right to portray the children either accurately or with fictionalization "to achieve a humorous or satirical effect." To ensure that parents and the children abide by the agreement, the payment of the $5,000 stipend promised to the children who complete the series and

the $20,000 that some of them received for being voted the best participant in each of the 13 episodes can be withheld, according to the contract, until after the broadcast of the entire series. The contract also specifies that the children are able to leave the production at any time, but that in doing so they will lose their right to receive payment and will still be bound by confidentiality provisions. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://news.aol.com Date: August 23, 2007)

Zyprexa blamed for son's death, parents sue--August 22nd, 2007--Valedictorian of his high school class and honor graduate from Rice University, Scott Sexton's future promised greatness. However, sometime between graduating from Rice with a masters in business administration and working at the accounting firm Deloitte Touche, Sexton was diagnosed with a mental disorder and prescribed Zyprexa. He died of pancreatits on Dec. 7, 2006. Sexton's grieving parents, Charles and Kaye, believe Zyprexa was at the root of their son's untimely death and are suing the drug's maker, Eli Lilly & Company - filing suit on Aug. 20 with the Jefferson County District Court. For complete story, click here.

Tough Love and Free Speech--August 24th, 2007--...At some point, Sue Scheff became aware of online bulletin boards where teens who had been in WWASP programs were telling horrific stories of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse. Users also posted media accounts detailing how nine WWASP-affiliated programs were closed following police investigations, regulatory infractions and/or allegations of child abuse. Scheff later wrote on her website that she had become uncomfortable with some of the organization's methods. She removed her daughter from the program, and began posting her own allegations against WWASP on online forums, under several different names. She also set up her own consultant business, called Parents Universal Resource Experts (PURE), and began taking referral payments for placing teens, just as WWASP does. While this sort of practice isn't illegal, it's widely considered unethical. Conflicts of interest arise when consultants get higher referral fees from some programs than they get from others. The temptation arises to place kids in the programs that pay more, even though these may not be the programs best suited to a particular child. Once you're being regularly paid by a program, it's hard to be objective about its quality. This is why codes of ethics in psychology and psychiatry typically bar such "dual relationships." Under the Lanham Act, which bans business competitors from making false and inflammatory claims about rivals, WWASP sued Scheff over her critical online posts. Because the court was able to substantiate Scheff's claims with vivid testimony from victims, WWASP lost. Soon, however, the online boards buzzed again with yet more reports of abuse at new programs, and this time they included programs where Sue Scheff was referring children. It was around this time that Scheff launched her own lawsuit against Bock. Scheff had helped Bock remove her two sons from a WWASP program, but Bock eventually become outraged by what she considered to be Scheff's unethical referrals. The $11 million judgment resulted only after Bock didn't show up in court to defend herself. Meanwhile, child welfare investigators substantiated charges of abuse in 2005 at the Whitmore Academy in Utah, a program to which Scheff made referrals. Regulators shut the program down. Just last month, another complaint was filed against Scheff and another program where she places teens, the Focal Point Academy in Nevada. In that filing, a Florida couple alleges that Scheff failed to disclose that she was being paid by Focal Point, nor did she tell them that the business was licensed only as a foster home, not for residential treatment. The complaint describes these failures to disclose as "fraudulent misrepresentations" and "kickbacks." For complete story, click here.

Trial for Royal Gorge Academy official begins Monday--August 25th, 2007--A week-long trial is scheduled to being Monday for the Royal Gorge Academy co-founder who faces allegations that he assaulted several teenagers who once attended the private boarding school. Randall Hinton, 32, is set to defend himself against seven counts of third-degree assault and two counts of false imprisonment. All charges Hinton faces are misdemeanors that carry potential jail time, if convicted. The trial is the culmination of an investigation that began in January and was carried out by the Cañon City Police Department. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.canoncitydailyrecord.com Date: August 25, 2007)

3 Arrested In Connection With Drugs-For-Cash Ring--August 27th, 2007--(CBS) MURRIETA, Calif. Three more arrests were made in connection with an alleged drug-prescription-for-cash ring that authorities say was run by a Murrieta psychiatrist. James Dylan Hall, 21, Saege Hall, 18, and Janine Hall, 45, all of Temecula, were taken into custody Friday by deputies serving a search warrant in the 29700 block of Calle Pantano, said Murrieta Sgt. Tony Conrad. Psychiatrist Joel Dreyer, arrested July 24 at his Murrieta home, was charged with five counts of issuing a false prescription. He remains behind bars on $50,000 bail, awaiting a preliminary hearing...Dreyer, 69, worked with troubled teens in group homes, as well as in private practice. None of the teens was suspected of involvement in the alleged scheme, Vrooman said. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://cbs2.com Date: August 27, 2007)

Breaking: Larry Craig quits Romney campaign as news of lewd-conduct allegation spreads 27 Aug 2007 U.S. Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct this month after his arrest in a Minneapolis airport men's room by an undercover officer who said Craig was sending signals that he wanted to have sex. Craig agreed today to resign as the U.S. Senate co-chairman of Mitt Romney's presidential campaign. Craig served as co-chair with Robert Bennett of Utah. For complete story, click here.

Graduate of a school for troubled teens describes therapy: Click here for audio clip. (Provided by www.nospank.net)

Controversy Surrounds Tranquility Bay: Click here for article. Or, click here.

Why girl was sent to child-rape suspect Adhahn--July 21st, 2007--A Kansas woman said she let her daughter move to Pierce County with child-rape suspect Terapon Adhahn six years ago because she thought it was the best option for the then-rebellious 12-year-old girl. The girl and her family met Adhahn when he moved to Texas in 2001 after he was laid off from Boeing's plant in Auburn. Adhahn and the girl moved to Tacoma a short time later and lived at two different Spanaway addresses. According to charges filed earlier this week, Adhahn repeatedly raped the girl over the four years they lived together, at least once at gunpoint. Charging papers say the girl went to live with Adhahn with her mother's blessing, because the woman was having difficulty with the girl's behavior. The girl's mother said Adhahn, the cousin of a man she was dating at the time, offered to take the child off her hands. "I never thought he'd do anything to hurt my daughter," said the woman. "I asked her all the time. She said nothing happened." On Thursday, Pierce County prosecutors charged Adhahn, 42, with one count of first- degree rape, three counts of second-degree rape and three counts of child rape in connection with the repeated assaults on the woman's daughter. He also faces several rape charges and a kidnapping charge in connection with the abduction and sexual assault of an 11-year-old Tacoma girl in 2000. Pierce County prosecutors said they plan to charge Adhahn Monday with one count of aggravated-first-degree murder in connection with the slaying of 12-year-old Zina Linnik, who was abducted from outside her Tacoma home on July 4 and whose body was found July 12 in eastern Pierce County. Prosecutors haven't said whether they intend to seek the death penalty. (Webmaster Note: There is no excuse for irresponsible parenting.) For complete story, click here.

Romney Fires One Teen-Abuse Linked Financier, Keeps Big One--September 6th, 2007--Radar has the news that Mitt Romney has kicked troubled-teen titan Robert Lichfield to the curb. Lichfield's organization, the World Wide Association of Specialty Schools and Programs (WWASPS, previously WWASP), is being sued in a class action suit by over 100 plaintiffs, alleging serious sexual, emotional and physical abuse. In the worst cases, teens were beaten, kept in stress positions, sleep deprived, made to walk thousands of laps on a hot desert track, forced to eat their own vomit and held in dog cages. Mexican police shot footage of the dog cages and the track, which was aired on Inside Edition. Another lawsuit alleges educational fraud by one facility-- that facility was already made to pay parents back over $1 million for falsely claiming to provide legitimate New York state high school diplomas, in one of the largest educational fraud judgments in New York history. Lichfield was Romney's Utah co-chair for finance-- and he has been relieved of that position "until the lawsuit is resolved in the positive, which we are confident will happen," WWASPS spokesperson Ken Kay told Radar. This is the same Ken Kay who said under oath in another civil suit that he did not know whether sex between staff and teens in WWASPS programs was necessarily abusive. But Romney's national finance co-chair, Mel Sembler, remains. While Sembler has not been linked with any abuse personally, the organization he co-founded, Straight Inc., paid out millions of dollars in similar suits during the 1980's and 1990's. The abuse included kidnapping, false imprisonment, beatings, sexual humiliation (boys were called "fags," girls, "whores"), punitive use of isolation and restraint and bizarre incidents like teens being gagged with Kotex and held on the floor for hours until they wet or even soiled themselves. In every state where Straight had a facility, regulators and/or lawsuits eventually documented serious abuse. For complete story, click here.

Texas Juvenile Detention Centers Cope With Charges of Rape, Abuse--April 16th, 2007--"You need to get both hands on the wheel," Genger Galloway urges her son, as he steers her mini-van down a side road near Crockett, Texas. She shakes her head from side to side. "I need a Xanax is what I need." At 19 years old, Joseph Galloway seems too old for driving lessons. But Joseph's teenage years have been tumultuous ones. Arrested at 15 for inappropriate sexual contact with a sibling, he expected to spend nine months in one of the 13 secure facilities or nine halfway houses run by the Texas Youth Commission (TYC); instead, he remained incarcerated for four years. During that period, he claims that guards deliberately placed him in a cell with a larger boy who raped him and encouraged gang members to break his jaw. He also said he was molested by a female staff member. As his mother protested -- interviewing 150 parents of other TYC inmates and petitioning legislators for changes in the system -- Joseph said he was singled out. "If your parents complain, you get your sentence extended," Genger insists. The TYC's official spokesman tends to agree with her. "We have no confidence that these extensions have been used uniformly," said Jim Hurley, the agency's interim communications director. "We have suspicions that some of these may have been done to punish kids." Now, in the wake of a scandal that has rocked the state of Texas, 1,100 extensions are being reviewed. On April 5,

Joseph became one of 473 inmates released amid pressure from the Texas state legislature and Gov. Rick Perry. During his first week home, Joseph savored his new freedom, catching catfish and perch at a nearby lake, even participating in an Easter egg hunt. For complete story, click here.

Statesville Man Who Worked With Troubled Children Faces Sex Charges--September 12th, 2007-- STATESVILLE, N.C. -- A man who worked with troubled children in Iredell County faces sex assault charges. James Fredrick Frank, 38, of Statesville faces three counts of first-degree rape, three counts of first-degree sex offense and one count of indecent liberties. Detectives said the charges stem from more than six years of rape of a young female relative, but Det. Cheryl Hilderbrand said the fact that Frank worked on a daily basis with children is alarming. "If I had to give a rating on a scale one to 10, for the severity and the length of time my victim has had to endure, it's going to be a 10," said Hilderbrand, who has worked in the Special Victims Unit for 15 years. "It's the worst I've personally worked on." Frank had been helping students deal with their behavior in the classroom at Barium Springs Home for Children for about three years. The president of the home said authorities informed him of the charges early Wednesday and Frank has been suspended without pay. For complete story, click here.

Counselor accused of abusing teenager--September 13th, 2007--A mental-health counselor is under investigation for alleged sexual misconduct with a teenage inmate at the King County Juvenile Detention Center. According to authorities, a then-17-year-old boy was serving time at the detention center for assault when he was allegedly abused by the female counselor, who reportedly gave the teen extra privileges and gifts, such as additional phone time and snacks. Seattle police said the allegations are being investigated by an officer with the Special Assault Unit. The alleged misconduct was discovered when jail officials intercepted communications between the two, according to a spokesman for the King County correctional facilities. The counselor, a contract employee through the University of Washington, has been banned from the detention center, said Maj. Willie Hayes of the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention. Hayes said the allegation is also being investigated internally. "It's a big deal any time somebody is alleged to have committed sexual misconduct with a juvenile," Hayes said. "We're taking this very seriously." The current investigation follows the prosecution of four King County corrections officers who were charged with sexual misconduct with inmates. For complete story, click here.

Experts Question Study on Youth Suicide Rates--September 14th, 2007--Last week, leading psychiatric researchers linked a 2004 increase in the suicide http://health.nytimes.com/health/guides/disease/suicide-and- suicidal-behavior/overview.html rate for children and adolescents to a warning by the Food and Drug Administration about the use of antidepressants in minors. The F.D.A. warning, the researchers suggested, might have resulted in severely depressed teenagers going without needed treatment. But the data in the study, which was published in The American Journal of Psychiatry and received widespread publicity, do not support that explanation, outside experts say. While suicide rates for Americans ages 19 and under rose 14 percent in 2004, the number of prescriptions for antidepressants in that group was basically unchanged and did not drop substantially, according to data from the study. Prescription rates for minors did fall sharply a year later, but the suicide rates for 2005 are not yet available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "There doesn't seem to be any evidence of a statistically significant association between suicide rates and prescription rates provided in the paper" for the years after the F.D.A. warnings, said Thomas R. Ten Have, a professor of biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania In the report published last week, the authors analyzed data on suicides and antidepressant use over several years in the United States and the Netherlands. They argued that drug regulators may have created a larger problem by requiring pharmaceutical companies to place warnings on antidepressants, scaring away patients and doctors. The F.D.A. warning label says that a potential side effect in young people is an increase in suicidal thoughts and behavior. "The most plausible explanation is a cause and effect relationship: prescription rates change, therefore suicides change," said Dr. J. John Mann, a psychiatrist at Columbia University and a co-author of the study. But Dr. Ten Have and other experts, while noting that it may still turn out that a reduction in prescriptions is leading to increased suicides among young people, said that the new study neither proved nor disproved this. Instead, some experts say, the study illustrates why suicide trends are so difficult to understand - and why this debate has been so polarizing and confusing. In an interview, Robert D. Gibbons, a professor of biostatistics and psychiatry at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the lead author of the journal article, acknowledged that the data from the United States that he and his colleagues analyzed did not support a causal link between prescription rates and suicide in 2004. "We really need to see the 2005 numbers on suicide to see what happened," he said. But Dr. Gibbons defended the paper, saying that when taken in the context of previous studies that linked falling antidepressant use to increased suicide rates, "this study was suggestive, that's what we're saying." Other experts, however, said that the problem with such studies is precisely that they are suggestive rather than conclusive and are open to interpretation. Suicides are rare and uniquely personal events that can be driven by many factors: worsening depression or other mental illnesses, breakups or job loss, lack of drug or psychiatric treatment, even easy access to guns. In calling for the labeling change on antidepressants, F.D.A. scientists based their decision on data from drug makers' clinical trials, considered the gold standard in medical research. Those trials have shown that young patients who took antidepressants were about twice as likely than those on placebos to report suicidal thoughts or attempts, though the numbers in both groups were small. Yet none of the youngsters in the trials, most of which ran for no more than a month or two, actually committed suicide. And most psychiatrists with long experience using antidepressants in children say the benefits far outweigh any risk. In studies of data collected before 2004, Dr. Gibbons, Dr. Mann and others found clear associations between prescription patterns and suicide rates. For instance, prescription rates for patients from ages 10 to 24 rose steadily in the 1990s, while the suicide rate in that age group fell 28 percent from 1990 to 2003, according to a government report released last week. In another study, researchers at Columbia University, analyzing data from 1990 to 2000, found that for every 20 percent increase in the use of antidepressants among adolescents, there were five fewer suicides per 100,000 people each year. Psychiatric researchers have found similar patterns among some age groups in other countries, including Sweden, Japan and Finland. But many uncertainties remain. While the suicide rate for adolescents has fallen over the last decade, it has remained largely unchanged for the overall population, though prescriptions for psychiatric medicines have risen sharply in all age groups. Adjusted for the demographic changes, about 11 Americans per 100,000 killed themselves in 2004, the same as in 1994. Demographics can play a role: White people kill themselves about twice as frequently as African-Americans and Hispanics, so as the population becomes more diverse, the suicide rate ought to drop, all else being equal. And suicide rates also appear to be negatively correlated with economic growth, which was exceptionally strong from 1994 to 2000. Advances in medicine also mean more lives can be saved now. With so many potentially confounding factors at play, interpreting the relationship between prescription rates and suicides is difficult, said Andrew Leon, a professor of biostatistics at Weill Cornell Medical College who has served on F.D.A. panels studying suicide risk and antidepressants. "These kinds of studies are very important in giving us a sense of the rates of disease and death in a population and how those may correspond to other things," Dr. Leon said. "But what they don't do is tell us whether the two trends are directly related." (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://topics.nytimes.com Date: September 14, 2008)

Federal Prosecutor Arrested In Child Sex Sting--September 17th, 2007--DETROIT -- A U.S. Justice Department official has been arrested on suspicion of traveling to Detroit over the weekend to have sex with a minor. John David R. Atchison, 53, an assistant U.S. attorney from the northern district of Florida, was arraigned in U.S. District Court in Detroit Monday afternoon. An undercover officer posed as a mother offering her child to Atchison for sex, according to police. Prosecutors said Atchison flew from Pensacola, Fla., to Detroit on Sunday intending to have sex with the 5-year-old girl. He was arrested at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. He is charged with enticement of a minor to engage in sexual activity. According to authorities, Atchison made contact with a detective working undercover for the Macomb County Sheriff's department's. The detective, acting as the child's mother, allegedly arranged a sexual encounter between Atchison and her 5-year-old daughter, police said. In deposition, detectives said Atchison suggested the mother tell her daughter that "you found her a sweet boyfriend who will bring her presents." The undercover detective expressed concern about physical injury to the 5-year-old girl as a result of the sexual activity. Detectives said Atchison responded, " I am always gentle and loving; not to worry, no damage ever, no rough stuff ever. I only like it soft and nice." For complete story, click here.

Should teachers be able to bring guns to school?--September 18th, 2007--ASHLAND, Ore. — In court documents, she's known as "Jane Doe." Innocuous enough, but the woman behind that pseudonym pushes one of the nation's hottest political buttons: guns and school safety. What Ms. Doe wants to do is take her Glock 9-mm pistol to the high school in Medford, Ore., where she teaches. She's licensed to carry a concealed weapon, and she has what many supporters say is a legitimate reason for being armed: a restraining order against her ex-husband based on threats he's allegedly made against her and her children. But district policy prohibits anyone except a law-enforcement officer from bringing a weapon onto campus. When word got out that she had a concealed- carry permit, administrators reminded her of that policy... "Jane Doe," who agreed to be interviewed by phone on condition of anonymity, says she does not want to be viewed as an "Annie Oakley." Trying to extricate herself from an abusive relationship led her to buy her first gun just a few years ago, she says. Before that, she had not been a gun-rights activist... According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 37 states have laws specifically banning guns at schools. In Washington state, the law prohibits teachers from carrying firearms on school property. In general, administrators, teachers organizations and law-enforcement agencies favor such laws. In the confusion of a school shooting, police officials have said, adding guns to the situation just makes it more dangerous. The state panel investigating the April 16 shootings by a mentally disturbed student who killed 33 people at Virginia Tech University, the nation's deadliest school shooting, agreed. "If numerous people had been rushing around with handguns, the possibility of accidental or mistaken shootings would have increased significantly," the panel wrote... In Michigan last week, 16 state lawmakers sponsored legislation allowing teachers, administrators and other school employees to carry concealed weapons on school property. Ohio has a similar bill pending. South Carolina, Alabama and Virginia are among several other states that have considered lifting school-campus gun bans this year, according to Stateline.org, which tracks state issues... So far, just

one state — Utah — allows concealed weapons on campus. Utah's law applies to public colleges and universities. The University of Utah opposed the 2004 legislation that allows weapons on campus, but lost in the state supreme court. For complete story, click here.

U.S. military uses moderate clerics to try to change radical minds--September 19th, 2007--WASHINGTON — The U.S. military has introduced "religious enlightenment" and other education programs for Iraqi detainees, some of whom are as young as 11, Marine Maj. Gen. Douglas Stone, the commander of U.S. detention facilities in Iraq, said Tuesday. Stone said such efforts, aimed mainly at Iraqis who have been held for more than a year, are intended to "bend them back to our will" and are part of waging war in what he called "the battlefield of the mind." The religious courses are led by Muslim clerics who "teach out of a moderate doctrine," Stone said, according to the transcript of a conference call he held from Baghdad with a group of defense bloggers. As a result of the increased U.S. troop presence in Iraq this year, the number of Iraqis in U.S. detention has swelled from about 10,000 last year to more than 25,000. That includes more than 820 juvenile detainees, most of whom are held in a facility that the military calls the "House of Wisdom." The schooling there "tears apart" the arguments of al-Qaida, such as "Let's kill innocents," and helps to "bring some of the edge off" the detainees, Stone said. The effort to reshape attitudes among the growing detainee population is aimed at addressing a problem that has vexed U.S. troops in Iraq for the past four years: Military detention facilities have served as breeding grounds for extremist views, transforming some prisoners into hard-core insurgents, according to military analysts. Stone said he wants to identify "irreconcilables" — those detainees whose views cannot be moderated — and "put them away" in permanent detention facilities. Psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors and interrogators help distinguish the extremists from others, he said. (Webmaster Note: Now it all makes sense, doesn't it? See: www.beyondbusiness.net/openletter.htm and www.heal-online.org/root.htm) For complete story, click here.

Award reduced in Mormon church abuse case--September 19th, 2007--The state Court of Appeals has overturned a portion of a 2005 civil court verdict that found The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints financially liable after a church member sexually abused his two stepdaughters. The appellate court ruled on Tuesday that while the Mormon church still owed the two stepdaughters a little more than $1.2 million because a bishop kept one from reporting the abuse, the church was not financially responsible for the stepfather's liability in the case. That decision will reduce the amount that was awarded to the girls in 2005, although attorneys were not immediately sure by how much. The two sisters, Jessica and Ashley Cavalieri, had originally won a $4.2 million award in a King County civil trial that held the stepfather, Peter N. Taylor, and the church liable for the years of abuse. (Webmaster Note: Don't send your child to Utah!) For complete story, click here.

Witness in polygamist trial: Sex awkward but not forced--September 20th, 2007--ST. GEORGE, Utah — A member of a polygamous sect who entered into an arranged marriage with his 14-year-old cousin testified Wednesday that he never forced himself on his wife. Allen Steed took the stand in defense of Warren Jeffs, 51, the leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) who is facing two counts of being an accomplice to rape. Prosecutors claim Jeffs used his iron-fisted influence to force the marriage, and later sex, in 2001. The alleged victim, now 21, testified last week that Jeffs forced her to marry Steed and that her husband ordered her to have sex. When she complained to Jeffs that Steed was "touching her" in ways she did not like and asked that the marriage be dissolved, she said, the self-styled prophet refused... Steed, 19 when church leaders told him to marry his cousin, acknowledged Wednesday that he had been a clumsy suitor. Socializing between the sexes before marriage is prohibited in FLDS society. "I'm sure it wasn't easy ... knowing now how I was then," Steed said softly. Visibly uncomfortable, Steed had to stand to be heard and occasionally dabbed at tears. "I've never been really good at communication," he said. Steed acknowledged that his cousin was standoffish to him and had made clear at times that she didn't desire the marriage. But other times she was affectionate, he said... The two remained married until 2004, when the accuser left Steed for another FLDS member and fled the church. Jeffs then dissolved the marriage. Steed said he understood his testimony could be used against him if he were to be charged but was willing to speak anyway. Under cross-examination, Steed said he did not believe the government's laws apply to him. Steed said, however, that he would never lie for Jeffs. "It'd be against God's law," he said. The defense ended its case after Steed's testimony, and prosecutors called a sole rebuttal witness. Jane Blackmoore is a midwife who attended to the accuser when she had a miscarriage in 2002. Blackmoore testified that the accuser said her husband was abusive. "She felt like she had been forced," Blackmoore said. "She didn't use the word 'sex' but said, 'My husband doesn't take no for an answer.' " (Webmaster Note: Please don't send your child to Utah or a program founded by or headquartered in Utah. Keep your children safe. Keep your children at home.) For complete story, click here.

Seattle counselor fired after being caught in online sex sting--September 20th, 2007--A Seattle-area counselor surrendered his health-care credentials last week after he told the Department of Health he engaged in a sexually explicit online chat with an adult posing as a teen three years ago. Malcolm McKay was a counselor in private practice and also counseled troubled youths at the Ruth Dykeman Children's Center when the activities came to light. The Internet site for the Seattle Institute for Sex Therapy, Education and Research also lists him as one of its "educators." The Dykeman Center immediately "terminated his employment," according to Tom Rembiesa, president and CEO. The center reported him to police, Child Protective Services and the DOH. The investigations did not turn up any evidence of inappropriate behavior with his clients. McKay was never charged with a crime. DOH documents say that over two days in September 2004, McKay chatted online with an adult posing as a 14- year-old boy. The adult worked with Perverted-Justice.com, a group that targets online child predators. McKay transmitted "naked, graphic photos" of himself and appeared "to be grooming his chat-mate for a sexual relationship," the DOH statement of charges said. For complete story, click here.

Honored Utah teacher admits sex crimes--September 21st, 2007--A man honored as among the best teachers in Utah pleaded guilty Thursday to felony sex charges involving 11 students in his suburban classroom. Frank Laine Hall, 37, who taught first grade at Rosamond Elementary School in the Salt Lake City suburb of Riverton until his arrest in March, could get up to 30 years to life in prison, prosecutor Rodwicke Ybarra said. Hall remains free on $500,000 bond until his sentencing Nov. 14. Hall received a Huntsman Award for Excellence in Education in 2006, for being one of the best teachers in Utah. (Webmaster Note: Again, please don't send your children to Utah!!!) For complete story, click here.

Wanted: good foster parents--September 21st,2007--To Joey Charlton, a supervisor at the Children's Administration office that handles the placement of abused and neglected children from King County, Wednesday was a good day — only seven crises for his team to handle. That's seven kids who were pulled from their parents' homes and were in need of immediate placement — immediate, as in right this minute, today. On any given day, Charlton's five placement coordinators also juggle dozens of other cases they consider long-term, where there is perhaps an extra day or two before the youth gets out of juvenile detention, or a week before a foster parent calls it quits. Last week, Charlton said, it took nine straight hours of phone calls before they could find a temporary home for a 3-year-old boy. Not long before that, they had to find a home for six siblings whose parents had been arrested — and who spoke only Cambodian. It is a difficult job under the best of circumstances. But it's made even tougher because Washington has a shortage of foster parents. State workers first try to find relatives; next, they look for a nearby licensed foster home that will accept the child. When that doesn't work, they're sometimes forced to go across the state to find space. Statewide, only three in 10 of these children stay in the same city. For those who wind up far from home, their trauma is magnified. Not only do these kids lose their parents, but they lose most everything else they know: their teachers, their friends, their local park. "The common denominator is they're all scared and they're all loyal to their families," Charlton said. Now, DSHS has launched an agency wide focus on foster parenting, recruiting foster parents in places and in ways they never have before, reaching out to everyone from struggling migrant workers to well-paid Microsofties. In addition, they're urging people in the community to get involved with abused children's lives in other ways. And they're turning to unusual tools, such as marketing campaigns and demographic studies, to improve the statistics. (Webmaster Note: Many pre-teens and teens in the foster system are placed in abusive behavior modification programs such as Provo Canyon School when no other placement is available. If you have the room, the time, and the love, please become a foster parent.) For complete story, click here.

ITV under fire for attack on teens--September 23rd, 2007--ITV's flagship current affairs series, Tonight With Trevor McDonald, has been accused of deliberate misrepresentation in one of its programmes, 'Ann Widdecombe v The Hoodies'. Sir Trevor McDonald has promised to investigate the complaints personally, after community leaders and a cross-party alliance of politicians in the north London borough of Islington said Widdecombe falsely depicted the Andover estate there as a 'dump' terrorised by gangs of out-of-control youngsters. 'Ann Widdecombe was basically out to get a specific story and, by hanging around at night time and shoving her camera into the faces of young people, demanding that they account for themselves, she made sure she got it,' said Terry Stacy, deputy leader of Islington council. 'It was a cheap way to demonise young people.' For complete story, click here.

Ex-Teacher Charged With Teen Sex in S.C.--September 24th, 2007--COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - A former teacher was charged with having sex with a teenage boy, the third teacher in the same county accused of such crimes in the past year and a half, authorities said Monday. Karen Robbins, 49, was arrested over the weekend and charged with three counts each of criminal sexual conduct with a minor and committing a lewd act on a child. The sex occurred with a 15-year-old in her car and twice at her home between September and November 2005, according to arrest warrants. Robbins was a private school teacher at the time, and officials said the accusations did not involve one of her students. For complete story, click here.

Teacher jailed on stalking charges--September 25th, 2007--A teacher and reserve police officer has been jailed on charges of stalking a 15-year-old girl, one of his former students, while awaiting trial on charges that he raped her. Vernon Heizer, 50, of Nespelem, a teacher at Grand Coulee Dam Middle School, remained in jail Monday with bail set at $100,000. He has been dismissed as a Grand Coulee reserve police officer and placed on leave from his school job, Okanogan County Sheriff Frank T. Rogers and school-district officials said. Heizer came under scrutiny after his estranged wife found a cellular telephone marked "broken" with other items in a box after

he moved out of their home in June, according to documents filed by prosecutors. Sheriff's detectives determined that the phone had been used to exchange numerous calls and text messages with a girl who told authorities they had also exchanged nude photographs of each other, sheriff's Sgt. Michael Lee Worden wrote. Heizer said he formed a close relationship with the girl when she was in a sixth grade but denied her account that they had been having sex since October or November, when she was 14. Heizer was arrested and charged in July with two counts of third-degree child rape and one each of third-degree child molesting and communicating with a minor for immoral purposes. Heizer was released on bail. Several witnesses reported that Heizer began driving by the girl's home and school in mid-August and that he had been seen in a vehicle parked near her home, Rogers said. Heizer was arrested Sept. 14 on charges of stalking a witness in violation of a protection order. For complete story, click here.

Federal Way woman pleads guilty in foster-child abuse--September 25th, 2007--A woman who burned her foster daughter's tongue with a heated fork, beat her feet with dumbbells and stuck a needle into the girl's eye several times pleaded guilty Monday to three counts of assault. Chornice Y. Kabbelliyaa, who also goes by the last name of Lewis, pleaded guilty in King County Superior Court to one count of first-degree assault and two counts of second-degree assault for her treatment of her foster daughter, who is also her cousin. Kabbelliyaa, 34, of Federal Way, had been the girl's licensed foster mother since the girl was 5 years old. The woman was arrested last year after Child Protective Services was called by a neighbor who reported seeing Kabbelliyaa punch the girl, hit her with an umbrella and lock her in an outside storage unit for hours. Physicians examining the girl found serious damage to the girl's right eye, scarring, bruising and a severely burned tongue. The girl, who was then 14, told police and CPS investigators that her foster mother had become angry on one occasion and plunged an insulin needle into the pupil of her right eye, holding it in her eye for several minutes and telling the girl not to move or she'd be blinded. A medical examination showed similar puncture wounds to the pupil of the girl's left eye. In addition, police and prosecutors said in charging papers, Kabbelliyaa beat the girl with crutches, an umbrella, canned goods and keys. Charging documents also state that Kabbelliyaa would turn on the stove's burner until it was red-hot before pressing the girl's palm onto the burner. Kabbelliyaa, who is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 16 at the Regional Justice Center in Kent, will face a standard sentencing range of 10 years to a little more than 14 years. Prosecutors said they will seek a top-end sentence. For complete story, click here.

CBS, you've got to be kidding me--September 28th, 2007--WASHINGTON — When they write the cultural history of childhood in 21st-century America, I hope they leave room for a few unkind words about "Kid Nation." CBS' latest new reality show is about 40 kids from 8 to 15 years old who are dropped into a ghost town in New Mexico with only a production crew to call their own. The kids' task, we are told, is to "try to fix their forefathers' mistakes and build a new town that works." Their real job, of course, is to attract viewers who want to see what happens to the "first ever kid nation." Will kids left to their own devices create a democratic idyll or a savage anarchy? There is nothing particularly new about the conflicting images of children as innocents and children as beasts. It's as old as mythology. It lives on in the heart of every parent who's seen her child turn from a screaming sociopath at the supermarket checkout to a philosopher king at the beach: "Who painted the sky blue?" But the real founding fathers of "Kid Nation" leave little to chance or choice. It's the producers, not the so-called "pioneers," who determine the structure of the town called Bonanza. It's the adults who lay the cultural grid down the main street. And this makes "Kid Nation" an entry into the annals of childhood as it's now lived and argued about in America. You see, this is what the adults brought with them from Hollywood to Bonanza: competition, class and consumerism. In the very first episode, the children were directed to form four armies for color war. They were told that victory would determine their class status. And it did. In a scenario Karl Marx couldn't have made up, the winners of the war were dubbed "upper class," the runners-up were labeled "merchants," then "cooks," and finally "laborers." The little capitalists were allowed to use their very unequal paychecks for very unequal chores to pay for goodies at the town store. The producers did everything but deny the lower-income children their health coverage. Cutthroat competition, class divisions, unrelenting consumerism. Maybe it is reality programming after all. Aren't these the basic three C's of the culture in which we are all raising children? Parent bashing is the favorite indoor sport these days. It's behind the voyeurism that makes "Supernanny" popular and Britney Spears unpopular. It's why we cheered the judge assigning the sinking celebrity a parenting coach. Ordinary parents are held responsible for protecting their children from every imaginable danger. They are fed a high-anxiety diet of horror stories about lead paint in toys, Crocs on escalators and killer cribs. If you Google "danger" and "children," you get 21 million hits of everything from online predators to junk food. Yet, even the most watchful parents are not immune to criticism. The latest villains are the helicopter parents. See them hover over their children's lives! Watch them pull the invisible apron strings of a cellphone, book their children's playdates and write their college entrance essays while squashing their sense of imagination. Parents even have to protect kids from overprotection. The back story is that America has privatized child-raising. We regard children as the wholly owned subsidiary and responsibility of their families. Parents, in turn, can become so absorbed in worrying about the side rails on cribs that we lose focus on the cultural environment that encases all of us. And there is no bike helmet that can protect our children's brains from the three C's. Before it premiered, "Kid Nation" itself was charged with endangering the children by violating child-labor laws and even child-abuse laws. Indeed, the consent form that the parents signed is as creepy as the ones you don't read before you go into surgery. Even creepier was the scene when two homesick children cried and not one adult had the impulse to drop a camera and offer comfort. Nevertheless, the real trouble in Bonanza is not that the cast of mini-survivors was exposed to "serious bodily injury, illness or death." It's that the children urged to build a better town (read "world") than their forefathers were manipulated into the copycat media culture. The reward is a gold star literally worth its weight in gold: $20,000. The only hero so far is 8-year-old Jimmy, the New Hampshire boy who had the good sense to go home. As for the rest?The children of Bonanza didn't make the rules. They inherited them. It's not a kid nation. It's our nation. (Webmaster Note: Sometimes it pays to write a letter to the editor. Tell CBS "Shame on You". Also see: http://www.cbskidnation.blogspot.com/) For complete story, click here.

TYC investigates how prison's 'deplorable conditions' escaped detection--October 2nd, 2007--The Texas Youth Commission is investigating why juvenile inmates endured squalor and deprivation at a privately run West Texas prison that was repeatedly praised by TYC's own quality-assurance monitors. The agency began busing the 197 male inmates from the Coke County Juvenile Justice Center before dawn Tuesday. Officials also canceled an $8-million annual contract with operators of the state's largest private juvenile prison, citing "deplorable conditions." For complete story, click here.

Missouri boot camp part of national investigation--October 3rd, 2007--A Missouri boot camp where a student died nearly three years ago is part of a federal investigation into the nation's facilities for troubled teens. Three former employees of Thayer Learning Center in Kidder, Mo., told The Kansas City Star this week that government investigators told them Thayer was a key focus of that investigation. Greg Spies, a Kansas City attorney for Thayer, said Thayer officials have "fully cooperated" with investigators for the U.S. Government Accountability Office who recently visited the facility and interviewed students. The GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, is conducting the nationwide investigation into residential treatment programs for children at the behest of U.S. Rep. George Miller, a California Democrat. A hearing is scheduled for Oct. 10 in Washington, D.C., before the House Education and Labor Committee, of which Miller is the chairman. Ultimately, Miller's office hopes to convince Congress that boot camp-type facilities should be more stringently regulated. Thayer — which is exempt from state oversight under Missouri law — houses more than 100 troubled teens about 50 miles north of Kansas City. It has been the subject of numerous child abuse allegations, most of which came to light after the November 2004 death of student Roberto Reyes. (Unable tolocate story at time of archiving. Source: www.kansascity.com Date: October 3, 2007)

Ammonia was 'tipping point' in teen's boot camp death, doctor says--October 4th, 2007--PANAMA CITY, Fla. — A Florida teen who collapsed during a confrontation with boot camp guards died of organ failure after they repeatedly used ammonia capsules to try to revive him, a doctor testified Thursday...Drill instructors Henry Dickens, Charles Enfinger, Patrick Garrett, Raymond Hauck, Charles Helms Jr., Henry McFadden Jr., Joseph Walsh and nurse Kristin Schmidt each face up to 30 years in prison if convicted of aggravated manslaughter of a person under 18. A 25-minute surveillance video of the altercation, which the jury viewed Thursday, shows the guards covering the teen's mouth and waving ammonia capsules in his face on three separate occasions, once for as long as five minutes, while Anderson appears to pass in and out of consciousness. For complete story, click here.

Congressional Hearing: Tough Love or Teen Torment: Will the Industry Finally Be Regulated?-- October 8th, 2007--Congress is finally looking into the "troubled teen" industry and the deaths, human rights abuses and other problems that have occurred in teen "boot camps" "wilderness programs" and other "tough love" residential settings. In many states, these institutions are less regulated than dog kennels and nail salons. On Wednesday, Rep. George Miller (D-CA), Chair of the House Education and Labor Committee, will hold a full committee investigative hearing and present results from a Government Accountability Office report that he commissioned. The investigation promises to be revealing-- and may be highly unfavorable to industry claims that it can regulate itself. My book, Help at Any Cost: How the Troubled-Teen Industry Cons Parents and Hurts Kids (Riverhead, 2006), was the first to expose systematic problems in the industry and the complete lack of regulatory oversight on programs that are essentially private jails for kids. The book helped spur Miller's push for legislation. As it stands now, there is more federal regulation protecting mule deer than there is preserving the rights of children in these institutions. Anyone can open one-- there are no qualifications required, nor criminal background checks. Some owners have even made deals with prosecutors and regulators to stay away from their facilities, due to accusations of sexual and other kinds of child abuse. But they were not made to leave the industry! And no legal authority is required to inspect these facilities or see to it that kids are well-treated in them. Teens placed in these settings do not have any right to appeal their confinement: they may be held without contact with the outside world until they turn 18. Moreover, in the programs, they are often subject to "therapies" that many consider torturous: food deprivation, sleep deprivation, total isolation, punitive restraint and constant emotional and even sexual humiliation. When such tactics are used on suspected terrorists, there is a human rights outcry-- but these programs have done everything short of water-boarding kids

with impunity for decades. (Webmaster Note: Water-boarding has been done at various teen programs in Mississippi and Georgia, perhaps others as well, if water-boarding is the practice of drowning/reviving/drowning, it's done at teen programs in the US.) For complete story, click here.

Tough-Love Teen Camps A "Nightmare"--October 10th, 2007--For years, people have complained about abuses at so-called boot camps and other wilderness programs where frustrated parents send their troubled teens to get straightened out. Today, USA Today gets a sneak peak at the findings from the first federal inquiry into the programs, and the results reveal a lot of tough love -- minus the love. The Government Accountability Office cataloged 1,619 incidents of abuse in 33 states in 2005, according to a study to be released later today. It also looked at a sample of 10 deaths since 1990 and found untrained staff, inadequate food or reckless operations were factors. In half of those cases, the teens died of dehydration or heat exhaustion. "This nightmare has remained an open secret for years," said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif, who has designed a bill to encourage states to enact regulations. "Congress must act, and it must act swiftly." Investigators counted thousands of cases of abuse, using Web sites and news reports. Five of the 10 programs where teens died are still operating. The GAO didn't release names, but USA Today pieced together a few of the cases from news reports. For complete story, click here.

Congress Probes Teen Boot Camps--October 10th, 2007--WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal investigator and parents whose children died at youth boot camps urged other families Wednesday to avoid enrolling teens in such programs until there is more oversight of them. "Buyer beware, " said Greg Kutz, who led a congressional investigation into the camps. "You really don't know what you're getting." The Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, found thousands of allegations of abuse, some of which involved death, at boot camps, also referred to as residential treatment programs, since the early 1990s. Kutz, who led the investigation, said the GAO closely examined 10 closed cases where a teenager died while enrolled in one of these programs. "Ineffective program management played a key role in most of these deaths," Kutz testified before the House Education and Labor Committee. He said the staff at the facilities was often poorly trained, and kids weren't properly fed and were exposed to dangerous conditions. He said teenagers' cries for medical assistance or help were ignored. Kutz said in only one of the 10 cases studied closely was anyone found criminally liable and sentenced to serve prison time. Residential treatment programs are slickly marketed to parents who are at a loss as to how to help an emotionally troubled teen, Kutz said. In the cases he studied, "The parents were pretty much told what they wanted to hear," Kutz said. Bob Bacon, of Phoenix, Ariz., whose son Aaron died while enrolled in a wilderness program in Utah, said he was fooled by the owners of that facility into believing his son would be well cared for. "We were conned by their fraudulent claims and will go to our graves regretting our gullibility," he said. Bacon said his son was forced to hike eight to 10 miles a day with inadequate nutrition and was not given protective gear to withstand freezing temperatures. When Aaron complained of severe stomach pains and asked for a doctor, his pleas were ignored even though he had dramatically lost weight and suffered from other serious symptoms, his father testified. Aaron died of an acute infection related to a perforated ulcer. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://ap.google.com Date: October 10, 2007)

Troubled US teens suffer abuse, neglect at 'boot camps'--October 11th, 2007--WASHINGTON (AFP) — Troubled American teens have been abused and neglected at the high-discipline, "tough love" programs which are supposed to help them, and have sometimes paid with their lives, according to a report by the US Congress. The report presented to a committee of US lawmakers Wednesday spoke of "thousands of allegations of abuse, some of which involved death, at residential treatment programs across the country and in American-owned and operated facilities abroad between 1990 and 2007. "Today we will hear stories of children denied access to bathrooms and forced to defecate on themselves; children forced to eat dirt or their own vomit; children paired with so-called buddies whose job was to abuse them," Democratic lawmaker George Miller said at the presentation of the report on residential treatment centers, which are designed to help troubled youths. The report, drawn up by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), was released as a Florida court began hearing the case of the beating death -- caught on video tape -- of 14-year-old Martin Lee Anderson at a program for young offenders. "During 2005 alone, 33 states reported 1,619 staff members involved in incidents of abuse in residential programs," it said. For complete story, click here.

Teen 'boot camps' get congressional scrutiny--October 10th, 2007--WASHINGTON | The death of 15-year-old Roberto Reyes at a "boot camp" for troubled teenagers in rural Missouri three years ago drew the attention of Congress on Wednesday. Thousands of teenagers have possibly been abused and many have died as a result at similar residential disciplinary treatment programs, a federal investigation has found. The report by the Government Accountability Office addressed problems at several disciplinary programs across the country. Concerns included withholding food, drink and medical care, as well as reckless practices by untrained staff. Its findings, that more than 1,600 employees at treatment centers in 33 states had been linked to incidents of abuse in 2005 alone, were the subject of a House hearing Wednesday. The GAO echoed some of the findings of a 2005 Kansas City Star investigation, which uncovered several alleged instances of abuse at the Thayer Learning Center in Kidder, Mo., north of Kansas City. The owners have denied any wrongdoing. The focus of the hearing was also on parents, forever haunted by choices they'd give anything to take back. "His mother and I will never escape our decision to send our gifted 16-year-old son to his death," testified Bob Bacon of Arizona, whose son, Aaron, died at a Utah wilderness therapy camp. "We were conned by their fraudulent claims and will go to our graves regretting our gullibility." The GAO said that during three weeks in 1994 when Aaron was constantly forced to hike, he complained of severe abdominal pain, lost 20 percent of his body weight and lost control of his bodily functions. He received no medical care. It also found little oversight. Some states license the centers. Others, such as Missouri, don't. "These allegations range from neglect to torture, a word that I don't use lightly," said Democratic Rep. George Miller of California, chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.kansascity.com Date: October 10, 2007)

Sexual misconduct plagues US schools--October 21st 2007--An Associated Press investigation found more than 2,500 cases over five years in which educators were punished for actions from bizarre to sadistic. There are 3 million public school teachers nationwide, most devoted to their work. Yet the number of abusive educators — nearly three for every school day — speaks to a much larger problem in a system that is stacked against victims. Most of the abuse never gets reported. Those cases reported often end with no action. Cases investigated sometimes can't be proven, and many abusers have several victims... The findings draw obvious comparisons to sex abuse scandals in other institutions, among them the Roman Catholic Church. A review by America's Catholic bishops found that about 4,400 of 110,000 priests were accused of molesting minors from 1950 through 2002... For complete story, click here.

Deputy indicted, accused of battery at teen academy--October 26th, 2007--A Palm Beach County grand jury has indicted a sheriff's deputy on charges of official misconduct and battery in an incident with a teen at a Belle Glade military-style academy. Deputy Jason Rosen, 36, was booked and released from the Palm Beach County Jail on Thursday evening, after the grand jury handed down the indictment, which has not yet been unsealed. Besides official misconduct, which is a third-degree felony, and misdemeanor battery, he also is charged with falsifying an official document. Rosen has been on paid administrative leave since March 4, when he got into the altercation with the teen at the Eagle Academy. The sheriff's office internal affairs department is also investigating the incident but has not issued its report. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.palmbeachpost.com Date: October 26, 2007)

It's a crime what courts do to kids just being kids--October 27th, 2007--You want your jaw to drop into your lap, your eyes to well up? You should take a peek at my e-mail inbox or listen to the voice mail that arrived on Friday. There was Sheldon Page, who hadn't slept the night before and picked up the paper the moment they threw it on his doorstep. He read in this space on Friday of the elementary school boy now facing criminal charges for allegedly slapping a female classmate on the buttocks. He called. His 14-year-old grandson was due in court Friday afternoon for sentencing. His anguish had kept him awake. A 13-year-old girl had told her mother the boy touched her bottom during a game of tag in May. The boy ultimately pleaded guilty to sexual assault and was placed in a juvenile facility Tuesday. "It is the most outrageous thing I've ever heard of," Sheldon Page, 51, said. "He is a kid, a teenager playing a kid's game, and now they've made him a criminal." There was the lawyer who wrote to tell of his client, a fourth-grader charged with sexual assault for putting his hand in the pants of a female fourth- grader. The police picked him up at school. "Common sense has left the building," he writes. There was Catherine - who, like almost all who called or wrote, asked that I not use a last name. "Tell that boy's parents to leave the country because it will be hell on earth from now on," she said. Her grandson was 11 years old when an 11-year- old girl told her parents they were on the playground swing together and she could feel his genitals. "He was convicted of sexual harassment, and life has been hell ever since," Catherine said. Now 13 years old, he has registered as a sex offender, sees a probation officer once a month and must undergo lie-detector tests. He cannot go more than four blocks from home without his parents, she said. At school, he is not allowed to touch anyone and must use a private restroom. "Tell those parents I feel sorry for their son and them," she said. And then there was Mel. His story is typical of the more than a dozen I've heard since Friday's column appeared. Mel is 63. He has a 12-year-old boy. It was late in the last school year when a shoving match broke out at the boy's school. About eight kids were involved. One kid suffered a cracked lip and a few bruises. The cops came for only Mel's kid and one other. Assault and intent to commit injury were the charges. Mel hired an attorney, took his boy out of the school after he served a one- day suspension and got him a tutor to help him finish the school year. He also put the boy in counseling. "With that many witnesses, there was no way we could win. Our lawyer told us," Mel said, "that the best thing we could do is take a deal or spend $20,000- plus for a trial." So his boy took the deal, which wasn't much of one. Forty-five days in jail, deferred, the judge ordered, plus two years of supervised probation, 75 hours community service, anger-management classes, court costs, $600 restitution, a two- year restraining order and a written apology to the victim. "It was a schoolyard fight, and not much of one at that," Mel said in an interview. "You just don't know what such a little thing can lead to until you get tangled up in it." (Webmaster Note: Stop the war on youth!!!) For complete story, click here.

DENNIS TOWNSHIP, N.J.: 2nd-grader is suspended for making picture of gun--October 21st, 2007--A second- grader's drawing of a stick figure shooting a gun earned him a one-day school suspension. Kyle Walker, 7, was suspended last week for violating Dennis Township Primary School's zero-tolerance policy on guns, the boy's mother, Shirley McDevitt, told The Press of Atlantic City. Kyle gave the picture to another child on the school bus, and that child's parents complained about it to school officials, McDevitt said. Her son told her the drawing was of a water gun, she said. (Webmaster Note: Stop the war on children!!) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.stltoday.com Date: October 21, 2007)

Parents take caution--November 5th, 2007--When an unruly child is too much to handle, parents become desperate for a solution. Some will even resort to enrolling their children into residential treatment programs or wilderness therapy camps. The controversial "tough love" strategies to turn troubled teens around is further being looked at under a microscope with a newly released study by the Government Accountability Office that says the programs place children in potentially life-threatening conditions. Some opponents to these rehabilitation programs call them an industry for "teen torture," while parents with children who have been straightened out profess them to be miracles. The GAO, however, found that majority of programs and camps to do more harm than good. In its study, revealed in October at Congressional hearings, thousands of allegations of abuse and neglect over nearly two decades were gathered with primary focus on the deaths of 10 teenagers - five of which occurred in Utah. (Webmaster Note: The article further inaccurately proclaims that UT effectively regulates and licenses programs for teens. The State of Utah covers up abuses and other violations at teen programs in their state. Do not send your child to Utah.. Keep them at home! Take responsibility for your own family!) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.thespectrum.com Date: November 5, 2007)

Are we too quick to medicate children?--November 5th, 2007--KATIE'S middle child "has always had a lot going on in her head," says her mother. And much of it has been a mystery to Katie, who has coped with her daughter's escalating tantrums, combative behavior, bouts of fearfulness and just-plain-oddity since the 11-year-old was a toddler. Katie, left, worries whether medication is the right solution for her temperamental 11-year-old daughter. "No one wants to feel that their child is a guinea pig," she says. A month ago, Katie, a 38-year-old L.A.- area mother of three, brought the child to a psychiatrist. The child's behavior and performance in school were exemplary, but an ill-tempered outburst had gotten the preteen kicked out of a Girl Scout troop she had joined at age 5. The girl was confused and heartbroken over her ejection. The daughter came away from the appointment with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder. Katie, who asked that her full name be withheld to protect her daughter's privacy, came away with a list of 10 powerful psychiatric medicines and a momentous decision to make. Some combination of these mood-stabilizing, anticonvulsive and antipsychotic drugs, Katie was told, would probably control her daughter's problematic behaviors, that a psychiatrist termed, "symptoms of a disease." Now it's Katie who has the racing thoughts and the alternating bouts of fear, anxiety, relief and anger. As she ponders whether her daughter's strange behavior really amounts to mental illness -- and whether medication is the answer -- she says, "I feel like I'm flying blind." And she's not reassured by the suspicion that the psychiatric profession is as confused about diagnosing and treating mental illness in children as she is. All these psychiatric labels and pills may keep many kids on track and even save lives, Katie says. But both seem to be dispensed with little certainty as to what they mean and how they work -- and even less debate over their long-term consequences for children. In 2005, the latest year for which statistics are available, at least 2.2 million American children over the age of 4 were being treated for serious difficulties with emotion, concentration, behavior or ability to get along with others. It's a figure mental-health professionals say has exploded in the last decade and a half, along with sales of a wide range of psychiatric medications for use by children. A welter of studies has shown that kids are being diagnosed at younger ages, with a wider range of disorders and with more severe disorders than ever before. And in growing numbers, they are being medicated with drugs whose safety, effectiveness and long-range effects on children have not been demonstrated by extensive research. A study published in September found that the diagnosis among children of bipolar disorder, a mental illness long thought not to exist in kids, grew 40-fold over the last decade. The prescribing to kids of antipsychotic drugs typically used to treat the symptoms of bipolar illness have soared as well, despite continuing concerns over side effects such as weight gain, metabolic changes that can lead to diabetes, and tremors. Psychiatrists admit they haven't drawn clear lines between problem behaviors and mental illness, especially in kids, and they are debating future fixes. But until those fixes are made, parents -- with their kids' futures on the line -- are left with little to guide them when a child is tagged with a psychiatric label. Protection from what? Katie's maternal instincts tell her she must protect her child. But from what, she asks -- a disease that threatens health, happiness and future? A bogus label applied to an admittedly challenging kid? Or drugs with potentially harmful and little-studied side effects? And protect her exactly how -- by resisting or by medicating? "I don't want to face her as an adult and say I didn't do everything I could to make her well. I feel like I'm answering to her future self," Katie says. "But so much of this is a crapshoot. No one wants to feel that their child is a guinea pig." Mental-health professionals have long warned that the stigma of mental illness and the cost of its treatment have left millions of Americans with psychiatric disorders to suffer untreated. But as childhood diagnoses of mental illness have surged, some in the profession charge the field of child psychiatry with the opposite problem. A scourge of over-diagnosis, says a growing body of critics, has come to child psychiatry. The trend, say these critics, threatens to turn kids like Katie's daughter -- a preteen whose behavior is certainly odd but whose school life remains on track -- into potentially lifelong patients. And, they add, it has changed the way Americans think about children. Critics warn that as psychiatric diagnosis and medication of children becomes more widespread, teachers, well-meaning neighbors and relatives, and parents themselves are becoming less willing to accept youthful misfits for who they are and to help them adapt without prescribing drugs or attaching labels. (Webmaster Note: See the HEAL Parenting Guide) For complete story, click here.

The U.S. Psycho-Pharmaceutical-Industrial Complex--Z Magazine--November, 2007--In Eugene Jarecki's documentary film Why We Fight, about the U.S. military-industrial complex, U.S. foreign policy critic Chalmers Johnson states: "I guarantee you when war becomes that profitable, you are going to see more of it." Similarly, as mental illness has become extremely profitable, we are seeing more of it. On September 4, 2007, the New York Times reported, "The number of American children and adolescents treated for bipolar disorder increased 40-fold from 1994 to 2003. . . .Drug makers and company-sponsored psychiatrists have been encouraging doctors to look for the disorder" ("Bipolar Illness Soars as a Diagnosis for the Young"). Not too long ago, a child who was irritable, moody, and distractible and who at times sounded grandiose or acted without regard for consequences was considered a "handful." In the U.S. by the 1980s, that child was labeled with a "behavioral disorder" and today that child is being diagnosed as "bipolar" and "psychotic"--and prescribed expensive antipsychotic drugs. Bloomberg News, also on September 4, 2007, reported, "The expanded use of bipolar as a pediatric diagnosis has made children the fastest-growing part of the $11.5 billion U.S. market for antipsychotic drugs." Psychopathologizing young people is not the only reason for the dramatic rise in sales of such antipsychotics as Eli Lilly's Zyprexa and Johnson & Johnson's's Risperdal (each, in recent years, grossing annually from $3 to $4 billion). Much of Big Pharma's antipsychotic boon is attributable to generous U.S. government agencies, especially Medicaid. The Medicaid gravy train has been fueled by Big Pharma corruption so over-the-top that it has been the subject of recent media exposures. The Associated Press, on August 21, 2007, reported, "A groundbreaking Minnesota law is shining a rare light into the big money that drug companies spend on members of state advisory panels who help select which drugs are used in Medicaid programs for the poor and disabled." Those advisory panels--dominated by physicians-- have great influence over the $28 billion spent by Medicaid on drugs, but only Minnesota, Vermont, and Maine require drug companies to report monies paid to physicians. The AP article focused on John E. Simon, a psychiatrist on the Minnesota advisory panel since 2004, who received $489,000 from Eli Lilly between 1998 and 2006. The top drugs paid for by Minnesota Medicaid, according to the AP article, have been antipsychotic drugs, especially Eli Lilly's Zyprexa. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://zmagsite.zmag.org (Z Magazine) Date: November, 2007)

Child held without mom at Texas detention center--DALLAS — An 8-year-old girl was separated from her pregnant mother and left behind for four days at a detention center set up to hold immigrant families together while they await outcomes to their cases. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials say they had to transfer the Honduran woman because she twice resisted attempts to deport her and was potentially disruptive. ICE spokesman Carl Rusnok said guards and ICE staff watched the child after her mother was removed from the T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility. But others are critical of the agency's handling of the case, saying it put the girl at risk and is another example of why the facility should be closed. "Here, it's the government itself that has the custody of this child and then leaves her without proper supervision," said Denise Gilman, who oversees the Immigration Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law, which provides legal services to Hutto detainees. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.chron.com Date: November, 2007)

Suit says TYC breaks pepper-spray rules--November 19th, 2007--AUSTIN — Texas Youth Commission staffers continue to use pepper spray against inmates for offenses no more serious than speaking out of turn or refusing to follow rules, two Texas advocacy groups argued in court Monday. Attorneys for Texas Appleseed and Advocacy Inc. have accused the agency of violating its own guidelines by allowing staff members to use pepper spray on inmates in "passive-resistance situations" when they pose no serious threat to anyone. The attorneys say the use of pepper spray inside TYC units has skyrocketed this year — 1,221 incidents to date, compared with 196 incidents in all of 2006. In early October, a 17-year-old male youth on suicide watch at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center in Edinburg was apparently sprayed for refusing orders to keep his hands out of the tray slot in his cell door. Other youths have apparently been sprayed for refusing to get out of bed; talking during lunch or refusing to follow the dress code, the suit contends. "Pepper spray is the high-tech equivalent of old-fashioned corporal punishment," Steve Martin, a longtime expert on corrections who has been hired by the advocacy groups, said outside the Travis County courtroom. He said it was ludicrous for the agency to suggest that pepper spray did not cause injuries. "It causes intense burning and pain and panic," he said. The advocacy groups are suing TYC, accusing it of failing to follow an agreement reached by the two sides in September that was supposed to limit the instances in which pepper spray could be used. After three hours of testimony, state District Judge Gisela Triana urged both sides to attempt to reach an agreement by Wednesday on specific instances in which the use of pepper spray would be appropriate. TYC's critics claim

the agency is seeking authority to broaden, not limit, the use of pepper spray at its units. Proposed use-of-force guidelines would allow pepper spray to be authorized by a unit's administrator "on a case-by-case basis" not just to protect against loss of life or the threat of serious bodily harm. "It hugely expands it," said Deborah Fowler, legal director for Appleseed No one at TYC or the Texas Attorney General's office would comment on the proposed rule changes. But earlier, attorneys for TYC argued that pepper spray is often apt to cause fewer injuries to staff and offenders than manual restraint. "Juvenile correctional officers had a history of laying hands on these kids to try to control them and as a result, some of the staff and kids were injured," said Terry Thompson, of the Attorney General's office. Pepper spray was listed in the agency's manual as a last-resort means of controlling out-of-control youth. But the acting executive director, Dimitria Pope, tried to change that policy in early August by ordering staff to use pepper spray before resorting to physical restraint. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.chron.com Date: November 19, 2007)

Report gives state's Youth Court system scathing review--November 28th, 2007--Mississippi' s Youth Court system compromises public safety and violates the constitutional rights of children because of overwhelming caseloads and inadequate resources, according to a report. The two-year study by the Mississippi Youth Justice Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center and the National Juvenile Defender Center also outlined other problems plaguing the system, including: Untimely appointment of attorneys to represent youths. Inadequate representation of youths. An overflow of referrals from schools. Youth courts are overrun with referrals from local schools where children are routinely arrested for minor, school-related offenses that drain resources, clog dockets and fill detention-center beds, according to the study. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.clarionledger.com Date: November 28, 2007)

Juvenile inmates' suit alleges abuse by guard--December 6th, 2007--DALLAS — Seven inmates who were held at the Coke County Juvenile Justice Center have sued the private firm that operated the lockup, claiming they were abused by a guard who was a registered sex offender. The inmates allege they were mentally, physically and sexually abused in 2006 and early 2007 by David Andrew Lewis, 24, who worked the night shift until he was fired in March. The federal civil rights lawsuit, which was filed Friday in San Antonio, names GEO Group Inc. The Florida-based company ran the facility in Bronte, 30 miles northeast of San Angelo, until the state removed all inmates and canceled GEO's contract in October citing unsanitary and unsafe conditions. Lewis was not named as a defendant. GEO spokesman Pablo Paez said the company had no comment about the lawsuit. Lewis couldn't be reached. The Texas Youth Commission also declined to comment. GEO fired Lewis when it learned about his sex offender status as a result of an investigation stemming from the overhaul of the TYC, which has been racked by claims of sexual abuse and mismanagement. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.chron.com Date: December 6, 2007)

Young girl arrested for bringing steak knife to school--December 18th, 2007--A 10-year-old girl faces a felony weapons charge after she brought a kitchen knife to school to cut up her lunch. The Sunrise Elementary 5th grader was brown-bagging it. Her mom packed her a piece of steak for lunch, so she put a knife in the brown bag so she could cut the steak. Teachers saw her cutting the steak and immediately took the knife and called deputies. But a couple of teachers took the utensil and called the sheriff. When deputies arrived, they were unable to get the child's parents on the phone, so they arrested her and took her to the county's juvenile assessment center. Police say they didn't handcuff the child, but they did make her undergo a complete assessment. The girls uncle says his niece is devastated over the arrest and has been crying her eyes out. School officials say it doesn't matter what the knife was being used for. They said they had no choice. The student now faces a felony charge for the possession of a weapon on school property and the principal suspended her for ten days. The sheriff's office has turned the case over to the State Attorney's Office. (Webmaster Note: Stop oppressing and demonizing children. Where's your common sense?) For complete story, click here.

German teen sent to cope in Siberia--January 18th, 2008--German authorities exasperated at the antisocial behaviour of a 16-year-old boy have sent him to a remote Siberian village for an "intensive educational experience", it emerged yesterday. The unusual measure by youth welfare officers in the central state of Hesse raised fresh questions about how to deal with delinquents who have been blamed for a series of ugly crimes. The boy, who has not been identified, was dispatched east after behaving violently in school and at home and attacking his mother. He is being forced to fend for himself in boot camp-style conditions in the forlorn village of Sedelnikovo, several hours drive from the city of Omsk, in the western Siberian interior. He has had to cope by collecting and chopping firewood to make his own fires, digging his own toilet and pumping water supplies from a well. He will stay there for nine months, separated from family and friends, the internet and television, under a programme designed specifically for him. Under the supervision of a Russian-speaking German assistant, the boy is also attending school. Once he returns to Germany, he will be monitored for a further two years. "We deliberately sought a region that was particularly lacking in allure," said Stefan Becker, the head of the youth and social department in Giessen, calling it "the ultima ratio" in the attempt to re-educate the boy, for whom all other measures had failed. "[The youth] spends most of his time trying to cope with his day to day existence, living in conditions like we had 30 or 40 years ago," he added. "If he doesn't chop the wood, his room is cold. If he doesn't fetch water, he can't wash." The Hesse authorities have defended the move as an "educational adventure" and say an inspector who visited the boy believed the "treatment" was working. Hundreds of other youths have been sent on similar programmes to countries as diverse as Greece and Kyrgyzstan. The details have emerged in the midst of one of the most heated state election campaigns that Germany has known for years, in which youth crime has featured prominently. The Christian Democratic state president of Hesse, Roland Koch, has called for boot camps and "warning-shot" arrests to be applied to young criminals, and his election speeches have particularly focused on clamping down on immigrants, said to be responsible for half of all crimes committed by the under-21s. The chancellor, Angela Merkel, has backed Koch's campaign, saying that the discussion was long overdue. Koch's stance on crime and immigration has won national resonance and the Hesse vote on January 27 - as well as one in the state of Lower Saxony on the same day - is an early test for Merkel ahead of next year's federal election. But the decision to send the teenager to Siberia is a step too far for some, particularly as equally bleak, though not as cold, regions are to be found in Germany. One commentator called it "more akin to a reality TV show than a social welfare programme". Some have described it as a cost-cutting measure, which, at €150 a day (£111), is about a third of the price of a similar scheme in Germany. For complete story, click here.

Texas Youth Commission shake-up fails to eliminate punitive and inhumane measures against juveniles.-- January 20th, 2008--On the same day last November that the Chronicle published an editorial calling for speedy rebuilding of the scandal-scarred Texas Youth Commission, the agency ombudsman sent an alarming memo to TYC acting director Dimitria Pope. A year after revelations of sexual abuse of inmates by reform school guards and wardens led to ouster of the TYC board and management, it seems the agency is slipping back into its bad habits. In the memo, chief ombudsman Will Harrell alerted Pope to evidence that agency employees were putting more young people in solitary confinement in violation of TYC's policies and procedures. Under the TYC's Behavior Management Program and its "Stop the Violence" campaign, TYC supervisors have become increasingly reliant on sending teens with behavioral problems to isolation cells without required due process hearings or psychological evaluations. Even worse, according to Harrell, some of the inmates at a correctional facility in Mart, east of Waco, have been left in solitary for days and even weeks with scant access to therapy, sanitary conditions and outside exercise. The ombudsman cited a case in which a youth had been locked down for eight days. He was allowed on only two occasions to go to classes and was given outdoor recreation only once. "Conditions in security are inadequate and unsanitary," Harrell wrote. "One cell has no light or bed, yet a kid has been in the cell for over 24 hours." Records obtained by the Chronicle indicate that since August, the number of young people placed in isolation across the state rose from 52 to 82. As Harrell reminded Pope, the settlement of a 1983 lawsuit brought against the TYC bans the use of isolation as a mode of retaliation or as a first-resort punishment against youth offenders. With only a few exceptions, the agreement allows placement in solitary only as a last resort and for a period not to exceed 24 hours. It also calls for the student to be released from isolation as soon as he is under control and not posing a danger to himself or others. Harrell recommended that a TYC team audit the transfers of youths to solitary and release those who do not meet the criteria or did not receive due process and psychological exams. Until that happens, a moratorium on isolation should go into effect. A thorough evaluation of agency use of solitary confinement should be accompanied by implementation of positive rather than punitive behavior mod programs. In the two months since Harrell sent his memo, nothing has been done to address the issues he raised. While Pope was unavailable for comment, newly appointed TYC conservator Richard Nedelkoff indicated he had not been told of Harrell's concerns and would analyze the situation and come up with recommendations in 35 to 40 days. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.chron.com Date: January 20, 2008)

Family worry over child's welfare--The inadequacy of juvenile detention and rehabilitation facilities in the Cayman Islands, which has resulted in the use of the Tranquillity Bay youth rehabilitation facility in Jamaica, has once again raised questions about the level of treatment given to Caymanian youth. Jan Scott of Cayman Brac has expressed concerns over possible violations of a relative's human rights after the juvenile was allegedly swiftly moved from the Frances Bodden Girls Home in Grand Cayman to Tranquillity Bay without the family's approval. Ms Scott said the minor was not properly assessed before being dispatched to Jamaica for rehabilitation. She feels the decision and the handling of the matter was unjust and may worsen the child's condition. Over the past week, Cayman Net News has been contacting the Department of Children and Family Services, CAYS Foundation and the Human Rights Committee for comments through phone calls and emails, but all remained tight-lipped on the matter. Numerous numbers dialled for Tranquillity Bay in Jamaica went unanswered for several days. Maureen Brooks, Frances Bodden Girls Home Manager, said that, as the matter relates to a juvenile, she would prefer that media inquires be addressed to the CAYS Foundation. The CAYS Foundation, a government entity, oversees both the girls' and boys' homes in Grand Cayman. Following the death of one parent, the minor moved in with the other parent but that relationship soured, resulting in the child being sent to Frances Bodden Girls Home. According to Ms Scott, the relative is still mourning the death of her parent and is

apparently “acting out” or “seeking attention” – a cry for help, as she described it. The child’s troubles began, Ms Scott alleges, when the juvenile was taken to court for an incident at school for which the court advised that she be sent to Tranquillity Bay. This decision, coupled with “other issues,” drove her over the edge, Ms Scott believes. Ms Scott further alleged that the child was “pulled from her bed” at Frances Bodden and “locked up” by police before sending her to the Tranquillity Bay facility for rehabilitation. There are outstanding questions about the handling, treatment, possible violation of human rights and care of this child, Ms Scott said. She contacted the Civil Service who, she said, had “insufficient information on this serious matter”. The situation has had an even more devastating effect because no family member was able to see the child before she was flown off the Island, she said. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.caymannetnews.com Date: January, 2008)

How Teenage Rebellion Has Become a Mental Illness--January 28th, 2008--For a generation now, disruptive young Americans who rebel against authority figures have been increasingly diagnosed with mental illnesses and medicated with psychiatric (psychotropic) drugs. Disruptive young people who are medicated with Ritalin, Adderall and other amphetamines routinely report that these drugs make them "care less" about their boredom, resentments and other negative emotions, thus making them more compliant and manageable. And so-called atypical antipsychotics such as Risperdal and Zyprexa -- powerful tranquilizing drugs -- are increasingly prescribed to disruptive young Americans, even though in most cases they are not displaying any psychotic symptoms. Many talk show hosts think I'm kidding when I mention oppositional defiant disorder (ODD). After I assure them that ODD is in fact an official mental illness -- an increasingly popular diagnosis for children and teenagers -- they often guess that ODD is simply a new term for juvenile delinquency. But that is not the case. Young people diagnosed with ODD, by definition, are doing nothing illegal (illegal behaviors are a symptom of another mental illness called conduct disorder). In 1980, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) created oppositional defiant disorder, defining it as "a pattern of negativistic, hostile and defiant behavior." The official symptoms of ODD include "often actively defies or refuses to comply with adult requests or rules" and "often argues with adults." While ODD-diagnosed young people are obnoxious with adults they don't respect, these kids can be a delight with adults they do respect; yet many of them are medicated with psychotropic drugs. An even more common reaction to oppressive authorities than overt defiance is some type of passive defiance. John Holt, the late school critic, described passive-aggressive strategies employed by prisoners in concentration camps and slaves on plantations, as well as some children in classrooms. Holt pointed out that subjects may attempt to appease their rulers while still satisfying some part of their own desire for dignity "by putting on a mask, by acting much more stupid and incompetent than they really are, by denying their rulers the full use of their intelligence and ability, by declaring their minds and spirits free of their enslaved bodies." Holt observed that by "going stupid" in a classroom, children frustrate authorities through withdrawing the most intelligent and creative parts of their minds from the scene, thus achieving some sense of potency. Going stupid -- or passive aggression -- is one of many nondisease explanations for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Studies show that virtually all ADHD-diagnosed children will pay attention to activities that they enjoy or that they have chosen. In other words, when ADHD-labeled kids are having a good time and in control, the "disease" goes away. There are other passive rebellions against authority that have been medicalized by mental health authorities. I have talked to many people who earlier in their lives had been diagnosed with substance abuse, depression and even schizophrenia but believe that their "symptoms" had in fact been a kind of resistance to the demands of an oppressive environment. Some of these people now call themselves psychiatric survivors. For complete story, click here.

Reform school failure--February 12th, 2008-A year after the sexual and physical abuse of young inmates by Texas Youth Commission wardens was disclosed, little has improved and the agency's leadership continues to founder. Entrusted with the custody of thousands of Texas teenagers with behavioral problems, the agency remains a ship adrift in need of a strong captain rather than another deck chair shuffle. The forced resignation Monday of Acting Director Dimitria Pope by Conservator Richard Nedelkoff has key state legislators wondering what measures are necessary to get the TYC out of crisis. Last week Nedelkoff, a gubernatorial appointee and the third person to hold the position in the last 12 months, repeatedly told lawmakers at a hearing that he had not decided who would be named full-time director. He was then embarrassed when Pope testified that he had already ruled her out. Nedelkoff later demanded that Pope resign or be fired, and she stepped down. Pope was brought in from the adult prison program to manage TYC after the previous director and board of trustees resigned. She was criticized for expanding the use of pepper spray to subdue juvenile inmates, ignoring a report on excessive use of solitary confinement and approving the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars for office furnishings. Nedelkoff's own decisions have come under fire. He receives a $160,000 annual salary for his state position, but he also kept his CEO position at Eckerd Youth Alternatives, a Florida company that is in the juvenile corrections business. After becoming TYC conservator, he brought in several consultants with links to Eckerd. After being called on the issue last week, he resigned from the firm, a hollow gesture, as he will likely return to it after the temporary conservator position expires. State Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, the chair of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, is an admirer of Pope's performance in the state prison system and said she was in an impossible position at TYC without the resources or administrative support to do the job. Whitmire said a top priority should be relocating isolated youth facilities to more urban settings, where most of the inmates come from and where medical resources and prospective employers are more readily available. Unfortunately, legislators where the institutions are located resist moving them and, by making the issue a hot potato, have delayed much-needed restructuring of the system. Whitmire said Nedelkoff's lack of candor in dealing with legislators last week has damaged his credibility. "To be honest, I'm not sure what we've got in this guy, and I'm going to obviously work with him, because the stakes are too high," Whitmire said. "This agency needs some stability, and he's going to have to prove to me he can provide it." It's shocking and unacceptable that after a year of attempted reform of the TYC by the governor and the Legislature, so little has been accomplished and so much remains to be done. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.chron.com Date: February 12, 2008)

SPLC Campaign Closes Mississippi Girl's Prison!--Seven months after the Southern Poverty Law Center sued Mississippi to stop the physical and sexual abuse of teenage girls confined at the notorious Columbia Training School, the state has decided to close the facility. For complete story, click here.

How growing woes doomed a Hollywood drug clinic--February 21st, 2008--There were the big things: the constant escapes, the fistfights and the sex abuse allegations, and the former financial officer accused of stealing $2 million. And the little ones: the filthy floors, the missing toilet paper, and the mattresses that were old and wafer-thin. Eventually, the problems plaguing The Starting Place's residential drug treatment program in Hollywood simply became too much to ignore. For years, administrators at Florida's Department of Children & Families and a local advocacy group that routinely inspected the program for troubled teens, nudged and coaxed and cajoled. Managers of the program -- which had maintained a very good reputation since opening in 1969 -- promised to do better. Hundreds of pages of DCF records, obtained by The Miami Herald on Wednesday, show they seldom did. Last week, DCF shuttered the residential treatment program, 2057 Coolidge St., revoked its licenses and moved about 45 youths into alternative programs. The treatment center in Plantation also run by The Starting Place, has not had such problems and remains in operation. The chairwoman of the program's board, Lynn Strauss, could not be reached for comment Wednesday. The actions come amid a host of recent troubles: Hollywood police, along with the Broward Sheriff's Office's child abuse investigations unit, are looking into allegations that some youths were sexually abused by staff, said Jack Moss, DCF's top administrator in Broward County. The investigations remain ongoing. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.miamiherald.com Date: February 21, 2008)

Teen accuses Evins staff of abuse--February 22nd, 2008--EDINBURG — More allegations of abuse have surfaced at the Evins Regional Juvenile Facility, less than a month after administrators there pledged to reform policies on restraining inmates. A former teenage resident claims a staff member at the troubled detention center threw him to the ground and violently attacked him after a raucous group therapy session in July 2007. The incident left 15-year-old Robert Romero Jr. with a dislocated hip, fractured pelvis and a ruptured artery in his thigh, according to a federal lawsuit filed this week against Evins and the Texas Youth Commission, the state agency that oversees the detention center. “It takes quite a lot to make a grown man cry,” his father, Robert Romero Sr., said. “But after I saw my son, I broke down in tears.” The accusations come within three weeks of a proposed settlement agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and the Texas Youth Commission that would end a civil rights lawsuit filed on behalf of Evins inmates. The facility has come under intense scrutiny in the past two years after several inmates accused guards of using overly violent means to restrain them. Romero’s attorney, Christopher J. Gale, sees his client’s cases as proof that Evins’ troubles are far from over. “There has been a lot of concern there about the use of force,” he said. “We have to remember that these are just kids.” For complete story, click here.

Tarnished View of Wonder Drugs--February 17th, 2008--When they were first introduced in the early 1990s, new antipsychotic medications for severe mental illness were seen as wonder drugs that were safer and more effective than their predecessors. Sales soared as doctors tried them on new conditions, including dementia, aggression and other behavioral problems. Children and the elderly were among the biggest users. But now, several studies questioning some of the drugs' benefits have led many doctors to talk of using them for shorter periods and with tighter monitoring, because of side effects that include sedation, obesity and diabetes. "You can't just pop someone on it and see them in a year," said Jason Karlawish, a geriatric psychiatrist at the University of Pennsylvania. These drugs, known as atypical antipsychotics, offer a contentious case study of a common pattern in pharmaceuticals. New drugs are typically approved for narrow uses and get tried off-label on conditions that are difficult to treat. Companies' sales efforts stoke up overall use until the research catches up years later, dulling the early enthusiasm. While some patients are helped, lawsuits are also a common legacy. The atypicals were originally approved for severe mental illness - schizophrenia and bipolar disorder - which had limited markets. But under a determined marketing effort portraying them as safer and more effective than their predecessors, the atypicals came to be tried beyond their approved uses for nursing-home residents, prisoners, and children younger than 6 years old. Total U.S. sales for the class reached $13 billion in 2007, doubling sales of

2002, according to IMS Health Inc., a pharmaceutical-information firm. Atypicals carry such names as Risperdal, made by Janssen Pharmaceutica, part of Johnson & Johnson; Zyprexa from Eli Lilly & Co.; Seroquel by AstraZeneca P.L.C.; Geodon by Pfizer Inc.; and Abilify by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. All over the country, state officials are discovering that atypicals have become the largest drug class in Medicaid, the health program for the poor. And many state officials question whether that reflects overzealous marketing or real need. Several states, including Pennsylvania, are suing some drugmakers for allegedly promoting the drugs beyond approved uses and commissioning "ghost-written" articles to stoke use of the drugs. The drugmakers reject the suits' claims and are obtaining new approvals from the Food and Drug Administration to treat more conditions. In the last two years, Janssen's Risperdal got approval to treat schizophrenia in adolescents and the irritability of autism in ages 5 to 16. Atypicals remain a cornerstone of care for serious mental illness. Ellen Sholevar, director of child and adolescent psychiatry at the Temple University School of Medicine, said atypicals could help children even though they had not been well-studied. Antipsychotics are used when young children appear to be out of control and represent a danger to themselves or others, or have "very severe disorders where there is no other viable treatment option," she said. Naas Siddiqui, 25, of West Philadelphia, said that antipsychotics eased her manic symptoms and helped her graduate from Yale University in 2007. While Zyprexa made her lethargic and gain weight, she said, Abilify calmed her. She gets her blood tested every six months and sees a physician more frequently. "I don't want to stay on it permanently. But I think it's helped me significantly," she said. A different view of the drugs came from Nicola Huff of Pleasantville, N.J., whose son, John Aaron, took Risperdal for seven years to resolve his behavioral problems. But at age 14, he developed a well-known drug side effect: female-size breasts that had to be surgically removed. "He would ask me 'Am I a girl?' And I would tell him 'no,' " Nicola Huff said. Tammy Wandling, whose son Austin has autism, said a psychiatrist put him on Risperdal at age 4. In less than nine months, Austin developed a baseball-size growth in his right breast. "I couldn't believe how big it was," said his mother, who lives near Charleston, W.Va. Research suggests Risperdal, like the older antipsychotics, can cause an increase in the hormone prolactin, which directs breasts to enlarge and make milk. Risperdal's label warns about the possibility. The experience helped drive both women to hire Steve Sheller and James J. Pepper, both Philadelphia lawyers. "They're being given an easy out with a pill. But the easy out may create a much more serious problem," Sheller said. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.philly.com Date: February 17, 2008)

TYC to close Sheffield Boot Camp--February 28th, 2008--Texas Youth Commission officials plan to close the Sheffield Boot Camp in remote West Texas, a facility that has been plagued for months by staff shortages and a dwindling count of incarcerated youths. Located in a remote part of West Texas, the camp that once housed 128 boys held just 17 today, officials said. Fifty-nine staff members were on duty Wednesday. The closure, confirmed this morning in a letter to legislative leaders, is the first for the troubled agency after months of rumors that Sheffield and other lockups were targeted. "It is apparent that the agency will continue to experience staffing difficulties that make the long-term viability of the Sheffield facility tenuous," Youth Commission Conservator Richard Nedelkoff said in a letter to the legislative leaders. "We are putting together a plan to transition all youth and employees at Sheffield to other TYC facilities by the end of March 2008. ... I do not believe there are any remaining options for this facility." At a time when several Youth Commission lockups still do not meet the 12:1 staffing ratio mandated by law, Sheffield had about 1:3. Oddly, the youth population was drastically cut in October because there was not enough staff to properly guard them. The agency is 528 correctional officers short of a budgeted staff of 2,776. In his letter, Nedelkoff said while a review continues of possibly closing other youth lockups, "I anticipate we will need to utilize the remaining facilities" through August 2009. Nedelkoff was not immediately available for comment. Legislative leaders had said they expected as many as three lockups might be closed in coming months because of a declining population of incarcerated teenagers and a continuing shortage of staff. In addition to Sheffield, the Victory Field boot camp in Vernon and the West Texas State School in remote Pyote have been listed as up for possible closure. The West Texas State School is where allegations that incarcerated teenage boys were being sexually assaulted by officials while top Youth Commission officials looked the other way, triggering a headline-grabbing scandal a year ago that resulted in the firing of top management and the agency being placed in conservatorship. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.statesman.com Date: February 28, 2008)

Police: Worker Assaulted Teen In Marietta Treatment Center--February 28th, 2008--MARIETTA, Ga. -- Police say a worker at an adolescent treatment center slipped into a patient's room in the middle of the night and sexually assaulted her. It happened at the Hartmann Center in Marietta. A teenaged girl complained Robert Lee Jones snuck into her room while she was sleeping and fondled her. Marietta Police arrested Jones and charged him with sexual assault. He is still in the Cobb County Jail tonight. The courts send troubled teens to the Hartmann Center for treatment for substance abuse problems. For complete story, click here.

Youth pleads to get out of rehab--February 29th, 2008--A 16-year-old girl, who was forcibly sent to Tranquility Bay in Jamaica for rehabilitation, has made a “heart-wrenching” plea to her mother to remove her from the youth facility. A letter, which was given to Cayman Net News by the minor’s mother, Latchmin “Charlene” Scott, is dated 27 January and was given to Mrs Scott by her daughter’s former Social Worker, Carol Robinson, during the week beginning 17 February. “I really need you at this time; please I am begging you to get me out of here. Please it was bad enough in girls home but now it’s worse,” writes the minor. The issue was first reported in this publication earlier this month after the juvenile was allegedly swiftly moved from the Frances Bodden Girls Home in Grand Cayman to Tranquility Bay without the family’s approval. The young person’s aunt, Jan Scott of Cayman Brac, expressed concerns over possible violations of her niece’s human rights and said the minor was not properly assessed before being dispatched to Jamaica for rehabilitation. Jan Scott also stated that she felt the decision and handling of the matter was unjust and may worsen her niece’s condition. Latchmin Scott is very concerned with the way in which her daughter has been treated by the authorities. “She needed help but it could have happened in a different way,” she said. The mother explained that her daughter, who went to the Frances Bodden Girls Home in September 2007 after being made a ward of the court, was not happy at that facility. According to Latchmin Scott, her daughter’s dissatisfaction was not helped by the Department of Children and Family Services’ decision to prevent her from visiting or maintaining contact with her mother. Latchmin Scott said that she had always sought to maintain communication with her daughter, an issue that is now exacerbated by her removal to Tranquility Bay. She believes that Ms Robinson, who was the social worker in the case prior to the minor’s removal to Tranquility Bay, misled her about the action that would be taken by the Department of Children and Family Services following a third suicide attempt by her daughter. Rather than sending the teenager to the Jamaican facility, “she (Ms Robinson) told me the judge was re-considering the decision to go to Tranquility Bay,” and would withdraw the order pending further investigations, said Latchmin Scott. However, Latchmin Scott later found out that her daughter was sent to the facility in Jamaica the very day she and Ms Robinson had that conversation. In her letter, the minor describes how she feels about being at the rehabilitation centre. “I am so depressed and frustrated; this place is much worse than you think and heard.” She continues, “Yesterday a supervisor came and told me that the court order was for two years but Mommy … I know I won’t last here two months or more!” Speaking of her future, the teenager states, “But my future has pure grey clouds and overcast skies from my point of view. Me coming here made my intentions of becoming a lawyer or something in life (go) down the drain.” “Mom, you know me inside out and when I tell you that I’m not happy and comfortable you know what I mean, how I feel and what I’m capable of doing.” While Latchmin Scott was pleased to hear from her daughter, she was equally upset by its content and felt that the system had failed her daughter. Ms Robinson was asked to comment on the case. She said it was no longer on her caseload and that queries should be directed to Deanna Lookoy, Director of Children and Family Services. Efforts to get comments from Mrs Lookloy by email and telephone before press deadline were unsuccessful. (See Follow-up letter to editor by Maia Szalavitz.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://caymannetnews.com Date February 29, 2008)

Survey: 13,000 Claims of Abuse Reported in U.S. Juvenile Centers 2004 through 2007-- March 2nd, 2008--COLUMBIA, Miss. — The Columbia Training School — pleasant on the outside, austere on the inside — has been home to 37 of the most troubled young women in Mississippi. These are harsh and disturbing charges — and, in the end, they were among the reasons why state officials announced in February that they will close Columbia. But they aren't uncommon. Across the country, in state after state, child advocates have deplored the conditions under which young offenders are housed — conditions that include sexual and physical abuse and even deaths in restraints. The U.S. Justice Department has filed lawsuits against facilities in 11 states for supervision that is either abusive or harmfully lax and shoddy. Still, a lack of oversight and nationally accepted standards of tracking abuse make it difficult to know exactly how many youngsters have been assaulted or neglected. The Associated Press contacted each state agency that oversees juvenile correction centers and asked for information on the number of deaths as well as the number of allegations and confirmed cases of physical, sexual and emotional abuse by staff members since Jan. 1, 2004. According to the survey, more than 13,000 claims of abuse were identified in juvenile correction centers around the country from 2004 through 2007 — a remarkable total, given that the total population of detainees was about 46,000 at the time the states were surveyed in 2007. For complete story, click here.

The Age of Consent: When Young Love Is a Sex Crime--March 7th, 2008--Share Twelve years ago, Frank Rodriguez pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a child. Faced with two to 20 years in prison on the charge, he signed a plea bargain that gave him seven years probation. He was told he must never be near children. That meant he couldn't be any place where children gather, like playgrounds or parks, which made it tough to find work. Age of Consent: What Should It Be?"They literally just break you down to nothing," Rodriguez said. "They tell me I can't do this, I can't do this, you know. It gets real bad." Rodriguez completed his seven years' probation without another violation, but he will forever be on the Texas sex offender registry. And what was the nature of the sex crime he committed? Well, when he was 19, Frank had sex with his 15 year-old girlfriend, Nikki Prescott, at her suggestion. "It was my idea," she said. "I would say I pushed it more." Watch the story tonight on "20/20" at 10 p.m. ET and watch John Stossel's special "The Age of Consent' next Friday, March 14 at 10 p.m. ET Nikki, now 27, was a freshman in high school at the time. Frank, now 30, was a senior. She says the relationship was not at all unusual at their high school. "All my friends were having sex, all of them," Nikki said. "All my friends, you

know, were dating older guys." Sexually Active Teens: Right or Wrong? 'I Was Not Raped' Nikki's mom, Melissa Wiederhald, knew her daughter was intimate with Rodriguez, and at one point even took Nikki to Planned Parenthood to get her birth control pills. She didn't like what the couple were doing, though, and she thought their relationship was getting too serious. One night, after an especially bad fight with Nikki, in a fit of anger, Nikki's mom made a fateful decision. "I said, 'This is it,'" Wiederhald recalled. "I said, 'We're going to the police station.' I said, 'I've had it.'" Wiederhald went to the police station because she knew that it was illegal for Rodriguez and her daughter to be having sex. The age of consent in Texas is 17, and Nikki wasn't quite 16. Wiederhald didn't think that Rodriguez was violating Nikki, but she felt she had no other way to make a point to her teenage daughter. For complete story, click here.

Tranquility Bay is 'private jail', author says--Reports on the use of Tranquility Bay in Jamaica, as a rehabilitation facility for troubled youth in the Cayman Islands has come under fierce criticism from American journalist and author Maia Szalavitz. Speaking to Cayman Net News in a telephone interview on Monday, 10 March, she said: “No other government has ever sent a child there.” Ms Szalavitz, who contacted Net News after reading a previous article with family members raising concerns about a young Caymanian at the facility, is author of the book “Help at Any Cost: How the Troubled Teen Industry Cons Parents and Hurts Kids” (Riverhead Books, 2006). She said that whilst researching for her book she “spoke to dozens of parents and teens who report horrifying abuses at Tranquility Bay.” According to Ms Szalavitz, she spent three years “looking at troubled teen programmes” when researching her book, and estimates that about 20 per cent of that time was spent on Tranquility Bay. Her research took her to Jamaica in an attempt to get inside the facility, but she was refused entry. “It looks like a South American prison,” Ms Szalavitz said of what she observed from the outside. She related seeing bars on windows which were blacked out, preventing anyone from looking in and keeping those inside from looking out. “Basically, it is an unregulated, private jail,” she said. “They are complete amateurs; I don’t understand why any government agency would send children there.” (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://caymannetnews.com Date: March 10, 2008)

Judge orders California to enforce county juvenile hall standards--March 12th, 2008--A judge has ordered California authorities to set strict deadlines for bringing county juvenile halls up to state standards if they fail inspections. San Francisco Superior Court Judge Patrick Mahoney ruled the Corrections Standards Authority has been giving counties too much time to correct problems that include overcrowding and excessive use of force. The authority inspects juvenile halls every two years. The judge says counties must submit an improvement plan within two months. They then must make changes within three months or risk having their juvenile jails shut. Legal advocates sued the authority in 2006. They say as many as half the detention halls were allowed to operate despite failing to meet minimum state guidelines. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.sacbee.com Date: March 12, 2008)

"Baby ASBOs" for children as young as 10--March 18th, 2008--LONDON (Reuters) - Troubled teenagers and children as young as 10 would be hit with anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) under a government plan unveiled on Tuesday to fight youth crime. About 1,000 of the country's "most challenging" children will be forced to sign good behaviour contracts under the 218-million pound programme, Children's Secretary Ed Balls said. Under the expansion of the Family Intervention Projects, the troublemakers would be supported by "non-negotiable" workers. But failure to abide by the contract will lead to a criminal record, and a behaviour order dubbed a "baby ASBO". "The support is non-negotiable -- if young people don't take the help, or refuse to mend their ways they will face the consequences," Balls said in a statement. "For example (they will face) an Anti-Social Behaviour Order to stop bad behaviour and an Individual Support Order to compel them to co-operate with support. These are court orders with criminal records and sanctions for those who breach them." For complete story, click here.

Sins against kids--March 20th, 2008--The General Assembly does not legislate based on facts, relying instead on perceptions, personal experiences and political pandering. And nowhere is that more apparent than in the way the state responds to juvenile crime. Despite the fact that only 5 percent of youth arrests owe to serious offenses, legislators have toughened the juvenile system over the years in response to the myth of the teenage "superpredator." At the same time that lawmakers don't believe 17-year-olds are mature enough to buy cigarettes or drive past midnight, they maintain that teens are old enough to be viewed as adults when they break the law. In Georgia, a teen as young as 13 can face life in prison for some offenses. Now, JUSTGeorgia — a coalition of Voices for Georgia's Children, the Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, and Emory's Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic — is offering up a new code. The comprehensive rewrite is based on four years of work by the State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyers Division and interviews with hundreds of people across the state, including advocates, victims of juvenile crimes, foster children and law enforcement. Despite their varying perspectives, all those interviewed agreed that the Georgia statutes dealing with young people who violate the law or who are victims of abuse and neglect are not in the best interests of children. Since its introduction in 1971, the Georgia juvenile code has wandered far afield from its founding principle that when a young person errs, the law should rehabilitate, not punish. For complete story, click here.

Jewish family sues Jamaican reform school for troubled teens--March 25th, 2008--A battle has erupted in the Orthodox Jewish community over a Brooklyn teenager sent by his prominent family to a behavior boot camp accused of terrifying abuse. Isaac Hersh, 16, has been trapped since last summer at Tranquility Bay, a reform school on the island of Jamaica with a soothing name - and harsh discipline, according to the lawyer hired to try to get him out. "It's a modern-day concentration camp," said Maryland lawyer Joshua Ambush. Isaac's estranged parents sent him to the boot camp last year after luring him back to Brooklyn from his new home in Texas, court papers claim. Isaac's twin brother, Sol, is panicked he's next to go. "He's very worried about his brother. He's very worried about himself, too," said a friend of the family who asked to remain anonymous. Tranquility Bay offers the promise of turning bad boys into focused achievers, but the walled-off camp with barred windows has been called a nightmare. Children have been beaten, forced to eat their vomit and made to stand in painful contortions for hours, according to a separate suit filed in Utah by former students against private boot camps, including Tranquility Bay. The case has so riled up members of the normally insular Orthodox community that several are taking the rare step of publicizing Isaac's situation. For complete story, click here.

Schools embrace fingerprint scanning--By Pauline Vu, Stateline.org Staff Writer-- The lunch lines in West Virginia's Wood County schools move much faster than they used to. After students fill their trays with food, they approach a small machine, push their thumbs against a touch pad — and with that small movement, they've paid for their meal. For half the state's school districts, as well as hundreds more across the country, the days of dealing with lost lunch cards or forgotten identification numbers are over. "A student cannot forget their finger," said Beverly Blough, the director of food service in Wood County School District, which in 2003 became the first district in West Virginia to use finger scanners. But the emergence of finger scanning has also sparked a backlash from parents and civil libertarians worried about identity theft and violation of children's privacy rights. In several cases when parents have objected, school districts have backed down, and some states have outlawed or limited the technology. A growing number of schools are using biometrics, or the science of identification based on physiological or behavioral features like facial or voice recognition, to have students pay for meals, log their attendance, board buses, check out books and visit the nurse's office. Administrators cite many benefits, chief among them efficiency. Fingerprints are scanned, but the prints themselves are not saved; instead, a finger's ridges and arcs are turned into "data points," which are converted into a numerical identifier assigned to each student. Pennsylvania-based identiMetrics, which offers biometric identification products, has sold fingerprint scanners to about 1,000 school districts in about half the states, mostly in the Northeast and South, said Anne Marie Dunphy, the company's chief financial officer. By the end of the fiscal year, she expects the business will triple or quadruple over the previous year. Dunphy said rural districts seem to be taking the lead on implementing the technology. "You would think that it would be the technology-rich, wealthy districts along the Northwest corridor, and it's the complete opposite. We have installations in very rural areas in Indiana, where the backyard's a cornfield and there's an Amish lady working the cash register," she said. But the technology's emergence has raised concerns for parents about whether their children's information is safe. "It just opens a huge database out there that's just easy for identity theft," said Joy Robinson-Van Gilder, an Illinois mother who rallied legislators last year to place limits on the technology in her state. "I think it's against their civil rights, without a doubt, and it is an invasion of privacy." Illinois is the only state that requires schools to get parental permission before scanning students' fingerprints. Iowa banned biometrics outright in schools, and Michigan doesn't allow fingerprinting because of a 2000 attorney general opinion that it would violate state law. Arizona could join this group. Last month, a Senate committee passed a bill to ban the use of biometrics in schools. Scanning opponents argue that districts don't have policies in place for what information to collect, how long to keep it, how to delete it when it's no longer needed and who should have access to the information. They also say that schools, unlike banks or major government agencies that also collect biometric data, don't have the financial resources to ensure that it is secure. "The benefits certainly do not justify the privacy violations that we're seeing," said Alessandra Meetze, executive director of the Arizona chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. "I don't think collecting fingerprints from very little kids sends the right message…They're essentially treating (students) like criminals for the sake of efficiency." (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.stateline.org Date: March/April, 2008)

Doctor is sued in death of girl, 4 Her psychiatrist treated her with powerful drugs--April 4th, 2008--The parents of 4-year-old Rebecca Riley are awaiting trial on charges that they killed her in December 2006 with an overdose of psychiatric drugs. A medical malpractice suit filed yesterday asserts that a Tufts Medical Center psychiatrist who diagnosed the girl as bipolar when she was 28 months old and then treated her for two years with a regimen of powerful drugs is to blame for her death. "This child was subject to mostly telephone prescriptions and a slipshod diagnosis," said Boston lawyer Andrew C. Meyer Jr., who represents Rebecca Riley's estate and filed the suit against Dr. Kayoko Kifuji in Suffolk Superior Court. Six weeks before Rebecca Riley was found dead on Dec. 13, 2006, in a Hull house shared by her parents and other relatives, a nurse at her Weymouth preschool warned Kifuji that she suspected the child was overmedicated because she was often too tired to participate in school activities and appeared like a "floppy doll," according to Meyer. Kifuji did not reduce her medication after examining the child, he said. "They made her a 4-year-old

zombie," said Meyer, whose Boston law firm Lubin & Meyer specializes in medical malpractice cases. "We don't believe that she did suffer from bipolar or that this was the appropriate medication." The suit was filed on behalf of a court-appointed guardian who is serving as administrator of Rebecca Riley's estate and is protecting the interests of the girl's 13-year-old brother and 7- year-old sister. It seeks unspecified damages for the wrongful death and pain and suffering endured by Rebecca, as well as the loss suffered by her brother and sister, who are in foster care and have been named the beneficiaries of her estate. Kifuji could not be reached for comment yesterday. Since the child's death, Kifuji remains on staff at Tufts Medical Center, but no longer treats patients. She has voluntarily agreed not to practice medicine, pending an investigation by the state Board of Registration in Medicine. Tufts Medical Center released a statement yesterday saying: "We have not received any official notification of a lawsuit. We remain in support of Dr. Kifuji and the care she provided." Kifuji diagnosed Rebecca Riley with bipolar disorder and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder and prescribed clonidine, a blood pressure medication that is sometimes used to calm aggressive children, Seroquel, an antipsychotic drug, and Depakote, an antiseizure drug, according to court records. The child died from an overdose of the prescription drugs, and, by itself, the amount of clonidine in her system was fatal, court records indicate. Clonidine and Depakote are approved by the FDA for adults only. A trial date has yet to be set for Michael and Carolyn Riley, who were initially charged with first-degree murder in intentionally overmedicating their daughter and knowing that it would be fatal. For complete story, click here.

Authorities remove children from polygamists' West Texas compound--April 4th, 2008--ELDORADO, Texas — Child welfare officials Friday took custody of 18 girls who lived at a secretive West Texas religious retreat built by polygamist leader Warren Jeffs following an abuse complaint to state authorities. A total of 52 girls, ages 6 months to 17 years, were bused away on Friday to be interviewed, but only 18 were immediately taken into state custody, said Texas Child Protective Services spokeswoman Marleigh Meisner. No arrests had been made. Meisner said CPS was looking for foster homes for the girls, most of whom have rarely been outside the insular world of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They were temporarily being housed at a local civic center, she said. "We're dealing with children that aren't accustomed to the outside world so we're trying to be very sensitive to their needs," said Meisner. Authorities had interviewed about half the girls since arriving at the remote compound with law enforcement on Thursday evening, she said. Interviews were expected to continue over the weekend. The investigation began with a call alleging physical abuse of a 16-year-old girl living there, Meisner said. On Friday afternoon, Department of Public Safety officials began executing a search warrant at the compound. The warrant is for records dealing with the birth of children to a 16-year-old and any records listing a marriage between Dale Barlow, 50, and the girl, according to the San Angelo Standard-Times, which cited court records released late Friday in Tom Green County. Prosecutors in Tom Green, a larger county north of Eldorado, were handling the case. An arrest warrant was issued, but the individual DPS is looking for had not been located by Friday evening, said spokeswoman Tela Mange. She said she could not reveal whose name was on the warrant. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.chron.com Date: April 4, 2008)

Sex abuse, violence alleged at teen jails across U.S.--April 4th, 2008--JACKSON, Mississippi (CNN) -- Girls as young as 13 say they were shackled for weeks at a time in Mississippi. Erica was 16 when she was forced to wear leg shackles at a Mississippi detention center, she said. A Texas teen was allegedly offered birthday cake in exchange for sex. A guard drove his knee into the neck of a frail suicidal Ohio boy after the youth was wrestled to the ground and held down by other guards who stripped him and covered his face with a smock, a state report said. More than two dozen girls at an Indiana lock-up describe "networking" -- their term for sneaking into each other's cells to have sex, with no interference from guards. This is a glimpse into what America's juvenile jails look like, according to lawsuits, criminal cases and experts who have spent years delving into what they call a broken system. "It's a nationwide crisis that has been going on for years, one the public has never been told the extent of," said psychiatric social worker Jerome Miller, the co-founder of the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives, who has evaluated and helped reform juvenile jails for more than three decades. This summer, Mississippi plans to close Columbia Training School, a juvenile facility that houses mostly minor offenders. They are often runaways from abusive homes. Erica was 16 when she was sentenced to Columbia after running away, a probation violation of an earlier marijuana conviction. She admits she was a girl quick to sass her parents, full of anger about the death of a relative that happened around the same time Katrina wrecked her family's Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, home. Nervously touching a sparkly barrette in her red hair, she cries as she describes how guards forced her legs into tight metal shackles. She said she was cuffed and chained when she ate and used the bathroom -- and was even forced to play soccer that way against other girls. Guards called her "Chain Gang," she said. "I will always remember them things around my ankles, the way they cut into me," she said, pulling up her pant leg to show slash-mark scars on her ankles and heels. "They made you feel like you were nothing." Watch teen explain suicide attempt was cry for help » Represented by attorneys with the Southern Poverty Law Center, Erica and nine other girls housed at Columbia are suing the state, claiming they endured a range of sexual and physical abuse, including shackling. Don Desper, a licensed therapist and former employee at Columbia who opposed the practice, told CNN it was used to prevent the teens from escaping. In a handwritten affidavit, a 15-year-old girl described a male guard molesting her. She wrote: "He came inside my cell half way half of his body and he started touching me and he tryed (sic) to kiss me and then he left he came back with my snack in his hand and he opened my cell again and he started grabbing me around my waist and he tryed (sic) to stick his hands in my pants and I started crying." When the lawsuit was filed in 2007, a U.S. Justice Department monitor was making periodic inspections at Columbia as part of a 2005 settlement with Mississippi in a previous case. The Justice investigation that led to that settlement found Columbia youths were hog-tied, forced to strip and eat their own vomit and were held in isolation in what was called the "Dark Room," a windowless room with a hole in the floor used as a toilet. Read the Justice Department report that describes girls being shackled to poles Hundreds of youths have allegedly suffered similar abuse at juvenile detention centers across the United States, according to experts interviewed by CNN and court records checked for this story. The U.S. Justice Department has sued nine states and two territories alleging abuse, inadequate mental and medical care and potentially dangerous methods like the use of restraints. The department doesn't have the power to shut down facilities -- states do -- but through litigation it can force a state to improve its detention centers and protect the civil rights of jailed youths. Another facility under Justice scrutiny is Oakley Training School near Jackson, Mississippi, which was sued by the department at the same time as Columbia. Gov. Haley Barbour recently announced Columbia's inmates would be transferred this summer to Oakley when Columbia is closed. But the Justice Department said Oakley has satisfied barely a fraction of requirements the department set for it years ago. According to a March 2008 Justice report, there is an "enormous amount of work" needed to make Oakley a safe and productive place to rehabilitate troubled teens. Barbour would not respond to questions for this report. The Mississippi Department of Human Services, which runs Columbia and Oakley, refused to answer most of a CNN public records request citing pending litigation and also declined to be interviewed. The U.S. Justice Department could not talk specifically about ongoing cases, but Lisa Krigsten, civil rights division principal deputy assistant attorney general, noted the department is going after double the number of juvenile jails for civil rights violations during the Bush administration than in any previous administration. "We take this seriously and are committed to protecting the vulnerable children who are in these places," she said. A CNN check of other juvenile facilities shows that, despite years of court wrangling, serious problems persist. In Ohio, a dozen employees at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility have been indicted since 2003 on charges relating to physical and sexual abuse of youth, according to a May 2007 Justice report. Five were convicted of various charges, including sexual battery and assault; six cases were dismissed and a jury found one employee not guilty. In January, a state-hired consultant blamed a "culture of violence" in Ohio's juvenile jails for numerous abuses. The expert's report details examples of "egregious use of force" by guards and included a video he viewed of a 2007 incident in which a "frail" boy who was threatening to harm himself was restrained by guards. The boy was wrestled to the ground, cuffed and stripped, with one guard seen putting his full body weight on the boy's back while driving his knee into the boy's neck. A so-called "Suicide Smock" was placed "over his airways," the report said. "The youth actually screams that he can't breathe." For complete story, click here.

Nearly 200 taken from sect's West Texas ranch--April 6th, 2008--ELDORADO -- After several anxious hours late Saturday, tensions appeared to be easing at the YFZ Ranch in West Texas as state troopers streamed past checkpoints and escorted another busload of girls from the secretive polygamist sect's compound. Around 11 p.m., police scanner traffic indicated that authorities had "cleared" the church's temple and were moving to the compound's annex. There was no indication that authorities' search for children on the ranch was coming to a close. Earlier in the evening, some of the sect's members refused to allow authorities to entering the church's massive white temple. Allison Palmer, assistant district attorney for the 51st District, which includes Schleicher and Coke counties and part of Tom Green County, said that authorities "were preparing for all possibilities" and that ambulances and other equipment were on standby. "This is a very sensitive area, and members of this church feel very strongly about nonmembers entering that area," Palmer said. "This is a very important to them. It is proving to be difficult to obtain their permission to enter that building." Palmer credited Schleicher County Sheriff David Doran with obtaining the cooperation of the sect to allow the search to continue. She wouldn't say whether investigators had searched all the other buildings. 183 removed Earlier Saturday, officials said they had removed 137 children and 46 women from the ranch. Investigators said they planned to keep searching until every child was accounted for at the YFZ (Yearn For Zion) Ranch. The second full day of searching at the property had investigators going building to building in the hunt for more children. State officials have blocked access to the ranch since Thursday in response to a report of physical abuse of a 16-year-old girl, law enforcement officials said Friday. Child Protective Services spokeswoman Marleigh Meisner said Saturday that authorities have removed 137 children from the ranch, which is an outpost of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, based in Colorado City, Ariz., and Hildale, Utah. Of the 137 children, about 40 were boys. Meisner said she didn't know whether investigators had found the 16-year-girl whose complaint of abuse reached CPS officials Monday. "I can't confirm that we have even found that girl," Meisner said. Eighteen of the girls have been legally removed from the ranch, and foster homes have been located for them, Meisner said. The other 119 children remain under the care of CPS caseworkers at Eldorado's First Baptist Church, the Eldorado

Civic Center and a local elementary school. All the children have been interviewed, and some of the 46 women who had been removed from the ranch are mothers of the children being questioned, Meisner said at a news conference Saturday. "We need to know if they are safe, if they have been abused, neglected or are at high risk of abuse," Meisner said. She said CPS investigators' presence in Eldorado could continue indefinitely. Meisner said that she planned to be in Eldorado "for a while." (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.star-telegram.com Date: April 6, 2008)

Kids in trouble for sexual harassment--April 3rd, 2008--WASHINGTON, Apr 3, 2008 (UPI via COMTEX) -- A "zero-tolerance" approach to sexual harassment has led to increasing numbers of complaints in elementary schools and even in nursery schools. In one Texas case, a 4-year-old received an in-school suspension for pressing against an aide's breasts while he was hugging her, The Washington Post reports. A kindergarten student in Hagerstown, Md., was accused of harassment for allegedly pinching a little girl's rear end. Virginia reported that 255 students were suspended from elementary schools last year for sexually offensive conduct and in Maryland, there were 166 suspensions, including three from pre-schools and 16 from kindergarten, the Post said. Ted Feinberg, assistant director of the National Association of School Psychologists in Bethesda, Md., said that accusing 6-year-olds of sexual harassment "doesn't make sense to me." He said that he worked for 30 years in the schools without a real case of sexual harassment in elementary school. "Kids can be exploratory in behavior, they can mimic what they see on TV," he told the Post. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://portal.tds.net Date: April 3, 2008)

Development, Testing, and Findings of a Pediatric-Focused Trigger Tool to Identify Medication-Related Harm in US Children's Hospitals--April 1st, 2008--Glenn S. Takata, MDa,b, Wilbert Mason, MD, MPHc,d, Carol Taketomo, PharmDe, Tina Logsdon, MSf and Paul J. Sharek, MD, MPHg OBJECTIVES. The purposes of this study were to develop a pediatric-focused tool for adverse drug event detection and describe the incidence and characteristics of adverse drug events in children's hospitals identified by this tool. METHODS. A pediatric-specific trigger tool for adverse drug event detection was developed and tested. Eighty patients from each site were randomly selected for retrospective chart review. All adverse drug events identified using the trigger tool were evaluated for severity, preventability, ability to mitigate, ability to identify the event earlier, and presence of associated occurrence report. Each trigger and the entire tool were evaluated for positive predictive value. RESULTS. Review of 960 randomly selected charts from 12 children's hospitals revealed 2388 triggers (2.49 per patient) and 107 unique adverse drug events. Mean adverse drug event rates were 11.1 per 100 patients, 15.7 per 1000 patient-days, and 1.23 per 1000 medication doses. The positive predictive value of the trigger tool was 3.7%. Twenty-two percent of all adverse drug events were deemed preventable, 17.8% could have been identified earlier, and 16.8% could have been mitigated more effectively. Ninety-seven percent of the identified adverse drug events resulted in mild, temporary harm. Only 3.7% of adverse drug events were identified in existing hospital-based occurrence reports. The most common adverse drug events identified were pruritis and nausea, the most common medication classes causing adverse drug events were opioid analgesics and antibiotics, and the most common stages of the medication management process associated with preventable adverse drug events were monitoring and prescribing/ordering. CONCLUSIONS. Adverse drug event rates in hospitalized children are substantially higher than previously described. Most adverse drug events resulted in temporary harm, and 22% were classified as preventable. Only 3.7% were identified by using traditional voluntary reporting methods. Our pediatric-focused trigger tool is effective at identifying adverse drug events in inpatient pediatric populations. For complete story, click here.

8-year-old suspended for sniffing marker--April 3rd, 2008--WESTMINSTER – Adams School District 50 is defending its decision to punish a third grader for sniffing a Sharpie marker. Eight-year-old Eathan Harris was originally suspended from Harris Park Elementary School for three days. Principal Chris Benisch reduced the suspension to one day after complaints from Harris' parents. Harris used a black Sharpie marker to color a small area on the sleeve of his sweatshirt. A teacher sent him to the principal when she noticed him smelling the marker and his clothing. "It smelled good," Harris said. "They told me that's wrong." Eathan's father, John Harris, says the school overreacted for treating Eathan as if he was huffing, or inhaling, marker fumes. "I think it's outlandish," John Harris said. "It's ridiculous." Eathan shyly shook his head "no" when a reporter asked if he knew about "huffing." Benisch stands by his decision to suspend Harris, saying it sends a clear message about substance abuse. "This is really, really, seriously dangerous," Benisch said. In his letter suspending the child, Benisch wrote that smelling the marker fumes could cause the boy to "become intoxicated." A toxicologist with the Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center says that claim is nearly impossible. Dr. Eric Lavonas says non-toxic markers like Sharpies, while pungent-smelling, cannot be used to get high. "I don't know whether it would be possible for a real overachiever to figure out a way to get high off them," Lavonas said. "But in regular use, it's just not something that's going to happen." "If you went to Costco and bought 50 bags of Sharpies and did something to them, maybe there's a way to get creative and make it happen," Lavonas said. Adams County School District 50 leaders were unfazed by the poison control center's medical opinion. "Principals make hundreds of decisions everyday based on our best judgment. And in that time, smelling that marker, I felt like, 'Wow, that's a very serious marker,'" Benisch said. Despite the medical evidence, Benisch promised to draw an even clearer line on markers. "We've purged every permanent marker there is in this building," he said. Eathan Harris says he's happy to be back in school after his suspension, but he did confide he worried the school's disciplinary action might hurt his dream of one day becoming a professional football player. (Webmaster Note: For more commentary on this story, see: http://onlinelunchpail.blogspot.com/2008/04/8-year-old-suspended-for-sniffing.html) For complete story, click here.

Parents of Killed Intruder: Wrong People, Wrong Time--April 9th, 2008--DURAND - A fourteen year old Durand boy is killed after a home invasion turned deadly Sunday. Today his family speaks out and Travis Castle's parents must have a lot of unanswered questions. At the top of that list is how could their child, their fourteen year old son, who does not have a criminal record could ever be mixed up in this deadly mess. Kimberly Britton & Clyde Castle Travis Castle's Parents A love for horses and a passion for riding, it's the legacy Travis leaves behind. “There wasn't nothing he couldn't do. He could do anything,” says his father Clyde Castle. “He could drive a truck and trailer at fourteen years old and probably better than I can.” In just two and half weeks, Travis would have turned fifteen, but his life was cut short Sunday. Ogle County Sheriff's police say Travis and two other boys broke into a home just outside Stillman Valley to steal guns. “One of them told him, 'Get out of the car, Travis. You're going in with us,'” Clyde remembers. “He didn't want to go in,” adds the boy’s mother, Kimberly Britton. But Travis did go in, and before he got out, the young teen was met by house guest in the hallway. Police say that man fatally shot Travis after the boy pointed a gun at him. “I talked to him at 9:30,” Kimberly tells 13 News. “He was staying the night at his friends. He said, 'Mom, I'll be home in the morning. Love you and everything's going to be alright.’ But the next morning Travis never showed up. “We looked and we looked and we couldn't find him,” Kimberly says. His family admits Travis shouldn't have been involved, but they say it was peer pressure. The boy recently started attending a school for troubled teens. That's where his parents say he got mixed up with the wrong crowd. “The two things I told him growing up, 'I hate a thief and liar.' And Travis wasn't either one,” says Clyde. And he has message for the other suspects. “The boys who influenced him, I hope you have to live with this the rest of your life, the rest of your life that you killed my son.” Those boys still have not been caught. Detectives believe they may be in Winnebago County. (Webmaster Note: "Troubled teen" programs are not worth the trouble!) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.wrex.com Date: April 9, 2008)

San Jose center for troubled teens closing abruptly--April 10th, 2008--The region's center for emotionally disturbed children is abruptly shutting its doors, following scathing reports of unsafe conditions and multiple violations of state law governing locked treatment facilities. Although owners of the Starlight Adolescent Center in San Jose said its closing was not connected to recent complaints, records show the facility was cited by state officials in recent months for 14 violations that placed children in "immediate risk" and 12 others that posed potential harm. State records show one youth had his arm broken in January while being restrained; a bulimic teenager lost 15 pounds at the facility, and staff complained to state investigators of inadequate training. In addition, in February, an outside agency charged the Starlight facility with "unlawful and irresponsible" behavior for its use of physical restraint and seclusion to subdue the teenage mentally ill patients, including 518 violations of state law. "Starlight must be sanctioned for its failure to protect vulnerable children," said the second critical audit of the facility in two years by the Mental Health Advocacy Project, which the county funds to monitor the rights of mentally ill patients. The decision to close the facility in June comes amid a growing concern among experts about the wisdom of keeping mentally ill youth in locked facilities on a long-term basis. The average stay at Starlight is one year. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.mercurynews.com Date: April 10, 2008)

Foster care home faces probe--April 19th, 2008--A Broward judge Friday ordered an investigation into a shelter for troubled foster children after court-appointed guardians for the teens complained the group home was unsanitary, beset by violence and failing to properly document incidents in which children ran away or were harmed. Attorneys for the Broward Guardian-ad-Litem Program, which provides volunteers to represent the best interests of children who were abused or neglected, told Circuit Judge David Krathen they had uncovered about 140 Lauderhill police reports, including incidents of children running away, using drugs or harming each other. "We are very, very concerned about the safety of all the children at the facility," said Howard Talenfeld, a Fort Lauderdale attorney representing the guardian program. ``What we need is a complete and thorough investigation to see that each and every child is safe." At the center of the dispute is a Lauderhill shelter, called Impact Community Services, that houses about 12 teenagers under the supervision of ChildNet, a private foster care agency that is licensed and funded by the Department of Children & Families. Talenfeld said guardians had seen reports of children having sex with each other, including an incident involving a disabled teen who would not have been capable of consenting to sexual activity. Talenfeld said he also had seen reports of assault and battery, and more than 125 cases of children running away. At the guardian program's request, Krathen appointed an attorney with Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Walter Honaman, to investigate the shelter and report back to the court. "We must make sure none of these kids are in harm's way," the judge said. Melissa Zelniker-Presser, a Broward attorney, said she represents a 17-year-old boy

with mental retardation who lived at the shelter until recently. According to a report, he "was forced to have sex" with another boy who already had shown signs of aggression. "I am concerned for the safety of . . . other children who live there," Zelniker-Presser said. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.miamiherald.com Date: April 19, 2008)

Teen 'Boot Camps' Again in Spotlight--April 23rd, 2008--Residential programs for troubled teens will be getting more scrutiny from Congress this week, where investigators will reveal the results of an undercover investigation. Some of the outfits, which purport to help troubled children, have generated hundreds of allegations of death and physical, sexual and emotional abuse, ABC News reported last October. "Kids being forced to eat their own vomit, to eat dirt, to not be allowed to go to the bathroom...all in the idea that somehow this is building character," is how Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., described what congressional investigators found when they probed some of the programs. Related PHOTOS: Inside Tough Love Teen Camps Tough Love Teen Camps: Lots of Tough, Little Love WATCH: Boot Camp: Tough Love or Abuse? At a hearing before Miller's House Education and Labor Committee Thursday, investigators are expected to reveal alarming new details showing how deceptive marketing and conflicts of interest could lead good parents to send their children to bad programs, Hill sources say. Miller is also expected to introduce legislation aimed at strengthening oversight of the programs. At a hearing last fall, investigators told Congress that "boot camp"-style programs tend to be loosely regulated and are sometimes found to have untrained staff using reckless or negligent operating practices. For complete story, click here.

Children Abused in Unregulated 'Boot Camps,' Critic Charges--April 24th, 2008--“Your dog has more protection than your children,” says Maia Szalavitz, a journalist who has investigated so-called "tough love" camps and residential programs supposedly aimed at helping troubled teens. Congress will hold a second round of hearings Thursday on problems highlighted by Szalavitz and others. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chair of the House Education and Labor Committee, is chairing the probe of widespread abuse in the programs. There have been at least 10 deaths of children held in teen “wilderness programs,” “boot camps,” “emotional growth boarding schools,” and other residential facilities. The first round of hearings last October prompted bipartisan outrage at industry abuses that committee members compared to “human right abuses in third world countries.” Several victims portrayed in Szalavitz' book, "Help at Any Cost," are scheduled to testify at the hearing. She has called the "tough love" programs "an industry out of control and answerable to no one." “Most parents are unaware that in many states, dog kennels and nail salons are more highly regulated than the health and safety of children in so called 'tough love teen boot camp' institutions. Anyone, including ex-convicts, can open a program. No qualification or certification is required,” Szalavitz said. Szalavitz is a fellow of the Statistical Assessment Service (STATS), a not-for-profit Washington, DC, group that highlights the use and abuse of science and statistics in the media. For complete story, click here.

Fed study says troubled teens abused in some residential treatment centers--April 25th, 2008--WASHINGTON -- Troubled teens have been repeatedly abused, neglected and even subjected to clear cases of torture in residential treatment centers, such as the wilderness therapy programs that flourish in Utah, according to a two-pronged federal study that also uncovered misleading marketing practices used to sell these program to parents. A House committee received the findings of this General Accountability Office study on Thursday, hearing about one program where teens had bags placed over their heads and nooses tightened around their necks, similar to what U.S. soldiers did to prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. In another case, a teen was forced to lay on a red ant hill and was not allowed to remove the ants from his face or body. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://origin.sltrib.com Date: April 25, 2008)

Stop Child Abuse in Programs that Supposedly "Help"--April 23rd, 2008--Rep. George Miller (D-CA) will introduce legislation tomorrow, aimed at reining in the billion dollar "troubled teen" industry, which, according to the New York Times, detained about 100,000 children and adolescents as of 2005-- a number which had quadrupled in 10 years. Right now, many states regulate dog kennels and nail salons more assiduously than they monitor these "tough love" programs, which are essentially private prisons: the teens cannot leave or contact the outside world. And there is no federal regulation at all: in fact, the feds don't even know how many teens are incarcerated in these programs or how many programs exist. That question may begin to be answered tomorrow, in a new Government Accountability Office report. At the last hearing, a GAO report finding thousands of allegations of abuse and ten deaths at these "boot camps" "emotional growth" or "therapeutic" boarding schools, harsh "wilderness programs and "academies," was presented to the house Education and Labor Committee. After hearing accounts of teens "forced to eat vomit, lie in urine and feces, forced to use toothbrushes to clean toilets and then on their teeth," the ranking Republican on the committee said that he generally opposes increased federal regulation, but "there are some times when it has to happen." For complete story, click here.

GAO cites concerns over wilderness therapy programs--April 25th, 2008--WASHINGTON (AP) - A new government report says some companies use deceptive marketing practices to convince parents to enroll their troubled teens into boot camp-style therapy programs where they can end up abused and neglected. The Government Accountability Office looked at eight cases of abuse and death at the camps, including at the Whitmore Academy in Utah in 2004. The agency's managing director told members of Congress on Thursday the review found ineffective management and untrained staff contributed to dangerous conditions at the camps. He told stories of teens being forced to lie on red-ant hills and being bitten by pit bulls. The chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee has introduced a bill to create federal oversight of wilderness therapy programs. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.localnews8.com Date: April 25, 2008)

Cook saw dragging at boot camp--April 26th, 2008--A witness testified on Friday that she saw two Christian boot camp officials abuse a 15-year-old girl last summer at a Banquete ranch, including dragging her behind a van. Charles Flowers, 47, and Stephanie Bassitt, 21, of Love Demonstrated Ministries boot camp, are on trial for aggravated assault. They are accused of using a rope to tie trainee Siobahn McClintock to a van on June 12 and then dragging her behind it. Barbara "Bobby" Greer said she was working as a cook on the ranch during a portion of the boot camp held on the property. After witnessing the dragging she wanted to call 911 but felt like she was under the control of the ranch owners. "Every time she would fall they would drag her through the gravel," Greer said. The day before, Greer said she saw a man pin Siobahn down with his boot on her neck while he sprayed water in her face. The Floresville teen, who now is 16, has said she was pinned to the ground several times by Bassitt and Flowers at the camp when she could no longer exercise. For complete story, click here.

Teen boot camps under scrutiny--April 25th, 2008--Washington - Lawmakers are calling for federal regulation of so-called "boot camps" for kids. They are all across the country, but alleged abuses at the camps were described as "sickening." One case, caught on tape, got national attention. Martin Lee Anderson, 14, died after being roughed up by staff at a youth boot camp in Florida. Now congressional investigators say they have found thousands of other cases they say turned their stomachs. "The abuses included staff members forcing children to remain in so-called stress positions for hours at a time, to undergo extreme physical exertion without food, water, or rest; and to eat their own vomit," said Rep. George Miller (D-CA). Often modeled after military boot camps, the camps exist to straighten up troubled teens, but investigators said they were reminded of the abuses inmates suffered at the Abu Graib prison in Iraq. "A 16-year-old boy having trouble breathing and walking was tortured and humiliated for days. One staff member told the boy he deserved an Academy Award for faking it," said Gregory Kutz, Government Acccountability Office. Kutz said the sales pitches often mislead. Camp officials were recorded telling an investigator posing as a teen's father what not to tell his wife. "I want you to tell her it's a college prep boarding school," the official said. One who was abused himself as a 13-year-old said he is still scarred by it. "I have nightmares today of being back in that place and being told that I'm never gonna leave that things are gonna never change," said Jon Martin-Crawford of Hancock, New York. Investigators said they found more than 1,500 cases of reported child abuse at residential facilities including boot camps, more than 100 of those were in Indiana. Lawmakers are calling for federal standards for youth boot camps with periodic inspections. For complete story, click here.

Feds eye 'boot-camp therapy'--April 25th, 2008--WASHINGTON — Boot camp therapy companies use deceptive practices in getting parents to enroll troubled teens in programs where they can end up abused and neglected, the Government Accountability Office has found. The findings come at the same time House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller introduced the "Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2008," designed to create federal oversight of wilderness therapy programs, also known as therapeutic boarding schools, boot camps and behavior modification facilities. At a committee hearing Thursday, Gregory Kutz, GAO's managing director of Forensic Audits and Special Investigations, said the most recent investigation looked at eight closed cases of abuse or death, including abuse at the Whitmore Academy in Utah in November 2004. GAO found that "ineffective management and operating practices, in addition to untrained staff, contributed to the death and abuse of youth enrolled in selected programs." Kutz told stories of teenagers being forced to lie face down on red-ant hills, being bitten by pit bulls, being forced to endure extreme physical endurance tests in 120-degree heat and other abuse. Kutz also said the GAO found "examples of deceptive marketing and questionable practices in certain industry programs and services" after calling 14 programs with fictitious parents looking for information for fictitious children. He played audio tapes of phone calls made to certain wilderness programs. One excerpt included a woman at a referral service telling the GAO caller to tell his wife that this was a "college prep boarding school," because she might "freak out" if she thought the caller wanted to send his daughter to a place "where there are drug addicts and people that are all screwed up." Another example had a referral agent recommend a particular program to GAO because "the bipolar, the depression, those kinds of things, they just go away after a while" when the participants follow a special whole-grain diet and exercise program. There were other examples of conflicts of interest, as one referral service kept directing participants to a Missouri boot camp that it owned. Other examples showed misleading information on health insurance reimbursement or encouraging tax fraud through charitable donations. Thursday's hearing was a follow-up to one the committee held in October at which GAO released a report outlining 10 cases where teenagers died in such programs, including five deaths in Utah. For complete story, click here.

Teen boot camp hearing targets Missouri agency--April 24th, 2008--WASHINGTON | In a hearing designed to expose deceptive marketing practices in the residential treatment industry for troubled teens, a northwest Missouri referral agency was singled out Thursday on Capitol Hill. The hearing, held before a House committee, included testimony of examples of cruelty and neglect used by officials at boot camps and residential treatment centers. It highlighted what Greg Kutz called “deceptive and other questionable” marketing tactics by some referral agencies. Kutz, who is leading an investigation into youth residential programs for the federal Government Accountability Office, specifically named Parent Help of Gallatin, Mo., as one of them. For example: Despite online descriptions that say Parent Help workers will “look at your special situation and help you select the best school for your teen,” all three GAO investigators who called Parent Help with fictitious stories about their children were referred to Thayer Learning Center. Parent Help is owned by John Bundy, while Thayer is owned by his wife, Willa Bundy. “They didn’t disclose that to us as parents,” Kutz testified. Thayer Learning Center, where Roberto Reyes of California died at age 15 in November 2004 after his parents were referred to the school through Parent Help, is located about 50 miles northeast of Kansas City in Kidder. Parent Help is less than 15 miles from there. Officials at Thayer and attorneys for Thayer didn’t return calls from The Star on Thursday. The GAO found that among the more questionable practices were false promises of tax incentives and insurance reimbursements. Monthly charges ranged from $2,800 to $13,000, Kutz said. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.kansascity.com Date: April 24, 2008)

Marketing of boot camps comes under congressional scrutiny--April 24th, 2008--CAPITOL HILL (AP) - Emotions ran high during a hearing in the House on youth boot camps. Lawmakers and witnesses compared the treatment of teens in the camps to the kind of torture faced by prisoners at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. Greg Kutz has led an investigation into youth residential programs for the Government Accountability Office. He says the programs use deceptive marketing practices when trying to persuade parents of troubled youngsters to enter the programs. Kutz testified that investigators uncovered cases in which a pit bull was trained to bite students and where teens had bags placed over their heads and nooses slipped around their necks. A visibly angry Congressman George Miller says "it's hard to believe that people would do this to somebody else's child." He has introduced legislation to prevent such abuses and boost oversight of boot camps. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.krdo.com Date: April 24, 2008)

Breaking: 'They're just laying down, waiting to hear something. They're on high risk.' Several Students Arrested At Locked-Down High School 28 Apr 2008 (WA) Several students have been arrested at Mount Tahoma High School after officials put the campus under a "high risk" lockdown on Monday. Earlier, KIRO 7 reporter Kevin McCarty said students off campus heard from students in classrooms who were told the lockdown was a "high risk" one, requiring students to lie down on the floor behind closed doors until the school is 'clear.' Officials said a student who had been suspended was found on campus Monday with a loaded handgun. For complete story, click here.

Hung Jury Declares Mistrial In Van Dragging Of 15-Year-Old Girl--May 3rd, 2008--Almost a year after 15-year-old Siobhan McClintock was allegedly dragged behind a van at a church bootcamp for troubled youth, her named abusers are set free due to hung jury despite witness testimony, medical treatment and photos of multiple injuries. On Friday, May 2, 2008, the Judge in the case of Charles Flowers, 47, and a bootcamp worker, Stephanie Bassitt, 21, declared a mistrial, as the jury could not reach a decision as to where the young girl sustained her injuries. Last summer, Siobhan was entered into Love Demonstrated Ministries, International's 32-day Boot Camp for "at risk" youth. The program, founded in 1995: ...for teen boys through the Faith Outreach Center. The camp's aim is to "instill discipline, respect for authority, integrity, unity and morality," according to the camp's Web site. In 1997, he began to accept girls to the program. While at the camp, Siobhan was said to have fallen behind in morning drill exercises and when she did, she was tied to a van and dragged along. An eye-witness account of the incident was provided during court. Two days after the incident, the troubled teen returned home, much to the shock of her mother. The mom took pictures of the injuries to Siobhan's legs, shins, chin, stomach, back, hands and feet. Her mom also had her treated as well as removed her from the program. Flowers and the worker were indicted on felony assault charges less than two months later. Their trial began at the end of April. Just a few days into the trial, the Judge reduced the charge of felony assault to a Class A misdemeanor, stating that a rope and van were in no way considered "Deadly Weapons". In a hung jury decision of 9-3, in favor of a "not guilty" verdict for Flowers and an 11-1 vote in favor of a "not guilty" verdict for Bassitt, the Judge declared a mistrial in the case. The main reason cited for their weighted decision towards not guilty was that their was no clear proof of where the evidence of the teen's injuries originated. Although due process is every American's right, where does eye-witness account, injuries consistent with dragging and medical treatment not provide evidence? The teen was obviously troubled and many such teens placed in these types of programs are pathological liars. Moreover, there are often so many situations involving the parents that are not known to the public and these parents have a history of allowing such behaviours to occur and then in desperation, place their "troubled" children in programs like this one. The children will do anything to escape and the parents will do anything to enable their children. The whole case is "hung" as this young girl has probably skirted her own problems, the alleged abusers got away with it and the court system failed. For complete story, click here.

When Is "Tough Love" Torture?--May 4th, 2008--"Last time this country witnessed somebody with a bag over his head and a noose around his neck, the world was horrified and the nation was embarrassed," thundered Rep. George Miller, on hearing testimony this April regarding abusive treatment of troubled teens in unregulated residential programs. "To be told [by these witnesses] that this is considered a valid therapy by someone in the care of someone else's child…It's hard to believe." Miller—who chairs the House Education and Labor Committee—had called for the congressional hearings to introduce legislation to regulate the programs, which use such "tough love" methods in an attempt to discipline difficult adolescents. He'd also requested a Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation. At the first round of hearings last October, the GAO had released its initial report, finding "thousands" of allegations of child abuse, medical neglect and "reckless and negligent operating practices," in "boot camps, "wilderness programs" and "academies," which currently hold tens of thousands of American youth. Two additional GAO reports were introduced at the April hearings—with investigators describing the treatment of some of the youth as "torture." One youth was beaten for weeks and denied medical attention after a suicide attempt left him with an exposed bone from a broken arm; others were taunted, then ignored as they lay dying; some were even hooded and had nooses placed around their necks. For complete story, click here.

Lincoln Man Accused of Binding, Gagging Teen Boys--May 19th, 2008--LANCASTER (KPTM) - A Lancaster County man is under arrest for binding, gagging, blindfolding and hanging teenaged boys from the rafters of a detached garage. Police say 57-year-old Sanford Kaplan victimized the teens starting in 2000 at his home at 14647 Country Lane. After serving a search warrant, investigators seized items used to bind the boys, a home computer and a camera. Kaplan was booked on several counts of false imprisonment and 3rd degree sexual assault of a child and child abuse on Wednesday. For complete story, click here.

'Individuals will be expected to report to the centre every day for an intensive training programme.' Tories plan boot camps for jobless youths --Automatic referrals if out of work for three months --Companies and voluntary groups to run centres 26 May 2008 A future Conservative government will bring in "boot camps" for unemployed young people aged between 18 and 21 who refuse to take a job, Chris Grayling, the party's welfare spokesman, will say tomorrow. Grayling plans to ask private sector companies and voluntary organisations to run the intensive training centres. Individuals will be expected to report to the centre every day for an intensive training programme. Grayling will say: "We plan to introduce much tougher rules for young people under the age of 21 claiming jobseeker's allowance. For this group, the welfare to work process will start much earlier. There will be employment 'boot camps' and community work programmes for those who don't find a job. Staying at home doing nothing will be a thing of the past." [Work camps - so corpora-terrorists get free slave labor?] For complete story, click here.

Lawsuit threatened over teen foster care center--May 31st, 2008--Two days after a court appointed consultant blasted a Lauderhill youth shelter, citing "insurmountable safety concerns" for troubled teens, Florida's top child advocacy group threatened to sue private child welfare bosses if they do not improve care. In a lengthy, tartly worded letter sent Thursday to the top administrators of ChildNet, Broward County's privately run foster care agency, the head of Florida's Children First is demanding that the agency halt all admissions to the Quest Group Home and significantly improve its system of care for adolescent foster kids. "It is shocking to me," FCF executive director Andrea Moore wrote, ``that the lead agency in Broward County charged with protecting the state's dependent children is not just willing to tolerate, but actually facilitate, the continued existence of a blatantly dangerous and substandard facility." (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.miamiherald.com Date: May 31, 2008)

Let kids talk and be kids--June 1st, 2008--A 12-year-old stands facing the wall, lunch tray jammed between his stomach and wall so that he can eat. It's not lunch at a juvenile detention center or boot camp, but lunch at Lee Middle School. According to the school, this punishment is the "consequence administered by teachers" for students in the silent lunch area who don't remain silent and are disruptive. Punishment? Or abuse? As parent of a Lee student, someone who's regularly been a parent volunteer and an East Coweta High resource teacher, and as a long-time educator, I was shocked to learn students are regularly treated this way by educational professionals who should be able to manage behavior more appropriately. Silent lunch? You're kidding. What offense is so heinous a student has to be silent during one of the rare times in the school day when social interaction is possible? What crime does standing against a wall fit? Silent lunch? When did the noise of a lunchroom filled with happy kids interacting with one another become offensive? Having lunch with my kids was always the highlight of the week. Kids are spontaneous, animated, outgoing social beings. I loved to listen to them, talk with them. I learned the most interesting things. Was enthralled by the constantly changing tapestry of evolving personalities. Saw the world through eyes that hadn't become jaded. Students against the wall? This is middle school, not the Marine Corps. When did teachers forget

children are children? Look up the latest teen suicide and drop-out rates. Middle schoolers are dealing with some of the most dramatic life-altering transitions they'll face in life. Lunch should be a time-out from the day's activities and pressures, a neutral zone where kids can socialize and be kids. Nick De Bonis Sharpsburg For complete story, click here.

When Is "Tough Love" Torture?--May 4th, 2008--"Last time this country witnessed somebody with a bag over his head and a noose around his neck, the world was horrified and the nation was embarrassed," thundered Rep. George Miller, on hearing testimony this April regarding abusive treatment of troubled teens in unregulated residential programs. "To be told [by these witnesses] that this is considered a valid therapy by someone in the care of someone else's child…It's hard to believe." Miller —who chairs the House Education and Labor Committee—had called for the congressional hearings to introduce legislation to regulate the programs, which use such "tough love" methods in an attempt to discipline difficult adolescents. He'd also requested a Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation. At the first round of hearings last October, the GAO had released its initial report, finding "thousands" of allegations of child abuse, medical neglect and "reckless and negligent operating practices," in "boot camps, "wilderness programs" and "academies," which currently hold tens of thousands of American youth. Two additional GAO reports were introduced at the April hearings—with investigators describing the treatment of some of the youth as "torture." One youth was beaten for weeks and denied medical attention after a suicide attempt left him with an exposed bone from a broken arm; others were taunted, then ignored as they lay dying; some were even hooded and had nooses placed around their necks. Sitting in the audience—and well aware of how difficult it can be to get people to comprehend the extent and severity of the abuse taking place in these programs—was Phil Elberg, a New Jersey medical malpractice attorney. His cases against the industry helped bring the issue to congressional attention and his work, mentioned in two of the three GAO reports, helped guide investigators in understanding the issues and key players. Elberg has probably done more than anyone else to hold the billion-dollar teen treatment business accountable. If the legislation passes, he may soon have many more cases—and perhaps, finally, some competition from other lawyers for them. For complete story, click here.

US Teen Students Having Less Sex And Doing Less Drugs--June 5th, 2008--US teens are engaging in fewer risky behaviors than in years past according to the results of a new federal survey conducted by the CDC. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.dogflu.ca Date: June 5, 2008)

Mat Anderson: Teens aren't as bad as most depictions--June 4th, 2008--As a teenager, I remember reading innumerable news stories about how crazy my peers and I were and how teens were a troubled group of sexually promiscuous, drug-addicted party animals that cared about nothing but themselves. I always found this to be a little off-putting because I knew that I wasn't crazy, sexually promiscuous or drug-addicted, and I was pretty sure that the majority of my peers weren't either. But I still wondered if I was an abnormal teen who was just out of the loop about what was cool. This bothered me, because like most teenagers, I desired to fit in and be normal. I wondered, "Am I expected to experiment with drugs and have sex? Am I uncool if I don't?" Now that I'm older, I've realized that it's probably unlikely that those behaviors are the norm for most teens. However, it's often the negative behaviors of the minority that make headlines and shape the way society views all teens. Experts say that the way teens are portrayed in the media is often far from what is true about their age group. They say false impressions are negatively affecting how parents parent and teachers teach, and how young people think about themselves. If young people grow up hearing the stereotype that it's normal for them to get drunk or high, have sex, get pregnant or vandalize property, then that may be what they'll end up doing. Experts say this is because during adolescence, teens are trying to find their identity, and a big part of that is fitting in and being part of the crowd. But according to the Centers for Disease Control, the majority of the crowd hasn't had an alcoholic beverage in the past 30 days, has never tried marijuana, and only 50 percent have had sex. This reality can be leveraged to promote healthy choices through "social norming." Social norming operates on the notion that if the general impression is that most kids don't drink alcohol, then those who do drink will drink less, and fewer will start drinking in the first place. Several colleges, high schools and middle schools have found this to be highly effective in limiting risky behaviors among young people, and parents can incorporate this same strategy into their parenting style. Here are some tips: * Keep the lines of communication open. It's important to have regular conversations with teens that provide them with accurate information about the issues that they face. Remind them that the norm for most teens isn't to go out partying and drinking. * Be mindful of the messages you're sending. During prom and graduation season, many parents say things like, "I know everyone else may be drinking but …" It's important for parents to be aware that the majority of teens won't be drinking and that parents may be subtly sending the message to teens that those behaviors are the norm. * Communicate values and morals. It's important for teens to know what the norm is for your family. If teens understand that they are expected to live up to certain shared morals and values regarding behaviors like sex and drinking, then that will affect how they act when outside of the home as well. * Be an example. The most important influence on teens is parents, so it's important to demonstrate appropriate behaviors. Your teen will often "do as you do," so it's vital that your actions mirror the behaviors you desire from your teen. Teens aren't crazy, they're merely trying to find their identity as they transition from childhood to adulthood. While we should be mindful that they will make some mistakes along the way, parents shouldn't sit by and accept a harmful and destructive lifestyle as the norm from anyone they love, especially their children and the future of our society. For complete story, click here.

Guilty verdict in bus killing--June 10th, 2008--A Baltimore man with two previous murder convictions and almost two decades of documented psychiatric illnesses was found guilty but not criminally responsible yesterday in the killing of a fellow inmate aboard a prison bus - and state officials aren't sure what to do with him. Kevin G. Johns Jr., who had faced a possible death penalty, suffered from mental disorders that prevented him from being able to obey the law when he strangled another prisoner, a judge ruled. After a prosecutor said Johns, 25, might be too dangerous for the state's maximum-security psychiatric hospital, Harford Circuit Judge Emory A. Plitt Jr. gave attorneys for the state prison system and health department two weeks to sort out where he should be sent. The verdict came after a two-hour commentary from Plitt on what he called "a preventable tragedy." The judge placed some of the blame for the Feb. 2, 2005, murder of Philip E. Parker Jr. on a prison system that had "ample warnings" about Johns' deteriorating mental health and his propensity for violence. The judge questioned why prison doctors had stopped giving Johns medication and why correctional officers did not more closely guard him during the nighttime bus ride from Hagerstown to Supermax in Baltimore. After Parker's murder, three correctional officers on the bus were fired, and the prison system revamped its transportation policy, eliminating all nighttime bus trips. "Based on the undisputed evidence presented to me during the trial," Plitt said, "it seems to me that the death of Mr. Parker could have been avoided." The judge gave an exhaustive recitation of Johns' history of mental illness, which began at age 9, spanned 5,000 pages of evaluations and included a dozen diagnoses over the years, including fetal alcohol syndrome, lead poisoning, and schizo-affective disorder. In 2002, Johns killed an uncle in Baltimore whom he had accused of physically and sexually abusing him. And in January 2004, while serving his 35-year sentence at a prison in Hagerstown, Johns strangled his 16-year-old cellmate. As he was being sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in that killing, Johns said that he would "do it again." A day later, he strangled Parker. Plitt punctuated many of his remarks with the phrase "another cloud in the gathering storm," borrowing from defense attorney Harry J. Trainor Jr.'s description of Parker's murder as "a perfect storm." The case was moved from Baltimore County and heard by a judge rather than a jury at the request of defense attorneys. The eight-day trial ended May 20, and Plitt, a former attorney for the prison system, said he had been poring over evidence and researching legal issues ever since. As Plitt reached the end of his comments and announced his finding that Johns was not criminally responsible, Parker's family, dressed all in black, stood and left the courtroom. Parker, 20, was serving a 3 1/2 year sentence for a robbery with a pellet gun. Years earlier, Parker and Johns had lived together in a residential treatment center for troubled teens. (Webmaster Note: Behavior modification programs/residential treatment centers/ programs contribute to the destruction of our society. So much so that not only the above case, but Columbine (both boys had been through an anger "management" program and were on prescription psychotropic medication), Virginia Tech (shooter was a survivor of a behavioral "health" residential "treatment" center), and DeKalb in IL (shooter was a survivor of a behavior modification program and on prescription psychotropic medication). Who's taking responsibility? Not the Frankenstein, cultish, behavior modification industry? Well, they should be held responsible, whether they wish to be or not. This has to stop!) For complete story, click here.

Ex-employees sue boot camp accused of abuse--June 3rd, 2008--Five former employees of a northwest Missouri boot camp where a child died in 2004 have sued for alleged malicious prosecution. The workers had been sued by Thayer Learning Center in a case that eventually was dropped. In that lawsuit, Thayer alleged that the ex-employees made false statements and false allegations to law-enforcement officials and others about activities at the camp. In the lawsuit filed Monday, the former employees allege that Thayer sued them to keep them and others quiet, describing the lawsuit against them as an attempt "to keep the truth about their facility secret." The workers' lawsuit also accuses Thayer of suing them "to hide from the appropriate authorities and parents the fact that … the usual methods used by (Thayer) did indeed and actually constitute child abuse." The case filed in Caldwell County Circuit Court names Thayer Learning Center and the facility's owner, Willa Bundy, as defendants. Bundy and an attorney for the center did not return phone calls Monday and Tuesday. Allegations of child abuse at Thayer — about 50 miles northeast of Kansas City in Kidder — came to light after Roberto Reyes, 15, died in November 2004, less than two weeks after enrolling. No charges were filed in connection with Roberto's death, but the FBI recently conducted a preliminary investigation and sent its findings to the U.S. Department of Justice. Officials there are reviewing the case. Thayer officials have said that allegations of abuse were "ludicrous and false." In its 2003 lawsuit, Thayer alleged that the workers made false statements to third parties about the center "physically abusing and harming its students" and accused them of violating written contracts by contacting parents, government agencies and law-enforcement officials to discuss specific students and school operations. Those contacts, Thayer alleged, forced the school to "have to continually … deny these false allegations" and caused the loss of potential students. Thayer dropped its lawsuit last month. In their lawsuit, the ex-employees said contractual agreements could not be used to prevent individuals from reporting abuse. They accuse Thayer of "covering up the fact that they had an unqualified and unsupervised staff engaging in child

abuse." Phil Elberg, a New Jersey attorney representing the plaintiffs, alleged by phone that Thayer's 2003 lawsuit "was clearly intended to scare people into shutting up." The plaintiffs did not specify a dollar amount but alleged that the center's "outrageous" behavior "showed an evil motive" and therefore entitles them to exemplary damages in addition to actual damages, attorneys' fees and "such other relief as the court deems just and proper." Elberg said the plaintiffs — Nanette Burge and Candessa Williams of Gallatin, Mo.; Linda Glenn and Janet Traylor of Hamilton, Mo., and Regina Burge of Jamesport, Mo. — would not comment. (Unable to locate story at time for archiving. Source: www.kansascity.com Date: June 3, 2008)

Facing huge hurdles, The Starting Place starts over--June 12th, 2008--Nancy Merolla began her new job on April 7, but her hiring wasn't officially announced until May 29. "I guess they wanted to see if I'd stick around," Merolla joked the other day. At least I think she was joking. Merolla has her hands full as the new CEO of the Starting Place, a teen drug abuse and mental health treatment center that hit bottom earlier this year. A Hollywood police investigation into possible sexual abuse by former staff against teen clients continues. (Webmaster Note: Kids should be given second chances, not sexual predators.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.sun-sentinel.com Date: June 12, 2008)

ACLU sues Texas youth prison system--June 12th, 2008--AUSTIN (AP) - The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit against the Texas youth prison system over use of solitary confinement, strip searches and other practices at a lockup for girls in Brownwood. The lawsuit was filed Thursday in federal court in Austin on behalf of 5 girls held at Brownwood. The suit claims the Texas Youth Commission is violating inmates' constitutional rights and international standards on protecting children from abuse and cruel treatment. TYC spokesman Jim Hurley, who had not seen the lawsuit, said the agency is taking steps to improve how it deals with female inmates. He also noted the agency recently ended a long-term isolation program that had been used a different facility. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.kdbc.com Date: June 12, 2008)

Teen treatment center looks for area land-- GRANTS- The Grants City Council will hear a detailed proposal on Tuesday night from Frank Sipan on the possibility of opening a Boys Town in Grants. Boys Town, which also accepts girls, is a national organization that helps troubled teens. Sipan said Boys Town would help those young people throughout the area become stable and productive citizens. The organization has an 80 percent recovery rate. This is a self-contained community, and members have their own mayor, post office and other amenities. The next regular City Council meeting will be on June 24 at 6 p.m. at City Hall. For more information call the city clerk at 287-7927. For complete story, click here. (Webmaster Note: Boys Town is confirmedly abusive. Please speak out against this and any other grants!)

Boy suffocated during school punishment Coroner's Report--June 20th, 2008--MONTREAL - After nine-year-old Gabriel Poirier was discovered lifeless in his classroom last April 17, his parents were told their autistic son had stopped breathing after hiding under a heavy therapeutic blanket. Now a coroner has revealed that Gabriel's teachers had tightly wrapped him in the buckwheat-stuffed blanket, leaving only the tips of his ears sticking out, as punishment when he became disruptive. They left him unsupervised in a corner for 20 minutes, returning when a timer sounded. Gabriel was unconscious and blue in the face. He was rushed to hospital, where he died the following night surrounded by his family. In a report published yesterday, Coroner Catherine Rudel-Tessier concluded the child suffocated. She said the teachers at the special-needs school in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., failed to follow guidelines for the blankets, which are used commonly to calm autistic children. "He was only 53 pounds, he was so small," Gilles Poirier, the boy's father said at a news conference yesterday. "How can they wrap him up like that in a 40-pound blanket? How can this treatment be tolerated?" Ms. Rudel-Tessier said proper use of the blanket called for a child to be rolled at most once and for his head to be left uncovered. The blanket was to be used as a relaxation therapy, not as a punishment, and teachers were supposed to keep an eye on children using the blankets. "A child rolled 'at least four times' in such a heavy blanket is under restraint," the coroner wrote. For complete story, click here.

ACLU sues Texas youth prison system claiming abuse--June 11th, 2008--AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union sued the Texas youth prison system on Thursday, claiming girl inmates have been traumatized by practices such as solitary confinement and strip searches. The lawsuit filed in Austin on behalf of five girls held at the Brownwood facility claims the Texas Youth Commission is violating inmates' constitutional rights and international standards on protecting children from abuse and cruel treatment. For complete story, click here.

Teen safe house to open in Kalaeloa--June 24th, 2008--O'ahu's first state-sponsored Ke Kama Pono structured group home for troubled, nonviolent teens is expected to open in Kalaeloa sometime next year. (Webmaster Note: This is a "Federally Funded Program" and needs to be monitored closely as it may be the new "face" of re-education.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.honoluluadvertiser.com Date: June 24, 2008)

Breaking News: House Passes Legislation to Stop Child Abuse in Teen Boot Camps and other Residential Programs--June 25th, 2008--The House Wednesday overwhelming passed HR 6358 (formerly HR 5876) by a vote of 318-103, with provisions to ban degrading and humiliating treatment, set national standards, create a national hotline that must be accessible to teens in program to report maltreatment and $15 million in funding for enforcement and regulation. (Webmaster Note: NOT GOOD ENOUGH!!!! Children are being tortured, brainwashed, and killed at these facilities. The entire industry needs to be shut down. No program should be in operation unless and until strict guidelines and competent, effective objective and impartial third-party oversight is in full force. Our children deserve better!) For complete story, click here.

Rescued man has change of heart about teens--July 7th, 2008--HE broke down and wept when he learnt that two teens had risked their lives to save him from drowning. It was almost a week later, when The New Paper on Sunday visited him in hospital on Friday, that Mr Seow Swee Lin, 66, found out about how he was rescued. An interview with the amputee had appeared in The New Paper on 27 Jun, after he was found living at the void deck of a block on Yishun Avenue 5. He was supposed to have moved to a shelter the Chong Pang Zone 2 Residents' Committee had found for him, but he had refused. When we visited Mr Seow at the Singapore General Hospital where he had been warded since last Saturday night, he had no recollection of what had happened. 'I woke up and found myself in hospital. I don't remember falling into the water,' he said in Mandarin. All he remembered was that he had gone to the Merlion Park around 8pm. 'I was very troubled as I didn't want to stay in the shelter, and I wanted to sit somewhere to think about what to do and where to go,' he said. He said only the night before, he had been sleeping at a Toa Payoh void deck when four youths had tried to rob him. When told what the two boys had done to save his life, Mr Seow covered his face with his hands and wept. 'I feel that I learnt something today. Before this, I thought badly of teenagers because of those four who tried to rob me,' he said when he had recovered sufficiently to talk. 'Now that I know I was saved by two youths, I realise that I cannot think that all teenagers are punks because of a few black sheep.' He was very grateful to the teens who had saved his life. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: http://newpaper.asia1.com.sg Date: July 7, 2008)

FTC Urges Caution When Considering 'Boot Camps' --July 9th, 2008--When parents or guardians are considering finding a residential treatment program for a troubled teenager, the decision is often a difficult one. While residential treatment programs may appeal to families, some of whom are looking for a less-restrictive alternative to incarceration or hospitalization, no standard definition exists for these programs. Such programs are not regulated by the federal government, and many are not subject to state licensing or monitoring. In an effort to help parents and guardians with these decisions, the Federal Trade Commission has written a new publication with 15 questions to ask representatives of residential treatment programs. To learn more go to http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/pro27.shtm. The Federal Trade Commission works for consumers to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices and to provide information to help spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint in English or Spanish, visit the FTC's online Complaint Assistant or call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). The FTC enters complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to more than 1,500 civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad. The FTC's Web site provides free information on a variety of consumer topics. For complete story, click here.

Beatings Claimed At High-End Juvie Camp: Staff at Rancho Valmora Accused of Abusing Students-- May 11th, 2008--May 11, 2008 (Albuquerque Journal - McClatchy-Tribune Information Services via COMTEX) -- -- When his son started dabbling in drugs and alcohol, Corey Manning sent the 14-year-old to Rancho Valmora, hoping the $6,000-a-month program would help straighten him out. Instead, the boy was beaten every night for his first two months in the Mora County residential treatment center, according to Manning. On April 24, a staffer there, Clarence Padilla, was arrested and charged with three counts of child abuse and six counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He was released on bond from the San Miguel County Detention Center and has a preliminary hearing scheduled for May 28 in Mora County Magistrate Court. The statement of probable cause quoted Dale Parker, Rancho Valmora administrator, as claiming Padilla physically assaulted three students and "also influenced and enforced many more incidents of physical abuse." It names six victims. Parker informed the New Mexico State Police after residents of Padilla's nine-boy dorm complained of beatings. At times, Padilla allegedly organized some of the bigger residents to attack other boys during the night, often using a sock stuffed with a bar of soap to prevent bruises, according to parents and a treatment center official. Flora Gallegos, court-appointed attorney for Padilla, did not return a call from the Journal for comment. The Children, Youth and Families Department, which licenses Rancho Valmora, sent a team last week to investigate health and safety there, spokeswoman Romaine Serna said. Their report is not complete yet, she added. The more recent alleged incidents, which arrest records indicate occurred over a 10-month period, have left some parents plagued with anger, shock and guilt, asking how a place where they sent their children for help ended up hurting them. "The guilt that hits you is indescribable," said Manning, a resident of Santa Clara, Calif. "We entrusted our child to them to provide a safe environment," said George Dombrovski, a Fairfax, Calif., resident. "It's inexcusable to have physical abuse like this ... " For complete story, click here.

Memories of Casa by the Sea--July 10th, 2008--I'm not sure if your organization publishes e-mails, but you have my permission to publish mine. Yes, my name is Ramey Smith. I read some of the articles on your web site and found a few about a place called Casa by the Sea in Ensenada, Mexico. I spent almost one year there, from January to November in 1999. On my first day at Casa, I was pulled off my bed, which was the top bunk, and fell to the concrete floor busting my face and nose . As I lay there bleeding, I thought these people are going to kill me. I was in fear for my life at Casa, so I played along with the program the best I could . I made it to level four in the Bold Family. That is how they identified us. They put us in a group, gave it a name, and called it a "family." Anyway, I finally got out of there when my mother's terminal cancer got so bad my father pulled me from Casa by the Sea. I spent the last 2 1/2 months of my mothers life at her bed side. In my opinion, WWASP are a bunch of criminals who manipulate parents. But they did teach me one valuable lesson which I can pass on to troubled youth. Watch out. Your parents can send you to a foreign prison over night and there is nothing you can do about it. You have two choices. You can resist and get beat up, or you can play along until you get out. I'm glad they finally closed down Casa by the Sea. That place was crazy. Sometimes I actually started to think I was going crazy. WWASP does have a wonderful program for brain washing or pain washing children to make them behave. But I'll tell you what. It doesn't last. I ran in to one of the upper level kids that graduated from the program. We were at a Taco Cabana at like 2:30 am and he and some other kids came stumbling in drunk. He didn't change. Not for long, at least. Like in Mexico, where Room Restriction (R&R;) consisted of lying on your face, chin pressed on the hard tile floor, and your hands behind your back. They might as well have hog tied us because if you didn't hold that position on your own for 4 to 6 to 12 hours, they had plenty of un-educated idiots to make you wish you had. I heard so many times kids screaming for help, screaming to there parents, screaming for mommy or daddy, screaming out to God to help them. What could we do? If we tried to help, we would be in the same boat. We'd lose our few privileges, get demoted to Level One and spend 2 to 4 weeks in R&R; with our chins on the floor. I wish we had been strong enough and organized enough to take that place over by force. I remember thinking about it all the time when I began my captivity there. We out-numbered the staff by at least 20 or 30 of us to 1 staff member. I would have enjoyed hog tying those bastards up and letting them enjoy some Room Restriction, and feed them rotten fish and other horrible things like they fed us. I won't even go into how bad the food was. Well, that's why they wouldn't let us talk without permission, or speak English. They knew if we had gotten organized, we would have overrun the place. I had dreams about it after I left that godforsaken crap hole. I would wake up in the middle of the night and run into the hallway of my house for formation. I learned a lot of Spanish while I was in Mexico because I had no choice. But I still can't stand it. I had a dream of going back there one day and liberating all the children whose parents are paying top dollar to have them victimized. For complete story, click here.

US school rebuked for ibuprofen strip search--July 12th, 2008--A divided US appeals court has ruled an Arizona school violated the constitutional rights of a 13-year-old student by conducting a strip search for ibuprofen. Suspecting that a student had violated a policy against prescription or over-the-counter drugs without permission, public school officials in Safford, Arizona, ordered a search of Savana Redding. A school nurse had her remove her clothes, including her bra, and shake her underwear to see if Ms Redding was hiding anything. The 2003 search, prompted by a tip from another girl, did not find ibuprofen, which is found in common medications like Advil and Motrin to treat pain like cramps and headaches. Higher doses require a prescription. Previous court decisions ruled the school did not violate the US Constitution's Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures because officials have a legitimate interest in protecting students from prescription drugs. The 6-5 ruling by a panel of the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday overturned an earlier decision, setting out its reasoning in an extensive 75-page ruling with many details on the complications of eighth grade life. "Directing a 13-year-old girl to remove her clothes, partially revealing her breasts and pelvic area, for allegedly possessing ibuprofen, an infraction that poses an imminent danger to no one, and which could be handled by keeping her in the principal's office until a parent arrived or simply sending her home, was excessively intrusive," Justice Kim McLane Wardlaw wrote for the majority. For complete story, click here.

Charges filed in teen's death at boot camp--July 15th, 2008--A Montrose County grand jury Tuesday handed up a raft of charges against operators and staff of a youth-rehabilitation camp in connection with the death of a 15-year-old Utah boy who died in their care. Caleb Jensen died in May 2007 from an untreated staph infection at a court-ordered wilderness camp run by Alternative Youth Adventures in Montrose. The program was shuttered after his death and surrendered its state license. The grand jury filed various charges of negligent homicide, child abuse resulting in death and manslaughter against the staff and management, as well as Keith Hooker, the camp's medical director. For complete story, click here.

Teen Screen Lawsuit Advances: Federal Court Affirms Family's Right to Sue School for Subjecting Teen to Mental Health Test Without Parental Consent--August 6th, 2008--SOUTH BEND, Ind. A federal court has given the green light to a civil rights lawsuit filed by Rutherford Institute attorneys in defense of a 15-year-old Indiana student who was subjected by school officials to a controversial mental health examination without the knowledge or consent of her parents. In ruling that the lawsuit filed on behalf of Chelsea Rhoades and her parents, Michael and Teresa Rhoades, may proceed to trial, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana upheld the claims that the local school district deprived the Rhoades family of their federal constitutional rights to family integrity and privacy when it subjected Chelsea to the "TeenScreen" examination. A copy of the lawsuit is available here: http://www.rutherford.org/PDF/Filed_Complaint.pdf. For complete story, click here.

State Senator Wants Juvenile Prison Shut Down--August 7th, 2008--SPRINGDALE - If Sen. Sue Madison had her way, the Arkansas Juvenile Assessment and Treatment Center in Alexander would be closed and bulldozed. She called the juvenile prison in southwest Pulaski County a "grim" place while discussing child welfare issues during a meeting of the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition on Thursday. It's a place where the state is "warehousing juveniles because someone is mad at them, either the juvenile judge or school officials," Madison said. The state's challenge is finding the money to replace the treatment programs with community-based programs that are more effective, she said. Reform of Arkansas' juvenile justice system is one of a laundry list of issues the Coalition supports to improve the welfare of children across the state, said Paul Kelly, a senior policy analyst with Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. The juvenile justice system relies too heavily on confined incarceration of children who may have family or mental health issues rather than criminal behavior. The Kids Count Coalition recommends greater attention on preventive measures, placing children in smaller therapeutic environments and expanded community services to better serve children rather than shipping them off to secure confinement, away from their schools or families. For complete story, click here.

Federal agency: Shoreline schools excluded children with disabilities--August 7th, 2008--The Shoreline School District discriminated against students with disabilities, a federal civil-rights investigation has found. The 15-month investigation centered on the district's February 2007 decision to exclude from its classrooms children newly placed at the Fircrest School, a state residential facility in Shoreline for people with disabilities. As a result of that decision, the investigation found, 11 Fircrest youths didn't go to school at all, some for as long as three months. Others received an inadequate education. The records of 23 youths at Fircrest were reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR). All but one had attended public school before going to Fircrest. "I think what the investigation confirms is that public schools are for every child," said Stacy Gillett, who filed the complaint as a board member of the Arc of Washington, an advocacy organization for people with disabilities. Shoreline officials didn't return repeated calls seeking comment. While it did not admit wrongdoing, the district entered into a settlement agreement with OCR that requires it to revise its policies and practices. Kids with disabilities will not be excluded from public school and will have opportunities to participate with other children. An independent team of professionals, along with OCR, will oversee Shoreline's progress. For complete story, click here.

Police Say Cult Starved Toddler--August 12th, 2008--A toddler whose remains were found inside a suitcase in Philadelphia this spring was starved to death by members of a religious cult, including his mother, in part because he refused to say "amen" after meals, police said. Ria Ramkissoon, 21, the mother of Javon Thompson, was charged Sunday with first-degree murder in the boy's death, and Baltimore police said Monday that three other members of a group called 1 Mind Ministries have also been charged with first-degree murder. Members did not seek medical care for Javon when he stopped breathing, and the boy died in his mother's arms, according to court documents that described police interviews with a confidential informant and two children. He would have been about 19 months old when police say adults stopped feeding him in December 2006. For complete story, click here.

Sentencing Children to Die in Prison--August 18th, 2008--Ian Manuel was 13-years-old when he participated in a robbery attempt in Florida, leaving the victim with a nonfatal gunshot injury. Ian turned himself in to police, and his attorney told him he would receive a 15-year sentence if he pled guilty. Instead, he was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Ian's is one of several stories told in the Equal Justice Initiative's (EJI) new report, Cruel and Unusual: Sentencing 13- and 14-Year-Old Children to Die in Prison (pdf). The Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama is a private, nonprofit organization that provides legal representation to indigent defendants and prisoners. The EJI study found 73 cases in the United States where 13- and 14- year-olds have been sentenced to life without parole--in other words, sentenced to die in prison. EJI argues that giving this harsh sentence to young teenagers violates the U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment and is also counter to international conventions. The United States is almost alone in the world in imposing life sentences without parole for crimes committed by children at such a young age. EJI notes that giving such sentences to juveniles has been condemned in a number of international agreements, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This appalling pattern of injustice has prompted a nationwide litigation campaign to challenge these harsh penalties and have the children considered for parole-eligible sentences as soon as possible. For complete story, click here.

Children as Big Pharma Guinea Pigs: 98 Percent of Drug Trials on Children Have no Safety Checks-- August 18th, 2008--(NaturalNews) Fewer than 2 percent of drug trials conducted on children have independent safety advisory boards, a review published in the journal Acta Paediatrica has found. Researchers from Nottingham University reviewed reports on 739 international drug trials that had been published between 1996 and 2002. They found that although 74 percent of studies described

their safety monitoring procedures,less than 2 percent included an independent safety review committee. Such committees are composed of independent health experts who can review the study data as it comes out and warn if the drug appears to be placing study participants at risk. "It is invaluable to have an independent monitor who can swiftly question any adverse drug reactions or differences in illness and death rates between groups taking part in the clinical trials," said lead researcher Helen Sammons. "Parents also need to be made aware of the risks of adverse drug reactions when a child takes any medicine so that they can make informed decisions that balance those risks against the possible benefits the drug may provide their child." The Nottingham University review also suggests that independent committees lead to more rigorous safety standards. Of the 13 studies with independent review committees, six were halted early due to highly toxic drug effects. None of the studies without independent committees were stopped early. Although the researchers looked only at studies conducted on children, they said the statistics for adult trials are probably similar. For complete story, click here.

Miss. man accused in Medicaid scam--August 1st, 2008--COLUMBUS, Miss. (AP) - The founder of an organization dedicated to helping troubled teens stay out of jail is himself behind bars, facing felony charges stemming from an alleged Medicaid scam. Aaron Ray Pulsifer of Columbus is former executive director of the Youth Challenge Program. He was being held Thursday at the Lowndes County Adult Detention Center. Prosecutors accuse the 31-year-old Pulsifer of using the organization to aid in a nearly 3-year scheme in which he illegally received more than $1.1 million. Court documents say Pulsifer stole the identity of a woman, then made false reports to the state Division of Medicaid claiming she had provided diagnostic and counseling services for dozens of program Youth Challenge participants. For complete story, click here.

New Report Calls to End Beating of Children in Public Schools--Read the report, A Violent Education: Corporal Punishment of Children in U.S. Public Schools. A shocking report illuminates the state of disturbing forms of discipline in U.S. schools. Released last week by the ACLU and Human Rights Watch, the report finds that more than 200,000 public school students in the U.S. were punished by beatings during the 2006-2007 school year. Further, minorities and students with mental and physical disabilities are punished at disproportionately higher rates in the 13 states that corporally punished more than 1,000 students per year -- despite no evidence that these students commit disciplinary infraction at such disproportionate rates. The report, A Violent Education: Corporal Punishment of Children in U.S. Public Schools, found that children ranging in age from 3 to 19 years old in Texas and Mississippi are routinely physically punished for minor infractions such as chewing gum, talking back to a teacher, or violating the dress code, as well as for more serious transgressions such as fighting. Corporal punishment, legal in 21 states, typically takes the form of "paddling," during which an administrator or teacher hits a child repeatedly on the buttocks with a long wooden board. The report shows that, as a result of paddling, many children are left injured, degraded, and disengaged from school. "Every public school needs effective methods of discipline, but beating kids teaches violence and it doesn't stop bad behavior," said Alice Farmer, Aryeh Neier Fellow at Human Rights Watch and the ACLU, and author of the report. "Corporal punishment discourages learning, fails to deter future misbehavior and at times even provokes it." The ACLU and Human Rights Watch call upon the U.S. government to prohibit corporal punishment in all public schools and urge state governments, school boards, superintendents, and administrators to eliminate physical punishment in their schools. >> Learn more, and read the report. For complete story, click here.

Audit: Hempstead nonprofit used money for beer--Sept. 5th, 2008--A Hempstead agency that housed troubled teens allegedly used public money to buy beer and violent video games, and to pay $47,865 in bonuses to its workers in violation of its contract with the county, according to a Nassau County audit released yesterday. It also billed other counties for the use of beds that Nassau County had already paid for, in what amounted to $834,000 in overcharges, Nassau County Comptroller Howard Weitzman said in the audit. The audit sketched out a broad pattern of wasteful and inappropriate spending by the Leadership Training Institute that Weitzman said was the worst case of fiscal abuse he had ever seen by a nonprofit agency. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.newsday.com Date: September 5, 2008)

Former federal prosecutor on trial for allegedly molesting six teens--Sept. 5th, 2008--Clayton — Onetime federal prosecutor Eric Tolen lured under-age boys by offering small jobs at his home and then traded gifts such as dirt bikes, liquor or cigarettes for sexual favors, a St. Louis County jury was told Thursday. Prosecutor Kathi Alizadeh said the six victims — ages 11 to 15 at the time — had to perform sex acts on Tolen, or allow him to perform acts on them, to get what they wanted. Tolen, 47, is charged with 38 counts of criminal conduct. He steadfastly has denied any wrongdoing. He is a former assistant U.S. attorney who more recently had a general law practice in Overland. His past clients included a mayor of Overland and St. Charles city councilmen. He lived in Town and Country, where officials allege that many of the crimes occurred. For complete story, click here.

Utah doctor indicted in therapy camp death--Sept. 6th, 2008--A prominent Utah County physician stands accused of negligent homicide in connection with the death of a Salt Lake City teen in a southwest Colorado wilderness therapy program. But Keith R. Hooker, who has worked in the emergency department at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center since 1970, says he is innocent. And the indictment, which also accuses him of child abuse, contains no allegations about what he is alleged to have done or failed to do. Caleb Jensen, 15, died May 2, 2007, from a staphylococcus infection, which Colorado prosecutors contend went untreated despite glaring symptoms. The boy spent the last week of his life lying in his own urine and feces, in a remote field camp operated by Alternative Youth Adventures in Montrose County, Colo., court documents allege. Jensen had been sent to the camp by Utah juvenile justice officials. Colorado authorities shut AYA down two months after Jensen's death. Hooker, who served as the program's medical adviser, was indicted in July and related documents were unsealed Aug. 25. He was arraigned in a Montrose, Colo., court last week and pleaded not guilty. His next hearing is scheduled for Oct. 6. Reached at his Mapleton residence Friday, Hooker declined comment. His Provo lawyer, Mike Esplin, said he has not seen testimony given before the grand jury, but he believes there is insufficient evidence to support the charges. "Doctor Hooker never examined Caleb. His role is an adviser to the program. We think it's an overshot," Esplin said. "He didn't give [AYA] any advice concerning this incident. We are in the dark. [Investigators] never talked to him." Montrose County District Attorney Myrl Serra did not return phone calls. Also charged are camp emergency medical technician Ben Askins, who faces a more serious charge of manslaughter; program director Jim Omer and the businesses, Alternative Youth Adventures of Colorado and its corporate parent, Community Education Centers Inc. The New Jersey-based company provides treatment to 6,000 juvenile and adult offenders a year, in seven states. A corporate spokesman said the company was in the process of closing AYA at the time of Jensen's death, but declined to comment further. No charges were filed against field counselors who tended to Jensen and later spoke to investigators. Jensen was admitted to AYA's 60-day program on March 28, 2007. He had undergone an initial medical exam in Utah, but the exam did not reveal any illness, court documents said. His symptoms began April 23 when "it was noted that Caleb had a small blister located on his right ankle," the indictment said. The teen wrote in his journal the next day that he was "burning up, vomiting and having trouble hiking." Suspecting Jensen of "faking" his illness, camp staff separated him from the group until he died eight days later, the charges allege. Staff ordered him to wear diapers and put him on suicide watch, but allegedly did nothing to treat the fatal infection. For complete story, click here.

Youth worker charged with dealing crack--September 9th, 2008--Federal agents have arrested an employee of the Knox County schools and a home for troubled teens on charges of dealing crack cocaine, but their methods are drawing criticism from the agency that runs the group home. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency arrested Fred Bennett outside Cooper House, a group home for teen boys in the Fourth and Gill neighborhood. Bennett is under a federal indictment with two other men for distributing and possessing with intent to distribute crack. For complete story, click here.

Area native's book details broken system--September 14th, 2008-- Brownsville native Ron Howard pursued a degree in psychology and started working in residential treatment to help troubled teens; what he found was a system even more troubled than the children it was meant to help. Howard has documented some of the problems he has observed in a novel, "Children on Layaway, It's All About the Money $$$," a fictional account of life in a residential treatment facility based on real stories. Howard noted the recent passage of a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives designed to prevent abuse in residential treatment facilities as an indication that the problem is systemic, not limited to a single facility. "The picture is pretty grim, in my opinion," Howard said. "The majority of the time these kids spend with staff is with people who have a high school diploma. They are paying these people to be security guards." Howard said 70 percent of the children placed in residential treatment enter the system with mental health problems the staff is unqualified to handle. Howard said he would like to see a requirement for the youth counselors to have at least a bachelor's degree in psychology or sociology or a related field. "If you talk to any child who has been in a residential treatment program, I'd bet they'd say they've been subject to emotional or physical abuse," Howard said. "The kids may report the child abuse, but it's easier to sweep the case under the rug than it is to replace the staff because this is a high-turnover field. Something simply has to be done about it because these companies are literally making millions." Howard writes about children being beaten or having fingers and wrists broken by staff members supposedly restraining the children in dangerous situations in his fictional account. "Even my editor said these stories couldn't be 100 percent true. I'm sure there are even worse stories," Howard said. The nonfiction accounts of abuse can be found in the testimony attached to H.R 6358, which in June was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Testimony from the director for Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues paints a bleak picture in which physical and sexual abuse occur without management intervention. "Abuse, neglect and civil rights violations documented in all types of residential facilities -government and private, licensed and unlicensed - show that the current federal-state oversight structure is inadequate to protect youth from maltreatment," GAO Director Kay E. Brown wrote in her concluding remarks. A former resident of a residential treatment facility in New York describes restraints using blankets and duct tape, as well as other abuses. "While I had been fortunate enough to miss out on most of the horrors personally, I

unfortunately gave many tours to prospective parents, always omitting the details of restraints, punishments and lack of any sort of communication or safeguards against the abuses that took place," Jon Martin-Crawford testified. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.heraldstandard.com Date: September 14, 2008)

Risks Found for Youths in New Antipsychotics--Sept. 15th, 2008--A new government study published Monday has found that the medicines most often prescribed for schizophrenia in children and adolescents are no more effective than older, less expensive drugs and are more likely to cause some harmful side effects. The standards for treating the disorder should be changed to include some older medications that have fallen out of use, the study's authors said. The results, being published online by The American Journal of Psychiatry, are likely to alter treatment for an estimated one million children and teenagers with schizophrenia and to intensify a broader controversy in child psychiatry over the newer medications, experts said. Prescription rates for the newer drugs, called atypical antipsychotics, have increased more than fivefold for children over the past decades and a half, and doctors now use them to settle outbursts and aggression in children with a wide variety of diagnoses, despite serious side effects. For complete story, click here.

Two camp employees arrested--Sept. 12th, 2008--CHARLOTTE COUNTY, Fla. - Two camp employees were arrested after one of them is accused of sitting on a teen for hours. Police arrested Director Arthur Dagg for child neglect and Counselor Carl Hochstettler for child cruelty. A police report says Hochstettler sat on a 15-year-old boy for three hours to discipline him. The alleged crime happened at the Gator's Wilderness Boy's Camp in Punta Gorda in August. It's a camp for troubled boys. Police say the boy's arm was swollen and he started throwing up and that he wasn't taken to the hospital for days. The two men are out of jail. They're due back in court in October. For complete story, click here.

Mother Claims Son Was Abused At S. Fla. School--Sept. 12th, 2008--FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. -- A South Florida mother is outraged, saying her son was abused at an elite school in Fort Lauderdale at the hands of his drill sergeant. Marilyn Johnson-Smith said she is haunted by her decision to send her son, Donald Hutchinson, to a school she thought was a private institution, a place where he would learn and be safe from altercations with other students. "I was looking for a school with a small setting to help him," Hutchinson said. "But it's not a private school. It's an abuse school with boot camp." Johnson-Smith said her son, a fifth-grader, was abused at the hands of a drill sergeant at Fort Lauderdale's Elite Leadership Academy. "My son told me they forced him to the ground -- he forced him to the ground -- which gave him this scar on his face," Johnson-Smith said. Hutchinson said the drill sergeant assaulted him after an altercation over a canteen, tossing him to the ground and digging his knee into the child's back. Is this a case of abuse or simply standard procedure? Elite's executive director, Veronica Ruiz-Ashwal, said the school makes no pretense of its purpose, billing itself as a "behavior modification" program for students who have had problems in other schools. "Whenever a drill instructor takes a child down, it's simply because the child is a safety threat to themselves or to someone else," Ruiz-Ashwal said. It is not just the physical aspects of the academy that Johnson-Smith said she wants investigated. She said she did not know that the academy took a tough-love approach with students. She is angry that her son did not wear a uniform but instead a green jumpsuit issued upon arrival. Ruiz-Ashwal said all students wear the jumpsuit for the first two weeks of the program. Johnson-Smith has hired an attorney. Her lawyer said his client had no idea that Elite was designed for troubled students and is demanding that the school and the drill sergeant be investigated. For complete story, click here.

Five teens have (reportedly) died in programs since 1990--Sept. 12th, 2008--Since 1990, five teens have died while in the care of Utah-based wilderness therapy programs. Michelle Sutton, 15, of California, died May 9, 1990, from altitude sickness, dehydration and heat exhaustion while hiking with Summit Quest of St. George. No charges were filed. Her parents sued the program, physicians and a psychologist. Summit Quest settled in 1992 for its remaining insurance policy funds -- $345,000 -- and a judge dismissed claims against the others. Kristen Chase, 16, of Florida, died June 27, 1990, of heatstroke on a hike in Kane County with the Challenger Foundation program of Escalante. Owner Stephen Cartisano was charged with negligent homicide and child abuse related to other students in the program. A jury acquitted him, but state officials banned him from working with child-treatment programs in Utah. Chase's parents sued Challenger and Cartisano, settling in 1994 for $260,000 in insurance funds. Aaron Bacon, 16, of Arizona, died March 31, 1994, of peritonitis and a perforated ulcer, while on a wilderness trek in Garfield County with North Star Expeditions of Escalante. Staff members were charged with felony neglect and abuse of a disabled child. A jury convicted supervising counselor Craig Fisher, who was sentenced to a year in jail. Others pleaded guilty to reduced charges. The program closed before a licensing hearing was held. Katie Lank, 16, of Virginia, died Jan. 13, 2002, after she was injured while hiking with Redrock Ranch Academy of St. George. She fell about 70 feet into a crevasse and died in a hospital three weeks later. No charges were filed. Her parents sued the program and two staff members and settled for a confidential amount. The program closed. Ian August, 14, of Texas, died July 13, 2002, of the hyperthermia (heat illness) while hiking with Skyline Journey of Nephi. Program supervisor Mark Wardle and a counselor were charged with child abuse homicide. The charges against the counselor were dropped after she testified for prosecutors and a judge found there was not enough evidence against Wardle to take the case to trial. Later, an administrative law judge found evidence of licensing violations. The program was closed in 2003. Wardle and his father have since opened another wilderness camp: Distant Drums Beginnings in Nephi. (Webmaster Note: More children have been killed in programs since 1990 than listed here. This is an incomplete account of death at behavior modification programs in the US.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.sltrib.com Date: September 12, 2008)

Parents Warned: Don't Use Ritalin--Sept. 24th, 2008--The drug should not be prescribed to children under five and used for older children only when they have severe ADHD or as a last resort, the guidance says. Instead, parents should be taught psychological techniques for changing the behaviour of unruly youngsters diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The guidelines were issued by the National Institute for health and Clinical Excellence (Nice) and the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health. The directive says parent training and education programmes should be offered as a first-line treatment for ADHD, both for pre-school and school-age children. The programmes show parents how to create a structured home environment, encourage attentiveness and concentration, and better manage misbehaviour. Research has shown they can be highly effective, helping children do better at school and lead more normal lives. Teachers should also be involved in the management of school age children, says the guidance. For complete story, click here.

Visions for Youth program probed--September 29th, 2008-- Springfield, Ohio — Authorities are investigating a Clark County program for troubled teens after a video showing what appears to be abuse by a staff member was leaked to the media last month. The boot-camp-style program called Visions for Youth operates four facilities in the county and at one time served as many as ten counties, housing teens ages 13 to 18. Following allegations of abuse and the release of the video, most counties have pulled their kids from the program. In the video, reportedly footage taken by a hidden security surveillance camera at the Inside-Out Community Center on August 2, a Visions for Youth staff member is seen body-slamming a 16-year-old boy in a hallway and then holding him down. William Stout, a pastor with the Community Christian Church, one of three churches that meet in the building, said the counselor – later identified as Dante Smith – had found the teen sleeping during a Saturday night church service. The teen is seen in the hallway holding his neck because Smith woke him up by striking him in the throat, Stout said. "We have hidden cameras in there for security purposes, and I guess their staff didn't realize they were on camera," Stout said. "The kid didn't do anything." As of Sept. 11, the Clark County Children services, along with law enforcement and the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, has been investigating the program, which faces possible the revocation of its license and criminal prosecution of its employees. (Webmaster Note: Let's film all such programs 24/7 with independent third-party oversight!) For complete story, click here.

Parents use abandonment law to shed teens--October 2nd, 2008-- OMAHA — The abandonments began on Sept. 1, when a mother left her 14-year-old son in a police station here. By Sept. 23, two more boys and one girl, ages 11 to 14, had been abandoned in hospitals in Omaha and Lincoln. Then a 15-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl were left. The biggest shock to public officials came last week, when a single father walked into an Omaha hospital and surrendered nine of his 10 children, ages 1 to 17, saying that his wife had died and he could no longer cope with the burden of raising them. In total last month, 15 older children in Nebraska were dropped off by a beleaguered parent or custodial aunt or grandmother who said the children were unmanageable. Officials have called the abandonments a misuse of a new law that was mainly intended to prevent so-called Dumpster babies — the abandonment of newborns by young, terrified mothers — but instead has been used to hand off out-of-control teenagers or, in the case of the father of 10, to escape financial and personal despair. The spate of abandonments has prompted an outcry about parental irresponsibility and pledges to change the state law. But it has also cast a spotlight on the hidden extent of family turmoil around the country and what many experts say is a shortage of respite care, counseling and especially psychiatric services to help parents in dire need. Some who work with troubled children add that economic conditions, like stagnant low-end wages and the epidemic of foreclosures, may make the situation worse, adding layers of worry and conflict. For complete story, click here.

Putnam mental-health company sues to stay open, keep licenses--October 3rd, 2008-- CARMEL - A private, for-profit mental health company in jeopardy of losing its state operating licenses for alleged violations of patients' rights and state mental-health laws has filed a lawsuit in state Supreme Court to reverse the revocation ruling. SLS Residential Inc., which treats teens and young adults with psychological and behavioral problems, filed the action in Putnam County last week, asking the court to intervene in the state's decision, which would shut its residential treatment facilities in Southeast.SLS argues that the state Office of Mental Health acted arbitrarily when it revoked SLS' operating permits in late August. The revocations came after OMH fined SLS $110,000 in November 2006 involving 11 specific violations of health laws. Dr. Joseph Santoro, co-owner and chief operating officer of SLS, said in a statement that the company had to appeal. "We cannot allow OMH to disregard the interests of hundreds of satisfied patients and those to come," he said. "We are compelled by principle to challenge this arbitrary and capricious bureaucratic failure to

understand our time-tested and effective treatment methodologies." Among the allegations were that SLS used illegal restraints on patients long after being told not to, that it administered sedatives to patients when they refused to take their medications and that it failed to report troubling incidents to the state, including patients behaving suicidal and complaining of abuse by staff. In the statement, SLS accused state officials of not helping the company correct the alleged violations. "Rather than working with SLS in a transparent manner to resolve any question or regulation infraction, OMH has been harassing the facility - and now threatening to put them out of business," the statement reads. "It is vindictive and contrary to the best interest of the community." SLS said the state acted on "unfounded conclusions" and "flawed and arbitrary procedures." OMH spokeswoman Jill Daniels said the agency has worked repeatedly with SLS in an effort to correct the violations. "It is well documented that the Office of Mental Health worked with SLS for more than two years to help bring its programs into compliance with regulations before deciding to revoke its operating licenses," Daniels said. "The revocation decision was motivated by the need to ensure that the people being served by SLS received safe and appropriate care and treatment." Daniels said that OMH is reviewing the SLS lawsuit and that it has "every confidence that OMH will prevail." The litigation to keep its operating licenses is the latest effort by SLS to fight the state's negative findings. After being fined for the alleged violations in November 2006, SLS hired one of the nation's largest law firms, Proskauer Rose, to represent it at a hearing that began in July 2007 and lasted more than 20 days through September 2007. Most such hearings conclude in a week or less. When state OMH Commissioner Michael F. Hogan in July of this year adopted the hearing officer's decision to uphold the fines, SLS appealed in Putnam County Court. That case is pending the outcome of the most recent court action. SLS has yet to pay any fines or cease operating. Among the reasons OMH cited for revoking SLS' licenses is that it continues to use physical restraints on patients and that SLS officials either misled or lied to state officials. The state said that Santoro and Dr. Shawn Pritchard, SLS' clinical director, testified falsely in several instances at the administrative hearing. Santoro testified that an SLS patient, Evan Marshall, was not receiving services from SLS in August 2006 while on a weekend pass to his mother's Long Island home. During that visit, Marshall killed one of his mother's neighbors and drove around with the woman's severed head. Marshall, 32, is serving 29 years to life. Documents showed that Marshall was under SLS' care at the time of the murder. In a recent interview, Santoro said the state never provided a clear definition of an illegal restraint, and that neither patients' insurance companies nor their families would tolerate the actions of which SLS stands accused. He likened his company's fight against the OMH to the biblical battle of David and Goliath. SLS is also a defendant in a multimillion-dollar federal class-action lawsuit brought on behalf of several former patients who claim they were mistreated. Last week, a federal judge in that case fined SLS $35,000 for trying to scare former patients away from participating in the lawsuit. Glen Feinberg, a Pleasantville lawyer who went to court to win the right to protest outside SLS sites over the poor treatment he felt his son got there in 2001 and 2002, defended OMH. He said that the SLS appeal is based on three premises: that the OMH has a vendetta against it, that SLS does not have to follow rules that similar companies do, and that the evidence was not sufficient to revoke the licenses. "The first two arguments are absurd," Feinberg said. "As for the third, there are hundreds of pages of testimony, much of it from SLS employees and documents, that support the finding of truth. SLS has no credibility at all." (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.lohud.com Date: October 3, 2008)

Proposed eastern Idaho haven for troubled teens loses grant--October 4th, 2008--IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP) - The Idaho Department of Commerce has pulled a $500,000 grant that would have helped pay for the construction of a group home for troubled teens after losing confidence in the project. Ammon city officials were awarded the federal community development block grant in 2006, and intended to pass the money on to Family Care Center to use in the construction of the proposed $7.5 million Pearl House. The Department of Commerce was holding the money in trust until construction began. But construction on the project has been delayed for years because Family Care Center hasn't been able to sell $5 million in bonds. Commerce department spokeswoman Bibiana Nertney says the department decided it would not be in the state's interest to be a financing partner in the project. Family Care Center Board Chairman Ron Carlson says the loss of the grant means the group will have to try to make up the $500,000 in bonds. (Webmaster Note: Good, projects like these should be canceled, not funded.) For complete story, click here.

Teenage boys violently attack youth facility members--October 6th, 2008--(10/06/2008) By Jeniffer Berry - Two teenagers were behind bars as of Monday night accused of attacking 3 people at a youth treatment facility in Kearney. Among the injured are 2 employees and a Kearney Police Officer. It was a violent attack. Authorities said 2 teenage boys took a ball from a pool table and put it in sock. It was a makeshift weapon used to beat 2 staff members. It happened just after 11:00 Sunday night at the Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center in Kearney. It is a place for troubled boys - many with criminal backgrounds. The State Patrol said 2 of them, both 16 year olds, tried escaping. They lured a 72 year old staffer into a common area where authorities said they used the pool ball in the sock to beat him in the face. "Causing some fractured bones in the face and he called out for help," said State Patrol Lt. Dennis Leonard. Another staffer responded - a 64 year old man. He was also attacked. At some point, somebody managed to call police. When they arrived they too were ambushed. One police officer was punched in the head multiple times, before the boys were eventually arrested. "The degree of the injuries and the force that they used an object to inflict these injuries is technically a felony in itself," said Leonard. The teens were in the Buffalo County Jail Monday night facing charges of second degree assault, use of a weapon to commit a felony and attempted assault on a police officer. All are felonies. The officer punched in the head did not have to be taken to the hospital. The two staff members did. One has a fractured eye socket and the other needed stitches on his head. The State Patrol said it has responded to problems here before, but nothing like this. For complete story, click here.

Detectives seek additional victims in sex-crimes case--October 8th, 2008-- Detectives are looking for additional victims of a former Marine accused of having sex with a 15-year-old in 2007 and of committing lewd acts on a 13-year-old in 2006. Authorities said Ross Jay Curtis, 23, met the older girl at the now-defunct JROTC program at Pioneer High in Whittier while the younger teen was in an at-risk boot camp program at a Hawaiian Gardens middle school, which they wouldn't name. Curtis also volunteered at camps attended by Bellflower students, according to Detective Rudy Acevedo of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Special Victims Bureau. "He would put himself in a position to be around kids and in that type of environment," Acevedo said. He said Curtis used his military background to befriend the people running the programs. He said Curtis would also talk to the students about the Marines and the benefits of a career in the military. A flier looking for additional victims was distributed in Sacramento and San Diego, where Curtis lived. "He may have volunteered in schools in San Diego," Acevedo said. Prosecutors charged Curtis with lewd acts upon a child, sending by electronic mail harmful matter with the intent of seducing a minor, sexual penetration by a foreign object and oral copulation of a minor. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.whittierdailynews.com Date: October 8, 2008)

Martin Lee Anniversary--October 10th, 2008--Sunday is the one year anniversary of the not guilty verdict in the boot camp death of 14 year-old Martin Lee Anderson. The teen was kicked and kneed by guards as a nurse watched during the first hour of his stay in the Panama City boot camp. The state later settled for 5 million dollars with his parents. Mother Gina Jones said her life hasn't been the same since the death, and nothing has changed her or her attorney's mind that that guards got away with murder. The NAACP asked for a federal investigation into whether the guards violated Martin's civil rights. There has been no inquiry or investigation. The family is hoping a new administration may reopen the case. (Webmater Note: Martin Lee Anderson's death should be a large wake-up call to America that we need to begin protecting our children.) For complete story, click here.

Youth treatment center to close--October 9th, 2008--A 43-bed youth treatment center in Marriottsville will be closing next month as the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services transitions more youths away from residential facilities to community-based treatment programs. The Thomas O'Farrell Youth Center is scheduled to close Nov. 30, said Tammy Brown, a spokeswoman for the Department of Juvenile Services. Of the close to 30 nonviolent youth offenders now at the center, 10 will be transferred to other residential facilities and the rest will be sent home to continue treatment in their communities, she said. "There's a big push for kids to be treated in the community and in their homes with their families," Brown said. Brown said department staff had been discussing the transition with North American Family Institute, the organization that runs the O'Farrell center, since May. NAFI, which runs several treatment programs throughout the Northeast, will also be transitioning to offer community-based treatment in Baltimore and Baltimore County. NAFI will be offering a new MultiSystemic Therapies Program starting in January, according to a press release by the Department of Juvenile Services. This approach works with youths in their homes and family environments to look at all factors that influence the youth's behavior, and addresses some of the systemic problems, Brown said. For example, if a youth referred to the department is living with parents with a drug abuse problem, that is something the therapy program would address to help both the youth and the entire family, she said. The closing of the O'Farrell center comes a year and a half after Bowling Brook Preparatory School in Middleburg closed in March of 2007, following the death of a student at the school. Nevada-based company Rite of Passage has submitted a proposal to the Governor's Office of Children to restart a youth treatment program at the school, Brown said, but so far the application has not been forwarded to the Department of Juvenile Services. The closing of the O'Farrell center has nothing to do with recent developments on the future of Bowling Brook, Brown said. (Webmaster Note: We are also pleased to announce that Excel Academy in Conroe, TX is closed/closing as of this month!) For complete story, click here.

Despite state acquittals, federal charges possible in death of teen at Florida boot camp--October 13th, 2008-- PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) _ A looming federal investigation and possible trial is making it difficult for seven juvenile Florida boot camp guards and a nurse acquitted last year of state charges in the death of a 14-year-old boy to move on with their lives, their attorneys said. The eight left a Panama City courthouse with their jubilant families one year ago on Oct. 12, 2007, after jurors found them not guilty in the beating death of Martin Lee Anderson. The death and verdict prompted protests and Florida's juvenile boot camps were abolished. The eight employees were fired from the Bay County Juvenile Boot Camp. "All of their lives have changed. They are no longer doing what was their first choice in life to do," said Hoot Crawford, attorney for former camp guard Henry Dickens, who is now a hotel security guard. Dickens had wanted to dedicate his life to reforming juvenile offenders but "now he is doing something very different," Crawford said. The federal inquiry remains open, said Karen Rhew, a Tallahassee-based assistant U.S. attorney. She declined

to give other details or a timeframe for a decision on whether or not there will be a second trial. Attorneys for the eight said their clients did not want to talk publicly about the verdict because of the federal investigation. Anderson died Jan. 6, 2006, a day after being hit and kicked by the guards as the nurse watched. He had just been assigned to the camp. He was caught trespassing at a school, which violated his probation imposed after he was convicted of helping his cousins steal their grandmother's car. A video of the 30-minute altercation showed the seven men punching him and using knee strikes against him, pushing ammonia capsules into his nose and dragging his limp body around the yard. The video also showed the nurse doing nothing to help Anderson or stop the men. A coroner initially determined Anderson fatally hemorrhaged because he had an undiagnosed sickle cell trait, a condition which can cause red cells to change shape and not carry oxygen when the body is under extreme stress. A second autopsy, completed when then-Gov. Jeb Bush ordered an independent prosecutor take over the case, determined the guards killed Anderson by depriving him of oxygen when they pushed the ammonia tablets into his nose, covered his mouth and didn't give him time to recover his breath. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.amny.com Date: October 13, 2008)

School founder kills self instead of going to prison--January 17th, 2008 (Just received on October 15th 2008) The founder of a Christian school for troubled boys who had pleaded guilty to financial fraud and deception in its operation appears to have fatally shot himself days after he was supposed to report to prison. Robert Serge Gluhareff pleaded guilty in April to two counts of bank fraud, one count of tax fraud, and one count of mail fraud in connection with the Wellspring Academy outside South Boston, Va. The school had many students from Raleigh when it was open. A federal judge sentenced Gluhareff to 30 months, and Gluhareff was to begin the sentence Jan. 8, but he didn't appear. Person County Sheriff Dewey Jones said that on Friday, Gluhareff left his home in South Boston and said he was going to meet a client. When he didn't return, family members started a search. On Sunday, Jones said, a Person County deputy came across Gluhareff's truck on the side of a rural road. Witnesses told deputies the truck had been there since at least 8 p.m. Friday. Deputies searched nearby woods and found Gluhareff's body and a .38-caliber handgun. Gluhareff started the Wellspring Academy in the 1980s, first recruiting students from the Triangle and later enrolling students from across the country. It began as a coeducational facility but was converted to a boys school. Parents whose sons had behavioral and other problems paid tuitions of more than $40,000 per year for the residential program. Gluhareff promised a structured setting with academics, religion and individual counseling on a 510-acre farm. For complete story, click here.

Michigan, Iowa teens left by families in Nebraska--October 14th, 2008-- Imagine being a teenager, taken by your family to another state and dropped off at a hospital -- so someone else would take responsibility for you. It's happened twice over the last week in Nebraska. In one case, a 13 year old Michigan boy got in a car with his mom, who drove over 700 miles to Omaha to leave him at a medical center in the middle of the night. In another case, a 14 year old Iowa girl was deposited by her grandparents at Omaha's Creighton University Medical Center. Both families were relinquishing responsibility for the teens under Nebraska's controversial safe haven law, the only in the U.S. that allows families to leave children of any age at a hospital. No one expected the outcome: most of the 19 kids dropped off at hospitals to date have been teens or pre-teens. Certainly, no one expected that distraught parents or grandparents from other states would come to Nebraska to hand over their kids -- the newest development. Much has been written about the problems that can lead families to relinquish children, whether in Nebraska or elsewhere. In particular, the lack of supports for families dealing with extremely troubled kids -- especially, insufficient mental health services -- can be devastating. Many readers of this blog have applauded Nebraska for offering an alternative for children who might otherwise be subjected to abuse from overwhelmed parents. If the only alternative is giving children up, it's better than seeing kids neglected or subject to violence, you've said. But think of the children, especially teenagers who face the reality of abandonment. "You could imagine being a child and your parent asks you to go to a hospital and they just drive away, what feelings that would create for the children," said Gene Klein, executive director of Project Harmony in Omaha, quoted by KPTM 42 News. State officials are concerned that the spirit of Nebraska's safe haven law is being violated. "I certainly recognize and can commiserate and empathize with families across our state and across the country who are obviously struggling with parenting issues, but this is not the appropriate way of dealing with them," said Todd Landry, head of Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services, quoted in a report by BBC News. (Webmaster Note: Todd Landry is right. Abandoning your child to institutionalization is not appropriate.) For complete story, click here.

Federal officials looking into San Jose's EHC LifeBuilders--October 16th, 2008--A routine inquiry begun a year ago at a youth shelter run by Santa Clara County's most prominent homeless-services agency has now progressed into an investigation of possible fraud. Concerns first arose in October 2007, when a federal official monitoring millions of dollars in government spending on shelters for runaway youths paid a visit to EHC LifeBuilders in downtown San Jose. Alarmed that children and teens fleeing the streets were being cared for in an unlicensed facility, she alerted the state's community care division, and the shelter known as Our House was forced to shut its doors the next day. Now the agency is receiving more unexpected federal scrutiny — this time, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General, which is responsible for digging out fraud, waste and abuse of public funds. The new investigation comes as EHC has abandoned long-held plans to reopen the 14-year-old shelter; the group announced last week that it is shifting its youth shelter program to serve young adults, for whom licensing is not required. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.mercurynews.com Date: October 16, 2008)

Center's Troubled Teens 'Assaulted With Needles,' Officials Say--October 18th, 2008--Teens being treated for drug abuse and mental illness at Stonington Institute have been involuntarily injected with medication to restrain them in what the state attorney general and child advocate Friday called another example of poor supervision by the Department of Children and Families. At least five boys aged about 16 received such involuntary injections, while aides held them immobile, at the DCF-licensed private residential facility in North Stonington during a two-month period this past spring, state Child Advocate Jeanne Milstein said Friday after she and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal sent a letter filled with criticism to DCF. Milstein said the youths were considered "out of control" at the time that they were injected. If DCF had been properly overseeing what goes on at Stonington, "the practice of involuntary intramuscular medication would have been discovered sooner and fewer children assaulted with needles," Milstein and Blumenthal wrote to DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.courant.com Date: October 18, 2008)

Certain antipsychotics are leaving legions of children and elderly in chemical straightjackets for treatment of conditions they didn't even have.--October 19th, 2008--Some state legislators are mad as hell and not going to take it anymore. They've seen state outlays for controversial antipsychotics like Zyprexa grow as much as twelvefold since 2000, with a corresponding growth in side effects like weight gain, blood sugar changes and cholesterol problems. In March, Alaska won a $15 million settlement from Eli Lilly in a suit to recoup medical costs generated by Medicaid patients who developed diabetes while taking Zyprexa. Last year Bristol-Myers Squibb settled a federal suit for $515 million charging that it illegally hawked the antipsychotic Abilify to children and the elderly, bilking taxpayers. Now Idaho, Washington, Montana, Connecticut, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia, Arkansas and Texas are taking pharma to court over its antipsychotic prescrib-athon that has left the poor and mentally ill in even worse health and legions of children and elderly in chemical straightjackets for treatment of conditions they didn't even have. The atypical antipsychotics Zyprexa, Risperdal, Seroquel, Abilify and Geodon can be thought of as the credit swaps of the pharmaceutical world. New with no track record, risky, barely understood and capable of making a lot of money before their long-term effects are apparent, atypical antipsychotics, like credit swaps, could only be sold with friends in high regulatory places and the help of the U.S. taxpayer. Though atypical antipsychotics were developed to treat schizophrenia and later approved for bipolar disorder (Risperdal is also approved for autism-related irritability in children), pharma lost no time in marketing them for non-FDA-approved uses like ADHD and conduct disorders, dementia, sleep disorders, depression and simple mood swings, netting $8,000 a year per person, usually from state coffers. When the second-generation atypical antipsychotics debuted in the 1990s, they seemed to lack the "typical" side effects of first-generation antipsychotics like Thorazine and Haldol, such as the movement disorder tardive dyskinesia. But soon further "clinical testing," known as selling it to the public while the patent is hot, revealed that atypicals cause the same side effects as first-generation antipsychotics and more: increased mortality in elderly patients, suicide risk, hyperglycemia, diabetes mellitus and the hematological disorders leukopenia, neutropenia and agranulocytosis. In fact, Seroquel and Abilify have not one black box warning but two. Nor do the atypical antipsychotics work better than predecessors. A National Institute of Mental Health study of 119 children ages 8 to 19 with psychotic symptoms published in September found Risperdal and Zyprexa were no more effective than the older antipsychotic Moban -- but caused such obesity that a safety panel ordered the children off the drugs. In just eight weeks, children on Risperdal gained 9 pounds while those on Zyprexa gained 13; children on Moban gained less than a pound. "Kids at school were making fun of me," study participant Brandon Constantineau, 18, of Wilmington, N.C., told the New York Times. Constantineau put on 35 pounds on Risperdal. Other studies -- like one on Risperdal in the Jan. 4, 2008, issue of Lancet and one on Zyprexa, Seroquel and Risperdal in Alzheimer's patients in the Oct. 12, 2006, issue of the New England Journal of Medicine -- find that atypicals work no better than a placebo. But it gets worse. A study of Seroquel in the Feb. 19, 2005, issue of the British Medical Journal found the drug ineffective in relieving agitation in Alzheimer's patients -- a non-FDA-approved use that JP Morgan analysts say constitutes 29 percent of all Seroquel sales (hello? regulators?) -- but "was associated with significantly greater cognitive decline" than a placebo. Oops. Whatever happened to first no harm? But it was Eli Lilly's own discovery of elevated stroke and death numbers in five of its Zyprexa clinical trials and subsequent letter to doctors in 2004 that led the FDA to impose a black-box warning of "increased mortality in elderly patients with dementia" on atypical antipsychotics in 2005 after reviewing 17 clinical studies with four different drugs. "The problem with these drugs are that we know that they are being used extensively off-label in nursing homes to sedate elderly patients with dementia and other types of disorders," testified FDA safety expert Dr. David "Vioxx" Graham last year at a congressional hearing. "But the fact is, is that it increases mortality perhaps by 100 percent. It doubles mortality. So I did a back-of-the-envelope calculation on this, and you have probably got 15,000 elderly people in nursing homes dying each year from the off-label use of antipsychotic medications. ... With every pill that gets dispensed in a

nursing home, the drug company is laughing all the way to the bank." No kidding. A third of the nation's estimated 2.5 million nursing home patients have taken atypical antipsychotics, estimates the New York Times, and the overall atypical antipsychotic tab for Medicare and Medicaid -- including children -- in the United States is $2 billion a year. In 12 states, the pharmaceutical industry has actually written the guidelines that specify atypicals for schizophrenia and discourage older drugs. And two dozen states have hired the Lilly-backed Comprehensive Neuroscience to show them how to, not a joke, lower their drug costs. That sounds like Wall Street too. For complete story, click here.

Oppositional and Defiant or Critical Thinker?--September 12th, 2008-- I'm working on a piece about undergraduate academic freedom that relates changes in campus culture to changes in the culture of schools. One area of particular interest is the medicalization of youth relations with authority. AlterNet's Bruce Levine, a clinical psychologist, argues that "teenage rebellion has become a medical illness" with the 1980 introduction to the DSM IV of "Oppositional Defiant Disorder" (ODD): Many talk-show hosts think I'm kidding when I mention oppositional defiant disorder. After I assure them that ODD is in fact an official mental illness—an increasingly popular diagnosis for children and teenagers—they often guess that ODD is simply a new term for juvenile delinquency. But that is not the case. Young people diagnosed with ODD, by definition, are doing nothing illegal (illegal behaviors are a symptom of another mental illness called conduct disorder). In 1980, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) created oppositional defiant disorder, defining it as "a pattern of negativistic, hostile and defiant behavior." The official symptoms of ODD include "often actively defies or refuses to comply with adult requests or rules" and "often argues with adults." A diagnosis of ODD can result in medication with powerful tranquilizers like Risperdal and Zyprexa. Numerous experts have worried about overdiagnosis and overmedication of young people, and critical educators frequently worry that the problem is not lack of compliance by American youth but its precise opposite, an epidemic of compliance. Norm Diamond, for instance, argues that many of the so-called defiant "symptoms" are in many cases "part of establishing independence and developing critical thinking. Equipping children to argue back is part of good parenting and good teaching." Nonetheless a massive therapeutic industry of behavior modification, including pharmaceutical companies, now targets parents, promising cures for "defiant children." One of the most pervasive ad campaigns draws on the rhetoric of homeland security to label youth defiance "The War at Home," urging a corrections mentality on the family: "The focus of treatment should be on compliance and coping skills, not on self-esteem or personality. ODD is not a self-esteem issue; it's a problem-solving issue." Responding to Big Pharma ads for ODD medications targeting parents in his Portland media market, Diamond created a parody description of what he argues is the real social malaise, "Compliance Acquiescent Disorder," which played locally in both radio and print versions. (An unexpected result of the parody was that outlets publishing them received calls from readers and listeners seeking treatment for their compliance disorder!) Noting that "ODD-diagnosed young people are obnoxious with adults they don't respect [but] can be a delight with adults they do respect," Levine suggests that in many cases the symptoms of ODD are rational resistance to authoritarian abuses and "rebellion against an oppressive environment," explanations rarely considered by educators or mental health professionals. Levine speculates that the willingness to medicate rebellion and nonconformity emerges in the social psychology of medical professionals, including a sense of shame for "their own excessive compliance": It is my experience that many mental-health professionals are unaware of how extremely obedient they are to authorities. Acceptance into medical school and graduate school and achieving a Ph.D. or M.D. means jumping through many meaningless hoops, all of which require much behavioral, attentional, and emotional compliance to authorities—even disrespected ones. When compliant M.D.'s and Ph.D.'s begin seeing noncompliant patients, many of these doctors become anxious, sometimes even ashamed of their own excessive compliance, and this anxiety and shame can be fuel for diseasing normal human reactions. Of course, Levine's observations would seem to hold for educators as well, many of whom welcome the diagnosis of ODD and other conduct-related disorders as "classroom management tools." (On the other hand, the vast majority of teachers discussing "defiant" students on fora like ProTeacher.com are exchanging non-medical tips, often involving massive extra-curricular, non-instructional effort and expense on their part, voluntarily taking on the role of therapist and parent as well as instructor.) "Finally, a cure for the class struggle," wryly observed one of the Alternet discussion threads in response to Levine's piece. "Is there a pill for megalomania and warmongering?" wondered another. For complete story, click here.

Teacher ordered to stand trial over charges he abused teen--October 29th, 2008--Is she a troubled teen who fabricated a story about sexual encounters with a teacher, or the victim of a predator who coerced her into a sexual relationship? Both sides of that question were argued during a Tuesday preliminary hearing for a West High School teacher accused of sexually abusing a 16-year-old student. Jose Fanjul, 45, is charged in 3rd District Court with five counts of first-degree forcible sodomy and five counts of second-degree felony forcible sexual abuse in connection with allegedly having sex with the girl inside his classroom and at other locations. After listening to testimony, Judge Ann Boyden ordered Fanjul to stand trial on the abuse allegations, saying prosecutors presented sufficient evidence to advance the case. She set a Nov. 10 arraignment. (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.sltrib.com Date: October 29, 2008)

Be calm, be controlled -- and listen--November 2nd, 2008-- QWe have a 15-year-old son who has zero respect for us and is constantly getting into trouble. Is there any hope? AThere is always hope. But you can't address his behaviour until you improve your relationship with him. Keeping in mind you have to give respect to get it, go through the following steps in a calm and controlled manner: n Tell him you are sorry for making mistakes in the past but you want to improve. n Ask him for suggestions on how you can become a better parent. He'll probably give you a huge list of everything you've done wrong. That's OK; let him get it out of his system. n Repeat what he's told you -- but you don't have to agree. This is all about listening. Now it's time to validate and negotiate. You may say, "I agree that I nag you about cleaning up your room but if I promise to stop doing that, will you stop calling me foul names?" Work your way up to the bigger issues over time. Thank him for his help. This process takes patience and understanding but it's a great start. Focus on the positives Parenting troubled teens isn't about taking blame; it's about taking responsibility for the solution. Rather than focusing on your teen's bad behaviour, start focusing on the positives. Praise him or her for keeping a clean bedroom, putting dishes in the dishwasher or getting an A in math. OK, OK, your teen is doing none of those things. You may have to dig deep to find the positives, but they're there. Focusing on the positives opens the door to discussing and working on the negatives. For complete story, click here.

Residential Children's Programs Target Of Legislation--November 4th, 2008--Oct. 17, a group of former students of a local boarding school for girls stood outside the Kosciusko County Courthouse demonstrating against physical, emotional and mental abuse they allege they suffered. With them stood several members of a local task force formed to pursue a change in state law to require more accountability for residential programs for children. The local task force members are not the only ones looking for such a law change. Congress also is eyeing a bill aimed at preventing child abuse in residential programs, public or private, nationwide. The bill is called HR 6358. It passed the House of Representatives June 25 and is currently in the Senate. HR 6358 calls for more public accountability. If the bill is passed in its current form, the school that former students were demonstrating against, Hephzibah House, and similar organizations may fall under its jurisdiction. Hephzibah House is a "private Christian boarding school for teenage girls," according to the school's Web site. According to the bill, covered programs would include public or private organizations, which operate residential environments including boot camps, therapeutic boarding schools and behavior modification programs, which operate with a focus on serving children with emotional, behavioral or mental problems or disorders or problems with alcohol or substance abuse. The bill would not cover hospitals licensed by the state or foster family homes which are licensed and regulated by the state and in which children are placed by the state. The bill would prohibit disciplinary techniques or other practices that involve the withholding of essential food, water, clothing, shelter or medical care necessary to maintain physical health, mental health and general safety; physical and mechanical restraints and seclusion. The bill also would prohibit acts designed to humiliate, degrade or undermine a child's self-respect. Residential facilities covered by the bill would be required to provide "reasonable access for making and receiving phone calls with as much privacy as possible and shall have access to the appropriate state or local child abuse reporting hotline number and the national hotline number." The bill would establish penalties for facilities cited with violations, including fines. Enforcement measures would be established including unannounced inspections, licensing requirements and new databases. HR 6358 passed through the House with a vote of 318 ayes to 103 nays, with 13 present not voting. Of the nine Indiana Representatives who voted on the bill, six voted for it and three against it. Local Dist. 3 Representative Mark Souder voted against the bill. "I believe these things should be worked through at the state and local level," said Souder. "I voted for the Republican alternative both in committee and elsewhere that would increase state regulation." Souder said the alternative proposal did not include increased federal oversight. "Obviously, I believe there needs to be some additional controls, particularly for those who abuse kids, it's a terrible tragedy," he said. "We need also better enforcement. But, I do not favor the federal government taking over something I believe can be regulated at the state and local level." Souder said he could get behind increasing federal oversight if state regulations could not be stiffened or in cases dealing with multiple states, but he said increasing federal regulations is a last resort. "I don't think we're there yet," Souder said. Becky Moreno, victim's assistance advocate with the Warsaw Police Department, organized the local task force seeking change in Indiana law. Moreno said she supports HR 6358. "I think this bill is an excellent step toward preventing child abuse and bringing about some accountability that is otherwise lacking," Moreno said. "Child abuse is a national problem. Anything that could be done to prevent this problem everywhere would be the best-case scenario." The bill is currently under review in the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. For information on HR 6358, visit www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-6358 (Webmaster Note: See HEAL's Position Statement Calling for Revision of HR 6358) For complete story, click here.

Troubled Teens: Advice About Teen Boot Camps--November 6th, 2008-- Hi Vanessa, My son has been acting out and I have read about parents sending their kids away to boot camps and wilderness adventure camps. Do you think this is is a good idea? Are they safe? –Worried Mom, Austin, TX Hi Worried Mom, Parents often choose boot camps as an absolute last resort and are at the end of their rope by the time they need to contact a wilderness facility. If you have a troubled teen or your teen is acting out, try these solutions before thinking about camp: • Consistency and Routine: Often times, teens rebel because of hormones or undesired change. Therefore, the

more habits, systems and routines you have in the house the more consistency the teen will have in his/her life and the more likely they will find comfort in 'normalcy.' • Family and Community Involvement: Family time and involving your teen or child in community activities with religious groups, community service or at YMCA's can help a teen find other outlets for anger or fear. • Break from bad friends: Certain teens have 'bad' behavior because of negative influence from friends. Try to encourage activities in the community rather than hanging out with negative enablers. Or take a family trip to get away from these kids. Often times, sending teens to grandparents, aunt's or uncle's houses can be a sufficient break away from influencers. • Empowerment, love and support: Some teens thrive off of any kind of attention, this means that punishments and arguments simply feed their need. So make sure to give them positive attention, tell them you have faith in them, that they are smart, and have a good future, show them you are there for them no matter what. Even if this does work immediately, as seen with my friend above, they will remember that you were there for them after this hard stage. If you reach the end of your rope: • Family camps are better than boot camps: There are many camps, especially church and temple camps that are for entire families. This is where all family members have activities together and separate and can be a good break and a time where you can bond away from the home, bad friends and trigger points. • Send them to a relative: As mentioned above, sending teens to a relative's house for the summer or for a school break can help keep them out of trouble when there is no school and give them a chance to connect in a different community. • Do your research: If you must, there are some good 'correction' camps out there. Stear away from 'tough love' camps and make sure there are therapists working at the facility. Get referrals and do plenty of research and surprise visits, remember what camps want to show you, they will, and what they do not want to show you, they won't. If you are having a hard time with your teen remember that the relationship comes in cycles and do not be afraid to get outside help with a therapist, counselor or at their schools. For complete story, click here.

Teen compacted in Wis. garbage truck survives--November 5th, 2008-- MILWAUKEE — Police in Milwaukee say a teenage boy has survived after being accidentally dumped into the back of a recycling truck and compacted. Police say the 14-year-old ran away from a boot camp-style school for teens Monday and hid in a recycling bin filled with cardboard. The bin was picked up by a Waste Management truck and dumped into the vehicle's rear compactor. Waste Management spokeswoman Lynn Morgan says the truck continued on its collection route, compacting cardboard several times. The boy wasn't discovered until the truck dumped its load at a recycling processing center. He was semiconscious and was taken to a hospital, but police say his injuries aren't life-threatening. (Webmaster Note: This is a tragedy. Please don't subject children to programs that by their very nature cause a flight or fight response and put children at risk.) For complete story, click here.

Dozen juveniles held at Guantanamo Bay --Pentagon revises upward number of children imprisoned at Guantanamo 16 Nov 2008 The number of juveniles held at Guantanamo Bay was revised upwards by US military officials. Twelve juvenile prisoners have been held at the US camp on Cuba, up from eight reported in May to a United Nations committee on child rights, the Pentagon said. For complete story, click here.

Ex-school owners OK $450,000 settlement--November 19th, 2008--The former operators of a Nephi school for troubled youths agreed to a $450,000 settlement to eight former students who alleged they were abused and hazed while there. Mark and Cheryl Sudweeks, the former owners and operators of the now failed Whitmore Academy, came under fire in 2005 when several students accused them of various types of abuse that led to criminal charges being filed against Cheryl Sudweeks. A 4th District Court civil suit seeking damages in the case was settled Monday. "We are happy to get it behind us," said Susan Schacherer, a plaintiff whose granddaughter attended Whitmore. "Does it undo the damage that caused us to bring the lawsuit to begin with? No. The window of opportunity to help these kids was lost. The money can't replace that." The complaint filed in Juab County said that the Whitmore Academy, which was advertised as a facility for "teens looking to accelerate their education intellectually, emotionally and spiritually," was actually nothing of the sort. The complaint alleges that some students enrolled at the Whitmore Academy were physically bound with plastic handcuffs for several hours, others were forced to spend periods of time outside without any clothing on, and some were forced to sleep in a space referred to as the "shelf room." The shelf room was a small, enclosed area where students could neither sit up, fully stretch out, and was located 10 feet off the ground, according to the complaint. The Sudweeks were also accused of recruiting students and encouraging the students to use violence against other youths to enforce the rules. There were also accusations of "environmental abuse" due to problems with the sewage system. Students were asked to not flush used toilet paper down the toilet, and the complaint states that "soiled toilet paper was stored in open trash bags that were left in the bathrooms." There was also an apparent problem with mouse feces and rodents, among other accusations. Schacherer said that when she and her daughter visited the Whitmore Academy, they had no idea that these types of things were happening and that apparently they were duped. Schacherer's granddaughter now lives in Texas with her mother and still harbors animosity toward the people she believes mistreated her. "I don't think that she feels like the settlement was justified for what she went through," Schacherer said. "She realized this was the best we could do and that is the way it is. She still has bitter feelings." In September of 2006, Cheryl Sudweeks pleaded no contest to four class C misdemeanor counts of hazing and agreed to meet all court-ordered requirements and pay a fee. For complete story, click here.

I-Team: Lawyers Question Medical Tests on Foster Kids--November 15th, 2008--This is a story about an eight-year-old boy in foster care. A boy we've never met. He exists for us only as a name on a letter questioning his mental health treatment. But his lawyer Janice Wolf wants us to remember Nathaniel is real. "Some of the things our kids have gone through, you and I could only imagine in our dreams, or nightmares." Nathaniel described vivid nightmares according psychiatric records obtained by the I-Team. During his first of two hospitalizations at Montevista, Dr. Mark Collins ordered a procedure called a brain spect. It requires the injection of radioactive material to illuminate blood flow in the brain. Read the legal complaint In a report to the family court, Collins writes the scan confirms Nathaniel has "severe bipolar disorder." "I think my concern is that our foster kids are getting not just the best psychiatric care, but proper psychiatric care -- that they're not being mistreated, or experimented on, or used as investigational tools," said Wolf. The American Psychiatric Association does not accept the use of brain imaging for the clinical diagnosis of children, in part, according to its literature, because of children's sensitivity to radiation and to risk of radiation-induced cancer. Read a statement from the county about the procedures Dr. Collins likens the exposure to a common CT scan, "To not look at a child's brain who's had multiple treatments and is not getting better, it would be like if you had a heart attack and I'm saying, 'you know what, you've had a heart attack before. We know you have a bad heart. I'm not going to do an electrocardiogram on you.'" Collins argues the scans are a valuable tool to aid in the diagnosis of his sickest patients and insists not everybody gets a spec scan. A recent Medicaid review by the Nevada State Department of Health and Human Services identified 96 Montevista patients who underwent brain imaging. The majority, according to the state, were kids in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems. "I've been doing enough of them I see the utility in this. I see how important it is to take a look at these kid's brains. If I was not seeing the benefit, I would not continue to do it," said Dr. Collins. Wolf however questions the benefit and again points to Nathaniel. A court-ordered psychiatric evaluation of the eight-year-old challenged Collins' diagnosis and noted, "Spect scanning is not yet an accepted diagnostic method. Although it is interesting, it is not yet reliable." Read a statement from Nevada Medicaid "We are hoping that at least by raising the concern and raising the issue that others will look also, that people responsible for our kids will take a look at what it is and hopefully support us," said Wolf. And support kids like Nathaniel whose stories come to life from the pages of a foster care case file. Only a caseworker stands between a child and a controversial procedure. Collins insists he receives no payment related to the scans. He insists brain imaging will soon be accepted by the psychiatric community. There is certainly evidence he may be right but for now, it remains investigational. Medicaid does not cover investigational procedures, like brain specs. However these claims slipped through to the tune of more than $33,000. The state has not yet decided whether to seek repayment and has issued a memo reiterating its policy. For complete story, click here.

Someone else's sacrifice--November 19th, 2008--...America is heading ever deeper into a dire financial situation. With every passing week, more institutions seem to get dragged into the mess. A recent victim is the Hampton Roads Youth Center, a worthy organization focused on turning around the troubled lives of troubled youth and their families. In five years of service, the nonprofit agency served more than 75 families throughout Hampton Roads by providing residential, educational and counseling services from its location on Kenyon Road. Less than a week ago, the organization announced via a letter on its Web site that it is closing its residential program. Members of its governing board wrote that the group had been a victim of factors ranging from changing regulations and licensing standards to a trend against using residential facilities to treat troubled teens... (Webmaster Note: At least the financial crisis is good for something! Shut them all down!) For complete story, click here.

Medication Nation--November 20th, 2008--Video on how bad it is to drug your children. See: http://www.foxnews.com/video-search/m/21485444/medication_nation.htm?q=douglas+kennedy

Boot Camp Nurse Criticized - Gives Up State License--November 6th, 2008--Kristen Schmidt, the former Bay County Juvenile Boot Camp nurse at the center of the Martin Lee Anderson case, will no longer be able to practice in the state of Florida. She's voluntarily relinquished her nursing license to State Board of Nursing. The board filed the final order with the Florida Department of Health Tuesday afternoon. Schmidt was a central figure in the death of 14-year-old Martin Lee Anderson at the Bay County Juvenile Boot Camp on January 5th, 2006. Schmidt was the nurse on-duty that day, which was Anderson's first day at the facility. Anderson collapsed during a physical assessment run in the recreation yard. At first drill instructors believed Anderson was faking illness to get out of running. For 20-minutes they tried to get him back on his feet. But during the process, the drill instructors used some arm strikes and take-downs, as well as ammonia capsules to revive the teenager. You can see Schmidt hovering over Anderson and the drill instructors the entire time, but not doing much more than observing. Paramedics eventually took Anderson to a local hospital, then he was transferred to a Pensacola hospital where he died about 12-hours later. The cause of his death is still a controversy. Former Medical Examiner Dr. Charles Siebert ruled it accidental due to Sickle Cell Trait. A second autopsy found death by suffocation, due to the ammonia capsules held under Anderson's nose.

Schmidt and 7-drill instructors were later acquitted at trial on aggravated manslaughter charges. The State Board of Nursing, in its investigation of Kristen Schmidt, cited Schmidt's conduct as unprofessional and negligent that day. * The board found Schmidt failed to adequately assess Anderson's condition. * She improperly distributed ammonia capsules to the drill instructors, without them having the proper knowledge about how to use the capsules. * She failed to provide the paramedics with the complete information about what had transpired on the exercise field. * Schmidt failed to perform any emergency treatment on Anderson at any time during the incident. * And she failed to accurately record the incident in her nursing notes. Schmidt agreed to voluntarily surrender her license, and never reapply in Florida in exchange for an end to the case against her. . And it is possible we could see more activity in the Anderson case, from the U-S Attorney's office. The Department of Justice is investigating whether or not the drill instructors and Schmidt violated Anderson's civil rights. Once Barack Obama takes office, the U-S Attorneys typically hand-in their resignation letters for the new president to accept or reject. If Obama selects a new U-S Attorney for this region, that person could push the Anderson case to the top of the priority list. For complete story, click here.

Changing times close children's home--November 1st, 2008--GROSSE POINTE WOODS -- A Grosse Pointe Woods children's home that has provided treatment for troubled children for 172 years will be shuttered at the end of November, a result of the state's shifting priorities for residential treatment of children and the economy. The board of trustees of the Children's Home of Detroit voted Thursday to shutter the facility, which houses 5-to-17-year-olds in cottages on a 13-acre country-like campus. The home can house about 90 children; it has 28 children in residence, said Executive Director William Steele. The state is placing fewer children in residential treatment settings partly because of the settlement of a lawsuit brought by the New York City-based child advocacy group Children's Rights. The group sued Michigan over poor treatment of children in foster care that resulted in several deaths. "It's no different than the stories you're hearing about businesses that have to downsize or go out of business," Steele said. "The economy has certainly drained some of those resources we had available for operations. "That, coupled with the low occupancy and the uncertainty about the direction of care for children, has combined to make it necessary for us to close." Under terms of the lawsuit settlement, which took effect Oct. 24, the state Department of Human Services agreed to place children in the least restrictive setting possible, said Jack Kresnak, president of the nonprofit advocacy group Michigan's Children. (Webmater Note: Good. Hopefully this is a growing trend.) For complete story, click here.

Pendleton Academies may face closure--November 19th, 2008--The Oregon Department of Human Services- Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH) on Tuesday notified the Pendleton Academies' board of directors of their intention to revoke the treatment facility's certificate of approval to operate as a provider of psychiatric residential treatment services and psychiatric day treatment services for children. On Aug. 20, AMH placed conditions on Pendleton Academies' certificate of approval to operate. At that time, the board appointed Interim Executive Director Terry Edvalson, who has been working with Pendleton Academies' staff to meet the standards required by AMH. Since then, Pendleton Academies has continued to care for clients, but has not been permitted to admit new clients to the program. As recently as late October, AMH indicated they would lift the restrictions on Pendleton Academies and allow the admission of new clients, according to a statement released by the Pendleton Academies board Tuesday afternoon. Given Pendleton Academies' efforts and progress in meeting AMH requirements, said the news release, Edvalson and the board were surprised by AMH's most recent action, the statement said. The board plans to investigate its appeal rights and will be meeting again this Friday when more information is available, according to the statement. (Webmaster Note: Just shut it down.) (Unable to locate story at time of archiving. Source: www.eastoregonian.info Date: November 19, 2008)

Ex-Supervisor at Teen Rehab Center Allegedly Raped Patient--November 21st, 2008--JOPLIN, Mo. — A woman who briefly supervised teens at a southwest Missouri drug and alcohol treatment center is charged with statutory rape for allegedly having sex with a 16-year-old boy at the center. Police say they're investigating similar allegations concerning Jana Carter, 45, and three other teens who lived at the male-only dormitory at Scott Greening Dependency Center in Joplin. Two of the boys are 16 and the third is 14. No charges had been filed in those allegations as of Friday. A probable cause statement filed in Jasper County Circuit Court alleges that Carter had consensual sexual contact with the 16-year-old at least twice last month at the center. Their alleged encounters occurred while Carter, a residential supervisor at the time, was working her shift. Joplin police spokesman Cpl. Chuck Niess told The Associated Press on Friday that Carter is now in custody. Niess said she turned herself in Thursday in McDonald County, south of Jasper County, and was to be transferred to a jail in Jasper County. Larry Black, director of the Scott Greening Dependency Center, was out of the office Friday and could not be reached by the AP. But he told The Joplin Globe that Carter was hired about a month before the alleged incidents happened. According to court records, she had sexual contact with the 16-year-old from Oct. 10 to Oct. 19. For complete story, click here.

Greenacres teen minister charged with having sex with girl, 16--November 24th, 2008--The president of a Greenacres Christian teen center had a sexual relationship for more than a year with a 16-year-old he was counseling, authorities say. A judge Sunday ordered Brent Gabriel Edwards, 33, held in lieu of $100,000 bond, charged with unlawful sexual activity with a minor, a jail clerk said. Edwards posted the bond Sunday and will be on house arrest. He was booked early Saturday. According to its Web page, Edwards is president of Extreme Revolution Youth Ministries, which operates the Oasis Teen Center. His wife Christy is listed as vice president. The ministry, founded in 2005, is listed as a federally-approved "501(c)(3)" non-profit charity. The center lists among its missions "to provide a safe environment where teens can have fun." A call to the center at midday today went to a recording. The telephone listed for Edwards' home was disconnected. The Oasis operates at the Community Life Center, 3812 Jog Road. A clerk at Church of the Palms said it owns the center and rents it out to various organizations, including Oasis, but is not affiliated with it or Extreme Revolution. According to a Palm Beach County sheriff's report, Edwards had sex with the girl two to three times a week, before or after school or after youth group functions, from July 2007 until the end of August of this year. The girl and her family, who knew Edwards from various church and youth groups, had gone to Edwards and his wife for counseling for emotional issues because the girl had been cutting herself, the report said. The girl said that soon after the sessions got under way, her relationship with Edwards became physical. For complete story, click here.

Teen's troubled life--December 3rd, 2008-- TRACY - "Nothing resembles normalcy or sanity" in the case of the 17-year-old boy who told authorities he was shackled and held captive in a Tracy home for a year, city spokesman Matt Robinson said. Police began searching Tuesday for a third suspect - possibly the boy's aunt - who lived in the home that was his alleged prison, Robinson announced at a morning news conference. The terrified teen was not attending school and had not been in contact with any other family members in more than a year, Robinson said. Yet the married couple - the wife a Girl Scout leader - and their four children also lived in the home. Neighbors reported what seemed to be a normal family and recalled purchasing Girl Scout cookies from the oldest daughter. And one neighbor said she frequently saw the teen outside the family home. But "nothing resembles normalcy or sanity in this case," Robinson said. A woman who might be the boy's aunt, Caren Ramirez, 43, took custody of the teen in early 2007 after he was removed from his parents' home, Robinson said. Not long after she took custody, however, Ramirez was arrested on and still carries a felony warrant for child abuse charges. The boy was returned to the care of Child Protective Services, which put him in a Sacramento group home. "At some point after that, the teen and Ramirez reunited," Robinson said. "We're not sure when." Investigators said Tuesday that Ramirez may have been headed to the East Bay on BART. Ramirez is described as black, 5 feet tall with short brown hair and brown eyes. She often wears a bandanna on her head. When captured, Ramirez will face the same five charges as the couple who were arrested: torture, kidnapping, child endangerment, corporal injury to a child and false imprisonment, officials said. The case came to light Monday afternoon when the terrified and bloodied boy ran into a fitness center wearing nothing but boxer shorts and a heavy chain wrapped tightly around his ankle. Covered in soot and blood, he told gym staffers that he had been held captive in a home on Tracy's Tennis Lane for a year. He begged them to help him hide. "It wasn't something I thought was real," said Raelynn Lagadon, 24, a personal trainer at In-Shape Sport who gave the boy some food and water. "It was like something you'd see in a horror film or 'CSI.' Who would do that to somebody?" (Webmaster Note: Most, if not all, behavior modification programs would and likely have done this to many. Shut them down!) Police arrested the adults who lived in the nearby home - Michael Schumacher, 34, and Kelly Schumacher, 30, who also might have gone by the name of Kelly Layne Lau. The Schumachers are each being held in lieu of $1.2million bail. A subsequent search of their home found further evidence implicating them, said Robinson, who would not describe what officers found. For complete story, click here.

Worker faces rap in Manhattan Family Court building sex attacks--December 2nd, 2008-- A city worker who supervised troubled teens raped and sexually abused underage girls inside the Manhattan Family Court building, prosecutors said Tuesday. Tony Simmons, 45, of the Bronx, pleaded not guilty to the criminal charges Tuesday after four victims picked him out of a lineup. "It's outrageous," said Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau. "Here somebody who was supposed to be protecting them - helping them - is sexually abusing them. It's as bad as it gets." City Investigation Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn, whose office referred the case to Manhattan prosecutors, called the case a "shocking abuse of the public trust." Prosecutors said Simmons raped a 15-year-old in a courthouse elevator in September 2005 and sexually assaulted a 16-year-old girl two months later in a courthouse pantry. Simmons, who was being held on $250,000 bail, was nabbed after authorities found out about an assault in July of a 15-year-old girl behind a locker in a waiting area. "Who the heck was supervising him?" Morgenthau wondered. Assistant Manhattan District Attorney Amir Vonsover said the three girls involved in Tuesday's criminal complaint are "just the tip of the iceberg." He said a fourth victim told detectives that Simmons sexually abused her in 2000, but he was not charged in that case because it happened more than five years ago. Hearn said Simmons, who has worked for the city Department of Juvenile Justice for 16 years, was suspended without pay from his $37,391-a-year job for one month this summer before being put on desk duty away from children. Because prosecutors fear there could be more victims, they set up a hotline. Anyone with information relevant to the case should call (212) 335-9373. For complete story, click here.

Lack of skills creates problems with teens--December 7th, 2008--It's much easier for kids to get into trouble today than it was when he was a child, said Dr. Henry Petree. "It is very difficult out there to be a kid, and it is very difficult out there to be the parent of a kid," Petree said. A lot of those kids in trouble have parents who don't have the basic skills needed to deal with the problems their children have, he said. Petree is one of two counselors trying to intervene with troubled teens coming through the Community Intervention Center at the Muskogee County/City Detention Facility. He's asked the parents to come in for free counseling sessions. "A lot of them don't have any parenting skills, they didn't inherit any," Petree said. "They're short on 'What do I do,' and they are so frustrated that it's unreal." What he sees has led Petree to write a yet unpublished book on parenting, "In Perspective." It is a series of columns giving parents advice. He is offering it to newspapers and churches to publish one article at a time. He said he compiled the articles after seeing parents asking, "What can I do? We're completely over our heads here." "Muskogee County has got some really good parents, and I've met some of those, but I've met an awful lot of them who just don't have the skills," he said. "Is it their fault? No. Nobody taught them. Their parents didn't have very good parenting skills." He said he sees two particular skills lacking: Communication and conflict resolution. "Oftentimes, they have difficulty communicating with not only teenagers, but with spouses and the community in general," Petree said. "Now we have a teenager and a parent yelling at each other — not a good way to communicate — and now that we've started this yelling, it just cycles," he said. Conflict resolution skills come in at a close second, Petree said. "If we can't communicate, we can't resolve the conflict once we get it," he said. "That's when we call the police, and the young person ends up in jail or in counseling with me. It's not something people plan to do, it's just something that happens." He would like to teach both skills to parents and teens, Petree said. "Having those skills goes a long way in having a home that's not so full of turmoil and chaos and screaming and cussing and everything that goes on there," he said. "Unfortunately, they don't teach us those skills in school. We might graduate at the top of our class and not know how to communicate and when we have conflict, not know how to resolve it. So folks get divorces over that, and kids go to jail." For complete story, click here.

Human rights violations in our own backyard--December 10th, 2008--Dec. 10 marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As we call on our global leaders to renew our commitments to universal justice and dignity, Californians must examine how we treat our youth. For complete story, click here.

Appeals court blasts juvenile judge--December 11th, 2008--An appeals court has ruled that a Miami-Dade juvenile judge improperly sent a youth to jail for missing his court dates. On Wednesday, the Third District Court of Appeal in Miami reversed Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Lester Langer for ordering "an uncooperative juvenile" into Miami's juvenile lockup without the authority to do so. This was the 12th case the court has reversed for the veteran judge, who has presided in juvenile court since 1999. The previous 11 cases all occurred within the last three years. Langer declined to discuss the appeals court ruling. Miami-Dade courts spokeswoman Eunice Sigler said Langer had read the opinion "and he will comply with it." For complete story, click here.

Facility to end Conn. contract for troubled youth--December 11, 2008--NORTH STONINGTON, Conn. - A North Stonington facility is ending its contract to treat adolescents in state custody who have drug problems or mental illness. Stonington Institute cited a lack of demand for the inpatient programs, resulting from the state's increasing preference to send those youths to community-based programs. This week's decision comes two months after reports that employees forcibly injected medications into out-of- control teen boys last spring to restrain them. That news prompted criticism over whether the state Department of Children and Families adequately monitors facilities that care for adolescents in state custody. For complete story, click here.

Judge Orders Nun to Serve Full Sentence--MILWAUKEE - A judge in Milwaukee County today ordered an elderly nun to serve out her jail sentence. Sister Norma Giannini has serve eight months of a year long sentence for a conviction on charges that she sexually assaulted boys while attending St. Patrick's School in Milwaukee during the 1960s. For complete story, click here.

'White House Boys' win inquiry of reform school graves--December 10, 2008--MARIANNA, Florida (CNN) -- Four men, now in their 60s, met over the Internet, shared stories about the darkest days of their pasts and spurred an investigation into 32 graves at a reform school. Roger Kiser, Michael McCarthy, Bryant Middleton and Dick Colon talked about whippings and beatings and other boys who disappeared. They discussed the 32 crosses marking the graves of persons unknown on the grounds of the former Florida Industrial School for Boys. They called their group the White House Boys, taking the name from the single story concrete building where, they say, boys were beaten and tortured decades ago. For complete story, click here.

Boys school probe stirs painful memories--December 15, 2008--MARIANNA, Florida (CNN) -- Leaning against his cane, Bryant Middleton shuffled toward the makeshift cemetery. Tears welled in his eyes as he leaned down to touch one of the crosses. "This shouldn't be," he said. "This shouldn't be." Thirty-one crosses made of tubular steel and painted white line up unevenly in the grass and weeds of what used to be the grounds of a reform school in Marianna, Florida. The anonymous crosses are rusting away but their secrets may soon be exposed. When boys disappeared from the school, administrators explained it away, said former student Roger Kiser. They'd say, "Well, he ran away and the swamp got him," Kiser recalled. Or, "The gators got him." Or, 'Water moccasins got him." Kiser and other former students believe authorities will soon find the remains of children and teens sent to the Florida School for Boys half a century ago. (Webmaster Note: Many programs in existence today use the same excuses to cover up "disappearances" of children in their care.) For complete story, click here.

Children forced into cell-like school seclusion rooms--December 17, 2008--MURRAYVILLE, Georgia (CNN) -- A few weeks before 13-year-old Jonathan King killed himself, he told his parents that his teachers had put him in "time-out." "We thought that meant go sit in the corner and be quiet for a few minutes," Tina King said, tears washing her face as she remembered the child she called "our baby ... a good kid." But time-out in the boy's north Georgia special education school was spent in something akin to a prison cell -- a concrete room latched from the outside, its tiny window obscured by a piece of paper. Called a seclusion room, it's where in November 2004, Jonathan hanged himself with a cord a teacher gave him to hold up his pants. Watch Jonathan's parents on their son's death » An attorney representing the school has denied any wrongdoing. Seclusion rooms, sometimes called time-out rooms, are used across the nation, generally for special needs children. Critics say that along with the death of Jonathan, many mentally disabled and autistic children have been injured or traumatized. Few states have laws on using seclusion rooms, though 24 states have written guidelines, according to a 2007 study conducted by a Clemson University researcher. Texas, which was included in that study, has stopped using seclusion and restraint. Georgia has just begun to draft guidelines, four years after Jonathan's death. For complete story, click here.

Georgia 8th-grader's suicide spurs lawsuit--August 15, 2008 (Received 12/19/08)--Jonathan King told teachers at his north Georgia alternate public school that he couldn't stand being locked within the four concrete walls of a small seclusion room. In 2004, just weeks after threatening suicide, the 13-year-old eighth-grader hanged himself in the room, using a cord a teacher provided him to hold up his pants, court records show. Now, four years later, as the Alpine Program in Gainesville starts its new school year, Jonathan's parents are suing the program and the agency that oversees it. Don and Tina King of Murrayville, just outside Gainesville, say the treatment their son received at the school was unconstitutional and the school failed to protect him from self-harm. A north Georgia judge is expected to decide soon whether the King's case should be dismissed or sent to a jury trial. For complete story, click here.

DSHS settles case of boy's death; lawyer asks how state lost track--December 17, 2008--This is a story that's been told countless times on these pages. Sadly, it needs to be told again. It's about the death of a boy who spent most of his life in foster care. Robley Carr Jr., according to his lawyer, was a victim of the state Department of Social and Health Services' (DSHS) mistakes. He was a victim not once, but twice. In 2003, state and federal authorities paid $5 million to settle claims that Robley and three siblings were horribly abused in foster care. Now, the state has agreed to pay an additional $320,000 to settle a claim that it failed to protect Robley even after that. He died at age 15. "How did they lose track of him again?" asks Tim Tesh, the Seattle lawyer who filed both legal claims. "It's a hard question to answer." The state said only this: "All I can tell you is that DSHS regrets the unfortunate death of this young man," said agency spokesman Steve Williams. "We believe the $320,000 award is a fair and just settlement." One might say that Robley began life well short of the starting gate. His parents were troubled. According to an official review of Robley's 2006 death, Child Protective Services (CPS) in Alaska investigated abuse and neglect complaints involving the family in the early 1990s. The children were removed from the home, but Robley's mother later fled with them to Washington state, after she "left a treatment program against medical advice," the review said. It didn't take long for CPS here to get involved. Robley had some 15 or 20 placements by the time he was 9, according to the recent legal claim. His two sisters and one brother had similar experiences, bouncing from home to home. Robley, whose parents are Native American, was recognized by the Nooksack and the Hoonah tribes. That put his case under jurisdiction of tribal authorities and DSHS — or, as his lawsuit alleged, neither. The children were repeatedly beaten in one foster home on the Nooksack reservation, according to the lawsuit Tesh filed. Even when the state heard the children were being abused, it didn't investigate, the suit said. The youngest almost died from a ruptured bowel and suffered a broken shoulder, Tesh said in a 2003 interview. The foster mother's teenage son beat him, sometimes jumping on the younger child's stomach. Then he beat the child again when he vomited blood or cried. Another sibling, Tesh said, was admitted to a psychiatric hospital. For complete story, click here.

See the Trailer for "Aaron Bacon"--A new film to be released in 2009 is the dramatic telling of the true story of the death of Aaron Bacon at the hands of the teen torture industry. See the trailer at: http://jonfordham.com/aaron_bacon_teaser_f23_acv-235.html

Father pleads guilty to rape charges--December 18, 2008--SPOKANE — A man who raped his daughter and posted videos of the abuse online before fleeing the country pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court and likely faces the rest of his life in prison. Kenneth John Freeman, 46 — described by law-enforcement officers as "one of

the most heinous" pedophiles — pleaded guilty to production of child pornography and interstate transportation of a minor for the purpose of unlawful sexual activity. His agreement with federal prosecutors calls for a sentence of 50 years in prison, plus three years of probation, when Freeman is sentenced March 25. "A 50-year sentence is going to be a life sentence," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Lister, who prosecuted the case. Freeman would serve some 42 years before he could be considered for parole. He also pleaded guilty to three Benton County charges of child rape during an appearance in Spokane County Superior Court, in exchange for an expected sentence of 20 years, to run concurrently with the federal time. He will be held in a federal prison. For complete story, click here.

Oregon slow to deal with troubled facilities for troubled kids--December 20, 2008--SALEM -- Authorities knew of problems at two institutions that house Oregon's most troubled children: Kids getting the wrong medication; workers with criminal records; a teen with a broken collarbone after a fight with staff; and unsupervised mentally ill youths. But instead of closing the institutions, state licensing officials spent several months warning the Kirkland Institute near Burns and the Pendleton Academies in eastern Oregon. It was only after authorities feared that children were in danger that they cracked down and blocked new admissions. At Kirkland, for instance, another teen in state protective custody was taken to the emergency room after a run-in with staff. At Pendleton, a 17-year-old was charged with raping a 13-year-old girl. For complete story, click here.

Alldredge Academy Closing!--December 16, 2008--Alldredge Academy is closing as of December 31, 2008! Another one down! Keep the pressure on! For complete story, click here.

Report Reveals Unwarranted Detention Of Massachusetts Youth--December 18, 2008--BOSTON – Massachusetts police and probation officers are unnecessarily incarcerating youth who are arrested when juvenile court is typically closed, according to a report released today by the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Massachusetts and the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts. Many have been arrested for minor infractions and pose no obvious risk of flight or danger to the community. The report, "A Looming Crisis: The Secure Detention of Youth After Arrest and Before Arraignment in Facilities Administered by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security," reveals that youth securely detained after being arrested in the late afternoons, evenings or over a weekend are frequently denied access to bail and subjected to conditions that do not meet state regulations. "Far too many kids are being locked up and detained in substandard conditions for no good reason," said Robin Dahlberg, senior staff attorney with the ACLU Racial Justice Program and the primary author of the report. "Unnecessary detention has a dramatic and negative impact on our children by pushing them deeper into the criminal justice system." For complete story, click here.

More Programs Closing--Abusive programs are losing funding and many juvenile courts are choosing to revert back to conventional juvenile detention. Whether it is due to lack of money or new regulations, this is good news. For more details, click here.

Troubled children centers closing--December 27, 2008--Adrian Training Center will be shuttered Jan. 24 to help close a $540 million shortfall in Michigan's budget -- but the plan also signals the end of an era in how troubled children are treated in the state. The institution was in operation for nearly 130 years and cost taxpayers $7.8 million annually for the treatment of 31 wayward girls. But in Michigan and nationwide, experts are moving away from institutionalizing children -- a trend that affects not only juvenile delinquents but other children with severe emotional or behavioral problems placed in long-term residential treatment centers, where they often remain for years. Instead, the state is shifting resources to keep children at home or in foster homes, reflecting today's belief among child welfare experts that institutions are outmoded, expensive and ineffective. But some child advocates say severely ill children cared for in the community often aren't getting the services they need to be successful. And many in law enforcement complain delinquents can be a danger to their communities. For complete story, click here.

Removing boys from that Blount County program where abuse is alleged was the right move at the right time.--December 1, 2008--THE ISSUE: Removing boys from that Blount County program after allegations of abuse was the right move at the right time. Torture. Beatings. Severe abuse. These are serious accusations, to be sure. They are the kind we have made against our enemies during war. The kind of accusations made against us, where Abu Ghraib and Gitmo are concerned. For complete story, click here.

Teen's death in Parma is ruled homicide-- January 6th, 2009--The death of a Barberton teenager at a Parma treatment facility last month has been ruled a homicide, the Cuyahoga County coroner said Monday. Faith Finley, 17, suffocated and choked to death on her own vomit while being restrained by staff members, the coroner determined. Finley died Dec. 13 at Parmadale Family Services, a Catholic Charities-run facility that treats youths with severe behavioral health and developmental problems. She was in the custody of Summit County Children Services at the time and had been placed there by the agency. "For this kind of an outcome to occur is deeply, deeply concerning and frankly painful," Children Services Executive Director John Saros said after learning about the ruling. "This was a beautiful young woman who was sent there to receive treatment services. For complete story, click here. Click here for more info.

Some Civil Rights Groups Mark Today as 3rd Anniversary in Teen Bootcamp Death--January 6th, 2009-- Three years ago Monday marks the death of Martin Lee Anderson. The 14-year-old Bay County Teenager was admitted to Bay Medical Center, and then transferred to the ICU in Pensacola Hospital where he died. That death set off a chain of events that in no way has come to an end. Some civil rights groups will mark the third anniversary of Martin Lee Anderson's death Monday, in a graveside ceremony. The case is still a divisive issue in the community and the nation. If you remember-- the teen collapsed during a physical assessment in his first day at the old Bay County Juvenile Boot Camp. Drill instructors initially believe Anderson was faking an illness and used what some considered to be physical abuse to make him complete the work-out. In the first autopsy, then-medical examiner Dr. Charles Siebert found Anderson died as a result of sickle cell trait. A second autopsy found the drill instructors suffocated the teen. Two state entities settled with Anderson's family for a combined 7-million dollars. But when the 7-drill instructors and the camp nurse were acquitted of aggravated manslaughter during the criminal trial, Anderson supporters called for a u-s justice department investigation. More than a year later that investigation is still underway. For complete story, click here.

Ruling expands legal rights of truant students--January 13th, 2009--Juveniles accused of chronically cutting class in public schools are entitled to a lawyer in their first court hearing, a unanimous three-judge panel of the Washington Court of Appeals has ruled. Reversing a King County Superior Court ruling and an earlier Court of Appeals finding on different issues, the panel found Monday that denying a juvenile the right to a lawyer from the outset violated constitutional requirements. In her opinion, Judge Anne Ellington wrote the decision was the first to consider due-process rights of juveniles in initial proceedings under the truancy law enacted in 1995. For complete story, click here.

Gay kids' health: Family role cited--December 29th, 2008--SAN FRANCISCO — Young gay people whose parents or guardians responded negatively when they revealed their sexual orientation were more likely to attempt suicide, experience severe depression and use drugs than those whose families accepted the news, according to a new study. The way in which parents or guardians respond to a youth's sexual orientation profoundly influences the child's mental health as an adult, say researchers at San Francisco State University, whose findings appear in today's journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. "Parents love their children and want the best for them," said lead researcher Caitlin Ryan, a social worker who directs the university's Family Acceptance Project. "Now that we have measured all these behaviors, we can see that some of them put youth at extremely high risk and others are wellness-promoting." Among other findings, the study showed that teens who experienced negative feedback were more than eight times as likely to have attempted suicide, nearly six times as vulnerable to severe depression and more than three times at risk of drug use. More significantly, Ryan said, ongoing work at San Francisco State suggests parents who take even baby steps to respond with equanimity instead of rejection can dramatically improve a gay youth's mental-health outlook. One of the most startling findings was that being forbidden to associate with gay peers was as damaging as being physically beaten or verbally abused by their parents in terms of negative feedback, Ryan said. For complete story, click here.

Eugene, Ore., high-school students' good intentions misunderstood--December 20th, 2008--EUGENE, Ore. — All they wanted to do was change the world, one random act of kindness at a time. Instead, they were met with furrowed brows, questioned by Eugene police and ousted by Valley River Center security officers. "People can't accept the fact that there are other people who just want to be nice," says Sheldon High School senior Kelsey Hertel, who founded the school's new Random Acts of Kindness Club. "People don't trust each other. They think everyone's out to get them." Ironically, that's exactly why Hertel founded the club in the first place. "Our community isn't giving enough," she says. "So we thought by doing random acts of kindness, we could totally change someone's day or life. And they could pay it forward to someone else. And one person at a time, we could make the world better." For complete story, click here.

Senator Chris Dodd Reports on Restraint and Seclusion , See Video:

Report Reveals Severe Cases of Abuse and Neglect of Schoolchildren--January 13th, 2009-- WASHINGTON, D.C. – Schoolchildren around the country have been subject to abusive – and in some cases fatal – uses of seclusion and restraint by school administrators, teachers and staff, according to a new report released today by the National Disability Rights Network. The report, the first national effort to examine these practices in both public and private schools identified hundreds of cases where the abusive and negligent use of seclusion and restraint injured or traumatized students, many of whom were disabled. In several cases, students died. In light of this report, U.S. Rep. George Miller, the chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, announced the committee will hold a hearing on these abuses. “These abuses are a shocking and disturbing betrayal of the trust that families and communities place in our schools. School administrators and teachers are tasked with providing not just productive and encouraging learning environments for students, but with keeping them safe. It is wholly unacceptable for children to be locked up in closets or for any staff member to use overwhelming – and in some cases deadly – force against their students. “This report raises serious questions about the treatment of schoolchildren, the qualifications and training of staff, and what actions have been taken to address these unconscionable practices. No child should be at risk or in danger while at school, no matter what the circumstances. Our committee will hold a hearing to look at how we can address and hopefully end these horrific acts." The report, “School is not supposed to hurt: An investigative report on abusive seclusion and restraint in schools,” provides an unprecedented look at the tactics used to isolate or restrain students. In one case, a seven-year old girl was killed in a special day program when four adult staff pinned her small body face down. The student had been blowing bubbles in her milk and would not follow directions to sit still. In another example, a thirteen year old boy committed suicide in a locked concrete seclusion room, hanging himself with a cord provided by staff to hold up his pants, after pleading with his teachers that he could not withstand the isolation in the small room for hours at a time. For complete story, click here.

Teachers in Martinique sentenced for abusing teens--January 22nd, 2009--A judge in Martinique has prohibited seven teachers from working with minors again after they were found guilty of physically abusing juvenile delinquents. The teachers also have received suspended sentences ranging from 14 to 24 months. Prosecutors had alleged that eight teachers made 16- and 17-year-old students kneel on rocks and hold cinder blocks in outstretched arms during work trips to Haiti and Brazil. The juveniles were part of a program funded by the Paris-based Groupe SOS that works with troubled teens, drug addicts and homeless people. The nine victims will receive between $2,000 to $9,000 in damages, along with $1,300 each for attorney fees. The teachers were sentenced late Wednesday. For complete story, click here.

Trainer charged with abusing teen girls--January 23rd, 2009--A Colorado horse trainer has been charged with sexually abusing teenage girls, including one that he took to Alabama for marriage. Donald Lane Betts, 33, was arrested in December when he returned to Kiowa with his 16-year-old bride, the Rocky Mountain News reported. Investigators say he lied about her age in Alabama because minors must have parental permission to marry. Mark Wilson, an investigator with the Elbert County Sheriff's Office, said Betts may have victimized other teens. Wilson charged that Betts targeted troubled girls, including three runaways. We have a strong belief that there are other victims out there, Wilson said. We stand ready to get them the help that they need. Betts faces a long list of charges, including second-degree kidnapping, sexual assault on a child, harboring a minor and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He is also charged with obstruction of a peace officer for locking himself in his house when police arrived to arrest him. For complete story, click here.

Civil suit filed in camp death--January 23rd, 2009--SALT LAKE CITY — The mother of Utah teen Caleb Jensen filed suit Thursday against those she believes were responsible for his untimely death at 15. Caleb was attending an Alternative Youth Adventures outing for at-risk youth in rural Montrose County in 2007. He died of a staph infection May 2 of that year. The state acted quickly, suspending AYA’s license for residential and therapeutical childcare. AYA later surrendered the license, which it had originally hoped to renew. In July 2007 came the indictments against AYA, its former parent company Community Education Centers of New Jersey; camp director James Omer; camp EMT Ben Askins and Utah physician Keith Hooker. The criminal complaints alleged the infection that claimed Jensen’s life produced visible signs, which the defendants failed to act on. Charges included manslaughter and child abuse resulting in death, but by last December, only CEC remained as a criminal defendant. For complete story, click here. For more info, click here.

Troubled Miami-Dade reform school may be forced to close main campus--January 24th, 2009--A Miami-Dade reform school for troubled teens, once considered a national model, could be forced to shut its 16-year-old main campus. State administrators have yanked the school's contract, citing escapes, allegations of abuse and neglect, and other chronic problems. In a letter dated Jan. 7, the Department of Juvenile Justice's South Florida chief said Bay Point Schools in South Dade will lose state funding March 1, and that admissions to the 157-bed campus have been frozen. Youths already are being transferred to similar programs or being released. Budget problems triggered the decision -- the department has to cut $5 million this year and will save $2 million by closing Bay Point's Kennedy campus -- but the school has been beset by critical lapses, said agency Assistant Secretary Darryl Olson. "They have consistently failed to comply with DJJ standards," Olson said. ``We haven't been getting the kind of return on investment we would like." Added DJJ spokesman Frank Penela: ``In the budget times we're in, we can't afford to do that anymore." For complete story, click here.

Dyller eyes potential lawsuits--January 28th, 2009--WILKES-BARRE – A local attorney who specializes in civil rights cases said he believes some of the juveniles who were incarcerated under juvenile Judge Mark Ciavarella’s tenure have a strong basis to file a lawsuit seeking compensation for emotional and financial harm. I’m looking at this and see so many civil claims based on so many potential civil rights violations, it’s shocking,” said Barry Dyller of Wilkes-Barre. For complete story, click here.

Connecticut Junior Republic to close campus for troubled teens--January 31, 2009--LITCHFIELD — Connecticut Junior Republic will end a 105-year tradition of sheltering and educating troubled teens here in April. On Friday, 107 teachers, counselors, and support staff were told they will not have a job when the campus, except for the administration building, shuts down April 2. The nonprofit organization, founded with a 1904 bequest from landowner Mary Buel but funded primarily by taxpayers, has suffered in recent years from changes in how the state treats juveniles in trouble. Over the past decade, CJR expanded and updated its campus, with a $5 million education center in 1997 and a $1.4 million family and student services center that opened in 2003. But in 2008, CJR's number of beds was cut from 84 to 60 in response to shrinking demand; only 38 teenage boys, most referred from the court system, live on campus today. "That does provide a sense of how quickly things have changed," said Director of Development Hedy L. Barton. Increasingly, the state refers troubled teens to community and home-based programs rather than residential facilities now reserved only for those teens who demonstrate the highest risk behavior. For complete story, click here.

Three Rivers Montana to close--January 31st, 2009--Three Rivers Montana, a Belgrade-based wilderness program for troubled teens, plans to close Feb. 28, laying off its 37 employees, executive director Marylis Filipovich said Thursday. “Normally, January is a very big admissions month for us and we didn’t get any admissions,” she said. Three Rivers opened five years ago and has served more than 400 kids from across the nation. Teens experiencing difficulties at home or school could stay at the mental-health facility for a few weeks or months, earning high-school credits and receive treatment. The nonprofit depended on admission fees, often funded by health-insurance reimbursements, donations and fundraising. Discounts were offered for low-income families. “In this economy, many of our potential families cannot afford the cost of outdoor behavioral healthcare,” Mark Parlett, director of programs and development for Three Rivers, wrote in an e-mail to the Chronicle. Families often took out loans to send their kids to Three Rivers and the tightened credit market has hurt enrollment, Filipovich said. “Our families tended to be middle-class, and with the economy like it is, they can’t get loans,” she said. For complete story, click here.

Good News: Bad Economy Killing Abusive Teen Programs--January 30th, 2009-- There is a silver lining to this bleak economy: Abusive and ineffective "tough love" programs for teens are failing right and left. In just the last few weeks, the notorious Tranquility Bay program in Jamaica, Spring Creek Lodge in Montana, and Pathway Family Center in Detroit and Ohio have all been shuttered. Tranquility Bay was known for making kids kneel on concrete for days and using "restraint" so harsh that it broke bones. Both Tranquility Bay and Spring Creek Lodge were part of a network called the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASP or WWASPS)--and the group's philosophy involves constant use of emotional attacks and humiliation in a rigid, structured day in order to break teens' spirits. Spring Creek was notorious for a frigid, small isolation room called "the Hobbit"--sometimes teens were left there for months. From Pathway--which was descended from the infamously abusive Straight Inc.--I received two separate accounts of suicide attempts by girls which were not reported to their parents, and many stories of the usual attack therapy and humiliation. Unfortunately, neither WWASP nor Pathway is completely dead yet: WWASP still has centers operating in the US and abroad, and Pathway has sites in Indiana: Porter and Indianapolis. The media tends to present these closures as sad examples of needed services being cut--but in fact, teens are better off with no treatment than with treatment that often divides families and has characteristics known to produce post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Family support tends to be crucial to long term recovery--and PTSD doubles the odds that a drug problem will become a lasting addiction. Troubled teen programs were yet another sign of the bubble economy. Many were financed by mortgage and home equity loans because they cost thousands of dollars a month and because insurers, quite correctly, don't usually pay for programs that aren't proven to help. Since there are proven alternatives for teens with drug and other problems that do not carry the risks of "tough love," we should greet the closings of these centers with glee. For complete story, click here.

Juvenile Cases May Get New Look Following Kickback Charges Against Former Judges--February 3rd, 2009-- The Pennsylvania Supreme Court appears ready to reconsider a request to review hundreds of Luzerne County juvenile court cases in the wake of charges that two former judges accepted kickbacks from the owners of a private juvenile detention center. The court, on Jan. 8, denied a petition by the Philadelphia-based Juvenile Law Center to look at more than 250 cases in which juvenile offenders were allegedly adjudicated and sent to detention centers without lawyers. On Monday, the justices issued a one-line order vacating their previous denial of that petition, pending further action by the court. "We see this as a very positive sign that the court is going to take a fresh look at our application for relief," said Bob Schwartz, JLC's executive director. "Beyond that, it's hard to read into this. It's pretty clear that they want to go deeper. There's no reason to do this if they're not going to grant relief down the line or at least figure out a way to provide relief to the kids of Luzerne County." The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced Jan. 22 that former President Judge Mark A. Ciavarella and Senior Judge Michael T. Conahan had conditionally agreed to plead guilty to honest service wire fraud charges. For complete story, click here.

Covenant House folding its operation here--February 5th, 2009--STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Covenant House thrived from humble beginnings and later rose from the ashes of scandal, but it's no match for the putrid economy. The charity that specifically serves at-risk youth and had been scouting new quarters after it was priced out of its longtime home at 70 Bay St. in St. George, has elected to abandon the borough altogether amid a decrease in donations and worries about future revenue, a spokesman confirmed yesterday. For complete story, click here.

NICK GAGLIA STANDS UP FOR TROUBLED TEENS--February 5th, 2009--Independent filmmaker Nick Gaglia is a man on a mission: using the power of cinema to expose those who prey on troubled young adults. His critically- acclaimed 2007 feature film debut, “Over the GW,” was based on his own experiences as a drug-addicted teen who underwent physical and psychological abuse at a cult-like, tough love rehab center. His next film, currently in post-production, is the biopic “Aaron Bacon,” which details the tragic 1994 death of a troubled 16-year-old who died as a result of blatant malpractice in a tough love drug rehab camp. Film Threat caught up with Gaglia at his New York office to talk about his cinematic crusade to expose the exploiters of troubled teenagers. For complete story, click here.

3 fired from Parmadale in teen's death--February 7th, 2009--Tom Mullen, the president of the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Cleveland, says the three were fired Friday following the release of a state agency report that said the workers didn't follow the center's own policies on how to restrain unruly youngsters. Faith Finley, 17, of Barberton, died Dec. 13 at Parmadale Family Services in suburban Cleveland while being restrained in a face-down position. The Cuyahoga County coroner's office ruled Finley's death a homicide last month, saying she choked on vomit and suffocated. For complete story, click here.

Juvenile Justice System Failing Ohio's Children, Investigation Finds--February 10th, 2009--COLUMBUS, OH – The Ohio juvenile justice system is failing the state's children by permitting children to be routinely shackled, mandating that children accused of certain crimes be charged as adults and by not ensuring that all children accused of crimes get lawyers. The findings, detailed in a report card released today, are the result of an investigation by the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Ohio, the Children's Law Center, Inc. and the Office of the Ohio Public Defender. The investigation has also revealed that Ohio detains and incarcerates a greater percentage of its children than most other states in the nation and that a disproportionate number of those incarcerated are children of color. "Rushing to criminalize and unnecessarily incarcerate kids is just bad policy," said Robin Dahlberg, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU Racial Justice Program. "It has a scarring impact on our children and only serves to push them deeper into the criminal justice system and inhibit their ability to become healthy, productive adults." For complete story, click here.

SJC: Juvenile offenders cannot be held beyond 18--February 10th, 2009--The state's highest court today struck down a law that allowed the state to keep juvenile offenders in custody for three years after they turned 18, if officials believed they would be "physically dangerous to the public." The Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the law, which was challenged by three juvenile offenders who had been ordered held until they were 21, "does not comport with substantive due process requirements and is constitutionally infirm." For complete story, click here.

Pa. judges accused of jailing kids for cash--February 11th, 2009--WILKES-BARRE, Pa. -- For years, the juvenile court system in Wilkes-Barre operated like a conveyor belt: Youngsters were brought before judges without a lawyer, given hearings that lasted only a minute or two, and then sent off to juvenile prison for months for minor offenses. The explanation, prosecutors say, was corruption on the bench. In one of the most shocking cases of courtroom graft on record, two Pennsylvania judges have been charged with taking millions of dollars in kickbacks to send teenagers to two privately run youth detention centers. For complete story, click here.

Report: Abuse Found At Chicago Public Schools, www.wbbm780.com, February 10, 2009--For complete story, click here.

House panel wants to crack down on wilderness camps--February 11th, 2009--Washington » A House panel approved a bill Wednesday that would boost federal regulations on residential programs for troubled teens, including the wilderness therapy camps that have thrived in Utah's deserts. The bill is in reaction to a two-year federal audit that found thousands of cases of abuse in residential treatment programs nationwide since the early 1990s, along with misleading marketing practices and uneven state oversight. "It is past time to bring these programs to a level of basic safety," said Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D-N.Y., one of the sponsors of the legislation. The House Education and Labor Committee approved the bill on a vote of 32 to 10. The proposal is almost identical to a bill pushed last year. That version passed the full House by a wide margin, but did not come up for a vote in the Senate. With a new Congress, the legislation had to be reintroduced. Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, a member of the committee, opposed it last year and opposed it again Wednesday. For complete story, click here. (The problems with HR 911 are the same as with HR 6358, learn more.)

Vision for Youth had multiple problems, managed teen felons--February 15th, 2009--Springfield, Ohio — Vision for Youth, Inc. maintained four facilities in Springfield and at one time had teens from the foster care system and juvenile felons, ages 13 to 18, from as many as ten counties enrolled in its boot-camp-style program. Vision had a history of problems, according to state records, but by all accounts the home's child-care staff managed a difficult population — children that were hard to place anywhere else because of criminal records and emotional problems, said Brian Harter, a spokesman for Ohio's Department of Job and Family Services. "You look at these kids' backgrounds...(they) have a lot of issues, and they have situations that require special attention," Harter said. "It's not an easy situation for the staff to deal with on a day-to-day basis. But that's not to condone anything." Harter said that while state law allows staff at group homes to physically restrain minors, staff are prohibited from administering physical discipline. Punching a juvenile, for instance — which happened at a Vision facility — is grounds for revocation of the home's license. On at least three occasions, licensing specialists investigating complaints about Vision recommended its license be revoked, but the home was allowed to continue operating. For complete story, click here.

NYPD okays Velcro handcuffs for use on unruly children 14 Feb 2009 Cops trying to restrain children will have a softer alternative than metal handcuffs under a new program the NYPD is testing in nearly two dozen schools. Starting next month, officers will use Velcro handcuffs instead of the tougher steel model to subdue disturbed or unruly children in 22 schools in northern Queens, according to a draft NYPD operations order obtained by the Daily News. For complete story, click here.

Kansas shuts down center for troubled teens--February 20th, 2009--ESBON, Kan. | The state is shutting down a northern Kansas treatment center for troubled adolescents after inspectors found emergency exit doors locked on three occasions. The White Rock Academy in Esbon on Thursday was ordered closed after state officials twice told operators to remove the locks, which violate the state fire and safety code. The academy has until Monday to make other arrangements for its 24

residents. The state suspended the center's license, citing a need to protect youths at the facility from physical abuse or threats to their safety. For complete story, click here.

Pennsylvania rocked by 'jailing kids for cash' scandal--February 23rd, 2009--CNN) -- At a friend's sleepover more than a year ago, 14-year-old Phillip Swartley pocketed change from unlocked vehicles in the neighborhood to buy chips and soft drinks. The cops caught him. There was no need for an attorney, said Phillip's mother, Amy Swartley, who thought at most, the judge would slap her son with a fine or community service. But she was shocked to find her eighth-grader handcuffed and shackled in the courtroom and sentenced to a youth detention center. Then, he was shipped to a boarding school for troubled teens for nine months. "Yes, my son made a mistake, but I didn't think he was going to be taken away from me," said Swartley, a 41-year- old single mother raising two boys in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. CNN does not usually identify minors accused of crimes. But Swartley and others agreed to be named to bring public attention to the issue. As scandals from Wall Street to Washington roil the public trust, the justice system in Luzerne County, in the heart of Pennsylvania's struggling coal country, has also fallen prey to corruption. The county has been rocked by a kickback scandal involving two elected judges who essentially jailed kids for cash. Many of the children had appeared before judges without a lawyer. The nonprofit Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia said Phillip is one of at least 5,000 children over the past five years who appeared before former Luzerne County President Judge Mark Ciavarella. Ciavarella pleaded guilty earlier this month to federal criminal charges of fraud and other tax charges, according to the U.S. attorney's office. Former Luzerne County Senior Judge Michael Conahan also pleaded guilty to the same charges. The two secretly received more than $2.6 million, prosecutors said. For complete story, click here.

'Boot camp' closed--February 22nd, 2009--TREASURE BEACH, St Elizabeth - Tranquility Bay, the controversial offshore reform school for rebellious children, mostly from the United States, closed its doors last month as a result of a fallout in business. The last 'inmate' reportedly left the island on January 5. For complete story, click here.

U.S. House passes wilderness camp restrictions--February 24th, 2009--Washington » The U.S. House signed off on legislation Monday that seeks to end abuse in programs for troubled teens, such as the wilderness camps operating throughout Utah. The bill passed on a vote of 295 to 102. Utah Democratic Rep. Jim Matheson voted for the bill. Republican Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz voted against it. Proponents of the legislation say it will help keep kids safe as they participate in boot-camp style activities. The bill prohibits any punishment that denies food, water, clothing, shelter or medical care. It would limit forcible restraints and allow the children access to a telephone. The legislation also would set up a Web site allowing parents to see which programs have faced substantiated abuse claims. The bill follows a government audit that found more than 1,000 cases of abuse in such programs since the early 1990s, including cases where a child has died in Utah. For complete story, click here.

Crime of punishment?--March 1st, 2009-- At age 14, the Wilkes-Barre youth had been declared a juvenile delinquent and sent away for treatment, first to a wilderness-style juvenile detention camp and later to a reformatory school. His crime? He and a friend entered several open cars in Ashley and stole some change, a pre-paid cell phone and a portable music player, he and his mother, Amy, said. Suddenly the once carefree, basketball-playing teen found himself locked up for 10 months. Each day he struggled to control the rage that was building inside as he worked to earn his release. What he could not control, he and his mother said, is the sense of helplessness and anger that still haunts him today as he tries to comprehend why he was put away for a misdemeanor crime that, if committed by an adult, likely would have resulted in probation and a fine. It's a question thousands of other juveniles and their parents asked during the 12 years now-disgraced Judge Mark A. Ciavarella Jr. presided over Luzerne County's juvenile court. People such as Kimberly Bryk of Exeter Township and her daughter, Jamie, who spent more than a year lodged in juvenile detention facilities for a fist fight with another girl, and Sandy Fonzo of Wilkes-Barre and her son, Ed, who bounced in and out of several detention facilities after he violated probation on an initial charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Today those parents and their children think they may have an answer: Ciavarella and Judge Michael Conahan pleaded guilty on Feb. 12 to accepting more than $2.6 million in kickbacks in exchange for rulings that favored the PA Child Care and Western PA Child Care juvenile detention centers formerly co-owned by Butler Township attorney Robert Powell. For complete story, click here.

What We Lost When We Lost Rocky -- Paper First Exposed Teen Torture--March 3rd, 2009--When people talk in the abstract about what we lose when we lose newspapers, it's often hard to drum up much concern. Yeah, people are losing their jobs--that's what happened to the buggy makers when the car took over. Yeah, news is important-- but hey, we've got the web now. And the MSM blew it on Iraq, so who needs them anyway? We've got twitter. Just last week, Denver lost the Rocky Mountain News and before its website disappears, I wanted to share an example of just how much newspapers matter. This series--Desperate Measures--was the first to comprehensively take on the multi-million teen abuse empire variously known as WWASP, WWASPS and Teen Help. Please take the time to read it--once you start, it's hard to turn away. (And sadly, though WWASP has lost a few rounds lately, it's still operating). Expensive to conduct, extensive, well-written and well-reported, this journalism helped inspire a generation of activists, as well as my book, Help at Any Cost: How the Troubled-Teen Industry Cons Parents and Hurts Kids, which is the first book length investigation of the billion dollar business. In the series, Pulitzer-prize winner Lou Kilzer and photographer Dennis Schroeder make abundantly clear that the programs affiliated with WWASP are harsh, abusive and wildly popular--and they get a top WWASP official to admit that their staff is untrained and its methods completely untested: "These people are basically a bunch of untrained people who work for this organization," Ken Kay told the Denver Rocky Mountain News in an interview before he rejoined Teen Help as a vice president. "So they don't have credentials of any kind. ... "We could be leading these kids to long-term problems that we don't have a clue about because we're not going about it in the proper way. ... "How in the hell can you call yourself a behavior modification program -- and that's one of the ways it's marketed -- when nobody has the expertise to determine: Is this good, is this bad?" Kilzer shows that WWASP's contract with parents allows the programs to "use handcuffs, mechanical restraints, electrical disabler, Mace or pepper spray in order to restrain the student." Parents could not sue the program for "liability or damages resulting from restraint procedures." for complete story, click here.

Youth boot camps proven to fail--March 3rd, 2009--Clinical psychologists have joined the chorus of disapproval of the Government's planned `boot camps', saying punishment as a deterrent does not work. The Government is planning to widen the powers of the Youth Court with a range of new sentencing options including sending the worst repeat offenders to military-style camps run by the army. Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft has already put the boot in to boot camps for young offenders. He said last week that sentencing youthful offenders to boot camp was "arguably the least successful sentence in the Western world". For complete story, click here.

Luzerne County Courthouse Corruption Probe Expands--March 2nd, 2009--WILKES-BARRE, LUZERNE COUNTY- The federal probe into corruption at the Luzerne County courthouse is widening. The I-Team has learned that federal investigators are expanding their investigation. Sources close to the case tell the I-Team that "target letters" have been sent to several lawyers in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties. Those letters reportedly say they will be questioned about information they may have about corruption within the Luzerne County legal system. The I-Team has also learned that at least one district justice from Luzerne County has been questioned by federal agents. All of this comes in the aftermath of the arrest of four high ranking Luzerne County officials. Suspended Judges Mark Ciavarella and Michael Conahan pled guilty to taking millions in kickbacks in connection with a juvenile detention center in Pittston Township. Also busted was former Court Administrator William Sharkey, Sr. He admits to stealing $70,000 in seized gambling money. And Sandy Brulo, a Probation Supervisor, is accused of tampering with public records. The U.S. Attorney's Office will not comment on our information. For complete story, click here.

70 Youths Sue Former Judges in Detention Kickback Case--February 27th, 2009--More than 70 juveniles and their families filed a class-action lawsuit Thursday against two former judges who pleaded guilty this month in a scheme that involved their taking kickbacks to put young offenders in privately run detention centers. For complete story, click here.

Troubled teen beaten down by system--March 9th, 2009-- Most people are scared to die. It can't be any worse than living a life like mine. Being dead I think would just suit me fine ... People say there's nothing wrong with me. Honestly, I think they need to f--- off because they don't know what goes on in my head. When I used to try to hang myself I was just messing around trying to make them care and pay attention. Now it's different ... I went to court yesterday and I thought he was going to send me to adult! Time is running out. My chances are getting fewer and fewer. F---. I give up! I'm done trying. – Excerpt from Ashley Smith's journal, Sept. 4, 2006 A month later, the 18-year-old was indeed transferred to an adult closed security facility. That's prison, in plain language, despite her youth status. She would be repeatedly Tasered (seven times in 26 days), pepper sprayed, locked down in solitary for 23 hours a day, forcibly medicated and placed in the hideous WRAP restraint: bound head to toe, unable to budge, hockey helmet jammed over her head lest she topple over or try to bite. New Brunswick's Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate would later write: "I challenge anyone with a sane mind to live in conditions similar to the ones described ... for half the time Ashley had to endure ..." And: "Surely, there is a better way." If so, not in time to save Ashley Smith, who committed suicide – whether she actually meant to die or not – before the review of custodial conditions in N.B., and her own specific case, was completed. On Oct. 18, 2007 – having been transferred 17 times in the previous 11 1/2 months between three federal penitentiaries, two treatment facilities, two external hospitals and one provincial correctional facility – the teenager tied a ligature around her neck while on suicide watch at Grand Valley Institution for Women, near Kitchener. Correctional staff, who had been watching, did not intervene for nearly 30 minutes – and "this failure cost Ms. Smith her life," as stated in a

report released last week, "A Preventable Death," by the Correctional Investigator of Canada. In the days after the report was publicized, attention and misgivings were focused on systemic problems, the lack of mental health services for youth – Ashley was never sent for a formal psychological evaluation while in federal custody – and poor co-ordination among correctional authorities. But a closer reading of the file, the reviews of her early custodial years in N.B., suggest strongly that, while Ashley was an angry young girl from the age of 12, it was the rigid and punitive correctional system that made her nuts – despairing, endlessly confrontational and ultimately self-destructive, even as she clearly called out for help with acts of self-harm. In page after page of analysis, she is described as defiant, combative, unyielding to rules, refusing to conform; an obstinate and powerful personality, the proverbial square peg being forced to fit into a round hole, a juvenile iconoclast who fought tooth and nail in hanging on to a personality others deemed "oppositional" and "narcissistic" and "disrespectful." Ashley would probably have been better off if all those who did intervene, who sought to alter her behaviour, so often in cruel ways, had just left the girl alone, said: Go. Fend for yourself. You've heard of "black while driving" or "Muslim while flying" – externally imposed perceptions that pre-emptively stigmatize, even criminalize, behaviour. Ashley was incorrigible while incarcerated. For complete story, click here.

Group Home Operates Without License--March 10th, 2009--LaVERGNE, Tenn. -- A group home for foster children in LaVergne is known around town as a hot spot for trouble, and the home has been operating for almost a year without a business license...Police said 43 percent of the trouble calls from LaVergne High School was associated with kids at the Rock of Refuge. "We did have some pretty rough kids over at LaVergne High," said Usinger. The LaVergne Records Department said the home's business license expired in June 2008. Usinger denies the home is trying to expand, but issues with the business branching out have been raised. "A lot of questions have been raised," said Boyd. In the large neighborhood, it's hard to tell which houses the Rock of Refuge call home, but neighbors have complained since almost the start of the business... For complete story, click here.

Academy at Ivy Ridge to close this weekend--March 12th, 2009-- The troubled Academy at Ivy Ridge is reportedly closing its doors for good this weekend. The Ogdensburg private academy, which was geared toward troubled teens will close this weekend and transfer the remaining students to a facility in South Carolina, according to the Daily Courier-Observer this morning. For complete story, click here.

Darrington closes doors--March 2nd, 2009--Darrington Academy, a private school for troubled teens in Blue Ridge, closed its doors Friday, a move that owner and headmaster Richard Darrington says is due to the current state of the economy. For complete story, click here.

Hawthorne Cedar Knolls teen accused of sexually abusing another boy on campus--March 16th,2009-- HAWTHORNE - A 17-year-old boy at Hawthorne Cedar Knolls was accused of sexually abusing a 15-year-boy in his residence Saturday night, three days after five teens there were accused of assaulting a fellow resident, police said. Efrain Castillo, who lives at the residential treatment center for troubled youngsters, was charged with sexual misconduct, unlawful imprisonment and endangering the welfare of a child, misdemeanors, Mount Pleasant Police Chief Louis Alagno said. He is being held on $10,000 bail at the Westchester County jail in Valhalla. The victim was treated at the Westchester Medical Center. For complete story, click here.

Michigan 15-year-old dies after police Taser him--March 22nd, 2009-- BAY CITY, Mich. – Police in Michigan say a 15-year-old boy has died after being Tasered by officers who were trying to break up a fight. Police didn't release his name and say state police are investigating. A Bay City police news release says officers answered a report of an early morning fight on Sunday. The statement says two males were arguing in an apartment, and one of them "attempted to fight the officers." Police say officers Tasered him, and his reaction led them to immediately call for emergency medical help. He was pronounced dead at Bay Regional Medical Center. Deputy Chief Thomas Pletzke tells WNEM-TV police placed one officer on administrative leave. For complete story, click here.

Clean Slates for Youths Sentenced Fraudulently--March 26th, 2009--The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on Thursday ordered the slate cleaned for hundreds of youths who had been sentenced by a corrupt judge. For complete story, click here.

2 Teens Arrested, County Juvenile Program Under Investigation--March 27th, 2009--PENN HILLS, Pa. -- The arrest of two teens charged with harassment prompts an investigation at the Allegheny County juvenile probation division. Two 17-year-old boys were arrested and charged with harassment after allegedly showing up at a Penn Hills house and threatening another 17-year-old boy. The mother of the threatened boy said she believes that her son was threatened because he blew the whistle on alleged extortion going on in the Homewood Community Intervention Supervision Program. The boy and his mother were not being identified by police with an ongoing investigation into the program. For complete story, click here.

Discerning the difference between sadness and depression and then getting your teen help quickly is key-- April 5th, 2009--Parents of teenagers get accustomed to riding the teeter-totter of their offsprings' emotional highs and lows, but sometimes the moodiness signals a deeper problem. Barbara Deiotte, a social worker at Munster's Wilbur Wright Middle School, has seen an uptick in teenage depression. "My personal thoughts are that today's lifestyle is more stressful -- everything is kind of fast," Deiotte said, referring to possible reasons for the increase. "Or maybe we're more aware (of depression)." With teens, "depression can be a very temporary response" to stress associated with hormones or conflict with parents, she said. "That will come and go. It's normal adolescent angst. Please read complete story, click here.

Do Lap Dances and Humiliation Treat ADHD -- and Should Public Schools Pay?--April 17th, 2009--... Mount Bachelor is part of Aspen Education -- believed to be the largest chain of teen residential programs in the U.S. Aspen, as part of CRC Health, which is owned by Bain Capital, was seen by advocates as much more sedate and less given to wacky practices than clearly "out there" programs like those associated with the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASP or WWASPS). At one WWASP school, for example, teens were kept in outdoor dog cages. The stories of psychological abuse coming out of Mount Bachelor -- a few of which are included in my Time piece -- are every bit as bad as I have heard from teens and parents at chains of programs that have far worse reputations. For complete story, click here.

Suit claims abuse, filth at juvenile detention center--April 20th, 2009-- CNN) -- Juveniles held in a Mississippi detention center are subject to "horrific physical and mental abuse" at an insect-ridden, filthy facility, alleges a federal lawsuit filed Monday. The suit, filed by the Mississippi Youth Justice Project and Mississippi Protection and Advocacy Inc., accuses staff at the privately-managed Harrison County Juvenile Detention Center of "punitive shackling, staff-on-youth assaults, 23-hour-a-day lock-down in filthy jail cells, unsanitary conditions resulting in widespread contraction of scabies and staph infections, dangerous overcrowding that forces many youth to sleep on the concrete floor, and inadequate mental health care." The facility is is operated by Mississippi Security Police, a private security corporation based in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The company is paid $1.6 million yearly by Harrison County to manage the juvenile center, according to the lawsuit, which names the county as a defendant. For complete story, click here.

Broward child's suicide raises questions about medication--April 21st, 2009-- Weeks before his death, Gabriel Myers, the 7-year-old Broward boy who hanged himself in the shower of his foster home, had been prescribed a powerful mind-altering drug linked by federal regulators to an increased risk of suicide in children. In all, Gabriel had been prescribed four psychiatric drugs, two or three of which he was taking at the time of his death, said Jack Moss, Broward chief of the state Department of Children & Families. Moss said he is not sure which medications the boy was taking because Margate police took the foster home's medication log as part of an investigation into Gabriel's death last week. Three of the psychotropic drugs carry U.S. Food and Drug Administration "black box" label warnings for children's safety, the strongest advisory the federal agency issues. Three of the medications are not approved for use with young children, though they are widely prescribed to youngsters "off label" -- meaning doctors can prescribe the drug even if not formally approved for that use. In 2005 -- reacting to a series of stories in The Miami Herald that as many as one in four foster children were prescribed potentially dangerous mind-altering drugs -- state lawmakers approved a law aimed at curbing their use. Children's advocates now question whether the law is being ignored. For complete story, click here.

America's Tough Love Habit--May, 2009--We are, famously, blasé about our acts of torture overseas. But why? The laser-like focus on fixing the economy, wanting to avoid more political divisiveness, the diminishment of watchdog journalism—are all part of the explanation. But there's another overlooked reason as well. Americans tend to valorize tough love—at times, even tough love that verges on torture—in prisons, mental hospitals, drug rehabs, and teen boot camps. We aren't squeamish about the psychological aspects of torture. We might even admire them. Thousands of troubled children, for instance, now attend tough "wilderness programs" "emotional growth boarding schools" and other "tough love" camps where they face conditions like total isolation, sleep deprivation, food deprivation, and daily emotional attacks. For complete story, click here.

Gardasil Linked to Nerve Disorder --Cervical Cancer Vaccine May Raise Risk of Guillain-Barre Syndrome 30 Apr 2009 Girls and women who receive the Gardasil [Gardakill] vaccine to prevent cervical cancer may be at increased risk of a rare but serious disorder of the nervous system [Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS)] in the first few weeks after getting their shots, researchers report. For complete story, click here.

Government wants the military to run state schools -- Right then, fall into line you 'orrible little pupils! 08 May 2009 The Armed Forces will be drafted in to run state schools under plans to drive up discipline and respect in classrooms. Ministers are in talks with defence chiefs about taking over a handful of schools and turning them

into military academies. Alongside daily lessons, pupils would be expected to take part in activities such as drills, uniformed parades, weapons handling and adventure training. For complete story, click here.

Group Home Employee Accused Of Molesting Teens--May 8th, 2009--A Sacramento man who helped troubled teens at a group home is under arrest and accused of molesting girls while on the job. In a place where people are watching your every move, Sacramento County authorities say Jeffrey Caldwell was able to make major inappropriate moves this past February while working at the Sacramento County Assessment Center. For complete story, click here.

State investigating ab slapping of teen boys--May 12th, 2009--A controversial video appears to show a juvenile justice official in Seminole County striking adolescent detainees in their abdomens. But although physical contact between officials and detainees is mostly prohibited, the state Department of Juvenile Justice says the boys may have volunteered for the military-style treatment at the Seminole County Juvenile Detention Center. "There has been speculation that it was used for training purposes," said Frank Penela, a spokesman for the department, who has not yet seen the video. Nonetheless, the department, which has been stung in recent years by the death of one detainee at a boot-camp-style facility and as well as the discovery of a graveyard containing unidentified graves near another, is investigating the incident. For complete story, click here.

Feds end 11-year oversight of Ga. juvenile facilities--May 18th, 2009--Georgia's juvenile justice system has been released from federal oversight, 11 years after the U.S. Justice Department investigated reports of overcrowding and abuse at the state's youth detention facilities, the governor said Monday. For complete story, click here.

Thousands beaten, raped in Irish reform schools--May 20th, 2009--DUBLIN – A fiercely debated, long-delayed investigation into Ireland's Roman Catholic-run institutions says priests and nuns terrorized thousands of boys and girls in workhouse-style schools for decades — and government inspectors failed to stop the chronic beatings, rapes and humiliation. Nine years in the making, Wednesday's 2,600-page report sides almost completely with the horrific reports of abuse from former students sent to more than 250 church-run, mostly residential institutions. But victims' leaders said it didn't go far enough — particularly because none of their abusers were identified by name. The report concluded that church officials always shielded their orders' pedophiles from arrest to protect their own reputations and, according to documents uncovered in the Vatican, knew that many pedophiles were serial attackers. The investigators said overwhelming, consistent testimony from still-traumatized men and women, now in their 50s to 80s, had demonstrated beyond a doubt that the entire system treated children more like prison inmates and slaves than people with legal rights and human potential. For complete story, click here. (Webmaster note: Switch out Irish for American and you will understand America's teen "help" industry.)

Teacher's aide in Maryland Heights convicted in sex case--May 21st, 2009--A teacher's aide at a school for troubled teens in Maryland Heights was convicted late Wednesday of having sexual contact with two students. Bruce Germany, 55, was convicted on 14 felony counts of sexual contact with a student by a teacher between September 2006 and April 2007. The charges involve two 15-year-old girls who attended Lakeside Center for Troubled Youth at 13044 Marine Drive. For complete story, click here.

Congressional Hearing on Death/Abuse in Schools and Programs Using Physical Restraint--May 19th, 2009-- Click here for the online video from C-Span.

Brianna Turnbull Pleads No Contest--June 1st, 2009--A North Platte woman pled no contest to charges she helped a teenage boy escape from state custody and hide for three months. Two felonies were reduced to misdemeanors against Brianna Turnbull. The 23-year-old pled no contest to charges of attempted violation of custody order; attempted juvenile escape, and contributing to the delinquency of a child. Turnbull is the daughter of a Lincoln County Judge. The case is behind handled by a special prosecutor Charles Brewster of...Turnbull worked at the Salvation Army's Quinn Wilcox house in North Platte when she met Kaden Clark-Guthrie of Trenton. For complete story, click here. For an update on this story, click here.

Juvenile safety feared--June 2nd, 2009--Seven juveniles have attempted suicide at Hinds County's youth detention center since January, according to a report obtained by The Clarion-Ledger. For complete story, click here.

Police recruits to be trained at Tranquility Bay--June 4th, 2009--The Tranquility Bay facility at Treasure Beach which was previously used as an offshore reform school for rebellious children, mostly from the United States, will now be used to train police recruits for at least the next two years. At a meeting Tuesday with Treasure Beach residents and in subsequent response to journalists' questions, Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of administration, Jevene Bent said training "operations" would begin "somewhere in the middle of the month". The complex sited on two and a half acres of beach front land, referred to by locals as Old Wharf, was controversially used for 12 years by the United States group, World Wide Association of Speciality Programmes and Schools (WWASP) as a 'boot camp' for teenagers. It was closed in January. The Jamaica Constabulary Force's two-year lease on the privately-owned facility begun on June 1. For complete story, click here.

'Orwellian language' in schools turns pupils into 'customers', finds damning report 09 Jun 2009 Schools using the 'Orwellian language of performance management' are undermining teenagers' education by turning them into 'customers' rather than students, a landmark report says today. Teachers who are forced to use phrases such as 'performance indicator' and 'curriculum delivery' lack enthusiasm for the job, the six-year investigation found. For complete story, click here.

Former teen counselor gets jail time--June 9th, 2009--A former counselor for troubled teens who was accused of having sex with one of her students has accepted a plea negotiation with prosecutors after turning down a similar deal last year. Cathleen Crowley, 30, of Rye was sent to the Cheshire County jail in Westmoreland for a month as part of the deal that was finalized last week. Crowley withdrew her first guilty plea connected to the student's accusations during a hearing last November in Cheshire County Superior Court. The plea Crowley and her attorney, Gary S. Lenehan of Manchester, first negotiated with prosecutors would have kept her out of jail. Judge Brian T. Tucker was expected to hand down suspended, one-year jail sentences on misdemeanor charges of sexual assault and giving alcohol to a minor. But after hearing the case against Crowley — she was accused of giving the student alcohol and engaging in sex acts with him in her van and a hotel in Keene in 2007 — Tucker said he would reject the deal she made with prosecutors and hand down a six-month jail sentence....The state Division for Children, Youth and Families has substantiated an abuse finding tied to the student's allegations against Crowley, Assistant Cheshire County Attorney John S. Webb said. The finding appears on Crowley's permanent state record and should [but, probably won't] prevent her from working again as a youth counselor or in a similar position, he said. For complete story, click here.

Special Report from VERACARE: How the Pharmaceutical (DRUG) Industry and US Government Promote Chemical Assault of American Children!--June 12th, 2009--This has been a grim week for anyone who cares about the precautionary principle guiding civilized medicine and the welfare of children. If anything, the Obama administration seems to be pushing the radical pharmacological envelope even further than the Bush administration----at the very least, nothing has changed for the better in the government-assisted determined push to control / engineer America's children. On Wednesday, an FDA advisory committee gave the FDA a green light to expand the marketing license of three toxic antipsychotic drugs--Seroquel, Geodon, and Zyprexa--for use in children. Such approval gives manufacturers a shield from liability--for illegally promoting the drugs for off-label use. And such approval ensures increased use of these drugs. Manufacturers and mental health providers will profit while children's physical and mental health will be sacrificed. These drugs pose severely disabling, potentially lethal hazards--including diabetes, metabolic syndrome, cardiovascular disease. The body of evidence showing these drugs to be harmful is irrefutable: it is documented in FDA's postmarketing database, and in secret internal company documents uncovered during litigation. Did the FDA provide the advisory panel members with the evidence ? And if not, why not? See, Evelyn Pringle's report, "FDA Throws Lifeline to Antipsychotic Pushers" http://www.counterpunch.org/pringle06122009.html An article in TIME magazine http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1903873_1903871_1 903857,00.html gives credence to a not yet released report commissioned under the Bush Administration by a panel convened by the National Academies of Science. The report, "Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities" (2009) re-iterates the earlier national mental health policy directive under President Bush: The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health (2002)--which promoted universal mental screening and the expanded use of patented psychoactive drugs (those listed in industry-initiated, TMAP algorithm prescription guides). See the report brief to policymakers issued, March 2009: http://www.bocyf.org/prevention_policymakers_brief.pdf The NAS report also recommends aggressive screening and pharmacologic intervention with toxic psychoactive drugs for children. The provocative, unsubstantiated premise is that mental illness can be detected through genetic screening--a la eugenics rationale--and that they can be prevented. "Hundreds of studies that have appeared in just the past decade collectively suggest that the brain isn't so different from, say, the arm: it doesn't simply break on its own. In fact, many mental illnesses - even those like schizophrenia that have demonstrable genetic origins - can be stopped or at least contained before they start." "This isn't wishful thinking but hard science." If the consequences of psychiatry's delusions weren't so serious, that statement is laughable. As every real medical scientist knows, psychiatry lacks even the rudimentary objective, scientifically verifiable tools of science, much less, "hard science." The TIME reporter is impressed with NAS report weight in pagination: "a 500-page report, nearly two years in the making, on how to prevent mental, emotional and behavioral disorders." "The [NAS] report concludes that pre-empting such disorders requires two kinds of interventions: first, because genes play so important a role in mental illness, we need to ensure that close relatives (particularly children) of those with mental disorders have access to rigorous screening programs. Second, we must offer treatment to people who have already shown symptoms of illness (say, a tendency to brood and see the world without optimism) but don't meet the diagnostic criteria for a full-scale mental illness (in this case, depression)....." According to TIME, the authors of the NAS

report recognize but rationalize the reality that mental screens will mislabel healthy individuals as mentally ill: "Early-detection programs will identify as candidates for mental illness some people who are merely persnickety or shy or eccentric." Indeed, a responsible reason NOT to screen is the high false-positive rate of mental screens. For example, the false-positive rate of TeenScreen, the mental health dragnet of school children, is as high as 84%. TIME reports that that the invalid screening tools did not deter the NAS authors from recommending mental screening--even acknowledging that those mislabeled may be prescribed toxic antidepressants and/ or antipsychotics: "Some prevention programs even prescribe psychiatric medications, including antipsychotics and antidepressants, to people who aren't technically psychotic or depressed....But those who contributed to the National Academies report say preventing the suffering of people with mental illness is worth the risk of some false positives, partly because of the enormous cost of treating mental illness after it's struck." The NAS report is available online in its unedited version--it has not yet been released. http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12480

ADHD Drugs Linked to Sudden Death--June 15th, 2009--On that morning, the 54-year-old mother of two living in McAllen, Texas, was preparing to take her eldest son to school. She had an early appointment, so her husband, Rick Hohmann, would be dropping off younger son, 14-year-old Matthew, at his school that day. About a month earlier, Matthew had been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD. And like an estimated 2.5 million other children in the United States, he was taking medication for the condition. It was Ann Hohmann who gave Matthew his Adderall XR pill that morning with a glass of water. But it was her husband who later found him after he had collapsed on the bathroom floor. "To me, he seemed fine," she recalled. "My husband had seen him walking around, brushing his teeth. Then he walked in and found him flat down on the floor in the bathroom. "When he turned him over, his lips were blue," Hohmann said. She said that her husband called her first, and then he called 911. He performed CPR until the ambulance arrived. But it was too late. "They worked on him for a while, but he was dead," she said. For complete story, click here.

Are Troubled Teens Tortured?--June 23rd, 2009--Yesterday, we brought you the story of Matthew Meyer, a troubled teen who died at a wilderness camp. Today, we bring you the story of Nick Gaglia. Gina Kaysen Fernandes: Imagine a world where your child is locked away for years, spending days at a time in a windowless room. Communication is shut off and you have no way of knowing about their treatment, which may include being physically restrained for hours on end. This horrifying scenario isn't prison -- it's a voluntary program aimed at treating troubled teenagers. It's a place where Nick Gaglia spent two and a half years, because "my life was spinning out of control." The residential treatment program known as "Kids of North Jersey" in Secaucus, New Jersey, "seemed like a great fit," says Nick, who was abusing drugs and alcohol at the age of 13. Nick's parents saw advertisements for the program on television and soon enrolled their son. They hoped professionals would get Nick clean and sober so he could put his life back on track. But instead of giving Nick the coping skills he'd need in the outside world, he became a prisoner subjected to verbal abuse, psychological torment, and physical restraint. "I would call it torture and abuse," says Nick, who shared his harrowing ordeal with momlogic. For complete story, click here.

Can Wilderness Camps Kill Your Kid?--June 22nd, 2009--It's an industry that preys on desperation. If your teenager has emotional issues, abuses drugs, or is promiscuous, help is just a phone call away. Wilderness intervention programs promise to "fix" bad behavior by teaching your child life skills and building self-esteem. These facilities offer a beacon of hope for parents like Crystal Manganaro, who sent her son, Matthew, to a wilderness camp outside of Houston. But what Crystal didn't realize was that the camp she entrusted with her son's life would so carelessly take it away. For complete story, click here.

Supreme Court Says Child's Rights Violated by Strip Search --But if the student had been suspected of having illegal drugs that could have posed a far greater danger to herself and other students, the strip search might have been justified, the majority said. 26 Jun 2009 In a ruling of interest to educators, parents and students across the country, the Supreme Court ruled, 8 to 1, on Thursday that the strip search of a 13-year-old Arizona girl by school officials who were looking for prescription-strength drugs violated her constitutional rights. The officials in Safford, Ariz., would have been justified in 2003 had they limited their search to the backpack and outer clothing of Savana Redding, who was in the eighth grade at the time, the court ruled. For complete story, click here.

Miss. juvenile detention case near end--June 26th, 2009--A preliminary agreement has been reached in a federal lawsuit that claims youth were abused at a south Mississippi juvenile detention center and forced to live in squalid conditions. For complete story, click here.

One teen runaway found, two missing--July 9th, 2009--Update on three runaways who escaped abusive wilderness program...A national organization is pleading for information about a 15-year-old girl missing from McDowell for more than a year. In separate cases, sheriff's deputies have located one of two teenage runaways for whom they've been searching. The other one hasn't been spotted. As part of its ongoing search, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is again asking for the public's help in locating Diana Hernandez Yanez, 15, of Yancey Street in Marion. She was 14 when she left her home on July 21, 2008. Neighbors told police that they saw her get into a red pickup truck that morning. Friends say the truck, a red 2000 Chevrolet S-10 low-rider pickup, belonged to 19-year-old Andres Velasquez Tinoco of Coxes Creek Road, whom Diana reportedly met just a couple of weeks prior to her disappearance. For complete story, click here.

LDS seminary principal in court, hands over evidence--July 13th, 2009--PROVO — Officers came to court Monday morning prepared to re-arrest a former LDS seminary principal accused of sexual misconduct with a 16-year-old student. Michael J. Pratt, 37, the former principal at Lone Peak High School's LDS seminary program, was arrested Thursday on numerous allegations, but was bailed out on $20,000 cash-only bail at 3:37 a.m. Saturday. "Look," an emotional Pratt told the media upon exiting the courtroom. "I am hopeful that the truth will be fully presented at the appropriate time." Officers from the Utah County Special Victims Task Force came to 4th District Court Monday for Pratt's review of bail hearing to express concern that Pratt may have been tampering with evidence on his laptop computer. Prosecutor Guy Probert told Judge Steven Hansen that there were some "evidentiary questions" relating to the laptop, which had been sent out of the area with Pratt's family after the allegations surfaced. It is believed that the computer belongs to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but Probert could not officially confirm that. "The laptop is being returned by mail. A copy of the hard drive is being produced today," Probert said. For complete story, click here. For story update, click here. (Webmaster note: Don't send your kid to Utah!)

Detroit Public Schools moves closer to bankruptcy and privatization By Walter Gilberti 16 July 2009 Detroit teachers and schools employees are in danger of having their jobs, wages and benefits sacrificed in the interest of an anti-public schools agenda driven by Emergency Financial Manager Robert Bobb and the Obama administration. In a two-pronged attack on the continued existence of public schools in Detroit, Bobb has hired four private professional education management firms to oversee instruction at 17 Detroit high schools, while, at the same time, ratcheting up his earlier threat to institute bankruptcy proceedings. For complete story, click here.

The APA's Nuremberg Defense By Scott Horton 20 Jul 2009 ...[T]he disclosures surrounding the waterboarding of Abu Zubaida give further proof that beginning in 2002, healthcare professionals, specifically psychologists, played an essential role at every stage in the development and application of torture techniques. The failure of professional organizations, and specifically the American Psychological Association, to acknowledge this and take appropriate countermeasures is disturbing...Professional oversight bodies have engaged in consistent evasion, and now the APA is focused on the relaxation of its ethics standards to provide defenses for psychologists who joined in the Bush Administration's torture program. For complete story, click here. (Webmaster Note: Behavior Modification Programs for Teens Are Experiments In Torture.)

Court: Keep cleared juveniles' files--July 23rd, 2009--ALLENTOWN - The Pennsylvania Supreme Court yesterday ordered the preservation of court records of juveniles who are suing a corrupt Luzerne County Court judge. Previously, when it overturned the convictions of youths who appeared in former Judge Mark Ciavarella's courtroom, the court said the records should be destroyed, prompting complaints from attorneys for the juveniles. The attorneys said loss of the records could imperil the youths' ability to recover damages from the judge and others implicated in the corruption scandal. For complete story, click here. (For an update on this story, click here ,here or here.)

Report alleges multiple problems at Hinds juvenile facility--July 24th, 2009--Unreported suicide attempts, poor staff relations and failure to provide timely mental health evaluations continue at Hinds County's Henley- Young Juvenile Detention Center, according to a state inspection report. The state Juvenile Facilities Monitoring Unit inspected the detention center on June 23 and gave its report to the county July 22. Juvenile Facilities Monitoring Unit Director Donald Beard and Henley- Young's detention director Darren Farr did not return calls. The report, obtained by The Clarion-Ledger, makes 14 recommendations. It's unclear what could happen to the center if it doesn't follow them, but county officials say they plan to. "A crucial step in recognizing problems associated with a juvenile's behavior is a mental health evaluation," the report states. The inspection came after Hinds supervisors learned that seven juveniles have attempted suicide at the center since January. In one case, a girl was found with several socks tied around her neck. In another, a boy repeatedly hit his head on the door of his cell. Detention center staff never reported the cases to the county or state, which must be done immediately, according to the most recent report. For complete story, click here. (Webmaster note: This is what happens at a "regulated" and state-run facility that has safeguards in place to prevent violations and harm to youth. Now, take away the "regulation" and government oversight and what kind of abuses and violations do you think are probable? The unimaginable happens to youth every day in behavior modification programs throughout the United States. Keep your children at home.)

ADHD Drugs Linked to Sudden Death in Kids--Received July 25th, 2009 (Article: June 15th, 2009)--MONDAY, June 15 (HealthDay News) -- Stimulant medications commonly prescribed to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are associated with an increased risk of sudden death, but those deaths are still rare, new research finds. For complete story, click here.

Deadly Restraint & Seclusion--SILENT VICTIMS--July 21st, 2009

Click here for complete article from www.ktnv.com

Chinese Youth Beaten to Death at "net addiction" "boot camp"--August 4th, 2009-- China's anti-internet addiction industry has claimed another victim, after supervisors at a rehabilitation camp allegedly beat a 16 year old inmate to death. Deng Senshan had been sent to Guangxi Qihuang Survival Training Camp to "cure" him of his internet addiction, the AFP reports. His parents were paying $1000 for the treatment. However, the youth ended up in solitary confinement shortly after arriving at the establishment, and was subsequently beaten to death by supervisors for "running too slowly", according to the news agency. For complete story, click here.

Teen sent to PEC home--August 10th, 2009--The grandmother of a teenaged boy being housed at a youth residential treatment facility in Prince Edward County. wants to know why he can't be treated closer to home. The 14-year-old Cole Harbour boy, who was the subject of a recent Supreme Court of Nova Scotia case regarding his care, suffers from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and related behavioural problems. He was recently enrolled at the Bayfield Treatment Centre in Consecon by the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services. His grandmother -- who cannot be named in order to protect the boy's identity -- told The Intelligencer she wanted the boy to get help, but did not expect him to be moved out of the province. "All we did was ask for help, not for him to be shipped away," she said. She said she and her husband asked Community Services for help with the boy, whom she admits suffers from considerable behavioural issues, last year. As reported by the Halifax Chronicle-Herald, Community Services originally made arrangements for the boy's treatment at a facility in Utah after the Nova Scotia Supreme Court ruled it was permissible to send him there for treatment unavailable in his home province. However, after arrangements at both Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Centre and Provo Canyon School fell through, the boy was moved to Bayfield - a decision Patrick Eagan, the family's lawyer, says shows a definite motive. "It's just somewhere to shove this kid," he said. For complete story, click here.

DNA database has 300 children added a day 11 Aug 2009 More than 300 children a day are being put on to the DNA database fuelling fresh fears over the growth of the "Big Brother" state. Almost 1.1 million youngsters aged between ten and 17 have had their profiles recorded by the police since 2000, with a large proportion aged under 15, the Daily Telegraph can disclose. And around one in six are likely to have never been convicted of any crime. For complete story, click here.

One third of all children in jails are 'wrongly imprisoned' 13 Aug 2009 More than a third of children sent to prison last year were wrongly jailed, a report into child custody rates says. The study by Barnardo's found that the Government had breached its own guidance on child custody by allowing so many 12-, 13- and 14-year-olds to be imprisoned for a non-serious offences. For complete story, click here.

Woman sues state over sexual assault--August 18th, 2009--A 19-year-old who was sexually assaulted by a guard at a state juvenile-detention center last year has filed a lawsuit claiming the state failed to properly supervise the guard or protect her from his advances. In a lawsuit filed in King County Superior Court last month, the young woman's attorneys claim the state failed to properly train and supervise the on-call temporary guard at Echo Glen Children's Center or to fully investigate previous complaints about him. The guard, 39-year-old Robert H. Fox, pleaded guilty in February to first-degree custodial sexual misconduct in connection with the assault, according to court documents. He now is serving an eight-month sentence in the King County Jail. For complete story, click here.

NEA Attacks Administration's Education Reform Plan 21 Aug 2009 The nation's largest teachers union sharply attacked President Obama's most significant school improvement initiative on Friday evening, saying that it puts too much emphasis on a "narrow agenda" centered on charter schools and echoes the Bush administration's "top-down approach" to reform. The National Education Association's criticism of Obama's $4.35 billion "Race to the Top" initiative came nearly a month after the president unveiled the competitive grant program... For complete story, click here. (No charter schools. Improve Public Education!!!)

Payout over teen's boot camp tragedy--August 24th, 2009--The parents of a teenager beaten to death by staff at a boot camp in Hubei Province this month have been awarded 350,000 yuan (US$51,000) in compensation. The money, which will be paid by a local education bureau, comes less than three weeks after Yao Jian, 14, died on an outward-bound training program intended to boost his confidence. "The money will not ease the agony of losing our son," his father Yao Jun, 37, told China Daily yesterday. "We can only hope this tragedy will ring alarm for parents and the government to avoid such incidents." For complete story, click here. (Webmaster Note: Really? China is better at swift action than the US? What's up with that?! Strengthen and Pass HR 911 already.)

NY detention system faulted in juveniles' injuries--August 24th, 2009--ALBANY, N.Y. — Workers at four youth detention centers in New York caused dozens of serious injuries, including broken bones and teeth, when they routinely used force as a primary way to restrain juveniles and not just as a last resort, according to federal investigators. The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division also reported that youths in the state system failed to get needed counseling and mental health treatment, though most have psychological problems. The findings released Monday were the result of a nearly two-year probe. Gladys Carrion, commissioner of the state Office of Children and Family Services, said they have begun overhauling the troubled system she took over 18 months ago, including a new restraint policy and hiring more mental health workers. "Much more still needs to be done," she said. Investigators said conditions they found last year at the Lansing and Louis Gossett Jr. residential centers outside Ithaca and the Tryon residential centers for boys and girls in Johnstown violated the teens' constitutional rights as well as department policy. For complete story, click here.

'All God's Children:' Exposing the abuses of children of missionaries--August 25th, 2009--Marilyn Shellrude Christman of Seattle was only 7 years old when she was sent to a boarding school for children of missionaries in Guinea, West Africa, in 1961. For eight years, in the remote, isolated school, she says, she was emotionally and spiritually abused. At times, she was also physically and sexually abused — in some cases by a man who served as a dorm parent there, she said. It wasn't until decades later that she realized she hadn't been the only abused child at Mamou Alliance Academy, a now-closed boarding school run by the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA;), an evangelical Protestant denomination. For complete story, click here.

Zoning board votes against home for troubled teens--August 26th, 2009-- Jeff Deerr does not want a group home for troubled teens in his neighborhood. "I am definitely opposed to the idea," he said. "I go to work and I come home after working an eight-hour day and I have a peaceful neighborhood. I don't believe that doing something like this is right." Deerr was among more than 25 residents from the Vinton Heights subdivision who sat in an Area Board of Zoning Appeals meeting Wednesday night for nearly four hours to speak out against proposed home. The group home, proposed by Seeds of Hope Community Ministries, was slated to operate out of a residence at

2012 Valdez Drive in Lafayette if approved. But the Board of Zoning Appeals voted 6-1 against the proposal, which led to a sea of cheers from residents in attendance. For complete story, click here.

Caging Children--August 28th, 2009--Children under the age of 18 can't vote, serve as jurors, or join Blockbuster, but in the U.S. – the only developed nation with such a policy – they can be tried in adult courts and imprisoned in facilities designed for adults. A groundbreaking study from the University of Texas' LBJ School of Public Affairs could kick-start a national discussion about the foolishness of that policy. The report, "From Time Out to Hard Time: Young Children in the Adult Criminal Justice System," was compiled by Michele Deitch, an adjunct professor at the LBJ School, and her students. Its roots were tragic: Deitch and her group worked with the UT Law School Supreme Court Clinic on the case of Christopher Pittman, who, at age 12, was charged with killing his grandparents. He received a 30-year sentence – the mandatory minimum in South Carolina. After the Supreme Court rejected his appeal, Deitch explained, "we were sitting on a ton of research that we had done, so we thought it was vital to get it out there." For complete story, click here.

Gay reparative therapy isn't advisable, says APA--August 31, 2009--The American Psychological Association has finally confirmed what MySpace Zach and his supporters knew back in 2005 – gay reparative therapies don't work. In an update to a 1997 resolution "Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation," the APA now advises that mental health professionals should avoid telling clients that they can change their sexual orientation through therapy or other treatments. "Contrary to claims of sexual orientation change advocates and practitioners, there is insufficient evidence to support the use of psychological interventions to change sexual orientation," said Judith M. Glassgold, PsyD, chair of the task force which examined the efficacy of so-called reparative therapy." APA appointed the six-member Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation in 2007 to review and update APA's 1997 resolution, "Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation," and to generate a report. APA was concerned about ongoing efforts to promote the notion that sexual orientation can be changed through psychotherapy or approaches that mischaracterize homosexuality as a mental disorder. The task force examined the peer-reviewed journal articles in English from 1960 to 2007, which included 83 studies. Most of the studies were conducted before 1978, and only a few had been conducted in the last 10 years. The group also reviewed the recent literature on the psychology of sexual orientation. "Unfortunately, much of the research in the area of sexual orientation change contains serious design flaws," Glassgold said. "Few studies could be considered methodologically sound and none systematically evaluated potential harms." Looking back at Zach Zach Stark was for many the face of the vulnerable, oppressed gay teen. Stark, then 16 and living in Bartlett, Tenn., chronicled his coming-out story in his MySpace blog. He detailed his parents unfavorable reaction and wrote, "Today, my mother, father and I had a very long 'talk' in my room, where they let me know I am to apply for a fundamentalist Christian program for gays." It would take place at Refuge, a youth program of Love in Action International, a Memphis group that runs a religion-based program intended to change the sexual orientation of gay men and women. As mandated by Refuge, Stark's blog posts stopped the day he entered the facility, but debate and outrage over such programs did not. A New York Times story published July 17, 2005, shortly after Stark entered Refuge, brought the matter to the forefront of the mainstream media with the headline "Gay Teenager Stirs a Storm." In that story, former teacher and GLSEN Executive Director Kevin Jennings told the New York Times, "All reputable health and education professional organizations have clearly and unequivocally denounced this 'treatment' as quackery." Closer to home, young people from the area organized a protest outside the Love In Action facility soon after the Stark was admitted to the program. As days passed, the group's numbers swelled as the teens were joined by a wide range of people from the community forming what they called the Queer Action Coalition (QAC), concerned about Stark's mental health after reading his ominous blog posts. "It's like boot camp," Stark wrote before entering the facility. "If I do come out straight, I'll be so mentally unstable and depressed it won't matter." For complete story, click here.

3 charged in Ohio in teen's restraint death--September 2nd, 2009--COLUMBUS, Ohio — Three former employees of a Cleveland residential center for troubled teenagers were indicted Wednesday in the death of a 17-year-old girl who choked on vomit and suffocated after she was restrained face down, a control technique the governor has since banned. Cynthia King, 32, of Warrensville Heights, Lazarita Menendez, 28, of Bedford Heights and Ebony Ray, 33, of Broadview Heights were indicted in Cuyahoga County on involuntary manslaughter and child-endangering charges in the death of Faith Finley at the Parmadale Family Services center in Parma. For complete story, click here.

Real life horrors revealed in Boot Camp--September 5th, 2009--The most disturbing aspect of Christian Duguay's Boot Camp is the fact that places such as that depicted actually exist. Places that promise rehabilitation for troubled youths that are nothing more than entities of torture that do more damage than good. For complete story, click here.

I'm OK, but you're not.--September 16th, 2009--So you have a troubled or problem teen. Let me guess, they come home from school and virtually lock themselves away in their bedroom. If they do come and join the family, they are plugged into their MP3 player or PSP. You actually have to demand putting the electronics away when at the dinner table; that is if they even join you for dinner. It's a pretty common problem; I'd venture to say across Western society. Let's think back – when I was a teen, I'd plug into the cassette player with earphones on (I'm old enough that CD's were not around). Once I was driving, I'd not even come home – I'd go driving. I was usually busy enough after school with work and theatre that there were some weeks I'd barely see my parents. Was I a problem or troubled child? My parents probably thought so, but guess who I thought had the problem? It's not any different today. Oh, the script may have changed some, the technology and access to information has drastically changed, but how we communicate (or lack of communication) remains the same. I'm curious though, have you ever asked your teen why they stay away from the family so much? Some of this is natural child development for certain, but choosing to stay home to study instead of joining the family for a 'night out bowling' is something else. Yes, our teen can be defiant; sometimes it's what they do best. But every now and then, we must remember to turn that magnifying glass away from them and onto ourselves. What are we doing to drive wedges into that gap? If we don't know then we need to ask. So many teens feel they cannot talk to their parents, when in reality that is what everyone, both teens and parents, really want! For complete story, click here.

Don't forget detainees at home--September 21st, 2009--Torture is wrong. Our nation believes this, and we are concerned about torture tactics used on detainees, as we should be. Shouldn't we also be concerned about abusive tactics used on our own population, particularly our children? The Aug. 25 Ithaca Journal article headlined, "Staff severely injured youths," describes a U.S. Justice Department report that found staff at two juvenile-detention facilities in Tompkins County used excessive force in controlling some of their residents. Some might argue that the staff behavior is not torture, but if the results are injuries and even death, what name should we give it? We put them in detention centers in the hopes that they will reform themselves and become positive, productive citizens. How can they learn to behave in a peaceful manner when they are treated with violence? Get-tough, boot-camp programs purport to help troubled teens, but they don't work. A review of the scientific evidence by the National Institutes of Health found that programs using fear and tough treatment are ineffective and may make teen criminal behavior even worse. For complete story, click here.

Former Boys Ranch resident sues Sedgwick County--September 23rd, 2009--A former Boys Ranch resident has sued Sedgwick County, alleging it failed to protect him from being raped while he lived at the home for troubled teens in late 2004. The plaintiff — who is 19 now and was 14 at the time he says he was raped — filed a lawsuit in June in state district court that has been moved to federal court in Wichita. For complete story, click here.

Community meeting tonight on youth home in Craney Island Farms--September 24th, 2009-- Residents in a Hanover County neighborhood are concerned about a home for troubled teens in their subdivision. A community meeting is scheduled for tonight to address issues raised by those who live near Healthy Solutions, a foster home for four at-risk males ages 12 to 17 that opened this summer on Cudlipp Avenue in the Craney Island Farms community off U.S. 301. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at Cool Spring Baptist Church. Craney Island Farms resident David Liggan, who lives off Cudlipp Avenue, said he's concerned about a business operating in a residential area. "We were never notified . . . or asked our opinion about the facility going into our area," Liggan said, referring to the home that provides 24-hour adult supervision and counseling services to teens who have behavioral issues. Peggy Nicholls, who lives on Cudlipp Avenue, said the county should have alerted homeowners if a business was going in on their street. "I feel like the wool was pulled over our eyes," she said. For complete story, click here.

Troubled teens playing it for laughs in comedy class--September 26th, 2009--NATIONAL CITY — Drugs, violence, teen pregnancy and incarceration — not exactly the stuff of punch lines and laugh tracks. Unless it's the teens telling the jokes. And the material is coming from their own experiences. San Diego County high school students who struggle to cope with these issues are confronting them head-on in an unlikely stand-up-comedy class that also serves as therapy of sorts. Paid for with $6,500 in federal stimulus money, this new course was designed for students who are interested in the entertainment industry. But it has also helped teenagers face their demons and relate to classmates at the county Office of Education community school in National City. For complete story, click here.

"Out of the Mouths of Babes: False Confessions and the Wrongful Convictions of Youth"--Also see: http://progressillinois.com/node/7229

Teen tamers need to get real--October 4th, 2009-- TELEVISION programs claiming to tame toddlers and troubled teens may do more harm than good, parenting experts have warned. The families of Australian teenagers who appeared in World's Strictest Parents on Channel Seven – in which the teens were sent overseas for a week to learn discipline from strict parents – said the program helped turn their lives around. But the methods used have been questioned since the final episode, aired last week, revealed how the teens have fared since going home. Serial runaway Jono Denny, 16, was sent to South Africa to live with Portia Bethe and her family. After returning to

his home at Ballina on the North Coast he re-enrolled in high school and behaved himself for six weeks. Then he was arrested after a night of heavy drinking. He was released after being cautioned. Psychologist Michael Carr-Gregg said World's Strictest Parents, Brat Camp and Supernanny offered unrealistic solutions to behavioural problems. "I would prefer to see programs which are more instructive," he said. "Obviously, no one is going to send their teenager off to a different country for a week to teach them a few life lessons. It's just not practical or realistic." Mr Carr-Gregg said his research showed 80 per cent of parents lack confidence in their ability to raise their children. World's Strictest Parents drew more than 1 million viewers a week. He said most child psychologists would not recommend the strict discipline promoted on the show. "What I would like to see from these shows is a focus on authoritative parenting rather than authoritarian parenting," he said. "The problem is that authoritative parenting – which teaches parents about creating boundaries, negotiating skills and so on – does not make very exciting television. "Authoritarian parenting, with a focus on strict discipline and punishment, is more likely to create fireworks." A parenting guide author and chairwoman of Early Childhood Australia's publications committee, Pam Linke, said the programs provided a simplistic view of managing behavioural problems. "The families being filmed would have to be influenced by the fact that there is a camera on them. "It's not a realistic approach to solving behavioural problems with children. There is no instruction about how these parenting models would work in real life." For complete story, click here. (Webmaster Note: Abusive programs have regularly been featured and promoted by US television programs. Including the deadly SageWalk, an Aspen Education Group program that recently voluntarily relinquished their license to Oregon authorities after another death at the program, was used as a setting for "Brat Camp" on ABC. Dr. Phil McGraw has repeatedly placed children in Aspen Education Group programs as well as Provo Canyon School. Other talk show icons have placed children in the notoriously abusive and internationally criminalized WWASPS programs. Turn off your TV and think for yourself, please.)

Teenage girl left brain-damaged after receiving cervical cancer jab 05 Oct 2009 A teenage girl has been left brain-damaged after suffering epileptic seizures just days after being given the controversial cervical cancer jab. Stacey Jones, 18, suffered her first seizure in March when she was 17, days after she had the Cervarix injection. In the following weeks she had several more fits, causing such severe brain injury that she had to be admitted to a rehabilitation unit, where she is relearning simple tasks. For complete story, click here.

Six-year-old Suspended for Bringing Cub Scout Tool to School--October 13th, 2009-- Our authorities may not be able to track down Osama bin laden, but never fear, they're keeping us safe from budding little terrorists such as first grader Zachary Christie. Caught red-handed, the Newark, Delaware, six-year-old was suspended from his school and may face 45 days in reform school for violating the Christina School District's "zero tolerance" policy on weapons. His offense? Bringing a camping utensil set to school. The "weapon" in question is a "hobo tool" the first grader had received after recently joining the Cub Scouts; it contains a fork, spoon, and knife. Zachary was so excited about his new acquisition — as any normal boy would be — that he brought it to school to use during lunch period. School officials then suspended him, saying they have no choice because the district's code of conduct prohibits the possession of knives "regardless of the possessor's intent." Unfortunately, little Zachary's story is a common one today, with well-meaning students being subjected to disproportionate punishment across the nation in the name of zero tolerance. Writing about Zachary's case in the New York Times, Ian Urbina provides one of these other examples, that of a third-grade girl who "was expelled for a year because her grandmother had sent a birthday cake to school, along with a knife to cut it. The teacher called the principal — but not before using the knife to cut and serve the cake." For complete story, click here.

Roswell teacher charged in teen contact--October 14th, 2009--[Roswell, NM Youth ChalleNGe Academy] ROSWELL, N.M. (KRQE/KBIM) - A Roswell teacher accused of making sexual advances to a teen he was mentoring is out of jail but not back at work. James Ogas, 38, faced a judge for the first time Wednesday charged with two counts of criminal sexual contact of a minor. The charges are 3rd-degree felonies. Investigators say the alleged contact happened inside the automotive shop at Eastern New Mexico University- Roswell where Ogas is a part-time automotive-technician teacher. According to court documents, twice last month Ogas inappropriately touched the 17-year-old who was part of a program for troubled teens sponsored by the New Mexico National Guard. Investigators said along with the touching, Ogas frequently wrote the teen letters, which were described as sexually suggestive. For complete story, click here.

Troubled teens buckle under weight of jibes--October 20th, 2009--Teenagers who are told they are too thin or too fat by their parents - even if the comments are well-intentioned - suffer headaches, feel stress or get depressed more than those who are not, a study has found. For complete story, click here.

Teen's parents settle abuse case--October 26th, 2009--GONZALES — The parents of a Prairieville teenager who allege he suffered abuse and related temporary kidney failure at a Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge facility last year have reached a $95,000 out-of-court settlement with the state of Louisiana, the teen's attorney said. For complete story, click here.

Troubled teens on powerful drugs--October 28th, 2009--Has your teen's best friend just transformed from Taylor Swift to Rosie O'Donnell overnight? She might just have ADHD. A study published today in the Journal of the American Medical Association says second-generation anti-psychotics like Risperdal, Ablify, Zyprexa and Seroquel are being given to teens with common conditions like ADHD, leading to obesity in just 11 weeks. The side-effects common to these drugs may be worse in kids and teens than adults, the study concludes. For complete story, click here.

Group sues Idaho county over teen treatment center--BOISE, Idaho (AP) - A company that pushed to build a residential treatment center for troubled teens in rural western Idaho is suing Boise County in federal court, saying commissioners violated the Fair Housing Act when they scuttled the center's proposal amid staunch local opposition. Development firm Oaas-Laney sought approval in 2007 to build Alamar Ranch, a 72-bed facility that would have treated teens with behavioral problems or addictions. But neighbors fought to keep the ranch from being built, citing traffic, fire and safety concerns and even holding a fundraising event featuring a local folk singer, according to the lawsuit. Boise County eventually approved the project, but under conditions that Alamar Ranch officials said were arbitrary, discriminatory and made the project financially impossible. Boise County maintains the decision was based on legitimate government interests. For complete story, click here.

Superjail for youth raises troubling questions--November 9th, 2009--Troubled teens promised cutting-edge treatment at Ontario's new $93 million superjail for youth have instead been deprived of food, denied programming and subjected to questionable body cavity searches, according to a review by a senior provincial official. Irwin Elman, Ontario's advocate for children and youth, is investigating cases of excessive force used by some staff at Roy McMurtry Youth Centre in Brampton, which holds 102 male and female youths, 90 of whom are still awaiting trial. Police are looking into at least one of these incidents, he said. What's more, despite the centre's much-publicized commitment to "state-of-the-art" programming – a proven tool in preventing young people from becoming repeat offenders – it simply doesn't exist, he said. For complete story, click here.

DEATH ROW SERIAL MOLESTER CONNECTED TO CEDU--November 12th, 2009--California Department of Justice (DOJ) investigators are researching the possibility that serial child molester and child murderer, James Lee Crummel, 65 of San Quentin State Prison, had years of free, unsupervised access to the students at the now defunct CEDU School in Running Springs. The CEDU schools in Running Springs were founded by Mel Wasserman in 1967 and promoted itself as an emotional growth-boarding school for troubled youths. Monthly costs to board a student reportedly ran as high as $3,500 dollar a month. The school closed its doors in 2005 amidst allegations of financial improprieties, allegations of sexual and physical abuse of the students, by other students and staff members and citations issued by the State of California for various violations. At a non-compliance conference, CEDU officials reportedly admitted that the rights of students under their care were systematically violated. For complete story, click here.

American Youth in the 21st Century: Pathologized, Criminalized and Disposable--November 16th, 2009-- Punishment and fear have replaced compassion and social responsibility as the most important modalities mediating the relationship of youth to the larger social order. Youth within the last two decades have come to be seen as a source of trouble rather than as a resource for investing in the future, and in the case of poor black and Hispanic youth are increasingly treated as either a disposable population, cannon fodder for barbaric wars abroad, or the source of most of society's problems. Hence, young people now constitute a crisis that has less to do with improving the future than with denying it. As Larry Grossberg points out, "It has become common to think of kids as a threat to the existing social order and for kids to be blamed for the problems they experience. We slide from kids in trouble, kids have problems, and kids are threatened, to kids as trouble, kids as problems, and kids as threatening." This was exemplified when the columnist Bob Herbert reported in the New York Times that "parts of New York City are like a police state for young men, women, and children who happen to be black or Hispanic. They are routinely stopped, searched, harassed, intimidated, humiliated and, in many cases, arrested for no good reason." No longer "viewed as a privileged sign and embodiment of the future," youth are now increasingly demonized by the popular media and derided by politicians looking for quick-fix solutions to crime and other social ills. While youth have always had to bear the misplaced fear and distrust of adults, how youth are represented, talked about, and treated has changed dramatically in the last two decades. For complete story, click here.

Court upholds ruling against home for troubled teens--November 21st, 2009--YOUNGSTOWN — The 7th District Court of Appeals has upheld a township zoning appeals board ruling that a group home for emotionally and behaviorally troubled teenage boys doesn't belong in a single-family residential neighborhood. A three-judge panel of the appeals court unanimously ruled Friday in support of the Ellsworth Township board's decision that the Redemption House group home, 11780 W. Western Reserve Road, does not constitute a single- family housekeeping unit as defined in the township zoning code. In making its ruling, the appeals court backed an August

2008 ruling by Judge Timothy E. Franken of Mahoning County Common Pleas Court that affirmed the December 2006 ruling of the Ellsworth Township board. “This is not the proper location for them to do this type of activity,” said Atty. Scott Cochran, who represented neighbors opposed to the group home’s location. “There was nothing to indicate to us that this was, in any way, a family environment,” he added. For complete story, click here.

Lawsuits raise more questions about troubled youth program in Hastings--November 25th, 2009--Lawsuits against Hastings Youth Academy, a 165-bed facility for troubled teens in St. Johns County, accuse staff members of repeatedly using excessive force and conspiring to cover it up. G4S Youth Services, which contracts with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice to run the boys program, is accused in one of the suits of negligence on behalf of a teen whose shoulder was shattered by an employee in February 2008. That suit, filed this month, claims G4S and the department ignored past problems and didn't properly protect Anthony Vessels, 16. The boy's attorney said surveillance video shows the employee throwing the youth to the ground, then sitting on him as he writhed in pain. Vessels, now 18, lives in Orlando and is pursuing his GED, his attorney said, but continues to suffer physically and psychologically from the injury. For complete story, click here.

Truancy Officer Preyed on Girls--November 27th, 2009--A Hamilton truancy officer convicted of sexually abusing four female students used a school pilot scheme to identify and groom troubled teens, a court has been told. Mark Pene, 54, was sentenced yesterday in the Hamilton District Court to six years and three months' jail after pleading guilty to indecent assault, having sexual connection with a girl under 16, doing an indecent act with a girl under 16 and doing an indecent act on a girl under 12. The charges related to offending against four girls, aged 11 to 17, between 2005 and 2008. At the time, Pene was employed as a truancy officer in Hamilton, working with troubled teenagers and their families. Pene gained access to two of his victims by inviting them to take part in a school pilot scheme. The programme included such benefits as free lunches, payment of school fees and money for clothing. Pene yesterday sat impassively in the dock as details of his offending were revealed, moving only to shield his face from a Waikato Times photographer. For complete story, click here.

Kin sue Harvard over son’s suicide--December 4th, 2009--Harvard sophomore John Edwards was studying to become a doctor and training for the Boston Marathon in June 2007 when he sought help at the university’s Health Services because he could not study for as many hours as some of his friends. A nurse practitioner prescribed a drug to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, a condition the overachieving Edwards had never been diagnosed with. Later, she prescribed two powerful antidepressants, Prozac and Wellbutrin, when he began complaining of anxiety, depression, and other side effects. Meanwhile, he was taking a fourth drug for acne, Accutane, that has been linked to suicidal thoughts. “The Wellbutrin is having the effect that we were seeking . . . but unfortunately I feel like it has canceled out the anxiety-reducing effects of the fluoxetine [Prozac], as recently I’ve been pretty nervous,’’ Edwards wrote in a Nov. 27, 2007, e-mail to the nurse practitioner, Marianne Cannon. “Let me know if I should schedule to come in and meet with you soon, or if I should change the med plan.’’ Cannon replied that she was concerned and told Edwards to schedule an appointment with her. Two days later, Edwards, 19, of Wellesley committed suicide in a bathroom at Harvard Medical School by suffocating himself with a plastic bag. His father, John B. Edwards II of Wellesley, filed a suit Wednesday in Middlesex Superior Court alleging gross negligence by Cannon; Dr. Georgia Ede, who was the doctor who supervised her; and Harvard College, for causing his son’s wrongful death. For complete story, click here.

14-Year-Old Accuses Officer Of Assault--December 9th, 2009--MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- A school resource officer in Rutherford County who helps keep at-risk youth on the right track is accused of assaulting one of the troubled teens. For complete story, click here. For more on this story, click here.

Governor Pat Quinn Refusing to Shine Light on Juvenile Prisons--December 10th, 2009--Illinois Governor Pat Quinn is not allowing WBEZ to examine the state's juvenile prisons. For four months WBEZ has been trying to negotiate some access to the prisons. Last week, Quinn's staff told us there would be none. We said we would report that denial. Later that day, we were offered a single tour of one of the better facilities, an offer WBEZ accepted, but an offer which would not allow the public meaningful insight into the hundred million dollar department that has care of some of the most troubled and troubling kids in Illinois. Bob Reed is the governor's spokesman. He says they're working on their own review of the facilities. For complete story, click here.

Saving Troubled Teens: A Greedy Industry?--December 10th, 2009--..."If you're going to do it right, it's going to be costly," said Behar. The biggest expense for these programs is staffing well-trained, qualified people who can make good decisions in an emergency situation. In Behar's 32 years of experience overseeing state-run facilities, she knows it's very difficult to turn a profit. Yet many of these private facilities are making money, hand over fist. "In order to make a profit, they have to cut in some way, and since manpower is the biggest expense, that's where the cuts come," Behar said. The companies are saving money by hiring younger, less experienced people and are providing less expert supervision. Critics argue this cost-cutting measure puts the children at risk. Dana Blum believes the staff's negligence is to blame for her son's death. "They killed my child when they didn't attend to him. I feel like he was murdered." The Salt Lake City District Attorney took Aspen to court. But ruling there was no "intent" to kill Brendan, a Utah judge dropped the criminal charges filed against the two employees. The state put Youth Care on probation, requiring it to retool its employee training. The facility never faced any fines, and remained open for business. Devastated and distraught, Dana began looking online into Aspen's public financial statements. She learned that the Cupertino-based company is actually owned by a health care corporate giant, CRC Health. And Bain Capital, a multibillion dollar private equity firm, owns CRC. Dana has filed a civil suit against the financial goliath, which could settle out of court. Critics believe this is why so few stories of abuse, neglect, and death at these facilities are made public. Aspen has enough money in its war chest to make these allegations go away. "If you look at their daily profit numbers compared to what they charge, it's obscene," Dana said. "It made me very angry that they couldn't provide better emergency services for my son."... For complete story, click here.

Poor Children Likelier to Get Antipsychotics--December 12th, 2009--New federally financed drug research reveals a stark disparity: children covered by Medicaid are given powerful antipsychotic medicines at a rate four times higher than children whose parents have private insurance. And the Medicaid children are more likely to receive the drugs for less severe conditions than their middle-class counterparts, the data shows. For complete story, click here.

ACLU says youth tortured at state prison--December 17th, 2009--A 17-year-old boy suffering from mental illnesses was so traumatized by his deplorable treatment in the Montana State Prison that he twice attempted to kill himself by biting through the skin on his wrist to puncture a vein, a lawsuit filed Wednesday by the American Civil Liberties Union of Montana alleges. The lawsuit filed in Lewis and Clark County District Court claims that the boy, “Robert Doe,” has been treated illegally and inhumanely and has been detained for about 10 months in solitary confinement. Doe was Tasered as part of a “behavior modification plan,” pepper-sprayed and stripped naked in view of other inmates, the complaint states. For complete story, click here.

Md. official would like to 'blow up' girls' detention center--December 28th, 2009--LAUREL — - As you approach Thomas J.S. Waxter Children's Center, a sign cautions that you are under camera surveillance. Notices warn against bringing in contraband - glass bottles, cigarettes, weapons. A metal detector sits in the front hall. You pass through a locked metal door to reach the residential wings. Down the hallway, the staff supervision room is separated from the children by a thick metal cage. On a Wednesday in September, a girl stands shackled in the hall, the cuffs around her hands and ankles connected by a metal chain. This is Waxter, the only long-term, secure treatment facility for female juvenile offenders run by the state. "Nothing's worse than Waxter, dead serious, nothing's worse," said Britney McCoy, 19, who has been in and out of Waxter and other facilities since she was 12. She was most recently in Waxter in 2008. McCoy is not Waxter's only critic. The Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit of the attorney general's office has noted a litany of problems at Waxter, including: allegations by girls that they are physically abused by staff members; mingling of girls convicted of serious crimes with girls held for minor offenses; inadequate physical facilities; and overcrowding and understaffing, which lead to violence. "No one should have to live there. No one should have to work there," said Claudia Wright, who monitors the facility for the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit. For complete story, click here.

Treatment of Youths in New York Prisons Spurs Suit--December 30th, 2009--Youths detained in some of New York’s juvenile prisons have suffered bruises, cuts and a host of other injuries from aggressive physical restraining practices that violate their legal and constitutional rights, according to a federal lawsuit filed on Wednesday. The class-action suit, filed in federal court in Manhattan on behalf of roughly 500 youths in 10 of the prisons, also accuses the Office of Children and Family Services, the state agency that runs the facilities, of failing to provide adequate mental health services The legal claim follows two withering reports from the United States Department of Justice and a state task force that portrayed the state’s juvenile justice system as so riddled with problems that it needed a complete overhaul. The suit seeks an injunction that would sharply limit the use of force by youth counselors and require the state to provide the youths with more treatment for mental health problems, which affect a vast majority of those in custody. For complete story, click here.

Former Whittell dean indicted in Georgia--December 6th, 2009 (Rec'd January 2nd, 2010)--A grand jury in Georgia has indicted a former Whittell High School administrator on felony charges of aggravated battery, invasion of privacy, and four counts of first degree cruelty to children. Richard Darrington, 37, was hired as Whittell's dean of students at the beginning of the school year, but lost the position when the Nevada Department of Education revoked his substitute teaching license after learning of outstanding battery charges facing him in Georgia. The charges stem from Darrington's time in the southern state, where he operated a private school for teens called Darrington Academy for five years. The bill of indictment, which lists 23 grand jurors of the Superior Court of Fannin County, alleges that Darrington “did maliciously cause bodily harm” to one of his students “by seriously disfiguring his tooth,” resulting in the aggravated battery charge. The invasion of privacy charge alleges that Darrington placed a recording device in a girls' room and observed and recorded their activities without consent. The four counts of cruelty to children allege

that Darrington forced students to stand outside in freezing weather with no shirts, shoes or socks on two separate occasions, that he slammed a girl's head into a wall, and that he stood on a boy's ankles while in a "tripod" position and also slammed his head into a wall. In addition to Darrington, three other teachers at the school were included in the indictment; one for invasion of privacy and six counts of cruelty to children, and the other two for two counts each of cruelty to children. (For complete story, click here.)

NY Accused of Abusing Troubled Teens--January 6th, 2010--(CN) - The New York State Office of Children and Family Services subjected 500 troubled youths in state detention to violent physical restraint, and routinely denied them legally required mental health care services, nine children and their parents claim in a federal class action. Among other wanton acts, state employees regularly employ a dangerous form of control known as prone restraint - having two adults hold the youth face-down on the floor while his hands are held or cuffed behind him. Prone restraint exposes the victim to risk of cardiac and respiratory arrest, back, arm and neck injuries, abrasions, strained muscles and head injuries, according to the complaint. Such treatment led to the 2006 death of a Bronx teen at the Tryon Boys' Residential Center in Johnston, and serious mental and physical injuries to scores of others, the complaint states. The families claim that OCFS Commissioner Gladys Carrion allowed the behavior to continue despite red flags raised by the U.S. Justice Department and a blue-ribbon panel appointed by Gov. David Patterson. The nine named plaintiffs, all of whom are identified by only their initials, said their treatment violated the 14th Amendment, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. For complete story, click here.

Schools face accreditation issues--January 5th, 2010--...Smith said the school is applying for accreditation from another body, the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools. And if that body accredits the school, it will satisfy the state's accreditation requirement. Several other private schools also face advised or warned status. Utah Helicopter Inc., a postsecondary school in Spanish Fork, is being recommended for advised status; Cross Creek Academy, a private residential school in La Verkin for troubled teens, for advised status; Top Flight Academy, also a private residential school in Mt. Pleasant, for warned status; private school Dorius Academy in Layton for warned status. Attempts to reach Utah Helicopter, Dorius and Top Flight Academy this week for comment were unsuccessful. Karr Farnsworth, administrator at Cross Creek, said he was unaware of the school's recommended advised status and said he doesn't know how it got that status. For complete story, click here. For more information on Utah, click here.

U.S. says sex abuse high at 13 juvenile centers--January 7th, 2010--WASHINGTON (AP) — A government study issued Thursday finds 13 juvenile detention facilities around the country have high rates of sex abuse and victimization, where nearly 1 out of every 3 inmates reported some type of victimization. A Justice Department study has found that nationwide, about 12% of youths held in state-run, privately-run, or local facilities reported some type of sexual victimization — but those rates varied widely from place to place. For complete story, click here.

Four Years Later: Martin Lee Anderson Boot Camp Death--January 6th, 2010--By now, the story of Martin Lee Anderson's death has been well-documented. During his first day at the Bay County Juvenile Boot Camp, Anderson collapsed during a fitness run. Boot camp drill instructors thought he was faking to get out of the exercise, so they pushed Anderson to complete the run. The camp's cameras recorded an agonizing twenty-minute confrontation, which thrust the case into the worldwide spotlight. Once the guards realized Anderson was truly in distress, they called for help. But, it was too late. The teen died early the next morning, January 6, 2006, in a Pensacola hospital. The Medical Examiner's initial autopsy found Anderson died as a result of complications from sickle cell trait. Those results, and the results of a second autopsy conducted several months later, became the central evidence in the criminal trial of seven of the drill instructors and the camp nurse. A year and a half after Anderson's death, they were all acquitted of aggravated manslaughter charges. Since the trial, Anderson family supporters, including the local NAACP chapter, have continued to push for federal civil rights violation charges against the defendants. Bay County NAACP president Rev. Rufus Wood said, "I want it to be clear that this is not as much about black and white as it is about right and wrong. This is about right and wrong, and it's about wrong. What happened to Martin was wrong." For complete story, click here. For more on this story, click here.

Landmark Federal Class-Action Lawsuit Charges Los Angeles County With Failure To Educate Youth In Probation Camps--January 12th, 2010-- LOS ANGELES – An alliance of legal groups including the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of Southern California today filed a ground-breaking class-action lawsuit against the Los Angeles County Probation Department and top county education officials for their total failure to provide youth in the county's largest juvenile probation facility with basic and appropriate education. The failure has resulted in children not being adequately prepared to re-enter society and the workforce. For complete story, click here.

School For Troubled Teens Faces Closure--January 18th, 2010--Clarksville's Genesis Learning Center May Close Due To Funding Shortage... For complete story, click here.

Trial Under Way For Childcare Workers In Teen's Death--January 25th, 2010--PARMA, Ohio -- The trial for three former childcare workers accused of causing the death of a teenager is getting under way Monday. The three women worked at Parmadale, a local treatment center for troubled teens in Parma. Prosecutors said they caused the death of 17-year-old Faith Finley, who suffocated while being restrained on the floor at the facility. For complete story, click here.

Troubled Teen Hospital Closing--January 26th, 2010--Tuesday, Newschannel 9 confirmed that Cumberland Hall is shutting it doors at the end of this month. For complete story, click here.

Home for troubled teens slated to close--February 2nd, 2010--BENNINGTON – A local long-term residential educational facility for at-risk youth, 204 Depot Street, will be closing this week and leaving 10 people without jobs, according to William Bryan, president of the Board of Directors of SEALL Inc. "The decision was made to cease making referrals. Statewide (the Department of Children and Families,) told us, they have to cut between 12 and 18 beds. We were only filling roughly 10 of those beds so that their other programs will have to feel our pain as well," Bryan said. 204 Depot Street, which will close on Feb. 6, serves older adolescent boys, between the ages of 15 and 17, through a residential educational program that lasts at least a year. It is run by SEALL Inc., a local nonprofit organization with a board of eight people. For complete story, click here.

Lake investigates sex abuse allegations at children's ranch--February 4th, 2010--Lake County officials are investigating a complaint that a juvenile living at the Green Isle Children's Ranch abused another as many as five other kids living at the facility, the Lake County Sheriff's Office said. For complete story, click here.

Foster father charged--Man allegedly offered money to teens in exchange for sex--February 5th, 2010--Sex charges have been laid against a former Foster Family of the Year award winner who has cared for up to 55 children over the past two decades. In June 2009, police received information that Garry Prokopishin, a director for the Calgary and District Foster Parents Association, was allegedly offering troubled teens in his care money for sexual acts. This has prompted an immediate review by Alberta Children and Youth Services. For complete story, click here.

Sex Abuse Allegations At Home For Troubled Teens--February 6th, 2010--CLERMONT -- A children's home for at-risk teens released a statement Friday to News 13 about allegations that a boy sexually abused five others. The alleged victims came forward back in November and told Executive Director Steve Zepp at Green Isle Children's Ranch. In a statement, the children's ranch said, "The resident accused in the incident was removed from the program at Green Isle Ranch during the summer for reasons not associated with the allegations, and the executive director was replaced in mid-December." For complete story, click here.

Downriver minister charged in child sex case--February 9th, 2010--River Rouge --A minister who police say has a reputation for reaching out to troubled teens was charged Monday with six counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct for allegedly having sex with an under-aged boy. The Rev. Russell Schaller, 35, of River Rouge, senior pastor at Greater St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church on Detroit's east side, was arraigned in 26th District Court and ordered held in the Wayne County Jail in lieu of $100,000 bond. For complete story, click here.

For Detained Youths, No Mental Health Overseer--February 10th, 2010--Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson has been the administrative judge of the New York City Family Courts for nine months, in charge of the judges responsible for the detention of dozens of young people charged with crimes, the vast majority of whom suffer from some form of mental illness. But it was not until last September that she was informed of what struck her as a startling fact: The State of New York does not have a single full-time staff psychiatrist charged with overseeing treatment of the 800 or so young people who are detained in state facilities at any given time. "There wasn't one human being on-site overseeing all the mental health needs of the population," Judge Richardson-Mendelson said in an interview. "When we place these children in these facilities, we expect their needs to be met, especially their mental health needs." Yet all 17 psychiatrists at the detention facilities in the state's deeply troubled juvenile justice system work on contract and part time. Weeks often pass between their visits with each troubled youth, and officials say their turnover rate is extremely high. For complete story, click here.

6-Year-Old Student Handcuffed, Committed by School--A little girl was sent to an adult mental institution for being unruly--February 11th, 2010--The same school district that allowed an autistic boy to be voted out of kindergarten class for being a bit unruly has a far worse penalty for 6-year-old little girls. Handcuffs and straight jackets. A Parkway Elementary School student was cuffed and sent to an adult mental institution earlier this month after she through a temper tantrum in the middle of

class, reports TCPalm.com. The little girl was handcuffed by a Sheriff's Office deputy "for her safety and the safety of others," a police report said. The incident report said the girl was hitting school officials and screaming, although it's unclear what brought on the tantrum. The handcuffs worked because the little girl calmed down after an hour in the tight silver bracelets, but her troubles were just beginning. A few days later, the girl had another fit, allegedly hitting the school's principal in the stomach. The principal, who was eight months pregnant, called the same deputy, who then tossed the little girl in the back of his patrol car and transported her to the local adult mental institution. For complete story, click here.

Editorial: Where's the justice?--February 15th, 2010--Another day, another $10 million legal settlement for high-powered plaintiffs' attorney Thomas R. Kline. Kline has won a number of eight-figure awards for clients injured or killed due to negligence or incompetence by businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit health-care providers. The latest settlement ends a lawsuit brought on behalf of Omega Leach, a 17-year-old boy who died while in the care of the city's Department of Human Services. The settlement provides Leach's family with a financial reward, but no justice. The Inquirer broke the story. Leach was one of dozens of troubled teens DHS sent to a private mental health facility in Tennessee owned by Universal Health Services Inc., a hospital chain based in King of Prussia. A family court judge sent Leach there after he violated probation by missing a court hearing and testing positive for marijuana. At the facility, Leach got into a scuffle with a worker. A surveillance camera showed the worker strangling Leach. Witnesses said the boy was slammed to the ground and banged into a wall. Leach died the next day. Tennessee authorities ruled his death a homicide. Yet, no criminal charges have been filed. Instead, DHS stopped sending kids there. The facility changed names, and the worker left. An attorney for Universal Health Services says "no one admits fault." A fat check has been written in place of the dead boy. Accountability still awaits. For complete story, click here. (Universal Health Services also owns notoriously abusive Provo Canyon School and many CEDU-cult programs.)

Teen raises funds to support prison visits--February 18th, 2010-- St. Joseph High School senior Ciara Main and her classmates sell bowls of rice at lunchtime as a fundraiser for the program “Get on the Bus.” The program unites inmates at the California Mens Colony and their families on Father’s Day. //Len Wood/Staff Each year, thousands of children visit parents incarcerated in the California penal system. Ciara Main, a senior at St. Joseph High School, can sympathize with them, and on Wednesday she helped organize a “Get on the Bus” fundraiser to make those visits a little more comfortable. Main and her fellow club members sold bowls of rice at the school – in an Ash Wednesday “Rice Bowl Day of Fasting” – to help raise money and awareness for their cause. The students are putting together “Stay In Touch Bags” for the children who participate in the program. The bags include note cards, pens and stamps, which allow them to write letters to their parents, along with a disposable camera and a photo frame. Each child also receives a teddy bear for the journey home. Children from Santa Rosa to San Diego participate in the program, which covers seven prisons throughout the state, including California Men’s Colony outside San Luis Obispo. When she was very young, Main visited her father, who was in jail at the time. That experience inspired her to become president of the school’s Get on the Bus Club, a small portion of a statewide effort to unite families. For complete story, click here.

Bridgeport 'inspirational speaker' charged with masterminding area robberies--February 22nd, 2010-- A Bridgeport man who billed himself as an "inspiration speaker" to inner-city youths was arrested by Greenwich police Monday and charged as the mastermind behind string of robberies throughout the region. Gregory Jetter, 48, of 182 Wheeler Ave., Bridgeport, was taken into custody at a federal courthouse in New Haven where he was appearing on an unrelated violation of probation charge. He was charged with first-degree robbery, first-degree conspiracy at robbery and first-degree larceny, police said. Jetter's arrest comes after several months of a multijurisdictional armed-robbery investigation into incidents in Fairfield and New Haven counties, police said. Greenwich police were the first to identify Jetter as being involved in the string of robberies, when they said he was the getaway driver in a July 2009 robbery of Estate Treasures in Riverside. During the incident, Lakeem Jetter,19, and Moses McCree, 20, were charged with stealing more than $250,000 worth of jewelry at gunpoint. Although initial reports indicated that McCree was the mastermind to the robberies, Detective Pasquale Iorfino said further investigation revealed Gregory Jetter, a convicted felon with an extensive arrest history, was the brain behind the operation. Jetter used "being an inspiration speaker for inner-city children to draw in troubled teens," said Iorfino. Iorfino said once teens and young men became part of his group, called the McCree Foundation Inc., he led them down a dangerous path. For complete story, click here. For more on this story, click here.

Ohio youth prisons ordered to ensure inmates fed--February 26th, 2010--COLUMBUS, Ohio — A federal judge has ordered Ohio youth detention facilities to alter a practice of withholding food from inmates who don't report for meals in the cafeteria. U.S. District Judge Algenon Marbley says in the order filed Friday in Columbus that a meal refusal policy used at the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility and others did not put a priority on inmates' health and safety. For complete story, click here.

Group homes for troubled teens closing after 18 years--February 26th, 2010--St. Paul, Minn. — Hearthstone of Minnesota, a Twin Cities nonprofit that ran small group homes for deeply troubled teens, closed its doors Friday. For complete story, click here.

Disciplinary policy brings incarceration--March 14th, 2010--One of the most alarming trends affecting our children today is what has become known as the “school to prison pipeline,” a term used to describe an all too common reality for poor-performing students. First they are academically unsuccessful, then their misbehavior results in school disciplinary action, then their misbehavior puts them into the juvenile justice system, then they leave school prematurely and eventually end up as incarcerated adults.For complete story, click here.

Psychiatrist gets warning from FDA--March 16th, 2010--A South Florida psychiatrist who was treating a 7-year-old foster child before the boy committed suicide last year has received a warning from federal drug regulators who say he failed ``to protect the rights, safety and welfare" of children enrolled in clinical drug trials. In a strongly worded letter dated Feb. 4, regulators at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Dr. Sohail Punjwani over-medicated children who were enrolled in clinical trials for undisclosed drugs. One girl, the letter said, slashed her wrists while hallucinating. Another, a 13-year-old, ``experienced sedation and dizziness during the study," the letter said. The warning letter, a harsh and rare form of discipline by the agency, says Punjwani failed to ``adhere to the applicable statutory requirements and FDA regulations governing the conduct of clinical investigations." For complete story, click here.

People power blocks controversial children's home--March 17th, 2010--RELIEVED neighbours were today celebrating "people power" after plans to build a controversial children's home were dramatically thrown out. Delighted cheers raised the roof of Blackpool Town Hall as around 100 protesters, who battled against the home for troubled teens being built on Preston New Road, Marton, rejoiced at the sensational council U-turn. For complete story, click here.

"Head Case: Can Psychiatry Be a Science?"--March 1st, 2010--For complete story, click here.

Offenders referred to Pa. school--March 21st, 2010--Deep in rural Pennsylvania, some 300 miles from Providence, The Glen Mills Schools appears to offer much to troubled teenaged boys. The school’s glossy brochure depicts a lush, green campus with neat athletic fields, a football stadium and an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Vocational programs range from auto body repair and landscaping to dentistry and golf course management. Glen Mills has so impressed Chief Family Court Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah Jr. that he recently referred a dozen delinquent boys there. But state child welfare officials say no matter how good the school may be, troubled teens generally do better when they stay close to their families and communities. More than a decade ago, officials at the state Department of Children, Youth and Families concluded that juveniles with behavioral or emotional problems could be helped more cheaply, and with better results, closer to home. For complete story, click here.

Goodman woman pleads guilty in teen center sex-abuse case--March 22nd, 2010--A former night supervisor at a residential center for troubled teens has pleaded guilty to one of five sex-abuse charges she was facing with respect to three boys in the program. Jana E. Carter, 46, of Goodman, changed her plea to guilty in Jasper County Circuit Court on a single count of second-degree statutory sodomy. She has been facing three counts of second-degree statutory sodomy and two counts of second-degree statutory rape concerning alleged acts with boys who were staying at the Scott Greening Dependency Center at 818 W. Fourth St. in Joplin, when she worked there in 2008. For complete story, click here.

We thought we were helping troubled teens--March 26th, 2010--When I tell people that I am a lawyer working on juvenile delinquency cases, they usually commend me for choosing a socially useful career. But ever since the release of reports detailing the horrid treatment of teenagers at four New York juvenile detention facilities, I have been wary of talking about my job. For 20 years I have worked in New York Family Court, doing legal research for judges who hear juvenile delinquency cases. I take pride in helping judges conduct fair proceedings, which hopefully encourage youths to respect the justice system. When sentencing a teenager who has broken the law, one of the goals is to provide them with the services they need to change their behavior and better their prospects. This is difficult, as many of the teens have mental illnesses, and come from impoverished, broken homes, where they have been exposed to drugs and violence. Most juveniles convicted in Family Court receive services while living in their home communities, while others are sent away to detention centers for a year or more. Before a youth is sentenced, social workers and psychologists produce extensive reports aimed at formulating a service plan. Court hearings are held to determine the best course of action. I assumed that the people working in our juvenile facilities were as committed as we were in Family Court to giving detainees a chance at redemption. But recent federal and state investigations have revealed a far different story. Instead of the well-intentioned treatment I thought they were getting, juveniles in detention facilities repeatedly face physical abuse, which has

resulted in concussions, broken bones and lost teeth. Staff members regularly handcuff detainees behind their backs, and force them to lie face down on the floor, for infractions such as sneaking an extra cookie or slamming a door. And teens suffering from bi-polar disorder, posttraumatic stress syndrome and drug addiction receive infrequent or no treatment. For complete story, click here.

Ala. commune head has new project despite past--April 9th, 2010-- EMELLE, Ala. — Pentecostal preacher Luke Edwards is the shepherd of a forlorn flock: For years his disciples have traveled the nation begging amid allegations of abuse and ruinous mismanagement. Five youngsters have died in fires at his west Alabama commune, the Holyland, where parents and youngsters are separated for weeks at a time. The state has described the education provided at the commune's church-based school as substandard; Edwards' one-time followers tell of beatings and sexual misconduct by male elders. Edwards, 84, has outlasted all the criticism and troubles, and an Associated Press review found he is involved in a new multimillion-dollar plan that could bring even more young people into his fold — a prospect that worries one-time followers now living on their own. Edwards preaches self-sufficiency, yet former members say his disciples bring in thousands of dollars daily panhandling outside stores in the name of abused children. Those under his care get free rent yet little of the money. If they leave, they depart virtually penniless. Now he is part of a project to build a residential school for troubled high-schoolers on hundreds of acres of cow pasture and forest in Sumter County just east of the Mississippi line. The goal is to bring prison-bound youth from churches and cities all over the nation to Edwards' corner of west Alabama. Edwards is among the founders of Greentown-USA, envisioned as a sprawling complex that is supposed to open in 2012. Plans include a private school with dormitories, a gym, an Olympic-size swimming pool, a recording studio, laboratories and a chapel for worship. For complete story, click here.

Feds: No civil right charges in teen's boot camp death--April 16th, 2010--More than four years after the death of 14-year-old Florida boot camp inmate Martin Lee Anderson, the U.S. Department of Justice has announced no federal criminal civil rights charges will be filed against eight staff members. The announcement effectively closes the case. "After a careful and thorough review, a team of experienced federal prosecutors and FBI agents determined that the evidence was insufficient to pursue federal criminal civil rights charges. Accordingly, the investigation into this incident has been closed," the Justice Department said in a news release. In 2007, a Florida jury found seven guards and a nurse not guilty of manslaughter and related charges in Anderson's death. Anderson was African-American, and the guards were white and African-American. (Webmaster Note: This is outrageous. Martin Lee Anderson was beaten and kicked mercilessly and died as a result. That is HEAL's opinion. For more on this story, click here, here, and here.

Florida to Punish Kids for Crimes They Haven't Committed Yet--April 21, 2010--I knew it was easy to get locked up in Florida. Apparently, you can get punished in the state before committing a crime, too. An extremely troubling new partnership between the Florida Department of Corrections and IBM wants to use software to predict which juveniles will commit crimes in the future, so "the best course of treatment" can be chosen. Hey, why wait for juveniles to commit crimes, if we can start their "rehabilitation" now? The Florida DOC says that by using predictive analytics software, it can "analyze key predictors such as past offense history, home life environment, gang affiliation and peer associations to better understand and predict which youths have a higher likelihood to reoffend." What about talking to the kids to determine the best course of action? People are unpredictable and complex; they aren't data points. Juveniles should be taught that the world is open to them, and that they are the agents of their own destiny — not that they fit into the bottom half of a spreadsheet, and therefore need extra mandatory counseling or placement in a group home. For complete story, click here.

Investigators: Starved to Death in State Care--April 30, 2010--(WXYZ) - For several months, the Action News Investigators dug deep into Michigan's tragically-flawed foster care system. During our investigation, we uncovered the heartbreaking story of a 10-year-old boy who starved to death while a facility banked cash to care for him. We began telling Johnny's story over the last two days here on WXYZ.com. In that time, the response has been overwhelming and your comments confirm that Michigan's children need a better foster care system. Johnny's mother, Elena Andron, dedicated her life to caring for her wheelchair-bound son. All she wanted was a little help. The state's answer was to put him in a foster care facility. One year later, Johnny starved to death. For complete story, click here.

"The age of American children being medicated with prescription psychiatric drugs is getting younger and more widespread every year."--May 3, 2010--The age of children being medicated with prescription psychiatric drugs is getting younger and more widespread every year. According to a 2010 study of data on more than a million children reported by American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's journal, the use of powerful anti-psychotics with privately insured U.S. children, ages 2 through 5, doubled between 1999 and 2007. In the 2007 study, the most common diagnoses of anti-psychotic treated children were pervasive developmental disorder or mental retardation (28.2 percent), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (23.7 percent) and disruptive behavior disorder (12.9 percent). Fewer than half of drug-treated children received a mental health assessment, a psychotherapy visit, or a visit with a psychiatrist, during the year of anti-psychotic drug use. "Anti-psychotics, which are being widely and irresponsibly prescribed for American children -- mostly as chemical restraints -- are shown to be causing irreparable harm." Vera Hassner Sharav, president of the Alliance for Human Research Protection, warns. She further asserts that long-term use of these drugs can have hazardous effects on cardiovascular and metabolic systems. For complete story, click here.

Scathing Report Details Abuse At Juvenile Prison--May 17th, 2010--INDIANAPOLIS -- Federal authorities are calling on Indiana to address abuses within its juvenile correction facilities after reports of young inmates sexually assaulted by guards and living in filth. A Jan. 29 letter and report from U.S. Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez to Gov. Mitch Daniels details troubles within the former Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility, including a mentally ill inmate left dirty and pulling out her hair and male guards having sex with and performing strip searches on young female inmates, 6News' Joanna Massee reported. "The sexualized environment at the facility appears rampant," the letter read. The letter follows a civil rights investigation launched by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2008 that documented inadequate abuse investigations, excessive use of force and isolation, inadequate mental health care and inadequate special education services. For complete story, click here.

Dallas jail instructor gets 10 years for molesting youths in custody--May 27th, 2010--An instructor who taught juveniles at the Dallas County jail was sentenced this morning to 10 years in prison for molesting youths in his classes. The sentence was handed down by State District Judge Gracie Lewis shortly after a jury found Luis Enrique Santos guilty of two counts of sexual assault of a child. The judge sentenced de los Santos to 10 years on each count, with the sentences to run concurrently. De Los Santos, who testified in his own defense, claimed he was innocent and that his accusers were liars. When the guilty verdicts were read, he shook his head. Jurors returned to the court after finishing their deliberations so they could watch the judge sentence de los Santos. The jurors declined to comment afterward. During closing arguments Wednesday, prosecutor James Bagnall showed jurors a Kit Kat bar, a 20-ounce Coca-Cola and a McDonald's bag. He said the items were representative of the gifts de los Santos used to lure incarcerated boys into sex. The prosecutor said de los Santos developed "a sexual molester relationship" with the youths, who were 14 to 16. Calvin Johnson, de los Santos' attorney, said in his closing argument that the youths accusing his client were "not regular kids" and could not be trusted. The youths were in jail after being ordered to stand trial as adults for crimes including aggravated assault of a police officer and capital murder. Testifying in his own defense Wednesday, de los Santos said of his accusers, "They lied about everything." He was accused of performing oral sex on at least two boys in a jail bathroom near the classroom in 2008. Prosecutors said de los Santos, an instructor who worked for the Dallas Independent School District, wrote sexually explicit notes to students and promised them marijuana and pornographic photos. De los Santos testified that he used bad judgment in writing the notes. In bringing them candy and other foods from the outside world, he said, he was trying to reward the students. Two youths testified that de los Santos threatened to influence their criminal cases to make their punishments worse if they did not cooperate with his advances. For complete story, click here.

New Charges Pending For Boot Camp Dragging Case--May 28th, 2010--CORPUS CHRISTI - Nueces County district attorney plans to re-file charges against two boot camp instructors accused of dragging a teen back in 2007. Charles Flowers and Stephanie Bassitt are accused of tying a 15-year old girl to the back of a van and dragging her down a road in Banquete. Officials say these are pictures the girl's injuries. Back in 2008 felony charges were dismissed after a mistrial was declared because the jury could not agree on verdict. Prosecutors say Flowers and Bassitt will be charged with misdemeanor assault. If convicted they face up to a year in the county jail and/or a $4,000 fine. We're told teenager is expected to testify in the new trial. For complete story, click here. For more on this story, click here.

Federal panel hears of sexual abuse TN juvenile detention facility--June 4th, 2010--WASHINGTON — Tennessee officials who were "flabbergasted" at the level of sexual abuse reported at Woodland Hills Youth Development Center told a federal panel Friday the steps they've taken to reduce staff misconduct. But Steven Hornsby, deputy commissioner of the Department of Children's Services, also questioned the survey results that found one in four youths at Woodland reported sexual abuse by staffers, which ranked the facility among the worst in the country. Hornsby, a former trial lawyer and judge, said Woodland Hills routinely gets top grades from outside auditors. He questioned the lack of corroboration for children anonymously reporting abuse when counselors, teachers and guards hadn't reported anything. "I don't want to sound defensive," he told the Justice Department's Review Panel on Prison Rape, which held a hearing on the survey results. "There were no students -- zero reports -- of student sexual victimization during the time period that information was requested" during the survey. The January results of the National Survey of Youth in Custody surprised Hornsby because a national accreditation panel gave Woodland Hills a nearly perfect score -- penalizing only the ventilation system and the size of cells -- and

state-level investigators found no widespread abuse. Another accreditation review is scheduled in August. "We were shocked," Hornsby said. "I think my word was just flabbergasted." For complete story, click here.

Federal Panel Questions Sex Abuse At Juvenile Prison--June 4th, 2010--WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Indiana Department of Correction officials told a federal panel they are working to correct a pattern of sexual victimization of young inmates at a state juvenile correctional facility. Department of Correction Commissioner Edwin Buss and his staff testified Thursday before a three-member Department of Justice review panel on prison rape,6News' Joanna Massee reported. It comes after a report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that 36 percent of inmates at the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility reported being sexually abused, about three times higher than the national average. Pendleton Superintendent Linda Commons said she was aware of sexual abuse at the facility, but was shocked by the report. For complete story, click here.

Arrests Made in Child Abuse Allegations--June 6th, 2010-- Four people are arrested on allegations of child abuse at a Bay County boarding school. 48-year-old Clayton Maynard, 40-year-old Robert Unger, and 20-year-old Russell Maynard were all arrested. They are all charged with one count of aggravated child abuse and five counts each, of child abuse. 22- year-old Marcus Kurbatoff was arrested and charged with resisting an officer during the course of arrest of Maynard and Unger. The men were responsible for running the Heritage Boys Academy. The academy is an all boys' boarding school in Bay County, right behind the asphalt plant, on Highway 231. For complete story, click here.

Juvenile dies in detention in East Tennessee--July 2nd, 2010--CHATTANOOGA — Police are investigating after a juvenile died at a detention center in East Tennessee. Hamilton County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Janice Atkinson said investigators are not yet saying what caused the juvenile's death at the center in Chattanooga. She says the death was reported to her about 6:30 p.m. Thursday, but further information on the youth wasn't yet available. For complete story, click here.

City, police grapple with problems at Benchmark--July 9th, 2010--WOODS CROSS —Woods Cross officials are worried that Benchmark Regional Hospital is struggling with ongoing violence, escapes and even a riot by patients, including sex offenders and troubled teens. But getting detailed information from the hospital itself is proving problematic. And that's frustrating city officials who say hospital administrators are stonewalling the release of information to the city. "We don't know what they are going to do," Woods Cross City Administrator Gary Uresk said. We're just looking at all our options. The city feels that it needs to take a pro-active stance. I think there are other issues there that need to be looked into," he recently told the Clipper. He said he and council members are also concerned that the hospital is hiding behind federal privacy laws to keep city officials from finding out. For complete story, click here.

Family Says Nephew of Justice Clarence Thomas Was Beaten and Tased at West Jeff Hospital: July 10th, 2010

Rampant sexual abuse puts teens in danger at juvenile prisons--July 13th, 2010--Juvenile prisons are supposed to rehabilitate troubled teens, but thousands of Indiana's inmates, some as young as 13, have been placed at risk of rampant sexual violence and harassment -- often from the men and women paid to watch over them. Sex crimes inside juvenile prisons have long escaped public scrutiny in Indiana. Although incidents of rape and other sexual assault have broken into news headlines on occasion, the frequency with which state workers -- on the job and paid with tax dollars -- have had sex with young inmates was hidden behind a curtain of denial, unspoken acceptance and complacency. For complete story, click here.

Federal Oversight for Troubled N.Y. Youth Prisons--July 14th, 2010--Four of New York's most dangerous and troubled youth prisons will be placed under federal oversight, strict new limits will be imposed on the use of physical force by guards, and dozens of psychiatrists, counselors and investigators will be hired under a sweeping agreement finalized on Wednesday between state and federal officials. The agreement will usher in the most significant expansion of mental health services in years for youths in custody, the vast majority of whom suffer from drug or alcohol problems, developmental disabilities or mental health problems. Currently, the state does not have a single full-time psychiatrist on staff to treat young offenders. Guards at the youth prisons, known as youth counselors, will be barred from physically restraining youths except when a person's physical safety is threatened or a youth is trying to escape from the institution. Guards will be allowed to use the most controversial method — in which a youth is forced to the ground and held face-down — for at most three minutes, with evaluation by a doctor to follow within four hours. The accord comes almost a year after the Justice Department threatened to take over New York's juvenile justice system unless the state took significant steps to rectify problems at the four prisons, where physical abuse was rampant and mental health counseling was scant or nonexistent. "It is New York's fundamental responsibility to protect juveniles in its custody from harm and to uphold their constitutional rights," Thomas E. Perez, assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's civil rights division, said in a statement. "We have worked cooperatively with New York officials to craft an agreement to ensure that the constitutional rights of juveniles at the four facilities are protected, and we commend New York and the New York State Office of Children and Families for their willingness to work aggressively to remedy these problems." Federal investigators found that staff members at the four institutions — the Lansing Residential Center and the Louis Gossett Jr. Residential Center, in Lansing, and two residences, one for boys and one for girls, at Tryon Residential Center in Johnstown — routinely used physical force to discipline the youths, resulting in broken bones, shattered teeth, concussions and dozens of other serious injuries in a period of less than two years. Gov. David A. Paterson said in a statement, "With this historic settlement agreement, New York takes another step towards achieving true transformation of our juvenile justice system." Mr. Paterson, who has been trying to address problems plaguing the juvenile system, introduced legislation in June to let judges sentence youths to juvenile prisons only if they had been found guilty of a violent crime or a sex crime or were deemed to be a serious threat to themselves or others. Juvenile prisons house those convicted of criminal acts, from truancy to murder, who are too young to serve in adult jails and prisons. The federal inquiry began in 2007 after a spate of episodes, including the 2006 death of a disturbed 15-year-old after two employees at the Tryon center pinned him down on the ground. For complete story, click here.

Southern Poverty Law Center Files Suit After 6-year old Hand-Cuffed and Shackled for "Acting Up" in First Grade Class--July 16th, 2010--It's not right for a 6-year-old boy to be handcuffed and shackled to a chair by an armed security officer because he "acted up" in school. But that's exactly what happened at the Sarah T. Reed Elementary School in New Orleans. In keeping with our work to reform the abusive juvenile justice system in the Deep South, we've filed a lawsuit against the school district to stop the brutal and unconstitutional policy of chaining students who break minor school rules. Our client, J.W., is a typical first-grader. He's just four feet tall and weighs 60 pounds. He enjoys playing basketball, being read to by his parents, coloring and playing outside with friends. But his school treated him like an animal. Within one week, he was twice forcibly arrested, handcuffed and shackled to a chair for talking back to a teacher and later arguing with a classmate over a seat. The amount of force used on J.W. was simply ridiculous and, predictably, inflicted severe emotional distress. Shockingly, this level of punishment is official school policy. We're not just fighting for the rights of J.W., but for all the students at Reed Elementary. For complete story, click here.

Ex-US judge pleads guilty to child prison scam--July 23rd, 2010--Conahan received bribes from a for-profit juvenile detention centre after closing a county-run facility Former Pennsylvania judge Michael Conahan has pleaded guilty to a racketeering conspiracy charge for helping put juvenile defendants behind bars in exchange for bribes. He is accused along with former judge Mark Ciavarella of taking $2.8m (£1.8m) from a profit-making detention centres. Mr Ciavarella denies wrongdoing. The two pleaded guilty last year but a federal judge tossed out part of the plea agreement for being too lenient. Conahan faces up to 20 years in jail. US District Judge Edwin Kosik rejected the 87-month jail term set out last year in Conahan's agreement. Under that deal, the former judge would have been able to back out if he was dissatisfied with his sentence. Judge Kosik has accepted Conahan's current plea agreement with prosecutors, which has no such get-out clause. Cash for kids Prosecutors in a federal court in Scranton, Pennsylvania, said Conahan had closed a county-owned juvenile detention centre in 2002, just before signing an agreement to use a for-profit centre. Prosecutors say Mr Ciavarella, a former juvenile court judge, then allegedly worked with Mr Conahan to ensure a constant flow of detainees. The two men were originally charged in early 2009 with accepting money from the builder and owner of a for-profit detention centre that housed county juveniles in exchange for giving children longer, harsher sentences. For complete story, click here.

Youth mentor arrested on charge of raping girl--July 24th, 2010--MOBILE, Ala. -- A mentor in a program that works with Strickland Youth Center to help troubled teens was arrested Friday and charged with raping a young girl, prosecutors said. Sherman Fitzgerald Tate, 33, was being held in Mobile County Metro Jail on charges of second-degree rape and second-degree sodomy. For complete story, click here.

N.S. teen abused at facility, say advocates--By MICHAEL MacDONALD The Canadian Press Tue, Jul 20 - 4:52 AM An advocacy group is calling for an investigation into allegations that a Nova Scotia youth struggling with a conduct disorder was physically abused on the weekend by staff at a treatment facility in eastern Ontario. Roch Longueepee, founder of Restoring Dignity, a non-profit group that seeks justice for victims of institutional child abuse, said Monday that the 15-year-old should be removed from the Bayfield facility in Consecon until a specialized treatment program can be set up for him in Nova Scotia. Longueepee said the youth, who can't be named, told his aunt that two male staff members refused his request to go to the washroom on Sunday, then threw him to the floor, punched him in the ribs and kneed him in the throat. The aunt issued a statement saying he was left with a black eye, cuts to his head and scratches on his body. "We have to react and respond to this boy's cry for help," Longueepee told a news conference. "We are concerned that the situation is out of control . . . I am concerned that this boy is in danger." The accusations have not been proven. Sharlene Weitzman, chief operating officer for the privately run facility, declined comment citing privacy concerns. However, Longueepee released a copy of a Justice Department document that shows the province received a call from Bayfield on Sunday at 4:25 a.m., stating that the youth had been allegedly

inciting others to attack staff before punching and kicking at some of them. The document, produced by the Provincial Emergency Duty Program, says the boy was "placed in a position of control." No other details were provided. Court documents show the boy has been receiving government help since he was four years old, having been in the care of foster homes, group homes and other programs for years. He has been in the care of Nova Scotia's Community Services Department since November 2008, when it was deemed he required intensive, long-term care because he was a risk to himself and the community. Longueepee said the boy is a sexual abuse victim who was abandoned by his parents before he was five. As well, he said the boy has "cognitive issues," but none of the diagnoses he has received are conclusive. Last summer, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court approved the department's plan to send him to the Bayfield facility near Trenton, Ont., because the province had exhausted its options. "It was evident that none of those services had achieved the goal of preventing the situation then faced by the minister and the adolescent's grandparents," Nova Scotia Supreme Court Justice Beryl MacDonald wrote in a decision released in April. MacDonald said the adolescent was "totally out of control," would not obey instruction and "presented as a risk to himself and to his community." The judge also noted that the province had to send the boy outside the province because it does not have a secure, residential facility that can provide long-term, intensive treatment. At first, the court agreed to send the youth to a facility in Utah, but that fell through and Bayfield was recommended. Vicki Wood, the department's director of child welfare, also declined to comment on the allegations. "I have no knowledge that a child was punched in the ribs or kneed in the throat," she said. Wood said the department would investigate any allegations of abuse, noting that under an interprovincial protocol, the Ontario facility is expected to follow Nova Scotia rules pertaining to the use of physical restraint of youths who put themselves or others in danger. "They would never restrain a child for punitive reasons," she said. "It's to intervene in a situation of danger." Wood confirmed that the department and the boy's family can't agree on the treatment he should receive. "There's a forum for the family to bring forward their concerns — that would be the court, not a press conference," Wood said. "The judge is going to make a decision based on information presented to the court, not a third-party organization such as Mr. Longueepee's, which has no real knowledge of the case." Longueepee later took exception to Wood's comments, saying it's ``false, absolutely false" that he has no knowledge of the case. ``I have the entire collection of files from the courts," he said, adding he's also interviewed the boy. The boy's grandparents, who have been caring for him for most of his life, approached the advocacy group in March after they learned of the boy's complaints at Bayfield. Longueepee said his organization has received complaints of abuse from former residents of Bayfield and their families. He said the problem is that provinces like Ontario and Nova Scotia continue to cling to the belief that the best place for troubled teens is in an institution. "These institutions can't be the parents for these children," he said. His group is proposing a specialized foster care program that would cost the province about $175,000 to set up in the first year. The plan has been submitted to the provincial government, but it has yet to respond, he said. (Complete Story Provided Above.)

Youth lock-ups blasted--Star investigation Hearings order release of children found not to have mental disorders--July 7th, 2010 Canada seems to be seeing the light. When will the US? We're waiting. For more on the story, click here.

Snoop Dogg taking youth football league to Chicago--July 27th, 2010--According to RivalsHigh, Calvin Broadus, a.k.a Snoop Dogg, will be bringing his youth football league to Chicago next year. Broadus started the league back in 2005 in Los Angeles, featuring kids from all over the area with criminal, weapons and drug charges. Not only has the league taught these kids the correct way of life, but has connected them with role models, and some, even their fathers. Broadus is planning on holding a clinic with about 200 kids in Chicago's Housing Authority next year. According to the article, Broadus, who founded the league with $1 million of his own money, started it since there were no inner city football programs for the youngsters in Los Angeles. His league in the West Coast has helped troubled teens become great players, some even recruited by top colleges. One can only imagine what this league can do with the talent in Chicago. (Complete Article Shown--source examiner.com) Webmaster Note: We applaud Snoop Dogg for giving this opportunity to children.

Girl, 16, dies during restraint at an already-troubled hospital--August 1st, 2010--The charge nurse found Alexis Evette Richie alone in a small room at SSM DePaul Health Center, motionless and sprawled facedown on a bean bag chair. Minutes earlier, the 16-year-old foster child had tried to hit, scratch and bite staff members in the adolescent psychiatric ward. Two aides grabbed her arms and took her down a hall and into a small room called the "quiet room." They held her facedown in the chair while a nurse injected a sedative into her hip. Alexis continued to struggle and then went limp. The nurse and the two aides left without checking her pulse or making sure she was breathing. Charge nurse Iris Blanks checked on her minutes later and didn't think Alexis looked right. An aide helped Blanks roll the girl over. Alexis wasn't breathing. Her pulse was faint. It was 12 minutes after she stopped moving before anyone tried to revive Alexis. By then it was too late. "Why did they leave her like that?" Blanks wailed over the phone to her daughter that night, according to a police report. The "little girl," she said, "didn't have to die." The medical examiner agreed, concluding that Alexis had suffocated on the bean bag chair. Her death on Oct. 26 was ruled a homicide. For complete story, click here.

TIME-OUT OR TORTURE? Sex offender put kids 'through hell' in time-out room, By Clio Francis, Sunday Star Times, August, 8, 2010 For complete story, click here.

Criticism over delayed TYC sexual abuse trial--August 12th, 2010--The advocacy group Texas Civil Rights Project on Wednesday called for a former Texas Youth Commission official to be brought to trial quickly, almost six years after he was accused of molesting at least four teenage boys in what became a statewide abuse scandal. Scott Medlock , an Austin attorney who represents one of the four victims in separate pending civil litigation, said at a news conference that it is unbelievable and outrageous that former West Texas State School Principal John Paul Hernandez is still awaiting trial. "More than three years after the public learned about these disgusting assaults, Hernandez's victims are still waiting for justice," said Medlock, director of the organization's Prisoners' Rights Program. "Prosecuting these men shows that if you abuse kids in TYC, you will be held accountable. Further delay undermines creating a culture of accountability." In a statement, the victim — now 25 — said he wants to "stop what happened to me from being covered up." "I need to move on with my life, and I can't do that until the man who violated me faces justice," the victim said in the statement. "I'm still struggling and I need some closure." For complete story, click here.

State orders Putnam mental-health company SLS to give up permits--August 12th, 2010--The state has ordered a private Putnam County-based mental-health provider that treats teens and young adults to surrender its operating certificates after the mental-health commissioner upheld charges that the for-profit facility violated patients' rights and ignored state regulations. For complete story, click here.

Teen who collapsed at residential treatment facility dies--August 18th, 2010-- By TERRI LANGFORD Copyright 2010 Houston Chronicle Aug. 18, 2010, 10:49PM The state's foster care agency revealed Wednesday that a 17-year-old girl who collapsed about a month ago at a residential treatment facility has died. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is investigating the death of Shanice Nibbs, who collapsed July 16 while on a nature walk at the Five Oaks Achievement Center in New Ulm, about 72 miles west of Houston. On Wednesday, agency spokesman Patrick Crimmins issued a news release notifying the media that the teen died Friday. Reporters for the Houston Chronicle and Texas Tribune first contacted DFPS officials two weeks ago about the girl's collapse. At the time, the girl was alive in the intensive care unit at Texas Children's Hospital, and the agency offered no other details, citing the investigation. An official with the governor's office confirmed that the agency notified it immediately of the incident and that it was aware that the agency had suspended all placements at the facility until an investigation was completed. An official with the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, which conducted an autopsy, said the girl died of complications of hypothermia. It is not known how long the girl had been at the facility, how long she had been in foster care, or if she had a pre-existing health condition. Two months ago, the Chronicle and Tribune detailed how more than 250 confirmed incidents of abuse or neglect had occurred since 2008 at residential treatment facilities, where the state's most troubled foster care children are placed. (note: was actually hyperthermia and complete story above.) Also: http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id;=7617296&rss;=rss-ktrk-article-7617296

Teenager found dead at Rock Hill psychiatric center--Rec'd August 19th, 2010 (Article: June 12th, 2010)-- By Cleve R. Wootson Jr. Posted: Saturday, Jun. 12, 2010 A 17-year-old who complained of chest congestion was found dead at a residential psychiatric treatment facility in Rock Hill on Saturday morning. Rock Hill police identified the teen as Levi Snyder, of Lenoir. He was a resident at the New Hope Carolinas treatment center, which treats emotionally disturbed adolescents, near Piedmont Medical Center, said Detective Kathy Harveston. She said initial reports didn't point to foul play. "It looks like (the death is) going to be medical in nature," Harveston said. "There's no appearance of any foul play, of neglect, of improper treatment, anything like that." Harveston said Snyder had been to the hospital for chest congestion three or four days ago and was on antibiotics. Police haven't released a narrative of what happened in the hours before he died, but Harveston said he'd been complaining of chest congestion Friday night. It's unclear how employees at the facility responded to the complaints. No one answered the phone at the facility's listed number Saturday. The York County coroner is expected to conduct an autopsy this week. New Hope operates out of the former York General Hospital off Ebenezer Road, near Rock Hill's Fewell Park neighborhood. The center has faced heavy scrutiny from neighborhood and city leaders since it began operating in the mid-1990s. City officials and residents of the nearby Fewell Park neighborhood contend a facility that includes sex offenders among the patients doesn't belong in a residential neighborhood. The opposition culminated in 2002 when Rock Hill and York County officials sought to have New Hope moved. The facility is licensed by the S.C. Department of Social Services. Between 1995 and 2002, Rock Hill police responded to more than 200 calls at the New Hope address. More recent figures were not available. New Hope officials contend many of the calls proved to be unfounded. Since 1997, there have been at least 39 reports of criminal sexual conduct, assault and battery, and missing persons at New Hope, police records show. Of those, however, 25 were dismissed for a lack of evidence. Rock Hill Herald

writer Matt Garfield contributed. Cleve R. Wootson Jr.: 704-358-5046 Read more: http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/06/12/1496598/teenager-found-dead-at-rock-hill.html#ixzz0x2 eD4utj

Sports grill owner admits setting fire--Rec'd August 19th, 2010 (Article: Feb 13th, 2001)--[Randy Stewman now works in the kidnap-for-hire "teen transport/escort" service company, US Transport Service, Inc. located in St. George, UT] ST. GEORGE — The owner of the Gridiron Sports Grill has pleaded guilty to arson in the Jan. 15 fire at the Promenade Shopping Center, where his business was located. Randall David Stewman, 30, pleaded guilty to the second-degree felony Wednesday and faces a maximum sentence of one to 15 years in prison and an $18,500 fine. Prosecutor Paul Dame said the fire was started on the roof of the Promenade. He said investigators found a hole had been cut in the roof of the Gridiron Sports Grill and a fuse was inserted through the hole and connected to gas-filled containers in surrounding businesses' air conditioning ducts. He said Stewman admitted setting up the fuse with intent to burn part of the shopping center, including his own business. For complete story, click here.

Groups say abuse remains in Texas juvenile prisons--August 24th, 2010--AUSTIN, Texas — Four juvenile inmate advocacy groups have alleged that widespread abuse continues in the Texas juvenile prison system, almost four years after a sex abuse and cover-up scandal forced sweeping reforms. The groups submitted a formal complaint asking the U.S. Justice Department to investigate conditions in the Texas Youth Commission, the Austin American-Statesman reported in its online edition Tuesday. The complaint filed by Texas Appleseed, Advocacy Inc., the Center for Public Representation and the National Center for Youth Law accused the commission of failing to protect the 1,700 juvenile inmates in its system because of short staffing and the use of improper restraints and excessive force. A commission statement issued Tuesday said it has worked with two of the groups for three years to address the issues "and will work to fully investigate any allegations" in the complaint. According to the newspaper, the complaint also alleged that juveniles are not provided adequate medical and mental health care and educational programs. Also, it contends the number of youth-on-youth assaults in commission facilities in Beaumont and Corsicana remain high. Those centers had the second-highest rate of sexual assault among the nation's juvenile prisons last year, according to a federal report. For complete story, click here.

Guards allegedly beat inmate in Sangamon Juvenile Center--August 26th, 2010--On July 6, 16-year-old Dalton McDermott of Springfield was allegedly beaten by two guards while an inmate at the Sangamon Juvenile Center, 2201 South Dirksen Parkway, according to his parents, Barb Howell of Springfield and Jeff McDermott of Champaign. The detention center holds young prisoners in custody while the county court system decides what to do with them. Dalton was incarcerated at the juvenile center while awaiting sentencing for a spray-painting incident, Howell says. Jeff McDermott says the beating apparently resulted from a misunderstanding about a commonly-used slang term in the Juvenile Center. Dalton apparently said he and his classmates in the detention center were going to "gun," or make fun of, a teacher, and he was given the equivalent of a time-out. He then "mouthed off" to the guards who were to escort him to his cell, McDermott says. "They grabbed him by the back of his neck while he was walking out of the classroom and slammed him into the wall," McDermott says. "He was handcuffed, and they kneed him while he was on the ground. He had marks on both ankles and his throat." As a result of the beating, Dalton received a concussion, a fractured neck and internal bleeding, according to medical records and photographs provided by his parents. He is now in the state detention center in St. Charles, awaiting assignment to another state detention center. For complete story, click here.

Child's Ordeal Shows Risks of Psychosis Drugs for Young--September 1st, 2010-- OPELOUSAS, La. — At 18 months, Kyle Warren started taking a daily antipsychotic drug on the orders of a pediatrician trying to quell the boy's severe temper tantrums. Thus began a troubled toddler's journey from one doctor to another, from one diagnosis to another, involving even more drugs. Autism, bipolar disorder, hyperactivity, insomnia, oppositional defiant disorder. The boy's daily pill regimen multiplied: the antipsychotic Risperdal, the antidepressant Prozac, two sleeping medicines and one for attention-deficit disorder. All by the time he was 3. He was sedated, drooling and overweight from the side effects of the antipsychotic medicine. Although his mother, Brandy Warren, had been at her "wit's end" when she resorted to the drug treatment, she began to worry about Kyle's altered personality. "All I had was a medicated little boy," Ms. Warren said. "I didn't have my son. It's like, you'd look into his eyes and you would just see just blankness." Today, 6-year-old Kyle is in his fourth week of first grade, scoring high marks on his first tests. He is rambunctious and much thinner. Weaned off the drugs through a program affiliated with Tulane University that is aimed at helping low-income families whose children have mental health problems, Kyle now laughs easily and teases his family. Ms. Warren and Kyle's new doctors point to his remarkable progress — and a more common diagnosis for children of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder — as proof that he should have never been prescribed such powerful drugs in the first place. For complete story, click here. (Webmaster Note: Perhaps if people spent more time understanding child development and what is to be expected from new people learning about this very complicated world, there wouldn't be such issues.)

Former Juvenile Jail Guard Arrested--September 7th, 2010--(Source: ktbs.com) POSTED: 2:24 pm CDT September 7, 2010 A former employee at the Caddo Juvenile Detention Center in Shreveport faces charges he battered an inmate without justification. Dale Smith, 56, of the 1000 block of Dalzell Street, was issued a summons to appear in court to answer simple battery charges, Caddo sheriff's investigators said. Smith is accused of knocking a 17-year-old inmate to the ground and choking him following a verbal altercation between the two. The incident occurred in May, investigators said. Smith was fired from his job, deputies said. For complete story, click here.

New Law to Prevent Abuse in Schools--December 11th, 2009 (Rec'd September 23rd, 2010)-- (Source: wrightslaw.com) On Wednesday, Congressman George Miller, Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee told families, "Something is very wrong when our children are at risk of abuse or worse at school." Mr. Miller knew about Cedric, a 14-year old student in a special education classroom in Texas. He lived with a foster family because of a history of neglect, including malnutrition. In 2002, his teacher tried to punish Cedric by withholding food, despite the abuse he had suffered as a young child. Cedric's teacher delayed his lunch for hours to discipline him for not doing his work. When he did not comply with her demands, the teacher put him in a face down restraint and sat on him in front of his classmates. Cedric said repeatedly that he could not breathe. He died minutes later on the classroom floor as his terrified classmates looked on. Sadly, Cedric's story is not an isolated case. For complete story, click here.

Boarding school is a form of child abuse, says psychotherapist--June 10th, 2001 (Rec'd September 23rd, 2010)-- (Source: independent.co.uk) Children who are sent away by their parents to boarding school risk severe psychological damage, according to a leading psychotherapist. So bad is the problem that Nick Duffell, who has counselled former boarding school pupils, has now set up a support group. Children who are sent away by their parents to boarding school risk severe psychological damage, according to a leading psychotherapist. So bad is the problem that Nick Duffell, who has counselled former boarding school pupils, has now set up a support group. Boarding School Survivors (BSS) will run workshops for sufferers of "boarding school syndrome" whose symptoms include a hatred of the opposite sex, intimacy problems and obsession with work. This week, Mr Duffell will tell a health conference in London that boarders cope with the trauma of separation from their families in the same way as victims of child sexual abuse do, by burying their emotions so they are unable to form fulfilling relationships as adults. Successive writers including George Orwell and Evelyn Waugh have portrayed boarding school life as being filled with freezing showers and cold porridge. But J K Rowling has helped to fuel a recent increase in inquiries from parents of prospective pupils through the cosy picture she presents in her Harry Potter books. For complete story, click here.

State Finds Violations At Worthington Youth Home--September 24th, 2010--(Source: 10tv.com) WORTHINGTON, Ohio — A home for troubled youth that already faces criticism from its neighbors is now defending itself against a flunking state report card, 10TV News reported on Thursday. Inspectors with Ohio's Department of Job and Family Services found several violations at the United Methodist Children's Home. Among them were filthy living conditions in some of the High Street facility's six residential cottages, 10TV News reported. In the report, inspectors reported finding walls covered with graffiti, dirty and ripped carpets, moldy shower curtains and human feces on a floor, 10TV News reported. Interviews with the staff and children revealed an issue with how children are fed. Inspectors learned that some of them had to "wait until other children are done eating and wash the other child's bowl before they can eat." For complete story, click here.

Omaha Boys Town programs accused of mistreatment--September 23rd, 2010-- (Source: khastv.com) Two Nebraska Boys Town programs are accused of treating children and teens improperly. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has stopped sending troubled youth to two Omaha programs after a bad review. A Boys Town spokeswoman said no children have been mistreated at its Omaha facilities for troubled youth. But she said a recent review did uncover some issues that needed to be corrected. A Health and Human Services spokeswoman said referrals to both programs were suspended August 26th. For complete story, click here.

Death of Beloved Human Rights Activist--Deborah Ann Morgan--(October 17th, 1985 to September 8th, 2010)-- Deborah Morgan's courage and passion for justice will be remembered by all who knew her. Morgan was a survivor of SLS Health and championed the fight for justice to stop the abuse. There is no adequate reason for why she is gone. The State of NY has officially pulled all three of SLS Health's licenses. The lawsuit is nearly complete. And, hope was and continues to be restored for the victims. Deborah Morgan will always be remembered as a hero to everyone at HEAL.

Juvenile Detention Facility's Insurer Has No Duty to Defend 'Kids-for-Cash' Suits, Says Judge-- September 29th, 2010 (Source: law.com) Gregory Zappala, the owner of the juvenile detention facility at the heart of the "kids-for-cash" judicial corruption scandal in Luzerne County, suffered a setback this week when a federal judge ruled that his insurer has no duty to defend him in a spate of civil suits. Prosecutors have never charged Zappala with any wrongdoing, but the civil suits allege that he was part

of a RICO conspiracy and was aware that kickbacks were being paid by his former partner to judges in order to guarantee that a steady stream of youths would be sent to a juvenile detention facility owned by Zappala's company. Zappala, the owner of Mid-Atlantic Youth Services, has argued in court papers that he never knew that former MAYS co-owner Robert Powell paid kickbacks to former Judges Mark A. Ciavarella Jr. and Michael T. Conahan. As a result, Zappala argued that General Star Indemnity Co. should be ordered to continue funding his defense of the civil suits because it is too early to say whether the policy exclusions would apply. Zappala was also seeking a ruling that the $1 million policy, in place for several years, should be deemed to provide up to $3 million in coverage in the Luzerne cases. Now U.S. District Judge A. Richard Caputo has ruled in favor of the insurer, declaring that Zappala's claimed lack of knowledge and involvement is irrelevant because Powell's confession alone is enough to trigger the policy exclusion. For complete story, click here.

DA's office did not object to no-jail plea deal for rapist, transcript reveals--September 29th, 2010-- (source: nydailynews.com) Prosecutors never objected to a no-jail plea deal for a city worker who sexually attacked three girls inside the Manhattan Family Court building, a transcript shows. The revelation came a day after Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr. blasted the judge's probation sentence for Tony Simmons as "outrageously lenient." Prosecutors had demanded jail time for Simmons, a veteran employee of the city Juvenile Justice Department who worked with troubled teens. For complete story, click here. For more on this story, click here.

Chinese teen allegedly beaten to death at camp--September 29th, 2010--(source: google.com/hostednews/afp) BEIJING — A Chinese teenager was allegedly beaten to death at a boot camp for troubled youths that his mother had lured him to attend by promising he was going to study IT, state media said Thursday. Chen Shi, 16, died two days after enrolling in Beiteng School in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan province, having been beaten up when he refused to run during training, the Beijing Times reported. According to witnesses, an instructor -- helped by two others -- beat him with a plastic pipe, handcuffs and a wooden baton when he refused to run. The incident comes amid controversy over China's hundreds of boot camps that aim to discipline unruly youths or wean them off web addictions. His mother Tang Yulin decided to enrol Chen to toughen him up because he was "afraid of hardship, had weak willpower and not enough self-confidence" and had failed a school exam, it said. They both travelled to Changsha from their home province of Jiangsu, in the east, after Tang told Chen he was going to study IT to persuade him to go. The school's admissions director had advised her to lie, saying 90 percent of students who attended were given a false reason for attending and the remaining 10 percent were "kidnapped" by their parents or school instructors. For complete story, click here.

Teen Freed From Lock Up Amid Sex Abuse Claims--October 9th, 2010 (source: miamiherald.com)--A teen was released from a state juvenile lockup in Pembroke Pines amid claims in a federal lawsuit that youths held there had endured "horrific" abuse. For complete story, click here.

Norfolk investigates worker for credit card use, absences--October, 2010 (Source: hamptonroads.com) THE ALLEGATIONS Lynn Moore was the director of the Norfolk Interagency Consortium, which helps troubled teens. Sources say the city auditor has found more than $10,000 in charges on a city credit card that Moore can't document or are " unsubstantiated." It is also alleged that Moore would not show up for work at the consortium's headquarters for days at a time but did not claim any vacation time for the last six years she worked. THE HISTORY This is the third instance of city credit card abuse in less than a year. Commissioner of Revenue Sharon McDonald and employee Barbara Lai also made improper charges. And a Norfolk Community Services Board employee is being investigated for being paid for 12 years but not showing up for work. (Complete story)

Worthington Children's Home Ends Residential Treatment Program--November 11th, 2010 (Source: nbc4i.com) WORTHINGTON, Ohio -- A very public battle over what to do about a home for troubled teens took another turn Monday. The new CEO of the United Methodist Children's Home in Worthington now says they'll no longer take in teens to stay at the facility. For more than 100 years, The United Methodist Children's Home has existed, and big changes came as the residential treatment program was cut Monday. "It has been a tough time. We were basically forced to make the decision," said Bill Wilkins, CEO. Dick Goetz lives right behind the facility and said he didn't know the change was coming. "I'm surprised to hear it. (I) don't know where the revenue comes from," Goetz said. For complete story, click here.

Suit attacks conditions at Miss. juvenile lockup--November 16th, 2010 (source: washingtonpost.com) JACKSON, Miss. -- A federal lawsuit claims guards at a Mississippi juvenile lockup have smuggled drugs to inmates, had sex with some of them and denied others medical treatment and basic educational services. The Southern Poverty Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union and Rob McDuff, a Jackson attorney, filed the complaint Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Jackson on behalf of 13 plaintiffs against the Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility. The Justice Department also is investigating. "These young men live in barbaric conditions," said Sheila Bedi, the law center's deputy legal director. "I have done prisons conditions work for almost 10 years, this is the most violent, corrupt abusive prison I've come across." The complaint claims that guards allowed inmate fights that resulted in stab wounds and severe beatings, including one that left one youth with permanent brain damage. It also says inmates were stripped naked and held in isolation for weeks at a time and that sick inmates were denied proper health care. Sex acts between inmates and prison guards and nurses occurred in isolated, camera-free areas of the prison, including individual cells, medical unit examination rooms and restrooms, the lawsuit alleges. It also claimed handcuffed youth were kicked and punched by guards, while others secured in their cells were sprayed with chemical restraints. For complete story, click here.

North Texas Courts Send Troubled Teens Out of State--November 23rd, 2010 (source: myfoxdfw.com) DALLAS - A computer lab, weight room, indoor pool, movie theatre, and video arcade…and your tax dollars help pick up the tab. So, how do you sign up your kids? Well, you can't sign up for this program because it's ordered by a judge for troubled teens. But it's not a local facility. It's not even in Texas. So, when governments are facing major money problems, does it make sense to send young offenders thousands of miles out of state? Howard Nick looks like a tough guy but chokes up easily when talking about his 14 year old grandson. In September, a Denton County Juvenile Court Judge sent Nathan to Glenn Mills residential treatment facility outside of Philadelphia. "I said the only way you can hurt me is to send him to Philadelphia," Nick says he told the probation officer. "We hadn't been separated in almost 15 years," Nick told FOX 4. Nathan's juvenile records are confidential by law but Nick admits his grandson had problems with truancy, broke in to a car, and had probation violations. Now, Nick feels like he has lost his grandson, whom he's raised since birth. Nick says he begged the county not to send the boy out of state. "She called me and said they accepted him. And I said, 'oh, hell. Why so far away?" Nick told FOX 4. "I was so upset I couldn't talk to the probation officer." Nick and his grandson are not alone. Denton County started sending juvenile offenders out of state last year. So far, taxpayers have shelled-out $84,327 for four juveniles. Most of that comes from the feds and grant money. Since 2005, Dallas County has sent 45 juveniles out of state to Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Arkansas at a cost of $963,292.00. Of that cost, $730,536.00 came directly from Dallas County taxpayers. Tarrant County has sent 15 juveniles to out of state facilities since 2006, costing taxpayers $538,063.00. But Collin County has not sent a single juvenile offender out of state. For complete story, click here.

Investigator Exclusive: Youth worker charged with raping teen--November 23rd, 2010 (source: wkyc.com) BROOKLYN -- An HIV-positive man who worked with troubled teens at a Cleveland residential treatment center is charged with raping a 17-year-old boy who was once a patient at the center, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor spokesman Ryan Miday said. Brooklyn Police arrested Ronnie Sagere, 34, after the boy went last Wednesday morning to MetroHealth Medical Center and reported that he was sexually assaulted at Sagere's home on Westbrook Drive, Miday said. The boy was sleeping at the home after getting drunk on booze bought by Sagere when he woke up to find Sagere on top of him, raping him, according to Miday. Sagere remained in jail Tuesday after a judge set bail at $100,000. He faces charges of rape, gross sexual imposition, kidnapping and felonious assault, according to court records. The felonious assault charge was filed because Sagere is HIV positive. Sagere worked at the Cleveland Christian Home, a residential center on Lorain Avenue, where wards of the state are treated for behavioral and mental health issues, said Cleveland Christian Home Chief Executive Officer David Lundeen. For complete story, click here.

Parents sue Nashville forensics company over jail death--November 27th, 2010-- (Source: tennessean.com) Birth defect blamed; parents say son beaten BY BRIAN HAAS • THE TENNESSEAN • NOVEMBER 27, 2010 The parents of a Memphis teen who died after being restrained in a Rutherford County jail have filed a lawsuit against the Nashville forensics company that ruled his death natural. The suit seeks at least $3 million in the death of Andron Reed, 18, from Forensic Medical, the company that was contracted to perform autopsies for the state of Tennessee. In it, Reed's parents accuse Forensic Medical of "deceitful and untrue statements and dishonorable professional conduct" in investigating Reed's death. In a separate federal lawsuit, the Reed family is suing the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office, saying his death was caused by "excessive and traumatic" restraints. For complete story, click here.

Republicans Sink Bill to Prevent Abuse in Teen Behavior Schools --December 6th, 2010 -- (Source: huffingtonpost.com) As Congress fights this week over taxes, the deficit commission and finally ending "don't ask, don't tell" another issue involving the health and safety of tens of thousands of American teens has flown under the radar. Last year, with broad bipartisan support, the US House of Representatives passed HR 911, the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act, which would provide some minimum standards for the multimillion dollar teen behavior modification industry. The industry, which has largely escaped widespread public scrutiny, preys upon the fears of parents through deceptive marketing tactics and outright lies. Promising parents to straighten out their "troubled teens" (who usually aren't all that troubled) this industry locks away teens in abusive camps subjecting them to months or years of forced labor, humiliating degradation and unthinkable physical, psychological and sexual abuse. Tens of thousands of teens are suffering in these programs right now and dozens have been killed, but after weeks of promising

negotiations in the Senate to move forward with some kind of protection for these youth, Senate Republicans abruptly closed negotiations and killed any hope this year of stopping this rampant child abuse. For complete story, click here (or read all links on the HEAL site relating to teen programs.)

Poor jail conditions blamed for suicides--December 11th, 2010 -- (Source: torontosun.com) WINNIPEG - Troubled teens are being put at greater risk of suicide in a jail that was never designed to hold them for long periods of time, says a Winnipeg lawyer. "The tendency is to treat them like adults, and they aren't adults," said Saul Simmonds. A 17-year-old girl was taken to hospital in critical condition Wednesday after attempting suicide at the Manitoba Youth Centre. Her medical status could not be confirmed Friday. This comes five months after a 15-year-old girl committed suicide at the centre. Simmonds says MYC wasn't designed to hold young offenders for years at a time -- something now commonplace -- and offers them little in the way of resources. "That kind of long-term holding does not allow a person to develop," he said. The increased presence of gangs at the youth centre makes it more difficult for some first-time offenders to cope, placing them at risk of suicide, Simmonds said. For complete story, click here.

School for troubled teens is under review after fight draws police; suspected ring leaders charged with felonies--December 14th, 2010 -- (Source: lohud.com) SOMERS — State officials will investigate Lincoln Hall in the aftermath of a 30-student riot that broke out last week at the residential school for troubled boys. The state's Office of Children and Family Services, which licenses Lincoln Hall, on Monday said it is conducting a "thorough review" of the school's operations, including its student-to-staff ratio and discipline procedures, and will meet with administrators to discuss ways to prevent further violence. "We are aware of and concerned about recent incidents on campus," said OCFS spokeswoman Susan Steele. The announcement came as four Lincoln Hall residents, accused of instigating Friday's riot that injured several employes, were granted residence at another youth center during an appearance Monday in Town Court. David Excourse, 17, Cleveland Fowler, 16, Sergio Naranjo, 16, and Shakiem Way, 17, were charged over the weekend with first-degree riot, a felony, and are being held in county jail on $10,000 bail. They will be moved to a youth center in Mount Vernon if room is available, and are due back in court Jan. 10. For complete story, click here.

Mosque focus falls on former Dundee teen--December 15th, 2010 (Source: newsregister.com) ...He asked Crawford to take a polygraph exam, then to permit a search. When he was met with refusal on both counts, he left a surveillance team in place while he left to obtain a search warrant. In the affidavit, Poole said that based on this investigation, he believes the crimes of first-degree arson, first-degree criminal mischief, second-degree burglary, second-degree intimidation, possession of a destructive device and unlawful manufacture of a destructive device were committed, and that supporting evidence of the crimes would be found either at the Crawford residence or on Crawford's person. During his teen years in Yamhill County, he compiled a record that led his mother to place him in the Dundee Ranch behavioral treatment program in Costa Rica. However, she had to fly down and retrieve him after authorities shut the academy down on allegations of rampant abuse. He contended he was beaten and tortured there, as did other troubled teens sent there for treatment. His story was chronicled by then-reporter Matt LaPlante in an extensive News-Register article in 2003... For complete story, click here.

Home-based therapy best for troubled teens, experts say--December 17th, 2010 (Source: independentmail.com) Tough-love boarding schools have become a popular option for parents seeking to straighten out their unruly children. But critics say that these schools are not always the best or safest option. "There is absolutely no evidence that tough love works," said Maia Szalavitz, a journalist who scrutinized the troubled-teen industry in her 2006 book "Help at Any Cost." Data gathered by the United States Government Accountability Office in 2005 revealed 1,503 incidents in which students were mistreated by staff members at boarding schools and wilderness programs. In 2006, 28 states reported at least one death in residential facilities for troubled teens, according to GAO official Kay Brown's testimony at a 2008 congressional hearing. Less than a year after this hearing, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a measure intended to better protect teens at residential programs. However, the legislation never came up for a vote in the Senate. Szalavitz said parents should consider home-based treatment options before sending their children away to a boarding school. "The best treatments for teenagers involve the family," she said. "The idea that you can fix a relationship by exiling someone doesn't pass the common-sense test." For complete story, click here.

Hopevale; Home For Troubled Teens In Hamburg Closing--December 19th, 2010 (Source: wgrz.com) HAMBURG, NY-- It was started 155 years ago by the Sisters of Charity as a home for wayward girls. Now Hopevale, a Hamburg based agency which offers services to abused children and troubled teens, is shutting down after more than a century and a half of service. "We've got significant financial problems and we just couldn't go forward any more. We're out of money...I don't know how to put it to you clearer than that," said Jim Walter, a management consultant brought on to assist at Hopevale six months ago. Walter says a combination of factors have steered Hopevale toward financial ruin to the point where its directors have decided to cease operations and, regrettably, will have to lay off 190 full and part time staff. "Most of the income for this not for profit agency comes from the residential treatment center," explained Walter, who says changing trends in the methods deployed to assist troubled teens were a significant factor in Hopevale's financial plight. "In general, the use of residential treatment centers has dropped off -- they're trying to keep the child at home where they can and residential treatment is an expensive thing for counties to afford, so they look at alternatives a lot more closely than they used to," Walter told WGRZ-TV. Walter also noted some troubling incidents in the past year which caused Hopevale to temporarily cease accepting placements to its residential program, which also helped to contribute to dwindling enrollment to the point where there are only half as many kids as a year ago. "We shut down because there were concerns with regard to child safety and some concerns with regard to the effectiveness of the programs...when we did that, as we were working to improve out programs, we lost census," Walter said. For complete story, click here.

Abbeville school had role in rise and fall of enterprise for serving troubled teens--December 19th, 2010 (Source: independentmail.com) DUE WEST — A boarding school reopening near Due West next year was previously part of a thriving network of facilities for troubled teens reaching from California to the Czech Republic. Parents were eager to send their out-of-control adolescents to tough-love boarding schools like Carolina Springs Academy in Abbeville County. The facility, which filled to capacity soon after opening, was among more than a dozen institutions affiliated with the Utah-based Worldwide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools. At one point, tuition payments topped $90 million annually from students enrolled in behavior-modification programs designed by Worldwide's founder, Robert Lichfield. Worldwide's boarding school empire has crumbled in recent years. Under pressure from state regulators, Carolina Springs closed in 2009. It intends to reopen next year as a coed Christian boarding school without any ties to Worldwide, which also is known as WWASPS. Worldwide President Ken Kay said WWASPS is "out of business." He blamed the recession and media coverage of abuse allegations, arrests, raids and two students' deaths for contributing to its demise. WASPS still exists on paper, he explained, so that its insurance company will keep paying the attorneys who are defending Worldwide in ongoing lawsuits. The highest profile case is a federal suit involving 353 parents and former students. The suit accuses WWASPS and its affiliates — including Carolina Springs — of assault, battery, false imprisonment, fraud and racketeering. Students at WWASPS boarding schools "were subjected to physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse," the suit alleges. "In many instances, the abuse could accurately be described as torture of children." For complete story, click here.

Fire destroys former home for troubled youth--December 16th, 2010-- (Source: wlox.com) FORREST COUNTY, MS (WDAM) An early-morning fire gutted a three-story dormitory building in Forrest County once used to house troubled girls. The facility once known as Bethesda Home for Girls was recently leased by Ezekiel house ministries, which operates a transition house on Bouie Street. Organizers were planning on opening the old Bethesda location in January under a new name - Reclamation Ranch. For complete story, click here.

DA Says Counselor Targeted "Damaged" Teens to Sexually Abuse--January 20th, 2011 (Source: dnainfo.com) MANHATTAN SUPREME COURT — A juvenile justice counselor on trial for rape preyed on a child prostitute and other troubled and "damaged" teens because he thought they would not report him, prosecutors charged in summations at his trial Thursday. The DA argued Tony Simmons, 47, was a friendly, outgoing counselor who was well liked by colleagues and detainees. His cover worked until a supervisor heard about one of his exploits, Assistant District Attorney Evan Krutoy said during closing arguments Friday. Prosecutors charged Simmons knew the kids and their problems well, having served as a counselor for 16 years. "He knew they were damaged," Krutoy said. "He's not a man with a gun and a mask and in an alley. [He has] a smile and a [Department of Juvenile Justice] ID card." But when the predator could, "he did it and he knew it was risky," said Krutoy. Read more: http://www.dnainfo.com/20110120/downtown/da-says-counselor-targeted-damaged-teens-sexually-abuse#ixzz1BiOkJCc6 For complete story, click here.

Cleveland Job Corps program troubled, Plain Dealer investigation shows--January 31st, 2011 (Source: cleveland.com) The Cleveland Job Corps Academy opened in November 2007 with high expectations and a mission to educate, train, house and find jobs for troubled teens and young adults. Championed by the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones as a crucial community resource, the academy drew praise from then-U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, who toured the $35 million, 25-acre campus in Collinwood six months later and boasted it "will help so many young people find hope and opportunity." But a Plain Dealer investigation has found that the academy is in turmoil. The investigation, begun last spring and based on interviews with current and former Job Corps workers, public records and internal documents obtained by the paper, revealed: Applied Technology Systems Inc., the Cleveland-based company that is paid millions of tax dollars a year to run the federal program, has failed to pay bills, at times leaving students without properly maintained fire alarms, medical services, uniforms and other supplies. Unruly students have been accused of numerous crimes, including fighting with neighborhood gang members, assaulting other students, stealing, and possessing drugs and knives. The crimes and behavior

problems have disrupted learning, promoted fear on campus led to low morale and staff turnover, according to former employees and documents. ATSI often tolerated bad behavior and passed poorly performing students to meet contract and financial goals, former employees charge. For complete story, click here.

Md., Calif. Suspend 'Scared Straight' Programs--February 4th, 2011 (Source: abcnews.go.com) Maryland and California prison officials said Friday they have suspended youthful offender diversion programs featured on the television show "Beyond Scared Straight" after the U.S. Justice Department warned they could lose federal funding. The A&E; series, which started Jan. 13, is produced by Arnold Shapiro, maker of the Emmy- and Oscar-winning 1979 television special, "Scared Straight." Like that show, it documents visits by troubled teenagers to prisons where intimidating inmates deliver in-your-face lectures about the harshness of life behind bars. A prison agency spokesman in South Carolina, the only other state featured on the A&E; Network series, said the diversion program will be reviewed by the state's incoming corrections chief. The Justice Department said a study of nine such programs concluded they don't deter teenagers from offending. In fact, the youths were more likely to offend, according to Assistant Attorney General Laurie O. Robinson and Jeff Slowikowski, acting administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. "In light of this evidence, the U.S. Department of Justice discourages the funding of scared straight-type programs. States that operate such programs could have their federal funding reduced if shown not to have complied with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act," the federal officials wrote in an op-ed piece published Monday in The (Baltimore) Sun. Slowikowski said his office recently expressed these concerns to officials in the three states. For complete story, click here.

Mom suing after son dies in summer drowning--February 5th, 2011 (source: philly.com) CARNEZ BOONE would have been back home in Delaware County by now. But Boone, a 14-year-old Collingdale boy who had been sent to a residential treatment program in western Pennsylvania, disappeared in the murky water at Lakeside Park in Stoneboro last summer, drowning after having jumped off the high dive. Besides having to deal with Carnez's early death, his mother, Okita Allen, can't help but wonder what he was doing on the diving board in the first place. Carnez couldn't swim. According to a lawsuit Allen filed last week, school counselors pressured Carnez to jump off the high dive during a class trip with the YES Academy, a yearlong residential program for troubled teens. "My child is dead. There was no remorse, no compassion," said Allen, 38. For complete story, click here.

Founder uncertain about future of boarding school in Abbeville County--February 5th, 2011 (Source: independentmail.com) Narvin Lichfield spent a night in the Abbeville County Detention Center last month, and now he is having second thoughts about reopening his boarding school for troubled teens. “I might just liquidate the property,” Lichfield said in an interview last week. “I am tired. I am worn out.” (Webmaster Note: Hey, great idea!!! HEAL supports Lichfield in closing the program for good.) For complete story, click here.

Ex-Texas prison official on trial for pupil sex--February 6th, 2011 (Source: chron.com) By BETSY BLANEY Associated Press © 2011 The Associated Press Feb. 6, 2011, 10:56AM LUBBOCK, Texas — Six years have passed since a sex scandal involving jail administrators and teenage inmates were first investigated by Texas Rangers. In that time, the case has prompted the resignations or firings of several top state officials responsible for jailing Texas' juvenile criminals and sent a former West Texas jail administrator to prison. Now, after years of court motions and alleged inaction by a local district attorney, state prosecutors have one target left in their case: John Paul Hernandez. The 45-year-old former principal at the Texas Youth Commission's West Texas State School in Pyote is on trial this week on charges he sexually molested pupils in 2004 and 2005. For complete story, click here. (Hernandez was ultimately acquitted. Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41711814/ns/us_news/)

Former Judge Is on Trial in ‘Cash for Kids’ Scheme--February 9th, 2011 (Source: nytimes.com) SCRANTON, Pa. — A former Pennsylvania judge went on trial in federal court on Tuesday, charged with racketeering, bribery and extortion in what prosecutors say was a $2.8 million scheme to send juvenile delinquents to privately run prisons. The case against the judge, Mark A. Ciavarella Jr., who presided in Luzerne County, drew national attention for what legal experts say is a dangerous gap in the juvenile justice systems of many states — children appearing in court without lawyers. Mr. Ciavarella, now 60, sentenced thousands of young people, funneling them into two private detention centers prosecutors say were run by his friends who slipped him payments in a “cash for kids” scheme. Few of the young people had lawyers, a chronic problem that legal scholars say makes guilty pleas more likely, saddling them with criminal records. The state has since expunged more than 6,000 records of youths Mr. Ciavarella sentenced, some for crimes as small as stealing a jar of nutmeg. “It was a terrible lesson,” said Laurence H. Tribe, a constitutional law professor at Harvard Law School who founded the Obama administration’s Access to Justice Initiative. He added: “It highlighted the dangers for juveniles who don’t know their rights, haven’t talked to a lawyer and are urged by overburdened courts to take a plea. Once that happens, future opportunities for the child are essentially gone.” In court here on Tuesday, Gordon Zubrod, an assistant United States attorney, portrayed Mr. Ciavarella’s actions over seven years as a plot to enrich himself. William Ruzzo, a lawyer for Mr. Ciavarella, denied the charges. For complete story, click here.

Greg Kutz: Uncovering child abuse and neglect at residential, public and private schools--September 27th, 2010 (Received by HEAL on February 15th, 2011, Source: washingtonpost.com) The Partnership for Public Service Monday, September 27, 2010; 5:04 PM In Arizona, a teen with asthma and complaining of chest pains was forced by counselors at a residential boot camp to do pushups and carry cinder blocks for not having completed an assignment. The youngster subsequently died, with an autopsy finding more than 70 physical injuries. In West Virginia, a four-year-old autistic girl with cerebral palsy was tied to a chair, badly bruised and traumatized. In Utah, a 16-year-old boy in a wilderness therapy program collapsed and died after counselors ignored signs of physical distress for three weeks, including severe weight loss, severe abdominal pain and loss of bodily functions. These shocking and heartbreaking stories are among thousands of cases chronicled by Gregory Kutz, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) managing director, who led a nationwide investigation that documented widespread abuse, torture, neglect and death of troubled and disabled children in residential programs and in public and private schools across the United States. For complete story, click here.

Former Pa. judge guilty of corruption--February 18th, 2011 (Source: upi.com) SCRANTON, Pa., Feb. 18 (UPI) -- A federal jury in Scranton, Pa., Friday found former Luzerne County Judge Mark Ciavarella guilty of racketeering, mail fraud and money laundering. Ciavarella faces a possible prison sentence and must repay $997,600 to the government for his role in a kickback scheme in which he sent young offenders to a juvenile detention center run by a private company, WNEP-TV, Scranton, reported. Ciavarella was charged with 39 counts of racketeering, fraud, money laundering, extortion and filing false tax returns; he was found not guilty on 10 counts of receiving a bribe, eight counts of extortion and four counts of wire fraud, the station said. The jury deliberated for more than 11 hours in the trial that began Monday, hearing testimony from Internal Revenue Service agents, Luzerne County attorney Robert Powell, former Luzerne County Prothonotary Jill Moran and the defendant, who denied the extortion charges but admitted filing false income tax returns. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2009 ordered that criminal records be cleared for juveniles sentenced by Ciavarella between 2003 and 2008. Ciavarella and another judge, Michael T. Conohan, agreed to plead guilty in 2009 to wire fraud and conspiracy, acknowledging they got about $2.6 million from the owners of two detention centers. But U.S. District Judge Edwin Kosik rejected the plea agreement. For complete story, click here.

Adam Lambert Tells Troubled Gay Teens To Love Themselves--February 19th, 2011 (Source: ontopmag.com)

Holder supports prevention for youths over courts--March 7th, 2011 (Source: washingtonpost.com) WASHINGTON -- Attorney General Eric Holder said Monday that some programs aimed at scaring troubled teens into better behavior are failing in their mission. Speaking to a legislative conference of county officials, the attorney general said the nation's system of juvenile justice must move away from prosecution and punishment and more toward prevention and intervention. Holder cited a scientific review that found that children ordered into nine so-called scared straight programs around the country are nearly 30 percent more likely to offend than youths who are not. "Scared straight" initiatives involve visits by troubled teenagers to prisons where intimidating inmates deliver in-your-face lectures about the harshness of life behind bars. The attorney general says many youths who are incarcerated for nonviolent offenses often emerge violent or at the very least, traumatized. For complete story, click here.

(Webmaster Note: Thank you to President and First Lady Obama for speaking up for children and against abuse and bullying.)

Bullying is not a Rite of Passage--March 10th, 2011 (Source: washingtonpost.com) Valerie Jarrett had just run through what would happen at today's summit on bullying when I asked her a rather blunt question. With all that's going on -- fights over budget cuts, the encroaching debt ceiling, the economy, job creation, not to mention the wave of protests across the Middle East and the bloody intransigence of Moammar Gaddafi -- why is President Obama focused on this today? "What could be more important than our children?" Jarrett, senior adviser to the president, asked during an interview in her West Wing office Wednesday Thursday. "There is a perception that bullying is a rite of passage. And it's not....It's just not acceptable." For complete story, click here.

SPLC Sues Mississippi County After 'Shocking' Video Shows Abuses at Juvenile Facility--March 8th, 2011 (splcenter.org) The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and Disability Rights Mississippi (DRMS) today filed a lawsuit against Forrest County, Miss., to force the county to comply with federal law and provide the children held at the county's juvenile detention center with access to lawyers and civil rights advocates following reports of abusive conditions at the facility. Video footage from the Forrest County Juvenile Detention Center shows a youth hogtied and other abuses, including a youth slammed against a wall by a guard. The video was recently released despite the county's effort to prevent it from being aired. When advocates for the SPLC and DRMS sought access to the detention center in order to provide detained youth with federally mandated protection and advocacy services, county officials barred their access to the children. For complete story, click here.

Friday, Mar. 18, 2011 Grand juries recommend youth jail be evaluated By ROBIN FITZGERALD - Grand juries for Harrison County's Gulfport and Biloxi divisions expressed concern over deteriorating conditions at the Juvenile Detention Center in final reports for their six-month terms. The report from the Gulfport panel gave a detailed list of recommendations, and concluded that while there have been improvements, "the deplorable physical conditions of the facility must be attended to immediately." The youth center is in Biloxi. The Gulfport panel took before-and-after pictures of improvements at the center, but recommended a strategic plan for building or relocating a modernized facility in Gulfport near the county's youth court. Until that happens, the report said, maintenance of the current facility should receive "utmost priority." The Biloxi panel's report recommended a third-party evaluation to make sure the youth center "is operated under acceptable guidelines and principals." Both panels also visited the county jail and children's shelter. The Gulfport panel recommended the jail booking and medical areas be renovated and expanded, and noted neither area is sufficient to handle the number of inmates housed at the jail. The Gulfport panel also addressed law enforcement concerns, and recommended cases be brought to the grand jury in a more timely manner. It also agreed with previous grand juries that all cases of sexual assaults against children be thoroughly investigated and evidence gathered as effectively as possible. The grand juries returned a combined total of 700 indictments and 130 no true bills. The Gulfport panel served under Circuit Judge Lisa Dodson, and was in session a total of 18 days. The Biloxi panel served under Circuit Judge Roger Clark. It was in session 12 days. Read more: http://www.sunherald.com/2011/03/18/2955120/grand-juries-recommend-youth-jail.html#ixzz1H2YJymK7

PANI Rescues 20 Young Americans Who Suffered Various Attacks--March 22nd, 2011 (Source: insidecostarica.com) The Patronato Nacional de la Infancia (PANI) - Costa Rica's child welfare agency - says it rescued on Monday a group of 20 American minors who allegedly received psychological and physical abuse by managers of a reformatory in Puntarenas. The academy "Teen Mentor" has been operating since 2010 in the Hotel Carra in Tarcoles de Garabito, Puntarenas. The PANI took the action to intervene following complaints from three psychologists at the academy. Ten children were transferred directly to a PANI shelter, while the case is still in under investigation. Parents paid from us$600 per month to keep their children between the ages of 13 and 18 in the program. PANI officials say all the youths found in the academy on Monday were all Americans. Jorge Urbina, manager of the PANI, told the media on Monday that the U.S. Embassy in San José was in the process of notifying all the parents to come get theri children. The action by the PANI quickly reminds that of the "Dundee Ranch" academy back in 2004. Academy at Dundee Ranch was a behavior modification facility for United States teenagers west of Orotina. It was promoted as a residential school, offering a program of behavior modification, motivational "emotional growth seminars," a progressive academic curriculum, and a structured daily schedule, for teenagers struggling in their homes, schools, or communities. The facility was associated with World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASP). For complete story, click here.

Costa Rica government closes controversial 'tough love' youth camp--March 22nd, 2011 (Source: ticotimes.net) For the second time in the past nine years a behavior modification center run by the Utah-based World Wide Association of Specialty Programs (WWASP) was closed in Costa Rica for alleged psychological and physical mistreatment of residents. Last Friday, the Child Welfare Office (PANI) closed the center, known as Teen Mentor, which advertises therapeutic and psychological services to 21 U.S. teenagers aged 13 to 18. Parents had placed the troubled teens in the facility to address behavioral issues and problems with substance abuse. PANI closed the center after receiving complaints that the student residents were being subjected to physical and mental abuse from the supervisors of the program. Three PANI psychologists visited the facility to interview the students when they were alerted to the allegedly abusive conditions at the center, the daily La Nación reported. The organization's website, which has since been disabled, offered behavior modification services for a monthly fee. The residents had been staying at the Hotel Carara in the town of Tárcoles de Garabito, in Puntarenas, west of San José near the Pacific Ocean. "They rented the entire hotel for several months," said a hotel employee who asked that his name be withheld. "The boys were downstairs, the girls were upstairs. As far as abuse or things like that, we usually only saw the kids during pool time and don't really know what went on when they went to the beach or outside. When I came to work on Friday, PANI was here and by that night everyone was gone." Robert Walter Lichfield, the founder of the WWASP program, registered Teen Mentor as an official business in the national registry in August 2010. In the last 16 years, 15 behavioral facilities operated by WWASP have been closed due to similar allegations by child welfare organizations in the U.S. and other countries. For complete story, click here. For more on this story, click here.

Family Resources is under investigation--March 24th, 2011 (Source: whbf.com) A center for troubled youth in davenport is under investigation after an alleged sexual abuse incident. It apparently happened when the boys were in time out. Family Resources is being investigated by the Department of Human Services after two teens, a 17 and 13 year old, who have a history of sex offenses, allegedly engaged in a sex act. The young people housed at the Family Resources' 24 hour care facility come through the court system and have significant emotional and behavioral needs... And staff members said they didn't find out about the November incident until days afterwards. "When our client came to us and admitted to the situation we immediately followed up with emergency medical care for him," said Cheryl Goodwin, President & CEO, Family Resources. The facility is now operating under a temporary license until their corrective action plan has been reviewed by the state. "The next step is to have somebody visit the campus and make sure that they are doing what it is they said they would do," said Roger Munns, Iowa Department of Human Services. Unfortunately, staff members and state officials said this isn't the first something like this has happened at the facility... For complete story, click here. For more on this story, click here.

Wilderness, youth therapy programs closing--March 25th, 2011 (Source: sltrib.com) A wave of closures and consolidations in wilderness therapy and youth treatment programs in Utah will take nearly 200 jobs from Wayne County alone. Three programs for troubled young people, owned by Aspen Education Group, constitute the biggest employer in the county, which is home to the redrock landscape of Capitol Reef National Park, said Les Prall, of the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Without Aspen, he predicted unemployment in Wayne County will rise to nearly 22 percent. "That's the highest I've ever seen for an unemployment rate in a county," Prall said. "It's a very major thing, it's huge." The tightening national credit market was a big factor forcing the closures, said Aspen President Phil Herschman. Facing price tags of $18,000 to $60,000 for weeks or months in the intensive therapeutic programs, parents often turned to home equity or other loans, he said. Education loans for therapy "no longer exist," Herschman said. "The demand had just dried up dramatically." It's a trend that affects the entire multimillion-dollar industry in Utah. "We haven't had as many closures here, mainly because a lot of the programs are just barely hanging on to try and save themselves," said state licensing director Ken Stettler. CRC Health Group, Aspen's California-based parent company, will close two programs in Utah: An equine and behavioral therapy boarding school in Wayne County, and a substance abuse treatment facility for teens in St. George. Another Wayne County drug rehab program will move to Idaho. The state's longest-running wilderness therapy program, Aspen Achievement Academy, will move from Wayne County to Lehi and merge with another program, Outback Expeditions. A live-in treatment center for teens in Draper will merge with a similar facility in Syracuse. Read More at: http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/51497664-76/programs-aspen-county-therapy.html.csp

Aspen Education Group to Restructure Programs--March 24th, 2011 (Source: strugglingteens.com) "As part of this operational restructuring, Aspen has announced plans to discontinue operations at five locations and consolidate services for three other facilities. The programs to be closed include Bromley Brook School (Manchester Center, VT), New Leaf Academy of Oregon, NorthStar Center (Bend, OR), Aspen Ranch (Loa, UT) and SunHawk Adolescent Recovery Center (St. George, UT). Aspen Achievement Academy (Loa, UT) will consolidate with Aspen's Outback Therapeutic Expeditions in Lehi, Utah; Youth Care (Draper, UT) will be moving onto Aspen's Island View campus in Syracuse, UT, maintaining its established brand name; and Passages to Recovery (Loa, UT) will be relocating to Shoshone, ID, to add a young adult substance abuse treatment component to Aspen's already existing SUWS Adolescent & Youth program." (Webmaster Note: Provided to help add information to the article directly below. Click title link to go to complete article. HEAL will not be posting the complete article on our website as it is our well established and evidenced belief that strugglingteens.com is little more than an unethical referral and self-promoting website that does not exhibit due diligence in the "information" they provide on programs. Woodbury's continued association with CEDU-based programs and other fraudulent and abusive facilities remains a serious concern.)

Town Relies On Troubled Youth Prison For Profits--March 25th, 2011 (source: npr.org) First in a two-part series on private prisons Prisons are filled with stress and violence; without proper supervision they can revert to primitive places. That's what happened at Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility in Mississippi, an NPR news investigation has determined. As the nation's largest juvenile prison, Walnut Grove houses 1,200 boys and young men in a sprawling one-story complex ringed by security fences about an hour's drive east of Jackson. The State of Mississippi pays a private corrections company to run the prison. NPR's investigation found that allegations swirling around the prison raise the fundamental question of whether profits have distorted the mission of rehabilitating young inmates. An Environment Of Violence Walnut Grove "started out and it was formed to be something good for youth, but somewhere down the line it took a turn for the worse," said former inmate Clayborne Henderson, 27. He spent two years for kidnapping in "the Grove," as they call it, between his 19th and 21st birthdays. Now he's working at a car wash and taking community college courses in Jackson, trying to straighten out his life. The Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility houses 1,200 boys and young men east of Jackson, Miss. John Burnett/NPR The Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility houses 1,200 boys and young men east of Jackson, Miss. He and other former inmates describe an environment of violence inside the youth prison as so pervasive it became entertainment. "It'd be like setting up a fight deal like you would with two dogs," Henderson said. "I did witness twice while I was at Walnut Grove, they actually bet on it. It was payday for the guards." For complete story, click here.

A RELIGIOUS SUB-CULTURE MANY AMERICANS HAVE NEVER HEARD OF, YET HAS THOUSANDS OF CHURCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ... CHURCHES THAT CRITICS CLAIM CAN FOSTER PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE--April 6th, 2011 (source: blogs.abcnews.com) Elizabeth Vargas' Yearlong Investigation Into The Independent Fundamental Baptist Church, Airs On "20/20," Friday, April 8, 10-11 PM ET Try to imagine the pain and humiliation of a teenage girl, just 15 years old, who says she was forced to stand in front of a New Hampshire church congregation and confess her "sin" of being pregnant. She says not only was she forced to confess her pregnancy, but also to ask for their forgiveness – with no mention of the man she says sexually abused her. After all, she says, the pastor told her it's better than being stoned to death as the bible describes. That is what Tina Anderson alleged happened to her at her ultra conservative Independent Fundamental Baptist, or IFB, Church. The IFB has thousands of congregations across the country, but many people have never heard of it. That was, until another woman, Jocelyn Zichterman, began a public campaign – armed with nothing but a computer and memories of her own alleged abuse that she says church beliefs can foster. And survivors are now coming out of the woodwork, to say she's not alone. Elizabeth Vargas' yearlong exclusive investigation into a religious sub-culture that critics claim can foster – even cover up – physical and sexual abuse airs on "20/20" on FRIDAY, APRIL 8 (10:00 – 11:00 p.m. ET) on the ABC Television Network. Critics say the church teaches a strict interpretation of the bible including the practice known as breaking the will of the child, with some advocating that it even be applied to infants as young as two weeks old. "I had a decision to make that either I was going to kind of curl up in the corner and be quiet or I was going to stand up for my family and tell the truth," says Jocelyn Zichterman. For complete story, click here.

Increasingly, Internet Activism Helps Shutter Abusive 'Troubled Teen' Boot Camps--April 5th, 2011 (source: healthland.time.com) For the last 40 years, teens with drug problems, learning disabilities and other behavioral issues have been sent to residential facilities to endure "tough love" techniques that are widely known to include methods of outright physical and psychological abuse. Whether labeled as boot camps, emotional-growth schools, behavior modification programs or wilderness programs, these organizations have operated without federal oversight, and state regulation of the schools ranges from lax to nonexistent. Now, however, individual critics of the programs are using the Internet to find each other and mobilize, and are bringing change. Consider the Elan School, in Poland, Maine, which has long been known for its extreme practices. On April 1, Elan shut its doors after four decades in operation, blaming negative publicity online for recent declines in enrollment. "The school has been the target of harsh and false attacks spread over the Internet with the avowed purpose of forcing the school to close," Sharon Terry, Elan's executive director, told the Lewiston Maine Sun Journal. The paper reported: Despite several recent investigations conducted by the Maine Department of Education that Terry said have vindicated the school, "the school has, unfortunately, been unable to survive the damage." Elan is just the most recent in a growing list of victories for opponents of tough residential programs for troubled teens. In the last three years, some 40 other private institutions like Elan have closed, and others have been condemned by state investigations, as activism online — mostly led by survivors of such programs and their parents — has increased. For complete story, click here (or review entire HEAL website and external links).

Agency serving troubled youth has troubles of its own--April 6th, 2011 (source: tcdailyplanet.net) By Charles Hallman, Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder April 06, 2011 Freeport West is a 41-year-old nonprofit human services agecy that provides programs and services to at-risk youth and young families, with offices in Minneapolis and St. Paul. After several years of turmoil and the recent firings of its executive director and other staff, the agency may be currently facing its worst crisis in those 41 years of service to the community. A new interim Freeport executive director was selected last week to replace former executive director Ramona Wilson, who was hired almost four years ago. She "is moving on...to pursue other professional opportunities," according to a March 16 press release. Wilson's departure was followed a day later by the unexpected firing of five staff members at the St. Paul office. One of them, Sherrie Ellis, said the interim executive director told her that she was let go due to lack of funding. Former St. Paul office manager Dora Darnes said that, when told she was fired, "I was in shock and devastated." She was hired last June. "A lot of these kids come to depend on a lot of us and get a lot of different things from different staff people." The series of events are puzzling, said Rev. Devin Miller of St. Paul last week, including closing the St. Paul office for two days after the firings. "You don't fire [the executive director] on Tuesday and then drop five staff on Thursday without due process," he pointed out. Miller said that he met with Freeport Board Chair Fred Blocton once he learned of the firings and asked about "$115,000 on the table" for the St. Paul office. "How can you tell me that there is no money when you approved a budget with [a three-percent increase], then all of a sudden you fire five people?" "We served over 700 kids" since the St. Paul office opened in 2008, Ellis noted. "It's all about the kids and what they need. I'm worried as to what is going to happen." The minister and other community folk are strongly suggesting that what is happening to the Freeport's St. Paul office could be the result of a tug-of-war between Blocton and Wilson. When the MSR last week contacted Blocton for comment, he responded with a March 24 prepared statement: "Freeport's board of directors, management team and staff are committed to providing quality programming...providing uninterrupted, quality services to at-risk [youth] is our number one priority." However, two individuals formerly connected with Freeport have pointed out that the nonprofit organization might have been mismanaged during Wilson's tenure. "Too many decisions were made without doing the proper homework," including opening the St. Paul office, said a former board member who spoke to the MSR on condition of anonymity. According to a March 16 press release, Freeport has hired an interim financial management team and a local firm to assist with compliance and reporting and is conducting a search for a chief financial officer. Although we were originally promised that our interview requests would be met, a Freeport spokeswoman subsequently told the MSR that neither Blocton nor anyone else with the organization would answer any more questions, including confirming reports of recent audits by several funding sources that found financial discrepancies under Wilson's leadership. "When [Wilson] came in, the organization was very financially stable," said a former Freeport staffer who was on board when Wilson arrived. The person, who spoke to the MSR on condition of anonymity, added that the former executive director's

management style had contributed to a constant turnover of staff. "[Wilson] has a tremendous ego," added the former staffer. "I was in a position that I couldn't agree with the things she was doing." Although at the time several board members did not support Wilson's candidacy for the job because of her limited nonprofit experience, the former board member said they eventually did support her hiring. "But just two months into hiring her, I was very sorry that I did," the person admitted, adding that there was a constant clash of egos between the former executive director and the board. "Ramona came in there with very corporate ideals and not nonprofit reality. Clearly because of Ramona and the direction she started taking Freeport, we knew we could not go in that direction because it would pull Freeport down." Later nearly half of the Freeport board left, "and not one of us had planned to leave," the individual pointed out. "She [Wilson] strategically got rid of the key people that we felt over the years was the glue to running Freeport." For complete story, click here.

Biblical Reform School Discipline: Tough Love or Abuse?--April 12th, 2011 (source: abcnews.go.com) "Because of that the trauma, she started spiraling in every way possible," said her mother, Jeannie Marie, who did not want their last name made public. Priscilla, now 18, said she numbed the pain with drinking and rebellion, which terrified her mother. Desperate, Jeannie Marie turned to her church for help, learning about a Christian reform school that she says promised to "get right" her wayward daughter. But neither was prepared for the ordeal they say Priscilla experienced from November to January of this year at New Beginnings Girls Academy, an Independent Fundamental Baptist boarding school in La Russell, Mo. The school, according to its website, serves troubled teens so "through Jesus Christ, they can overcome their addictions, mend their broken relationships and get their lives on the right path." Instead, Priscilla said she was told the rape was her fault and was subjected to harsh discipline -- ridiculed, restrained and deprived of proper nutrition and adequate clothing. As punishment for misbehaving she says she was forced to wear a red shirt and stand facing a wall, sometimes for 8 to 10 hours a day with only 15-minute breaks for food. "I was so achy it hurt," said Priscilla. She said toilet paper and sanitary pads were rationed, despite Priscilla's urinary problems after the rape. She also said no one offered to get her medical care. "We thought maybe Priscilla would go there and hide out and pull herself together," said Jeannie Marie. "We thought it was a safe place to go and we wouldn't have to worry...We trusted our church." Priscilla left the school in January, but said the punitive approach left her with no self-worth and anxiety attacks so bad she cannot breathe. New Beginnings charges $10,300 a year, according to its admission application. On a signed form, parents agree to "corporal discipline," which is spelled out in their mission statement as up to 15 "swats" with a wooden paddle in each 24-hour period for misbehavior. For complete story, click here. (Complete story references multiple IFB/Roloff-related programs.)

Sex abuse claim at Pines youth center investigated--April 22nd, 2011 (Source: hamptonroads.com) Virginia investigators have determined a Norfolk treatment center for troubled youth failed to properly report and document an allegation of sexual abuse by a North Carolina resident. The incident at The Pines Residential Treatment Center, a private facility that serves youth with mental, emotional and behavioral problems, was a "peer-to-peer" one, according to Meghan McGuire, spokeswoman for the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. The Pines has three treatment centers in Hampton Roads - one in Norfolk and two in Portsmouth, licensed for a total of 424 residents. North Carolina spokeswoman Renee McCoy said the state has suspended any new North Carolina admissions to the three Pines facilities, effective April 13, and is reviewing the cases of 113 North Carolina residents currently residing there because of concerns about patient care, treatment, staffing and training. The North Carolina families of some residents of The Pines have been contacted about possible moves. McGuire said in an email that the allegation was reported by a boy who stayed at the Norfolk facility, which is on Kempsville Road and is licensed for 82 youngsters. The allegation was reported to North Carolina officials after the youth's discharge on Jan. 31. The Virginia licensing officials were contacted last week by the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, according to McGuire. Officials in that office told Virginia officials a complaint had been received from the boy's family earlier this month. McGuire said that North Carolina had not found any proof of abuse but determined there was enough credibility to the complaint to take action. Officials there noted the incident had not been reported by The Pines to state licensing officials in Virginia and North Carolina, which is a requirement of state-licensed facilities. McGuire said other treatment concerns were also noted in the complaint. For complete story, click here.

S.C. has no say in youth centers: Little-known facilities hold troubled teens--April 26th, 2011 (source: postandcourier.com) SUMMERVILLE -- Many residents were stunned to learn last week that a local youth treatment center was housing violent teens from outside South Carolina. How could this happen, they wondered. The truth is: The state has almost no control of who is placed in these facilities or where they come from. In many cases, even the local police don't know who is in their backyard. South Carolina is home to 17 of these treatment centers that house nearly 800 kids and young adults struggling with mental illness, violent behavior and other problems. Many, like Palmetto Summerville Behavioral Health, are privately run facilities. Neighbors of the Palmetto Behavioral Health complex in Summerville have expressed concerns about security at the facility, which is surrounded by a 6-foot-tall wooden fence topped with 18 inches of lattice. State's involvement The state Department of Health and Environmental Control licenses these centers but has virtually no say in where they are located or who they accept as clients, agency spokesman Thom Berry said. DHEC inspectors typically visit these facilities just once every two years unless a complaint is lodged, Berry said. Even then, they are looking at things such as staffing ratios, the dispensing of medication and treatment plans. They don't control admissions or security measures. These facilities are not required to report escapes; only hospitalizations and deaths, he said. For complete story, click here.

AA headmaster's resignation not tied to abuse investigation--April 27th, 2011 Dr. George Martin was not asked to resign his position as headmaster at Amelia Academy because he investigated allegations of abuse of children in the 1980s at a Louisiana girls' home by a teacher currently employed by the academy, according to Kelly Anderson, the president of the board of directors of the Amelia Educational Foundation. Dr. Martin was replaced April 11 as headmaster at the private school. No reason has been given for his re-placement but rumors abound he had been forced to resign because of his investigation into allegations against an Academy teacher who was once employed at the New Bethany Girls Home in Arcadia, La. Online postings accuse the teacher of, "beatings on the body and the feet, humiliation, silent treatments and other torture and abuse," according to Dwayne Walker, the secretary and media director for the Survivors of Institutional Abuse organization. Mr. Anderson denied any investigation Dr. Martin made into those allegations had anything to do with his replacement by former Academy Headmaster James "Jim" Grizzard. Mr. Anderson said the allegations against the teacher were investigated and the results of the investigation were the allegations were "deemed not to be an issue for us." The teacher has been, "an exemplary employee for about 13 years," he said. The abuse allegations surfaced about a year ago, he said, and admitted there were "initial concerns" by parents of Academy students. The Foundation did a second background check of the teacher about two months ago, he said. This check also found no history of abuse, Mr. Anderson said, noting the teacher's spouse, who also was employed by the New Bethany Home in the 1980s had also passed a rigorous federal employment background check. There were no issues with the teacher at the Academy and no students have been withdrawn because of the teacher's employment, he said. Dr. Martin was traveling and not available for comment. Source: http://www.ameliamonitor.com/

Teen Challenge Training Center founder dies--April 29th, 2011 (Source: readingeagle.com) The New York City preacher who founded the Teen Challenge Training Center in Rehrersburg in 1962, the first of hundreds of biblically based recovery centers for drug addicts outside Times Square, died in a car crash in Texas, authorities said Thursday. The Rev. David Wilkerson, 79, who began preaching to troubled teens in Times Square in 1958, died Wednesday afternoon when his car veered head-on into a tractor-trailer on Route 175 in East Texas, about 95 miles southeast of Dallas, Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange said. Source: http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=304355

Schram: Official silence on juvenile center abuse is deafening--May 6th, 2011 (Source: komonews.com) They don't want you to know. I don't exactly know what they're trying to keep secret, but they're doing their best to keep the public from finding something out. Last week, KOMO 4 Problem Solver Tracy Vedder aired a report detailing serious issues at the Echo Glen Children's Center: A teenage girl raped by a staff member; multiple instances of sexual harassment among the people in charge of the juvenile offenders detained there; allowing a convicted sex offender unsupervised contact with pre-teen and teenage girls. Missing from Vedder's report was any sort of explanation from state officials. They have repeatedly denied Vedder's request for an interview. I believe that Don Mead, the superintendent of Echo Glen, along with John Clayton, who is the DSHS Secretary in charge of juvenile rehabilitation, along with DSHS Secretary Susan Dreyfus, are hoping that this issue fades from public attention. I don't think that should be allowed to happen. For complete story, click here.

Bloomberg Pushes for Control of Juvenile Justice System (Source: Gotham Gazette, May 16th, 2011) Every year New York City sends of its most troubled teens hundreds of miles away, Far from family, they are confined in institutions that by many accounts are brutal, ineffective -- and expensive. These institutions have been deemed so brutal and ineffective by the federal government that the Department of Justice threatened to take over the system if the state did not make drastic improvements to the quality of care. For complete story, click here.

Speaker Paul Wesselmann says kindness, empathy keys to dealing with troubled teens (Source: postcrescent.com, May 17th, 2011) APPLETON — As he led an Appleton Public Library audience of about 125 teens, parents and educators in a workshop on connecting with youth in crisis, Paul Wesselmann almost never stopped smiling. Even while retelling stories punctuated by loneliness and despair, Wesselmann crackled with a lightness that resonated with his central message: hope. "Life is hard," he said. "And we get better." Sponsored by the city of Appleton, Lawrence University and the J. J. Keller Foundation, Wesselmann's presentation Monday was part of a broader community response to the half dozen youth suicides that have occurred in the Fox Valley since 2009. Even as Wesselmann conceded that "some of you

came here tonight wondering, maybe hoping, that you could learn the secret of how to identify a kid that is in deep trouble and to go up them and say the right thing and save their life," he stressed that hope and help often arrive in "small deposits" of empathy and kindness. For complete story, click here.

Mandel: Inquest for troubled teen finally begins (Source: torontosun.com, May 17th, 2011) TORONTO - Mentally troubled and hard to control, Ashley Smith was locked up for much of her teenage years, pepper sprayed, Tasered, bound from head to toe in a restraining cocoon and banished for the equivalent of two full years to solitary confinement. Her crimes? She threw a crab apple at a postal worker. She stole a CD. And while in custody, she refused to behave — so they just kept extending her prison term. Smith was just 19 when she finally tied a ligature around her neck while in segregation at the Grand Valley Institute for Women in Kitchener. In the past, she had done this as a desperate act for attention and it always worked — the guards would rush in to save her. She didn't know that when she again tied those cloths around her neck on Oct. 19, 2007, the rules had changed. Correctional officers had been ordered not to intervene. And so they didn't. They stood by as Smith choked to death. Did the traumatized New Brunswick teen finally end her tortured imprisonment by killing herself? Or was it simply a tragic accident in a desperate cry for some human contact? For complete story, click here.

Long overdue end to Dozier School for Boys' legacy of abuse (Source: tampabay.com, May 27th, 2011) The news comes decades too late for generations of abused young men. But the state of Florida finally has stopped defending a culture of horrific abuse and will shut down a North Florida school for boys at the end of June after more than a century of looking the other way. The courage of former students who recounted the abuse they endured, renewed public scrutiny and a state financial crisis combined to force a decision that should have been made years ago. The Department of Juvenile Justice announced Thursday that the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys — recently renamed the innocuous North Florida Youth Development Center — will be shut down and its 63 detainees will be sent to other facilities. For complete story, click here.

Carney fires 29 in abuse incident (Source: boston.com, May 28th, 2011) Carney Hospital fired the staff of its adolescent psychiatry unit Thursday, after an investigation into an employee's alleged sexual assault of a patient uncovered serious patient safety problems. Hospital president Bill Walczak said he hired former attorney general Scott Harshbarger and his law firm a month ago to investigate the assault allegation and conditions on the 14-bed locked unit for extremely troubled teens. When he read Harshbarger's report Thursday, Walczak said he decided to replace the nurses and other staff on the unit. The report described "serious concerns about patient safety and quality of care on the unit. It was not functioning properly. It was recommended by them to start over on the unit," Walczak said in an interview. "We will have top-notch employees replace those who left. My goal is to make it the best unit in the state." He would not provide details of the alleged assault or patient safety concerns, or comment on why the entire staff was dismissed, given that the allegation involved one employee and one patient. For complete story, click here.

Ex-leader at Texas youth prison settles civil suit Associated Press - May 31, 2011 11:25 AM ET LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) - The attorney for a former West Texas youth prison inmate says his client has settled a civil lawsuit against a former prison school principal who was acquitted on sexual abuse charges. Attorney Scott Medlock said Tuesday his 26-year-old client's settlement for $2,000 doesn't include an admission of wrongdoing by former West Texas State School principal John Paul Hernandez. Medlock says the agreement includes a "vague" letter of apology from Hernandez. In February, Hernandez was found not guilty of sexually abusing five inmates at the prison school in Pyote in 2004 and 2005. Medlock's client was 1 of the five. A Texas Rangers report implicated Hernandez in a sex scandal that upended the Texas Youth Commission. Lawmakers eventually ordered an overhaul of the system. Copyright 2011 The Associated Press Source: http://www.newschannel10.com/Global/story.asp?S=14754508

Former student claims abuse in teen boot camps--June 2nd, 2011 (Source: sacbee.com) SALT LAKE CITY -- A man from Washington state has become the latest to sue a Utah-based organization for troubled children, claiming he was physically and emotionally tormented during its teen boot camp programs in Mexico. Attorneys for Carl Brown Austin, 24, of Spokane, filed the lawsuit Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City against World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools. Austin spent nearly two years, starting at age 13, at the organization's Casa by the Sea and High Impact programs. He alleged he was a "virtual prisoner" in programs that meted out primitive punishment for hours on end. The lawsuit said Casa by the Sea in Ensenada, Mexico, was never licensed by any state regulatory authority as a "treatment center" and that High Impact in Baja, Mexico, was shut down by government edict in 2002 after complaints from parents. Austin claimed he was hogtied, given limited access to bathrooms and food and endured "The Big Green" - which meant having his head rubbed into an artificial turf until his face and mouth were bloody. It also claimed the organization and its officials conspired to conceal the abuse at its boarding schools. For complete story, click here. For more on this story, click here and here.

Why So Much Abuse is Allowed to Continue in Residential Care--June 7th, 2011 (Source: Time.com) by Maia Szalavitz The stories are beyond horrifying: an autistic boy crushed to death by a "restraint" gone awry; a disabled woman's diaper pulled aside as she is raped; an elderly woman left to lie on a urine-soaked box spring for six days after being beaten. In two of the nation's largest states, major media investigations this spring revealed hellish conditions in institutions for the disabled: The New York Times exposed ongoing violations, including physical and psychological abuse, in state-run homes for the developmentally disabled, while the Miami Herald uncovered similar tales of maltreatment and neglect in assisted-living homes for the elderly. Both investigations found that the operators of these institutions were able to inflict harm with impunity, repeatedly violating the rights of their residents — in some cases, killing them — while being paid millions of dollars by the government for their "care." Worse, when such abuses were exposed, the homes were not shuttered but simply advised not to do it again. Why is it that institutions are able to get away with the kind of torture and abuse for which parents or other caregivers would be incarcerated or otherwise prevented from ever perpetrating again? This is a question that has haunted me for a decade as I've investigated similar instances of abuse and neglect in programs for "troubled" teens. Several factors interlock all of these cases. If we want to stop the abuse, all of them need to be addressed. For complete story, click here.

Local Boot Camp Leader Accused of Kidnapping Minor--June 7th, 2011 (Source: ktla.com) PASADENA, Calif. (KTLA) -- An instructor at a youth boot camp is accused of kidnapping, false imprisonment and extortion in the alleged abduction of a truant teenager. According to police, Kelvin "Sarge" McFarland handcuffed the teen, then took the boy to a family member's home demanding money before releasing him. McFarland is also accused of trying to persuade the family to enroll the 14-year-old in his boot camp, Family 1st Growth Camp. For complete story, click here. For more on this story, click here , here, here, and here.

Despite Negative Perceptions, most young adults are doing pretty great--June 13th, 2011 (Source: Pittsburghlive.com) This is a really great article. Please read the entire article by clicking on the hyperlinked title above or visiting www.heal-online.org/goodteen061311.pdf.

Supreme Court backs Miranda warning when questioning juveniles The Supreme Court expands the rights of juveniles in a 5-4 decision that says police who remove a student from class for questioning must usually issue a warning of the right to remain silent. By David G. Savage, Washington Bureau June 16, 2011, 10:19 a.m. Reporting from Washington— The Supreme Court expanded the rights of juveniles Thursday, deciding by a 5-4 vote that police officers who remove a student from a class to question him about a crime usually must warn him of his right to remain silent. "It is beyond dispute that children will often feel bound to submit to police questioning when an adult in the same circumstance would feel free to leave," wrote Justice Sonia Sotomayor for the court. The decision does not set a strict rule for all cases involving young people, but instead says their age calls for giving them special protection. In a second criminal case, this one from San Diego, the court said judges may not impose longer prison terms on defendants in hopes of rehabilitating them. A third decision reopened the case of a Philadelphia area woman faced with a federal terrorism charge for having tried to poison a woman who had an affair with her husband. She argued she should have been charged with a domestic crime under state law. The juvenile decision reopens the case of a 13-year old student from Chapel Hill, N.C., who was taken from his seventh-grade class by a police officer and questioned about several burglaries in his neighborhood. The student, identified only as J.D.B., eventually confessed. He later contended his confession should not have been used because he was not warned of his rights. But he lost in a 4-3 decision by the North Carolina Supreme Court. The famous 1966 Miranda decision that required warnings to suspects about their rights applies only to persons who are in the custody of police and feel forced to answer questions. At issue in the case was whether a 13-year old at school would think he was required to speak to the police, or instead would understand he was "free to leave" and could walk away from the interview. Sotomayor said age is a crucial factor, and it suggests the student would feel he is in the control of the police. Officers and judges "simply need the common sense to know that a 7-year-old is not a 13-year old and neither is an adult," she wrote. "To hold, as the state requests, that a child's age is never relevant to whether a suspect has been taken into custody — and thus to ignore the very real differences between children and adults — would be to deny children the full scope of the procedural safeguards that Miranda guarantees to adults." The decision in J.D.B. vs. North Carolina sends the case back for the judges to consider again whether the student was in police control when he was questioned. Joining the majority were Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer and Elena Kagan. The four dissenters said the focus on the age of the individual will be confusing for police and judges. Last year, the court in an opinion by Kennedy barred states from sending juveniles to prison for life for crimes short of murder. The San Diego case involving rehabilitation resulted in an unanimous ruling. The justices agreed with a San Diego area woman who disputed a judge's decision to extend her prison term so she could participate in a drug rehabilitation program. Alexandra Tapia appealed her 51-month prison term, noting the federal sentencing law says that "imprisonment is not an appropriate means of promoting correction and rehabilitation." Citing that phrase, the Supreme Court ruled for her in Tapia vs. United States and told the judge to reconsider the length of her sentence. Carol Bond, the Philadelphia area chemist, won only the right to challenge her

federal conviction on the grounds that it was unconstitutional to use a federal terrorism law to prosecute a domestic dispute. Copyright © 2011, Tribune Interactive Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/sc-dc-0617-court-miranda-20110616,0,2890375.story?track=rss&utm;_source=feedburner&utm;_medium=feed&utm;_campaign=Feed%3A+latimes%2Fnews%2Fnationworld%2Fnation+%28L.A.+Times+-+National+News%29

Juvenile inmates often isolated nearly 24 hours straight californiawatch.org | Jun 13th 2011 Juvenile inmates at California correctional facilities have been held in isolation nearly 24 hours straight on hundreds of occasions this year, in violation of state regulations. An audit by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in March found multiple facilities operated by the Division of Juvenile Justice kept youth prisoners deemed a threat in their cells for all but 40 minutes a day. Auditors found Ventura Youth Correctional Facility, about 50 miles northwest of Los Angeles, to be the worst offender. The juveniles placed on “temporary detention” or "temporary intervention plans” can be placed in solitary confinement for 21 hours a day. Youth facilities exceeded that limit 249 times from January through April, according to numbers provided to Nancy Campbell, who is appointed by the state courts to oversee the juvenile facilities. Campbell confirmed the findings [PDF] in a letter to the Prison Law Office last month. Campbell wrote: Documentation shows that the most frequent failure to meet out-of-room requirements has occurred at Ventura Youth Correctional Facility. In the 14 weeks documented, there were 173 out of 1,453 incidents during which youth on TD [temporary detention] or TIP [temporary intervention plans] spent more than 21 of 24 hours confined to his or her rooms. Other DJJ facilities struggle to meet mandated services requirements as well: OH Close Youth Correctional Facility (43 out of 588 incidents); Preston Youth Correctional Facility (15 of 245 incidents); Southern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic (10 of 198 incidents); and NA Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility (8 of 761 incidents). The Prison Law Office has responded to the violations with a new motion in the lawsuit Farrell v. Cate, which the state settled with an agreement to reform mental health care at youth facilities in 2004. The filing seeks to force the juvenile justice division to comply with the 21-hour isolation limit. “Those findings are consistent with what experts have been saying month after month, year after year, and the problem has not been solved,” Sara Norman, managing attorney at the Prison Law Office, told The Bay Citizen. “These are the problems that are hurting the youth the most, and we are out of patience.” The problem, according to the audit, is much the same one faced by many California agencies. Juvenile justice has too few resources and too little staff. “Living unit staff consistently reported that priority is given to providing services to youth participating in the regular program,” the report states. “Youth on TD are accommodated when time permits.” California has just more than 1,000 juvenile inmates who have been convicted of serious crimes, called 707(b) offenses [PDF]. These crimes include murder, rape, drug sales, witness tampering and many others. Putting a youth in prolonged isolation – a 23 and 1 program in juvenile justice division parlance – can have a “profound” impact on his or her well-being, the state’s Office of the Inspector General wrote in a 2000 report [PDF]. That document proves there have been problems with this practice for more than a decade. “Twenty-six of the 70 wards (36 percent) said they did not receive the required one hour out of their room in each 24-hour period,” the inspector’s office wrote then. “Some wards said that time out of the room was occasionally cancelled, especially on weekends.” Source: http://californiawatch.org/dailyreport/juvenile-inmates-often-isolated-nearly-24-hours-straight-10757

Youth treatment program, shelter closes--June 18th, 2011 (Source: thetandd.com) An Orangeburg community-based treatment home and shelter for troubled boys and girls has closed its doors. Orangeburg Attention Homes Inc. discontinued its services because of a decline in clientele and budget cutbacks, OAH Chairman William Hamilton said. The program relied on a per diem, per child payment from the S.C. Department of Social Services and the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice. But with the reduction in clientele, the money diminished. "If you don't have the students in your home, you don't get the per diem from the state," Hamilton said. "It kept declining and declining, and we kept losing ground on our financial stability." He said increasing competition was also a factor in the program's demise. "Our staff were trained for moderate management," Hamilton said, noting the clientele were generally children with some troubles but without any criminal background. "The placement homes now are the boot camp-style homes, and their staff is trained for high management. They deal with kids with more problems and some with more of a criminal background." For complete story, click here.

N.J. to close 2 residential treatment facilities--January 4th, 2011 (Rec'd June 22nd, 2011--Source: nj.com) TRENTON — The state will close two publicly-run residential treatment facilities that are home to 39 children with mental illness or who come from abusive families, state Children and Families Commissioner Allison Blake announced today. The residential centers, in Ewing and Vineland, will close July 1. They cost about $15.2 million in state and federal money to operate, according to the state budget, but Blake said finances did not drive her decision and doubts the closures will net much savings. Blake said the decision was based on the ample evidence these children fare better at home or in home-like environments than in a large group. For complete story, click here.

Trust staff accused of abusing troubled teens--June 22nd, 2011 (source: tvnz.co.nz) New Zealand Child, Youth and Family has removed children from a high profile programme for troubled youth following allegations staff physically abused teens. But Wellington's Te Rakau Trust says it was just doing what CYF taught it to do. The trust has helped troubled teenagers for more than 20 years. It gives the boys - many from gangs - a home and uses performing arts to turn them away from crime and violence. But ONE News can tonight reveal that trust staff have now been accused of using violence themselves. CYF said "the allegations involved a range of issues, including the use of inappropriate discipline and restraint practices resulting in physical abuse". CYF has removed all three teens from the trust's care and suspended $800,000 in annual funding. For complete story, click here.

Posted on Monday, 07.11.11 Death reported at juvenile detention center THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. -- Officials say a juvenile died while in custody at a West Palm Beach detention center. The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice reports that the inmate died Sunday morning. The department and West Palm Beach police are investigating the cause of death. A Department of Juvenile Justice spokeswoman says the name of a juvenile inmate cannot be released under state law. Information from: The Palm Beach Post, http://www.pbpost.com Read more: http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/07/11/2309866/death-reported-at-juvenile-detention.html#ixzz1Rufcl61n For more on this story, see: http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/07/14/2316519/teens-death-in-west-palm-beach.html

Florida's Anti-Faces of Death Law May Hide How 18-Year-Old Died in State Hands July 18th, 2011 (source: browardpalmbeach.com) Thanks to the Florida lawmakers' successful bid to legislate morality in the state's public records law, we may never know how 18-year-old Eric Perez died in the hands of state workers. Perez died about a week ago at a West Palm Beach juvenile detention facility, due to either breathing problems, an enlarged heart, maybe a stroke, or after becoming "ill and psychotic" -- at least those are the different stories officials have told Perez's mother, according to the Miami Herald. His death was recorded on video, but since HB 411 was signed into effect by the governor, the media -- and subsequently, the public -- may never get to see that video. The rationale for the law may make sense on the surface: Most people who've seen Faces of Death -- a 1980 film that's just a roughly 100-minute compilation of real and fake footage of deaths -- would think there's no legitimate reason to watch the death of another human being. To anyone who wants to hold people and government accountable, though, death videos have proved to be important. Source: http://blogs.browardpalmbeach.com/pulp/2011/07/florida_death_video_law_juvenile_eric_perez.php

Ex-judge Ciavarella to be sentenced Aug. 11 in kids-for-cash conspiracy BY DAVE JANOSKI (PROJECTS EDITOR)Published: July 22, 2011 SCRANTON - Mark A. Ciavarella Jr., whose hard-nosed zero-tolerance policy as a Luzerne County Juvenile Court judge fueled a kids-for-cash conspiracy that generated millions in kickbacks from a for-profit detention center, will be on the other side of the bench Aug. 11 when a federal judge sentences him on racketeering and other charges. Ciavarella, 61, could get 15 or more years in prison when he appears before U.S. District Judge Edwin M. Kosik, who scheduled sentencing in an order issued Thursday. While a prison sentence is virtually a foregone conclusion in Ciavarella's case, it is unclear when he will actually begin serving his time. Defendants like Ciavarella who are free on bail pending sentencing are typically given several weeks before they are required to report to a facility chosen by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. And the former judge's attorneys will likely ask the court to allow him to remain free on bail while he pursues an appeal to the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Some of the groundwork for that appeal was laid out in a letter written to Kosik by one of Ciavarella's attorneys Thursday. Ciavarella was found guilty of 12 counts in a 39-count indictment by a jury in U.S. District Court in February. His post-trial appeals were rejected by Kosik two months ago, clearing the way for a pre-sentence investigation conducted by federal probation officials to assist Kosik in calculating a sentence. Kosik must rule on several defense objections to the probation officials' report before imposing a sentence. Neither the report nor the objections have been made public. But a letter to Kosik filed Thursday by Ciavarella attorney William Ruzzo indicates the defense objects to a recommendation that the court, when fashioning its sentence, consider misconduct of which Ciavarella was, the defense maintains, acquitted. Under current federal law, a judge deciding on a sentence can consider misconduct by a defendant if it can be proven by a preponderance of the evidence, even though the defendant has not been convicted of a crime for that misconduct. Ruzzo's letter indicates the defense will argue on appeal that such misconduct should be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, a much stricter standard. "Mark Ciavarella was acquitted of many counts in a lengthy indictment. It would seem out of simple fairness that acquitted conduct means acquitted conduct," Ruzzo wrote. "Essentially, this is the change in the law that counsel would advocate on appeal." Efforts to reach Ruzzo were unsuccessful Thursday. In addition to a prison sentence, Ciavarella faces the possibility of hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines, but testimony at his trial indicated much of the money he received went to pay off heavy credit-card and other debts. Prosecutors have alleged he may have diverted some funds to others, including the proceeds from the sale of his Mountain Top home in 2008 before he was charged. In 2009, after Ciavarella entered a guilty plea that was later withdrawn, probation officials concluded he did not have the resources to pay a fine. Ciavarella, who was ordered to forfeit nearly $1 million by the jury that convicted him, has worked odd jobs as a painter and flower deliveryman since his arrest. Prosecutors alleged Ciavarella and another judge, Michael T. Conahan, conspired to close a county-owned detention center and direct

juveniles to a newly built for-profit center in Pittston Township. The builder and co-owner of the center paid the two judges $2.8 million, according to a grand jury indictment. The state Supreme Court, which found Ciavarella wrongfully imprisoned juveniles on minor charges and failed to fully inform them of their right to counsel, vacated thousands of juvenile-court orders he issued in 2005-2008. Hundreds of former defendants in Ciavarella's court have filed civil-rights actions in U.S. District Court against the two former judges and other individuals and entities implicated in the kids-for-cash scandal. Source: http://standardspeaker.com/news/ex-judge-ciavarella-to-be-sentenced-aug-11-in-kids-for-cash-conspiracy-1.1178679#ixzz1SuJRngu7

Calhoun County closes juvenile boot camp By Dianna Wray • Originally published August 1, 2011 at 5:45 p.m., updated August 1, 2011 at 11:20 p.m. OTHER CUTS The Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program is the only program that has been cut during the ongoing budget workshops. Judge Mike Pfeiffer said the rest of $1.2 million being sliced from the budget is coming out of department ... SHOW ALL » OTHER CUTS The Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program is the only program that has been cut during the ongoing budget workshops. Judge Mike Pfeiffer said the rest of $1.2 million being sliced from the budget is coming out of department budget requests. County officials are still working on the final budget, which isn't expected to be completed for a few weeks, Pfeiffer said. PORT LAVACA - Calhoun County officials, hoping to make up a $1.2 million budget shortfall, are closing its juvenile boot camp. In the wake of the recession, Calhoun County has had to cut about $4 million from its budget in the past two years. This year, finding they once again needed to make significant budget reductions, County Judge Mike Pfeiffer and the county commissioners met with Calhoun school district Superintendent Billy Wiggins two weeks ago to discuss closing the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program. The court officially decided to close it last week, Wiggins said. The boot camp opened in January 1999 as a program for students with recurring discipline problem and those in the juvenile probation system, Pfeiffer said. During the years, the juvenile court system has handled more of these types of problems, Pfeiffer said. This isn't the first time the boot camp program has wound up on the chopping block; the camp was temporarily closed by the Juvenile Probation Board in the summer of 2009 because the county discussed cutting funding. The county continued funding that year, reopening the program in October. The county allotted $128,000 for the boot camp last year, and only eight students were enrolled by the end of the school year, Pfeiffer said. The program wasn't being used enough to keep it open. "We support the school district and the teachers, but there's a point in time when it costs so much and you've got to look at how much it's really being used," Pfeiffer said. The boot camp is closed as of this week. Pfeiffer said the county will save $128,000 by cutting the program. The county is required by mandate to fund many programs. Since county officials are not required to fund the boot camp, the program was cut, Pfeiffer said. With the boot camp closed, two drill sergeants will lose their their jobs, Pfeiffer said. The teacher assigned to the boot camp will be moved to either Hope High School or FLEX, the two alternative programs in the district. Students who expected to return to boot camp in the fall will attend the FLEX campus, Wiggins said. The only problem for the school district will be what to do with the students who have done things that require mandatory expulsion by the state. These students used to be sent to boot camp, but they will now be expelled to the street. Wiggins said they are looking for a place to send these students, but they haven't found a solution yet. Wiggins said he is sorry to see the program go, but noted it is understandable, considering these economic times. The school district went through its own cuts recently. The district closed Point Comfort Elementary as part of its budget cuts. "It has been a good thing, but we certainly understand the difficult economic times that we're all in, and we'll do everything we can to absorb those kids back into the school district," Wiggins said. Source: http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/aug/01/dw_calhoun_bootcamp_close_080211_147530/?print

Pa. judge gets 28 years in 'kids for cash' case August 11, 2011 (AP) PaSCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — A longtime northeastern Pennsylvania judge was ordered to spend nearly three decades in prison for his role in a massive juvenile justice bribery scandal that prompted the state's high court to toss thousands of convictions. Former Luzerne County Judge Mark Ciavarella Jr. was sentenced Thursday to 28 years in federal prison for taking $1 million in bribes from the builder of a pair of juvenile detention centers in a case that became known as "kids for cash." Ciaverella, 61, was motionless when the decision was announced and had no reaction. From behind him, where family members of some of the children he sentenced sat, someone cried out "Woo hoo!" In the wake of the scandal, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court tossed about 4,000 convictions issued by Ciavarella between 2003 and 2008, saying he violated the constitutional rights of the juveniles, including the right to legal counsel and the right to intelligently enter a plea. Ciavarella was tried and convicted of racketeering charges earlier this year. His attorneys had asked for a "reasonable" sentence in court papers, saying, in effect, that he's already been punished enough. "The media attention to this matter has exceeded coverage given to many and almost all capital murders, and despite protestation, he will forever be unjustly branded as the 'Kids for Cash' judge," their sentencing memo said. Al Fora, Ciaverella's lawyer, called the sentence harsher than expected. Ciaverella surrendered immediately but it was not immediately known where he would serve his sentence. Ciaverella, speaking before the sentence was handed down, apologized to the community and to those juveniles that appeared before him in his court. "I blame no one but myself for what happened," he said, and then denied he had ever incarcerated any juveniles in exchange for money. He also criticized U.S. Assistant Attorney Gordon Zubrod for referring to the case as "kids for cash," and said it sank his reputation. "He backdoored me, and I never saw it coming. Those three words made me the personification of evil," Ciaverella said. "They made me toxic and caused a public uproar the likes of which this community has never seen." Federal prosecutors accused Ciavarella and a second judge, Michael Conahan, of taking more than $2 million in bribes from the builder of the PA Child Care and Western PA Child Care detention centers and extorting hundreds of thousands of dollars from the facilities' co-owner. Ciavarella, known for his harsh and autocratic courtroom demeanor, filled the beds of the private lockups with children as young as 10, many of them first-time offenders convicted of petty theft and other minor crimes. The judge remained defiant after his arrest, insisting the payments were legal and denying he incarcerated youths for money. The jury returned a mixed verdict following a February trial, convicting him of 12 counts, including racketeering and conspiracy, and acquitting him of 27 counts, including extortion. The guilty verdicts related to a payment of $997,600 from the builder. Conahan pleaded guilty last year and awaits sentencing. Copyright 2011 The Associated Press Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-08-11-pa-courthouse-kickbacks-sentence_n.htm?csp=34news&utm;_source=feedburner&utm;_medium=feed&utm;_campaign=Feed%3A+usatoday-NewsTopStories+%28News+-+Top+Stories%29

Posted on Sunday, 08.21.11 Activists address deaths of imprisoned Fla. teens THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PLANTATION, Fla. -- South Florida community leaders are gathering today to discuss the deaths of two children who died while imprisoned in Florida. Southern Poverty Law Center and Stop Abusing Our Kids will gather at a church in Plantation on Sunday and offer their support for Gov. Rick Scott's vow to reduce the number of children imprisoned. Seventeen-year-old Demetrius L. Jordan died at the Indian River County Correctional Institute earlier this month Foul play is not suspected, but an autopsy will determine the cause of death. Authorities say a grand jury is looking into the July 10th death of Eric Perez at a West Palm Beach juvenile detention center, hours after unsuccessfully seeking medical care. Source: http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/08/21/2368516/activists-address-deaths-of-imprisoned.html#ixzz1VeJ5k2T4

Barry County youth home director charged with sex crimes Published: Thursday, August 25, 2011, 8:43 AM Updated: Thursday, August 25, 2011, 10:29 AM By Rosemary Parker | Kalamazoo Gazette The Kalamazoo Gazette File photoMichael Terpening HASTINGS — The director of a private youth home was charged

Wednesday with various sexual crimes involving several of the troubled teens lodged at the residential facility. Michael Terpening, 32, of Bellevue, was arraigned Wednesday in Barry County District Court on nine felony counts of criminal sexual conduct and aggravated indecent exposure on multiple teen victims, according to a news release from Michigan State Police. He was the director of Earth Services Youth Home at 15485 Jenkins Road, in southeast Barry County's Assyria Township. Judge Michael Schippers set bond at $250,000, according to the release. Terpening was not in jail Thursday morning, according to jail officials. A Michigan State Police spokesperson who declined to be identified said the case unfolded after an older teen at the residential facility for teens in trouble complained of being victimized and other alleged victims were discovered. The incidents took place over several months, he said, with all victims residents of the home. According to its website, Earth Services: "is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The organization was originally founded in 1998 as Educated Animal Rescue, E.A.R. and then grew to become E.A.R.T.H., Educated Animal Rescue and Teen Haven. As of today, it has become Earth Services. Located in Lower Michigan, amongst the trees and rolling farmland of the rural Bellevue/Battle Creek area, our facility reaches out to our community and beyond, helping animals find their perfect place!" Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/08/barry_county_youth_home_direct.html

Teen program draws state auditor's ire By Christine McConville | Friday, August 26, 2011 | http://www.bostonherald.com | Local Coverage A jaw-dropping audit of a privately run but public-funded program for troubled teens has State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump planning to scrutinize spending at every one of the 1,200 social service agencies that together receive $2.3 billion a year in state funds. "We're looking at all the human service agencies," Bump told the Herald yesterday, hours after releasing a scathing report accusing the Northeast Center for Youth and Families Inc. in Easthampton of spending $406,360 in Massachusetts monies on people from Connecticut. The report also claims the agency overbilled Massachusetts $651,221 for its two foster care programs. "We want to ensure that other organizations aren't using state money to support their programs in other states," Bump said. A Northeast Center official said the agency disagrees with Bump's report. Article URL: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1361468

Pharos-Tribune August 31, 2011 Horse deaths spark investigation Witnesses say animals were not properly fed by Daniel Human For the Pharos-Tribune BUNKER HILL — Miami County officials are investigating a therapeutic horse farm after a group found one horse dead and removed another that later died. The Miami County Animal Shelter has turned over details to the sheriff's department in an investigation of the horses' home, Full Quiver Farms Equine Mentoring Ministry in Bunker Hill, said Susan Kulla, head of the animal shelter. The farm has used horses to provide therapy to troubled teens. A group of horse enthusiasts began contacting county agencies after they found a dead horse, which had been partially eaten by pigs, and a second in near-death condition Sunday, said Nicole Emigh, one of the people who helped remove the horses from the farm. "It was in a stall with urine and manure, very hot ... no hay, nothing but a concrete floor, manure and that's it," she said. The horse, nicknamed Tuff, was unable to walk after about a day with its new owners, Emigh said. The Galveston Fire Department provided equipment to help lift the horse and veterinarians provided care, but Tuff died Monday, she said. Miami County Sheriff's Deputy Casey Bailey said he is working with the animal shelter on the investigation, but he offered no further details. Full Quiver Farms owner Leanna Sharp said the horses had been having ongoing health issues. "I did everything in my capacity to make them well, and it was not getting anywhere," she said. "So I called someone for help." Sharp said Tuesday she was unaware the second horse had died. Asked about the horse found dead Sunday, Sharp declined to comment and would not speak further about the matter. Emigh said she and the group she was with also searched for two horses that were supposed to be in the pasture, but no one could find the animals. She asked people who notice animals in poor condition to contact authorities. "I just want to express how important it is for people to report this to the humane society," she said. "If something's not done the first time, report it again." Source: http://pharostribune.com/local/x2134993257/Horse-deaths-spark-investigation

Troubled teens abused at Utah-based schools, lawsuit claims By Roxana Orellana The Salt Lake Tribune Published: September 2, 2011 10:40PM Updated: September 2, 2011 11:26PM After their case was dismissed last month in federal court, a group of about 500 parents and students have gone to state court with allegations of abuse by the operators of a Utah-based school for troubled teens. The lawsuit, filed Thursday in 3rd District Court, claims that from the mid-1990s to mid-2000s, students attending schools owned and operated by World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools Inc., (WWASPS) — founded by La Verkin entrepreneur Robert Lichfield — were physically, emotionally and sexually abused at the facilities. WWASPS is accused of a lengthy list of abuses, including that students were beaten, chained, locked in dog cages, forced to eat vomit and made to lie in urine and feces as punishment. The complaint also alleges students were forced into sexual acts. "At all times relevant, defendants did not disclose to the parents the physical, emotional, mental, and/or sexual abuse to which their children were subjected at their facilities and conspired, even to this day, to prevent them from discovering such abuse," the lawsuit states. The lawsuit lists a total of 59 defendants, including Cross Creek Center for Boys LLC., Cross Creek Manor LLC., Teen Help LLC and Brightway Adolescent Hospital. The facilities mentioned in the lawsuit — a number of which are now closed — are located throughout the United States, as well as Mexico, Costa Rica and the Czech Republic. The defendants are also accused of defrauding parents of tuition and other monies paid. The lawsuit was first filed in U.S. District Court in 2006, but Judge Clark Waddoups dismissed it in August, citing a lack of jurisdiction in August. Windle Turley, a Dallas attorney representing the plaintiffs, said Waddoups dismissed the case on jurisdictional grounds because of the way the case was structured, not on the merits of the case. "We had hoped we could continue to move forward in the federal court. But we're just glad were going to be able to move forward now," Turley said. Asked about criminal charges, Turley had details only in connection with a case filed in Costa Rica against school director Narvin Lichfield, who is Robert Lichfield's brother, for alleged sexual abuse. Turley said those charges were ultimately dismissed. The plaintiffs are seeking an unspecified amount of damages, including punitive damages, to be determined at trial. A racketeering claim was dropped from the lawsuit filed federal court but may be added to the state lawsuit, Turley said. Attorney Stewart Harman, who represented Lichfield and Ken Kay, WWASPS' president, in the federal lawsuit, said "the reasons for dismissal are clearly and adequately laid out and set forth in Judge Waddoups' decision." Kay has previously denied the lawsuit's allegations as "ludicrous." "We don't condone any type of child abuse and it's highly unlikely that any of the incidents ever happened," Kay said in 2007, noting that troubled teens often have a record of fabricating stories. © 2011 The Salt Lake Tribune Source: http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/52502999-78/lawsuit-abuse-court-students.html.csp

Torture Alleged at Chain of Children's Homes By JONNY BONNER SALT LAKE CITY (CN) - Hundreds of parents claim a group of boarding schools tortured their children: locked them in dog cages, forced them to lie in feces and eat vomit, masturbated them and denied the troubled teens any religion "except for the Mormon faith." The Utah-based World Wide Association Of Specialty Programs and Schools and its owners - Robert Lichfield, Brent Facer and Ken Kay - went to great lengths to hide the "torture," which began in the mid-1990s and continued for a decade, the 357 plaintiffs claim in Salt Lake County Court. The plaintiffs say that 59 schools and owners tied to the company "jointly promoted, advertised, and marketed defendants' residential boarding schools as a place where children with problems could get an education while receiving instruction and direction in behavior modification for emotional growth and personal development." But they say the children were subjected to physical, emotional and sexual abuse at the schools including, Cross Creek Center for Boys, Brightway Adolescent Hospital and Red Rock Springs. They say the abuses inflicted upon some children for years "could be accurately described as torture." According to the complaint, students were locked in boxes, cages and basements at the schools, denied medical and dental care, and forced "to carry heavy bags of sand around their necks or logs throughout the day over many days." They were sexually abused, "which included forced sexual relations and acts of fondling and masturbation performed on them," according to the 119-page complaint. Students were "forced to eat their own vomit ... bound and tied by hands and/or feet ... chained and locked in dog cages ... forced to lie in, or wear, urine and feces ... forced to sleep on cold concrete floors, boxspring, or plywood," and put to forced labor, the complaint states. Children were "kicked, beaten, thrown and slammed to the ground ... forced to eat raw or rotten food ... poked and prodded with various objects while being strip searched ... denied any religious affiliation, except for the Mormon faith ... [and] threatened [with] severe punishment, including death, if they told anyone of their abuses and poor living conditions," according to the complaint. Their mail was confiscated, and personal visits and telephone calls were forbidden or discouraged, the parents say. "At all times relevant, defendants did not disclose to the parents the physical, emotional, mental, and/or sexual abuse to which their children were subjected at their facilities and conspired, even to this day, to prevent them from discovering such abuse," the complaint states. The defendant company still operates residential centers in Utah, South Carolina and Costa Rica, but has faced school shutdowns in Mexico, Jamaica and Samoa amid child abuse investigations, according to the complaint. It says that more than 2,100 students were enrolled in its schools in 2003. The plaintiffs filed a similar lawsuit in Federal Court in 2006, which U.S. District Court Judge Clark Waddoups dismissed in August for lack of jurisdiction.The parents seek punitive damages for fraud, gross negligence, false imprisonment, assault and battery, and breach of contract, and a protective order to prevent spoliation of evidence. They are represented by Windle Turley of Dallas, Texas and James McConkie II with Parker & McConkie of Salt Lake. Source: http://www.courthousenews.com/2011/09/06/39546.htm

Former Baptist Church Member Ernest Willis Sentenced to Prison for Rape of Teen Parishioner Tina Anderson Was Made to Apologize in Church for Pregnancy Resulting From Rape By SUZAN CLARKE and ALICE GOMSTYN Sept. 6, 2011 — A New Hampshire judge today sentenced former Baptist church member Ernest Willis to 15 to 30 years in prison for the forcible rape of a teenage girl from his church who got pregnant as a result. The case made national headlines because the victim, Tina Anderson, said she was forced to confess her "sin" -- the pregnancy -- in front of the congregation at Trinity Baptist Church, an Independent Fundamental Baptist Church (IFB) in Concord, N.H. The church's then-pastor, Chuck Phelps, helped arrange for Anderson to move thousands of miles away from home to live with an IFB family and give her child up for adoption. Today, it was Willis' turn to apologize before he was sentenced. Victim 'Thrilled' By Sentence Ernest Willis, 52, of Gilford said he was "sorry and ashamed for this thoughtless act of sexual misconduct." But in his lengthy statement he did not admit he forcibly raped the girl. Listening by

telephone from Arizona, Anderson, now 29, said she was "thrilled" with the sentence. "It's a huge amount of vindication for me," she told The Associated Press. "I was never really believed, no matter how many times I said it was not consensual. Now it's been proven in a court of law that he's guilty and he's been given a significant sentence." Willis was arrested in 2010. A jury convicted him in May of three counts of forcible rape and a count of felonious sexual assault. His lawyers say he will appeal those convictions. Before his trial in May, Willis pleaded guilty to one count of statutory rape. He maintained they had consensual sex on one occasion only, but acknowledged the girl was under the legal age of consent. Willis remained stoic as the judge sent him to prison for a minimum of 15 years. In an April interview with ABC News' "20/20," Anderson said that after she was sexually assaulted by Willis, she was forced to stand before her Baptist congregation and confess her "sin" -- that she had become pregnant. She said she wasn't allowed to tell the group that the pregnancy happened because she was raped by Willis, a man twice her age. "I still struggle, because I've been made to feel guilty for so long," she said. At the age of 14, Anderson was hired as a babysitter for the Willis family. She said the first assault occurred in the backseat of a car during a driving lesson. Anderson said Willis pulled her into the back of the car and raped her. According to Anderson, the second assault occurred at her home when Willis showed up unannounced. "He locked the door behind him and pushed me over to the couch. I had a dress on and he pulled it off. I pushed my hands against his shoulders and said 'No,' but he didn't stop," Anderson said. Anderson told "20/20" that she confided her pregnancy to Willis. His reaction, she said, was to offer to pay for an abortion. When she rejected his offer, he presented another option, she said. "He asked me if I wanted him to punch me in the stomach as hard as he could to try to cause a miscarriage," she said. "I told him, 'No, leave me alone.'" The teen babysat Willis's children and considered him a father figure, a prosecutor said. "Her trust and admiration were repaid with violence and rape," prosecutor Wayne Coull told Merrimack Superior Court Judge Larry Smukler. Coull said the most aggravating factor of all was Willis's offer to cause a miscarriage. "For the defendant to be so cruel and selfish as to recommend such actions upon a child is just outrageous," Coull added. Anderson gave birth to a baby girl in 1998. The child was given up for adoption. Anderson has since married and had three other children. Phelps, the pastor who arranged for Anderson to move and give up her baby for adoption, told "20/20" that Anderson voluntarily stood before the congregation in 1997, that he reported Willis to the Concord Police and complied with all legal requirements of him at the time. During the trial in May, Christine Leaf, Anderson's mother, testified that she did not support her daughter's allegations, saying, "I only support the truth, not a lie." The Associated Press contributed to this report. Copyright © 2011 ABC News Internet Ventures Source: http://abcnews.go.com/US/hampshire-man-ernest-willis-sentenced-prison-rape-tina/story?id=14460469

Accused molester denied more kid time Judge denied request made by Michael Terpening Updated: Tuesday, 06 Sep 2011, 6:11 PM EDT Published : Tuesday, 06 Sep 2011, 4:00 PM EDT By Ken Kolker HASTINGS, Mich. (WOOD) - A former youth home director accused of molesting four clients will get no more time with his own eight children, despite his attorney's suggestion that the alleged sex crime victims -- all troubled teens -- have reasons to make up the allegations. Michael Terpening, 32, had asked a judge to allow him to spend time with his children at the family's home. That request was denied on Tuesday. Now, he can see them only through the Department of Human Services. "We have allegations from 17-, 18- or 19-year-olds who have been through the system... who have a variety of motivations for what they're testifying to," Terpening's attorney, J. Thomas Schaeffer, told the judge Tuesday. The children's attorney, who says he's read police reports about the alleged sexual assaults, fought against more visitation time for the father. "I resent the accusations that these individuals, just because they're convicted felons... that their word is no good," attorney James M. Kinney said. "They can be victims, too." Terpening, who ran Earth Services and The House Next Door -- a Barry County program for troubled teens -- is charged with 11 counts of sexual assault involving four former clients, all males in their late teens. Police say more charges might be on the way involving a fifth alleged victim. None of the charges involve Terpening's own children. The children's attorney said he believes Terpening has built himself up as a man who can be trusted, to make it easier to find victims. "When I look at this what I see is a man who is grooming these children. This is a trick; this is their game. This is their way about being open and being sneaky and getting more access to your child." About 10 supporters sat behind Terpening and his wife, Amanda, in the courtroom. They included friends, a former youth home worker and a former youth home volunteer. The state has filed a neglect petition to terminate Michael Terpening's parental rights. The children are staying with his wife, their mother. A DHS prosecutor and two attorneys for the children argued against Terpening's request for more time with his children. They criticized supporters who have created an online petition and a YouTube video, showing some of the children, on the father's behalf. "We have Mr. Terpening orchestrating a public display of alleged innocence," Kinney said. "He's exploiting his children, as is his wife, by allowing their pictures to be put on YouTube videos and broadcast to the world." Source: http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/local/gun_lake_region/accused-molester-denied-more-kid-time

Terpening to face trial for 12 assaults Judge cleared court during prelim hearing Monday Updated: Monday, 12 Sep 2011, 6:48 PM EDT Published : Monday, 12 Sep 2011, 9:50 AM EDT By Ken Kolker HASTINGS, Mich. (WOOD) - When Michael Terpening walked in to a preliminary hearing on Monday, he was faced with 11 counts of sexual assault. Before he walked out, he was bound to stand trial for 12 assaults. News of the 12th assault came after the judge cleared the courtroom on Monday. Terpening, 32, was in court to face a preliminary hearing on charges involving males in their mid- to late teens while he was operating Earth Services and The House Next Door -- Barry County programs for troubled teens. He allegedly assaulted four of his young male clients. The courtroom behind Terpening, who is currently free on bond, was packed with supporters just before Monday's hearing who insist that the four alleged victims are lying. "Anybody would love to have Mike for a son. Absolutely love Mike," said Liz Smith, Terpening's great aunt. One supporter, who says she spoke to the suspect last night, says she braced herself for the allegations. "He said what they have charged is really ugly. He said it's going to be embarrasing," said Linda Timmons, a friend of Terpening. "The people who are persecuting him are people who are of poor character," she added. Barry County Prosecutor Tom Evans says he believes Terpening's supporters had another purpose -- intimidation. "The presence of the people here; It's certainly a case of might beats right, okay. We'll bring in our three out-of-town attorneys, we'll bring in all our buddies, and we'll just run right over these kids, and we'll run right over this little prosecutor's office," said Evans. "There may be turnip trucks here, but I didn't just fall off of one." Then, Judge Michael Schippers closed the courtroom to the public, agreeing with prosecutors and the defense that the testimony was too embarrasing for the victims. "This is insulting; this is downright insulting," said Smith of the public's ejection from the courtroom. The prosecutor told 24 Hour News 8 that police have placed one victim into protective custody. He was among those expected to testify on Monday. A former worker at Terpening's home, Jamie Moore-Bell, says she has had contact with that victim: "He fully admitted that these were lies, that this did not happen, and he wanted to make this right," said Moore-Bell. "The state police were saying that that's coercion; I coerced him into making these statements." The father of one of the victims, who says his son was assaulted by Terpening, spoke with 24 Hour News 8. The father of the victim was angry that the courtroom was closed. When asked by 24 Hour News 8 if he wanted to be present in the court to protect his son, he agreed enthusiastically: "You're damn straight. Nobody else could protect my son when they were up here," said the father. The father of the victim says he drove his 16-year-old son from Indiana to the courthouse on Monday at the prosecutor's request. "I don't know if he's in the courtroom right now or not. As far as I know, he's in there talking to the prosecutor. They're not going to talk to my son that way," he said. He says police recently approached him about Terpening. That's when his son said the man had touched him about four or five years ago. "Touched him in some wrongful places," he said. The father of the victim says his son was about 12 years old at the time. Supporters of Terpening insist that witnesses are lying. But prosecutors say some of the victims were at the home at different times. "Some of them have never met before," said Evans. The father of the victim says his son isn't making it up: "I want justice for the other children." Terpening is married and has eight children. None of the alleged victims are Terpening's children, but he was ordered not to spend time alone with his children last week. Source: http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/local/gun_lake_region/michael-terpening-hearing-september-12-2011

Boot Camp aims to scare children straight--The Toledo Journal--09/16/2011 Mr. Mahone said that although the camp has had many success stories and opened a chapter in Chicago, Ill., the local juvenile court system refuses to work with him and recognize his program. A couple of judges claim the program doesn't work, he said. And when people call the courts looking for a scared straight program, the courts don't recommend his program. Source: http://www.thetoledojournal.com/news/Article/Article.asp?NewsID=110635&sID;=20&ItemSource;=L

September 22, 2011 Single-Sex Education Is Assailed in Report By TAMAR LEWIN Single-sex education is ineffective, misguided and may actually increase gender stereotyping, a paper to be published Friday asserts. The report, "The Pseudoscience of Single Sex Schooling," to be published in Science magazine by eight social scientists who are founders of the nonprofit American Council for CoEducational Schooling, is likely to ignite a new round of debate and legal wrangling about the effects of single-sex education. It asserts that "sex-segregated education is deeply misguided and often justified by weak, cherry-picked or misconstrued scientific claims rather than by valid scientific evidence." But the strongest argument against single-sex education, the article said, is that it reduces boys' and girls' opportunities to work together, and reinforces sex stereotypes. "Boys who spend more time with other boys become increasingly aggressive," the article said. "Similarly, girls who spend more time with other girls become more sex-typed." The authors are psychologists and neuroscientists from several universities who have researched and written on sex differences and sex roles. The Science article is not based on new research, but rather is a review of existing research and writing. The lead author, Diane F. Halpern, is a past president of the American Psychological Association who holds a chair in psychology at Claremont McKenna College in California. She is an expert witness in litigation in which the American Civil Liberties Union is challenging single-sex classes — which have been suspended — at a school in Vermilion Parish, La. Arguing that no scientific evidence supports the idea that single-sex schooling results in better academic outcomes, the article calls on the Education Department to rescind its 2006 regulations weakening the Title IX prohibition against sex discrimination in education. Under those rules, single-sex classes may be permitted as long as they are voluntary, students have a substantially equal coeducational option and the school reasonably believes separation will produce better academic outcomes. Russlynn H. Ali, the assistant secretary for civil rights at the Education Department, said it was reviewing the research. "There are case studies that have been done that show some

benefit of single-sex, but like lots of other educational research, it's mixed," she said. "When you're talking about separating students, treating them differently, you want to do it in a way that's constitutional, and you want to make sure that there is adequate justification. We certainly want to safeguard against stereotyping." The article comes at a time when single-sex education is on the rise. There were only two single-sex public schools in the mid-1990s; today, there are more than 500 public schools in 40 states that offer some single-sex academic classes or, more rarely, are entirely single sex. Many of them began separating the sexes because of a belief that boys and girls should be taught differently that grew out of popular books, speeches and workshops by Michael Gurian, Leonard Sax and others. Dr. Sax, executive director of the National Association of Single Sex Public Education, was singled out for criticism in the Science article, for his teachings that boys respond better to energetic, confrontational classrooms while girls need a gentler touch. "A loud, cold classroom where you toss balls around, like Dr. Sax thinks boys should have, might be great for some boys, and for some girls, but for some boys, it would be living hell," Dr. Halpern said in an interview. She said that while girls are better readers and get better grades, and boys are more likely to have reading disabilities, that does not mean that educators should use the group average to design different classrooms. "It's simply not true that boys and girls learn differently," she said. "Advocates for single-sex education don't like the parallel with racial segregation, but the parallels are there. We used to believe that the races learned differently, too." Dr. Sax criticized the article on many counts, and said it did not fairly reflect his current views. He vehemently rejected the comparison to racial segregation, and the use of the term "sex segregation." Legally, race is a suspect category, while sex is not. "We are not asserting that every child should be in a single-sex classroom, we are simply saying that there should be a choice," Dr. Sax said in an interview. The authors of the article, though, say that because there is no good scientific research backing such a choice, the government cannot lawfully offer single-sex education in public schools. The article cites a review commissioned by the Education Department, comparing single-sex and coed outcomes, concluding that, "as in previous reviews," the results are equivocal. The article also said that research in other countries, and data from the Program for International Student Assessment, also found little overall difference between single-sex and coed academic outcomes. While some studies have found better outcomes from single-sex schools, the article said, the purported advantages disappear when outcomes are corrected for pre-existing differences. For example, Chicago's Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men, a school whose high college admissions rates were praised this year by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, was subsequently criticized by the scholar Diane Ravitch as having test results that were actually lower than average on basic skills. "This is very much a live issue, and I think it's snowballing," said Galen Sherwin, a staff lawyer for the Women's Rights Project of the A.C.L.U., who is handling the Louisiana case. "I see news stories every single week about new proposals, usually based on the idea that boys and girls learn differently. Often it's people who have attended training programs by Sax or Gurian, saying these programs will cater to boys' and girls' specific learning styles." Much of the impetus for single-sex public schooling came from popular books like Mary Pipher's "Reviving Ophelia" and, especially, a 1992 report by the American Association of University Women, "How Schools Shortchange Girls." But by 1998, when the association issued another report, saying that single-sex schooling was not the solution to problems of gender equity, the pendulum had swung, with boys' difficulties in school receiving more attention, in part because of books like Dr. Sax's "Why Gender Matters" and Mr. Gurian's "The Wonder of Boys." Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/23/education/23single.html?_r=1&emc;=eta1

Ex-judge gets 17 1/2 years in Pa. kickbacks case September 23, 2011 12:31 PM (AP) SCRANTON, Pa. — A former judge who orchestrated a massive kickback scheme involving for-profit youth detention centers was sentenced Friday to 17 1/2 years in federal prison, closing a major chapter on a scandal that prosecutors said shook Pennsylvania's judicial system "to its very foundation." Appearing in a federal courtroom in Scranton, former Luzerne County President Judge Michael Conahan, 59, apologized to the incarcerated youths, the legal community and the public for his role in the notorious "kids for cash" case. "The system is not corrupt," said Conahan. "I was corrupt." Conahan, a once-powerful man who regularly met for breakfast with the reputed boss of a northeastern Pennsylvania Mafia family, offered a direct apology to the children who spent time in a pair of youth lockups from which he and another former judge derived millions of dollars. "My actions undermined your faith in the system and contributed to the difficulty in your lives," said Conahan, who pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy last year. "I am sorry you were victimized." Federal prosecutors said Conahan and former Luzerne County Judge Mark Ciavarella Jr. took more than $2 million in bribes from the builder of the PA Child Care and Western PA Child Care detention centers and extorted hundreds of thousands of dollars from the facilities' co-owner. Ciavarella took the case to trial and was convicted of some of the charges. He was sentenced last month to 28 years in prison. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned about 4,000 juvenile convictions after Ciavarella and Conahan were charged, saying that Ciavarella, who presided over juvenile court, routinely trampled on youths' constitutional rights in his eagerness to send them to the for-profit jails. Unlike Ciavarella, who denied jailing youths for money and defiantly attacked the government's case at his sentencing, Conahan accepted responsibility, Assistant U.S. Attorney William Houser acknowledged Friday. But he said Conahan's crimes required a stiff sentence. "Mr. Conahan abused his power to enrich himself and his friend, Mark Ciavarella," Houser said. "The justice system in Pennsylvania was shaken to its very foundation." Ciavarella and Conahan initially pleaded guilty in February 2009 to honest services fraud and tax evasion in a deal that would have required them to spend more than seven years in prison. But their plea deals were rejected later that year by U.S. District Judge Edwin M. Kosik, who ruled they had failed to accept responsibility for their actions. Conahan's attorney, Philip Gelso, told Kosik on Friday that his client was a changed man from two years ago. Conahan got counseling from a psychologist who helped him face his repressed "lifelong demons," many of them having to do with his father, a funeral director and former mayor of Hazleton, Pa., who dominated his son and made him feel insecure, incompetent and inadequate, Gelso said. Gelso recounted an episode in which a teenage Conahan was "beaten mercilessly" when he failed to tend to the funeral home's coal stove. "These factors excuse nothing, but they explain a great deal," Gelso said. Conahan, who had faced up to 20 years behind bars, had requested a prison term similar to the seven-plus years Kosik rejected two years ago. Gelso said outside the court that Conahan was "bitterly disappointed" by the 17 1/2-year sentence but that it would not be appealed. "There's a stark contract between Mark Ciavarella and Mike Conahan. Mark Ciavarella fought this tooth and nail. Mark Ciavarella antagonized all of you, antagonized every child, every juvenile," Gelso told reporters. "But Mike Conahan didn't do that. Mike Conahan realized that people need to heal." In sentencing Conahan, Kosik spoke of the deep-rooted political culture that produced him, one in which corruption is tacitly accepted. The federal government's four-year investigation of public corruption in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties has snared more than 30 people, including state lawmakers, county officials, school board members and others. In a letter to Kosik, Conahan's sister recalled their father, dealing with a long-ago ethics investigation, couldn't understand why it was wrong to award a contract to a friend. Kosik said Conahan probably felt the same way about the juvenile-center kickbacks: "That everyone would benefit and no one would get hurt." Investigators disclosed earlier this year that they were led to the judges by reputed mob boss William D'Elia, who became a government informant after his 2006 arrest on charges of witness tampering and conspiracy to launder drug money. He and Conahan regularly met for breakfast. Kosik recommended that Conahan be placed in a federal prison camp in Florida so he can be close to his family. Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/09/23/ap/business/main20110762.shtml

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Polygamist communities sent teens to work long hours for low pay By Sheila Pratt, Postmedia NewsSeptember 25, 2011 Winston Blackmore, 52, leaves court in this file photo. Photograph by: Brian Lawrence, PNG Merlin Archive EDMONTON — Truman Oler was 17 when he made the long drive to Sundre from his home in

Bountiful, B.C., the base of Canada's controversial polygamous sect, Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints. Like dozens of other FLDS teenage boys, Oler left high school after Grade 9 and, at 15, he was working full time for a company owned by Bountiful's bishop, Winston Blackmore. Blackmore, who eventually had more than 20 wives, sent Oler to Alberta to work in his post and pole mill in Sundre, a small town southwest of Red Deer near the foothills. That was the late 1990s. The Sundre site, first owned by J.R. Blackmore and Sons and later by Oler Bros. Contracting, was still operating in Sundre until the spring of 2009. Documents obtained by The Journal show the FLDS company did business with dozens of Alberta companies by the time it folded. Court documents also raised questions about working conditions and pay in the FLDS company. Oler, like his fellow FLDS workers, believed if he obeyed the rules, paid his tithes and followed the bishop's teachings, he might be assigned a wife, a place to build a home, perhaps another wife. That was the promise. Oler was determined to be faithful. "I just never looked for a way out," he recalled in a recent interview with The Journal. At first, the crew worked day and night shifts making fence posts for a large local mill. Later, Blackmore and Sons got into logging on contract and workers cut timber and de-limbed trees. For a while, the young men drove the six hours back to Bountiful twice a month to attend church meetings and see family, recalled Truman, whose father had six wives and 47 children. Truman Oler was 13th of the 15 children by his mother, Memory Oler. While the plight of teenage brides has garnered much attention in the story of Bountiful, there is another dark side to the polygamous sect — the young men and women used as cheap labour for FLDS companies whose futures were totally dependent on a bishop's decisions. Dozens of these young people came to the Sundre area to work for Blackmore and Sons, and later Oler Bros., businesses that helped support the polygamous community back in British Columbia. The story of the young people in Alberta, as Oler's account reveals, is one of low pay, long hours and isolation. Occasionally, a young man would be kicked out for breaking the rules; some would leave on their own. Known as "lost boys," they were left to cope with no family support, no financial support and little education. Experts who gave evidence last winter in a B.C. court reference on the legality of polygamy noted that surplus young men are often sent away to work to reduce the competition for young wives desired by the older men — as well as provide cheap labour. A judgment is expected soon in the B.C. court reference that will determine the legality of polygamy under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. From the highway heading west of Sundre, the FLDS company site looked much like any other small industrial site in the busy rural county. A large rectangular Quonset building used as a repair shop, a few trucks, an old house, a double-wide trailer, all crowded onto the gravel yard. Oler says he earned $60 every two weeks at first and that went up to $100 every two weeks when he turned 18 — well below minimum wage. When he worked for Blackmore and Sons, sometimes he was issued a cheque which he was asked to sign and hand back to his boss. He says he never saw the cash. When Oler Brothers took over, his pay went up. Oler says he was provided with safety gear, hard hat and boots, when he made fence posts at the large nearby sawmill. He also noted safety checks at the mill. Oler also noticed young men from FLDS communities in Utah turned up at the site — rebellious teenagers sent on a "reform mission." A strict regimen of long hours, hard work, no pay and teachings from righteous older men was supposed to put them back on track, said Oler. In October 1997, another unusual new arrival — 14-year-old Teressa Wall, from Salt Lake City — turned up. When Utah FLDS leaders told her it was time for her to marry, she refused. She was banned from her family home and sent to Bountiful until she would repent. Shortly after, Bountiful's bishop, Winston Blackmore, sent Wall to work at the Sundre mill, Wall said in her video testimony to the B.C. court. Dressed in her long, pioneer-style dress, Wall often worked the night shift. While the others had warm clothes, she worked in winter in tennis shoes and an old coat and worked in the rain with no raincoat. Her job was throwing logs onto the "peeler" machine or taking the de-barked, cut logs off the other end of the machine and stacking them, she said. She was often told: "You could end all this if you would just get married," she noted. For nearly two years, she refused and continued working along with two of her brothers from Utah. Oler recalled seeing her at the mill, but they never spoke. One day, with no warning, Wall was taken back to Creston where the bishop, Winston Blackmore, again pressured her to get married. Dispirited by then, she agreed to do so. She was 17. Wall then returned to Sundre with her new husband, who worked at the mill while she took on the job of crew cook, according to her testimony. In the mid-2000s, Blackmore's operation was taken over by Oler Bros, which was owned by Truman Oler's elder brothers. They started logging. In 2006, the company had a crew of more than 40 workers, according to government documents. Oler said the wages went up to $400 to $500 a month and later $800. In April 2009, Oler Bros. declared bankruptcy. That year, Bountiful was under growing pressure from the B.C. government. Truman Oler's brother, Jim, bishop at the time, was charged with polygamy — but the charges were later stayed. Bankruptcy records give a glimpse into just how far FLDS business connections had grown over the years in Alberta. When the company went under, it had debts of $4.8 million and assets of $2.9 million Dozens of companies were listed as creditors, in Sundre, the Rocky Mountain House area and Edmonton and Calgary, and into Ontario and B.C. Documents show Oler Bros. borrowed more than $2 million for vehicles, trucks, trailers, cars, including $1.4 million for "eight pieces of equipment from John Deere" based in Burlington, Ont. The list of 15 secured creditors included ATB, (with a claim of $90,000), Caterpillar Financial Services, ($280,000 claim), Daimler Chrysler ($900,000 for six trucks and trailers) a Red Deer company Haukendal Enterprise (claim of $364,904 for office furniture) and Equirex Vehicle leasing (a claim of $340,000 for three trucks). More than 100 companies are listed as unsecured creditors. The claimants include banks, tire companies, lumber companies, auto repair shops and United Farmers of Alberta ($15,000 claim). In his early 20s, Truman Oler started to push for better wages after he learned what other forestry workers in the area were paid. Eventually, the wage was raised to $15 an hour — still lower than the going rate in the industry. FLDS bosses justified the low pay, says Oler, by pointing out that they provided free room and board, and promised to buy vehicles for the workers — which didn't always happen. Jim Oler, of Oler Bros., could not be reached for comment. Winston Blackmore would say that low wages allowed everyone to have a job. In a 2006 documentary he said: "We compromised on wages — even I did. But why we compromised on wages is that everyone was employed." Truman Oler had no thought about taking his complaint to provincial labour authorities. But word of the substandard working conditions and undocumented American workers did finally leak out. Nancy Mereska lives near Two Hills east of Edmonton. She left the mainstream Mormon church in 1985 and went to university for a degree in psychology and women's studies. In 2003, she saw a television documentary on polygamy in Bountiful. Troubled by what she saw, she started a small advocacy organization, Stop Polygamy Canada. In the spring of 2004, Mereska learned of working conditions at the FLDS operations around Sundre. From reports she received, it sounded little better than a slave labour camp, she said in an interview — young men working for little pay, with little training, on dangerous equipment in a dangerous industry — and no way out. To Mereska, that was unacceptable in Alberta where labour standards were in place to protect workers, especially young people, from unfair practices. So she wrote to then employment minister Clint Dunford, asking for an investigation. The letter she got back in September 2004 was a big disappointment, she says. The department declined to investigate because she provided no specific evidence of safety violations. The letter also noted Alberta labour law allows teens at age 15 to work in logging though it is deemed one of the more dangerous occupations. The letter also appeared to justify any wages below minimum wage as if the FLDS company was a family business. "Alberta's employment standards do not prohibit a father from paying his sons a stipend rather than a wage," noted the letter from civil servant Walter Baer, then director of compliance for workplace health and safety and employment standards. "I phoned Baer's office, got his voice mail and said: 'What if a man has 50 sons?' "He did not return my call." "I was furious," said Mereska. "I knew the terrible conditions under which these kids were working and no one would do anything about it." In 2005, a year later, Oler Bros. Contracting turns up for the first time in provincial occupational health and safety records. The record shows Oler Bros. had implemented a government-audited safety program and it was in place in 2005-07. "This means someone must have visited the site," said Janice Schroeder, communications officer for Alberta Employment and Immigration. The records also show two reported injuries, one in 2006 and one in 2008, the year the work crew officially dropped to 22 people. Mereska's 2004 complaint about low wages was likely not pursued because it was not specific, said Schroeder. Under provincial labour standards, only family farms are exempt from minimum wage requirements. The exemption does not apply to sawmills, she added. In 2009, another concerned citizen raised a red flag. Sandy McIntosh, an Edmonton-based specialist in occupation health and safety, also raised questions about possible violations of labour standards in the FLDS company. The case of Teressa Wall, working there at 14, is particularly disturbing, he said. She worked with hazardous machinery in a long dress without proper weather protection, according to her testimony. Yet safety regulations require workers to wear hard-toed boots, a hard hat, gloves and overalls, he said. "Young people were there working for nothing, some were sent from U.S.," said McIntosh in an interview. "How did they get across the border?" "Why do we let one group break the rules so easily?" For the province to treat this business as if it was a family farm is inappropriate, he added. "It is an industrial operation." It's pretty clear the money made in Alberta went to support polygamous communities in the B.C. and U.S., McIntosh added. "Alberta was in the chain and we don't want to acknowledge it. It's happening in our society, we should have an open discussion about it." It's late August and a busy Tuesday night in the cosy restaurant in the old Sundre Hotel. The specials on offer, a steak sandwich or sweet and sour pork, are in big demand. The kitchen serves up a very tasty bowl of steaming wonton soup. Seated at the counter, Dennis Herbert tucks into a plate of fried chicken and fries, gravy on the side. Born and raised in this small town, he's over 60 and still driving truck. He remembers when the Bountiful people started to show up. A few lived in the trailer court on the north side of town. "Some lived behind me in the trailer park. They didn't seem to be any trouble, just different," said Herbert. The women in their long dresses were noticeable walking into town from the work site near McDougall Flats, five kilometres west of town, he said. Sometimes they had young children with them. The town settled into a "live and let live" attitude with the small, hard-working group of FLDS people. The newcomers were polite, kept to themselves. Their small business all seemed temporary. If anybody had concerns, it seems, they kept them to themselves. Myron Thompson, a town councillor in Sundre, was a Reform MP when Bountiful people moved in. There wasn't too much talk about them, he said. "No one came to me with any concerns," Thompson added. Besides, in his view, any issues that might arise would be "left to provincial authorities." The FLDS site was located in the County of Mountain View, but the county had little to do with it, says former councillor Gerald Ingeveld. The company took an existing business so the county had no reason to get involved, he said. There was no sign the small group was trying to set up a bigger community, he said, it was just a few people living in old trailers. "It didn't look like a long-term operation," he added. Besides, there is freedom of movement in Canada, he added, so what could anyone do if the FLDS workers moved into Alberta to do business, he added. "We do have laws about how young brides can be, but we

saw no evidence of those issues here," said Ingeveld. While the sprawling rural county is a bit of a Bible belt, it has also seen its share of folks with different beliefs, he said. There is a nudist colony, and years ago, there were cross-burning racists in Caroline, he added. And the Moonies once made a brief appearance. Al Kemmere was reeve of Mountain View County in 2004. He lives about 45 kilometres from Sundre. The county doesn't regulate workers' wages or health and safety conditions, so it would not have thought to investigate working conditions, he added. That is a provincial responsibility. "I think the community saw them being there on a temporary basis and that was the basis of their passive approach. "If their beliefs were breaking the law, then there are mechanisms of society to look after that." University of Alberta professor Steve Kent, an expert in cults, says there's no easy way for a community to deal with a church like FLDS that arrives on its doorstep, especially if its members are well behaved. "It didn't seem there were any public issues with the FLDS people and, absent those issues, it's difficult to know what a local community could do," said Kent, who also testified at the B.C court reference last spring. It's not the job of a county or town council to enforce criminal laws, said Kent. The provincial government, however, should have kept a closer eye, given the reports of poor working conditions and low pay, he said. "It's very clear the government has a responsibility to monitor labour conditions including proper payment for a day's work." "The province let these young people down," said Kent. In some countries, governments take a more active role in monitoring cults, says Kent. But in Canada, it's left up to private groups like Stop Polygamy Canada. Truman Oler was still working in Sundre, in his early 20s, when he started to think about leaving the church. He was tired of low pay, of having no place of his own, no possessions and no time for anything much but work — tired of coming up with $1,000 a month in tithes to then bishop Warren Jeffs. (His mother often subsidized his tithes.) In 2002, he quietly stopped paying his tithes. His brother noticed and threatened to fire him unless he started paying again. "I just said I didn't need the church any more," said Oler. "If you leave, you go with nothing but the shirt on your back," he said. "And you are told that you'll never see your family again." Oler rejects the term "lost boys" — that's what the FLDS likes to think of those who leave the church. Still, adjusting to life outside is not easy, says Oler. That is backed up by evidence presented by Timothy Dunfield, a University of Alberta doctoral student. In his affidavit to the B.C. court, Dunfield described the impact of polygamy on young men. To reduce the competition for teenage brides, young men are forced out. Or they have to follow a complex rules to qualify to get a wife, and in the end, it's a "political decision" whether they are deemed worthy. After years of indoctrination, the young men "are ill-equipped" for life on the outside, according to his evidence. They have to learn how to make decisions, handle money, make friends or find employment. Cut off from the emotional and financial support of their families, they often end up in poverty and isolated. U.S. authorities estimate about 1,000 young men, some as young as 13, have been expelled from FLDS communities south of the border, according to Dunfield's brief. Oler has moved on, built a new life, taken training as a heavy-duty mechanic. But his battle with the church goes on. Winston Blackmore is being sued for tax evasion. He is trying to get former employees like Oler to pay part of the back taxes. (Oler already paid back taxes on his earnings.) Although the Oler mill site has been sold to another company, Oler also says he is sure other FLDS companies are still operating in Alberta. Occasionally, Oler goes back to Bountiful to visit his mother, but it's painful. "If I show up she will come out of the house to talk to me, but I am not welcomed into the house," Oler wrote in his court evidence. "I dream of going down to the place where I was raised and made to feel welcome and treated like a family member and not some stranger who has been caught stealing something. Maybe some day things will change." Edmonton Journal © Copyright (c) The Edmonton Journal Winston Blackmore, 52, leaves court in this file photo. Photograph by: Brian Lawrence, PNG Merlin Archive Source: http://www.montrealgazette.com/life/Polygamist+communities+sent+teens+work+long+hours/5454783/story.html

12-foot fence at trouble-plagued Palmetto Behavioral Health stirs split reactions By Glenn Smith Wednesday, September 28, 2011 SUMMERVILLE -- The new 12-foot-high fence outside Palmetto Behavioral Health has some neighbors feeling like a prison moved in next door. "All it needs is some razor wire," is a common refrain. But all that chain link translates into peace of mind for folks like Peggy Williams, who lives just around the corner from the treatment center for troubled teens. The fence, outfitted with special mesh and a curved top, is designed to put an end to the highly publicized escapes that have put this community on edge in recent months. "I love it," Williams said of the new fence. "I just wish they had done it sooner." Photo by Glenn Smith Reaction has been mixed over the new fence outside Palmetto Behavioral Health in Summerville. Palmetto officials released a statement Tuesday saying that previous attempts to install such a security fence at the Midland Parkway facility had been denied. They did not say by whom, nor would they reveal how much they paid for the new fence and other security upgrades. John Walker, a former maintenance worker at the center, said his supervisors pushed for a more secure fence as far back as 2007, but Palmetto executives didn't want to spend the money. Another ex-employee provided The Post and Courier with a copy of a 2007 bid from a company offering to install a 10-foot fence around the center for $23,650. Walker said Palmetto opted for a smaller wooden privacy fence because it was much cheaper. The result was that escapes became commonplace, with teens climbing the 6-foot fence without breaking a sweat, he said. "They went over it like it wasn't even there," he said. "I kept thinking, 'What happens if one of those kids gets loose and kills somebody?' How are they going to justify that?" Most escapes from the center have been resolved peacefully. But in 2009, a 15-year-old boy was accused of attacking and beating a 64-year-old woman after he slipped away from the center by ducking out a side door, police said. Palmetto officials have insisted they wanted to install a more secure fence years ago, but backed off after receiving resistance from fire officials and neighbors. That is why they settled on the wooden fence, they have said. Palmetto, which operates three treatment facilities in South Carolina, has been under scrutiny since four Washington teens escaped from the Summerville center in April. Citizens were stunned to learn the teens had violent histories and that one of the youths had faced an attempted murder charge in Washington. Residents and elected officials questioned why such patients were being housed in a facility surrounded by residential neighborhoods and protected by little more than a privacy fence. Those concerns grew when two more teens escaped from the facility in June, and a third bolted in August. Walker and other former workers said there were far more escapes from the facility that were never reported to police. Police records list 12 missing-person calls and nine reports of runaways from the facility since 2006. But Walker said police were seldom notified if workers could round up the escapees first. He said he participated in several such round-ups, combing nearby backyards and woods for teens who had gotten loose. Palmetto officials did not directly respond to Walker's statements when asked Tuesday, saying that the center "does not release information concerning patients or employees." Town Councilman Walter Bailey, a former solicitor, said he was pleased with the new fencing and hopes it will resolve concerns over escapes. "They have belatedly done what they should have done a while back and hopefully this will take care of their security issues." State Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, has pushed legislation that would bar treatment centers from accepting out-of-state placements of violent mental health patients. Limehouse said he too was encouraged by the new fencing, but state officials still need to keep an eye on Palmetto. "I have to compliment them for making improvements where they can," he said. "But there just seems to be an unfortunate amount of incidents coming out of this one facility. My hope is that they will get out of the news and stay out of the news." In the neighborhood around the center, residents responded to the new fence with a mixture of relief and ambivalence. Some thought it was just right; others, that it was overkill. Evelyn Mace, who lives in nearby Oakbrook Commons, recalled seeing some Palmetto workers chasing an escapee through the neighborhood a few years back. But she said she's never had any problems with the teens there. "They've never bothered me," she said. "I'm more concerned about teenagers on the loose around here after dark leaving trash up and down the roadway." For Palmetto's part, the center seems ready to put the controversy behind it. "Palmetto Behavioral Health will continue to provide the utmost professional care for the emotionally and mentally challenged individuals that are cared for at our facilities," the company said in a statement. "We are also committed to continuing our work as a valued member of the business and health care community." Copyright © 1995 - 2011 Evening Post Publishing Co.. Source: http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/sep/28/appropriate-or-overkill/

Corporate Media and Larry Summers Team Up to Gut Public Education: Beyond Education for Illiteracy, Vulgarity and a Culture of Cruelty Tuesday 27 September 2011 by: Henry A. Giroux, Truthout | Op-Ed NOTE: This article is based on the preface of Henry A. Giroux's latest book, "Education and the Crisis of Public Values: Challenging the Assault on Teachers, Students and Public Education" (Counterpoints: Studies in the Postmodern Theory of Education), published by Peter Lang Publishing; First printing edition (July 30, 2011). Since the early 1970s, the rich, corporate power brokers and right-wing cultural warriors realized that education was central to creating a viable populist movement that served their interests. Over the last 40 years, the financial elites and their wealthy accomplices have not only mobilized an educational anti-reform movement in the name of "reform" to dismantle public education and turn it over to hedge-fund managers and billionaires; they have also taken a lesson from the muckrakers, critical public intellectuals, left-wing journals, progressive newspapers and educational institutions of the mid-20th century and developed their own cultural apparatuses, talk shows, anti-public intellectuals, think tanks and grassroots organizations. As the left slid into organizing around mostly single-issue movements since the 1980s, the right moved in a different direction, mobilizing a range of educational forces and wider cultural apparatuses as a way of addressing broader ideas that appealed to a wider public and issues that resonated with their everyday lives. Tax reform, the role of government, the crisis of education, family values and the economy, to name a few issues, were wrenched out of their progressive legacy and inserted into a context defined by the values of the free market, an unbridled notion of freedom and individualism and a growing hatred for the social contract. At the heart of this movement was a culture of cruelty and vulgarity that used education to produce a new form of political illiteracy in which there was no difference between opinions and arguments, reason and emotion and evidence and false statements. In this culture of illiteracy, science became a liability, thinking became an act of stupidity, anti-intellectualism became a virtue, social protections were described as a pathology and the social contract was dismissed as socialism. While social critic Michael Kazin does not mention the notions of education or public pedagogy in a recent New York Times article, he is right in stressing the centrality of education to the current right-wing-Christian-extremists takeover of almost every aspect of political and economic life in America - extending from the Supreme Court to the federal government to the dominant media-cultural educational apparatus. He writes: "Like the left in the early 20th century, conservatives built an impressive set of institutions to develop and disseminate their ideas. Their think tanks, legal societies, lobbyists, talk radio and best selling manifestos have trained, educated and financed two generations of writers and organizers. Conservative Christian colleges

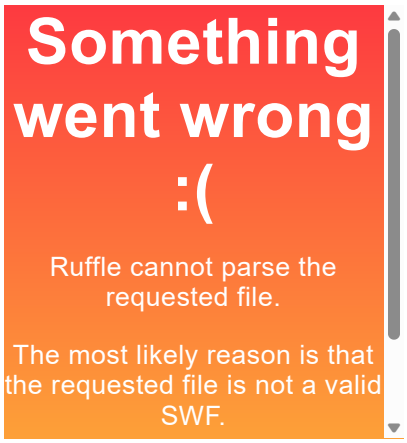
both Protestant and Catholic, provide students with a more coherent worldview than do the more prestigious schools led by liberals. More recently, conservatives marshaled media outlets like Fox News and the editorial pages of The Wall Street Journal to their cause."(1) Education has become the political weapon of choice for conservatives, and they have had astounding success in using the mainstream and new media to drown out the voices of more progressive critics. The evidence is everywhere. For instance, The New York Times is currently advertising its Watch Education Take Center Stage initiative and the keynote address is being given by the politically and morally discredited champion of neoliberal education, Lawrence Summers. Given his failed presidency at Harvard, his utterly shameful role in contributing to the financial crisis of 2008 and the failure of Obama's economic policies and his crude instrumental view of education, why would The New York Times select him as an educational leader and beacon of hope for any kind of educational vision designed to address future generations? Other speakers include the likes of Chester Finn, whose views on public education are as politically reactionary as they are theoretically bogus. Another example can be found in the ongoing Education Nation series sponsored on a number of platforms by NBC. It's endorsement of market-driven anti-public education policies are evident in its parading of the likes of Bill and Melinda Gates and their utterly anti-public, charter school, privatized and technocratic vision of education. Also included are the usual list of charter school, corporate funded anti-union, public school cheerleaders for defunding and privatizing American education. Of course, missing from these dog-and-pony shows are progressive public school reformers such as David Berliner, Stanley Aronowitz, Jonathan Kozol, Marian Wright Edelman, Donaldo Macedo, and others who have been fighting for real educational reform for the last few decades. Nor is there any mention of the many local struggling social movements fighting for public education and the ever-dissolving protections of social contract inherited from the legacy of the New Deal and the Great Society programs. Education at all levels is firmly in the hands of the rich, reactionary and the powerful. Is it any wonder given how invisible progressive forces are in this country that young people are not in the streets as they were in the sixties, refusing the future being offered to them by Wall Street and the moralizing Christian fundamentalists? Of course, this is not merely a debate about education; it is really about the emergence of an anti-reform movement that wants to create armies of low-skilled workers and consumers for the privatized, deregulated and commodified world of the 21st century where a survival of the fittest ethic has been elevated to the status of commonsense. This is a world in which the culture of cruelty is now so commonplace that audiences clap when right-wing politicians insist that people who are terminally ill should die rather than receive government support; it is a world in which the legacies and injustice of slavery and the Jim Crow era now shape a criminal justice system in which capital punishment is largely used to kill black men while, at the same time, used by crass politicians to provoke political support and cheers from audiences who could have once sat in the seats of Roman coliseums watching people eaten by wild animals; the culture of cruelty is now matched by the culture of vulgarity - reality TV shows mimic the worst values of American life; celebrity culture is now so crude that it is worse than illiterate, and celebrities such as Kim Kardashian become role models for legitimating a lethal combination of vulgarity and stupidity. The combination of vulgarity and illiteracy permeates American culture, particularly its political class. What is one to make of the current crop of Republic presidential candidates who claim, without irony, that climate change is not the result of human behavior; evolution is bad science; and in the case of the queen of idiocy, Michele Bachmann, ignore the most obvious scientific evidence about the HPV vaccine in order to make false claims about the value of this particular drug in saving the lives of young girls. In all of these examples, education becomes another way of making the larger public and young people either stupid or mindless consumers - even worse, both. The American public needs access to a new political and educational vocabulary in order to fashion democratically vibrant educational institutions; social movements; community educational centers; bookstores; and a lively, independent press. Young people, educators, activists, artists, parents, and others need alternative media such as Truthout, AlterNet and CounterPunch as popular civic outlets to make education central to building the formative culture that would create new generations of real public intellectuals, youth activists, social movements and a vibrant range of public spheres. I have taken up this issue in my newest book, "Education and the Crisis of Public Values." The book points to how educators and others can meet the current attack on education, young people and democracy itself. It offers a new vocabulary for better understanding the crisis of education as a crisis of democracy and public life, and provides a number of suggestions for what new beginnings are necessary, all of which is outlined in more detail throughout the book. Below is an excerpt from the preface that forecasts both the swindle of education offered by conservatives, the billionaires and corporate power brokers and why it needs to be resisted with as much urgency and collective power as possible. With all due respect to Charles Dickens, it appears to be the worst of times for public and higher education in America; public schools are increasingly viewed as a business and are prized above all for "customer satisfaction," and efficiency while largely judged through the narrow lens of empirical accountability measures. When not functioning as a business or a potentially lucrative for-profit investment, public schools are reduced to containment centers, holding institutions designed to largely punish young people marginalized by race and class. No longer merely tracked into low-achieving classes, poor white, brown and black youth are now tracked out of school into what is often called the school-to-prison pipeline. Schools have now become stress centers for the privileged and zones of abandonment for the poor. Public school teachers are now viewed as the new "welfare-queens," while academics are defined less as critical intellectuals and engaged scholars than as a new class or professional entrepreneurs. Under strict policies imposed in a number of states by right-wing politicians wrapping themselves in the rhetoric of austerity, higher education at all levels is being radically defunded while simultaneously being transformed into a credentializing factory restructured according to the values, social relations and governing practices of large corporations. In both public and higher education, ignorance is not merely fostered, but embraced through the course content whose value is almost exclusively defined through a metaphysics in which anything that can't be quantified is defined as useless. Corporate pedagogy has no use for critical thinking, autonomous subjects, the stretching of the imagination, or developing a sense of civic responsibility among students. Teachers who think and act reflectively, ask uncomfortable questions, challenge the scripts of official power and promote a search for the truth while encouraging pedagogy as the practice of freedom are now viewed as suspect, if not un-American. At the same time, amid all of the despair and foolishness on the part of right-wing politicians and conservative and corporate interests, it is not entirely clear that a spring of hope is beyond reach. As I wrote this preface, workers and young people were marching and demonstrating all over the globe against the dictates, values and policies of a market-driven economy that has corrupted politics, pushed democracy to its vanishing point and undermined public values. Unions, public school teachers, higher education, and all of those public spheres necessary to keep civic values alive are being challenged in a way that both baffles and shocks anyone who believes in the ideals and promises of a substantive democracy. In the United States, union-busting politicians such as Govs. Scott Walker (Wisconsin) and Chris Christie (New Jersey) not only want to gut social services and sell them off to the highest bidder, they are also symptomatic of a political fringe movement that wants to destroy the critical culture, dedicated public servants and institutions that give any sense of vitality, substance and hope to public and higher education in the United States. As the meaning of democracy is betrayed by its transformation into a market society, corporate power and money appear unchecked in their ability to privatize, deregulate and destroy all vestiges of public life. America's military wars abroad are now matched by the war at home; that is, the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya have found their counterpart in the war against the poor, immigrants, young people, unions, public-sector workers, the welfare state and schoolteachers. The call for shared sacrifices on the part of conservatives and Tea Party extremists becomes code for destroying the social state, preserving and increasing the power of mega-rich corporations and securing the wealth of the top one percent of the population with massive tax breaks while placing the burden of the current global economic meltdown on the shoulders of working people and the poor. Deficit reductions and austerity policies that allegedly address the global economic meltdown caused by the financial hawks running Wall Street now do the real work of stripping teachers of their collective bargaining rights, dismantling programs long associated with social services and relegating young people to mind-deadening schools and a debt-ridden future. David Harvey's notion of "accumulation through dispossession" has become a basic policy of casino capitalism. How else to interpret the right-wing call to tax the poor to subsidize tax breaks for billionaires and mega corporations? Despair, disposability and unnecessary human suffering now engulf large swaths of the American people, often pushing them into situations that are not merely tragic, but life threatening. A survival-of-the-fittest ethic has replaced any reasonable notion of solidarity, social responsibility and compassion for the other. Ideology does not seem to matter any longer as right-wing Republicans have less interest in argument and persuasion than in bullying their alleged enemies with the use of heavy-handed legislation and, when necessary, dire threats, as when Wisconsin's Republican Gov. Scott Walker threatened to mobilize the National Guard to prevent teachers' unions from protesting their possible loss of bargaining rights and a host of anti-worker proposals. Obama has joined the Republican Party, leaving us with a Republican Party lite and a Republican Party of extremists. We have become a culture of forgetting, obliterating both the legacy of authoritarianism that characterized the Bush-Cheney years, while supporting a new group of Republican politicians who resemble Bush and Cheney on steroids. We are more than a nation in decline; we are a nation moving toward the bittersweet simplisms, policies and values of a new form of authoritarianism. With any viable leadership lacking at the national level, both young people and workers are watching the movements for democracy that are taking place all over the globe, but especially in the volatile Arab nations and in Western European countries such as France, England and Germany. Struggles abroad give Americans a glimpse of what happens when individual solutions to collective problems lose their legitimacy as a central tenet of neoliberal ideology. Massive demonstrations, pitched street battles, nonviolent gatherings, the impressive use of the new media as an alternative political and educational tool and an outburst of long-repressed anger eager for collective action are engulfing many countries across the globe. In smaller numbers, such protests are also taking place in a number of cities around the United States. Many Americans are, once again, invoking democracy, rejecting its association with the empty formality of voting and its disingenuous use to legitimate and justify political systems that produce massive wealth and income inequality. Democracy's promises are laying bare the sordid realities that now speak in its name. Its energy is becoming infectious, and one can only hope that those who believe that education is the foundation of critical agency, politics and democracy itself will be drawn to the task of fighting America's move in the last 30 years to a politically and economically authoritarian system. At issue here is the need for a new vocabulary, vision and politics that will unleash new democratic movements, institutions and a formative culture capable of imagining a life and society free of the dictates of endless military wars, boundless material waste, extreme inequality, disposable

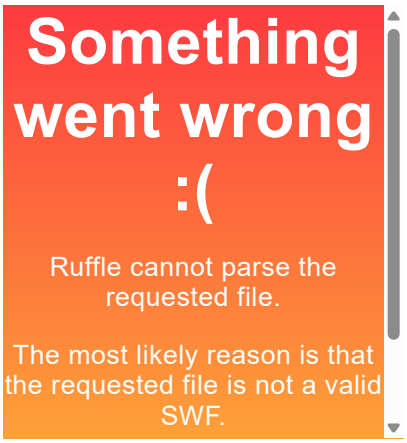
populations and unfounded human suffering. Central to "Education and the Crisis of Public Values" is the belief that no change will come unless education both within and outside of formal schooling is viewed as central to any viable notion of politics. If real reform is going to happen, it has to put in place a viable, critical, formative culture that supports notions of engaged citizenship, civic courage, public values, dissent, democratic modes of governing and a genuine belief in freedom, equality and justice. Ideas matter as do the human beings and institutions that make them count and that includes those intellectuals both in and out of schools who bear the responsibility of providing the conditions for Americans of all ages to be able to think critically so they can act imaginatively - so they can embrace a vision of the good life as a just life, one that extends the values, practices and vision of democracy to everyone. 1. Michael Kazin, "Whatever Happened to the American Left?" New York Times (September 25, 2011), p. SR4. Source: http://www.truth-out.org/beyond-education-illiteracy-vulgarity-and-culture-cruelty/1317131147 (Webmaster Note: HEAL does not agree with everything in the above article. But, we believe it raises some interesting points.)

New Efforts to Crack Down on Residential Programs for Troubled Teens By Maia Szalavitz Friday, October 7, 2011 The first legislation aimed at regulating residential programs for troubled teens was introduced on Thursday in the House and the Senate. The bill would crack down on hundreds of programs housing thousands of teens, many of which use punishing "tough love" regimes found to include physical, sexual and emotional abuse. The Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2011 was sponsored in the House by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) and in the Senate by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa). A previous version of the bill passed the House twice, but was never introduced in the Senate (at the time, the relevant Senate committee was focused on President Obama's health care legislation). The legislation would prohibit sexual, physical and emotional abuse and would ban the use of deprivation — of food, sleep, clothing and shelter, for example — as punishment or for any other reason. The use of physical restraint would be permitted only for safety, and all programs would be required to provide residents with "reasonable" access to a telephone. It would require staff to be educated about what specifically counts as child abuse and how to report it, and mandate programs to disclose staff qualifications to parents. Investigations by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in 2007-08 found dozens of deaths related to abuse at such residential programs, along with thousands of further allegations, many confirmed, of abuse. GAO investigators posing as parents also discovered widespread use of fraudulent marketing practices. MORE: Teens Made to Do Lap Dances in School in Supreme Court Case "The culture of abuse and neglect at some of these programs is simply unacceptable, as is the inadequate staff training, regulation and state oversight. Every day we wait to take action is another day that the safety of teenagers is in jeopardy," said Miller. "I hope my Republican colleagues will join me in helping put an end to these horrific abuses that put the lives of too many children in danger." Republicans, however, oppose additional federal regulations and believe these programs should be overseen by the states. "Ensuring the safety of the nation's youth is a priority for Americans on both sides of the political divide. We have learned a great deal about the abuse and neglect of troubled youth who live at residential treatment facilities," said Rep. John Kline (R-Minn.), chair of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, adding, "These at-risk youth deserve strong protections and we must ensure federal policies do not undermine the central responsibility of state and local leaders to ensure their safety and hold abusers accountable." In 2009, I reported for TIME on allegations of sexual abuse at Mount Bachelor Academy, a residential program in Oregon owned by Aspen Education, the largest national operator of residential teen centers, which include wilderness programs and "emotional growth" boarding schools. A state investigation that followed my article found that Mount Bachelor's treatment regime was "punitive, humiliating, degrading and traumatizing" and included "sexualized role play in front of staff and students." In March, the state also substantiated claims that neglect led to the death of a teen in another Aspen program, Sage Walk. That program had been featured on a short-lived reality show called "Brat Camp." But while Oregon has some oversight of these programs, in many states, there is none at all. Nail salons and dog grooming outfits are, in fact, more strictly regulated than troubled teen programs, which routinely use corporal punishment and isolation in the guise of treatment. MORE: Increasingly, Internet Activism Helps Shutter Abusive 'Troubled Teen' Boot Camps Cynthia Clark Harvey, whose daughter Erica died of heatstroke and dehydration after staff members of the Catherine Freer Wilderness program she attended insisted that she was faking her problems, testified during the first Congressional hearings held on the issue. "I support the legislation because it preserves true parental rights: the right to free and unmonitored communication with your child, the right to family-centered treatment and the right to know there are national standards that any program must adhere to," she said. The new bill is supported by the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Child Welfare League and the American Association of Children's Residential Centers. The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs, an industry group, has said it supports the "intent" of the legislation but opposes federal regulation. Maia Szalavitz is a health writer for TIME.com. Find her on Twitter at @maiasz. You can also continue the discussion on TIME Healthland's Facebook page and on Twitter at @TIMEHealthland. Source: http://healthland.time.com/2011/10/07/new-efforts-to-crack-down-on-residential-programs-for-troubled-teens/

Boy's death in juvenile detention center should jolt state lawmakers into action Posted Tuesday, Oct. 25, 20110 Signs of trouble were apparent at a Hood County juvenile detention facility before the death of a 14-year-old detainee this month. Why does it take a tragedy to propel the state to take a serious look at operations inside the Granbury Regional Juvenile Justice Center? Perhaps because too many local and state officials see the for-profit juvenile centers in Texas as a positive economic alternative to government-run institutions for troubled youths. Jordan Adams, a Cleburne middle school student, died in a Fort Worth hospital six days after being found unconscious Oct. 10 in his cell at the Granbury facility. A bedsheet was wrapped around his neck, according to police, who have not determined whether the death was an accident or "criminal incident." Regardless of the cause of death, when young people are placed in the custody of the state, there should be a reasonable expectation that their safety, health and general welfare will be protected. Sadly, too many heartbreaking examples point to that not being the case. State records show more than 250 complaints and serious incidents have been reported at the center since 2007, including youth-on-youth assaults, supervisory neglect and physical and sexual abuse. Perhaps the most disturbing statistic is the 133 cases of attempted suicide, an overwhelming amount in a four-year period for any group. Star-Telegram writer Dianna Hunt reported Sunday that the Hood County juvenile center, originally designed as a public-private partnership that would not cost taxpayers any money, had problems from the start. A coalition that included the county and a detention management corporation built the $6.5 million facility through the sale of tax-exempt certificates of participation (bonds). In a convoluted scheme, the management group was to lease the facility back to the county, then rent the place to operate a juvenile detention center that would pay off the bonds. The county would own it outright after 20 years. The private corporation floundered almost immediately when the daily census was far less than the 78 juveniles it needed to be "profitable." The county took over the operation for a while and then closed the facility because it was too costly, resulting in a downgrade of the county's bond rating by Standard & Poor's. Hood County in 2007 contracted with 4M Granbury Youth Services of Rockdale to operate the center, but a surprise state inspection two years later found "numerous unsanitary and unhealthy living conditions" at the facility. Among the violations cited were supervisory neglect, failure to make routine checks on detainees and failure to provide proper medical care, Hunt reported. In response to previously alleged and actual mistreatment in state juvenile facilities, major efforts were made to enhance security, supervision and medical attention for youths assigned there. The strategy included committing juveniles to privately run facilities. Regardless of who manages the detention centers, the responsibility rests with the state, which is charged with the care of these young people. The Texas Juvenile Justice Coalition in Austin has voiced concern about the lack of adequate supervision and oversight of juvenile justice facilities, particularly the for-profit centers, according to Executive Director Ann Correa. More needs to be done, and one specific corrective measure would be for the Legislature to fund independent ombudsmen to investigate complaints and concerns as recommended by the coalition. The death of a 14-year-old boy demands that Texans act, and with deliberate speed. Source: http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/10/25/3473074/boys-death-in-juvenile-detention.html#ixzz1btETrapG

Exclusive videos detail tactics at teen boot camps in Pasadena--October 26th, 2011 (Pasadena Star-News)





Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_19202277

For complete story, click here

Pasadena police probe possible abuses after troubling youth camp videos surface By Associated Press, Published: October 28 PASADENA, Calif. — Police will investigate whether a crime occurred at a youth boot camp after videos surfaced showing instructors shouting at a boy wearing a tire around his neck and children being told to drink water until some vomited. Investigators will question boot camp operator Kelvin "Sgt. Mac" McFarland, police Cmdr. Darryl Qualls told the Pasadena Star-News (http://bit.ly/vtQb7Q) on Thursday. "Looking at the video we can only see McFarland, so we will start the investigation with McFarland," Qualls said. McFarland earlier denied to the newspaper that he appeared in the videos. A call left for him Friday was not immediately returned. McFarland was charged earlier this year with child abuse, extortion and other crimes. Prosecutors contend that he handcuffed a truant 14-year-old girl in May and told her family that she would be sent to juvenile detention unless she was enrolled in his camp. She was never enrolled. The Star-News this week released short video clips it said were made in 2009. On one, several instructors in military-style fatigues surround and shout at a boy who is wearing a heavy auto tire. At one point, the boy falls down crying but is ordered to stand again. In the other, several girls and boys are repeatedly ordered to drink water from colored plastic bottles. Several youngsters vomit. "I would certainly not subject my son or daughter or any child I know to this type of activity," City Council member Victor Gordo told the newspaper. "The short clips that I reviewed appeared to be more of a situation of intimidation and humiliation appearing to be employed under the guise of physical activity and discipline," Gordo said. The Star-News said the videos appear to have been made in Pasadena but did not indicate how it obtained them. McFarland runs Family First Growth Camp in Pasadena, which like other boot camps uses military-style discipline and exercises with a goal of instilling character and keeping at-risk youngsters away from drugs, alcohol and crime. The camp "doesn't believe in corporal punishment, nor will it be tolerated," according to a camp website. "The young men/women who come to us are good kids who have begun to make some poor choices with friends, school, drugs, alcohol, attitude with peers and family members," the website said, adding that through the camp, "these kids seek out, find, then learn to love themselves so they can love their families and start to move in a positive direction." The camp is funded through a combination of fees and charitable donations. Enrollment is through parents, although in some states juvenile justice systems send some offenders to boot camps. However, some studies have shown that juvenile offenders sent to boot camps were no less likely to commit new crimes than those who were placed in juvenile detention or given probation. The Star-News did not specify whether the videos were taken at a Family First training session and noted that some children seemed to be wearing T-shirts from another camp. Keith "Sarge" Gibbs, who runs Sarge's Community Base/Commit II Achieve Boot Camp, said that some of the children appear to be wearing his camp T-shirts. McFarland worked for him in 2009 but left to form his own camp after Gibbs learned that he had lied about taking a required background check, Gibbs said. "He left and took 28 families and kids with him, with my shirts and some paperwork," Gibbs told The Associated Press on Friday. Gibbs said he doubted that the video was shot during one of his camps. "Those individuals (in the videos) belong to Sgt. McFarland's team. Those are his teammates," he said. Although Gibbs uses some tire drills for strength training and does make youngsters drink a lot of water after long hikes, parents are always involved in the instruction and Gibbs said he has a policy against certain actions. "You can't demean or haze the kid ... your goal is to motivate these kids, to inspire them, empower them," he said. "If that was the entire program, I don't see where the kids are learning anything." "Do they need to be forced to drink water until they vomit? I don't think so," he said. A bill introduced earlier this month by Rep. George Miller, D-Richmond, would require training for boot camp staff. It also would require boot camp instructors to report child abuse and create a federal database where parents can check the credentials of boot camp operators. "This legislation will help put an end to these horrific abuses that put the lives of too many children in jeopardy," Miller said in a statement. Copyright 2011 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/pasadena-police-probe-possible- abuses-after-troubling-youth-camp-videos-surface/2011/10/28/gIQA7eRhPM_print.html For more on this story, see: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2054919/California-boot-camp-child-abuse-Kelvin-Sergeant-Mac-McFarland-caught-camera.html and http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-youth-boot-camp-instructor-arrested,0,6674918.story

Boot camp abuses cited By Brian Charles, Staff Writer Posted: 10/29/2011 07:13:29 AM PDT William Edwards and Helen Edwards have made additional accusations against two Pasadena-based boot camps, which find themselves in the midst of a controversy over the harsh tactics employed by instructors. (SGVN/Staff Photo by Walt Mancini) PASADENA - A man who attended Pasadena-based youth boot camps run by Kelvin "Sgt. Mac" McFarland said episodes of harsh treatment were commonplace. And the man's adopted mother said children of immigrants and the illiterate were targeted for membership. William Edwards, 18, of Pasadena, said in one 2010 instance instructors at the Family First Growth Camp, which was run by McFarland, targeted a young girl for discipline by handcuffing her to a fence and kicking dirt on her. Edwards also recalled camp attendees having to drink large volumes of water that caused vomiting and nausea. "The drill instructors would say `we will be here all day until you finish that water and if you take too long we will just make you drink more,"' Edwards said. Neither McFarland nor his attorney Evan Dicker of the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender's Office, returned calls seeking comment. In recent days, questions have been raised about McFarland, his former employer Keith "Sarge" Gibbs and their respective camps after two disturbing videos were published on this newspaper's website. In one of the videos, children - some as young as nine years old - are seen being forced to drink water to the point of vomiting. In the other video, a pre-teen boy is seen being screamed at by drill instructors, including McFarland, while carrying a truck tire around his neck. At the time of the taping in 2009, McFarland was employed by Gibbs. Gibbs can be heard on speaking on one of the videos. Both men have denied being present during the videotaping. Police investigating The videos prompted the Pasadena Police Department to launch an investigation and the acts have been strongly condemned by politicians from Pasadena City Hall to the nation's Capitol. Experts in the field of child development and child abuse laws have questioned both the efficacy and legality of the acts in the videos. For Edwards, the images in the videos serve as a reminder of what he said he witnessed firsthand. "(The drill instructors) would make you squat down with the tire around your neck," Edwards said. "It makes your neck and back hurt." Edwards is one of four children adopted by Helen Edwards, a 74-year-old retired U.S. Postal Service employee. Unlike many other parents who turn to boot camps, she said she didn't enroll her children to curb bad their behavior. "I am raising them all by myself and I wanted to give them the experience of what a man's role in the world is," Helen Edwards said. `A great, smooth talker' She said she enrolled her two sons and two daughters in Gibbs' camp in 2008. After a dustup over training tactics and McFarland's failure to pass a background check, Gibbs and McFarland parted ways. Wooed by McFarland's charm, the Edwards family remained with McFarland when he branched off in 2009. "He is a great, smooth talker," Helen Edwards said. She said she was so taken by McFarland that she staked the operation, writing him a check for $2,000 to help start his camp. McFarland promised to repay, but hasn't, the retired postal worker said. Helen Edwards said she has never filed suit to try to retrieve her money from McFarland. For her investment, Helen Edwards served on the Family First Growth Camp's board of directors. For nearly a year she kept McFarland's books. But, the relationship soured when Helen Edwards began to have doubts about McFarland's ability to manage money. "In November of 2009, he went up on the monthly dues from $200 to $250 a month," Helen Edwards said. "And if you were late with the money it cost you a $25 late fee." Immediately, 13 families left Family First Growth Camp. In March 2010, McFarland turned to a new "recruiting tool," Helen Edwards said. "The third week of every month, he would come in with a child - who was skipping school - in handcuffs," she recalled. "And he would call the parents and make them pay $100 on the spot. And then $250 at the first of the month, as part of

their dues." `Walking-around money' McFarland targeted some of Pasadena's most vulnerable residents, Helen Edwards said. "He would go after the immigrants and the illiterate," she said. Many of the parents who came in to pay McFarland for "finding" their children spoke little or no English and the boot camp used translators to help with the transactions, Helen Edwards said. Helen Edwards said she would receive the $250 and deposit the money into a business account. The $100 McFarland took from parents for capturing truant teens "was his walking-around money," Helen Edwards said. On May 16 Pasadena police arrested McFarland on suspicion of kidnapping, child abuse, child endangerment, extortion and unlawful use of a badge. McFarland allegedly handcuffed a truant Pasadena Unified School District student and told her parents, who spoke limited English, to pay him $100 or he would put their daughter in a juvenile detention center. McFarland has pleaded not guilty and is out on bail awaiting trial. Because of her financial dealings with McFarland, Helen Edwards said previous to seeing the videos she was reluctant to come forward with any information. She and her family left McFarland's group after adopted son Tyrone and one of the drill instructors got into a fight, Edwards said. A portion of McFarland's training forced children in the camp to wrestle adult drill instructors - at least one of whom as on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps, she said. A match between Tyrone and a man identified only as "Sgt. Ronnie," turned into a brawl, she said. McFarland intervened and broke up the fight by reportedly using a choke hold on Tyrone, his mother said. "Tryone, who is a big boy, almost 6-feet-tall, got free by flipping (McFarland) over his back," Helen Edwards said. "McFarland took Tyrone for a walk and told him not to come back to the camp anymore." A month later Helen Edwards said she pulled all of her children from the camp. twitter.com/JBrianCharles 626-578-6300, ext. 4494 Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/ci_19222653

CDC Director Arrested for Child Molestation and Bestiality By Dr. Mercola Dr. Kimberly Quinlan Lindsey, a top official with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been arrested and charged with two counts of child molestation and one count of bestiality. Dr. Lindsey, who joined the CDC in 1999, is currently the deputy director for the Laboratory Science Policy and Practice Program Office. She's second in command of the program office. Prior to that role, she was the senior health scientist in the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, an office that oversees the allocation process for $1.5 billion in terrorism preparedness. According to CNN: "Authorities also charged Lindsey's live-in boyfriend, Thomas Joseph Westerman, 42, with two counts of child molestation. The two are accused of 'immoral and indecent' sexual acts involving a 6-year-old ... The bestiality charge says Lindsey 'did unlawfully perform or submit to any sexual act with an animal.'" Between January and August last year, Dr. Lindsey and her boyfriend allegedly involved the child during sex, and DeKalb County police claim they discovered photographs of Lindsey performing sex acts on a couple of her pets. Some of you may wonder why I've chosen to discuss this story. Some may think it's in poor taste and doesn't belong in a newsletter about health. However, I believe it's relevant to be aware that someone in charge of your child's health is allegedly engaged in child abuse. Her actions raise serious questions in my mind about her level of concern for the health and well-being of children in general. Dr. Lindsey Played Primary Role in Bogus Swine Flu Propaganda Campaign As you may recall, the 2009 H1N1 swine flu pandemic turned out to be a complete sham, with a fast-tracked and particularly dangerous vaccine being pushed as the sole remedy. Children and pregnant women were the primary targets of this dangerous vaccine. The H1N1 flu was a perfect example of how the CDC can brazenly distort reality, and often ignore and deny the dangerous and life-threatening side effects of their solution. As a result of this bogus propaganda campaign, thousands of people were harmed (and many died) worldwide. In August, it was revealed that the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine increased the risk for narcolepsy-a very rare and devastating sleeping disorder-in Swedish children and adolescents by 660 percent. Finland also noticed a dramatic increase in narcolepsy following vaccination with Pandemrix. There, an interim report issued in January of this year found that the H1N1 vaccine increased the risk of narcolepsy by 900 percent in children and adolescents below the age of 19. In the US, the H1N1 flu vaccine was statistically linked with abnormally high rates of miscarriage and stillbirths. As reported by Steven Rubin on the NVIC's blog, the US H1N1 flu vaccine was SIXTY times more likely to be reported to VAERS to be associated with miscarriage than previous seasonal flu vaccines. The only "winners" in this game were the pharmaceutical companies that received millions of dollars for this never-proven-effective and highly reactive vaccine, while being sheltered by our government from liability for any harm it caused. Dr. Lindsey played an important role in that campaign, which ended in tragedy for countless many-not from a killer flu (statistically, the 2009 H1N1 flu was MILDER than usual) but from the dangerous and expensive "remedy" to this oversold non-threat. All of that said, I do want to stress that Dr. Lindsey has not yet been found guilty, and there are still many unanswered questions relating to this case. But this is not the only shocking story raising questions about the ethics of those involved in creating the CDC's health recommendations. Source: http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2011/10/28/cdc-director-arrested-for-child-molestation--bestiality.aspx and http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/11/justice/georiga-cdc-arrest/index.html

Pasadena women step forward with more boot camp allegations By Brian Charles, Staff Writer Pasadena Star-News Posted:10/31/2011 06:05:02 PM PDT PASADENA - At least three Pasadena women say they witnessed what they considered abuse by drill instructors from Family First Growth Camp while the boot camp operated on Pasadena city property. Pasadena residents Susan Lafferty and Nancy Rose and Sierra Madre resident Julie Unamuno said they forwarded their claims of abuse to the city by email in 2009, but nothing was done. "I saw (someone) getting in their faces and screaming while the children were sobbing. Some of the (children) were as young as 8 years old," Lafferty said. "And I could not see how any of this could help a child." "I would never even yell at an animal like that," Rose said. There was "no formal investigation related to the tactics" but officials will review the 2009 emails, Pasadena spokeswoman Ann Erdman said in a statement Monday. Erdman acknowledged that city officials were aware that Family First Growth Camp, operated by Kelvin "Sgt. Mac" McFarland, used the Arroyo and Hahamongna Watershed Park, both city properties, to train children. The camp was routinely ushered off city land for failing to have a permit, Erdman said. "Anytime park safety officers encountered the operation on city-owned property, they ordered them to vacate the premises immediately," Erdman said. Neither McFarland nor his attorney, Evan Dicker of the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender's Office, returned calls seeking comment. McFarland was arrested on May 27 on suspicion of of child abuse, child endangerment, kidnapping, extortion and unlawful use of a badge stemming from his encounter with a young girl in Pasadena. His case is still pending. In July, Judge Stan Blumenfeld decided to hold McFarland over for trial. McFarland remains free on $185,000 bail. He is due back in court Nov. 16. McFarland's criminal record includes arrests and convictions for driving under the influence in 1991 and 2005, as well as a 2000 conviction for misdemeanor battery and a 2009 conviction for driving with a suspended license. McFarland can be seen in two videos that provide an inside look at juvenile boot camps. In one video, McFarland can be seen coaxing children to drink water to the point that several children began vomiting. In the second, he and several other adults can be seen taunting a child who has been forced to wear a tire around his neck. Those videos were released by this newspaper last week. The voice of boot camp instructor Keith "Sarge" Gibbs, who operates Sarge's Community Base/Commit II Achieve, can be heard on one of the videos. Both men deny being present for the videotaping. Gibbs has not been charged with a criminal offense. Lafferty, Unamuno and Rose all ride horses in the Arroyo and Hahamongna Watershed Park. They said the tactics employed by the Family First Growth Camp during their run-ins with the camp in 2009 bore striking resemblance to the scenes depicted in those videos. Unamuno, who is a riding instructor in the Arroyo, said she first encountered McFarland in November 2009. "I saw what appeared to be a drill sergeant was pointing his finger in a young girl's face while she was covered in dirt," Unamuno said. "She had been reduced to tears." Lafferty, Rose and Unamuno came forward after seeing the videos. Rose, Lafferty and Unamuno said they didn't see any children being forced to drink large volumes of water, but they did see children being forced to carry truck tires around their neck. During their horse rides, the women said they also saw children forced to scale steep hills during a heat wave in 2010 and also witnessed instructors regularly give obscenity-laced tongue lashings to the children. "Do you think breaking them down to be nothing and using obscenities is going to make them any better? Rose asked. "They are not adults, they are kids and their minds are not even developed." After a handful of run-ins with the camp, the women said they decided to report the acts to Pasadena City officials. "We knew this was at the very least inappropriate behavior if not out-and-out abuse," Lafferty said. Lafferty contacted the Pasadena Department of Public Works, directing many of her emails to Martin Pastucha, the department's former director, Lafferty said. The women said they thought to call the Pasadena police, but were unable to make out a license plate on a car and were too afraid to approach the boot camp to ask for names, Rose said. It remains unclear what happened to the email sent by Lafferty, but Pasadena Police Department officials said they had no knowledge of any of the activities in the Arroyo or Hahamongna Watershed Park. "We do not have any prior complaints of child abuse against Mr. McFarland and Mr. Gibbs regarding boot camps," Pasadena police Lt. Tracey Ibarra said. Ibarra runs the Police Department's youth outreach program. Despite not having a permit, the camps returned in 2010 and were spotted in the Arroyo as recently as last summer, Rose said. The riding group began to alter its route to avoid the group, since Unamuno often takes her own children on the path. "It's unnerving to see that type of drill going on in that setting and trying to explain that to young children," Unamuno said. Meanwhile, no arrests have been made in the case, as investigators said they are still unsure a crime has even occurred, Ibarra said. "The Pasadena Police Department has had discussions with the District Attorney's Office, but there has not been any cases opened," Ibarra said. "We are still trying to determine whether there has been criminal act with identifiable suspects." The department has not contacted the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Service since it's unclear whether any laws were broken, Ibarra said. The video contains episodes recorded during McFarland's time with Gibbs, according to multiple sources familiar with the camps. Gibbs has not operated free of controversy. In 2009, he was removed from Pasadena Unified School District campuses when accusations surfaced that his tactics were "too rough," according to district officials. twitter.com/JBrianCharles 626-578-6300, ext. 4494

Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_19235352 For more on this story, visit: http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/More-Allegations-Against-Youth-Boot-Camp--133044633.html, http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_19307909 and http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2011/11/02/5899803.htm

November 5, 2011 In State Care, 1,200 Deaths and Few Answers By DANNY HAKIM and RUSS BUETTNER For James Michael Taylor, an evening bath became a death sentence. Mr. Taylor, who was 41 and a quadriplegic, had little more ability than a newborn baby to lift his head. Bathing him required the constant attention of a

staff member at the group home for the developmentally disabled where he lived, near Schenectady, N.Y. One summer night in 2005, a worker lowered Mr. Taylor into the tub, turned on the water and left the room. Over the next 15 minutes, the water slowly rose over his head. He drowned before anyone returned. Joan Taylor, his mother, remembers the words her husband said as dirt was shoveled onto their son's grave. "This is the last time they're going to dump on you," he told his dead son. James Taylor's death was no aberration. In New York, it is unusually common for developmentally disabled people in state care to die for reasons other than natural causes. One in six of all deaths in state and privately run homes, or more than 1,200 in the past decade, have been attributed to either unnatural or unknown causes, according to data obtained by The New York Times that has never been released. The figure is more like one in 25 in Connecticut and Massachusetts, which are among the few states that release such data. What's more, New York has made little effort to track or thoroughly investigate the deaths to look for troubling trends, resulting in the same kinds of errors and preventable deaths, over and over. The state does not even collect statistics on specific causes of death, leaving many designated as "unknown," sometimes even after a medical examiner has made a ruling. The Times undertook its own analysis of death records and found disturbing patterns: some residents who were not supposed to be left alone with food choked in bathrooms and kitchens. Others who needed help on stairs tumbled alone to their deaths. Still others ran away again and again until they were found dead. Mr. Taylor was hardly the only resident to drown in a bathtub. Another developmentally disabled man at a house run by the same nonprofit organization drowned in a tub four months earlier. Through a Freedom of Information request to the State Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons With Disabilities, The Times obtained data for all 7,118 cases of developmentally disabled people — those with conditions like cerebral palsy, autism and Down syndrome — who died while in state care over the past decade. The data from the agency, which is responsible for overseeing treatment for the developmentally disabled, included only the broad "manner" in which people died — by homicide or suicide, accidents or natural causes. By far the biggest category, other than natural causes, was "unknown," accounting for 10 percent of all deaths in the system. The records suggested problems in care may be contributing to those unexplained deaths. The average age of those who died of unknown causes was 40, while the average age of residents dying of natural causes was 54. The Times reviewed the case files of all the deaths not resulting from natural causes that the commission investigated over the past decade and found there had been concerns about the quality of care in nearly half of the 222 cases. The records also showed that problems leading to deaths rarely resulted in systemwide steps, like alerts to all operators of homes, to prevent mistakes from recurring. Responses were typically limited to the group home where a resident died. At homes operated by nonprofit organizations, low-level employees were often fired or disciplined, but repercussions for executives were rare. At state-run homes, it is also difficult to take action against caregivers, who are represented by unions that contest disciplinary measures. New York relies heavily on the operators of the homes to investigate and determine how a person in their care died and, in a vast majority of cases, accepts that determination. And the state has no uniform training for the nearly 100,000 workers at thousands of state and privately run homes and institutions. The value of analyzing death records for problems in care that could be prevented through alerts or training has been well established, and is encouraged by the federal Government Accountability Office. Officials in Connecticut, for example, noticed four choking deaths in 2006, the first year the state published such data. They developed a statewide program — two days of initial training and a refresher course every two years thereafter. The state has had just one choking death since 2007. New York has had at least 21 during that same period. "It's incredibly important," said Terrence W. Macy, commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services in Connecticut. "If everybody knows you study it this hard and you have this level of detail, it's going to have an impact." There is no question that it can be extremely challenging to care for the developmentally disabled, a population that includes some people who are fragile and immobile and others who are unruly and inclined toward violence. But the problems in the New York system appear especially troubling given that the state spends $10 billion a year caring for the developmentally disabled — more than California, Texas, Florida and Illinois combined — while providing services to fewer than half as many people as those states do. Lawsuits are relatively rare after the deaths of developmentally disabled people in New York, in part because economic damages are difficult to prove, given that the victims are seldom employed. And sometimes families are simply grateful to the group home for years of care for their relative. This year, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo forced the commissioners of the two agencies that oversee the developmentally disabled to resign amid a Times investigation of group home workers who were beating and abusing residents. In interviews, the officials who replaced them acknowledged problems with how the state tracks and seeks to prevent untimely deaths. Courtney Burke, the commissioner of the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, which operates and oversees thousands of group homes, acknowledged that her agency suffered from a lack of transparency and what she called "a culture of nonreporting." "One of the things I'm seeking to do," she said last month, "is have better data on those deaths." A Recurring Problem One evening last year, a large piece of London broil was left marinating in the refrigerator of a state-run group home in the hamlet of Golden's Bridge, in Westchester County. The kitchen was supposed to be locked overnight. As in many homes for the developmentally disabled, residents known to be at risk for choking were not allowed to be left alone with food. But the kitchen was open during the early morning of June 5, 2010. No one noticed as Cynthia Dupas left her bedroom, opened the refrigerator and bit off a chunk of raw beef. She collapsed outside her bedroom and died. She was 51. Hers was hardly an isolated case. A quarter of the 222 death files reviewed by The Times involved a person choking to death. And given the state's poor recordkeeping, the actual number of choking deaths is likely larger. The deaths often occur when residents try to eat food too quickly; physical limitations also play a role. Some of the fatalities came in quick succession: At a home near the Finger Lakes in 2001, a resident died after stuffing down a steak that was left on the kitchen counter after dinner, in violation of safety guidelines for several residents. Four months later, Maxwell Chanels died at a Schenectady-area group home after being left alone to eat a steak. A nonprofit group that cared for Mr. Chanels during the day had determined he was a choking risk who required mealtime supervision, but a second nonprofit agency that ran the group home where he lived had no such protections in place. He was 66. Less than two weeks later, Virgil Macro was served a breakfast that had not been prepared according to a meal plan devised to keep him from choking. Staff members at his Dutchess County group home also failed to supervise him while he ate. He was 39. In each case, the response suggested by the Commission on Quality of Care was mostly limited to the place where the death occurred. Workers who made mistakes were disciplined. Some employees in the home, or the local area, were retrained. But other states take broader action. In 2006, Ohio officials recognized an increase in choking deaths and issued a statewide alert. A year later, California officials noticed a similar rise in one part of the state and began an educational program that reduced deaths. A lack of standards and accepted definitions of basic terms also leads to deadly confusion. Terms like "bite-size" and "chopped," which are key to defining what is safe for a person to eat, can be left open to interpretation by the staff at a given institution or group home. The Commission on Quality of Care regularly asks individual homes to revisit those definitions, but the state has not resolved varying interpretations. In contrast, Connecticut's training materials, which the state credits with sharply reducing choking deaths, precisely define such terms with photographs and dimensions. State officials in New York cannot even agree on how many people are dying. The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities says 933 people in state care died in 2009. The Commission on Quality of Care says 757 did. Neither agency could explain the discrepancy. Outside experts said they were particularly puzzled that records maintained by the state would list the cause as "unknown" in more than 700 deaths over the past decade, and wondered how hard state officials had tried to determine what happened. Bruce Simmons was one of the many people the state had listed as dead of unknown causes. But a review of the records from the state's own investigation reveals what occurred. He lived in a group home in Cortland, N.Y., which kept him under tight supervision around food because of his history of stealing food and choking. But the nonprofit group that took care of him during the day decided that was not necessary, and he choked to death in November 2008. He was 52. Lapses in Fire Safety All that is left of the house at 1534 State Route 30 in the Adirondack town of Wells is a grassy field and an empty driveway. More than two and a half years ago, the house, home to nine developmentally disabled residents, burned to the ground, killing four of them. The fire revealed shortcomings in staff training and safety standards. And the home's evacuation plans were based on unrealistic expectations that developmentally disabled residents would be able to flee in an emergency. Large institutions for the developmentally disabled are built much like hospitals, with extensive fire safety measures. The group home had some safety features, like sprinklers in parts of the house, but was permitted to meet building codes akin to those of homes with able-bodied residents who know they should flee from a fire. Yet though the Wells fire took place in March 2009, the state has not undertaken a broad review of whether group homes, which now care for a vast majority of the state's developmentally disabled, have appropriate safety modifications to protect residents who often do not understand that they are in danger. The fire at the house, known as Riverview, occurred in the early morning, starting in a trash can on a screen porch and spreading rapidly up vinyl siding into the attic of the L-shaped, one-story residence. An automatic alarm call was made at 5:25 a.m. to a monitoring company. The protocol established by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities required that the company call the group home before notifying the Fire Department, which wasted minutes and violated state fire standards. By 5:30, the local fire company was dispatched, alerting Ken Hoffman, a firefighter who lived across the street and rushed over to help. When Mr. Hoffman arrived, all nine residents were still inside, but he and two staff members helped most of them evacuate. Then one resident fell, distracting the two staff members as three residents wandered back into the burning house, according to state records. There were further complications. The state had not informed local fire officials about the presence of the group home, leaving them ill prepared. "There was no contact," said Peter Byrne, a Rockland County fire safety official who was on the panel of experts convened by the state after the fire. "If I roll into a single-family dwelling at 2 or 3 in the morning, I'm expecting mom, dad and 2.3 kids, whatever the average is, not 11 challenged individuals." Credible investigations were performed — one by a local grand jury, one by the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, and another by the panel that included Mr. Byrne. But a follow-up review undertaken by the two agencies most responsible for the developmentally disabled — the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities and the Commission on Quality of Care — included questions like whether residents' day-to-day medical care needs were being met. The questions "were not germane to the fundamental questions posed by the Wells fire — what was the cause of the fire and what can we do in the future to prevent such fires from occurring in such a tragic manner," Roger Bearden, the new head of the commission, said in an interview. Like most group homes in New York, the Riverview house was required to meet residential building codes, which are less than stringent. There were no

sprinklers in the attic at the house, or on the screen porch where the fire started. Records showed that the building's original plans required fire retardant materials on the porch ceiling and that a planned barrier wall in the attic was abandoned during construction. While the house was required to meet standards from the National Fire Protection Association, an interview with a top association official suggests that while the standards are open to interpretation, the house could have been more robustly protected. "There's been an unresolved question about why a sprinkler wasn't provided on that porch area," said Robert E. Solomon, a fire safety expert at the association who served on the state panel. "Our standards would have probably put a sprinkler on that porch area where that fire occurred," he said, which could have prevented the fire from spreading. The Riverview case also underscores widespread problems in how fire drills at group homes have been conducted. The Times reported in March that a whistle-blower warned a senior state official in 2008 that drill records were being routinely faked or implausibly speedy evacuation times were being claimed. State investigators found that was the case at the Riverview house. The staff also seemed unprepared; time was spent battling the fire with an extinguisher instead of evacuating residents. The grand jury convened by the district attorney of Hamilton County noted that fires were common in group homes, adding, "It would be a grave mistake to view Riverview's tragedy as an isolated incident." Some steps have been taken since the fire: tighter rules guiding new construction, bringing in outside supervisors for fire drills and outside experts for inspections. But Ms. Burke's agency did not say when it would review whether other homes in the system might also be lacking fire safety features sufficient enough for developmentally disabled residents. After several weeks of inquiries from The Times, Ms. Burke said she would reconvene the state panel that investigated the fire. Mr. Hoffman said he could not shake the memory of the fire. "It's still something that comes back to my mind on a weekly basis," he said. "We lost four neighbors that night." A System's Failure No one told Joan Taylor, after her son James died in August 2005, that there had been a similar bathtub drowning four months earlier. Or that the other drowning, like her son's, took place at a group home operated by a local chapter of the New York State ARC, the nation's largest nonprofit organization serving the developmentally disabled. In both cases, there had been concerns that ARC had too few staff members to supervise the developmentally disabled residents. Dalton Lacomb died at the ARC home in Malone, N.Y., in April 2005, after being left alone in a bath for up to 20 minutes. The house had 11 residents and one overnight staff member on duty. The state recommended hiring more employees, but backed off after discussions with ARC management. The death "wasn't related to staffing levels," Lester G. Parker, executive director of the Adirondack ARC, which oversees the Malone house, said in an interview. "It was related to a staff person clearly and significantly neglecting their duties." Mrs. Taylor had pushed for an increase in staffing at her son's group home near Schenectady, where three workers looked after eight severely developmentally disabled residents. ARC officials in Schenectady declined to comment. After Mr. Taylor drowned, the organization's only significant response was to fire his caregiver. "The guy who left James unattended is the scapegoat, and the agency really took no responsibility from the top," Mr. Taylor's sister, Patricia Taylor, said. Marc Brandt, ARC's statewide leader, acknowledged that no broad changes were enacted after the drownings, but said it was up to the state, not his organization, to take action. "If they see anything that is wrong, they've always let us know," he said. Mr. Taylor's mother has been a fierce advocate for people with developmental disabilities for decades. Mrs. Taylor, 86, started a parent group, lobbied in Albany and was appointed to the capital-area Board of Visitors of the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities. She is most proud of helping get legislation passed in 2002 that gave parents control over end-of-life decisions for the developmentally disabled. "I was insulted I couldn't make that decision for my son, who I wanted to die with dignity," she said. On a recent day, as Mrs. Taylor sat on the back porch of her apartment at a retirement home in Saratoga Springs, wearing tennis shoes and shorts, she leafed through the guestbook from her son's funeral, filled with 300 signatures, including those of local elected officials. "I don't know if my kid died with dignity or not," she said. She grew up on Long Island and trained as a nurse; her late husband, Robert, was an engineer with General Electric. She knew something was wrong with James, their youngest child, when he was still a baby. Suspecting he could not hear, she slammed cupboard doors near their infant son, and he did not flinch. She got a much greater shock after a doctor told her, "Your son is mentally retarded." Doctors recommended that he be institutionalized. Mrs. Taylor resisted, but she had five other children. Dealing with James, her sixth child — quadriplegic, sleepless and with the intellectual capacity of a 3-month-old — filled her days and nights. Eventually, she felt she had no choice. "I will never forget that day," Mrs. Taylor once wrote in an essay. "My husband and I woke up that morning both fighting back the tears. I dressed James in his very best suit and we drove the 30 miles back to the institution and left him there." "We both cried all the way home," she said. "I thought it was the worst day of my life." She has done advocacy work with ARC and Mr. Brandt over the years, and calls him "a saint," but she is angry about what happened to her son. Her daughter said it was because of her mother's advocacy work that Mr. Taylor's death received attention. She worries about the developmentally disabled who die and have no family around to push for answers for them. "These deaths are marginalized because these sort of people are not valued by society," Patricia Taylor said. When she was in the fourth grade, she dreamed of taking her brother and running away with him, protecting him. She finds it hard to accept that no one was able to protect him after he grew up. "I believe that God put these people here for a purpose, because if we didn't have them to look after, we would lose our humanity," she said. "How would we know compassion? It says in the Bible, do ye so unto the least of my brothers. I think that's what it's all about." Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/06/nyregion/at-state-homes-simple-tasks-and-fatal-results.html?_r=1

Woman recalls experience in Bassett-based youth boot camp By Frank C. Girardot, Staff Writer Posted: 11/06/2011 06:03:03 AM PST BUYA boot camp office room 304 at Bassett High School in La Puente, Calif., Friday, Nov. 4, 2011. (SGVN/Staff Photo by Keith Birmingham) ne Velazquez's youth boot camp experience she would consider uplifting or positive. Taken from a warm bed in her father's Redondo Beach home at 5 a.m. one morning, Velazquez said she was handcuffed, screamed at and videotaped by representatives of the Building Unique Youth Alternatives - a program run from an office on the campus of Bassett High School in La Puente. Things quickly got worse. "They first took me to Bassett High School for intake," Velazquez recalled. "They strip searched us and forced us on a bus where we had to put our heads down so we wouldn't see where we were going." Velazquez said she and a group of teens - many from foster homes or families new to the country - were taken to Camp Pendleton and forced to endure similar indignities for a week. Now, 20, Velazquez said she will never forget the experience - or the humiliation. "We would wake up at 5 a.m. and do vigorous exercise all day. If you fell, you were kicked and pushed and yelled at. We were called fat, whores, stupid, bitches, maggots, etcetera," she said. "I was on the ground doing exercises and had dirt kicked into my face, eyes, and mouth. They tried to force me to eat my vomit." Bassett Unified Superintendent Martin Galindo acknowledged the BUYA program has been operating at Bassett since at least 2005. He said the district has received no complaints. Sheriff's Lt. Victor Sotelo said deputies in Industry have had no complaints about the BUYA camp. "It pretty much runs independently. We don't give them a lot of oversight," Galindo said. "We don't have people there every Saturday looking at what they are doing. "It's similar to any outside entity who uses our facility whether it be soccer or baseball, we count on them to run it properly," Galindo said. "But we can't monitor it." Calls to the program's office on the Bassett campus went unreturned Thursday and Friday. Brian Der Vartanian, a Glendale accountant who did BUYA's books until about 2007, said several police officers and deputies associated with the program left about three years ago. On its website, BUYA describes its program as "an intense, ten-week youth intervention program designed to change the destructive behavior of strong-willed, out of control or at-risk youth ... Our program begins with the eight-day camp component, focusing on discipline, responsibility, respect, and behavioral issues." And, BUYA promises results. "We have maintained a long-term, 85 percent success rate over our six-year history," the website notes. "The program is delivered by retired, active and reserve police officers, members of the armed forces and volunteers." A community college student near San Diego, Velazquez said she came forward to recount her experience with BUYA after seeing videos on this newspaper's website. One of those videos, shot at a boot camp run out of Pasadena, depicted children forced to drink water until they vomited. Another video centered on a young boy being forced to wear a tire around his body while a group of instructors - dressed in military garb - yelled and jostled him until he broke down in tears. Dr. Harlan Bixby, an expert on the effect of fluids in the body, said bingeing on water can be deadly. "Tap water is free of electrolytes, allowing it to penetrate cell walls without obstruction, he said. The swelling of cells does little damage in muscle cells, but can induce stroke-like symptoms in the brain, Bixby said. "That video of them forcing the children to drink water ... we had that three times a day. That was the only time to drink. After, you would have to hold the canteen above your head and if any water dripped, you would have to refill the canteen and do it again. Most of the time, we just threw it up, and didn't get any water in our systems. As Velazquez recalls, the methods used by boot camp instructors were nothing short of horrific. "They gave one teen laxatives, and made him put a (sanitary napkin) in his (rear end) and hike like that," she said. "One teen was overweight and they would taunt her telling her `imagine there's a burger up that hill.'" Velazquez, who had been in and out of foster homes, said she attended a few more sessions and was promised a leadership role. "They would tell me to hit kids." she recalled. "I wouldn't do it, so they would hit me." Joyce Burrell, director of the Juvenile Justice Program in Human and Social Development for American Institute for Research, believes boot camps are ineffective in dealing with troubled teens, many of whom, like Velazquez, have been exposed to trauma in their personal lives. "We have to approach dealing with these children from a more trauma based approach," Joyce Burrell said about the effectiveness of boot camps. "There's a real split in terms of those who believe yelling and screaming at boot camps has it's place in treatment." Burrell sides with child development experts who believe that boot camps do more harm than good. Unable to deal with the experience, Velazquez said she overdosed on Ibuprofen and Tylenol which forced the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services to take action. Ultimately she was pulled from the program. Since leaving, Velazquez has maintained contact with other teens forced to attend the camp and has become an advocate of sorts for teens forced into youth boot camps. Velazquez, who describes herself as a "good kid" can't understand why adults would subject children to the extreme sort of punishment she endured. "They tried to break me down, but they couldn't," she said. "I'm going to do what I can to keep the focus on this issue." Staff writer Brian Charles contributed to this story. 626-578-6300, ext. 4478 twitter.com/frankgirardot facebook.com/crimesceneblog Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_19277095#ixzz1d5HdEb8V

EDITORIAL Open courts for kids An L.A. judge's proposal to let the public observe dependency court proceedings is a much-needed move toward both access and accountability. November 10, 2011 Michael Nash, the presiding judge of Los Angeles Juvenile Court, has long lobbied for legislation that would allow the public greater

access to the work of California's dependency courts, where the fates of children in foster care are decided. Twice, bills have been introduced in Sacramento to achieve that important objective, only to be stymied by well-meaning but misguided objections from child welfare advocates and self-interested protests from public employee groups whose members would face greater scrutiny. Now, Nash is taking matters into his own hands, for which he is to be applauded. This week Nash circulated a proposed order that would accomplish what legislators have been unwilling or unable to do: open the courts, at least here in Los Angeles. Drawing on rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court and others, it notes that such access allows the public to monitor the effectiveness of the courts and those responsible for administering foster care — essential requirements of sound and open government. "Public awareness and understanding of the juvenile court system … would promote public involvement in the governmental processes and might deter inappropriate actions on the part of some participants," the order says, quoting an earlier appellate court ruling. Importantly, Nash's proposed order would not open every proceeding, any more than the presumption of openness in adult court means that every hearing there is open to the public. Rather, Nash is changing the current presumption in favor of secrecy to one that favors openness, while at the same time allowing parties to object if they believe secrecy is necessary in a particular case. If anyone does object, the only issue that a judge could consider in weighing that objection is whether openness would likely be harmful to the child's best interests. Judges could not close a hearing to spare the feelings of witnesses or shield foster care workers from public accountability. It's a shame that the Legislature could not bring itself to pass a bill by Assemblyman Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles) that would have done what Nash is setting out to do. But until the state's elected leaders can find the courage to do what's right on this issue, Nash's move will allow L.A. to serve as a laboratory for gauging the benefits of openness. Moreover, the judge's willingness to tackle this question even though it may expose him and his colleagues to greater scrutiny should help confront the insidious and destructive assumption that secrecy is necessarily in the interests of children. In fact, secrecy often allows them to be harmed without consequence. In Los Angeles, where too many children suffer at the hands of a sometimes indifferent child welfare system, Nash's order is urgently needed and long overdue. Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-ed-courts-20111110,0,6638793.story?track=rss&utm;_source=feedburner&utm;_medium=feed&utm;_campaign=Feed%3A+latimes%2Fnews%2Fprintedition%2Fopinion+%28Los+Angeles+Times+-+Editorials%2C+Op-Ed%29

latimes.com For teen program's chief, tough love may have turned criminal The operator of a Pasadena 'boot camp' aimed at turning around troubled lives with military-type discipline faces trial on charges of kidnapping and extortion for his treatment of a girl and her family. By Ricardo Lopez, Los Angeles Times November 13, 2011 The surprise visit to Alberto Ruiz's house was swift. Dress quickly, he was told. You're going to boot camp. His parents, worried about his drug use and habit of skipping school, had followed a friend's advice and called Kelvin McFarland. Ruiz's behavior had earned him a spot in McFarland's Family First Growth Camp in Pasadena, a place with a reputation for breaking gang-bangers and drug addicts and turning them into law-abiding teens. A former Marine who likes to be called "Sgt. Mac," McFarland founded the camp two years ago and boasted that his tough-love tactics and military-strict discipline were the perfect formula for reforming gang members, taming runaways and getting through to troublemakers. Ruiz, who is now 18, credits McFarland's intervention for helping him finish school and quit drugs. But authorities say McFarland's scared-straight approach crossed the line and veered into criminal behavior earlier this year when he crossed paths with another Pasadena teen. Investigators allege that in May, McFarland was driving in Pasadena when he spotted a girl walking along the street during school hours. He stopped to question her, then handcuffed her, placed her in his car and told her to direct him to a relative's home. At the relative's home, he demanded money from her father to enroll the 14-year-old in his program. The girl's father mistook McFarland for a truancy officer when he flashed a badge, Pasadena police said. McFarland is facing trial on felony charges of kidnapping, extortion, false imprisonment and child abuse, and unlawful use of a badge, a misdemeanor. Now Pasadena police are investigating possible abuses that allegedly occurred at a rival Pasadena boot camp where McFarland once worked. The Pasadena Star-News recently published videos allegedly filmed in 2009 in which McFarland can be seen yelling at teens, forcing them to gulp down water even as they retch and vomit. In one scene, McFarland and other drill instructors appear to scream at a youngster, inches from his face, as he collapses in tears under the weight of a car tire on his shoulders. The publicity has had a chilling effect on McFarland's Family First boot camp. Parents have pulled their kids out in droves. Where several dozen cadets once attended, only a handful remain. "I'm not going to lie… we don't have 75 cadets, but we're still continuing," said Elpidio Estolas, one of Family First's directors. McFarland is quick to defend his work in the community, as is Keith Gibbs, the director of the rival boot camp. Both say they offer a last resort for exasperated parents who have nowhere else to turn. In interviews with McFarland, his cadets, their families and those who have worked with him, a complex portrait emerges. Critics describe him as a fast talker, easily seducing working-class Latino families with his authority-laden persona. Supporters say McFarland is a man filled with good intentions, who has overcome his flaws such as convictions for DUI and a misdemeanor assault. McFarland says his criminal history allows him to dissuade cadets from a life of incarceration. He talks openly about the months he was homeless and his continuing struggle with alcoholism. These attributes, he says, make him a relatable figure. McFarland is set to stand trial Wednesday, though the case has been delayed several times — once after his boot camp could no longer afford to pay his attorney, a former Pasadena mayor. He is now represented by a public defender. But McFarland continues to operate his program throughout Pasadena, in local parks and occasionally a small strip-mall church. In fact, it didn't take long for the boot camp to resume after McFarland got out of jail In mid-June, from the stage of Faithworks Ministries church, McFarland — freshly released on bail — thanked his cadets and their families, quoting the Bible as he spoke. For days, they had rallied on his behalf outside a Pasadena courthouse, hoping a judge would reduce his bail. McFarland, a deeply religious man raised by an aunt in rural Georgia, looked on quietly. Dressed in his signature military fatigues, he occasionally barked commands as the cadets stood in formation. "I don't know of a boot camp that praises the Lord as much as we do," said McFarland, who granted The Times access to his boot camp last summer but has since refused to speak with the paper. After the morning drills, the group moved inside the church. The teens marched single file into a side room for a self-esteem workshop. Their families, meanwhile, sat in the pews, listening to a nutritionist. Involving parents in the program is a key component of success, McFarland says. "The program has benefited the children tremendously," said Mirza Balvaneda, who enrolled her son when he was only 8. "The other parents said I was brave to bring him in because he's so young, but he needed to learn some discipline." In addition to the instilling of discipline, parents — most of whom don't speak English — said they hope their children will take more initiative in their studies. When news of McFarland's arrest broke, some thought Gibbs, who operates Sarge's Community Base, was the one who had been arrested. The men have similar authoritative demeanors and dress — usually camouflage pants with dark polo shirts. They even have similar nicknames. McFarland is "Sgt. Mac," Gibbs is simply "Sarge." "People were calling me because they thought I was the one who had been arrested," Gibbs said. Gibbs said that he hired McFarland in early 2009 and that his new employee became his right-hand man. But now the two compete for recruits and offer differing views of how their relationship fell apart. Gibbs said he fired McFarland when he discovered his criminal history and heard complaints from staff that he was using excessive force when disciplining cadets. McFarland said he only followed Gibbs' orders. Gibbs has also faced allegations of child abuse. In a 2010 letter from Edwin Diaz, superintendent of the Pasadena Unified School District, Gibbs was told his permit to use school district facilities for his camp had been revoked. School officials had received reports from parents that Gibbs' boot camp tactics amounted to corporal punishment. Another parent charged that he had engaged in "an inappropriate sexual relationship" with a minor. Pasadena police investigated but never filed charges because the teen recanted her claims, Diaz wrote. Gibbs calls the allegations lies spread by disgruntled cadets who wanted out of his program. As his court date approaches, McFarland has kept a low profile, quietly running his boot camp and dismissing his critics, who he said are trying to destroy his business with baseless accusations. He says that at the end of the day, "it's all about the kids." 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Home for troubled boys is troubled By JACK BRUBAKER Staff Writer Prescott House, the last group home for juvenile offenders of its kind in Lancaster County, closed in July following negative state inspections. Its future is uncertain. The group home's owner, Sylvester "Casey" Jones, closed the facility voluntarily, but if he reopens it, the state would closely monitor its operations. For more than four decades, Prescott House has served as many as 12 male delinquents at a time in a substantial brick building at South Shippen and Green streets. The group home's reopening depends largely on whether Lancaster and other counties decide to resume sending juveniles to a facility that has suffered operational and financial difficulties for several years. "I'm sad that Prescott House has fallen on some hard times and hope it can be resurrected and be stronger than ever," says David Mueller, director of the county's Office of Juvenile Probation. Prescott House has worked closely with his office to meet the needs of residents over the years and has changed young people's lives, Mueller notes. On the other hand, he explains, "We're just not totally secure ... they can stay open for the long haul." Prescott House's teenage residents came from several central Pennsylvania counties. They were sentenced by the courts to stay at the group home for several months to a year for offenses ranging from theft and vandalism to drug use and firearms charges. Juveniles at Prescott House, a former residence, were not "locked down" as they are at the county's Youth Intervention Center, a facility that holds juveniles for a short time until their final disposition is determined. Group home residents attended classes at McCaskey High School and received job training. The primary goal was to develop skills and find jobs. With closure of the group home, local officials have been sending juvenile offenders to a facility outside the county. Factoring in the cost of travel for juveniles and probation officers, that can cost more than the $146.89 a day paid to house teenagers at Prescott House. Over the past five years, the county has paid Prescott House nearly $1 million to house and treat dozens of juveniles. Annual amounts have varied from $323,000 spent in fiscal year 2006-07 to just over half that amount spent in fiscal 2010-11. Mueller says county officials would like to keep payments for institutional juvenile treatment in the county. They also would prefer, for rehabilitative purposes, to keep children close to their families in their own communities. But whether that happens is largely dependent on whether Jones decides to reopen Prescott House. On Oct. 26, the state's Office of Children, Youth and Families issued Prescott House a provisional license to operate through next August. Roseann Perry, director of that office, notes that reopening the

group home "would be the same as starting up any program from scratch," including hiring new employees. Mueller says Jones has told him he will be able to hire a full staff. Based on that claim, the county is in the process of establishing a new contract with Prescott House. Jones refuses to discuss his plans with a reporter. A former McCaskey High School administrator and interim member of the city school board, Jones has directed Prescott House since the 1980s. In 2005, Jones and Kenneth Dupree purchased the group home for $135,000 from the Lancaster County Council of Churches, which had opened it in 1970. Dupree later left the operation. Jones runs the group home as a business corporation under the name Jondu Inc. Although it is a for-profit business, Prescott House solicits charitable contributions of food, clothing and other items. Jones, 65, also is a bail bondsman who owes the county nearly $500,000 in forfeited bail. He is repaying that bill at $9,000 a month. The state's provisional license for Prescott House is a "warning to consumers and family members to know there are some issues going on at the facility," according to state Department of Public Welfare spokeswoman Anne Bale. The state has not yet accepted Jones' plan of action, she says, and is waiting to see what happens. The operation would be reassessed six months after it reopens. Annual and unannounced inspections conducted by the Office of Children, Youth and Families have found multiple deficiencies at Prescott House since at least the summer of 2009. (That office is in the Department of Public Welfare.) On July 28, 2009, state inspectors documented deficient staff training and inadequate treatment of clients in 18 categories. They also found holes in walls and a rusted bathroom vent. On June 1, 2010, inspectors again found multiple violations of state regulations, including inadequate staff training, incomplete client records, exposed wiring and a missing outlet cover. "At this point in time they struggle with keeping their residential census up and maintaining full-time employment for the staff," the inspectors noted. "Their attention to details could be improved." On Nov. 5, 2010, a routine inspection found multiple violations of state regulations, all related to tardy completion of health examinations of incoming residents. On April 5, inspectors, responding to a complaint, made an unannounced visit and found dirt and trash on residents' floors and water damage to several ceilings. Inspectors also found exposed wiring, a urine-stained toilet seat and a dirty, rusted exhaust fan. "While there was food in the facility, it did not appear to be enough for six clients," the report noted. "The staff on duty did not have a key to the freezer to access food." On June 30, inspectors conducting the annual licensing review found 20 violations of state regulations regarding employees and residents, as well as a missing basement heater cover. Jones then closed the building and dismissed the last three members of the professional staff. When the group home sheltered 12 residents, it employed seven full-time professionals and several other workers, including a cook, according to a former employee who does not wish to be named. But in March, when several employees sent an unsigned letter protesting conditions at the group home to the state Office of Children, Youth and Families and the Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency, only five full-time professionals were still working at Prescott House, the former employee says. The employees complained that they always were paid late. They said residents were not receiving well-balanced meals or sufficient food, and that the food was prepared by a cook under "unsanitary conditions." Further, they said the program increasingly was producing "negative outcomes" for residents. The employees said the group home's program had been successful in previous years, but more recently, under Jones' ownership, was "doomed for failure." Perry, the state official, says the number of state citations that Jones has received is high but not unique. "Certainly we have seen documentation of training missing or unacceptable conditions within the actual physical site in other places," she says. But she adds that there also are group homes "where there are no irregular items noted." Gary Horning, chief housing inspector for Lancaster city, says his bureau over the past several years has required Prescott House to upgrade electrical receptacles and clean up excessive amounts of trash. But the number of complaints for that type of facility, he adds, are "less than average. It's probably better than a fraternity house." While both the city and state assess the physical plant, and the state monitors employee and resident records, neither considers the solvency of the business. As the number of residents at the home has declined, so have revenues. "The need for out-of-home placement in Pennsylvania has decreased over the past few years," Perry says. "That certainly is a contributing factor." It's a challenge to operate any business these days, she notes. Operating a business with fewer "customers" is an additional burden. Lancaster County Children and Youth has not sent any clients to Prescott House for at least five years, according to James Laughman, the county's human service director. The county's Office of Juvenile Probation, the primary county agency that has referred clients to Prescott House, had three teenagers there until last spring. They completed their correction programs before the facility closed, according to Mueller. Juvenile Probation stopped sending new teens to Prescott House "when we started receiving complaints that staff members had made to the Office of Children, Youth and Families," Mueller explains. But concerns about the group home have been long-standing, he adds. "We haven't this past 10 years been completely enamored of the program," he says. "But every time we met with Prescott House we got a positive response, and changes were made." While he hopes the group home can reopen and Lancaster can send clients there, Mueller observes, "it's expensive to run a program like this. Unless you have a certain number of kids in it, you won't break even." Lancaster was sending two or three boys at a time, so Prescott House had to depend on surrounding counties to help fill other beds. The former Prescott House employee says that only Lancaster and Chester counties were sending children in the months before the facility closed. He says York, Berks and Dauphin counties had stopped using the program. Source: http://lancasteronline.com/article/local/496657_Home-for-troubled-boys-is-troubled.html#ixzz1djkzIoZO

Uta Halee blames closure on state By Robyn Wisch, KVNO News November 15th, 2011 Omaha, NE – After 60 years serving troubled teens in Omaha, the Uta Halee Girls Village announced it will be forced to close its doors next month. Listen Now Nestled in the hills of north Omaha, the Uta Halee Girls Village has provided a serene setting for troubled young kids since 1950. The center provides counseling and residential psychiatric treatment for girls with severe emotional and behavioral problems. Uta Halee Girls Village has served troubled teens in the area since 1950. The center also closed nearby Cooper Village last year, which it managed for the Omaha Home for Boys. Leslie Byers brought her daughter to the facility several years ago because she said she had no other option. “When your child is cutting herself, when she’s throwing dishes all over the place, simply because you said to go to bed, when you’re afraid for your safety, and your other kids’ safety,” she said. Byers said when her daughter was in psychiatric crisis, the only option was to call 911, because the family had run out of lifetime in-patient insurance benefits. “… have them manhandle her, handcuff her, take her to the emergency room, give her a tranquilizer, and a couple of hours later, bring her home, all in the name of treatment. That’s not treatment.” The center blamed the closing, which is slated for Dec. 16, squarely on the state of Nebraska, saying the Department of Health and Human Services stopped referring kids for treatment at the facility in an effort to save money. Gary Kaplan, immediate past board chair, said DHHS has narrowly interpreted Medicaid rules that deny the center’s intensive level of treatment. “If the Governor and his team weren’t so effective at denying help to kids with traumas and mental illness and abuse, we would be staying open,” he said. “But instead they’ve chosen to leave hundreds of our young people with serious needs in shelters and juvenile detention centers, inappropriate foster homes and out on the street.” Gov. Dave Heineman was asked about the closing at a press conference Tuesday, and said he’s not ready to comment because he doesn’t have the details. Kaplan said in the past, the center has stayed open, with the help of private funds, when state support dwindled. But the facility, which has 60 beds in total, is currently serving just 14 girls in its residential program. Uta Halee also runs several community-based programs serving girls and boys that will also close. But Kaplan said the all-girl program will be the greatest loss. “A place where a girl who had been repeatedly forced to have sex with her coach, or her mom’s boyfriend, or her cousin, who is reacting to that with clinical depression, with taking drugs, with acting out, with joining gangs, could come here to an all-girl environment,” Kaplan said. “A place of healing with only girls around.” Board members said the center is working with its current residents to find alternative treatment. Ninety employees at the center will also be laid off. The closing comes amid state reforms to the child welfare system that have led to three providers canceling their contracts with the state, and an audit that cited DHHS for mishandling state contracts. A spokeswoman for the Department, Kathie Osterman, said the changes in Medicaid rules were not about saving money, but about coming into compliance with federal regulations. She added providers were told several months ago the changes were coming. But for parents like Leslie Byers, no matter the details, the closing simply means fewer choices for parents in crisis. Her voice cracking, Byers said, “I wanted my daughter to be safe, I wanted her to have a chance to graduate. I didn’t want her to have to be here, but I wanted all those things bad enough.” “So don’t take that option away because I don’t know where she would be. I don’t know where our family would be. Source: http://www.kvnonews.com/2011/11/uta-halee-treatment-center-to-close/#comment-5888 (Webmaster Note: Uta Halee is one of the programs specifically referenced in "The Franklin Cover-Up" and is also referenced on our site at www.heal-online.org/aacrc.htm.

David Protess, President, Chicago Innocence Project When Juveniles Confess to Murders They Didn't Commit Posted: 11/18/11 11:15 AM ET It was Chicago's feel-good story of the week. A Cook County judge on Wednesday overturned the convictions of four men who, as teenagers in 1995, falsely confessed to the rape and murder of a 30-year-old woman. The men were cleared by DNA evidence that linked a career criminal to the crime. Vincent Thames and Terrill Swift were beaming as they exited the revolving doors of the criminal courts building at 26th and Cal. The other two, Harold Richardson and Michael Saunders, will soon be free on bond. Now the Englewood Four, as they have been dubbed, await a decision by prosecutors whether to re-try them. Meanwhile, troubling questions linger. How did the four confess to crimes they did not commit? Why did it take so long to conduct DNA testing? And, underlying it all, why has Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez persistently fought justice for the four? *** On November 7, 1994, a sanitation worker found the badly beaten body of an African American woman in a dumpster behind a liquor store in the Englewood neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. The woman was identified as Nina Glover, a prostitute. Police interviewed a resident of the neighborhood, Johnny Douglas, at the scene. But they let him go when he denied knowing Glover. Four months later, acting on a tip, police picked up four African American teenagers for questioning. According to Det. James Cassidy, the teenagers voluntarily confessed, saying they took turns raping Glover before murdering her. Primitive DNA tests excluded the teenagers as the source of semen recovered from Glover, and all four claimed their confessions had been coerced. But they were convicted based on detailed signed statements about their involvement, and dispatched to prison for terms ranging from 30 to 40 years. In 2010, two of the prisoners requested advanced "STR" DNA testing along with a database search of the genetic profiles of criminals. Cook County prosecutors opposed the tests, contending that the trial court judgments were final. But a judge ordered them, and the stunning results were revealed last May. Not only were the four teenagers ruled out, but the DNA matched a person that cops had

interviewed at the crime scene -- Johnny Douglas. A man with a history of preying on prostitutes, Douglas' rap sheet was impressive: 38 convictions, including for murder and sexual assault. He was shot to death in 2008. Exoneration was at hand for the Englewood Four -- or so it seemed. *** As family members of the prisoners readied to welcome them home, State's Attorney Anita Alvarez set in motion a distinctly different course. She announced that she would vigorously fight their release. Alvarez's novel theory of the crime: Douglas had unprotected sex with Glover, left her unharmed, and she was later raped and murdered by the four teenagers. "He [Douglas] didn't kill every other prostitute he was with," Alvarez told the New York Times. "DNA evidence in and of itself is not always the 'silver bullet' that it is sometimes perceived to be," she declared. The county's chief law enforcement officer believed Det. Cassidy's version of the confessions. Otherwise, how could the teenagers have provided so many details about the crime? Turns out Det. Cassidy has a rap sheet of his own. In 1994, the year before the Englewood Four case, the detective took a detailed confession from an 11-year-old African American male who purportedly murdered an elderly Caucasian woman on Chicago's Southwest Side. A federal judge concluded the confession had been coerced, tossed out the conviction, and ordered the child's record expunged. In 1998, Cassidy was back, this time with another high-profile confession. Two African-American males -- ages seven and eight -- admitted killing 11-year-old Ryan Harris and dumping her body in a backyard, Cassidy claimed. The elaborate confessions created a national furor over pre-adolescent crime -- until the authorities found semen in Harris' panties. They sheepishly dropped the charges and eventually secured a confession from an adult male (though his actual guilt has been disputed.) Cassidy reportedly is no longer active on the force, having been reassigned to the Medical Examiner's office. (One wonders if his new job description includes obtaining confessions from the recently departed.) Point is, false confessions happen all the time. Out of the 76 wrongful convictions in Cook County since the advent of DNA testing, 25 were based on suspects admitting to crimes they did not commit, according tothe Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University. False confessions are particularly common in cases involving juveniles. Just two weeks ago, the convictions of five suburban Chicago youths were upended in a case involving the 1991 rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl. They, too, had confessed to the crime and were exonerated by DNA. And, in the infamous Central Park jogger case in 1989, four of the five teenagers who confessed to the rape were later exonerated when DNA evidence confirmed another man's involvement. What is distinctive about the Englewood Four case, and deeply troubling, is that State's Attorney Alvarez will not acknowledge the mistake. She is an exception. In a study of 194 DNA exonerations, prosecutors refused to join defense lawyers in dismissing convictions in only four percent of cases where DNA evidence implicated an alternative suspect. Why is Alvarez a four-percenter? As a career prosecutor, perhaps she is blindly loyal to her troops, realizing that the blame for false confessions (unlike mistaken eyewitness testimony) falls entirely on law enforcement. Perhaps she is concerned about the large civil rights judgments that will inevitably follow if she throws Cassidy and his fellow cops under the bus. But even if we take Alvarez at her word on this subject -- "As a prosecutor, I have a duty to the victims in this case" -- then what is her duty to the Englewood Four? Haven't they been victimized for seventeen years? Re-trying these young men, an option Alvarez is considering, would compound the injustice and waste taxpayer's dollars. The system made a tragic mistake. It's time for Alvarez to confess it. Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-protess/false-confessions-juveniles_b_1100665.html

Police investigating possible sexual assaults at teen group home Posted: Nov 23, 2011 12:26 PM PST Updated: Nov 23, 2011 7:17 PM PST David Dos Santos CLEVELAND, OH (WOIO) - 19 Action News has learned of an investigation into a series of suspected sex assaults by a youth worker at a group home for troubled teens. Cleveland Sex Crimes investigators have began filing charges against youth worker David Dos Santos. The attacks reportedly happened at WestHaven. The group home run by Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry serves girls and boys, with troubled childhoods, who are leaving foster care or other agencies -- getting ready for life on their own. The home learned of the problem last week and called county child welfare workers. Soon after Dos Santos was fired. Dos Santos is suspected of abusing two teen girls, maybe more. Source: http://www.woio.com/story/16112615/police-investigating-possible-sexual-assaults-at-a-home-for-troubled-teens

Mentors reach out to troubled kids through poetry of the streets Published Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011 For one hour a week over five weeks, Louis Savala sized up the two young men visiting his English classroom, "spitting" spoken-word poetry and offering life lessons. He didn't participate; he didn't share despite their encouragement. And then, on Christopher Coon and Lorenzo McNeal Jr.'s sixth visit, 17-year-old Savala found his voice. He opened up about trouble brewing with another teen. He vented about disrespect. He talked about being unfairly profiled as a Norteño or a Blood because of his looks. For the first time in a long time, Savala felt he'd be heard. "Getting the chance to talk and have people listen makes me feel I can say what I need to say," the Del Paso Heights teen said. Savala is among dozens of Sacramento-area youths who have found the power of personal expression with the help of 22-year-old Coon – who proudly goes by his last name despite the word's racial connotations – and 23-year-old McNeal, who is known as TroubleSin. Close friends for eight years, the pair began working with teens as "poet mentors" for the Sacramento Area Youth Speaks program. Now branching out, they conduct youth workshops rooted in the art of spoken-word poetry. Educators say the young African American men from tough backgrounds can reach students in a way many teachers cannot, empowering the students, making poetry cool and mixing in advice for life. Dan Chambliss, an English teacher at Highlands High School, said he has seen many students thrive since meeting Coon and TroubleSin. "There's an underlying association," he said. And that's important, he stressed, for any teacher trying to keep students interested in learning. "(Students) feel there's a place for them at school." Coon and TroubleSin, who call themselves the E-Legal Tag Team, forged a bond when their lives were in an uproar. Poetry, they say, helped save them. Coon was 15 and recovering from gunshot wounds in Meadowview. He narrowly escaped paralysis or death. As for TroubleSin, in a word, he described himself at the time as "hostile" over a volatile situation in his south Sacramento County home. He was looking to lash out – but instead chose to reach out. He called Coon in the hospital: "It's time to get to work" – writing, rhyming, making words their outlet. They shared what Coon calls "war stories," building off each other's emotions to create art. Then, as now, it was their therapy. Their work covers everything from love to abandonment to issues of race. In "Family Tree," Coon and TroubleSin touch on the cycle of discord in their families. In "The Hands That Rock the Cradle," they rhyme about their turbulent relationships with their parents. Students of English teacher Erin Klentos at Vista Nueva Career & Technical High School researched the 1865 poem by William Ross Wallace of nearly the same title, looking for other cultural references to the poem and its themes. They found it in everything from hip-hop to blues music. "I think they started to see the relevance of learning history and literature and being able to say, 'That still applies to me now,' " Klentos said. Despite limited training, Coon and TroubleSin transition effortlessly from high school seniors to seventh-graders, gently teasing out participation and encourage critical thinking. They choose language students understand. "They say things like 'Who's a rule breaker?' " said Mark Taylor, who teaches seventh-grade English at Smythe Academy. "They're just trying to get the kids to think outside of the box, but they use terms like that to really access those kids who have a history of having behavior problems or academic problems." Coon and TroubleSin say they want teens to feel safe to speak their minds, no matter how raw the material. And it does get raw. "That's why we don't sugarcoat it: They're not sugarcoating it out there," Coon said, referring to the streets. The Tag Team has contracts with the Twin Rivers Unified School District and the Boys & Girls Clubs. Having worked with Sacramento City Unified, too, they dream of opening a center where youths can work on their art. Recently at Highlands High, TroubleSin led a discussion about the phrase "Association breeds similarity." Coon spoke of a close family friend who was a good kid and star athlete but fell in with the wrong crowd. "He's now laying in the grave because of this group. Real talk – this is serious. Please be mindful of the company you keep." Throughout their sessions with students, Coon and TroubleSin stress values such as respect and patience that apply in and out of the classroom, TroubleSin said. He tells youths that patience is what kept him alive and out of prison. "I could've acted out … but instead I remained patient, and it's because I was patient I'm here with you today." Klentos has seen her tough fourth-period class – her "killer bees" – practicing Coon's and TroubleSin's code since the pair started visiting. She believes their authority comes in the example they provide. They have "had a lot of bad things happen to (them), too, and they're OK. They're really grounded," she said. "You can travel through this war zone … and you can come out OK, but you have to be on your game." Laronda Johnson, a 16-year-old student in Klentos' class, described them as "hecka cool." "They're strong black men who do something different with their lives instead of being like other black men in this world … (who live) that gangster life," she said. "The stuff they've been through is the stuff we've all been through," said Savala, who described his neighborhood, Del Paso Heights, as "crazy as hell." But he said Coon and TroubleSin have helped him see that he can rise above that, that "all this hustling on the street – it's nothing." On that sixth visit – Coon and TroubleSin's last to Vista Nueva – Savala embraced them. And then that night, he sent them a piece of his poetry for review. He's never felt he's had people to talk to, Savala said, except for the aging "OGs" – "original gangsters" – on the street. Finally, he found that at school. "I know there (are) people out there that care and … who will listen," he said. © Copyright The Sacramento Bee. All rights reserved. Source: http://www.sacbee.com/2011/11/29/4085607/mentors-reach-out-to-troubled.html# (Webmaster Note: After School and Mentoring within the Community is a wonderful thing that we'd like to see more of in our cities and around the country.)

Assemblyman Anthony Portantino Calls for Youth Boot Camp Reforms--Whittier Daily News For complete story, click here or visit http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_19445152

Posted on Friday, 12.02.11 Feds condemn conditions at Florida youth prisons Federal civil rights investigators said two Florida youth prisons were harsh and dangerous — and likely are indicative of conditions statewide. BY CAROL MARBIN MILLER Florida's youth-corrections system is so poorly administered that children are assaulted by officers, denied necessary medical care and punished harshly for minor infractions, a federal report released Friday concludes. Conditions are so severe, the U.S. Department of Justice said, that they violate the Constitution. The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division released a scathing 28-page report Friday on conditions at two North Florida youth prisons, the Dozier School for Boys and the Jackson Juvenile Offender Center. Though the two camps were both shut down by state juvenile-justice administrators earlier this year, the report said the state's "failed system of oversight and accountability" likely has resulted in dangerous conditions at youth prisons throughout the state. "These conditions return youth to the community no better — and likely less-equipped to succeed than when they were first

incarcerated," Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Perez wrote in a Dec. 1 letter to Gov. Rick Scott, adding that such practices "erode public confidence in the juvenile justice system and interfere with the state's efforts to reduce crime." Though the report is strongly worded, neither Perez nor the report itself suggested that the Justice Department intended to take further action. The investigation, which began in April 2010, concerned two large youth camps in the Panhandle — Dozier, a 159-acre campus that had been open for 110 years, and the nearby Jackson Juvenile Offender Center, or JJOC, which later combined with Dozier to form the North Florida Youth Development Center. Dozier had been the subject of intense scrutiny since October 2008, when The Miami Herald reported on The White House Boys, a group of now-older adult men who said they had been beaten and raped at the facility during their youth. And though investigators confined their research to the two Panhandle youth prisons, they concluded that the conditions they found likely permeate the state's youth-corrections system as a whole. "Florida's oversight system failed to detect and sufficiently address the problems we found at Dozier and JJOC," the report said. "We find that many of the problems we identified … are the result of a systemic lack of training, supervision and oversight." The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's spokesman, C.J. Drake, said Friday that the U.S. department's findings do not apply to other residential programs throughout the state. Last August, DJJ Secretary Wansley Walters said that the use of physical force on youths had dropped by 41.6 percent during the past two years as the state adopted a set of "best practices" in behavior management. In the past year alone, Walters said, more than half of the DJJ's residential programs either reduced or eliminated the use of physical force. "The issues and concerns raised in the investigative report on allegations of past staff misconduct at the closed [North Florida youth camp] are, in fact, confined to the closed facility and are not duplicated elsewhere in the DJJ system," Drake said Friday. "We have taken and will continue to take swift and appropriate action to address any conduct that violates laws, policies, or the safety and dignity of the youth in our care," he added. Since 2008, in fact, the DJJ has either closed or substantially reduced 23 residential programs across the state that performed poorly.Roy Miller, a children's advocate who heads the Florida Children's Campaign and has been a long-time critic of the state's youth-corrections program, said Friday he remains unconvinced that the state has implemented meaningful reform. "I have no confidence that this is not a systemic problem," Miller said. "Every time horrifying abuse has occurred, we get the same story from DJJ, that it is not systemic." Among the problems the U.S. Justice Department found: • Juveniles sent to the youth camps were subjected to unnecessary — and often excessive — physical force, including violent takedowns, choking and restraints that can lead to asphyxiation. In the spring of 2006, the Florida Legislature banned a host of so-called compliance techniques and takedowns in the wake of a national scandal, the death of 14-year-old Martin Lee Anderson, who died after guards at a Panama City boot camp punched, kneed and choked off his air supply during a long, violent restraint. The Martin Lee Anderson Act banned the use of stun guns, pepper spray, pressure points, mechanical restraints and psychological intimidation unless a child is a threat to himself or others. The Justice Department, however, said guards in North Florida used "dangerous" face-down restraint techniques, choked youths and used handcuffs on children who were not resisting.A September 2010 incident that was captured on video showed a guard who "appeared to strike and choke" a youth who "was not engaged in violent or disruptive behavior." The guard had "slammed" the boy into furniture and then the ground, shook the boy's arm, and then tried to force the youth's arm behind his back, though the youth appeared only to "be trying to avoid further confrontation," the report said. • Staff members at the camps also used isolation and confinement as punishment, the report said, though most experts discourage the use of isolation for all but emergency situations. And isolation was used, the report said, for "minor infractions." At Dozier, youths were placed in either a "controlled observation" area — the written procedure was to confine the youth for only a two-hour "cool-down" period — or in a longer-term Behavior Management Unit for up to 21 days. The report describes the two units as "particularly harsh environments," where youths were held in 9.8-by-5.5-foot cells with locked doors, bars and only a concrete slab for a bed. Administrators would place a "thin mattress" on the slab at bedtime. • Guards exercised "deliberate indifference" to the needs of children in their care, including youths who were at risk of killing themselves. "Suicidal youths were sent to isolation, although the facility rules prohibit confinement of such youths," the report said, adding: "This practice is very dangerous." • Youths may have been discouraged from seeking medical care, because they had to request a sick call from the same employees who may have abused them. And youths who were in the behavior management unit "did not receive adequate medical care, assessment of their mental health … or assistance in determining whether they should be discharged from confinement." Last July, 18-year-old Eric Perez died at the Palm Beach County detention center after several guards and administrators ignored his pleas for medical attention. Perez's death remains under investigation by both the DJJ and a West Palm Beach grand jury. Source: http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/12/02/v-fullstory/2529226/feds-condemn-conditions-at-now.html#ixzz1fSip5XLI For more on this story and the Department of Justice's Investigation Report, visit: http://www.tampabay.com/specials/2011/PDFs/Dozier_JusticeDepartment120311.pdf

Doctors Put Foster Children at Risk With Mind-Altering Drugs By BRINDA ADHIKARI, JOAN MARTELLI and SARAH KOCH Dec. 1, 2011 — go.com Across America, doctors are putting foster children on powerful, mind-altering drugs at rates up to 13 times that of children in the general population. What's more, doctors are prescribing foster children drugs at doses beyond what the Food and Drug Administration has approved, sometimes in potentially dangerous combinations, according to a new report by the federal Government Accountability Office. "It's just almost beyond comprehension," said Sen. Thomas Carper, D-Del., who asked for the GAO investigation. "We want the doctors and nurses that are prescribing these medicines to look at their behavior and think and ask this question. Are we doing something wrong here?" In Florida, regulators have been grappling with that question since a 7-year-old boy, Gabriel Myers, killed himself in 2009 after being prescribed a powerful mix of psychotropic medication. His psychiatrist, Dr. Sohail Punjwani, had, at different times, prescribed two drugs that carry black box labels -- warning of the need to carefully monitor patients because of the increased risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior in children, which call for careful monitoring. However, even though Gabriel visited Punjwani's office seven times, his foster father said Gabriel usually only spent about five minutes talking to the doctor. Gabriel's death was ruled an accident, but investigators pointed to the possibility that the medication may have contributed to his death. The tragedy triggered a storm of outrage across the state. "I don't accept that the only way to reach a child who is 7 years old is through psychotropic drugs," said Florida Sen. Ronda Storm, during hearings over Gabriel's death. "I do not accept that." The boy's doctor settled a lawsuit in 2010 accusing him of prescribing a toxic cocktail of psychotropic drugs to a 16-year-old patient, who suffered a sudden heart attack and died. Punjwani settled that case but admitted no wrongdoing. READ: A Resource Guide for Children in Foster Care Additionally, Punjwani was arrested for driving under the influence and cocaine possession. He pleaded not guilty to those charges but went through a court-ordered rehabilitation program. When ABC News caught up with Dr. Punjwani, he told us, "Sad stories happen but that does not mean that everything else the doctor is responsible for it because we are in the business of taking care of these children," he said. Antipsychotic medication, which can cause a litany of health problems such as severe weight gain, an increased risk of diabetes and irreversible movement disorders, is among the top-selling drugs in America. LEARN MORE: Antipsychotics Most Commonly Prescribed to Foster Children Four drug makers have paid a total of more than $2 billion to settle claims they illegally marketed antipsychotics to children. All deny wrongdoing. "How do antipsychotics, drugs supposedly for people who have lost touch with reality, how do they develop such a wide market?" said neuropsychiatrist Dr. Stefan Kruszewski, who won millions of dollars as a key whistleblower against drug companies. There have been very limited long-term studies on antipsychotics in children. And for drugs already on the market, the duration of the studies that were used to get FDA approval for children have been as short as three to six weeks. ABC News interviewed a social worker now working in a state foster care system, who asked not to be identified. "Every child that I saw was basically on some type of psychotropic medication," the social worker told ABC News. "It's much easier to medicate a child than it is to physically restrain them, than it is to pay $200 an hour to a therapist to talk through their problems with them." Dr. Charles Zeanah, a prominent child psychiatrist who is careful to use a minimum of psychotropic medication in children, said that doctors are under pressure from all corners to do something with these troubled children and medication is one of their tools. "The pressures that I'm aware of are pressures that come from families and schools who have kids with troubling behavior," he said. "They want something done. They want something done quickly." Still, he adds, "The general consensus is that when you're treating young children, you always try behavioral intervention before you go to medication." The problem has not gone unnoticed by some state officials. In the state of Washington, doctors and regulators have implemented a new system to oversee psychotropic medication and identify red flag cases that exceed safety limits, by dosage or number of medications, or arise because of the young age of the child. In those red flag cases, a second opinion by a child psychiatrist is needed before medication can be dispensed. And some states including Louisiana, Florida and New York are even going so far as kicking out high-prescribing doctors out of Medicaid. Sen. Carper, who called for the GAO investigation, said he was shocked by the findings. "The idea that these kids are taking one, two, three times the regular dose for a child or for an adult -- it's just the wrong thing to do," he said. "We need to get to the bottom of this and do the best that we can to stop it, not just the Congress, not just the doctors, not just the states. All of us together." ABC News' Mark Abdelmalek contributed to this report. Watch the year-long investigation tonight on "World News with Diane Sawyer" at 6:30 p.m. ET and then see more on "20/20," Friday at 10 p.m. ET.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/Health/doctors-put-foster-children-risk-mind-altering-drugs/story?id=15064560 Additional Links/Information On this Topic Below: http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2011/12/boy-12-tells-congress-of-years-on-stupid-meds/ http://isepp.wordpress.com/2011/12/02/government-report-confirms-2008-allegations-that-foster-children-are-over-medicated/ http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-12-270T http://abc.go.com/watch/2020/SH559026/VD55156221/2020-122-overmedication-in-foster-care

Another case of sexual abuse against children within the Assemblies of God Church. Two youth ministers with the Assemblies of God church arrested for sex crimes against children in Polk County. December 14, 2011 POLK COUNTY, Fla.- Two youth pastors have been arrested for sex-related crimes against children, the Polk County Sheriff's Office announced Wednesday. Edward Demoreta, 30, is accused of having sex at least twice with a 14-year-old student at Mulberry Middle School., while he was her teacher there. Ricardo Navarro, 27, was arrested for texting a 14-year-old member of the church youth group with lewd requests. Both suspects were

youth pastors at the First Assembly of God. Source: http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/region_polk/two-youth-ministers-arrested-for-sex-crimes-against-children-in-polk-county (Webmaster Note: Assemblies of God operates and oversees the Teen Challenge programs.)

Counselor accused of sex with teen in her care enters plea Posted: Dec 19, 2011 3:03 PM PST Updated: Dec 20, 2011 10:13 AM PST By Scott Adkins - email Brooke Briscoe (Source: Bullitt County Detention Center) Sunrise Spring Meadows Residential Facility Det. Scott McGaha SHEPHERDSVILLE, KY (WAVE) - A counselor pleaded not guilty to charges of rape and sodomy on Tuesday after deputies say she had sex with a teen in her care. Bullitt County deputies arrested Brooke Briscoe, 27, Monday morning. Briscoe worked at Sunrise Spring Meadows Residential Facility, a group home that helps troubled teens. Investigators said she had sex with the teen at the facility. Deputies launched the investigation after Child Protective Services discovered Briscoe allegedly had sexual contact with a 17-year-old male on November 11. Briscoe is charged with rape in the 3rd degree and sodomy in the 3rd degree. "Sixteen is the legal consensual age in the State of Kentucky. However, even though he's of consent the problem is it's rape in the 3rd degree because someone is in a caretaker role with him. She was a counselor for him," said Det. Scott McGaha, Bullitt County Sheriff's Office. "Unfortunately, it does occur. We see it quite often and she has been charged with that. It's just unfortunate that it happens," McGaha said. Sunrise, a faith based non-profit, is located in Mt. Washington, KY. It's mission is "to care for Kentucky children who've been abused or neglected." Sunrise released a statement. Here's a portion: "We are conducting an internal investigation and are reviewing our policies and procedures to determine if there is anything we need to change to avoid a situation like this in the future." Briscoe was placed on administrative leave once authorities launched an investigation. Sunrise terminated her employment Monday. Copyright 2011 WAVE News. All rights reserved. Source: http://www.wave3.com/story/16356564/deputies-arrest-counselor-charged-with-rape-and-sodomy

Posted on Tue, Dec. 27, 2011 6 fired at Fla detention center where teen died The Associated Press Six employees of a South Florida juvenile detention center where a teenager died will be fired.The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice announced Tuesday that the Palm Beach Juvenile Detention Center's superintendent and assistant superintendent were fired. Four detention center officers also will be fired.Officials said a review of the facility's operations and management revealed that the six violated policies and procedures.Police and prosecutors are still investigating the death of 18-year-old Eric Perez in July. The teen died hours after seeking help for a severe headache and vomiting. An autopsy is pending.DJJ Secretary Wansley Walters said the agency could not wait for the outcome of the criminal investigation to discipline the employees because "necessary changes" at the center can't begin until "appropriate personnel changes" are made. Source: http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/12/27/v-print/2563012/6-fired-at-fla-detention-center.html#storylink=cpy

Local pastor found guilty of teen's sexual assault 7:26 PM, Feb 9, 2012 SACRAMENTO, CA - An area pastor who befriended a troubled teen and eventually molested her was convicted of eight counts of sexual assault of a minor. Cornelius Taylor and his wife let the teen move in with them when she was 16. According to the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, Taylor began going to the girl's bedroom and sexually abusing her several times a week, even after she turned 18. Taylor faces up to seven years, eight months in prison when he is sentenced. Source:http://www.news10.net/news/article/177811/2/Local-pastor-found-guilty-of-teens-sexual-assault?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Cbc%7Clarge

Convention Focuses On Institutional Abuse By Jonathan Van Dyke Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 12:15 am Society's pillars - its institutions - are not immune to its horrors. This is a fact that in some ways helped form Survivors of Institutional Abuse, which is committed to increasing "national awareness about these deceptively practicing, indoctrinating, exploitive, mentally/physically/sexually abusive and spiritually harmful facilities." Not every institution is bad, but many times victims of such abuse have little idea where to go to get help, organizers said. "It was formed based on a need from survivors of institutional abuse," said Jodi Hobbs, founder and president of SIA. The abuse could come from any number of cultural institutions like church, school, juvenile hall, foster care or residential treatment. "I am actually a survivor myself, and in my research to try and find help for myself, there just wasn't much help out there," Hobbs said. SIA will host its first major event this weekend at the Queen Mary, which is free to the public but requires preregistration. The theme of the event is United With One Voice. Together We Are Strong. Hobbs said her search for help and answers allowed her to encounter others who had been effected by institutional abuse. She found several other social networking groups that had the same goals as she did - eventually she formed SIA to try and bring all the disparate groups and resources together under one umbrella. "We kind of went on this journey alone," she said. "But we discovered it was better to do this together. The weekend's event will bring panels, movies and speakers onto the Queen Mary in order to discuss the many different topics that touch upon institutional abuse. "This is the first one of its kind ever - it's kind of a history-making event," Hobbs said. "We're looking to help through actions like mentorship and we want to help through the journey of healing." Generally, the people who come to SIA for help have been adults who still are dealing with the issues that an institution put them through as a child, Hobbs said. "They're the children who lived through it and now they're adults trying to find their way, and we want to help them do that," she added. The weekend event will include movie screenings, several speaker panels, a dedication ceremony and the SIA People's Choice Awards. Hobbs said the choice of using the Queen Mary was an obvious one for her. "Water is very healing and calming," she said. "We wanted this to be by the beach. The Queen Mary kind of provides that perfect atmosphere." SIA is a nonprofit group and Hobbs said it tries to cater its counseling and help to people based on individual needs of each personal story. The convention website www.sia-convention.org has a complete agenda and people can preregister there. The website www.sia-now.org has more information on the organization itself. WHAT: Survivors of Institutional Abuse Convention WHEN: Friday-Sunday, Feb. 24-26 (varying times) WHERE: Queen Mary COST: Free (require preregister) Source: http://www.gazettes.com/to_do/convention-focuses-on-institutional-abuse/article_01447924-5ce7-11e1-b793-0019bb2963f4.html

Tue Feb 21, 2012 at 08:32 AM PST The Abusive Side of a Tennessee Christian Group Home by lisakerr Two young women I recently spoke with in intimate and heart-breaking interviews learned the hard way that celebrity Christian endorsements and pretty pink websites can't cover up the dark, abusive side of Mercy Ministries. Over the past few weeks, they've shared stories with me of Mercy staff's use of coercive control and domination to attempt to "treat" them of their medical and psychological disorders and how Mercy required mandatory HIV and STD testing, as well as detailed confessions from the girls about their sexual past relations (specifically about any lesbian or bisexual experiences) upon intake. (Article originally published on RH Reality Check) Two young women I recently spoke with in intimate and heart-breaking interviews learned the hard way that celebrity Christian endorsements and pretty pink websites can't cover up the dark, abusive side of Mercy Ministries. Over the past few weeks, they've shared stories with me of Mercy staff's use of coercive control and domination to attempt to "treat" them of their medical and psychological disorders and how Mercy required mandatory HIV and STD testing, as well as detailed confessions from the girls about their sexual past relations (specifically about any lesbian or bisexual experiences) upon intake. Mercy Ministries is a Nashville, Tennessee based group which was accused of misrepresenting their counseling and recovery services to young women in Australia in 2008. The misrepresentation in Australia was two-fold. First, they claimed their services were free but had the girls sign over their government checks. Second, the ministry claimed to be using licensed therapists and professional counseling methods. In 2009, Mercy admitted their guilt in misrepresentation on both counts and paid back $120,000 of government aid it had wrongly taken from the girls who attended—in Australia. Although the media attention reached the United States, the founding group (based in Nashville, TN) was never investigated further. Instead Nancy Alcorn, the founder of Mercy Ministries took the investigation as a sign from God that the group was under "spiritual attack" and took fundraising efforts into high-gear. In 2009, founder Nancy Alcorn's blog stated: Since [the scandal], we have reorganized the governing structure of Mercy Ministries to bring new levels of oversight and accountability, have increased our funding efforts, and are in the process of opening two new homes—one in California, one in North Carolina—over the next two years. (Emphasis my own) The most interesting part of the statement is a complete disregard for the admittance of guilt for misrepresenting their services. Instead, Mercy put extra effort in "increasing funding efforts." Could this be because the scandal brought a large loss of donation support? Plenty of evidence can be found online about sponsors who cut off financial support and stopped their endorsements of the ministry program after the scandal occurred. Hillsong Church in Australia is one such group. In 2009, they issued a statement about their involvement with Mercy Ministries claiming that they cut all ties with the group. …[W]e sever any affiliation with Mercy Ministries internationally, and would not be associated with any attempt by Mercy Ministries Inc or Mercy Ministries Ltd, to recommence within Australia, under that or any other name…We would encourage those, that any investigation involves, to cooperate fully. Religious groups like Mercy are hard to pin down when it comes to accountability—legally and otherwise. Abuses in large-scale ministries can range from financial irresponsibility, misallocation of funds, exorbitant salaries for founders, violation of employment laws to medical malpractice. Abuses like these often get overlooked until a whistleblower within the group speaks up. "These groups often operate under the radar of government oversight," Marci A. Hamilton, shared with me when I spoke with her last week about possible government oversight of a group like Mercy Ministries. Professor Hamilton, author of God vs. the Gavel, is one of the United States' leading church/state scholars, specializing in issues involving religious entities that harm others. Hamilton is also an advisor for victims in many clergy abuse cases, including cases involving child abuse. Upon further investigation, I found Marci's statement rang true. When I inquired about Mercy Ministries licensing with the state, Grant Lawrence Director of Communications for the Department of Mental Health, confirmed my suspicions that Mercy Ministries is not licensed by the Department, which gives group and residential homes guidelines and best practices. (They are licensed as a child-placing agency by the Department of Child Services which only governs children under age thirteen.) The Department of Mental Health also oversees the young adults within these facilities, providing each young woman with a social worker and licensed medical care. If Mercy isn't licensed by the Department of Mental Health, how can they claim to be providing proper medical treatment and licensed therapy to young women who are rape and sex trafficking victims, suffer from depression and are suicidal? They can't. According to Mercy's own website, qualifications to work at the program include a bachelor's degree and maturity in their relationship with God. Although the site claims that their counselors have either a master's degree in counseling or psychology (or be working toward

such a degree) and meet state licensing requirements, there are two issues with this. One, statements from Mercy graduates counter this statement. Many residents claim that their counselor was not certified, trained or experienced to deal with the issues they faced such as depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and suicidal thoughts. Two, Mercy is not licensed with the Department of Mental Health nor are they a licensed medical treatment facility. They are governed by their own Board of Trustees which doesn't include medical or counseling personnel. Three, even if their staff is licensed, as they claim, the real issue is the curriculum they teach and what they consider "best practices" as opposed to what secular therapists use as standard practice. In upcoming articles on Mercy Ministries, I'll continue to examine the stories of two young women whose lives were negatively impacted on the group, the curriculum and therapy "methods" that were used to treat them and what experts in the field have to say about groups like Mercy. According to graduates, Mercy Ministries has a dark side that even the bright pink logo can't hide. Originally posted to lisakerr on Tue Feb 21, 2012 at 08:32 AM PST. Source: http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/02/21/1066794/-The-Abusive-Side-of-a-Tennessee-Christian-Group-Home

Teen Mania: Endurance Bootcamp Or Religious Cult? FOX 11 News Investigative video report Updated: Thursday, 23 Feb 2012, 9:49 AM PST Published : Thursday, 23 Feb 2012, 7:41 AM PST Reporter: Gina Silva Posted by myFOXla Editor/Producer: Jeffrey Thomas DeSocio DALLAS - It's an intense military style Christian retreat that promises to transform lives and inspire a greater love for God…and for thousands - it did just that. But Gina Silva reports some teens say they were traumatized, and accuse "Teen Mania" of being a cult. Check out the FOX 11 News Investigative video report Teens marching day and night...Crawling through mud and pushing their bodies to the limit. All in the name of Jesus... We have video of a program called "E.S.O.A.L." -- it stands for Emotionally Stretching Opportunity Of A Lifetime. This bootcamp-style Christian retreat...offered by the "teen mania" ministries. Teens here are called interns. They're given a number and assigned to a group with a captain as their leader. This camp is located two hours east of Dallas, Texas. The E.S.O.A.L. retreat is just one part of a full-year of Christian leadership training. Thousands have gone through it. Many say this is a life-changing experience...A spiritual awakening... Young people are growing with their relationship with Christ they're growing with their relationship with each other attaining spiritual maturity, building strong friendships. But others call teen mania the worst thing they've even been through... Source: http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/investigative/teen-mania-endurance-bootcamp-or-religious-cult-2012-02-23

Long term effects on survivors/victims of abuse By Janet Parker (about the author) opednews.com Torture is the calculated physical and psychological assault on the individual, a practice used to instill fear, punish or degrade, to dehumanize, or to obliterate the self. It is often said that anyone who has been tortured remains tortured, long after the physical wounds have healed. Torture is the deliberate infliction of severe pain by one human being against another. It leaves particular kinds of mental and psychological scars. This trauma is different from other traumas because torture is a violation committed in secret and in spite of official denial. Many believe that torture only occurs in the most repressive regimes. In reality, torture is widespread in all parts of the world. Although it is often perpetrated by police or security forces, it can also be carried out by armed forces, detention authorities such as immigration officials, hospital staff, or prison wardens. Torture can be physical or psychological. New methods of torture are, unfortunately, invented every year. Many are most familiar with physical torture such severe beatings, extraction of nails or teeth, burns, electric shocks, suspension, suffocation, excessive light, heat, cold or noise, sexual aggression (rape and other sexual violence), forced nudity, isolation and sensory deprivation, mock executions or simulated drowning. However, psychological torture can be as traumatic and inflicts egregious harm. The psychological wounds of both physical and psychological torture last a lifetime. The coercive methods of Straight Inc. and other abusive residential treatment centers were designed to obliterate the sense of self so as to instill fear and force obedience to authority in young teens. Abusive methods of Straight Inc. included sleep deprivation, beatings, sexual humiliation, sexual assault, prolonged sitting or standing in forced positions, isolation and detention for prolonged and indefinite periods of time, forcing one teen to abuse another, and prolonged denial of rest, sleep, food, water, adequate hygiene. These same forms of abuse are utilized in many other residential treatment centers. Many victims continue to suffer in silence. Torture victims commonly report feelings of fear, guilt, shame, anger, disillusionment, insecurity and humiliation. For victims of torture, finding the courage to come forward and speak about what happened to them is very difficult. This is true for the many thousands of US children who were physically and psychologically abused and sometimes sexually abused in the program called Straight Inc. What happened behind the closed doors of Straight Inc., Roloff Homes, WWASPS, Teen Challenge and other programs is deeply personal and highly traumatizing. Speaking about it can evoke for survivors a range of emotions because the memories are triggers for retraumatization. Survivors are reluctant to speak publicly and may not have fully revealed their experiences to families and/or friends. In some instances, they may not have come to terms with it themselves. Survivors of torture find it very challenging to heal and try to move forward with their lives. Many victims from Straight Inc. and other abusive teen centers express frustration that, despite the fact that their torture occurred and was verified, it has not been publicly acknowledged. Survivors come away with different expectations of what constitutes justice. Some speak of the importance of criminal prosecutions, while others speak about civil compensation, rehabilitation or prevention of recurrence. All of them realize that there is a need to restore the sense of dignity and control that was taken from them when they were tortured. The Survivors/Victims of institutionalized abuse have responded with courage and resiliency and have launched a variety of legal challenges to these practices and also actions of activism and advocacy as well as a web of survivor support networks. The Web sites Fornits.com, TheStraights.com, Heal-online.org, and others have collected many of the survivors' stories. [i] H.E.A.L. and International Survivors Action Committee (ISAC) both previously provided reports about this abuse. Source: http://www.opednews.com/articles/Long-term-effects-on-survi-by-Janet-Parker-120225-802.html

Paul Babeu's Suspicious Past as School's Headmaster By Monica Alonzo published: March 08, 2012 Former DeSisto School student Melissa Burech Late school founder Michael DeSisto The Massachusetts mansion that served as the school's headquarters Subject(s): DeSisto School, Paul Babeu The most riveting detail to come out of Paul Babeu's three-year tenure as head of a private Massachusetts boarding school for troubled teens was his close relationship with a 17-year-old student there. Former students of the now-defunct school tell New Times that they often saw Babeu showering attention on fellow student Joshua Geyer. "I'd see [Babeu] around campus all the time," says Melissa Burech, who attended DeSisto School during Babeu's tenure. "And I saw [Babeu and Josh] together more than they should've been. I saw [Babeu] take him off campus." Babeu's sister, Lucy, alleges that Babeu was engaged in a sexual relationship with Geyer. The Rose Law Firm — hired by Babeu after allegations arose that he and his lawyer, Chris DeRose, threatened his Mexican ex-lover with deportation if the man revealed their romantic relationship — did not return calls for comment on his relationship with the student. Babeu, however, denied wrongdoing through the firm. Students say Babeu was a constant presence at DeSisto. The school occupied an expansive campus in the Berkshires of Massachusetts, where wayward teens, plagued with such problems as drug addiction, depression, anorexia, and mental illness, received what was deemed therapeutic treatment. Babeu was headmaster and executive director at DeSisto from April 1999 to August 2001, and students say they often saw him milling around campus with the school's founder, the late Michael DeSisto. Since the scandal involving his ex-lover broke in New Times on February 17, Babeu has minimized his role at the school, which was investigated for nearly two decades because of allegations that students endured systematic neglect and sexual and physical abuse there. Babeu, elected Pinal County sheriff in 2008 after serving as a police officer in Chandler for several years, lately has claimed he did not interact with students and had no direct supervisory responsibility over staff at DeSisto. But students who attended the school tell New Times that they saw Babeu in daily meetings where administrators discussed issues facing the school, including its disciplinary practices — which included students being forced to sit on metal folding chairs facing a corner for hours on end and students getting stripped naked and forced to wear nothing but bedsheets. Babeu's camp has carefully parsed denials that he engaged in a sexual relationship with Joshua Geyer. That is, Babeu, who would have been in his early 30s at the time, has not denied having a relationship

with Geyer; he's only denied having an "inappropriate" relationship with his former student, according to his legal handlers. One justification for this statement could be that Geyer was old enough to consent to sexual intercourse in Massachusetts. The sheriff has eluded questions about how he could have developed a close relationship with a DeSisto student if his job did not involve dealing with students. ABC 15, in a report on Babeu's years at the school, received signed, but undated, letters from the former student. The Rose Law Firm released the letters to the station. "I have never at any time lived or engaged in any inappropriate sexual relationship with Paul Babeu," the first letter reads. "I have remained personal friends with Paul Babeu." The second reads, "I never lived with or engaged in any sexual relationship with Paul Babeu while I was a student at DeSisto private school." The station said neither letter was notarized and that there was no proof the letters were written by the student. New Times was unable to reach Geyer for comment. Lucy Babeu tells it differently, recalling a time when she saw Geyer at her brother's home in Massachusetts, and when she confronted her brother about the boy, Paul Babeu confessed that he was in love with Geyer. Melissa Burech and other students who knew Geyer, and attended DeSisto while Babeu was headmaster, recall signs of a close relationship between the two. Burech, who followed her family to Arizona a few years ago and now lives in Deer Valley, says she had friends in common with Geyer, friends in whom he confided about his "inappropriate" relationship with Babeu. "Because the school was so intense, so cult-like, you developed close bonds with people," she says. "I think Josh looked to [Babeu] for guidance, and I believe Paul twisted that, abused that power to get what he wanted." Another student, who grew up in New York, also found herself at DeSisto while Babeu was in charge of the school. The former student, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirms what others have said: Babeu and Geyer were "together a whole lot," and Geyer "got taken off campus for lunch a lot" by the future National Sheriff of the Year. She says word got back to students that the pair often went to the Panda House, a Chinese restaurant in the area. "Everybody on campus knew about it," she says. "When Josh left the program, and so did Paul, it was a big thing about them dating. Everybody knew." The woman described Babeu as Geyer's "commitment holder," a title the school gave to staff members selected by students to monitor their progress. "You would go to someone you could trust, or [whom] you could speak to about your problems," the former student says. "They were supposed to help you heal." When Babeu took over as the school's headmaster, it was operating unlawfully without a state license, and it already was embroiled in lawsuits from dissatisfied parents. Each family paid tuition of about $65,000 a year for their child to be in an environment that was "excessively punitive" and created "an extreme risk of injury even death," the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services said in legal papers. This state agency "received many allegations of abusive practices at the school," state investigators said, adding that Massachusetts officials repeatedly were denied access to the campus and to student files: "The school effectively stonewalled the OCCS, claiming [DeSisto School was] not subject to [state] licensing, but refusing to provided necessary information to back up [the] claim." The school argued that it didn't need a license because it wasn't serving enough special-needs students. According to Massachusetts law, if more than 30 percent of the student population was made up of such students, a license was required. When state officials finally forced open the school's files in 2001 after almost 20 years of complaints, they classified more than 40 percent of the student body as special needs. The school ultimately shut down in 2004 because it was unable to comply with state mandates. Court and state records paint a chilling account of life at DeSisto, including during the time that Babeu ran it. One student refused to stop leaning against a wall and was physically restrained for several hours. Another who threw a plate and got into an argument was tied up for nearly six hours. A student forced to sit in a metal chair for weeks, facing the corner, wasn't properly medicated, became severely depressed, and urinated and defecated on himself. The teen eventually was taken to the hospital for treatment for pneumonia. Records show that students had to take group showers, "denying them privacy and leading to instances of sexual abuse." A few months after a court ordered the school in 2001 to either shut down or apply for a license, Babeu resigned. He recently told various media outlets that he was only responsible for the school's operations, including maintenance of the grounds. But he told another story on a campaign website. There, Babeu described his time at DeSisto as a period when he was "frequently recognized for his effectiveness in personnel management and fiscal abilities." In 2002, when he applied for a job as a Chandler cop, Babeu noted on his application that, while at DeSisto, he supervised directors of the school and 80 full-time employees. Babeu counters allegations of his relationship with the student or his knowing about abusive conditions at the school by attempting to discredit his sister. He portrays himself as a victim under attack by a mentally ill family member. Babeu, the second-youngest of 11 children, described his family as one with "lots of different personalities" in a 2010 interview with the Arizona Daily Star. "I've seen lots of different things in our family, but that's all family business," he said at the time. Babeu's representatives at the Rose firm now are divulging this "family business" by releasing allegations detailing Lucy Babeu's alleged mental illness. According to the firm, she was placed in psychiatric care on two occasions, had her children taken away, and has been a frequent drug abuser. Lucy Babeu denied these claims to New Times, calling them "slanderous." The sheriff, a candidate for Congress in Arizona's conservative 4th District, says he's also a victim of attacks by political enemies. On March 3, during an interview with Newsmax, Babeu says the timing of the allegations are suspect. "[His being gay was] pushed around for months and months — in fact, for years," he told the conservative website. "Political opponents have threatened me, trying to go to the newspapers and the TV stations . . . clearly, looking at the timing of this election. They're literally five months away from primary ballots being mailed to voters, we being 10 points ahead." That was then. A new poll — taken after New Times broke the story that Babeu's Mexican ex-boyfriend says the sheriff and his lawyer tried to intimidate him into keeping the love affair secret — showed Babeu six points behind Congressman Paul Gosar in the 4th District. The former lover, Jose Orozco, says the sheriff's attorney raised threats of deportation when he refused to sign a document promising he would never disclose details of the affair. Orozco has filed notice that he intends to sue Babeu and Pinal County for $1 million for violating his civil rights. Babeu denied that he or his camp did anything inappropriate then, too, portraying himself as a conservative politician under attack because he is gay. And he again played the victim card, claiming Orozco had hacked into his campaign website and his Twitter account and had stolen his identity — charges that seem unlikely given that the sheriff gave Orozco access to his websites and accounts. Orozco and his lawyer, Melissa Weiss-Riner, say he turned over everything Babeu and DeRose requested but that they still pressured him to sign the non-disclosure document concerning the romance. An interesting side note is that Babeu, in 2002, went public about getting sexually abused by a Catholic priest in Springfield, Massachusetts. He said he was outraged because the church took years to defrock the priest who had abused him, his older brother Francis, and other children. It is similar outrage that moved DeSisto alumni to speak out against their former headmaster and the abusive treatment they received, partially under his reign. The New York student, who attended DeSisto from 1998 to 2003, is surprised to hear that Babeu now describes himself as a career-long advocate for victims' rights. "When did he become that guy? When did he become so involved in victims' rights? Why didn't he see problems in the [DeSisto] program, see that things needed to change?" she says. "He would hear about kids starving in the corner . . . You'd think he would know that was wrong." Melissa Burech, sent to the school from West Virginia when she was 15 because of a history of depression, says, "Things got worse" during Babeu's reign. "He signed up to be an administrator at this school, and he didn't do anything to help us or change what was happening there," she says. When state officials finally got on campus and gained access to students, their files, and school staff, the school was ordered to immediately stop its most abusive practices — such as strip-searching students, barricading them in their bedrooms with mattresses (or with staff sleeping outside doors), and banishing them to remote areas of the campus. Students, sent to what was known as the "farm," were not allowed to attend academic classes and were forced to perform manual labor for five to eight hours a day before they could eat or drink, Massachusetts child welfare authorities reported. "We had to cut down trees or restore the buildings," Burech says. "It was a big joke that we attended the school of the janitorial arts." The former student from New York recalls being forced to hold hands with several other girls for days at a time, no matter where they went, unless they were sleeping or eating meals that were limited to 15 minutes each. "We had to go to the restrooms that way, take showers that way, get dressed — try to put on our underwear that way," she says. "We had to hold hands under the stalls and, even if we had a male staff member [supervising], we had to ask for permission to take our hands apart so we could do what we needed to do in the bathroom. It was humiliating." She says they would rotate so that each girl had a chance to be at the end of the human chain and have the privilege of a free hand. "We all had different problems, obviously; that's why we were in that school," she says. "But we weren't stupid. We knew this behavior was wrong, and we knew it wasn't helping. It was just a way of torturing us." Burech now is attending school to become an occupational therapist. "If I saw [Babeu] today, I would say 'thank you' because those horrible experiences taught me to be a fighter," she says. "No matter what, he is part of my past. But I'm speaking up now because I want to inform Arizona about his past so he doesn't become part of our future." Source: http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/content/printVersion/2952182/

Supreme Court orders new trial in 16-year-old's suicide at boarding school for troubled teens THE ASSOCIATED PRESS First Posted: March 09, 2012 - 10:22 am Last Updated: March 09, 2012 - 1:07 pm MISSOULA, Mont. — The Montana Supreme Court has ordered a new trial in a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the mother of a 16-year-old Colorado girl who committed suicide at a Montana boarding school for troubled teens. A Sanders County jury decided in October 2010 that World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools of Utah and its founder, Robert Litchfield, were not negligent in the October 2004 death of Karlye Newman, the Missoulian (http://bit.ly/yrP6hQ) reported Friday. Newman hanged herself with a sweat shirt after six months at the now closed Spring Creek Academy Lodge near Thompson Falls. Her mother, Judith Newman, sued WWASP and Litchfield for wrongful death, negligence, breach of contract, fraud and deceit. WWASP provided the policy and procedure manual for Spring Creek Academy Lodge. The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that retired Justice John Warner, who was brought in to hear the case, wrongly barred the jury from hearing evidence that other WWASP-affiliated schools were shut down and investigated for abuses. "We conclude that the District Court abused its discretion when it limited the evidence concerning negligence to what Karlye knew and what happened to Karlye," Justice Patricia Cotter wrote. "The District Court determined it appropriate to admit evidence of what Karlye knew, but exclude evidence of what the defendants knew" about other suicide attempts at affiliated schools and conditions at Spring Creek. Cotter added that, "Without this information, the jury could not determine whether it was foreseeable to these defendants that Karlye was at risk of injury while a student at Spring Creek." James Manley of Polson, one of several attorneys representing Judith Newman, said the ruling means they'll get to retry the case "with all the evidence this time." Newman filed her initial lawsuit in 2006. It went to trial in 2010 after dismissals and out-of-court settlements whittled the list of defendants down to WWASP and Litchfield. Spring Creek, which settled with Newman, closed in 2008. Her lawsuit claimed the school misled her

about her daughter's progress and condition, ignored signs that she had become suicidal and contributed to her death through a series of harsh punishments that included solitary confinement and refusing to allow the girl to have any contact with her parents. The defendants argued Newman failed to disclose previous suicide threats by Karlye before she was enrolled at Spring Creek and that Newman signed off on Spring Creek's methods prior to enrolling her daughter. The defense said Spring Creek wouldn't have accepted Karlye had it known about the earlier suicide attempts. However, the school's brochures indicated the facility was suitable for suicidal youths, the Supreme Court noted. WWASP, which provided the policy and procedure manuals for several schools was the subject of other lawsuits, including a federal lawsuit involving 353 parents and former students who accuse the firm of assault, battery, false imprisonment, fraud and racketeering. Newman's case will be remanded back to District Court. Manley said he will ask for a new judge. Source: http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/a02e98e64ead4eec823bc92551b56209/MT--Supco-Boarding-School-Suicide/ Also see: http://missoulian.com/news/local/montana-supreme-court-orders-new-trial-over-suicide-at-spring/article_1e13bc1e-699d-11e1-a973-0019bb2963f4.html, http://www.greatfallstribune.com/article/20120309/NEWS01/120309009/Montana-Supreme-Court-orders-new-trial-boarding-school-suicide?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFrontpage, and http://www.sheboyganpress.com/usatoday/article/38760007?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE%7Cp

Former juvenile corrections officer jailed Associated Press March 15, 2012 A former juvenile corrections officer has been jailed after being accused of sex crimes. The former employee, Ardith Brown, faces charges of felony child molestation and sexual assault against persons in custody, the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice said in a statement late Wednesday. Brown was a former staff member at the Regional Youth Detention Center in Gainesville. She was fired on Feb. 2, after an internal investigation into allegations of an inappropriate relationship with a 14-year-old in the department's custody, authorities said. Brown was being held in the Hall County Jail. Jail records did not indicate whether she had an attorney. The Gainesville case is the latest in a series of investigations involving the Department of Juvenile Justice, which began a system-wide review after the beating death of a 19-year-old at an Augusta facility. "As a result of our surprise inspections at all 27 Georgia juvenile detention centers, we've observed many of our Juvenile Corrections Officers become more diligent in monitoring youth activity at all our facilities," Commissioner Gale Buckner said in a statement. The agency recently named a new director of the Augusta Youth Development Campus, which has been at the center of several investigations involving its staff after the beating death. Nine workers at the Augusta youth center have been fired since November. Two others were demoted and offered positions at different facilities. Source: http://www.ajc.com/news/former-juvenile-corrections-officer-1386082.html?cxtype=rss_news_82001

Boot camp operator charged with rape March 28, 2012 The operator of a camp for troubled youth already facing kidnapping and other charges from a 2011 incident was charged Wednesday with sexually assaulting two 14-year-old girls in 2004. Kelvin McFarland, 42, operator of Family 1st Growth Camp, is being held on $275,000 bail after pleading not guilty to five charges from the 2004 incidents, which did not occur in Pasadena, according to Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Carolina Lugo. Source: http://articles.pasadenasun.com/2012-03-28/the626now/31251155_1_boot-camp-pasadena-police-investigation-camp-for-troubled-youth Additional Coverage of this story is available at: http://articles.pasadenasun.com/2012-03-28/the626now/31251155_1_boot-camp-pasadena-police-investigation-camp-for-troubled-youth http://altadena.patch.com/articles/local-boot-camp-instructor-charged-with-sexual-assault-of-teen-girls http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/29/kelvin-mcfarland-charged_n_1387778.html http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2012/03/28/boot-camp-operator-charged-with-sexually-assaulting-teen-girls/

Body Bags and Child Torture: Mitt Romney's New Approach to Education _Become a Fan SAVE AS FAVORITE VIEW FAVORITES By Ruth Hull (about the author) Become a Fan (17 fans) -- Page 1 of 1 page(s) opednews.com Are body bags better than books for educating the next generation? Is vomit really proper food for teens? Should children be forced brush their teeth with toilet water? If you say, "Yes," Mitt Romney is the President for you. One wonders how it is that parents are rooked into spending $20,000 to $100,000 to place their kids in American Gulag Schools, such as World-Wide Association of Specialty Programs (WWASP, run by Robert Litchfield, Mitt Romney's former campaign finance director) or the Aspen Educational Group (run out of San Rafael, California as part of Mitt Romney's Bain Capital). No wonder Mitt Romney was hesitant to release his tax records. Before you vote in a Presidential election, you may want to research this issue for yourself. Representative George Miller (D-CA), former chairman of the House Committee of Education and Labor, had a hearing on the subject. Legislation passed the house, only to go nowhere in the Democratically-controlled U.S. Senate. Let's look at what came out in that hearing. This is a video from that official hearing you should see before you go to the polls. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkmGgH11Dmk&feature;=related The organization HEAL has put together a list of suspected and confirmed abusive behavior modification programs in the United States. _http://www.heal-online.org/childtortureusa.htm_ On this list are 19 facilities owned by Mitt Romney's Aspen Educational Group. There is another list of additional facilities that were closed down after the abuse or deaths came to the attention of investigators. An example of Mitt Romney's fine Aspen education is Mount Bachelor Academy in Oregon which was closed after an investigation revealed that students were required to engage in sexual rituals and other abuse. This was followed by more allegations of abuse from students and former students. See http://online.wsj.com/article/AP16c969450d924f65bf8ba47fd8c0869a.html Mt. Bachelor Academy is but one of many Romney's Aspen Education Group's child abuse locations. The deaths have been mounting. Will the families of Sergey Blashchishen (http://www.cafety.org/privately-funded-programs/794-media-release-sheriff-recommends-death-by-homicide-at-sagewalk-or-sagewalk) who died in an Aspen program in Oregon and Mathew Myer (http://www.heal-online.org/killer092509.pdf) who died in an Aspen program in Texas and families of other Aspen victims get a warm fuzzy feeling if Mitt is elected Commander-in-Chief. 16 year old Aaron Bacon claimed to be sick and Aspen accused him of faking his illness. After 30 days of this "fake" illness, Aaron succumbed to death. So, your kid blew chemistry and got a B last year? He is a family embarrassment who would be better fixed or eliminated.? Mitt Romney can help you. But how do you get your kid to an Aspen school? The NYRA and a variety of youth organizations have sounded the alarm to teens about Aspen and WWASP. Your son may not go willingly to his death. Don't worry. The bounty hunter in this video can escort your kid from his bedroom to the torture chamber in handcuffs, if necessary. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8VLEHQm9is The National Youth Rights Association has been speaking out against behavior modification schools for quite some time. Part of the trouble is that these schools are private and there is essentially no regulation of private schools. Read this article written by Natasha Hull-Richter during her tenure as President of the Orange County chapter of the National Youth Rights Association. WHO ARE WE? WHAT ARE WE? ARE WE HUMAN ENOUGH TO STOP AGE-RELATED TORTURE AND MURDER? http://creativeyouth.net/gulagschools.html One additional note involves the psychiatrists who send other people's children to die in these institutions. They should be thoroughly investigated and have their licenses removed. Then there are the parents who are willing to send their kids off on the advice of an outsider that it will fix their kids, who were probably broken by the parents in the first place. These parents and doctors should pay big bucks to any surviving children. There is no excuse for child abuse or torture. The police who refuse to take reports of child abuse should be fired without pensions. The District Attorneys, like Tony Rackauckas, who refuse to prosecute child abuse, should be barred from public office for life. The judges who refuse to take the needs of children into account in divorce proceedings should be thrown off the bench. The political parties (hint, hint: Democrat) who use children, while doing nothing to promote youth rights, should be ostracized by voters. Like women, children are treated as worthless slaves to be exploited in the American system. It's time this changed. One of the organizations that is working to change things is the National Youth Rights Association. I recommend everyone check it out. http://youthrights.org This leaves the question of whether the Republican Party is planning a serious challenge to Barack Obama. Romney's connection to these torture schools is fairly well known. Polls show that Ron Paul could beat Barack Obama. So why would the Republicans go with a candidate with such a strong weakness as Mitt Romney instead of choosing a likely victor in Ron Paul? Could it be that Romney is a token candidate preparing the way for four more years of Obama? Watch the polls for Obama's landslide on November 6, 2012. Source: http://www.opednews.com/articles/Body-Bags-and-Child-Tortur-by-Ruth-Hull-120419-192.html

Children in Solitary MAY 3, 2012 by Jean Casella and James Ridgeway This week, the The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry released a policy statement condemning the use of solitary confinement for juveniles. There is no comprehensive data on how many teens and even younger children are in solitary confinement in the United States, but it is safe to say that the number run into the thousands. Juveniles in adult prison often end up in solitary confinement, and isolation is widely used in juvenile facilities as well. On the ACLU “Blog of Rights” today, David Fathi, Director of the ACLU’s National Prison Project, puts the statement in context: As any parent knows, teenagers are different than adults. This common-sense observation is backed by hard scientific evidence; we know that an adolescent’s brain continues to grow and develop well into his or her twenties. The fact that teenagers’ brains are still developing makes them especially vulnerable to trauma of all kinds, including the trauma of social isolation and sensory deprivation. That’s why the leading American child psychiatry association just approved a policy statement opposing the use of solitary confinement in correctional facilities for juveniles. The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry represents over 7,500 child and adolescent psychiatrists and other interested physicians. This groundbreaking policy statement from adolescent psychiatry experts comes not a moment too soon. While recent settlements in ACLU lawsuits in Montana andMississippi include limits on solitary confinement for youth, the practice remains alarmingly widespread, with thousands of persons under 18 held in solitary on any given day, in juvenile facilities as well as in adult jails and prisons. I remember the first time I visited a 13-year-old boy in solitary in an adult prison – his voice hadn’t changed yet and he was too young to shave, but that didn’t save him from being locked alone in a cell for 23 hours a day. Solitary confinement can be harmful for people of any age, but it’s especially damaging to youth. The 17-year-old plaintiff in the ACLU’s Montana case tried to kill himself several times while in solitary confinement in an adult prison. And while youth in solitary are a relatively small percentage of the total population of juvenile facilities, they account for more than half of the suicides. Fortunately efforts are underway to end this inhumane and destructive practice. In California, Sen. Leland Yee introduced a bill to ban solitary confinement for juveniles except in the most exceptional circumstances. The bill attracted considerable support, but

eventually failed to pass out of committee. And in West Virginia, the Division of Juvenile Services recently announced a state-wide ban on the practice. Click here to read the rest, and to sign the ACLU's petition against solitary confinement. Source: http://solitarywatch.com/2012/05/03/children-in-solitary/

Kidnapping charge stems from 'boot camp' drug intervention May 10, 2012 02:58:30 PM ShareThis| Print Story | E-Mail Story By Todd R. Hansen/Colusa County Sun-Herald A Napa man was arrested after he reportedly took his 13-year-old grandson to Letts Lake in northwest Colusa County with the idea of getting him off drugs in a "boot camp" setting, the Colusa County Sheriff's Department reported. The reported victim "stated that he was accused of being on methamphetamine ... and stated he has never tried meth," sheriff's Lt. Shane Maxey said. The teen told investigators that his grandfather, Robin M. Jones, 64, and his father, Michael Jones, grabbed him from his sleep about 1 a.m. Tuesday, hog-tied him and then took him against his will to Letts Lake, Maxey said. The grandfather reportedly told other campers in the area that the teen was in "boot camp" under his custody, Maxey said. A U.S. Forest Service agent saw the boy and his grandfather arguing Wednesday, and stopped to see what the dispute was about. The teen told the agent he had been taken up to the lake from his Vallejo home against his will, Maxey said. The Colusa County Sheriff's Department was called about 3:30 p.m. The grandfather was arrested about 90 minutes later. Jones was booked into Colusa County Jail on suspicion of kidnapping, false imprisoment and child endangerment. Bail was set at $100,000. The boy, who lives with his father, was turned over to Child Protecive Services for release to family members, Maxey said. No charges have been brought against Michael Jones, said Maxey, but the investigation continues. Maxey is not sure why Letts Lake was chosen by Jones, but suspects he was familiar with the lake. Source: http://www.appeal-democrat.com/articles/grandson-116076-colusa-took.html#ixzz1ud8oU41x

Source: http://nky.cincinnati.com/article/ab/20120614/NEWS0103/306140136%26Ref=AR Report: Nonprofit's kids got wrong pills Enquirer Exclusive: State officials allege maltreatment at Campbell Lodge Boys' Home 12:48 AM, Jun. 15, 2012 Written by Jim Hannah A Northern Kentucky home for at-risk youths failed to consistently provide three meals a day, a bed and clean clothes to the boys living there while improperly dispensing psychotropic medications to its residents, according to an investigative report obtained by The Enquirer that was prepared by Kentucky's top social-service agency. Some of the children at the Campbell Lodge Boys' Home also told investigators the staff antagonized them, roughed them up and at times medicated them with other children's prescriptions, according to a statement of deficiencies presented to the home on June 5 by the Office of Inspector General of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. "It is apparent that the environment included cursing, intimidation, humiliation, unnecessarily rough handling and hitting," state investigators wrote in their report. What state investigators found at the sprawling 78-acre facility resulted in the removal of about 25 children, the layoff of about 50 employees and the firing of Executive Director Barry Jones. The home has no residents now but apparently hopes to resume operations if it satisfies state authorities it has fixed the problems. A spokesman for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services said the results of its investigation "speak for themselves" and declined to answer specific questions about what would happen next at the home, including whether a criminal investigation was in the offing. Lodge attorney Ben Dusing, a former federal prosecutor who conducted a parallel internal investigation, released a written statement on the findings. "By any standard, the ... investigations suggest that the (Lodge) has fallen short of its long-standing mission - that of helping our region's at-risk young men," Dusing said. "Of course, this is unacceptable. The deficiencies and conduct identified in both the state and internal investigations must be - and will be - addressed directly, transparently and fairly." He said the home has not lost its state child-care license. The home has operated on a bucolic hilltop overlooking the Ohio River since it was founded by a priest in 1958 as a residential alternative for neglected or dependent boys ages 10 to 18. An independent board now operates the home that houses an average of 74 children over a year. It receives about $1.2 million in tax dollars annually, 76 percent of the nonprofit's budget. Jones, who earned $96,652 per year, referred all questions to his attorney, Walter Hornbeck. "During Mr. Jones' tenure as executive director of Campbell Lodge Boys' Home, he maintained the highest professional standards," Hornbeck said in a written statement. "As executive director he administered Campbell Lodge Home in compliance with all state statutes and administrative regulations and in accordance with the policies, procedures and directives of its board." Dusing said Jones was "removed" from his job after the state investigation found that the "significant problems" were the result of "noncompliance with internal policies and procedures, as well as instances of mismanagement." Some of the most serious findings involve the mishandling, mislabeling and improper dispensing of prescription medications. Children reported learning how to swallow their medications with no water to avoid drinking from a communal cup that one described as "nasty." One home staff member told inspectors he was ordered to give another child's attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder medication to a resident who began "acting out," according to the state investigation. The staff member admitted making handwritten labels with the child's name and dosage instructions even through the pills were not the same strength as prescribed. When state investigators looked in the home's medicine cabinet, they found two different strengths of the antidepressant Citalopram in the same bottle. Medical documentation, along with prescription pills, was dumped in a trash can that children emptied, in violation of numerous regulations and the federal health privacy act, investigators found. Investigators also observed another common complaint they heard from the children: They were not getting three balanced meals a day. The children reported they would be given a cereal bar or chips to take with their morning medications, but not served a meal that met the nutritional guidelines of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The majority of the staff and children interviewed confirmed that it was common for residents to sleep on mattresses on the floor or on a sofa. While both those practices violate state regulations, the staff told investigators it was done because children feared the dark or their roommates. Other people began to notice that the children might not have been receiving proper care. State investigators found a email written by a public school teacher begging the home to give her student a clean shirt so he would quit trying to wear it inside out to prevent other students from picking on him. The maltreatment would agitate the children, but when they acted out, they were roughed up, state investigators found. The children reported that staff members would restrain them so harshly they would cry, get carpet burns and black eyes. "Based on case record review and interviews, it was determined that the facility failed to create an atmosphere conducive to treatment, as required by the regulation," investigators wrote. In one incident, a child reported that when he threatened to run away, the staff antagonized him by saying they would give him an hour head start. Another child said the "staff always has an attitude" and "gets 'smart' with the kids." One child said a staff member constantly harassed him about his weight. At one point, someone filed a police report on the home for endangering the welfare of a minor, the state investigator said. A copy of the police report was not provided to The Enquirer. Investigators attempted to follow up on reports of staff using arm locks and choking but found no "specific documentations" on the incidents. Children would complain to home officials about their care, state investigators found, but nothing was done. One child reported hearing a staff member saying, "They will cover each other up." Another child called the grievance form "a waste of paper."

Wednesday, Jul 18, 2012 11:45 AM UTC Dark side of a Bain success A for-profit health company bought by Bain -- that Romney profits from -- has exploded in size and tales of neglect By Art Levine Clockwise from top left: Brendan Blum, Sergey Blashchishen, Matthew Meyer and Lindsey Poteet. Aspen Education already faced a wrongful death lawsuit over Meyer when Bain and CRC Health Group bought the company in 2006. Six deaths since the takeover, including Blum, Blashchishen and Poteet, have generated either lawsuits or complaints of neglect. It seemed a world away from the executive suites of Bain Capital when Dana Blum, a recent widow living in Portland, Ore., made the fateful decision to send her son Brendan to Youth Care, a residential program for troubled teens located in the suburbs of Salt Lake City. Brendan, a 14-year-old boy with Asperger's syndrome, had been extremely aggressive for years; he was even arrested a few times after attacking members of his family. Local therapists hadn't helped, and six months after her husband died, Dana was frantically casting about for solutions. A consultation with UCLA's neuropsychiatric unit convinced her that Youth Care's therapeutic and educational program would finally make a difference. Four months into his stay there, Brendan had earned a reputation as a temper-prone student who tried to shirk his obligations. So on the afternoon of June 27, when he complained to medical staff that he felt very sick, as if something were "crawling around" in his stomach, his concerns were dismissed. After 11 p.m., he woke up, complaining of stomach pain, and defecated in his pants. The on-duty monitors took him to the Purple Room, a makeshift isolation room used to segregate misbehaving students. There, he suffered a long night of agony, howling in pain and repeatedly vomiting and soiling himself. According to court transcripts and police reports, the two poorly paid monitors on duty did little more than offer him water, Sprite and Pepto-Bismol. They never telephoned the on-call nurse and waited until nearly 2 a.m. to contact the on-call supervisor, only to leave a voicemail. There was little else they felt they could do — Youth Care's protocol on emergency services meant they were too low on the totem pole to call 911 themselves. "They didn't trust our judgment in emergency situations," explains Josh Randall, a former Youth Care residential monitor, who wasn't on duty that night. "If you're working for $9.50 an hour on the graveyard shift, you don't want to buck the system." At any rate, the monitors had little expertise in how to respond — it was an entry-level job requiring only a GED, plus a CPR and safety course overseen by Youth Care itself. When the morning staff arrived at 7 a.m., they discovered Brendan facedown on the floor of the Purple Room, his body already stiff with rigor mortis. The state's chief medical examiner later determined that Blum had died of a twisted-bowel infarction, which requires emergency surgical intervention. "It made me very angry that they couldn't provide better emergency services for my son," Dana Blum told the online magazine Momlogic. "I feel like he was murdered" — although, in fact, no court has ever found Aspen or its staffers guilty of murder. Blum, who, with the help of insurance and school district aid, paid Youth Care $15,000 a month to care for her son, made those remarks in 2009; she can no longer speak publicly about Brendan's death, according to the terms of a settlement she reached last year in a wrongful death lawsuit against Youth Care and its parent company, Aspen Education. The failure at Youth Care was not due simply to the carelessness of a few workers — a point underscored when a Utah court found that the threshold needed to pursue criminal negligence charges against the two monitors in 2008 wasn't met and the charges were dismissed. And it wasn't the only example of alleged negligence or

abuse at treatment centers for adult addicts and "troubled teens" that are owned by Aspen's parent company, CRC Health Group, according to a Salon investigation based on government reports, court filings and official complaints by parents and employees, along with interviews with former clients and staff. Our investigation found previously unreported allegations of abuse and neglect in at least 10 CRC residential drug and teen care facilities across the country, including three I visited undercover in Utah and California. With rare exceptions, such incidents have largely escaped notice because the programs are, thanks to lax state regulations, largely unaccountable. Court documents and ex-staffers also allege that such incidents reflect, in part, a broader corporate culture at Aspen's owner, CRC Health Group, a leading national chain of treatment centers. Lawsuits and critics have claimed that CRC prizes profits, and the avoidance of outside scrutiny, over the health and safety of its clients. (We sent specific questions on these basic allegations to CRC and owner Bain Capital. CRC would answer only general questions; Bain did not reply.) And CRC's corporate culture, in turn, reflects the attitudes and financial imperatives of Bain Capital, the private equity firm founded by Mitt Romney. (The Romney campaign also did not reply to written questions.) Bain is known for its relentless obsession with maximizing shareholder value and revenues. Indeed, this has become a talking point of late on the Romney campaign trail; he bragged to Fox in late May that "80 percent of them [Bain investments] grew their revenues." CRC, a fast-growing company then in the lucrative field of drug treatment, was perhaps a natural fit when Bain acquired it for $720 million in 2006. In conversations with staff and patients who spent time at CRC facilities since the takeover, there are suggestions that the Bain approach has had its effects. "If you look at their daily profit numbers compared to what they charge," Dana Blum said of CRC's Aspen division in 2009, "it's obscene." That point, ironically enough, was underscored by the glowing reports in the trade press about its profitability. The purchase of CRC came seven years after Romney publicly announced his retirement as CEO of Bain Capital, where he had been in charge since its founding in 1984. But at the time of his departure, Romney worked out an arrangement to continue to share in Bain's profits as a limited partner in the firm. Today, he is still an investor in 48 Bain accounts. Though he has refused to disclose their underlying assets, some information about them can be gleaned. For example, he has reported at least $300,000 to $1.2 million, if not more, in fluctuating annual earnings from Bain Capital VIII, the convoluted $3.5 billion array of related funds that owns both name-brand companies such as Dunkin' Donuts and the lesser-known CRC Health Group. Most of these funds were made more attractive to privileged investors by being registered in the Cayman Islands tax haven. And Romney's connections to CRC run even deeper: Of the three Bain managing partners who sit on CRC's board, two, John Connaughton and Steven Barnes (with his wife), gave a total of half a million dollars to Restore Our Future, the super PAC supporting Romney. They also each donated the $2,500 maximum directly to his campaign. Bain takes over When Bain purchased CRC, it looked like an investment masterstroke. The company, founded in the mid-'90s with a single California treatment facility, the Camp Recovery Center, had quickly grown into the largest chain of for-profit drug and alcohol treatment services in the country, with $230 million in annual revenue. Under Bain's guidance, its revenue has nearly doubled, to more than $450 million. CRC now serves 30,000 clients daily — mostly opiate addicts — at 140 facilities across 25 states. In the first five years after its acquisition, Bain had already extracted nearly $20 million in management-related fees from the chain, although Bain investors haven't cashed in yet through dividends or an IPO. Bain's purchase, a leveraged buyout, also saddled CRC with massive debt of well over $600 million. According to company executives and independent analysts, hands-on oversight of subsidiary companies is a hallmark of both Bain and CRC. Romney's campaign literature boasts about Bain taking exactly this sort of direct role in helping to turn around failing companies. "Over the life of an investment, they have a strong management team willing to participate," Sheryl Skolnick, an analyst with CRT Capital, a leading institutional brokerage firm, says of Bain. The CRC acquisition immediately made Bain owner of the largest collection of addiction treatment facilities in the nation. Unlike some Bain Capital acquisitions, which led to massive layoffs, the company's approach with CRC was to boost revenues by gobbling up other treatment centers, raising fees, and expanding its client base through slick, aggressive marketing, while keeping staffing and other costs relatively low. But that rapid pace of acquisition couldn't be sustained in the mostly small-scale drug treatment industry alone. So Bain Capital and CRC set their sights on an entirely new treatment arena: the multibillion-dollar "troubled teen" industry, a burgeoning field of mostly locally owned residential schools and wilderness programs then serving, nationwide, about 100,000 kids facing addiction or emotional or behavioral problems. One of CRC's first acquisitions under Bain ownership was the Aspen Education Group. Founded in 1998 with about six schools, Aspen Education had expanded to 30 troubled-teen and weight-loss programs by 2006, including Youth Care of Utah. With Bain's backing, CRC purchased Aspen for nearly $300 million in the fall of 2006. Less than a year later, Brendan Blum was dead. At the time of the CRC acquisition, Aspen already had a history of abuse allegations, including at least three lawsuits, and two known patient deaths, one by suicide. Featured on "Dr. Phil," it grew out of schools inspired by the "tough-love" behavior-modification approach of the discredited Synanon program, which was eventually exposed as a cult. By 2006, Aspen was facing a wrongful death lawsuit, later settled, over an incident in 2004 in which a 14-year-old boy, Matthew Meyer, perished from heat stroke just eight days into his stay at its Lone Star Expeditions wilderness camp in Texas. Nevertheless, less than a year after Meyer died, NBC's "Dateline" extolled Lone Star as part of a puff piece on Aspen's success with overweight teens. As an Aspen press release boasted, the show told how a rebellious student who did a stint at Lone Star "returned a month later with a new outlook on life." In October 2006, just nine months before Brendan Blum died and as Bain's deal to purchase Aspen Education was being finalized, CRC received a far less upbeat assessment of Aspen's services. Following some phone conversations, family therapist Elisabeth Feldman walked into CRC's Cupertino, Calif., headquarters to see Dr. Thomas Brady, a psychiatrist then serving as CRC's chief medical officer, in order to confront him about a host of issues at Youth Care. She had stumbled upon the problems while trying to help her son's former girlfriend, a teenage girl who had suffered what Feldman called "gross mistreatment" at Youth Care. Of particular concern to Feldman was a three-month delay before Youth Care hired a psychiatrist to assess the young woman's deep depression and a failure to treat her Lyme disease. Feldman's ultimately unsuccessful crusade to get the woman released had led her to seek the services of a Salt Lake City lawyer, Thomas Burton, who had settled two lawsuits against Aspen Education for fraud, neglect and abuse. Feldman had been part of Brady's professional referral network for years, but this visit wasn't congenial. Feldman presented Brady with a 100-page sheaf of legal and corporate documents — including her affidavit describing "brutish punishment and isolation" at Youth Care — about Aspen Education programs in order to help support her charges of abusive treatment and neglect. These claims included reportedly covering up the alleged sexual assault of a female student by an Aspen employee at Turn-About Ranch in Utah; the girl was later duct-taped and restrained by staff, a former employee, Toni Thayer, told Feldman, after writing complaints about abusive staff conduct to management, state regulators and the Garfield County sheriff in 2004 — but no sanctions followed. (Subsequently, a lawsuit filed in June 2012 charged that staffers at the ranch engaged in the "torture" of a 15-year-old girl in 2005.) According to Feldman, Brady said he wasn't aware of any problems at Youth Care or Aspen Education and sought to mollify her about Bain's pending purchase of Aspen: "I have to trust that Bain did their due diligence," she recalls him saying. Dr. Brady confirmed, by email, that he spoke on the phone and met with Feldman, but said he has "no recollection" of making those remarks. And he insists that the documents she brought didn't support her claims of mistreatment. Even so, he says he took her concerns seriously and that CRC and Aspen conducted a thorough review. "I came to the conclusion," he said, "there was no merit to the accusations." He remained as CRC's medical director until May 2009 and said that although he encountered a few "untoward event" cases at Aspen during his time there, he saw no "pattern" of unsafe care. At any rate, Bain's purchase of Aspen Education went ahead smoothly. When, months later, Feldman learned about Blum's death, she was horrified to realize her warnings had had no effect. "For Bain and the big guys, nobody cared," she says. "It was all about the money." Questionable deaths When he died, Brendan Blum's was the first publicly reported death due to apparent neglect in CRC's 12-year history. But in the six years since Bain Capital acquired the company, there have been at least five more seemingly preventable deaths of patients at CRC's residential programs. Since the Bain takeover, critics and former employees charge that corporate attitudes have too often emphasized cutting costs and limiting public scrutiny at the expense of safety and quality of care. These tendencies appear to have produced risky, potentially life-threatening practices — only a handful of which have drawn public attention. Several lawsuits have been filed against CRC over mistreatment of its clients, but the company has never acknowledged any wrongdoing and has kept confidential any damage payments arising from legal settlements. CRC is a significant player in the scandal-prone, decentralized field of residential teen treatment that has more than 1,000 scattered facilities; the firm has nearly 36 therapeutic schools, wilderness sites and weight-loss programs catering to youth. The latest lawsuit over CRC's current practices was filed in January against CRC's prestigious $40,000-a-month Sierra Tucson drug treatment center in Arizona, for the allegedly poor monitoring and treatment of what the lawsuit says was an obviously suicidal 71-year-old patient, Dr. Edward Litwack; the center's own staff had assessed him as a "high" risk for suicide, requiring one-on-one supervision. He was reported missing last August, but it took two weeks for the staff to find his corpse on the grounds. Last October, after an investigation by Arizona regulators following Litwack's disappearance found 42 major violations, the center was put on one-year probation. The regulators found that ill-trained monitors spent too much time patrolling on golf carts rather than actually interacting with patients. CRC had purchased Sierra Tucson in 2005 for $130 million as its "crown jewel" shortly before plans to sell CRC to Bain were announced. "Then the business side started controlling admissions," says a former employee, who worked at Sierra Tucson before and after the CRC acquisition. "It doesn't take a brain scientist to realize that if you reduce staff [in key programs] and add sicker patients, there's going to be trouble." With the addition of a new 44-bed lodge in 2007, staff at Sierra Tucson was stretched thin, former staffers say; by 2009, a state licensing office fined the facility for having insufficient staff to prevent high-risk patients from wandering off. Other incidents suggest a corporate culture that often downplayed safety and quality of care. In 2010, at least two drug treatment patients died at the overcrowded New Life Lodge in Burns, Tenn., according to wrongful death lawsuits and an investigative series in the Tennessean. According to an account in the Tennessean, based on public records and interviews with people at New Life Lodge, one of the patients, a 29-year-old mother named Lindsey Poteet, had come down with pneumonia and was drifting into unconsciousness when she was driven in a private van to a Nashville hospital 30 miles away. The journey was undertaken on orders of the facility's medical director, although another hospital lay just eight miles down the road. Poteet stopped breathing en route and died the next day in Nashville. The other, Patrick Bryant, died on his 20th birthday just four days after being admitted to New Life; his mother alleges that he'd been misprescribed several

medications and had been unresponsive for hours before being discovered by staff. A third patient, 18-year-old Savon Kinney, died last October just days after leaving New Life in a state of disorientation, his sister told the newspaper; his death sparked a state investigation. After the Tennessean series appeared last summer and fall, the state's Department of Mental Health froze all new admissions to the facility. (It was finally allowed to admit a smaller number of new patients in early April.) One former patient, Malea Fox, who had befriended Poteet at New Life, told me that she called state Medicaid (also known as TennCare), the facility's primary funder, to complain that the facility was far too overcrowded for personalized care. "All they [New Life] care about is making money," she said. In 2009, the state of Oregon forced the closing of two teen programs run by Aspen Education. State investigators found nine cases of abuse and neglect at Mount Bachelor Academy in central Oregon, including incidents of "sexualized role play," in which young patients were allegedly forced to do lap dances during therapy sessions. After Mount Bachelor and its director threatened costly lawsuits, the state's Department of Human Services softened the language of the report; CRC claims the allegations were false (while also fighting $37 million in abuse lawsuits over the school's pre-CRC practices). Even so, DHS "stands by our findings," a spokesman says of the 2009 report. That same year, at SageWalk Wilderness School in Hampton, Ore., 16-year-old Sergey Blashchishen died of heatstroke on his very first school hike, in an incident eerily reminiscent of Matthew Meyer's 2004 death in Texas. One morning in August, Blashchishen suited up in an 80-pound backpack; by afternoon, the heat had topped 80 degrees, and he was soon staggering, drifting off the trail, and complaining of dizziness and exhaustion. Staffers contended he was faking his symptoms and failed to call 911 until his pulse had stopped; that death is the focus of a negligent homicide investigation. To CRC officials, the lawsuits, criminal investigations and state sanctions all come in response to isolated events, aren't "systemic," and shouldn't reflect on the dedication and quality of a large company serving 30,000 trouble-prone teens and substance abusers each day. The company declined to respond to a memo outlining allegations made by alumni, parents and former employees about questionable practices at specific programs, citing a legal requirement to protect patient confidentiality. But a public relations consultant, Robert Weiner, who works closely with CRC and its most prominent board member, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, President Bill Clinton's drug czar, did respond in general terms in a phone interview: "The people you cited can whine all they want, but that's just a bunch of specifics we can't talk about compared to 30,000 people a day we're making better lives for." "In a human-run company there will be human errors in some cases," he added. "But in other cases, it's garbage." In a December 2011 press release in response to the Tennessean series, CRC vice president Jonathan Ciampi disputed criticism of CRC over the reported deaths, citing positive surveys of parents and clients, and certification by government regulators and accrediting agencies. "Safety and quality are our highest priorities." And in a conference call last fall for investors, CRC's new CEO, Andrew Eckert, discounted the developments in Tennessee as merely "unwelcomed bumps in the road." In fact, later in the call he claimed that "CRC is in the process of staking its ground as the definitive leader in clinical excellence." Camp recovery: More patients, more revenue Such claims of excellence do not seem to have pierced the canopy of the Santa Cruz redwoods, home to Camp Recovery, the first drug treatment facility CRC purchased in the mid-'90s. Nestled on 25 hilly acres in Scotts Valley, Calif., Camp Recovery is an idyllic setting for recovery for as many as 70 adults and teens at a time. Yet after Bain purchased CRC in 2006, according to former employees, safety and quality eroded, while state agencies periodically reported increasingly more troublesome findings after 2006 regarding conditions at the camp. "It got progressively worse," says Tom Corral, a counselor who was employed there before CRC bought Camp Recovery and worked there on occasion after the Bain takeover. Meanwhile, prices were steadily jacked up from about $6,000 a month to as high as $18,000. Under Bain ownership, Corral says, "they've been under a lot of pressure to cut costs, and they've been squeezed for profit." What most alarmed Corral and other former employees was that ever sicker and more mentally disturbed patients kept being admitted. The governing view, Corral recalls, was, "You've got to keep them at all costs." Camp Recovery is registered with the state as a nonmedical facility, and so patients needing intensive medical or psychiatric care should be referred elsewhere. But such restrictions soon collapsed, say former staffers, in a drive for profits. "Certified nurses were reprimanded when we complained to the intake office," says one former nurse. "When I didn't want to admit a person who was falling down drunk, they wrote me up." Former staffers say that Camp Recovery's business staff even began to pressure nurses to knowingly admit patients with potentially deadly MRSA infections, which, the CDC warns, may require treatment by an infectious disease specialist. Shawn Bottoroff, a former clinical technician who left Camp Recovery last year, said that when she started in 2007, nurses were primarily responsible for determining who was stable enough for admission. But they were soon overridden by camp administrators seeking to rope in more clients, Bottoroff and other former workers say. To Denise Murphy, a former director of the camp's adolescent unit, the decline became especially noticeable in 2008, when a new executive director took over, Bobby Stearns, hand-picked by CRC, who was determined, according to complaints to the NLRB, to crush a unionization drive and keep down costs. "It was so dangerous there, they're lucky they didn't get sued," Murphy says. According to complaints made by staff at the time to the now-reorganized California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, CRC cut back on everything from drug-testing kits to staffing levels. In a 2009 interview, Stearns said any staff cuts were due to declining patient numbers. But eventually, the Department of Social Services, which has oversight over the facility's 17-bed adolescent unit, confirmed that caseloads had soared and kids ran wild at night. The agency demanded corrective actions — improvements that former employees say were in large part ultimately abandoned. Equally troubling, former staffers report a pattern that echoes the events surrounding the deaths of Brendan Blum and Lindsey Poteet at other CRC facilities: When patients face a medical crisis, ambulances are usually not summoned. Instead, "techs," whose emergency training, the former employees say, is generally limited to a two-hour CPR course, are ordered by supervisors to use a van lacking medical equipment to drive patients to the emergency room in nearby Santa Cruz. The tactic, say former employees, helps prevent the facility from being flagged in the 911 system, risking unwelcome attention from state or local officials. The administrative resistance to calling 911 was so pronounced that when one overmedicated, mentally disturbed patient fled the facility in hysterics one summer day in 2008, she was left to lie on the road outside the gate, screaming for help before collapsing into convulsions. One camp executive told staff on duty at the time, "Leave her alone. We don't want to make a scene," according to Bottoroff and other former staffers. It was left to neighbors to call 911. Nevertheless, the camp still makes more emergency calls than any comparable facility in the Santa Cruz area, according to addiction and ER doctors who reviewed 911 log data we obtained — perhaps a measure of just how ill many of the patients are at this nonmedical facility. That log showed 158 calls between January 2008 and August 2011. "That's a lot of calls," a local government official says. "It ought to be investigated." Logged 911 calls represent only a small portion of total ER visits, the official observes, because it doesn't account for people who arrive by other means. Camp Recovery's drive for secrecy was especially pronounced when it came to potential instances of sexual misconduct, violence or drug use among the adolescents in treatment, former staffers say. "There were several situations in which we were told by the director of the adolescent unit, per [current executive director] James Bailey, not to call 911," says Bottoroff. Former staffers speak of wild nighttime teen assaults on weaker youth or even staff, and recount hushed-up incidents of underage girls having sex with adult male patients at their cabins. "They were trading favors for cigarettes and alcohol," Bottoroff says of one such incident she encountered. In almost all such cases of on-site crime, according to an employee complaint to state regulators, the orders handed down from Stearns, the former executive director, in 2009 were clear: "We don't contact the police." State investigators were rarely able confirm the most serious employee allegations on the few occasions when they bothered to investigate, a review of state reports shows. But this could be due to efforts by managers to cover their tracks. Trevor Bottoroff, a former Camp Recovery counselor and Shawn's husband, says that sometimes managers would rewrite log sheets to make them seem more benign. At other times, supervisors would simply remove them. Murphy, the camp's former adolescent director, came to see CRC as "the slumlords of treatment." Other evasions are commonplace at Camp Recovery. The camp openly advertises that it offers prescription-based medical detox, though it is not licensed as a medical facility to do so. A failure of oversight But such complaints against CRC have rarely led to consequences for either their drug treatment or youth programs. The troubled teen industry in particular is a regulatory Wild West, with some states lacking any licensing system at all for these residential programs. Even some states that do license, such as Utah, appear unable to guarantee patient safety: about 10 young people are known to have died since 1990 while attending Utah residential and wilderness programs. Regulators often shield the teen care industry from genuine scrutiny, according to investigations by the GAO, congressional hearings in 2007 and 2008, and reports by such mental health advocates as the Bazelon Center and Mental Health America. In California, regulation of drug treatment facilities appears especially ineffective. California's Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, for example, has never investigated the deaths of nearly 200 patients over five years at CRC's 12 outpatient methadone clinics. Mostly likely, addiction experts say, the clients' rampant substance abuse is the culprit, not sloppy practices at CRC, but that supposition has not been rigorously tested. In fact, Pennsylvania regulators cited two of CRC's methadone clinics for failing to properly screen patients for drugs or narcotic use, a potentially deadly oversight. Weiner, the CRC spokesperson, said that CRC itself would doubtless look into any client deaths: "At least somebody's going to wonder why they didn't come in for their treatment the next day." "The programs have experienced the reality that there are no consequences if anyone dies," says a knowledgeable ex-government official about California's drug programs, including CRC's methadone clinics, which have become the chain's cash cow. With nearly 27,000 daily clients nationwide at 54 outpatient clinics, CRC founder Barry Karlin was dubbed by Treatment magazine "America's Methadone King." Loose oversight seems to have been critical in enabling CRC to flourish. It's hard to imagine, in particular, that without the scandalously weak monitoring of the teen treatment industry CRC's Aspen division would be able to continue its harshly regimented, unproven behavior-modification methods and dicey emergency protocols. "Without regulations and enforcement, this profitable industry will continue to have actors that present unacceptable risks to the children they serve," U.S. Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., said last year when introducing a federal oversight bill. A culture of abuse and neglect? This apparent lack of oversight in the teen industry, combined with a widespread view by providers that their charges are manipulative troublemakers, has allowed a toxic culture of psychological abuse and medical neglect to prevail, according to parents, alumni and federal officials. As Greg Kutz, a GAO investigator, said in testimony about the industry in general before Congress, "It seemed that the only way program managers would believe they [the students] were not faking it is if they stopped breathing or did not have a pulse." That culture is visible even at Aspen's most upscale residential programs, such as Island View in suburban Syracuse, Utah. One former student there, Colleen Davidson, now 20, who graduated from

the program in 2009, recalls her alarm when she coughed up blood one morning as she stood at the bathroom sink. She says she was never allowed to see a doctor because by the time the nurse wandered by a few hours later, another student had rinsed the blood from the sink. “They assume you’re lying,” she says. For months, CRC denied me press access to any of its facilities, so I visited Island View last August posing as a father of a troubled girl. During that visit, director Laura Burt confirmed this skeptical stance toward potential medical emergencies. She said the nursing staff would see my daughter immediately in case of a medical crisis but would monitor her if they suspected fakery: “We’re not going to rush her to the hospital if she’s just saying that and there is nothing that says it.” In March 2008, Duane Bernard rescued his son Matthew, then 16, from another Aspen program, Adirondack Leadership Expedition in Saranac Lake, N.Y., after gleaning from one of his son’s monitored letters the brutal conditions he was enduring. Matthew, who was sent to Adirondack by his mother during a custody dispute, later told his father of food deprivation, neglect of serious medical complaints, and cruel taunting by instructors, including an incident when field staff pressured one kid to lick clean a urine-soaked cup. Medical neglect, Duane Bernard says, was ingrained in Adirondack’s get-tough “wilderness therapy.” Father and son say that during Matthew’s monthlong stay, he was required to go camping in subfreezing weather with too-thin clothing and sleeping gear, and he soon developed severe numbness and frostbite in his right foot. But he wasn’t taken to an urgent care facility until shortly before his release and required eight months of medical treatment afterward. Duane Bernard wrote in April 2008 to state officials alleging child abuse, enclosing Matthew’s written descriptions of his alleged maltreatment, but the state’s child protection agency said it had no jurisdiction over Adirondack. “They blew us off,” Bernard says. I heard Matthew’s experience echoed in conversation after conversation with Aspen alums, many of whom suffer nightmares and PTSD-like symptoms. Hannah Sangillo of Bethesda, Md., now 19, ended up at SUWS of the Carolinas, Aspen’s showcase wilderness program in North Carolina’s breathtaking Pisgah National Forest, in 2010. She now considers her 49-day summer stay “child abuse.” She recounts one of several instances of heat exhaustion she experienced during hours-long hikes designed to promote self-reliance and personal growth. Even on scorching, humid days, when temperatures soared into the mid-90s, groups of girls were saddled with 60-pound-plus packs, exceeding Girl Scout safety guidelines. “I was not able to walk straight,” she says of one incident. “I was stumbling and sweating profusely. I kept telling people I needed to stop and they said: ‘No, we can’t stop yet.’” She temporarily blacked out, only to be dragged to her feet by fellow campers and prodded along the trail at the urging of what SUWS calls its “highly trained” field instructors. By the end of the summer ordeal, nearly half of her small team of girls had collapsed during hikes, she says, without receiving any medical attention. Throughout their time there, neither Sangillo nor Hannah Spungen, a 2007 SUWS graduate, ever saw a single staffer actually help young residents with medical problems. These included everything from heroin withdrawal to all-night vomiting caused by drinking from fecal-contaminated streams during their daily hikes. Before I interviewed the two alumni, I met with Shawn Farrell, executive director of SUWS of the Carolinas, who insisted to me that emergency care is a top priority. (Subsequently, CRC declined to answer any questions about allegations of medical neglect at this SUWS program. Shawn Farrell, the executive director of SUWS of the Carolinas, insisted to me that emergency care is a top priority. He says field staff are instructed to radio in symptoms of any injuries or illness immediately to the base camp’s field medic and, if needed, arrange transport to a hospital only eight miles away. “We want the doctors to do the diagnosis,” not the outdoors staff, he says. But this policy appears to falls apart in the execution. In Spungen’s experience, “There’s no protocol in place to make sure it’s safe for you.” These incidents seem to illuminate an institutional culture that allowed Sergey Blashchishen to die in 2009 before ever receiving emergency medical aid. As one government investigator told me about the field instructors at SageWalk, where Blashchishen died, “They were highly trained, but the culture overrode that.” The SageWalk Field Instructor Manual — like other Aspen manuals, vetted by CRC, according to a former CRC official — requires staff to go through a rigid “chain of command” before emergency help can be summoned. “There are inherent delays in a system like this,” the investigator observed. CRC spokesman Weiner defended those procedures: “If there’s a [medical] issue they should go to the top supervisors,” he said. “I don’t see how that’s wrong to make sure you’re doing the right thing. That’s why they’re not the boss.” Yet Weiner also insisted that CRC is “aware of complaints and problems at Aspen and wants to make sure it has the best practices possible.” To that end, he pointed to a recent initiative by CRC to ensure that all its teen programs are certified by two leading accrediting agencies, CARF (the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) and a body known as the Joint Commission, a 60-year-old industry-funded nonprofit that accredits thousands of health care programs in the United States. This is perhaps of scant comfort, given that members of Congress harshly criticized the Joint Commission in the wake of revelations of medical negligence at Walter Reed and other Joint Commission–accredited hospitals. Moreover, many facilities in one of the most notorious chains in the teen treatment field, Straight Inc., were approved by accrediting agencies, including the Joint Commission, until they shut down in the wake of lawsuits and state action. Some maintained their high ratings even after Straight Inc. and several of its spinoffs were hit by state investigations and at least 90 lawsuits alleging abuse. No turnaround from the turnaround experts Despite the accumulating lawsuits, state investigations and even criminal inquiries, Bain Capital has yet to force a major shake-up in the culture or leadership of CRC. Aspen co-founder Elliot Sainer and CRC CEO Barry Karlin remained in their executive posts until they retired in 2007 and 2010, respectively. Both now serve on the CRC board of directors. Trina Packard, the executive in charge at Youth Care when Brendan Blum died, remains in her post to this day. Rather than instituting reforms, CRC seems to have responded to the series of lawsuits, in part, by requiring parents to sign elaborate contracts that feature sweeping “hold harmless” clauses even in the case of death. “This is a business-driven model: caveat emptor,” one Utah Education Department official conceded on background. The contracts leave parents like Julie Scheule, a Wisconsin mom, with little recourse when they suspect deception or abuse. In 2007, she sent her daughter, then 15, to an Aspen facility in Utah, since closed, called Aspen Ranch. Aspen, she now charges, “abused parental trust, abused our bank account, and abused the kids in their care.” She had a change of heart when she realized she was being hit with thousands of dollars in extra costs and flew to the ranch to remove her daughter. She recalls her daughter hugging her, trembling, and saying, “Please mama, take me out of here.” Aspen uses what the teen treatment industry calls a “levels” model that grants more privileges and freedoms as students follow the rules, but imposes sanctions of varying severity on those who slip up or disobey. Punishments were more often psychological than physical. According to former students, emotionally brutal isolation punishments and peer-driven encounter “therapies” were commonly employed to break down resistance, especially at Island View. For Colleen Davidson, the former student there who coughed up blood, the worst part was when students were prodded to confront each other about real or fabricated transgressions in harsh encounter sessions. (In fact, she says, they were very similar to the group therapies cited in the June “torture” lawsuit against Turn-About Ranch.) The sessions were so terrifying that girls resorted to desperate measures to avoid attending, according to Davidson. She recalls that some girls choked themselves to induce fainting; one rubbed feces in her own eyes to cause an infection. “They break you down, but they don’t really build you back up,” she says of the Island View approach. “I have nightmares from it, and the memories are really awful.” The no-data zone CRC declined to address any program-specific allegations. A company spokesperson, Kristen Hayes, instead summed up the company’s approach in a written statement: “Our mission is to bring best practices to our industry in clinical excellence and quality patient care,” she wrote by email. “Our comprehensive risk and compliance protocols help to ensure the delivery of the safest, proven treatment processes.” CRC has said that its teen care programs are based on recognized and evidence-based programs, including one called contingency management. But critics suggest that the approach as actually applied by Aspen is inconsistent with contingency management — which emphasizes primarily positive reinforcement — while alumni and lawsuits filed over the years by parents of former teen patients describe instead a distorted atmosphere of terror and punishment that undercuts their possible utility. But there are virtually no independent, well-designed, peer-reviewed studies showing that any residential programs for troubled teens actually work — and none at all for the behavior-modification approaches employed by Aspen. Research funded by the Department of Justice and a literature review by the NIH both found, in the context of youth violence and crime prevention, that get-tough, discipline-based approaches generally do more harm than good. Shy of evidence, CRC’s PR machine offers up testimonials from pleased parents and CRC-funded surveys of parents and students that report positive outcomes. Hayes put me in touch with one of these parents, the mother of a self-destructive, drug-abusing 15-year-old son whom she sent to Island View, the Aspen program Colleen Davidson attended, after other treatments had failed. “I didn’t want to stand around and wait for my child to die,” she says bluntly. Enrolling him in Aspen, she says, was the turning point. “I wish all kids were as lucky as my son,” she says. And what can’t be washed away by good PR can always be described as an unavoidable tragedy. At Youth Care of Utah, admissions counselor Claire Roberts offered up this sort of soft-focus gloss when she told me about the death of Brendan Blum. “It was very traumatizing for us,” she said. Then she added philosophically, “These things happen.” No plausible deniability Mitt Romney may not know the details of Brendan Blum’s death, but it is difficult to imagine he wouldn’t be aware of the troubles facing CRC and the residential teen-treatment industry as a whole. Not only are two of his major campaign donors, Connaughton and Barnes, on CRC’s board, but two of his key advisors, Robert Lichfield and Mel Sembler, faced firestorms after allegations of abuse emerged regarding their own residential treatment chains. Meanwhile, Ann Romney has said that she would make helping troubled teens a top priority as first lady. And CRC is roaring ahead with an expanded sales force; Eckert, the CEO, told investors in May, “We now have [sales] coverage in every major metropolitan area in the United States.” The Romney campaign did not respond to queries about his investment in CRC. But candidate Romney has been outspoken about his belief that for-profit health care companies can flourish only without onerous regulations. “I had the occasion of actually acquiring and trying to build health care businesses,” he said during a primary debate last year. “I know something about it, and I believe markets work. And what’s wrong with our health care system in America is that government is playing too heavy a role.” Crystal Manganaro likely has a different view. She is the mother of Matthew Meyer, the 14-year-old who died at Aspen’s Lone Star program in 2004, and has forcefully advocated for a federal crackdown on teen residential programs, including those run by Aspen. “For those of you who have not lived through losing a child due to negligence, you just cannot imagine what it feels like unless you have walked through it and deal with it every day of your life,” she said in 2009. “My son is dead and there is nothing I can do about that, but I’ll be damned if my son died in vain.” This article was reported in partnership with The Investigative Fund at The Nation Institute, with generous additional support from the Fund for Investigative Journalism. Art Levine is a contributing editor at Washington Monthly. Source: http://www.salon.com/2012/07/18/dark_side_of_a_bain_success/print/

Source: ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-lapd-officers-boot-camp,0,6164232.story ktla.com Disturbing Video Surfaces From 'Boot Camp' Run by LAPD Officers KTLA News 4:45 PM PDT, July 31, 2012 LOS ANGELES (KTLA) -- Two LAPD officers are under investigation for running a weekend boot camp for troubled teens in Hollywood. The 'military-style' boot camp was run by two officers, Ismael Gonzalez and Alex Nava, both from the LAPD's Central Division, the Contra Costa Times reports. Based on footage posted to YouTube, it involved aggressive tactics, including screaming at and taunting the kids. Two online videos show drill instructors screaming at young participants, disparaging them, and, in at least one instance, challenging one child to a fight. Much of the footage shows the children struggling to complete sets of push-ups and other difficult endurance exercises. In one scene, a group of exhausted-looking girls calls out, “316, sir,” as they count off another squat with their hands held behind their heads. Several kids are seen crying during the exercises or as instructors lean down into their faces to shout at them. In one scene, a male officer pushes a girl from her knees into push-up position. In another, a young boy is brought to tears by an expletive-filled tirade. Most of the kids appear to be pre-teens or teenagers, but at least one child in the video looks to be about six years old. The program and videos were first reported by the Los Angeles Daily News. Gonzales told the Contra Costa Times that the program was modeled after the LAPD's Juvenile Impact Program, which also uses military-style tactics to scare juveniles straight. They saw that the LAPD program was effective, so they decided to start their own, he said. Gonzalez and Nava called their class the Juvenile Intervention Program. It has been in operation since February. An LLC for the class was formed last November, while their website states the program is a registered non-profit, the Times reports. They reportedly charged $200 -- twice the cost of the LAPD's program. The class met once a week for 12 weeks, and parents also received counseling. The LAPD says it did not know about the program, and that it will investigate both the class and the conduct of the officers. Source: http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-lapd-officers-boot-camp,0,506366,print.story For more on this story, visit: http://laist.com/2012/07/31/lapd_officers_under_fire_for_running_boot_camp.php. http://blogs.laweekly.com/informer/2012/07/video_la_cops_rogue_hollywood_boot_camp.php, and http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_21194988/internal-affairs-investigating-2-lapd-officers-running-military

Originally published Thursday, August 2, 2012 at 5:58 PM A former Seattle-area mental-health counselor who had worked with troubled youth was recently charged with allegedly possessing and dealing in child pornography. By Sara Jean Green Seattle Times staff reporter A former Seattle-area mental-health counselor who had worked with troubled youth was recently charged with possessing and dealing in child pornography. Malcolm Hayes McKay, 72, surrendered his health-care credentials in 2007 for a sexually explicit online chat with an adult who was posing as a teen. McKay was never charged with a crime in the earlier case, but he was fired from the Ruth Dykeman Children's Center and surrendered his license as a counselor in 2007 after he sent "naked, graphic" photos of himself three years earlier, according to the state Department of Health. McKay thought the person he was chatting with was a 14-year-old boy. In a 2005 letter to the Health Department, McKay said he had a "sexual addiction" that was "out of control," according to department records. The new case dates to September 2009, when the Seattle Police Department's Internet Crimes Against Children Unit launched an investigation of McKay after an employee at YouTube filed a complaint with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, according to charges filed by King County prosecutors. Detectives determined McKay uploaded seven videos to YouTube, six of which showed either teen or young boys engaged in sex with adult men, charging documents say. McKay's computers, external hard drives, a digital camera and miscellaneous storage media and thumb drives were seized from his Seattle apartment, according to the charges. Among the files found on the items seized under warrant were 152 files of a child who had previously been identified by law enforcement, the charges say. According to three of the file names and descriptions of the videos, it appears the boy was repeatedly videotaped while being sodomized by someone claiming to be his father. McKay was charged July 20 with possessing depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct and dealing in depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Prosecutors received the case from Seattle police June 14, said Dan Donohoe, spokesman for King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg. It's unclear why it took almost three years for the case to be forwarded for a charging decision. After pleading not guilty Thursday morning before Superior Court Judge Theresa Doyle, McKay was ordered to report to the King County Jail to be fingerprinted, court records show. He spent less than an hour in custody before being released, according to jail records. Before surrendering his credentials in 2007, McKay had a private practice, counseled troubled teens at the Ruth Dykeman Children's Center and worked as an educator for the Northwest AIDS Foundation. He was also listed as an educator for the Seattle Institute for Sex Therapy, Education and Research and was quoted several times in The Seattle Times on topics related to sexuality. The earlier investigation did not turn up any evidence of inappropriate behavior with his clients. Information from Seattle Times archives is included in this report. Sara Jean Green: 206-515-5654 or Source: http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2018836564_childporn03m.html

Judge: Lawsuit against Utah-based schools for troubled teens will be heard in St. George THE ASSOCIATED PRESS August 15, 2012 - 3:32 pm EDT ST. GEORGE, Utah — Abuse charges in a lawsuit against a Utah company that ran a network of domestic and international schools for troubled teens will be heard in St. George, a judge has ruled. Fifth District Judge James Shumate ruled Tuesday the case should remain in southern Utah because most of the companies named as defendants — and the people operating them — call Washington County home. An attorney representing more than 350 former students and family members had argued the case should be moved to Salt Lake City to avoid prejudice and travel costs for his clients. The students are from more than three dozen states, England and Canada and attended the residential school programs between the mid-1990s and mid-2000s. The suit claims the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools, based in St. George, subjected the students to systematic abuse. The students claim they were denied food and medical care, lived in filth and suffered extreme emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Named as defendants are World Wide and its three principals, Robert B. Lichfield of Toquerville, and Brent M. Facer and Ken Kay, both of St. George. Also named are a network of about 50 affiliated businesses and individuals, which the lawsuit claims were controlled by the organization's principals through either family relationships or written management agreements. The lawsuit renews claims in a 2006 lawsuit filed in Salt Lake City's U.S. District Court that was dismissed last year for jurisdictional reasons. Dallas-based attorney Windle Turley, who represents the families, argued Tuesday for moving the case back to Salt Lake City, saying it would be easier for plaintiffs to travel to the Salt Lake area than to St. George, the Spectrum of St. George reported. He also said a Washington Country trial would be prejudicial in favor of the defense. A Salt Lake City judge sent the case to Washington County in June in response to a defense motion. Attorney Stewart Harman, who represents the defendants, argued it should remain in Washington County because that's where "the documents of this alleged conspiracy would be located," The Spectrum reported. Shumate sought to assure Turley that St. George has sufficient resources to handle the complex case. The judge is allowing different parties to participate in various court hearings via telephone. He scheduled an Oct. 2 status conference to ensure the case is progressing. The students' attorneys say World Wide has operated more than 20 schools in seven states and in Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Samoa and the Czech Republic. They allege in court records that many of the schools were open for only short periods because of their failure to comply with licensing and regulatory laws, because of abuse allegations and because the organization's "principals drained excessive funds off the top." In June 2011, a student who claims he attended Casa by the Sea filed a separate federal lawsuit against World Wide and its owners. Carl Brown Austin, 25, of Spokane, Wash., says he spent nearly two years in the Ensenada, Mexico, school and was a "virtual prisoner" in programs that meted out primitive punishment for hours on end. When Austin's lawsuit was filed, Facer told The Associated Press he had served on World Wide's board but that the organization had shut down because there was no longer a need for its programs. Asked why former students might bring such accusations, Facer said children brought to such schools have a history of misrepresenting the truth. ___ Information from: The Spectrum, http://www.thespectrum.com (Story distributed by The Associated Press) Source: http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/17c8089ab06649b3a849a33d4392d5c2/UT--Boot-Camp-Lawsuit#share

Defense seeks victims medical records in sex-abuse case http://www.standard.net/stories/2012/08/30/defense-seeks-victims-medical-records-sex-abuse-case August 31, 2012 FARMINGTON — A woman who worked at a residential treatment program for juvenile sex offenders is accused of sexually abusing one of the residents. Becky Evans, 40, is charged with second-degree felony forcible sexual abuse. According to court documents, from October 2011 to December 2011, Evans “caused a minor male victim to touch her breasts and genitals, skin to skin.” Evans was charged in March after Clearfield police concluded an investigation. She appeared in 2nd District Court on Thursday. A jury trial has been set to run Dec. 10 through Dec. 12. A hearing for oral arguments concerning a motion filed by defense attorney Mark Moffat is set for Oct. 11. Moffat is seeking the therapy, treatment and discipline records of the 16-year-old boy who is the victim. According to the motion, Evans worked at Youth Health Associates, a residential treatment program for juvenile sex offenders. The teen “had been committed to the YHA facility for treatment for sexual offenses he committed against a minor,” according to the document. The defense claims in its motion that Evans was made aware of the boy’s history of aggression, impulsive behavior and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and the behavior of the boy may have led to the accusations. According to the documents, Evans denies having the teen touch her sexually. Deputy Davis County Attorney Cristina Ortega filed a motion opposing the defense’s request for the boy’s records. According to the prosecutor’s court documents, the records between a therapist and patient are privileged. It also says the defense has not shown any history of the teen “struggling with issues related to honesty and trustworthiness,” so providing the therapy records is not justified. Brian Garlock, owner and clinical director of YHA, said Evans worked for the facility for about a year. “She actually quit when everything came out,” Garlock said. Garlock said his company has facilities across the state, including the one in Clearfield, and employs 200 people full time. They are provided with training concerning boundaries, “because even small boundary violations send the wrong message and we will fire

people." YHA came under scrutiny in 2006 after Raechele Elton, 22, was raped and stabbed to death by Robert Cameron Houston, who was 17 at the time. Elton was a counselor at the Clearfield facility, where Houston was a resident. Source: http://www.standard.net/stories/2012/08/30/defense-seeks-victims-medical-records-sex-abuse-case

Tuesday, August 28, 2012 Volusia Rehab Center Worker Arrested For Molesting Teen DAYTONA BEACH, Florida -- The Volusia County Sheriff's Office has arrested a former child specialist following accusations that he molested a teenage client at the residential addiction treatment program where the man worked. The defendant, 34-year-old Corey Hodges, was fired by Stewart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Healthcare after the allegations surfaced earlier this month. While no other criminal offenses were uncovered during the investigation, other teenage girls at the program told law enforcement that Hodges was a pervert who would stare at their bodies, make inappropriate sexual comments and purposely drop things so that he could watch them bend over to pick them up. Hodges is facing one charge each of lewd or lascivious molestation and lewd or lascivious conduct. The victim is a 15-year-old girl who is a client at the RAP, or Residential Adolescent Program run by Stewart-Marchman-Act. Hodges started working at the Daytona Beach facility in February. Earlier this month, the girl disclosed that Hodges had allegedly molested her two times last month while she was in her room at the RAP program. On both occasions, the victim said Hodges touched her breasts under her shirt and also rubbed her over her clothes and kissed her on the lips. Both times, she said that Hodges told her not to tell anyone about it. On a third occasion, the girl said that after she broke her finger playing football, Hodges drove her to the hospital. On the way back, the victim said that Hodges rubbed her thigh and told her to pull up her shorts, but she refused and nothing more happened. Investigators with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office's Sex Crimes Unit interviewed other teenage girls at the program. One, a 17-year-old, told investigators that Hodges would ask her for hugs, made comments about other girls' bodies and talked about beating up a boy she was dating because Hodges was jealous. An 18-year-girl said Hodges told her that she should be a stripper because she had a nice body. And a 14-year-old girl revealed to investigators that while going through heroin withdrawal, Hodges ordered her to get out of her bed even though she told him that she was naked. She got up and tried to cover herself with a blanket, but she said that Hodges ordered her to drop it. During questioning by investigators, Hodges -- who lives in Palm Coast, Florida -- denied the allegations. Surveillance video from inside the facility showed Hodges going into one of the girls' rooms, in violation of staff policies. He also violated their policies when he drove the girl to the hospital instead of having a female employee do it. On Monday, investigators with the Sheriff's Office's Sex Crimes Unit obtained an arrest warrant for Hodges. He was arrested Tuesday by the Flagler County Sheriff's Office and transported to the Volusia County Branch Jail in Daytona Beach, where he's being held on $60,000 bond. Any other victims or anyone with information about Hodges is asked to call the Sheriff's Office's Sex Crimes Unit at (386) 323-3574. Source: http://news.brevardtimes.com/2012/08/volusia-rehab-center-worker-arrested.html

David Chura, Teacher, Author, "I Don't Wish Nobody to Have a Life Like Mine: Tales of Kids in Adult Lockup" The Harm We Do: Kids in Solitary Confinement Posted: 09/07/2012 5:19 pm When most Americans hear the familiar constitutional phrase "cruel and unusual punishment" they can tell you what it means, at least to them. Hanging. Flogging. Chopping a hand off. Chain gangs. Putting juvenile offenders in solitary confinement is high on my list of "cruel and unusual punishment." What else do you call locking up fifteen, sixteen-year-olds, some even younger, in total isolation for 24 hours a day, in some cases for months at a time, never leaving their cells? "All an inmate's needs are met right here," was the way the warden of the adult county jail where I taught high school students proudly described it as he gave a group of professionals a tour of the new Special Housing Unit (SHU). It was true. Each cell had its own phone, shower, toilet, concrete bed, and adjacent small enclosed rec area. All an inmate's needs were met, except for the most essential: human contact of any kind. These conditions are intolerable for anyone and are replicated nationally in our jails. The United Nations Human Rights Council reported that the U.S. has more inmates in solitary confinement than any other democratic nation. But locking up a kid in those conditions, a kid with more energy than a playground can hold; whose body at times practically vibrates with urges that many more advantaged teens struggle to control; whose emotional and intellectual development is at best undernourished, can only be called "cruel and unusual." Human Rights Watch agrees. It's recently released "Against All Odds: Prison Conditions for Youth Offenders Serving Life Without Parole in the United States" documents the overuse of solitary confinement with minors and its devastating effects on them, effects heightened by the prospect of life without parole. The young people interviewed considered isolation a "profoundly difficult ordeal," leaving them with "thoughts of suicide, feelings of intense loneliness or depression." But it's not just "lifers" in solitary who experience those "profound effects." I saw it when I visited my jailhouse students who were locked up in "the cage," as they called it. They were there because corrections deemed them a threat to "safety and security." In too many cases, however, that "threat" came from their acting-out behaviors due to untreated mental health issues or ADHD. Still others were seen as "pains in the ass" who "just needed to be taught a lesson." It didn't take long for the new SHU to fall apart, the way everything else does in prison. Walls were scuffed and gouged from inmates being dragged in; cell door windows were smeared as guys jammed and angled their faces to see anything, anyone. The only thing shattering that intense sensory deprivation was the sound of inmates shouting to each other, howling through the thick walls, trying to connect with another human, announcing to the world, "I'm still alive." And when they weren't screaming, they were sleeping -- 15, 16 hours a day. My students deteriorated as well. Once in isolation they abandoned any sense of civilized behavior. Young guys who would come to class shaven and showered, smelling of Old Spice deodorant, in fresh county oranges, now reeked of unwashed bodies; their hair dirty and matted, faces fuzzed; their eyes caked and puffy from sleep. I would bang on the window until they woke up and lifted their heads from under the pillows and blankets they burrowed under against the cold. They'd shuffle over to the door and we'd squat on our own sides of the concrete and glass wall and talk through the meal tray slot. It was then that I'd be hit by their sour, foul breath as though they were slowly decaying from the inside out. Finally in 2009 the Department of Justice investigated these abuses. The DOJ reported that half of the inmates in the SHU were between 16 and 18, and that the average stay in isolation for juveniles was 365 days. As a result of these "extremely lengthy sentences," the mental health of these young people worsened significantly, aggravated "by the jail's failure" to provide routine treatment. Unfortunately, this is far from an isolated case. Abuses of minors in solitary are happening around the country. I don't know how many people get the irony involved here, but I do know that the kids I taught did, even though they never "got" irony in class: We lock children up in inhuman conditions in order to teach them how to act human. Unfortunately, as studies have shown, inmates learn a far different lesson. When they leave isolation they are angrier, more distrustful, more cynical about ever getting justice, and more prone to violence. What could be a more "cruel and unusual punishment" then to confirm these young people's bedrock belief that America as it is now has no place for them other than behind bars? Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-chura/juvenile-offenders-solitary-confinement-_b_1864770.html

A Terrifying Way to Discipline Children by prisonmovement Happening more and more at schools across the country... kids are being arrested for minor infraction of rules, restrained, hand cuffed, and placed in rooms all alone. Our 'challenged" children are often the targets-are your kids safe from this type of treatment? What would YOU do if your this happened to your child? By BILL [...] Read more of this post

No state oversight at Southeast mental-health facility Purchase Image Exterior of the Blue Sky Behavioral Health Clinic at 52 Federal Road in Danbury, Conn. / Terence Corcoran/The Journal News Written by Terence Corcoran Filed Under News Putnam County, New York Putnam Hospital Center SOUTHEAST — Two men who ran a residential mental-health treatment facility the state shut down last year for violating patients' rights have formed a new company at the same locations that apparently does not require state oversight. Life Assist opened in Southeast earlier this year after the New York State Office of Mental Health shut down SLS, or Supervised LifeStyles, for ignoring state regulations and repeatedly violating its patients' rights. Unlike its predecessor, Life Assist stresses on its website that it does not provide clinical or treatment services and that it is not a residential or group home. As such, it is not subject to state oversight. Life Assist, a for-profit company, does promise to partner its clients who have substance-abuse or mental-health issues with a "life coach," provide clinical services through affiliated companies and get them a furnished apartment — all for a monthly fee. Life Assist is part of Blue Sky Behavioral Health, a Connecticut-based company formed by a former SLS owner, Joseph J. Santoro, and its former chief operating officer, David J. Palmer. Palmer is listed as executive director of Life Assist on its website and is chief executive officer of Blue Sky Behavioral. Santoro is listed as an owner of Blue Sky in papers filed with Connecticut. In an application last year with the Connecticut Department of Health to open Blue Sky Behavioral, an outpatient facility in Danbury, Palmer stressed the work he had done at SLS but never mentioned the New York investigation that led to its closure in December. Last month, a Life Assist client died outside one of its buildings on Tonetta Lake Road in Southeast. Arsen Keleshian, 40, of Greenwich, Conn., became combative with staff members and police before disrobing. Police subdued Keleshian, but he later died at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel. The incident involved some type of physical altercation, but police did not use pepper spray or a Taser on Keleshian, said Capt. William McNamara of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, whose deputies responded with state troopers. For full story, visit source: http://www.lohud.com/article/20120828/NEWS04/308270065/No-state-oversight-So

Jerry Brown, California Governor, Signs SB 1172, Bill Banning Gay Conversion Therapy For Minors Posted: 09/30/2012 11:45 am EDT Updated: 09/30/2012 2:20 pm EDT Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/30/jerry-brown-sb-1172-gay-conversion-therapy-california_n_1926855.html 2,126 175 California Governor Jerry Brown on Saturday signed a historic bill that will protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) minors from "reparative" therapies administered by mental health professionals aimed at altering sexual orientation or gender identities and expressions. Senate Bill 1172, which the National Center for Lesbian Rights notes was co-sponsored by the NCLR, Equality California, Gaylesta, Courage Campaign, Lambda Legal, and Mental Health America of Northern California, and supported by dozens of organizations, is the first law of its kind in the United States and will become effective on January 1, 2013. "Conversion" or "reparative" therapies include a wide variety of techniques from counseling to shock therapy to -- in extreme cases -- exorcism, used in an attempt to "cure" individuals of their homosexual and transgender orientations and identities. However, in recent years, even those who once championed the idea that someone can convert to heterosexuality have admitted

that viewpoint is flawed. In April, Dr. Robert Spitzer, author of a landmark 2001 study that claimed gay people could be alleviated of their homosexuality, admitted that, "In retrospect, I have to admit I think the critiques [of my study] are largely correct... The findings can be considered evidence for what those who have undergone ex-gay therapy say about it, but nothing more." As SFGate.com reported, Brown said, "This bill bans non-scientific 'therapies' that have driven young people to depression and suicide. These practices have no basis in science or medicine and they will now be relegated to the dustbin of quackery." In a press release, the Human Rights Campaign responded to Brown's signing of the bill: "We're grateful to Governor Brown for standing with California's children. LGBT youth will now be protected from a practice that has not only been debunked as junk science, but has been proven to have drastically negative effects on their well-being. We commend Governor Brown for putting children first, and call on all states to take California's lead on this issue. We will continue our fight against this kind of child abuse, which has been deemed harmful to children by all major mental health, medical, and child welfare organizations." According to HRC, over 50,000 people had signed a petition urging the governor to sign the bill n the past week.

State to 'colonel': License your military school or deal with a prosecutor By Alexandra Zayas, Times Staff Writer Published Wednesday, November 21, 2012 Alan Weierman, the self-titled colonel whose unaccredited military school has been allowed to house children for years despite abuse allegations, got an ultimatum from the state this week: Get licensed or close. The Department of Children and Families warned Weierman in a letter that he has 30 days to earn a state license or DCF will seek criminal prosecution and is prepared to ask a judge to permanently shut down his Southeastern Military Academy in Port St. Lucie. The action is part of a statewide crackdown on unlicensed children's homes prompted by a Tampa Bay Times investigation that found hundreds of children are being housed outside of state oversight. Most of these homes operate legally under a religious exemption. However, the Times found five homes operating with no state-recognized credentials, and state officials subsequently found three more. All have been asked to show proof that they are trying to get accredited. Weierman's academy, a home for boys that combines religion and military-style discipline, is the first to be given a 30-day warning of legal action. If the state seeks a court order, it would mark the first time it has tried to shut down any unaccredited children's home since 2009, when DCF unsuccessfully sued to close a boys' home run by Weierman at the time. If a judge sides with the state, about a dozen boys living at Southeastern Military Academy could be sent home to their parents, who are paying $28,600 in tuition for them to learn obedience and discipline. DCF officials said they may issue warning letters to more homes but are still investigating. Weierman said this week that he would consult his attorney about how to respond. "I know they have a job to do and am confident that once they see our evidence, they will accept the place we are in the process," Weierman told the Times in an email. "I am not opposed to licensure," he said. "But I also am not opposed to a criminal proceeding about this. I can just imagine the state attorney's face when he is presented with this case. Like all he has to do is prosecute unlicensed boarding schools." After his long, contentious relationship with DCF, it appears unlikely the department would grant him a license. The last time they did, more than a decade ago, it was a short-lived decision both sides soon came to regret. In 2000 alone, DCF responded to allegations six times and found credible evidence in four investigations, including cases involving asphyxiation and beatings. Weierman said the allegations were false. He said DCF workers were dishonest and unfair and complained that DCF calls allegations "verified" using a lower burden of proof than used by the courts. In 2001, on the day DCF was scheduled to present evidence to a judge to revoke his license, Weierman surrendered it. He soon earned accreditation through the Florida Association of Christian Child Caring Agencies, a nonprofit group empowered by state law to regulate religious children's homes that choose to avoid a state license. FACCCA accreditation would still be an option to save Weierman's school, if he can earn it within 30 days, but FACCCA discontinued his accreditation in 2004 because his home, once a shelter for kids of all ages, had evolved into a boot camp. Weierman has since operated his academy as a "boarding school." In Florida, boarding schools must register with the Department of Education. But the agency only keeps a list of the schools. It does not regulate or inspect them. Since the school left FACCCA in 2004, DCF has responded to 13 allegations of abuse and neglect at Weierman's group home. In six cases, investigators verified the incidents, which included physical and mental injuries, medical neglect, threatened harm, bizarre punishment and asphyxiation. In 2008, a runaway told police he had been shackled for 12 days, beaten, choked to unconsciousness and berated with racial slurs. DCF investigated and found that all 16 boys at the home had been mistreated, including some who said they had been bruised and bloodied. The department called parents to remove all the boys, but prosecutors declined to pursue charges. In 2009, the state sought a permanent injunction to keep Weierman from housing children, noting that he was not accredited as was required by law. But a judge declined the state's injunction request and said Weierman was making a "good faith effort" to get accredited. Weierman is still trying. He says the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is expected to review his school in March. But as far as DCF is concerned, his time is up. Alexandra Zayas can be reached at or (813) 226-3354. Source: http://www.tampabay.com/news/education/state-to-colonel-license-your-military-school-or-deal-with-a-prosecutor/1262771

HEAL SUPPORTER CYNTHIA ORTIZ BEGINS WORKING WITH STATE SENATOR PHIL GRIEGO TO AMEND NEW MEXICO'S LAWS TO BETTER PROTECT CHILDREN FROM INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE IN JANUARY, 2013: Phil A. Griego (D-NM--State Senator) introduced legislation on January 24th, 2013 to improve legal protections for victims of child abuse and institutional abuse. The bill was SB 252 and we hope it will be re-introduced next session. For more information on this legislation, visit: http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/13%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0252.pdf

HEAL SUPPORTER CAROLINE MALLARY PETITIONED MASSACHUSETTS STATE LEGISLATORS TO AMEND LAWS TO BETTER PROTECT CHILDREN FROM INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE IN JANUARY, 2013: Katherine M. Clark (D-MA--State Senator) introduced legislation based on Mallary's petition in January, 2013. The bill is S. 46 and has been referred to the Committee on Children, Family, and Persons with Disabilities. For more information on this legislation, visit: https://malegislature.gov/Bills/188/Senate/S46

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Juan E. Méndez
February 1st, 2013

Excerpt from Report Summary:

The present report focuses on certain forms of abuses in health-care settings that may cross a threshold of mistreatment that is tantamount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It identifies the policies that promote these practices and existing protection gaps. By illustrating some of these abusive practices in health-care settings, the report sheds light on often undetected forms of abusive practices that occur under the auspices of health-care policies, and emphasizes how certain treatments run afoul of the prohibition on torture and ill-treatment. It identifies the scope of State‟s obligations to regulate, control and supervise health-care practices with a view to preventing mistreatment under any pretext. The Special Rapporteur examines a number of the abusive practices commonly reported in health-care settings and describes how the torture and ill-treatment framework applies in this context. The examples of torture and ill-treatment in health settings discussed likely represent a small fraction of this global problem.

Source: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A.HRC.22.53_English.pdf (If the report is not available at this link, request a copy and we will send it to you.)

MARK LEVINE, HEAL ADVISOR, SPEAKING AT SURVIVORS OF INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE MARCH IN APRIL, 2013

HEAL CALIFORNIA, KENTUCKY, AND HEADQUARTERS' CHAPTERS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL MARCH AGAINST CHILD ABUSE ON APRIL 22ND, 2O13. (See: http://www.heal-online.org/maca2013.htm for more information)

S. 833, EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITHOUT HOMES ACT OF 2013, INTRODUCED BY SEN. PATTY MURRAY (D-WA) (See: https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/s833 for more information)

This bill has been submitted twice since 2009. The purpose is to keep children and youth in their communities and ensure that public schools are meeting the needs of all students regardless of income inequality or disability. HEAL supports this legislation and believes it will help put an end to the misuse of public funds in sending public school children out of their home states to fraudulent and abusive residential programs out of state.

HR 1893, KEEPING ALL STUDENTS SAFE ACT, INTRODUCED BY REP. GEORGE MILLER (D-CA) ON MAY 8TH, 2013 (See: https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr1893 for more information)

This bill's purpose is to prevent and reduce the use of physical restraints and seclusion in schools. HEAL supports this legislation and believes it will help stop the abuse rampant in schools and programs for children and youth.

HR 1981, THE STOP CHILD ABUSE IN RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS FOR TEENS ACT OF 2013, INTRODUCED BY REP. GEORGE MILLER (D-CA) ON MAY 15TH, 2013. (See: https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr1981 for more information) This is the most recent submission of this legislation which dates back to 2005 (HR 1738). This legislation would place additional programs under the regulations of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Problems with this legislation include that it does not specifically address requiring faith-based programs for youth be covered/regulated and since many States hold those programs exempt from regulation, it is unlikely that faith-based programs will be covered. In addition, programs that are currently "regulated" by the US Department of Health and Human Services regularly fail to protect consumers from fraud and abuse and rely on third-party accreditation bodies (i.e. Joint Commission) to provide oversight. Those accrediting bodies then rely on self-assessment as the primary source for information regarding compliance. While HEAL supports additional regulations, we fear that passing a law such as this with no real teeth will simply pacify consumers into enrolling loved ones in fraudulent and abusive programs while State agencies pass the buck from one agency to another to avoid serious regulation of this out of control industry.

HEAL CONFIRMED THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS TO BE CLOSED IN 2013:

Eckerd's E-Ma-Henwu in North Carolina

Camp Tracy Children's Home in Florida

Camas Ranch (WWASPS) in Montana

Cross Creek Programs (WWASPS) in Utah

Academy at Swift River (Aspen/CRC) in Massachusetts

Hope Home and Academy in Mississippi

Austin Sendero Recovery in Texas

Victory Christian Academy aka Lighthouse of Northwest Florida in Florida

For more information on these closures, see http://www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm

HEAL ILLINOIS LAUNCHES FIRST PETITION TO CHANGE ILLINOIS' LAWS TO BETTER PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUTH FROM INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE: Petition launched on March 17th, 2014. Learn more about our State Action Campaigns at http://www.heal-online.org/action2.htm and sign the petition now at: http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/illinois-general-assembly?source=c.tw&r;_by=10225086

HEAL PARTICIPATED IN NATIONWIDE MARCH AGAINST CHILD ABUSE: HEAL participated in the national March Against Child Abuse in Monroe, WA on April 5th, 2014. For photos and more regarding our support and participation in this event, click here.

Mom Calls Rehab Place a Private Prison By JONNY BONNER
April 7th, 2014

SALT LAKE CITY (CN) - A mother claims in court that her teenage daughter was taken from Texas by a human trafficker and locked up at a secret "private prison" in Utah, where she was made to perform "mindless tasks of blind obedience." Miriam Blank sued Bain Capital, Aspen Education Group, Aspen Institute of Behavioral Assessment, the Harris County Office of Human Resources and Risk Management, Guardians of Hope and two people, in Federal Court. Blank claims her 16-year-old daughter, H.N., was removed from the Lone Star State by lead defendant Jack Nuszen, N.H.'s father, after he tried to portray her as an unfit mother to their five children.

Blank claims the move was intended to thwart her visitation rights and "to spite and torment" her. "Jack Nuszen has used the biased Harris County Family Court system to case Miriam Blank as an unfit mother to their five children," the lawsuit states. "Although he is guilty of physically abusing N.H., he has, by falsely obtained court orders and engaging a human trafficking service, removed H.N. from her school, where she was an outstanding student and well-adjusted young woman, and against her will and without her consent, forced her relocation from Texas to Utah, where she is confined by the defendant Aspen against her will and without her consent in one or the other of its locked down compounds. There, she is locked up for an indefinite time, having done nothing wrong or truant solely to deprive her of her freedom and cause extreme anxiety to Miriam Blank, her mother, as to her whereabouts and welfare." Blanks says her daughter is being held an undisclosed and possibly remote area, where successful escapes are rare. "H.N. had no hearing as to why she was taken away and locked up. There was no forum for complaint, for

explanation, for appeal, or protest against the placement, either before, during, or after it occurred. The only option was to run away, but these private prisons are often located in remote areas and are closely guarded in any event. Successful runs are rare, and most often police retrieve the escapee," the 21-page complaint states. "Once confined, no contact with the outside world is allowed, except with the persons transferring custody to the prison. Contact with family members or friends is not allowed, and even contact with the family member or agency that transferred full and complete custody to the prison is monitored, and the inmate knows that any disparaging remark or complaint about the prison will be punished by a loss of all privileges earned, meaning having to start at the bottom all over again to rise from level to level by successfully completing mindless tasks of blind obedience." "The hapless minors will soon learn that they can be locked up for their entire minority as long as there is money to pay for it. The custody transfer agreements allow the private prisons to do anything they want to the minors and can enforce compliance with their demands by punishment, sometimes extremely harsh, medication at the handlers' discretion, forced disclosure of private deeds or thoughts, public confession of past deeds or thoughts, etc. "What the private prisons do to the minor children whom they have incarcerated, if done by their parents or custodians on the outside, would be swiftly prosecuted as child abuse and false imprisonment." Blank claims defendant Guardians of Hope - the alleged human trafficker - and operator and defendant Norma Willcockson removed N.H. from school and transported her across state lines. She claims that once inside the private prison, "These helpless children can be deprived of freedom, of contact, correspondence, and communication with family and friends, or anyone outside the compound; they can be deprived of legal counsel; of sleep, food, privacy, dignity, education; compensation for their labor; the right to refuse treatment or enforced medication; or the need of a second opinion regarding the propriety of the treatment forced upon them; of the right to grieve, to object, to recourse, or to appeal; Harris County made no investigation of the private prison where it allowed H.N. to be sent." Blank claims she has copies of bills that Aspen submitted to Nuszen for its services, but the residential treatment center has refused to provide any information about H.N. "The county and its agents either know or should know that Aspen and its co-defendants incarcerate and isolate minors for an indefinite period of time who have never been adjudicated as truant or violators, and throw them in with other minors who may have been highly truant and adjudicated as misdemeanants, or who may have various forms of mental illness, criminal records, or drug addictions," Blank claims. "The county and its agents know that the prefrontal cortex of H.N. is not fully developed and that its complicity in inflicting upon her undeserved gross and unfair punishment will have a permanent deleterious effect upon her mental and emotional development, and will at the very least, cause her to suffer into adulthood the ravages of post traumatic stress." Bain Capital purchased Aspen Education for $300 million in 2006. Analysts estimated that companies like Aspen had profit margins of 10 to 20 percent of revenue, The New York Times reported in 2005, according to Blank's lawsuit. Blank's attorney did not respond to inquiries by press time. In January, the companies were sued by parents who claimed Dr. Phil paid to have their teenage daughter locked up. Blank seeks an injunction and a writ demanding that N.H. appear before a court in Utah, plus punitive damage, for civil rights violations and negligence. She is represented by Thomas Burton.

Source: http://www.courthousenews.com/2014/04/07/66859.htm

LA-area boot camp instructor sentenced for abuse Published 6:55 pm, Monday, April 21, 2014 LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former instructor charged with abusing youngsters at a Southern California boot camp for troubled teens has been sentenced to 60 days in jail. Edgar Alvarado also was given 30 days of community labor Monday and forbidden to perform any counseling, training or care involving children. He pleaded no contest to felony child abuse. Prosecutors say Alvarado owned "Recon 180," a paramilitary-style camp for troubled children with headquarters in East Los Angeles and a training facility in the mountains. Prosecutors say youngsters there underwent grueling physical regimens and some teenagers claimed they were punched, slapped or stomped. Several were hospitalized. Source: http://www.sfgate.com/news/crime/article/LA-area-boot-camp-instructor-sentenced-for-abuse-5419340.php

The It Gets Better Project has launched a new campaign to put an end to conversion/reparative therapy and treatment (aka brainwashing/coercive thought reform to change sexual orientation). Please contact them to share your story and to get help stopping this abuse. Victims of Conversion/Reparative Treatment Speak Out Now--http://www.itgetsbetter.org/page/s/endconversiontherapy?source=20140306email (Announced: May 8th, 2014)

JODI HOBBS, SIA FOUNDER, WITH OPENING CEREMONY FOR SURVIVORS OF INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE CONVENTION IN MAY, 2014

(Special Note: HEAL does not endorse nor support OWN network or anyone affiliated with HARPO Productions due to the ongoing enrollment of children by HARPO Productions programs (i.e. Dr. Phil) in fraudulent and abusive programs. In addition, other HARPO shows have presented programs and referrers/program networks such as Hazelden on Rachael Ray. We encourage Dr. Strozier to educate Oprah regarding her programs' complacency and active support of institutional abuse. (It even happens at her own program in Africa, see: http://abcnews.go.com/International/troubles-oprah-winfreys-school-south-africa/story?id=12950275)

HEAL ADVISOR, MARK LEVINE, IS RUNNING FOR CONGRESS IN VIRGINIA! (2014) Please volunteer and/or contribute to this campaign! With Rep. George Miller (D-CA) retiring, we need a strong voice in Congress who will take a stand against institutional fraud and abuse. Learn more and sign up at www.levineforcongress.com.

By Jessica Trufant May 14. 2014 3:32PM **Marshfield man accused of raping teen worked with troubled teens in Quincy** A Marshfield man accused of plying an underage, teenage girl with alcohol before sexually assaulting her at his Ferry Street home was employed at a Quincy program for teens with drug and alcohol issues. PHOTO/ Marshfield Police Joseph Regan, 49, of 1181 Ferry St. MARSHFIELD -- A Marshfield man accused of plying an underage, teenage girl with alcohol before sexually assaulting her at his Ferry Street home was employed at a Quincy program for teens with drug and alcohol issues. Stephanie Paauwe, director of development for Volunteers of America Massachusetts, on Wednesday said Joseph Regan, 49, of 1181 Ferry St., has been fired from Rebound Adolescent Treatment Program, located on Moon Island Road in Quincy. “Joseph Regan is no longer an employee of the Rebound Program for failure to report for work,” she said. “We've been notified of the allegations made against Mr. Regan and are fully cooperating with authorities. At this time, our thoughts and prayers are with the victim and her family.” Regan is charged with reckless endangerment of a child, enticement of a child under the age of 16, indecent assault and battery on a child age 14 or older, statutory rape with an age difference of more than 10 years and selling or furnishing alcohol to person under the age of 21. Regan is being held without bail pending the outcome of a dangerousness hearing scheduled for Thursday in Plymouth District Court. Police say that Regan offered a teenage girl a ride before giving her alcohol and driving her around. Regan allegedly then brought her back to his home, where he sexually assaulted her. Paauwe said the victim is not a client of the **Rebound Adolescent Treatment Program**. She could not say how long Regan had worked there. Marshfield Police Lt. Arthur Shaw said police executed a search warrant of Regan’s home and vehicle last Tuesday after the incident was reported to them earlier that day. Regan on Sunday showed up at Marshfield police station with his attorney to turn himself in to officers. Calling Regan a “dangerous predator,” Shaw said police want to speak to anyone who may have been assaulted by him in the past or who has any information that adds to the case. “We encourage any other potential victims to come forward, as we do consider this individual to be a dangerous predator,” Shaw said. Shaw said Regan is not currently a registered sex offender and does not have any sexual assault charges on his record. Anyone with information should contact Marshfield Police Detective Greg Davis at 781-834-5591 ex. 141. http://www.patriotledger.com/article/20140514/NEWS/140518042

CT task force spars with parents over billing fraud in family court By Anne Stevenson, Communities Digital News Family Life February 1, 2014 New Haven Court House CONNECTICUT, December 26, 2013 (Story received May 23rd, 2014) — Colleen Kerwick, Hector Morera, and Dan Lynch say they are fit Connecticut parents with open family court cases who are struggling to pay millions in questionable court ordered fees spanning several years. This year, dozens of CT parents like Kerwick and Morera complained to the legislature that the court has misused the court appointment process to force parents into business relationships with unvetted and inappropriate court affiliated vendors who are bankrupting them through questionable billing practices. Despite a 2010 State auditor's report showing millions misappropriated from the Judicial Branch's $500 million annual budget, a legislative task force established to assess CT's broken family courts disagrees with parents who blame internal fraud for the court's issues and say an audit of the court's books and contracts is unnecessary. In November 2013, Kerwick, a CT based entertainment attorney, told me about her "high conflict" divorce from a well to do Connecticut businessman Kenneth Savino. Police reports show that Savino had previously been arrested for assaulting Kerwick, and in April 2012, Savino was arrested again on risk of injury to a minor charges in addition to charges that he interfered with police. Kerwick says that collectively, the family has spent about $610,000 on litigation costs. Although the guardian ad litem Karen Tarpey billed the family more than $40,000 to represent the best interests and wishes of Kerwick's and Savino's child, billing records show she spent very little time actually meeting with the child. Controversial child psychologist Sidney Horowitz also billed the family $20,000 to perform a custody evaluation. Savino received custody of the child after both professionals failed to provide the court with information sufficient to end her custody. Kerwick says that all of the professionals appointed to her case failed to warn her that Horowitz was in business with Judicial Branch officials who oversaw her case, and that other litigants had raised troubling questions about Horowitz's controversial billing practices. When Kerwick's savings began to dry up and she raised questions about the integrity of the billing practices of the professionals appointed onto the case, Kerwick says suddenly her lawyers had marbles in their mouths and the ink in their pens began to dry up. "After paying $110K in attorney's fees, I learnt that being pro se is more effective," says Kerwick. "That said, I'm only 2 years in so I may lose yet by attrition. My ex can outspend me." Hector Morera's experience with the Connecticut courts was similar to Kerwicks. In 2012, Morera was facing outrageous legal bills when he lost custody of his children, despite the fact that he has no history of abuse or neglect. In October 2013, a court order severed Morera's access to his children after local media reports exposed the fact Morera was ordered to pay a $30,000 GAL bill for services not clearly identified. The tab for all Morera's legal bills currently totals over $52,000. Dozens of parents like Morera and Kerwick say their life savings and retirement accounts have been wiped out by the family courts. They want an audit to assess the extent of internal fraud in the system. Task Force Conflicted Over Whether to Audit State Vendor Payments to Family Court Professionals. In 2013, the Connecticut legislature established the Task Force to Study Legal Disputes Involving the Care and Custody of Minor Children to evaluate complaints from dozens of affected parents. The task force will assess complaints that the family courts are not only mishandling cases, but also facilitating widespread taxpayer funded fraud. Affected parents say that unethical vendors appointed to their cases are padding the bills by creating unnecessary conflicts and forcing them to pay for evaluations and services the families do not need. Parents are forced to deal with these vendors, because they have immense power to influence the outcome of their family court cases. Now complaints are surfacing that task force leaders have serious conflicts of interest. Insiders say these questionable professionals may also be blocking the efforts of honest task force members to meaningfully investigate and address the fraud and waste of State resources. Pointing out discrepancies in the rates that both parents and the State are required to pay for identical services, task force member Jennifer Viranault contends that a financial audit is needed to determine how the family court and the Public Defender's office are funding guardian ad litems and expert OPD bankrolls on some 575 family court cases annually. However, task force co-chair Susan Cousineau has thus far opposed efforts to obtain such billing records from the State. Long time court reform advocates Michael Nowacki and Cheryl Martone have also raised concerns that none of the task force's members are parents who have experienced the family court's dysfunction first hand. They also say Connecticut legislators have appointed several family court industry officials who are affiliated with the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC). Both Nowacki and Martone say it is a conflict of interest for AFCC members to oversee the task force charged with solving problems in the family courts created by the same questionable Judicial Branch vendor's programs and members. AFCC affiliated task force members include attorney Sharon Dornfeld, Justine Rakich Kelly of the Children's Law Center, and Judicial Branch administrator Joseph DiTunno who has helped oversee the court's problematic grant programs and operations for over a decade. Task force co-chair Susan Cousineau co-founded the AFCC's CT chapter with several of the judges whose decisions have been recently called into question by parents referenced in this article. According to an article published in Communities Digital News, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) and its CT chapter are Judicial Branch vendors founded and operated by the CT family court's own salaried State employees. Questions have arisen as to why the Judicial Branch paid the AFCC to perform many functions in the family courts when the organization's members and directors are the same court employees who already receive a State salary to perform the same essential services. The Washington Times story focused on the AFCC's troubling past with the authorities and the organization's role in dozens of CT cases where parents were bankrupted by questionable bills. According to the IRS and various state offices, multiple AFCC chapters across the country have been repeatedly shut down by the IRS and authorities for violations of various laws and regulations. Since the Washington Times Communities story was published in May 2013, there has been no indication from law enforcement that they are investigating AFCC's activities. Although the corporation's sub regulatory activities in CT remain under investigation by the Secretary of State, the Secretary's office claims it has no duty or intention to report to law enforcement any information regarding the outcome of their investigation. Prior State Audits Uncover Widespread Mismanagement of Judicial Branch Resources, Lack of Communication With Law Enforcement This was not the first time State authorities had questioned the Judicial Branch's book keeping without filing a criminal case. In 2010, the Connecticut State Auditor released a report which detailed how the Judicial Branch's "lack of internal controls" resulted in severe mismanagement of the agency's $200m budget and internal administrative operations. Auditors also identified tens of millions intended to reach the State's most at risk families through Judicial Branch vendors which remained missing or improperly accounted for. However, Auditors failed to refer their findings to law enforcement to determine whether criminal activity had played any role in the misappropriations. The Connecticut State auditor confirmed in writing that their office chose not report to law enforcement any of the "discrepancies" or evidence of possible fraud and criminal activities discovered during the course of their review of the Judicial Branch. The auditor wrote that he determined that his office had no duty to report such findings because it went beyond stated scope of the audit: "Our audit was focused on the Judicial Branch's lack of internal control, and therefore there was no follow up made with law enforcement." Connecticut's Office of the Chief Public Defender has also been the subject of several scathing State audits which detailed similar widespread mismanagement of taxpayer resources. Each year, OPD oversees the representation of thousands of indigent defendants in criminal and child welfare cases, as well as bankrolls the attorneys and experts appointed onto them. According to their annual report, OPD also financed more than 575 GAL's appointed onto family court cases. At a September 2013 Connecticut Freedom of Information Act Commission hearing, the OPD disclosed the following facts at the hearing: (1) OPD has not consistently kept an accurate tally of payments made to court appointed professionals, (2) OPD and the Judicial Branch do not always formally vet such contractors or require competitive bidding or consumer protection contracts to obtain such [State sponsored] appointments in the family courts, (3) OPD often pays some of the contractors appointed onto cases at rates that are several times the legislatively mandated rate for the same professional services, and (4) OPD will not open their books to disclose how much money is spent or allow the public to review the administrative billing records for its office operations. Despite these revelations, task force co-chair Tom Weissmuller says the State's bankrolling of GAL is done at reasonable State rates of about $50 per hour with a cap of $500 per case. While Weissmuller does sympathize with the complaints of parents about the GAL system as a whole, he notes that the task force is unable to conduct such an audit because no mechanism exists which would allow the task force to audit or assess privately bankrolled professionals. Paul Boyne, a CT father whose rights were taken away after he questioned the integrity of the billing statements submitted by the taxpayer funded professionals appointed onto his family court case, disagrees with Weissmuller. Boyne says that an audit of OPD's books to document allegations of billing fraud is exactly what is needed. Yet instead of auditing the books, Boyne says some task force members are blaming victimized parents for the State's mismanagement of its' own multi-billion dollar family court industry. Susan Skipp, another CT parent who says she was driven into bankruptcy and had her parental rights effectively severed after she raised concerns that her family had been targeted by a family court billing fraud scam, also says an audit of the Judicial Branch's books is needed to restore public confidence in the agency's activities. "If the Judicial Branch were a for-profit corporation, the board of directors would start 'fixing' it by conducting a financial audit of the company's book keeping records to see where all their money is going" says Skipp. "It does not make sense for members to block internal efforts to obtain financial records that document the financial dealings between problematic vendors and the State." Yet according to task force insiders, this is exactly the approach that the Legislature and the Judicial Branch appear to have taken. Skipp says that if the purpose of the task force was to address parents complaints about billing scams in the family courts, "perhaps the task force should start by ending the PR campaign blaming victimized parents the for the State's own shoddy work and mismanagement of the Judicial Branch." "I just want to spend time with my kids" says Skipp. "Why does the court have to make this so difficult?" Read more at http://www.commdiginews.com/life/ct-task-force-spars-with-parents-over-billing-fraud-in-family-court-6410/#IJlG3IkImhVP6es1.99

Sex abuse alleged at Utah youth home Courts » September trial set for Spanish Fork youth home employee. The Salt Lake Tribune First Published May 29 2014 04:28 pm Last Updated May 29 2014 04:32 pm uCZ8QDXhaHEp3rvzXRJFdy0KqPHLoMevcTLo3h8xh70Y6N_U_CryOsw6FTOdKL_jpQ-&CONTENTTYPE=image/jpeg"> A September trial date has been set for a man accused of sexually abusing two 14-year-old girls at a group home for troubled teens in Spanish Fork. Charges filed in 4th District Court allege that Wade Russell, 60, committed the crimes while employed at Extended Family Services. One girl said that on Nov. 3, 2013, her third night at EFS, Russell went into her room, lay down next to her bed and fondled her over her clothing, according to charging documents. She said she knew of another girl who also had been abused. Security camera footage from that time shows Russell's feet "sticking out of the doorway as if he is lying down," court documents claim. The girl's roommate confirmed that Russell was lying close to the victim, prosecutors say. The other victim said Russell sexually abused her on multiple occasions

after she arrived at EFS in June 2013. She said that on Nov. 2, Russell asked her to join him in the laundry room because he could turn off the lights and escape the security cameras. Video from outside the laundry room allegedly shows Russell entering the laundry room and turning off the lights before the girl followed him inside. She claimed that Russell molested her then, and later the same day in her room. The second victim said Russell also used his cell phone to show her pornography. A job evaluation for Russell by EFS in August shows he was told not to have "any contact with female residents alone or out of the view of the camera," and that he was told to stop "hugging the young girls," according to charges. Charging documents do not indicate why those instructions were given. Russell denied to police touching either of the girls sexually and said the events recorded on camera amounted only to poor judgment on his part. When asked for his cell phone to search its browser history, he said he lost the phone, police reported. Russell is charged with three counts of aggravated sexual abuse of a child, and one count each of forcible sodomy, sodomy of a child and attempted rape of a child, all first-degree felonies; and seven counts of second-degree felony forcible sexual abuse; and two counts of third-degree felony dealing in material harmful to a minor.

Source: http://m.sltrib.com/sltrib/mobile3/58004247-219/russell-abuse-girl-camera.html.csp

What happens when you introduce troubled teens to theatre Posted on: 11:31 am, May 27, 2014, by Sarah J. Clark Share this: Facebook Twitter Pinterest Google LinkedIn Email MANHATTAN, N.Y. — “I wish I could take it back. Actually, no. I don’t wish I could take it back because what happens to me afterwards is one of the best things that happened to me in my entire life,” Christopher Thompson said. Thompson is talking about an altercation he had at school. He hit a fellow student in the face with a lock. The student went to the hospital, received stitches and pressed charges. Thompson’s life has never been the same. He’s now a changed man with the help of Stargate Theatre Company. It was launched in 2013 by the Manhattan Theatre Club. It employed seven court-involved young men to write and perform a play. “I see kids whose confidence is built, whose ability to express themselves is better than when they came in,” Judy Tate, an artistic director with Stargate. Tate is actually a four-time Emmy Award-winning playwright. For more than 10 years Tate has worked with troubled youth. “One of the reasons why I feel so dedicated to these young men is maybe they come from areas that have been left behind,” she said. Youth that have participated in the program admit it’s a completely different environment for them. “When I first walked in, I was shy,” Thompson said. “I just didn’t feel comfortable. I felt out of my skin. And I was like, ‘Aghhh, this is awful, why am I here? I’m not a talker! But I need the money, so why not stay?’” Tate said at first many of the young men who come in are wary of any type of authority figure. “And here I am putting them in this situation and we’re asking them to play,” she said. “Gradually, over the course of time, their shoulders start to go down and their backs start to straighten up. Sometimes you start to see a smile where sometimes you might not have seen a smile before. Stargate had its first public performance in August 2013. “When we perform? Oh, my God, it’s like heroine. It’s like the greatest drug ever,” Thompson said. The young men aren’t after fame or fortune. They perform because the love it. “Even if people would have said, ‘Wow, you guys are awful,’ we’d be like, ‘We did it and you didn’t. You’re just mad,”Thompson said. “I really enjoy performing. I love it.” For more information about Stargate Theatre Company, visit their website. Source: http://fox4kc.com/2014/05/27/what-happens-when-you-introduce-troubled-teens-to-theatre/

Local family encourages others to become foster care parents May is foster care awareness month Small Text Medium Text Large Text Print Email Local family encourages others to become foster care parents Show Transcript Hide Transcript More than 150 kids in our community are in foster care right now... and about 40-percent of them are not guaranteed a home. News 8's Brittany Schmidt introduces us to one foster-care family...whose been taking in kids for more than 3 decades....Brittany Mark, Maxine and Tom Jacobs started doing foster care in 19-76... Now more than 80 kids later, they say it's one of the most rewarding experiences of their life... My husband Tom and I have been married 41 years. Maxine is a retired ICU nurse...and Tom is a retired police officer We have two biological children, one just turned 40 this week and the other one is 36, and we have six grandchildren. They always knew they would have a big family When they left the house, we didn't like the empty nest part of it, we wanted children in the home, we enjoy that, we enjoy the confussion and the noise and all the things that go alowng with having a larger family. Tom and Maxine knew they had more love to give...so they decided to get into foster care. When we first started, we went through the licensing process, we were actually going to do care for adults....and the plans changed. Isaac came to us when he was 10, just about 11, it was suppose to be a short-term, like 3-6 monts foster placement before he went back home. Joy and Respect. We were pretty overwhelmed by that, coming from a little 10 year old boy so that always kind of stuck with us. Over the months, Isaac became part of the family. We had talked about it but he was never in a position that we thought he would be adopted because re-unification is the goal. Until one day...Isaac decided to make his short-term stay...a permanent one. TOM -- He came home and says I would you to sit down, I want to talk to you about something, he said I am going to let you adopt me and we went from there. Isaac was adopted by the Jacobs in 2007. He had his own room, a stable family...and all that was misssing was a dog. He always wanted a dog because he had a dog when he was living at home with mom. When the Jacobs finally got a dog, they let Isaac name her. MAXINE -- and he named her joy. So that just made me feel that the joy and respect that he really wanted in his life that he is attaining that. Isaac is just one of the many lives the Jacobs have touched... It;s really rewarding. there is much more reward than anything else. It's not only families who can think about foster care options. single parents and community members are encouraged to consider becoming a foster parent as well. Thanks Brittany, There are about 70 licensed foster homes in La Crosse...and the county is hoping to double that in the near future. If you would like more information about foster care...head to our website- news-8-thousand-dot-com LA CROSSE, Wis. (WKBT) - May is Foster Care Awareness month and local agencies are encouraging community members to take a chance on foster care. Related Content WKBT, News8000.com More than 150 kids in our community are in foster care right now and about 40 percent of them are not guaranteed a home. However, one family has been doing it for over three decades and said it’s one of the most rewarding experiences of their family members' life. "My husband Tom and I have been married 41 years,” said Maxine Jacobs, a foster care parent in La Crosse. Maxine is a retired ICU nurse and Tom is a retired police officer. "We have two biological children, one just turned 40 this week and the other one is 36, and we have six grandchildren,” said Maxine. They always knew they would have a big family. "When they left the house, we didn't like the empty nest part of it. We wanted children in the home, we enjoy that, we enjoy the confusion and the noise and all the things that go along with having a larger family," said Maxine. The Jacobs knew they had more love to give so they decided to get into foster care. "When we first started, we went through the licensing process, we were actually going to do care for adults and the plans changed,” said Tom Jacobs, a foster care parent in La Crosse. "Isaac came to us when he was 10, just about 11, it was supposed to be a short term, like three to six months foster placement before he went back home,” said Maxine. Before Isaac moved in with the Jacobs, he told his social worker he wanted two things in life, joy and respect. "We were pretty overwhelmed by that, coming from a little 10-year-old boy so that always kind of stuck with us,” said Maxine. Over the months, Isaac became part of the family. "We had talked about it but he was never in a position that we thought he would be adopted because re-unification is the goal,” said Tom. Until one day, Isaac decided to make his short-term stay a permanent one. “He came home and says I would like you to sit down, I want to talk to you about something, he said I am going to let you adopt me and we went from there,” said Tom. Isaac was adopted by the Jacobs in 2007. He had his own room, a stable family and all that was missing was a dog. "He always wanted a dog because he had a dog when he was living at home with mom,” said Maxine. When the Jacobs finally got a dog, they let Isaac name her and he named her Joy. "So that just made me feel that the joy and respect that he really wanted in his life that he is attaining that,” said Maxine. Isaac is just one of the many lives the Jacobs have touched, but they say they receive more than they give. "There is much more reward than anything else,” said Maxine. It's not only families who can think about foster care options... single parents and community members are encouraged to consider becoming a foster parent as well. There are about 70 licensed foster homes in La Crosse...and the county is hoping to double that in the near future. If you would like more information about foster care, you can contact the La Crosse County Human Services Department at 608-789-4834. Copyright 2014 by WKBT News8000. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. Source: http://www.news8000.com/news/local-family-encourages-others-to-become-foster-care-parents/26165942

May 25, 2014 1:33 AM by Sam Salzwedel **Family takes child welfare crisis into own hands T**UCSON - Steve and Nancy Boccardo think they have taken in about 50 foster children over the years. "We were trying to figure out a count the other day and didn't quite get there," Steve Boccardo said. "We know we've done 14 in the last couple." Some children have stayed in their home for 24 hours. Others stay a couple years. The Boccardos adopted four. They say the fosters are just like their two biological children. "The kiddos are just regular kids that need love," Nancy Boccardo said. "And they need a structured loving home and a place to lay their head until their families are healed." About 3,400 children in Pima County are in foster care across 700 homes. There are 14,000 foster children in the state of Arizona. The Boccardos grow attached to the children but are happy to see them go back to their families. "It's sad. It's bittersweet," Nancy Boccardo said. "But kids want to be at home with their biological families." The Arizona legislature is starting a special session Tuesday. Lawmakers hope to solve some of the problems the state's child welfare agency has been facing. Rep. Ethan Orr believes the session will only last 3 days and will deal with 3 main issues. He wants the state to offer a childcare subsidy to families that are trying to work and raise children. "If you don't have some assistance, there's a tendency to fall back on the Section 8 or the TANF and the more expensive government subsidies," Orr said. "And then sometimes people don't have the ability to take care of the kids. And then they end up in the system." He also wants CPS workers to have better access to data. Orr said a caseworker might not know if they are seeing a family with no CPS record or an extensive one. He also said access to data like animal abuse records could help workers see a bigger picture to analyze a situation. Orr said the state needs to take better care of the employees. He said a high turnover rate is costing taxpayers money. He hopes to see new retention bonuses for workers who stay with the agency for certain amounts of time. "They have to help families and see families when they're at their absolute worst," Orr said. "What kind of support do we give them when they go home? What kind of support do we give them so they don't get burned out?" To become a foster parent, about a dozen agencies in Pima County help with the training and licensing of families. Source: http://www.kvoa.com/news/family-takes-child-welfare-crisis-into-own-hands/

Doctor concerned burned foster child at risk Doctor concerned burned foster child at risk By Darcy Henton, Calgary Herald May 26, 2014 Comment 5 A veteran Strathmore emergency room doctor fears a vulnerable foster child may be in peril after she was returned to a foster home where she suffered serious burns to her face five months ago. Dr. David Rudkin told the Herald the two-year-old severely developmentally impaired aboriginal girl suffered first-and second-degree burns that he believes were the result of either abuse or extreme neglect. A former medical examiner and 30-year physician, Rudkin, 55, said he decided to speak out because he doesn't believe there has been an adequate investigation, and child welfare officials have returned the child to the foster home where he believes other foster children could also be at risk. "It's obvious no one is interested in doing anything," he said in an interview. "I think this is another catastrophe waiting to happen." But Human Services spokeswoman Kathy Telfer said the ministry is aware of the incident and believes it was investigated thoroughly by Child Intervention Services and the RCMP. "All parties involved in the investigations indicated that the injuries were accidental," she said. "We have also been working closely with the home and following up with the child frequently." Rudkin said he saw the child "looking distressed and in pain" when she was brought to emergency in January the morning after suffering the burns. The male foster parent accompanying her said the foster mother was bathing the child in the bath tub with a shower spray nozzle when one of the other children in the home turned the tap to hot, Rudkin said. "The burn pattern was suspicious or peculiar in that it was strictly confined to her face and did not go to her scalp, ears or neck," he said. "It would have been a significant amount of time there was hot water sprayed on this kid's face to cause this peculiar burn pattern ... It just didn't make sense this would have been a hot water burn." Rudkin said it was also concerning that the foster parents waited 12 to 15 hours to bring the child to emergency. "I think this kid would have been screaming in agony and they would have acted on it, but they didn't," he said. After the child was transferred to Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, Rudkin said he followed up to see if anyone there had raised concerns about the nature of the injury. When he found out they had not, he contacted RCMP and Alberta child welfare officials to raise the alarm. Rudkin said when he called back later to find out what was being done, he found the case had been closed. The RCMP constable assigned to the case told him she visited the home and talked to the foster parents but didn't find anything worrisome or suspicious, Rudkin added. The doctor said he was astonished he was not interviewed by police or child welfare investigators. When he attempted to advocate for the child, Rudkin said he was referred to a series of child welfare officials who were "surly and defensive" and who said they couldn't talk about the case because of privacy concerns. He said at the bare minimum, the children should be removed from the foster home pending a proper investigation by child welfare officials and police. "I see kids with all sorts of injury all the time. I am trained as a family physician and I have been doing this for close to 30 years," he said. "Usually I can see the mechanism of the injury. It's pretty clear. This one? There's no way it could have happened like that. I just don't believe it."

Doctor concerned burned foster child at risk But Telfer said RCMP investigated the home and later that day indicated they would not be pursuing charges as they felt the explanation was credible. Telfer noted a child abuse team at the Alberta Children's Hospital also worked closely on the investigation. "We take any report of alleged abuse or mistreatment of a foster child seriously and we will take whatever action is necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our children in care," she said. "We strive to have one of the most stringent screening processes for foster parents in the country." Rudkin took his concerns to the Alberta Child and Youth Advocate, but that office only looks into systemic issues arising from serious injuries, and a spokesman said it didn't find any in its review of the file. "We expect the decisions made by those responsible for her care will ensure her safety and her interests are the primary considerations," said the advocate's spokesman, Tim Chander. "We have assigned an advocate to ensure this child's interests are being considered by decision-makers." The situation arose after Human Services Minister Manmeet Bhullar launched an overhaul of the child welfare system to address concerns raised by an Calgary Herald-Edmonton Journal investigation last fall. The series revealed that child welfare workers frequently failed to follow basic policies and procedures in a range of areas from proper safety inspections of foster homes, completing criminal record checks on foster parents and other care providers and ensuring foster children received proper medical attention. The newspaper investigation also found repeated instances of caseworkers failing to follow policy that required they have frequent face-toface meetings with foster parents and foster children. In some cases, children were not seen or foster parents visited for months. But Telfer said workers now have regular contact with foster children and foster parents, and all foster homes undergo a home assessment before being approved and are reviewed annually. "We monitor the safety and wellbeing of foster children after they are placed in a foster home," Telfer added.

Source: http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/alberta/Doctor+concerned+burned+foster+child+risk/9877118/story.html

Foster care home need still exists Wednesday, May 28, 2014 12:00 AM Comments (1) There are 20 children faced with foster care in Greenwood. These children have been brought into the care of the state because of neglect or abuse of some sort. There are 11 resource foster homes in Greenwood. The number 11 can be misleading to those who find comfort in knowing that at least 11 homes can offer care to some of the children in care. What's misleading is that some of the 11 homes might already have children placed in them; the 11 homes might not be licensed for the children that are currently in care or may even be a safe haven for children from a neighboring county. So, let's think about this as if there were no homes in Greenwood that have made the commitment to care for children in foster care. In order to become a resource foster family you must be 21 year of age or older, be able to pass background criminal checks, fingerprint and SLED checks, have a physical done by a doctor that states you are physically and emotionally able to care for a child or children, the home must pass DHEC and fire marshal inspections and you also show your family is financially responsible and complete 14 hours of pre-service training. If you are interested in answering this call to help children in foster care by becoming a resource foster family, contact the South Carolina Youth Advocate Program at 864-312-6700 or visit www.scyap.com for information. Betsy Manning Greenwood Source: http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Foster-care-home-need-still-exists/8/154/25729

New group home regulations adopted in East Norriton; 15 'grandfathered' group homes not affected By Carl Rotenberg, The Times Herald Thursday, May 29, 2014 EAST NORRITON — The board of supervisors held a public hearing on group home zoning regulations Tuesday and filled a gaping hole in the enforcement and control of the permitted use by unanimously adopting the new regulations. Both the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 require that American towns allow group homes in all residential districts. Group homes are defined as a "residential facility used as living quarters by any number of unrelated persons requiring special care, specifically designed to create a residential setting for the mentally and physically handicapped. The individuals may be either transient or permanent residents." Township Manager Don Delamater said, "a few residents had some questions about the legality of group homes and how can they be located in residential neighborhoods" during the public hearing. Several concerns raised by members of the East Norriton Planning Commission at a May 21 meeting were rejected by Solicitor Sean Kilkenny in a May 27 memo to the board of supervisors. Annual inspections by the fire marshal cannot be imposed because it raises "fair housing, equal protection and ADA issues," Kilkenny said. Regulation of medical waste for a group home cannot differ from the treatment given by township officials to another township resident. Group homes cannot be required to either pay an annual fee or obtain an annual license. The group home operator is already required to apply for a permit. A suggestion that the ordinance should prohibit renting a part of a group home to individuals without disabilities was ruled out by federal regulations guaranteeing that families, and group home residents, can freely reside in a home. The ordinance requires, "group homes shall be permitted by special exception in the AR, BR, BR-1, MR, GA, CR, HR, HR-1, RR, RP, RO, ATR and IN zoning districts subject to additional requirements." The zoning hearing board would hold a public hearing and decide on granting the special exception. A group home operator will have to provide a fire sprinkler system in the home and all attached buildings, a fire alarm system, a dimensioned floor plan, a statement detailing adequate trained staff supervision, a minimum of four off-street parking spaces, a prohibition against

outpatient services and a requirement that one non-resident caretaker employee shall be on the premises at all times. If the home has more than four residents, the operator will have to provide one additional off-street parking space for every two residents above the four-resident regulation. The board responded to the complaints of resident Rick Mumma in March about a grandfathered group home in the 200 block of Beechwood Road that provides care for two individuals. The home is rented by Firely Enterprises of Harleysville, which complied with the previous township regulations for group homes. Mumma estimated there were 15 group homes in the township that will not be subject to the new regulations because they began before the township enacted the new rules. In other business, Steve Tambini, the operations vice president at Pennsylvania American Water (PAW), told the board about the problems at the Norristown water treatment plant that caused a boil water advisory last week for six townships, including East Norriton. Tambini described the turbidity (cloudiness) problems with the intake water stirred up by two heavy rainstorms in early May and added another reason for the plant's decreased clean water production, said Delamater. "One of their treatment tanks was under maintenance and repair," Delamater said, "because a sweeper arm needed to be repaired." The board authorized Delamater to submit a Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) grant application for a traffic calming study on Old Arch Road. The $32,000 grant, if it is approved in October, will be supplemented with an $8,000 match by East Norriton officials. The board recently lowered the speed limit on part of Old Arch Road to 25-miles-per-hour. The Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) is a grant program of the DVRPC that supports local development and redevelopment efforts in qualifying municipalities of the Delaware Valley, according to the DVRPC website. Follow Carl Rotenberg on Twitter @CarlWriter.

Source: http://www.timesherald.com/general-news/20140529/new-group-home-regulations-adopted-in-east-norriton-15-grandfathered-group-homes-not-affected

Court defeat for Edina parents trying to bar son with mental disorder from marrying Article by: PAUL WALSH , Star Tribune Updated: May 27, 2014 - 8:47 PM Group home resident wins new hearing on his competence to marry. resize text print buy reprints Share3 It's going to take a lot more to keep a 27-year-old group home resident from marrying the woman he loves than a court ruling and his Edina parents' objections. The state Court of Appeals, pointing out that people with court-appointed guardians are allowed to marry in Minnesota, ruled Tuesday that a lower court failed to meet the burden of proof when it barred Michael O'Brien from someday exchanging wedding vows with the woman he has been dating for more than three years. Describing marriage as a "fundamental right" afforded to anyone who has the "sufficient mental capacity" to understand it in contractual terms, the appeals panel said the District Court must review the case anew because it did not look deeply enough into O'Brien's ability "to understand the meaning, rights and obligations of marriage." The case is not about whether O'Brien would make a good husband. O'Brien's attorney Steve Beseres acknowledged soon after the ruling that "Mike is a nice kid with significant problems. But they've allowed people in prison and all sorts of different situations [to marry]." Judith and Timothy O'Brien have been guardians for their son since 2004, when the court cited his "serious, persistent mental disorder," namely struggling with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, mild mental disability and being bipolar. Judith O'Brien testified in the lower court about Michael having shot out cabin windows with a BB gun, once grabbing the steering wheel of a group home van and other misbehavior while he was a minor. As guardians, the O'Briens take care of all of Michael's daily living needs, as well as his medical and psychological care. Michael has said he gets along fine with his parents, but he feels they put too many limitations on him. A psychiatrist on behalf of the parents said Michael functions at a level below an IQ of 71 and his "overall broad independence" is that of someone slightly less than 10 years old. Michael's attorney said it's his clients hope that he and his fiancée, a client in a Twin Cities special-needs program, can someday live in a group home for couples. Meantime, Michael sees her a couple of times a week at her residence and stays over once a month. The O'Briens' legal challenge is preventing the couple from setting a wedding date, Beseres said. The Appeals Court ruling notes that Michael's fiancée described their relationship in testimony as "very loving," while Michael contributed that "he is in love with her." It concluded "Because the district court did not make sufficient findings to establish that Michael lacks the capacity to understand the meaning, rights, and obligations of marriage, we reverse the district court's declaratory judgment that Michael lacks the competence to marry …" Tim O'Brien expressed disappointment with the appeals court ruling, noting that his son has had self-control difficulties for many years that sometimes erupted into "incoherent rage." Although he didn't reject the notion that Mark might someday be well enough to wed, Tim O'Brien said, "At this point in time, in my opinion, he lacks the ability to comprehend what a marriage contract entails." Beseres said he believes his client's parents have their heart in the right place but are on shaky legal ground. "I don't think anybody has any ill will," the attorney said. "You do anything you can for your kids." Paul Walsh • 612-673-4482 Source: http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/260820251.html

Senate passes bill aimed at protecting children; may vote to formally disapprove of DSS head By SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press May 29, 2014 - 7:22 pm EDT AAA COLUMBIA, South Carolina — The South Carolina Senate approved a bill Thursday to protect children from parents who abuse drugs and debated whether to formally disapprove of the Department of Social Services director. A no-confidence vote could come next week. The bill is named for 22-month-old Jaidon Morris, who died in 2008 of a drug overdose a week after being returned to his parents from foster care. Sponsoring Rep. Mike Forrester, R-Spartanburg, said he hopes his bill prevents other children's deaths. If children are removed from their home because of drug use, the measure would require drug tests before a court rules on parents regaining custody. It also gives the Department of Social Services greater ability to end visits between a parent and child. "At the end of the day, we'll have something benefiting the children who can't look out for themselves," Forrester said. The bill now returns to the House. The Senate's approval followed an amendment requiring the children's welfare agency to tell lawmakers annually how many children are in the agency's care and on social workers' caseloads. Another Senate amendment requires audits of the agency every three years. The additions come as a Senate panel investigates potential problems at the agency. A growing number of senators are calling for the ousting of its director, Lillian Koller. Gov. Nikki Haley continues to support her. DSS is a Cabinet agency. Haley's office has dismissed the calls for resignation or firing as election-year politics. On Tuesday, three House Democrats introduced a resolution seeking a no-confidence vote in Koller. It was quickly discarded in the Republican-led House. But the effort is increasingly bipartisan in the Senate. A resolution introduced Thursday by three Republicans and three Democrats says the agency under Koller's leadership has failed to protect the state's abused and neglected children. The Senate unanimously agreed to put the resolution directly on the calendar, bypassing the committee process and allowing a vote on the no-confidence measure Tuesday. "It's time," said Sen. Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington, a member of the panel looking into DSS. "All the problems are not Koller's fault. But they haven't gotten any better. They're not going to get any better." The panel has asked Koller to return for a third day of testimony next Wednesday. Senators have focused on the deaths of two children in Richland County and one in Charleston County. Koller acknowledged last week that many caseworkers' loads are too large. She said the agency is working to set practical goals to make caseloads manageable for social workers. The agency has repeatedly said the average caseload statewide is six, but senators say some employees complain of being responsible for up to 100 cases. Panel members browsing a folder of data last week said it showed few workers with less than 10 cases. DSS still has not provided that packet to reporters. The Legislature can't force Koller out. That is a decision for Haley, who appointed her in 2011. But Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia, said the Senate will reform the agency with or without Koller, in next year's budget process. The panel he sits on will make recommendations on the appropriate number of social workers and their salaries. Senate President Pro Tem John Courson, R-Columbia, called for Koller's resignation last month. However, he doesn't support the resolution, saying Thursday he doesn't want to set a Senate precedent. In response to Thursday's Senate action, the agency released a statement saying it supports any effort to help DSS better serve South Carolina's children and families. "DSS will always welcome the opportunity to work with our legislators and community partners about the countless hours and complex decisions our front-line workers make every day to protect the at-risk children of our state," the statement reads. "We are dedicated to delivering the most innovative services possible and will never stop working for ways improve our methods and practices." Source: http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/6da30e2d58374637baaf1e84cd07c8cc/SC--Jaidons-Law

Newport gets support with group home law Laguna, Costa Mesa chip in toward cost of petitioning the Supreme Court to hear the city's case. Email Share 33 By Emily Foxhall May 29, 2014 | 8:07 p.m. Two of Newport Beach's neighboring cities have pledged their support as it gears up to petition the U.S. Supreme Court for a hearing on its group home law. Laguna Beach and Costa Mesa have promised to contribute funding toward the costs of filing amicus briefs, which are written arguments submitted by independent organizations, often in favor of the petitioner. In Newport's case, the briefs are intended to sway the court to hear the case. Related Topics Justice System Laws and Legislation Trials and Arbitration See more topics » X Courts and the Judiciary U.S. Supreme Court Newport Beach plans to submit its petition to the Supreme Court by Aug. 18, asking the justices to reverse a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that said a Newport Beach ordinance governing group homes could be challenged for discriminatory intent. At least three groups — the International Municipal Lawyers Assn., the League of California Cities and the Pacific Legal Foundation — are then expected to submit amicus briefs, said City Atty. Aaron Harp. It will cost roughly $30,000 in attorney time and printing cost for each brief, Harp said. He anticipated that much of the attorney time would be donated and that the three groups would take on some costs. So far, Costa Mesa and Laguna Beach each pledged $10,000 toward the costs. The city of Claremont said Newport Beach could use its name in support but did not give money, Harp said. "The decision of the 9th Circuit impacts all cities," he said, "and they're interested in supporting our challenge to that ruling." Newport Beach also spent $280,000 to hire prominent attorney Theodore Olson to work on its petition. The case centers on a municipal law adopted in January 2008 that placed strict limits on group homes, an issue with which many other cities have wrestled. Group homes had previously been operating freely in residential areas, according to court documents. The ordinance effectively prohibited new group homes from opening in most residential areas and required existing group homes to complete the same permitting process required of new ones. The total number of facilities in a neighborhood is taken into account during the permitting process, the documents continue. Newport Beach residents had been complaining about

traffic issues, cigarette smoke and noise caused by their ever-changing cast of neighbors. But the new rules forced out many of the group homes because they could not qualify for the newly required permits. In the ongoing legal battle that ensued, a three-person panel of 9th Circuit Court of Appeals said last fall that the ordinance may have illegally discriminated against group homes for recovering alcoholics and drug users based on disability. But other 9th Circuit judges — although unable to find enough support to rehear the case — wrote a different opinion. They maintained that the panel's decision inappropriately allowed a neutral law that was fairly enforced to be challenged based on an accusation of ill intent. The city agreed, and felt prompted to petition the Supreme Court. "Until this decision, the rule has been that if a city adopts a neutral law that treats people the same and is fairly enforced, like the city's ordinance, you don't get to file a lawsuit to try and find out what the City Council was thinking at the time they adopted the law," Harp explained in an email. "This is a fundamental shift in the law and we hope that that the United States Supreme Court will take this case to ensure that local governments can continue to operate efficiently without bearing the burden and expense of frivolous lawsuits," he said. Group home operators Pacific Shores Properties, Newport Coast Recovery and Yellowstone Women's First Step House can file responses to the petition after the amicus briefs are submitted. The group homes are being represented by the Loma Mar-based firm Brancart & Brancart. The firm will evaluate an appropriate response as the time nears, Elizabeth Brancart said. A decision on whether the case will be heard is expected by the end of the year, Harp said. If it is not heard, the case will return to trial. Source: http://www.dailypilot.com/news/tn-dpt-me-0530-amicus-brief-newport-20140529,0,6448988.story

Teen Arrested for Setting Fire at Group Home 12:50PM Saturday May 31, 2014 Share With Facebook Twitter MySpace Yahoo! Google (CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.) -- A 17-year-old was arrested Tuesday after allegedly setting a fire at the Scholze Adolescent Center in Chattanooga. Firefighters responded to a report around 9 p.m. at 911 Pineville Road and found small flames coming from a ceiling vent in one of the residential rooms. The damages were estimated at $500 and no injuries were reported. A 17-year-old was charged with aggravated arson and transported to the Juvenile Detention Center. The investigation is ongoing and others at the group home may face charges, according to officials. Source: http://www.wgowam.com/common/more.php?m=58&ts;=1401366008&article;=D957A5FAE6AD11E3B51EFEFDADE6840A&mode;=2

May 30th, 2014: HEAL Launches New Petition to Demand Utah Courts Allow for Satellite (aka Remote) Testimony when Parties/Victims are Non-Residents! Please sign now at: http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/utah-courts-legislators

Sex abuse alleged at Utah youth home | The Salt Lake Tribune Sex abuse alleged at Utah youth home Courts » September trial set for Spanish Fork youth home employee. | The Salt Lake Tribune First Published May 29 2014 04:28 pm • Last Updated May 29 2014 04:32 pm A September trial date has been set for a man accused of sexually abusing two 14-year-old girls at a group home for troubled teens in Spanish Fork. Charges filed in 4th District Court allege that Wade Russell, 60, committed the crimes while employed at Extended Family Services. Photos View photo gallery (1 photos) Join the Discussion Post a Comment One girl said that on Nov. 3, 2013, her third night at EFS, Russell went into her room, lay down next to her bed and fondled her over her clothing, according to charging documents. She said she knew of another girl who also had been abused. Security camera footage from that time shows Russell's feet "sticking out of the doorway as if he is lying down," court documents claim. The girl's roommate confirmed that Russell was lying close to the victim, prosecutors say. The other victim said Russell sexually abused her on multiple occasions after she arrived at EFS in June 2013. She said that on Nov. 2, Russell asked her to join him in the laundry room because he could turn off the lights and escape the security cameras. Video from outside the laundry room allegedly shows Russell entering the laundry room and turning off the lights before the girl followed him inside. She claimed that Russell molested her then, and later the same day in her room. The second victim said Russell also used his cell phone to show her pornography. A job evaluation for Russell by EFS in August shows he was told not to have "any contact with female residents alone or out of the view of the camera," and that he was told to stop "hugging the young girls," according to charges. Charging documents do not indicate why those instructions were given. Russell denied to police touching either of the girls sexually and said the events recorded on camera amounted only to poor judgment on his part. When asked for his cell phone to search its browser history, he said he lost the phone, police reported.

Sex abuse alleged at Utah youth home | The Salt Lake Tribune Cont. Russell is charged with three counts of aggravated sexual abuse of a child, and one count each of forcible sodomy, sodomy of a child and attempted rape of a child, all first-degree felonies; and seven counts of second-degree felony forcible sexual abuse; and two counts of third-degree felony dealing in material harmful to a minor.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/58004247-78/russell-abuse-girl-camera.html.csp

State Falls Behind On Abuse Registry For Group Home Workers Fired group-home workers remain in the field Comments 10 Email Share By JOSH KOVNER, 7:15 p.m. EDT, May 29, 2014 The state department responsible for the care of thousands of intellectually disabled clients has failed in dozens of cases to place the names of group home workers fired for abuse onto a registry – created for the purpose of alerting other group homes not to hire those workers. As a result, potentially dangerous individuals remained in the field, free to be hired by unwitting agencies and possibly perpetuating a cycle of abuse, according to a state audit released Thursday. As of late 2013, there was a backlog of 182 cases in which a fired worker's name had not been entered into the abuse and neglect registry at the Department of Developmental Services, according to the report by the state Auditors of Public Accounts. Topics Accounting and Auditing Department officials acknowledged Thursday that the backlog has increased to 184 since September 2013, despite hiring additional workers to handle the registry cases. Thirty-nine new cases have come in, and the registry unit has processed 37 of them. Purchase your Officially Licensed UConn National Championship Gear HERE! The names of the fired group home workers haven't been entered because the required hearings before developmental services officials haven't been held. State law requires that, within 45 days after the worker is fired for substantiated abuse, the department notify the worker that his name has been submitted for placement on the registry and that a hearing will be convened. "Until the decision is rendered to place an employee on the registry, they can continue to work in the field of direct care, with another employer, potentially putting other clients at risk," the report states. The auditors said developmental services was failing to monitor the pending registry cases, and that its method of gathering information on the behavior of workers for private contractors was fragmented. In its response to the finding, the department said it has hired four people to work in the registry unit and is establishing a single system to capture information on abuse and neglect. The department said it was also looking to hire more hearing officers. The audit also found that the pace of investigations into serious cases of abuse and neglect that come to the attention of the department is too slow. When allegations arise at a developmental services facility or at a private agency that contracts with the state, investigations are generally required to be completed within 90 days. The auditors looked at the 243 open investigations as of Sept. 30, 2012, and found that all of them were older than 90 days and that many were older than six months. One was 53 months old. "The consequences [of these delays] are potentially serious," the auditors wrote. "Timely completion of investigations permits quicker action … pertaining to the health and welfare [of clients]." Department spokeswoman Joan Barnish said the agency "will be … including key partners from other agencies, the provider community and families to develop strategies for simplification and quality improvement to the investigation process." Copyright © 2014, The Hartford Courant Source: http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-workers-fired-abuse-0530-20140529,0,1023222.story

Gardner-Simmons Home closing after 26 years Updated 1:38 am, Friday, May 30, 2014 0 Larger | Smaller Printable Version Email This Georgia (default) Verdana Times New Roman Arial Font Page 1 of 1 TUPELO, Miss. (AP) — The Gardner-Simmons Home will close later this year after taking and caring for girls without a place to call home. The home was started in 1988. Last year, the Gardner-Simmons home rebranded as the Providence House Maternity Home for Girls and took in pregnant young women who needed a safe place to carry their child to term. Erin Stubbs, president of the Gardner-Simmons Home for Girls' and Providence House board of directors, told the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal (http://bit.ly/1jxd3zf) the two girls who were living in the home when the decision to close was made were moved. Stubbs said the closure will include the home and the foster program. He said a formal announcement will come in June. The organization was named for Margaret Gardner and Robin Simmons, best friends and Chi Omega sorority sisters who were hit by a truck on Mississippi Highway 6 outside of Oxford while participating in a walkathon for the sorority. Once it was established as a group home, the organization expanded to organize foster families to serve girls the house couldn't hold. A 2008 court decision led to a reorganization of the foster care system, putting a premium on placing children in family and foster homes within their community and making group homes the lowest priority for placement. Following the ruling, group homes were seeing fewer and fewer children referred — a change that caused many group homes, like Tupelo's Alpha House, to close due to lack of funding and lack of need. The first resident under the new Providence House mission entered the home Jan. 7, 2013, and since, four young women have used the home's services, two delivered babies and one lived in the home for over a year as she learned about pregnancy and then worked to adjust to her new life as a mother. ___ Information from: Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, http://djournal.com Source: http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Gardner-Simmons-Home-closing-after-26-years-5515429.php

Keeping Kids Safe Focus of Foster Care Conference in Holyoke May 30th, 2014 HOLYOKE, Mass. (WGGB) — Foster care professionals gathered in Holyoke on Friday to address the growing need for providing at risk children with better care. This is the fifth year that the Treehouse Foundation has addressed the issue of foster care in America. The event was held at Holyoke Community College. Right now, there are 9,000 children in foster care in Massachusetts. "The need is tremendous. As a foster adoptive parent myself, I feel **every child needs to be rooted in family and community and this is our vision here that everyone comes together to make sure**

all children are rooted in family and community," says Judy Cockerton of the Treehouse Foundation. Among the speakers was Bishop W.C. Martin who made the trip all the way from Texas. He called on the church to help at risk kids. "We have a very small church, less than 200 members, and we have adopted 76 children from the state and have gotten them into lovable homes, and members of the church have supplied wrap around services to help the children," says Bishop Martin. Among those being honored was Paul Fitzsimons, Deputy Commissioner of field operations for the Mass. Department of Children and Families. A recent report said DCF can do more to protect young children following the tragic death of 5-year-old Jeremiah Oliver of Fitchburg. DCF says the whole community needs to work together to solve the problem. "No one department can be in the home, in every home, every hour of every day. Children are either supported or failed by all the adults in their life," says Fitzsimons. Fitzsimmons says DCF has hired more than 200 staff members to help ease large caseloads. Source: http://www.wggb.com/2014/05/30/keeping-kids-saafe-focus-of-foster-care-conference-in-holyoke/

A Closer Look at Foster Care in the State May 30, 2014 by Editor in Children's Health, NC Health Beats, State Health Policy with 2 Comments By Hyun Namkoong **In the wake of two abuse scandals in foster homes, House lawmakers want to study the quality of Department of Social Services policies for DSS employees who are foster parents.** The recommendations from a joint legislative committee formed after last year's legislative session advised the creation of a continued study committee to more thoroughly examine the complicated DSS system. "There was so much to look at, so many things, in such depth," said Rep. Sarah Stevens (R-Mount Airy), the primary sponsor for the bill. "We recommended a continued study." A 2013 scandal involving Wanda Larson, a Union County social services employee and a 11-year-old boy who was found handcuffed to a porch with a dead chicken hanging from his neck prompted state lawmakers to study policies for employees who serve as foster parents in the system. The language for HB 1104 specifically directs the study committee to investigate whether or not a director or employee of a county DSS should be allowed to serve as a foster parent. "I am pleased that the committee will look at the foster-care system more closely," said Nancy Carter, executive director for SaySo, an advocacy organization for youth affected by the out-of-home care system in the state. "For years, folks weren't addressing any issues." In North Carolina, more than 14,000 children are in foster care. The study committee will also look into what can be done to shorten the length of time children wait in foster care for "forever homes," a permanent placement. Findings from last year's study committee show that children remain in foster care for an average of two years, which concerns advocates and lawmakers alike. "I anticipate bringing out a big piece of legislation in the long session," Stevens said. Source: http://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2014/05/30/a-closer-look-at-foster-care-in-the-state/

Teen shoots dead older brother, 18, in front of mother as the sibling tried to convince him to go to a wilderness camp for boys with behavioral issues Clayton Bronson, 18, a dedicated churchgoer and volunteer, was trying help his troubled brother Turner, 15 The pair got into an argument on May 22 in their Las Vegas and Turner shot Clayton in the stomach As their mother, Wendy, called 911, Turner is alleged to have shot Clayton in the head He has been charged as an adult with murder Wendy Bronson said they do not keep firearms in the house and does not know where her son go the gun By Joel Christie Published: 23:22 EST, 30 May 2014 | Updated: 08:39 EST, 31 May 2014 64 shares 375 View comments A troubled Las Vegas teen has been charged as an adult with first-degree murder after allegedly shooting his older brother during a heated discussion in front of their mother. Police say Clayton Bronson, 18, a dedicated churchgoer and volunteer, was trying to help his younger sibling Turner Bronson, 15, get his life back on track when the teen produced a gun and shot him. Turner made his first court appearance on Friday after being charged with murder, looking exhausted after spending the last week in jail, The New York Daily News reported. Clayton was scheduled to graduate from Sierra Vista High School in three weeks and planned to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to study computer science and robotics. SHARE PICTURE Copy link to paste in your message +6 Turner Bronson,15, makes an initial appearance in Clark County Justice Court on Friday, May 30, 2014 in Las Vegas. Bronson, who turns 16 on Sunday, will be tried as an adult on one murder charge in the shooting death of his brother, 18-year-old Clayton SHARE PICTURE Copy link to paste in your message +6 Te 15-year-old and his brother Clayton Bronson, 18, fought several times leading up to the fatal shooting because Clayton wanted his brother to 'get his life together' SHARE PICTURE Copy link to paste in your message +6 Killed: Clayton¿s obituary stated that he was devoted to his church, school, family and community. He taught Sunday school at Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, volunteered at the church¿s coffee shop and a sandwich ministry SHARE PICTURE Copy link to paste in your message +6 Clayton died three weeks before his scheduled graduation from Sierra Vista High School. He had been accepted to UNLV, where he planned to study computer science and robotics 'Clayton kept telling Turner to get his life together,' the boys' mother, Wendy Bronson, told investigators, according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal. The teens' mom heard the boys fighting from her bedroom before hearing a gunshot and running to find Clayton holding his stomach and saying Turner had shot him, police say. Clayton was trying to get Turner to go to a wilderness camp set up to help boys with behaivoral issues. Wendy called 911 and followed the dying boy followed to the living room. But Turner then walked up to within three feet of his brother and shot him in the head as his horrified mother watched, according to the Review-Journal. He hid the revolver behind a couch cushion and paced the house until cops arrived, the newspaper reported. The mom told cops there were no guns in the home and she had no idea where her son got the weapon. SHARE PICTURE Copy link to paste in your message +6 A police report stated Turner Bronson, who was not under the influence at the time, had difficulties answering questions, as well as smiling and chuckling at inappropriate times. SHARE PICTURE Copy link to paste in your message +6 Clayton Bronson kept telling his brother to get his life together. Turner Bronson then shot him During questioning by police, Turner 'had difficulty answering questions' and 'would smile and chuckle at inappropriate times', according to the Review-Journal. Turner Bronson, who will turn 16 on Sunday, will be tried as an adult on one murder charge. Clayton Bronson, or 'Clay' as many called him, was a student ambassador who had traveled to France, Italy and Greece. He played baseball, ran with his high school track team, liked to snowboard, earned a second-degree black belt in taekwondo, and he was an avid cyclist. 'He had the unique ability to include everyone, especially those who were shy and would have otherwise been on the sidelines,' an obituary in the Review-Journal said. 'It was important to Clay to make sure no one felt left out ... Clay had a contagious enthusiasm for life that influenced and touched the lives of all who had the privilege to know him.' Read more: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2644505/Disturbed-teen-shoots-dead-older-brother-18-mother-sibling-tried-convince-wilderness-camp-boys-behavioral-issues.html#ixzz33LUZNUQA Follow us: @MailOnline on Twitter | DailyMail on Facebook

(HEAL Special Note: Children are abused, tortured, and killed at many wilderness programs throughout the US. If Bronson was aware at all of the abuses that go on at wilderness programs, we believe such legitimate fear for his own well-being should be taken into consideration and that any charges against him in this tragedy be mitigated by understanding the legitimate terror Bronson may have felt when told he should agree to be sent to an unregulated wilderness program where children are known to be abused, killed, and become institutionalized for life. It is unfortunate that his family did not research the behavior modification industry prior to suggesting their son enroll in such a program.)

Group home counselor accused of drug possession with intent to sell by Kyle Wind Published: May 31, 2014 Article Tools Font size: [A] [A] [A] Our Social Networks Facebook Sign Up Text Alerts | newsletter R A group home counselor and driver for ChildFirst Services faces numerous drug and weapon-related charges after state troopers found suspected heroin, cocaine and raw marijuana at his home, the Wayne County district attorney's office said Friday. State troopers and the district attorney's office drug task force detective also found drug paraphernalia, an electronic scale and two .22 caliber revolvers with obliterated serial numbers during the search of the home Abraham Nyanti was renting in Lake Twp. District Attorney Janine Edwards said authorities were still investigating whether the 24-year-old sold or gave drugs to any youths but at this point was "thankful that the officers were able to make this arrest before a child who Mr. Nyanti supervised was hurt." Police went to Mr. Nyanti's 107 Batzel Road home in Lake Ariel after neighbors had complained about "suspicious activities" and smelled burnt marijuana when they spoke with him at his door, authorities said. Mr. Nyanti allowed police to search him and his home, during which police found, among numerous items, multiple bags of suspected heroin stamped with the word "Barbie" and one bag of what authorities believed was cocaine, prosecutors said. Authorities charged Mr. Nyanti with felony possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance and two felony counts of possession of a firearm with altered manufacturer's number and several related counts. Mr. Nyanti was being held at Wayne County Prison in lieu of $75,000 bail, and his preliminary hearing was scheduled for 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Wayne County Courthouse. Contact the writer: , @kwindTT on Twitter Source: http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/group-home-counselor-accused-of-drug-possession-with-intent-to-sell-1.1695587

State DCF To Close Group Home In Manchester Follow Your Town News On The Courant's Manchester Facebook Page Comments 2 Email Share 8 By JESSE LEAVENWORTH, The Hartford Courant 5:41 p.m. EDT, May 30, 2014 MANCHESTER — A group home for abused and neglected boys, the focus of neighborhood concerns because of the many police calls to the house, will close within the next three months, a state official said Friday. Reacting to the news, Mayor Jay Moran, who lives near the Nutmeg Drive home, said, "I think the neighborhood is going to be happy because of the amount of police activity. We're a very welcoming neighborhood, but that's not what we were expecting." The group home "is being closed for a number of reasons, but most especially because it is not being fully used and is not needed," Gary Kleeblatt, spokesman for the state Department of Children and Families, said on Friday. Topics Crime Homicide Southington "While the capacity of the program is for six children, only two children are currently living in the program," Kleeblatt said. "The Hartford region has a total of four of these short-term stabilization programs, and clearly the one on Nutmeg Drive was not being fully utilized. In addition, there was a relatively high level of police responses to the program." [Sample Our Free Breaking News Alert And 3 P.M. News Newsletters] Opened in 2006, the home is a STAR (Short Term Assessment and Respite) facility operated by Southington-based Community Residences Inc. The mission of the STAR program "is for at-risk, abused, or neglected children to have a safe, stabilizing

experience with the support of caring staff in a short-term, home-like, therapeutic setting," according to the CRI website, http://www.criinc.org/children-s-services/star-program.html. The DCF has been reducing group care across the state, placing children instead with family members and in other settings, Kleeblatt said. Residents' fears and long-term doubts about management of the home peaked in the summer of 2011 with the arrest of Charles Wilson, 19 at the time, who was accused of shooting and killing a local convenience store clerk and another man in Hartford in May of that year. Wilson, who wasn't living in the Nutmeg Drive home at the time of the shootings but had lived there several years earlier, was sentenced in 2012 to 55 years in prison for the Manchester killing and other crimes. His arrested raised concerns among residents about the kind of teenagers who were brought into the program. Beyond safety concerns, police have cited the many calls officers answered regarding residents of the home who were absent without permission. Calls reached a peak in 2009, with a total of 129 (from Jan. 1 to Dec. 9). Of those, 117 were about missing persons. The calls dropped significantly after state Rep. Jason Rojas, D-Manchester, arranged the first meeting of neighbors and officials in August 2011. But Moran said police have been out at the home more frequently in the past year. The home will be closed in 60 to 90 days, Kleeblatt said. The two children now in the program, he said, "will receive individualized discharge plans that will ensure their specific needs are met." "We want the best for these kids, obviously," Moran said. "There's no ill will toward these children or the goal of the group home. ... But safety is first and foremost in the community, and the fact that there's police presence all the time scares people." Copyright © 2014, The Hartford Courant Source: http://www.courant.com/community/manchester/hc-manchester-group-home-0531-20140530,0,5534744.story

Dunn Co. group home worker accused of stealing money, diamond ring from residents By: Andrew Fefer - Email Posted: Fri 4:08 PM, May 30, 2014 By: Andrew Fefer - Email Home / Headlines List / Article MENOMONIE, Wis. (WEAU) -- The assistant manager of a group home near Elk Mound is accused of stealing money from several residents, petty cash, as well as pawning a resident's diamond ring. Prosecutors filed eight felony theft charges against Erin Insteness, 42, of Chippewa Falls on Friday. A warrant was also filed in the case. Insteness is accused of taking the money between January 2013 and April 2014. A total of more than $4,400 was reported missing from seven residents of Brotoloc North's Tara Place in the Town of Elk Mound last month. Its website says residents there can be mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or alcohol or drug-dependent. A criminal complaint says Insteness has worked for the company for 16 years, and when an administrator asked her about the missing money, she denied taking it. Investigators say that administrator also found a receipt in Insteness' desk from a diamond ring that was pawned. They later determined the ring belonged to one of the residents. The complaint says Brotoloc paid back the residents for their losses. Source: http://www.weau.com/home/headlines/Dunn-Co-group-home-worker-accused-of-stealing-money-diamond-ring-from-residents-261302981.html

Aurora man convicted of sexually assaulting woman in group home By Kirk Mitchell The Denver Post Posted: 05/30/2014 03:23:25 PM MDTAdd a Comment Updated: 05/30/2014 04:26:58 PM MDT A 50-year-old Aurora man has been convicted of sexually assaulting a 55-year-old at-risk adult in a group home for the mentally ill, officials say. William Jesse Rattler and his wife were operating an unlicensed home for mentally ill patients at 1708 N. Lansing St., said Sue Lindsay, spokeswoman for Adams County District Attorney Dave Young. Rattler was originally charged with two counts of sexual assault on an at-risk victim involving two women who were living at the home. An Adams County District Court jury convicted him on one count and acquitted him on the second count, Lindsay said. Kirk Mitchell: 303-954-1206, denverpost.com/coldcases or twitter.com/kirkmitchell Source: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_25867406/aurora-man-convicted-sexually-assaulting-woman-group-home

How DeWitt investigator uncovered $17K welfare theft at Syracuse psychiatric hospital Print By Douglass Dowty | The Post-Standard Email the author | Follow on Twitter on May 30, 2014 at 4:03 PM, updated May 30, 2014 at 5:11 PM Mark RobertsOfficer Christopher Fuller DeWitt, NY -- A caregiver in a group home for people with disabilities knew in February something wasn't right. A resident's welfare benefits card had been wiped out in a matter of weeks. The employee discovered this after taking the resident shopping. There was no way that much money should have been spent so quickly. DeWitt police were called. While the group home was run by the Hutchings Psychiatric Center in Syracuse, the home was located in DeWitt. Detective Chris Fuller obtained the expense histories for benefit cards belonging to all the residents in the home. He tracked those expenses to Sam's Club and Price Chopper, among other places. Those were both places with membership programs that allowed Fuller to find out who actually bought the groceries. Sam's Club required a membership card and Price Chopper had the AdvantEDGE card. Fuller discovered that one of the group home workers, Alphonso Bradshaw, 62, had used the card. He also tracked purchases to Bradshaw's wife, nieces and other friends and family. The total amount of benefits stolen was $17,332.90 during a two-year period. Expenses included luxury food items like crab legs, steaks and shrimp. Sometimes there were two or three orders per purchase. "They were pretty much doing their grocery shopping with these cards," Fuller said. The number of victims also expanded during the investigation, encompassing five at the DeWitt group home and four others at a Syracuse group home, Fuller said. That included all of the residents whose benefit cards Bradshaw had access to, the detective said. These were lower-functioning people who needed assistance when going shopping in the community. Some residents lost more than $3,000 each to Bradshaw, according to a criminal complaint. During the investigation, Fuller also discovered that another worker, Ethalyn Crowder, 51, also stole from a patient, he said. She knew Bradshaw, but the two didn't appear to be colluding together on the crime, the detective said. Meanwhile, Hutchings alerted the state Inspector General's Office, which has oversight in regards to the hospital. The Inspector General's Office contacted Fuller. The office provided hospital records, including Bradshaw's timesheets and resident records showing whether they had been taken shopping on days the cards were used. The evidence showed that the cards were used by non-authorized people on days the residents were not shopping, Fuller said. Last week, officials from the inspector general's office arrived in town to collaborate with Fuller in interviewing suspects and witnesses. Bradshaw confessed to stealing the welfare, saying he sold the cards to friends, family and a store on the city's South Side in exchange for money to support his crack cocaine habit. Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the charges Thursday against Bradshaw and Crowder. She also listed nine of Bradshaw's friends and family who made purchases on the stolen cards. (The full list is in previous stories.) Fuller credited an alert caregiver for uncovering the thefts. "Luckily, one employee was on top of things," Fuller said. "The balance was much higher, but he knew there was no way the resident had spent that much money in a short amount of time." Now, the state Inspector General is going to probe more group homes to see if other workers are abusing the system in the same way, Fuller said. Source: http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/05/how_dewitt_investigator_uncovered_17k_welfare_theft_at_syracuse_psychiatric_hosp.html

Rutherford Foster Care Concerns Updated: Friday, May 30 2014, 07:34 PM EDT A Rutherford County woman fears for her two-year old son's safety after he was taken by D.S.S. Jessica Lovelace says she has no idea where her 2 year-old son is now. **She says she knows D.S.S. took him from her imperfect but loving home and put him in an abusive one.** Jessica Lovelace says her two year old son was a happy toddler, then in December tragedy struck when his baby sister died. Lovelace says her daughter was born premature with a clef palate and accidentally died of malnutrition. "I didn't make no mistake with my daughter. Because when I left the hospital I was under the impression I was doing right not wrong and if I needed to do more I would have been there," says Lovelace. With her baby's death under investigation, D.S.S. placed her other child in foster care. Lovelace says she noticed some bruises on him during the first two visits, but it was the third visit on Wednesday that prompted her to call 911. "These bruises were large. That was hand prints on his arm. They say it was a bite. No you can tell fingers from teeth," says Lovelace. In addition to being covered with bruises, Lovelace says he was filthy and smelled like urine. D.S.S. workers say they are working on the problem. "We check somebody out and when we place a child in a home, we feel sure they're safe. But we can't predict what could happen. But when we find out something happened we take immediate action," says John Carroll with Rutherford County D.S.S. Carroll would not say if the toddler had been removed from the foster home. The Rutherford County Sheriffs Department says they are investigating the foster parents and right now they're not saying who they are.Rutherford Foster Care Concerns Source: http://www.wlos.com/shared/news/features/top-stories/stories/wlos_rutherford-foster-care-concerns-16451.shtml

Report on Children in Foster Care Breaks New Ground A new report that WestEd contributed to is an “invaluable tool” for school districts as they develop plans to improve the academic achievement of youth in foster care, says Jesse Hahnel, the Director of the National Center for Youth Law’s Foster Youth Education Initiative. The Invisible Achievement Gap, Part 2 (PDF) examines the relationship between foster care characteristics and academic achievement for students in foster care. **According to the report, students who lived in group homes or had experienced three or more foster placements in one school year had the lowest academic achievement of all students in foster care.** This report follows an earlier WestEd report, The Invisible Achievement Gap, Part 1, describing the dismal academic achievement of California’s 43,000 school-aged students in foster care. In this latest study, researchers found that regardless of the characteristics of their foster care experience, students in foster care remained a distinctively disadvantaged subgroup. The Invisible Achievement Gap, Part 2, is a collaboration between the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning at WestEd and the California Child Welfare Indicators Project. Source: http://www.wested.org/new-report-on-children-in-foster-care-breaks-new-ground/

Third DeSoto teen accuses teacher of having sex with him Share on facebook Share on twitter Share on gmail Share on email Share on print More Sharing Services 6 Posted: Jun 05, 2014 6:29 PM PDT Updated: Jun 05, 2014 6:29 PM PDT By: Calvert Collins - bio | email A third DeSoto teen has come forward to accuse his teacher of having sex with him. He joins two other 16-year-old boys who took English from Pamela Jones at Athletes for Change - a treatment facility and school in Glenn Heights for troubled teens. Once news broke of Jones' arrest for indecency with a child, the third teen told administrators he too was involved with her. All three teens were about to be discharged from the six-month program when the alleged sexual encounters happened. Dallas police have interviewed the first two and will interview the third. Jones' husband called the program’s president on Tuesday morning and informed him of the alleged sexual encounters between his wife and her students. Dennis DeVaughn, president of Athletes for Change, says he had no choice but to turn her in. “We have an obligation, once any abuse or neglect we're notified of, we

have not only a moral, but a legal obligation to make that call and we did," DeVaughn said. Dallas police say the first alleged incident happened on April 26 in Jones' car parked outside the victim's aunt's house. The second occurred on May 31 in her house where her four children played in another room. The third teen claimed he and Jones met at a Chili's, then went with her to a nearby motel. Jones started teaching English in January at the program. DeSoto ISD contracted with Athletes for Change and paid Jones' salary. The students inside Athletes for Change aren't typical. There are only 14 boys who live, play and study inside the residential facility. All have criminal records and have been court-ordered to the program. The organization's president fears the allegations will have long-term effects on his facility. "It's a shame, but we did the best we can in our program," DeVaughn said. Source: http://www.myfoxdfw.com/story/25708135/third-desoto-teen-accuses-teacher-of-having-sex-with-him

County tightens laws for group homes Group homes in neighborhoods limited to 4 people 1 By Gabriel Khouli 770-728-1409 Newton County residents have consistently spoken out against efforts to open group or personal care homes in their neighborhoods, saying extra traffic and noise will ruin the peaceful nature of their neighborhoods and open the door for future unwanted development. Over the past several years, county commissioners have generally sided with residents and turned down applications that faced significant resistance. At the May 20 board meeting, the Board of Commissioners changed the county's law to make it even more difficult to open a group or personal care home in a Newton County neighborhood. The Board voted 4-0 (Commissioner Nancy Schulz was absent) to change the county's ordinance to place further restrictions on group homes in residential areas, including: -- Outlawing group homes from having more than four residents, including the manager -- Requiring the manager to actually be a resident of the home — putting this use in line with other home occupation businesses Group homes already require a conditional use permit to locate in residential areas — they're also allowed in some commercial zonings — but now they'll have to meet the extra requirements. If a group home operator wants to have more than four people living in the home and wants the manager to be a non-resident, then the group home must be placed in a commercial setting. Jenny Carter, with the county attorney's office, said the change was made because concerns have consistently been raised about the compatibility of larger homes in residential areas. Carter recommended limiting the number of residents to four, based in part on studying other counties' ordinances and the fact the average household size in Newton County was 2.93 people (based on U.S. Census statistics from 2008 to 2012). During the public hearing required for an ordinance change, a man spoke in opposition to the change, saying group homes that keep youth often need to have at least six to eight people in order to make a profit. He said the state will only provide so much funding per person. In addition, the man said forcing group homes to move to commercial areas take children out of residential areas and put them into less appropriate commercial areas. Group homes serve multiple functions, including housing people with physical or mental disabilities who need help with basic life tasks. Group home voted down During the zoning portion of the May 20 meeting, before it had voted on the group home ordinance change, the Board of Commissioners voted down a personal care home proposal. Leroy Mack was seeking a conditional use permit for a personal care home to have up to five residents along with one resident manager at the 1,900 square-foot home at 110 Roberts Road, off of Brown Bridge Road. Roberts Road ends in a cul-de-sac and about 30 lots have access to the road. Multiple Roberts Road' residents opposed the home, saying they would like for their quiet road to remain completely residential, including Scott Miller, who provided a detail slide show presentation. Miller said the personal care home could lower other residents' property value and resale ability. The Board voted 4-0 to deny the request for a conditional use permit. Source: http://www.covnews.com/section/1/article/52932/

Man convicted of sexually assaulting woman at group home for mentally ill patients in Aurora THE ASSOCIATED PRESS May 31, 2014 - 3:11 pm EDT AAA BRIGHTON, Colorado — A jury has convicted a man of sexually assaulting a 55-year-old woman at a group home for mentally ill patients in Aurora. The Adams County District Attorney's Office says 50-year-old William Jesse Rattler was convicted Friday of sexual assault on an at-risk victim. Prosecutors say he and his wife were operating an unlicensed home for mentally ill patients. Rattler was charged with two counts of sexual assault on an at-risk victim involving two women who were living at the home. The jury convicted him of one count but acquitted him of the other. Rattler is scheduled to be sentenced July 30. Source: http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/e2c86994097c4145adfbe2068b2ad7e4/CO--Sex-Assault-Patients

Woman's group home thefts alleged Posted: Friday, May 30, 2014 10:21 pm MENOMONIE — **A 42-year-old Lake Hallie woman has been charged with stealing items from a group home where she works** in Elk Mound. Erin L. Insteness of 3555 S. Joles Parkway, has been charged in Dunn County Court with eight counts of theft of movable property, with each charge carrying a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a $10,000 fine. The thefts occurred April 1, online court records show. A warrant was issued Friday for Insteness' arrest. Source: http://www.leadertelegram.com/local_news/story/article_acd4d4c8-e872-11e3-a35c-001a4bcf887a.html?mode=print

Marin grand jury urges county to beef up foster care program Report says better funding, communication needed By Nels Johnson @nelsjohnsonnews on Twitter Posted: 05/31/2014 04:21:52 PM PDT Marin officials need to pay more attention and allocate more funding to foster care programs, recruit more foster parents and improve staff communication with them, according to the civil grand jury. The jury's latest report, "Shining a Light on Foster Care," says a $5,000 budget for recruiting foster parents is inadequate and asserts communication involving social worker staff and parents needs improvement including "a protocol to return calls with 24 hours." In addition, the county Department of Health and Human Services should "budget sufficient funds to provide foster children with therapy by licensed clinical psychologists or therapists rather than relying predominantly on interns," the jury said. Heather Ravani, assistant health and human services chief who oversees foster care, said officials welcome the jury's detailed review, noting the nature of the recommendations speak well of the overall program and the dedication of the professional staffers involved in it. Budgets can be increased, she noted, but recruiting foster parents is always a challenge. Those interested may call 473-5028 or go to marinhhs.org/foster-care. Overall, foster parents report good experiences with the staff they deal with, Ravani said, noting, "We pride ourselves on having good relationships with foster parents." And the use of interns, she said, has been abandoned under new federal health care procedures. "We do appreciate the thoroughness of the jury report and the attention they gave to the program," she added. The jury noted that the number of children in foster care fluctuates, rising from 79 in July 2012 to 101 during 2013. Last February, 91 children were in foster care. "Though the numbers may appear small, their need is great," the panel said. "The challenge is the successful balancing of child safety with the preservation of families." The jury concluded that decisions on removing a child from a family home are difficult, quoting a court official as saying some cases are so close "it's impossible to know exactly what to do." Those who suspect child abuse may call 473-7153, the jury said. The jury report reviewed foster program procedures and noted foster parents expressed concern about issues including lack of communication and inadequate monthly reimbursement allowances, which range from $657 for infants and toddlers to $820 for youths 15 to 19. "Nobody makes money fostering children," one social worker told the jury. Source: http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_25873376/marin-grand-jury-urges-county-beef-up-foster

Jury's out on managed care of Medicaid : Business Jury's out on managed care of Medicaid Saved Save Article My Saved Items Print Email 2014-06-01T00:15:00Z 2014-06-04T13:28:33Z Jury's out on managed care of MedicaidBy Jim Doyle 314-340-8372 and Virginia Young 573-556-6181 stltoday.com June 01, 2014 12:15 am • By Jim Doyle 314-340-8372 and Virginia Young 573-556-6181 Loading… × Related Photos « Buy Now » A rainbow colored covered walkway connects the new Centene building to the original on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at Centene in Clayton. Photo by Stephanie S. Cordle, Enlarge Photo Managed care companies make unconscionable profits In "Who best to deliver care" (June 1), reporters Jim Doyle and Virginia Young did a great job in writing around the elephant in the room: nam… Read more In 2008, Centene Corp. took on a contract to manage health care for 30,000 foster children in Texas — a tough new challenge for the Clayton-based Medicaid contractor. Texas state caregivers had been prescribing a lot of psychotropic drugs to these children and adolescents. As these youngsters were shuttled from one house to another, Centene executives said, state authorities often lost track of which medications the children were taking. "I think the state understood that their ability to manage this population was limited," said Keith Williamson, Centene's general counsel. Within a year of winning the contract, Williamson and other Centene executives said, the Texas foster care program was being more effectively managed: The state budget for foster children had declined, and the number of psychotropic drug prescriptions was reduced significantly. One key: Centene created a "health passport" for the children, an electronic medical record that follows them from county to county and into adulthood. Centene executives cite their success with the foster care program as an example of how a managed care company can provide quality care while saving money. But in Texas and other states, managed care of Medicaid continues to spark debate. "There are some cost savings — the Texas Legislature wouldn't do it otherwise. (But) with the rollout of any managed care in a state, there are always concerns about quality of care," said Clayton Travis, a health coverage policy analyst at Texans Care for Children. F. Scott McCowan, a clinical professor at University of Texas School of Law and director of the Children's Rights Clinic, agreed that Centene has significantly reduced the number of psychotropic medications for foster kids through a "retrospective review" of children's medications. But McCowan says it may take years before the state realizes significant cost savings in the foster care program. And managed care has yet to solve the problem of recruiting enough physicians willing to accept Medicaid rates of pay, he adds. While trends have favored managed care of Medicaid — about 35 states and the District of Columbia now contract with for-profit companies to manage their Medicaid population — there have been some high-profile stumbles along the way. In Kentucky, litigation continues over Centene's early termination of its Medicaid contract. Centene executives say that Kentucky's contract rates were based on misleading information regarding its Medicaid population. In Texas, state officials last month canceled a managed care contract with a Xerox subsidiary. The move came after the attorney general's office sued to recover hundreds of millions of dollars that the company allegedly paid for Medicaid claims that were not properly reviewed. Xerox, which denies any wrongdoing, blamed unscrupulous dentists for taking advantage of the program. In 2012, Connecticut jettisoned its Medicaid contractors, saying it preferred to use the millions that went to administrative costs and profits to instead boost pay for primary care

doctors and improve care. The head of the Medicaid program said the state lost confidence in the managed care contractors. “Their measured performance is not impressive,” Mark Schaefer told Kaiser Health News. MISSOURI HESITATES In Missouri, where lawmakers again turned down federal money to expand Medicaid eligibility, there also was reluctance to expand managed care. Currently, three managed care companies provide services in about 54 of the state’s 114 counties, covering less than half of the state’s 823,761 Medicaid participants. Legislative committees this year recommended a Centene-backed bill that would have shifted more children and parents into managed care policies run by private insurance companies. “I believe it’s a way to give the state some cost-certainty and better health outcomes,” said the sponsor of one of the bills, Rep. Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff. But the House shelved the bill, and a similar proposal stalled in the Senate. Sen. Rob Schaaf, R-St. Joseph, a physician, led the opposition. “It’s not been shown that managed care for sure saves money,” Schaaf said. “There’s mixed research on that. We do know that it tends to limit the care of some people, especially the ABD (aged, blind and disabled) population, who are less able to navigate their way through it.” A study commissioned by the Missouri Medicaid program and performed by Mercer and Associates reported 2.7 percent annual savings for the current Medicaid managed care groups in Missouri. But Schaaf said that savings was wiped out by the study’s margin of error. And critics also contended that any savings stemmed from inadequate provider networks and denial of medically necessary services. In the end, the managed care bills died when the Missouri Legislature’s session ended May 16. “I would rather not just do stuff to make managed care companies wealthy but rather, to take better care of the recipients or save the taxpayers money, or both,” Schaaf said. The Missouri Medicaid Coalition, which is seeking to expand Medicaid coverage in the state, has not taken a position on whether these services are better provided by a state agency or a contractor. Bill Scheffel, Centene’s chief financial officer, insists managed care is focused on improving health care while saving tax dollars. “We provide quality health care, we save states money and we give them budget predictability,” Scheffel told the Post-Dispatch, adding that profit margins for the managed care industry are comparatively narrow. To measure the quality of health care, the company uses various metrics, such as rate of receiving immunizations, prenatal checkups, dental care for children, and follow-up appointments after discharge from a hospital. They also include hospital readmission rates and polls that show “member satisfaction” among Medicaid enrollees. One of Centene’s goals is to make certain patients receive proper care and don’t unnecessarily drive up their health care costs. For example, too many Medicaid patients use emergency rooms for routine care, rather than visit primary care physicians, said Holly Benson, chief executive of Healthcare Enterprises LLC, a Centene holding company that oversees four subsidiaries “If you invest in primary care and preventive care, it means they’re getting the right care in the right setting,” she said. So far, managed care companies in Missouri appear to be meeting patients’ expectations. “I haven’t heard a lot of complaints about any of the managed care companies, and usually I do if someone is a bad actor in the health marketplace,” said Andrea Routh, executive director of the Jefferson City-based Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance, a watchdog organization for patients. But the jury is still out regarding the industry’s track record in delivering quality health care. “Based on the data provided by managed care companies, we’ve seen some modest increases in quality of care and some cost savings,” said Dr. Karen Edison, director of the Center for Health Policy at the University of Missouri. But it’s not clear if expanding managed care would yield similar results, she said. “The Medicaid managed care population is largely women and children, and they’re healthier and less costly than the older patients with multiple, chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease and cancer,” Edison said. “It’s hard to imagine that you can translate the cost savings seen from managed care of women and children to the sickest Medicaid patients,” she said. Tim McBride, a health economist at Washington University, serves on a health policy advisory committee for Centene. Yet even he thinks Centene and other managed care companies need to provide more data to determine the effectiveness of these programs. “We as taxpayers give a check to these companies,” said McBride, “and we don’t get as much evidence or information back as I would like to see.” Source: http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/jury-s-out-on-managed-care-of-medicaid/article_81ce0fc8-9eb4-5796-9dca-2072bac34cf6.html

MacArthur Foundation Fellow Tells World How to Improve Foster Care System Posted: 06/02/2014 12:51 pm EDT Updated: 06/02/2014 12:59 pm EDT Print Article Share 33 Tweet 14 0 Email 2 tumblr reddit Recently, I asked Founder and Publisher of Youth Communication, Keith Hefner, his opinion on the current state of the foster care system because he has been helping foster youth use writing as a cathartic tool for decades. Beyond winning the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, he received the Luther P. Jackson Award for Educational Excellence from the New York Association of Black Journalists in 1977. Hefner is a 2004 graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Business, Institute for Non-Profit Management, Executive Level Program. Marquis Cabrera: What are your thoughts on the state of the current foster care system? Keith Hefner: The experience of foster care for most young people is the foster family. While many families are excellent, far too many are not. And, of course, children lose whatever support they have from those families at age 18 or 21 -- which is far too early for most to succeed on their own. Marquis Cabrera: Can you tell me about Youth Communication and any innovative programs you support? Keith Hefner: I am disposed to like programs that increase youth voice in the system. Represent [Magazine] does that through writing. The Mockingbird Society does that (in Washington State) through lobbying. Foster Youth in Action does that in several states by training young people to advocate for themselves and their peers at the county and state level. The Jim Casey Youth Initiative runs programs in several states that increase youth involvement. These are all wonderful programs, but they are afterthoughts. They need to be built into the system and well-funded. Marquis Cabrera: What methods or approaches do you believe will help to innovate the foster care system insomuch that more youth will beat the odds? Keith Hefner: To put pressure on systems to improve foster families. The first step should be systematically collecting reports from foster youth about the quality of their placements. These teen reports should not be determinative, but they should figure strongly in agency decisions. For example, consistently low-scoring homes should be given the opportunity to improve. Such a scoring system would expose the low quality of many homes, and put pressure on agencies to close them (which would likely create a massive shortage of foster homes). The prospect of that would put real pressure on agencies and government to figure out how to solve the problem. Solutions could include more intensive support for birth families (to cut the number of youth who need foster homes in the first place), better training for foster families, higher pay for taking foster youth to attract a wider range of families, etc. But the first step is to create methods by which young people themselves can rate their experience in foster homes so agencies and the public cannot just bury their heads in the sand and ignore what's happening. Another thing we have noticed is that youth often have multiple workers -- employment specialist, housing specialist, social worker, etc. The cast of adults that teens must interact with is too large, and as we know, when everyone is responsible, no one is responsible. It's well known that a connections with stable, caring adults are important for youth in care. Systems should be designed to increase the likelihood that foster care professionals can serve that role. Finally, foster care systems need to find ways to provide a series of (declining) supports to youth until their mid- or late-20s -- housing, medical care, tuition support, mental health services, etc. For foster children, the state is the parent. For children who are not in foster care, the "new normal" is that many or most parents continue to provide support for them children well into their 20s (e.g., financial support, tuition, a bedroom, keeping the children on their health plan, etc. etc.). The state, as parent, needs to recognize that parenting has now changed and expelling youth at 18 or 21 -- especially the society's most vulnerable youth -- is cruel and immoral. The few post-18 and post-21 supports, like ETVs, need to be greatly expanded. For example, youth in care should leave the system with a voucher for $5,000 in mental health services, to be used any time up to age 40. **That could be paid for by cutting the vast amounts of money spent forcing youth into therapy before they are ready to engage it. Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marquis-cabrera/macarthur-foundation-fell_b_5418977.html?utm_hp_ref=impact&ir;=Impact**

Barbara Brooks: Former foster parent charged with raping children ruled competent to stand trial WCPO Staff 4:37 PM, Jun 2, 2014 Barbara Brooks Copyright 2013 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. CINCINNATI -- A Colerain Township woman accused of sexually abusing children she babysat was ruled competent to stand trial Monday. Barbara Brooks, a 63-year-old former Hamilton County foster parent, pleaded not guilty in June 2012 to charges of sexually assaulting four different children she babysat between January 2000 and Feb. 27, 2007. Officials said the rapes occurred in her homes in Mt. Healthy and Springfield Township. During court proceedings in September 2013, defense attorneys attempted to introduce seven new witnesses to the case after opening remarks were made. Prosecutors were unaware of the witnesses, and some of them were in court listening to the start of the trial. That created an issue of separating witnesses from jurors and the court beforehand. Prosecution in turn was offered an option to allow the witnesses, declare a mistrial, or not allow the witnesses to be called. The third option, according to prosecutors, would have left open doors for multiple appeals if a jury convicted Brooks. Attorneys decided a mistrial, and a new trial date with new jurors, and possibly a new defense, was the best option. That new trial will start Sept. 2. Brooks is charged with 15 counts of rape and three counts of gross sexual imposition. If convicted of all the charges, she faces the possibility of spending the rest of her life in prison, said Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters. Brooks was a foster parent from 1996 until 2008, according to Hamilton County Job and Family Services spokesperson Brian Gregg. Police arrested Brooks on June 7, 2012 after a relative of the alleged victims, who are now 18 and 23-years-old, reported to police that the babysitter had abused them between 2000 and 2003. In 2008, a child sex abuse complaint was made against Brooks, said Gregg. Cincinnati police investigated, but didn't file charges. Brooks resigned from the foster care program and Job and Family Services officials permanently terminated their relationship with her. "These cases are always difficult to comprehend," Deters said in a previous news release. "We are glad that the victims had the courage to come forward so that we can make sure that Brooks is never in a position to care for a child again." Source: http://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/barbara-brooks-former-foster-parent-charged-with-raping-children-ruled-competent-to-stand-trial

News Application withdrawn to convert Litchfield’s Tollgate Hill Inn into drug treatment center The Tollgate Hill Inn in Litchfield. Shako Liu — The Register Citizen By Shako Liu, The Register Citizen Posted: 06/02/14, 7:31 PM EDT | Updated: 4 days ago # Comments A blueprint of the drug treatment facility that was proposed for the Tollgate Hill Inn as seen in April. Shako Liu — The Register Citizen LITCHFIELD >> Tollgate Center, LLC withdrew its proposal to convert the

Tollgate Hill Inn into a treatment center for at risk youth last month, just one month after their application was submitted to the town's Inland Wetlands Commission. Nancy Lacko, secretary of the Inland Wetlands Commission, said the application never went to a hearing or to the Planning and Zoning Commission before it was withdrawn. The original plan said the proposed facility would provide an inpatient program for youths age 13-18, targeting three to four month stays. Clay Lifflander, owner of Hudriv Investments LLC, a small cap private equity firm in Dobbs Ferry, New York, said previously that he and fellow owner James Foy found the Tollgate Hill Inn in a search for potential locations in the Northeast. They thought the property was ideal for the proposed facility because of its buildings and acreage. After they dropped the application in Litchfield, Foy and Lifflander are scheduled to present a similar plan to the Zoning Board of Appeals of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts next week. They've proposed to turn the Williamsville Inn into a residential drug treatment center for adolescents. Jerry Elias, a home owner in West Stockbridge, said he has a house half a mile away from the Williamsville Inn, and he goes there every summer and stays as long as possible. He doesn't think it's the right location for the proposed facility. "They have this very sophisticated proposal [in Litchfield], but then they just suddenly packed up and left," Elias said. "It's a great concern to me. I think there is a need for this type of facility, but I wonder that's the appropriate location for it. I wonder if people in Litchfield felt the same way." Lacko said she doesn't know why there was such a sudden withdrawal of the application, as no reason needs to be provided for withdrawal. Owners of the Tollgate Hill Inn couldn't be immediately reached for comment. Reach Shako Liu at 860-489-3121 ext. 316. Source: http://www.registercitizen.com/general-news/20140602/application-withdrawn-to-convert-litchfields-tollgate-hill-inn-into-drug-treatment-center

Group home owners believe they are targeted by licensing changes - Las Vegas MyNews3 - KSNV Group home owners believe they are targeted by licensing changes Video Images State requirements pose threat to group home residences Group home owners and advocates are outraged and feel their homes are being threatened by new classification requirements Reported by: Sandra Gonzalez Email: Print Story Published: 6/02 6:29 pm Share Updated: 6/03 11:46 am LAS VEGAS (KSNV & MyNews3) -- Group home owners and advocates are outraged and feel their homes are being threatened by new classification requirements. They say proposed legislation would devastate their industry. The Gentle Breeze looks like an average house in its neighborhood near Spring Mountain and Rainbow, but it's not. It has emergency exits, a sprinkler system, and lots of documents on the walls. That's because it is a licensed group home. Resident Ronald Schaube, an active 87 year old resident, loves his independence there. "I like being around people my own age, not that I dislike younger people because I was there," Schaube said. The home is classified as one that all patients are physically able to get out, should there be a fire. The owner, Miki Ton, wishes she could have the home also licensed to care for patients with physical or mental challenges including Alzheimer's. She, along with almost 200 advocates for group homes who were at a health care committee meeting, believe the rules changed on them without notificiation. "It's been hectic because we can't fill up our homes because we cannot get Category One residents. We went through this for over a year," Ton said. She says to change classifications for patients who cannot evacuate alone would cost the home thousands of dollars to change the sprinkler sytem to meet the requirements, for starters. And if Ronald falls or becomes disabled, he fears he'd have to leave this home and go to assisted living, where he's been before. "It was not the best place. It was nothing like this," he said. Chief of the State Fire Marshal Division Pete Mulvihill says his division has not yet made the classification requirement changes that group home leaders are complaining about. Both parties are divided and legislators have heard a lot of testimony, but they're confident that eventually common goals will be agreed upon. The battle will continue as advocates to retain the single family resident status are asking Gov. Brian Sandoval and federal leaders for help. Source: http://www.mynews3.com/content/news/story/Group-home-owners-believe-they-are-targeted-by/CNBE_8uPjku_9AC77YGRjQ.cspx

U.S. Department of Education Releases Guidance to Improve Educational Outcomes of Children and Youth in Foster Care Details Created on Monday, 02 June 2014 20:21 Written by IVN Washington, DC - Today the U.S. Department of Education is releasing resources to emphasize and support the needs of foster care students. In addition to new guidance, ED has launched a dedicated web page, Students in Foster Care, and issued a joint letter with the U.S. Department of Health Human Services to education authorities about increasing educational stability for children and youth in foster care. The guidance released today will make it easier for caseworkers, child welfare agencies and tribal organizations responsible for the placement and care of children and youth in foster care to have direct access to their education records. The guidance provides states with information to implement the Uninterrupted Scholars Act (USA), an amendment to The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). It also details the amendment's impact on the confidentiality provisions in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The guidance will help states improve educational and developmental outcomes for students in foster care by providing authorized agencies with access to the records they need to meet the early intervention or educational needs of the students. "This guidance is part of our efforts to raise awareness of the needs of this vulnerable student population. When a child is removed from their family and placed in out-of-home care the disruption is extraordinary. Many have to change schools once or sometimes several times," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "This guidance will help lessen the impact of these disruptions and help provide students in foster care with educational stability, by making their school records accessible to those in charge of their care. We also hope it will shine a light on the benefit of these students staying in their schools and within an education community that can support them through a difficult period." The USA amends FERPA in the following two ways: First, it permits educational agencies and institutions to disclose students' education records to authorized child welfare agency representatives and tribal organizations. Second, the USA also allows educational agencies and institutions to disclose students' education records to authorized child welfare agency representatives and tribal organizations following a judicial order, without requiring additional notice to the parent. ED is working with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide new resources to support educators and child welfare professionals in their work to improve the well-being of students in foster care. ED and HHS released a letter advising local educational and child welfare agencies to coordinate efforts to ensure the educational stability of students in foster care under the Fostering Connections Act. ED also launched the Students in Foster Care webpage this week, which provides information on important laws, guidance and technical assistance materials. The new guidance, letter and web page are just three of ED's continuing efforts to improve outcomes for children and youth in foster care. The Department has also worked to raise awareness of the impact of the Uninterrupted Scholars Act on the IDEA. The Obama administration believes that if we can improve the lives of the most vulnerable students, it will lead to better outcomes for all students. Source: http://www.imperialvalleynews.com/index.php/news/national-news/9034-u-s-department-of-education-releases-guidance-to-improve-educational-outcomes-of-children-and-youth-in-foster-care.html

Panelists talk with Maine tribes about trauma of foster care, separation from families Print Email Share Tweet Nell Gluckman | BDN Ester Attean, the co-director of Maine-Wabanaki REACH, presents on the history of Maine's Truth and Reconciliation Commission at the United South and Eastern Tribes Inc. board meeting. Buy Photo By Nell Gluckman, BDN Staff Follow on Twitter Find on Facebook Posted June 02, 2014, at 7:40 p.m. Last modified June 03, 2014, at 6:28 p.m. BAR HARBOR, Maine — The organizers of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission hope the work they have done uncovering the stories of tribal members who were involved with the child welfare system will inspire other states to tackle such an undertaking. "One of our dreams would be if this work spread out to other states and helped other state child welfare agencies resolve what is going on with them," Martha Proulx, a manager at the Office of Child and Family Services, told the social services committee of United South and Eastern Tribes Inc., an association of tribes that is holding its semiannual board meeting in Bar Harbor this week. Proulx was one of several representatives from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Maine-Wabanaki REACH, the organization that established the commission, who talked to the committee about their work on Monday afternoon. The mission of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is to understand the trauma suffered by members of the Wabanaki tribes who were taken from their families by the state and put into foster care or boarding schools over the course of more than a century. In 2013, a committee of five commissioners was sworn in and given the task of gathering testimony from tribal families and welfare workers in order to establish a more complete history of the events and create a set of recommendations for how to improve child welfare services and avoid such events in the future. "We're about trying to make visible truths that have been held inside, in some ways, as secrets," Carol Wishcamper, one of the five commissioners, told the social services committee on Monday. "Telling the truth, in our minds, will lead to the healing," she said. "And that healing, hopefully, will bring change." Wishcamper said those working with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to gather statements have acquired about 40 testimonies from members of the Wabanaki tribes — the Penobscot Indian Nation, the Micmac, the Maliseet and the Passamaquoddy tribes in Pleasant Point and Indian Township. The commissioners visited all the Wabanaki communities to introduce themselves and hold talking circles, Wishcamper said. They've met with about 110 people in these settings. Community members who attend are invited to give statements publicly, or they also may speak to a single commissioner with a trained statement gatherer present, said Rachel George, the commission's research coordinator. The statements are recorded on an iPad and archived with the participant's permission. Those who choose to participate are given full control of the statement, George said. They can edit, revise or completely withdraw their statements if they prefer. The presence of a commissioner during the statement gathering is important to the process, George said. "They want to tell [their story] to somebody who is an authority figure," George said. "So many people have been told that that never happened, or 'I don't believe you.'" The commission's entire budget comes from fundraising efforts, Wishcamper said. Jointly, the commission and Maine-Wabanaki REACH have a budget of about $800,000. Starting in late June, the commission will turn its attention to Mainers who are or were involved with child welfare services and are not members of a tribe. George said they hope to hear from foster and adoptive families, Department of Health and Human Services personnel, individuals who provide counseling, lawyers and police officers. Truth and reconciliation commissions exist worldwide to provide survivors of traumatic events the opportunity to heal. A commission was convened in South Africa after apartheid and another was created in Canada to address that country's use of boarding schools for First Nations children. Maine's panel is unique because both the victims and the perpetrators have been involved from its inception, according to Proulx, who works with

Maine-Wabanaki-REACH. Maria Girouard, the Penobscot community organizer, said this work goes beyond talking about child welfare services. “The work of the TRC has really enabled the community to start talking about healing,” she said. “To start recognizing the many, many hurts that we have.” Source: http://bangordailynews.com/2014/06/02/news/state/panelists-talk-with-maine-tribes-about-trauma-of-foster-care-separation-from-families/

Cuts devastate area treatment center Perry Behavioral Health Choices can only apply for $200K in state grants Jun. 4, 2014 | 0 Comments Email Print Share LinkedIn Tumblr StumbleUpon Reddit Del.icio.us Digg A A Purchase Image Stanton Villa in New Lexington is a residential treatment center for women. / Chris Crook/Times Recorder Written by Anna Rumer Staff Writer Filed Under News Local News John Kasich Purchase Image Zoom Brooke Byers, right, and Lori Sharrer talk about their time at Stanton Villa in New Lexington. The facility, shown above, is a residential treatment program for women. / photos by Chris Crook/Times Recorder More ADVERTISEMENT NEW LEXINGTON — When Lori Sharrer was injured in a car accident at age 19, she never dreamed the painkillers she was prescribed would send her into a spiral of addiction. After 16 years of drug addiction, during which she lost custody of her two children, Sharrer is now a proud graduate of Perry Behavioral Health Choices’Stanton Villa program and coming up on 100 days of sobriety. But the program that helped her escape the clutches of drugs is in now in danger after a grant “realignment” by Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services leaves PBHC scrambling for funds. Stanton Villa, a 10-bed women’s facility for those struggling with addiction, provides 80 Ohio women per year with programming and education helping them to fight their addiction, with an average of 64 woman emerging about six weeks later sober and on their way to physical and emotional recovery. “I learned to love myself here. I hated myself,” Sharrer said. “Sometimes I think I wasn’t that bad. I never shot up or anything, but I was that bad with the pills. I saw hundreds of doctors in one year. The drug addiction, it just catches on, and you have no conscience. You don’t care about anything but your next high.” The services that helped Sharrer are now looking for a new way to stay open after a change was made in the way the Ohio Department Mental Health and Addiction Services are awarding Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants. The department has decided to end the practice of “floating” money from the Ohio general revenue funds to SAPT providers while waiting for the actual grant money to come in from the federal government, often months late. Realigning the distribution schedules to match one another will “restore predictability and sustainability to the field,” OMHAS Director Tracy Plouck said. However, realignment requires the existing $62.6 million of federal funding awarded in Ohio grants to be spread over six quarters rather than the normal four quarters, leaving Fiscal Year 2015 $20.9 million short starting in July. Plouck admits this realignment will jeopardize some local services but blames the government’s delayed grant disbursement practices for the necessity of action. “We’re as frustrated as everyone else and hope that the federal government will reverse its decision or resolve the problem it has created,” she said in a statement. The Muskingum Area Mental Health and Recovery Board — which serves Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble and Perry counties — will have to deal with a funding reduction of almost $365,000 because of the realignment. PBHC, the organization with the largest allocation, will face almost a 33 percent reduction in its $800,000 budget. Its most affected service will be Stanton Villa, which has up to this point been run almost solely with SAPT grant funds. The program costs a minimum of $492,400 annually, but this year, PBHC will be allowed to apply for only $200,421 from the government. “It’s like a kick in the gut,” Executive Director Theressa Snyder said, “We’re going to make plans to stay open at this point, but I honestly don’t know.” The funding cuts come at a time in which PBHC was already having financial difficulties, after an employee was caught embezzling more than $200,000 in 2012. Although $60,000 was covered by their insurance and the employee was ordered to pay back the sum of the money, Snyder said she doesn’t expect to see the money again. The combination of loss and grant reduction means Stanton Villa would only be able to pay four of its eight employees, most of whom are making just above minimum wage. The burden of the additional funds will fall upon outpatient treatments offered by the organization, Snyder said, as the majority of Medicaid and private insurance reimbursements come from nursing services. Medicaid expansion was supposed to be the saving grace of the realignment, with Ohio MHAS estimating an infusion of $557 million into the field in FY 2015. Stanton Villa’s clientele was already vastly covered by Medicaid, however, and Snyder said she has seen virtually no increase in Medicaid payments since the expansion. Even outpatient treatments haven’t been impacted greatly, she added, with less than a 10 percent payment increase now responsible for the deficit in other areas. Though Gov. John Kasich’s mid-biennium review has allocated an extra $3 million to aid local chapters who are struggling with their budgets, local organizations are still bracing for the inevitable disruption to their services. Snyder hopes to get assistance from the community in approving a levy renewal later this year as well as from the Muskingum Area Mental Health and Recovery Board. The board has promised to help the program stay open, but Snyder knows there might not be much it can do at this point. “Their hands are pretty much tied,” she said. “I know they’ll do everything they can to help make sure we have the funding we need, but the field is very busy and there’s a lot of demand and just no funding.” Snyder said she has seen a worrying increase in the need for services in the past few years, especially concerning heroin and methamphetamine addicts. Even without hard drugs in the picture, there’s plenty of work to be done, she said. Before she came to Stanton Villa, Brooke Byers hadn’t realized she had a problem with alcohol. Growing up in an alcoholic home, Byers had lost more than 80 jobs and was arrested for public intoxication and a DUI before her time at Stanton Villa. “I was a blackout drinker. Once I started, I couldn’t quit until I was passed out, picked up, or pulled over,” she said. Wanting a mindset change but not expecting to stop drinking, Byers admitted herself to Stanton Villa in 2014. “Coming (to Stanton Villa) was probably the best thing I could have done for myself. It changed my life tremendously especially with my family,” she said. “Just understanding that I don’t have to be that person for people to like me. I’m very funny, I’m very bright. I’m just so happy now. I had gotten to the point where I didn’t like me anymore.” After graduating the program within one week of one another, Sharrer and Byers are now living together, attending 12-Step meetings and looking for jobs. They keep in touch with the clinical staff that helped them get their lives back in line, and they agree that, without the support and programming provided by PBHC, they wouldn’t be where they are today. The option for those struggling with addiction could become even more rare if grant funding continues to be slashed, Snyder said. The next closest facility comparable for women is at the Rural Women’s Recovery Center in Athens, a 16-bed facility Intake Coordinator Becky Barber said already faces a significant waiting list filled with women from all across Ohio. Long waiting lists and scrounging for funding aren’t new for those involved in the mental health and addiction fields, though. Even at such a pivotal moment in what Kasich called “a public health crisis,” Snyder continues to see a reticence of both individuals and the government to pay into addiction services, part of which she believes comes from anger centered on drug-related crime. “This field is necessary and relevant, but no one wants to fund it or look at it,” she said. “We’re angry and resentful. ... There’s a lot of good that comes out of here, but it’s bare bones.” Source: http://www.coshoctontribune.com/article/20140603/NEWS01/306030021/Funding-cuts-devastate-addiction-treatment-centers

Dunwoody zoning board delays vote on Manget Way eating disorders center By Ralph Ellis The Dunwoody Zoning Board of Appeals decided Tuesday night to postpone a decision on an eating disorders treatment facility that wants to operate in a Dunwoody residential neighborhood. The board will take up the question again at 7 p.m. June 16. The Center for Discovery (CFD), a California-based company, spent about $1 million on a house and property at 1364 Manget Way for the eating disorders treatment center. Up to six teenaged girls would live there while being treated, the CFD says. Residents of the neighborhood, with support from the Dunwoody Homeowners Association, are fighting to stop the center. They’re worried about traffic and complain the city green-lighted the center without telling them. About 120 people showed up for the Tuesday night meeting, most of them opponents of the facility. Many wore stickers that said, “I support the Manget Way neighbors.” The zoning board of appeals must first decide whether it’s even going to discuss the situation. City planner Rebecca Keefer signed a zoning confirmation letter Jan. 13, and ordinances say the residents’ appeal should have been filed within 30 days. But they didn’t file until April 22. Linda Dunlavy, lawyer for some homeowners, said they had no idea the eating disorders center was in the works. The city didn’t tell anybody and CFD didn’t post signs or notify people in the neighborhood, she said. She said the zoning board of appeals is entitled to consider “the totality of the circumstances” and that the clock should start from the time residents heard about plans for the facility. But Josh Belinfante, local lawyer for CFD, said there’s no gray area. “The ordinance provides no exception,” he said. Some board members seemed conflicted. Vice chairman Ardy Bastien wondered, “What gives us the right to decide beyond the 30 days?” Chairwoman Gerri Penn said she had “a real problem with expecting people to appeal the unknown.” “I find it impossible to appeal in 30 days if they don’t know about it,” she said. If the zoning board of appeals decides to hear the appeal, the next question will be whether the city correctly classified the eating disorders facility. Keefer’s zoning confirmation letter says it’s a personal care home, which is allowed in a residential neighborhood. Dr. Craig Brown, CEO of CFD, said doctors and nurses would periodically visit the center but would not stay there 24/7, though psychologists would. “They’re not there for medical treatment,” Brown said of the patients. “They’re there for psychological stabilization.” Dunlavy contends the city made a bad decision and that the facility should actually be classified as a medical treatment facility, which zoning laws don’t allow in residential areas. “She [Keefer] merely relied on the claims of the Center for Discovery,” Dunlavy said. “This is not a personal care home. This is a commercial business. This is a medical facility.” No matter what the zoning board of appeals decides, the next step in the battle may be Superior Court, since any decision cannot be appealed to the city council. Up to six girls between the ages of 11 and 18 would stay in the eating disorders center and and receive 24-hour care. The typical treatment duration runs between 45 and 90 days, the CFD said. Brown said this would be CFD’s first operation in Georgia. Other eating disorders centers are also located in upscale neighborhoods, he said, because that’s where the problem is usually found. Source: http://www.reporternewspapers.net/2014/06/04/zoning-board-delays-vote-magnet-way-eating-disorders-center/

Two deaths in privately run group homes stir concern in N.J. June 3, 2014, 10:06 PM Last updated: Wednesday, June 4, 2014, 3:10 PM By STEPHANIE AKIN STAFF WRITER The Record elizabeth lara/staff photographer The North Jersey Developmental Center in Totowa is one of two state-run facilities that are being phased out. Two men with severe mental and physical disabilities died from choking on food months after they were transferred from the North Jersey Developmental Center in Totowa to privately run homes as part of a massive restructuring of care for the disabled, according to union members and family advocates. The circumstances surrounding the deaths of Richard Fornarotto, 54, and Steven Cortes, 65, are uncannily similar and point to what some advocates for the disabled say are widespread

problems in the way the state has undertaken its plans to close the North Jersey Developmental Center and the Woodbridge Developmental Center, a process that the state says will help improve treatment to thousands of people by better integrating them into their communities, but which advocates say has unnecessarily upended hundreds of lives. The deaths come at a time when families of those in the developmental centers are fighting the closures, saying such a drastic change could have devastating consequences. However, many circumstances surrounding the deaths are unknown, including whether they were the result of unfortunate accidents or whether the shift from one facility to another played a role. State officials, citing federal medical confidentiality laws, declined to confirm details about the deaths, including Cortes' and Fornarotto's names. But Nicole Brossoie, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Human Services, wrote in an email that there was no "causal connection" between deaths of residents and transfers from community centers. "Individuals with developmental disabilities often have multiple medical conditions that can shorten their lifespan — regardless of where they live," Brossoie wrote. "The administration firmly believes that all individuals deserve to be cared for in the least restrictive environment available." Fornarotto and Cortes were both under the care of state-appointed guardians, meaning they had no living relatives to manage their affairs. They had both lived in state institutions like the North Jersey Developmental Center since they were children but were transferred to private group homes in recent months, part of the first wave of residents to make the move. And they both choked on bits of food — Fornarotto on a cupcake and Cortes on a sandwich — according to sources with knowledge of their cases. "These deaths sadden me but they do not shock me," said Geoffrey Dubrowsky, a member of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, which advocates for the disabled, and a relative and guardian of three people with disabilities. "When you move somebody from a facility where they have been most of the their lives, surrounded by the people who know what kind of care they need, these results must be expected." Fornarotto and Cortes were among the 639 residents scheduled to be moved from the North Jersey and Woodbridge centers when the state announced the controversial decision in August 2012 to close both institutions and move as many of their residents as possible into privately run group homes, which are smaller and more integrated with surrounding communities and can help some of the higher functioning residents live fuller lives. The move reflects a long-standing shift in national experts' opinions about the best way to care for the developmentally disabled — people with such conditions as intellectual disabilities, autism and cerebral palsy — and responds to budget constraints, changes in public policy and regional New Jersey politics. The closures will save the state $27 million for the next fiscal year, money that will be redirected to community housing, where there are long waits for beds, as well as day programs and other services, officials have said. With a $1.6 billion budget, the state Division of Developmental Disabilities provides services to more than 40,000 disabled individuals, of whom 2,340 have lived in the seven developmental centers. An additional 8,000, most living with their families, are on a state waiting list for community services, such as group homes and day programs. The decision to close the centers was also hastened by a 2013 settlement with a state advocacy group, Disability Rights New Jersey, which argued in a federal lawsuit that the state was not complying with U.S. Supreme Court mandates to allow people with developmental disabilities to live in the least-restrictive and most-appropriate setting. The settlement sets a deadline for mid-2017 for the state to move, "all individuals determined to be eligible for community placement" — about 600 people. The developmental centers are closing far sooner. The Totowa center is scheduled to close on July 1 and the Woodbridge center will close on Jan. 1. Brossoie said that, per capita, only Arkansas and Mississippi have more people with developmental disabilities living in institutions and that Governor Christie recommended $102 million in, "new and annualized funding for community placements and community services and supports," in his budget recommendation for fiscal 2015. But Christie's plans to bridge a state budget gap over the next 13 months, announced late last month, also include skipping a $13 million one-time payment to those that provide community-based services to the disabled, such as — adult day care centers and group homes. "Has any of this happened in a developmental center in the past? Yes it has, but not to this degree," said Jenelle Blackmon, staff representative of the AFL CIO, who represents staff members at the Totowa center. The union stands to lose dozens of jobs when the centers are closed. Brossoie did not answer questions about the rate of deaths in developmental centers versus the rate of deaths in community settings. Cortes was born in Newark but had been in developmental centers since he was 8 years old, according to remarks at his funeral in May. Caregivers at the Cerebral Palsy Home in Livingston, where he was transferred in October, said he wasn't there long enough for them to know him well, but they were moved by his smile and his evident joy in living He had a medical condition that made it difficult for him to swallow, although he was a very fast eater, according to staff members familiar with both cases who relayed detailed information to Blackmon and a relative of a developmental center resident. The staff members would not speak to a reporter directly because they feared for their jobs. Cortes was supposed to be on a diet of only ground-up or pureed food and to always be in direct eyesight of a caregiver, those sources said. But he was alone in an office on May 17 when a staff member heard a thump, the sources said. No one knew he had choked until the paramedics who were called to respond found the food lodged in his throat, the sources said. Fornoratto was on a group trip from the Benchmark Group Home in Branchburg to a ShopRite in February when he grabbed a cupcake from a shelf and stuffed it in his mouth. When he started choking, the group home staff members ran to get water and asked store customers to watch him, the sources said. State law requires staff members to immediately perform CPR and call 911, Blackmon said. He died Feb. 19. Blackmon said the staff at a developmental center would have known that because they are required by federal law to meet higher standards of care than group homes, which are designed for people who can function at a higher level and would benefit from greater integration into the community. Advocates against the closings said they accepted the rationale behind the decision to move people out of the developmental centers. But they said the process has been carried out too quickly to ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable residents. "I believe their safety is being compromised," said Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle, D-Englewood, who said she had received numerous calls from family members who are concerned about reports of the deaths. Email: - See more at: http://www.northjersey.com/news/two-deaths-in-privately-run-group-homes-stir-concern-in-n-j-1.1028426?page=all#sthash.Ims4yem2.dpuf

Marystown council votes against Blue Sky youth home proposal CBC News Posted: Jun 04, 2014 11:45 AM NT Last Updated: Jun 04, 2014 4:12 PM NT Facebook 27 Twitter 0 Reddit Share 27 Email Related Stories Marystown residents upset about plans for youth home Teen worried about future after Burin youth home closure The council in Marystown has voted against a proposal from a company to open a youth care home in a part of the town. Area residents attended a public meeting on Tuesday night to express their concerns regarding Blue Sky opening and managing the home in their neighbourhood. A group of concerned residents in Marystown attended a public meeting on Tuesday night, as council voted to reject Blue Sky's proposal to open a youth care home in the town. (CBC) Blue Sky takes care of foster children who have a myriad of needs — from those requiring temporary accommodation to those dealing with serious issues. Town council had previously held two meetings for residents to voice their opinions. "You keep saying this is a foster home, but it is a group home who can house children with drug addictions, sex offenders, aggressive behaviour, youth corrections involvements and so on," Marystown resident Wanda Barron said. The residents said the company quietly moved youth with behavioural issues from Burin to Marystown, with no notice to the residents, and no regard for their concerns. "This affects the safety of our kids, it is a needless worry put on our seniors that may affect their health, we will not feel safe and no one else will want to live there," Barron said. Councillors said their decision was not an easy one because the lines between a group home and a business are unclear. Marystown Councillor Lisa Slaney. (CBC) But in the end, council voted against the proposal from Blue Sky. "If we're going to move forward as a council and say, 'Yes this is a permitted use in a residential area,' we then have to realize the precedents that we set and how you bring that to the future because you will open up a can of worms," said councillor Lisa Slaney. In March, the provincial government announced a new framework for staffed residential care. Part of that process included the awarding of a private contract for three youth care homes on the island: T.J. MacDonald Achievement Home in Burin, Pine Heights Group Home in Grand Falls-Windsor, and the Bay St. George Youth Assessment Centre in Stephenville. Blue Sky CEO Anne Whelan said she was disappointed with Tuesday's decision and the reaction from the residents. "Fundamentally, what we heard tonight was a 'not in my backyard' kind of conversation," said Whelan. "People don't mean to be judgmental about people with physical or mental impairments. I think engaging in more public understanding is really the key." Council did, however, leave the door open for Blue Sky to propose another location for the home. Whelan said she will appeal council's decision first. Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/marystown-council-votes-against-blue-sky-youth-home-proposal-1.2664386

Disabled Clients' Protections Lacking Disturbing questions about how the state Department of Developmental Services is protecting its clients Comments 1 Email Share EDITORIALThe Hartford Courant 7:00 p.m. EDT, June 3, 2014 Two news stories reveal disturbing gaps in the state Department of Developmental Services' safety net. State auditors have discovered a large backlog in the list of group home workers fired for abuse of clients, The Courant reported this past week. The registry list alerts other group homes not to hire the fired employees. It's a good system — if it's kept up to date. But the auditors discovered there's now a backlog of 184 cases waiting to be added to the registry, meaning those former employees could be hired again by unsuspecting group homes. Topics Southbury Accounting and Auditing Maps Connecticut, USA Purchase your Officially Licensed UConn National Championship Gear HERE! That exposes residents to an unacceptable level of risk. Creating the registry isn't as simple as just identifying those who have been fired because of abuse. It's a complex process, including notifying the workers, conducting investigations and holding hearings on each case. Those accused must be given due process. But acting quickly is important. Having such a large number of open cases means potentially dangerous people might again be able to work directly with those living in group homes. To its credit, DDS has hired four additional staff to help process the backlog, with one more to join soon. It also says it is fixing the "fragmented" way it gathers information about workers. Those are steps in the right direction. Another issue facing DDS is the 2012 death of a resident of Southbury Training School. The relatives of 61-year-old Jackie Kiley Jr. became alarmed when the intellectually disabled man, who lived at Southbury for many years, developed an infection and became sicker and weaker. They tried to intervene on his behalf, but Mr. Kiley died. As reported in The Courant on Sunday, subsequent investigations have shown serious lapses in the treatment he received. The two cases are not parallel; Southbury is not a group home, and there is no abuse alleged in Mr. Kiley's case. But these reports raise disturbing questions about how DDS is keeping the state's most vulnerable residents safe. Source: http://www.courant.com/news/opinion/editorials/hc-ed-dds-bad-service-20140603,0,2805383.story

Foster care employee accused of sexual abuse Rikki Salzman faces charges NEXT STORY York County student makes cancer discovery Text Size: ASmall Text AMedium Text ALarge Text Foster care employee accused of sexual abuse MILLERSVILLE, Pa. —A Lancaster County foster care employee is accused of having a sexual relationship with a boy at a Millersville home. Rikki Salzman Rikki Salzman View Large Photos Rikki Salzman Video: Watch Susan Shapiro's report Photos: Recent Susquehanna Valley arrests Rikki Salzman, 32, is charged with institutional sexual assault, corruption of minors and unlawful contact with a minor. Officials say the acts took place at the Aborvale Manor facility, a foster care placement home, in Millersville. Salzman was an employee there. Officials first became aware of the alleged child abuse from the Department of Public Welfare on Jan. 16, 2014, according to the affidavit of probable cause. In a mandatory reporting form, the DPW relayed allegations that a female employee was involved in a sexual relationship with a juvenile male. When investigators spoke to the supervisor of Arborvale Manor, Mervin Fahnestock, on Jan. 23, they learned that there had been an internal investigation and Salzman had been suspended and later fired. Staff logs from Arborvale showed that there had been documented meetings with Salzman to discuss a variety of "inappropriate and unprofessional" interactions between her and the male residents in the facility, according to the affidavit. "Fahnestock also provided a video from the facility which is monitored by surveillance cameras that showed an inappropriate interaction between (Salzman) and (the alleged victim). Fahnestock also provided a documented interview of another male resident … in the facility that provided extensive information and details regarding the sexual/intimate relationship that was occurring between Salzman and (the alleged victim)," the affidavit states. Several months later, the affidavit states that investigators talked to the alleged victim, who said that he and Salzman "were involved in an intimate relationship that included hugging and kissing on multiple occasions during his stay at Aborvale Manor." Read more: http://www.wgal.com/news/foster-care-employee-accused-of-sexual-abuse/26328250#ixzz34Bxpz8wX

Living in a tent under a DC bridge How often do so many of us walk past or drive by a homeless person and wonder how they ended up on the streets? Andrea McCarren reports. WUSA9 Andrea A McCarren, WUSA 6:23 p.m. EDT June 3, 2014 905 CONNECT 30 TWEETLINKEDIN 4 COMMENTEMAILMORE WASHINGTON, D.C. (WUSA9) -- How often do so many of us walk past or drive by a homeless person and wonder how they ended up on the streets? It is almost an everyday part of life in a city like Washington. WUSA9's Reporter Andrea McCarren and photojournalist Joe Martin recently stopped to talk to a woman living amidst a row of tents. "This is my home, " said Shontay Alexander, unzipping her tent. When she turned 21, her time in the foster care system came to an abrupt end. "On my birthday, they were like, bye," she said. She has been homeless ever since, giving up one of her few possessions to buy a tent that's now her home. "I sold my laptop," she told us. "It's hard. It's sad." Shontay's mother died when she was just 13. "I don't know my Dad," she said plainly. As a little girl, Shontay bounced between foster homes. Today, unemployed and alone, her welfare checks go straight into a bank account. "I have dreams. I do. To get off the street. Do something positive," said Shontay. Among her meager belongings is a teddy bear. "Reminds me of my daughter," she said. A two year-old who is now in foster care, just like her mom. Shontay denies having any issues with drugs or alcohol. She says she has never been diagnosed with a mental illness. And she has no criminal history. And now, she says her primary goal is getting her daughter back. We wondered if she had any family and were able to track down Shontay's brother in DC. WUSA9 asked if he knew she was homeless and living in a tent. He said she "chose to go that way." So we asked, "Does anyone lucid ever choose to be homeless?" Her brother responded, "We're as baffled as you are." Source: http://www.wusa9.com/story/news/local/2014/06/03/dc-woman-homeless-foster-care/9924595/

Director must repay $23,000 stolen from Grafton group home By Gary V. Murray TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF 4 comments | Add a comment WORCESTER— The former director of a group home for disabled adults in Grafton was placed on probation and ordered to pay full restitution after pleading guilty Wednesday to charges of stealing $23,000 from several residents of the home. Prosecutors said Sonia J. Boutin, 49, of Watertown stole the money from six residents of a Seven Hills Foundation community home for developmentally disabled adults in 2003 and 2004, while working as residence director of the home at 118 Providence Road in Grafton. Ms. Boutin was placed on probation for 5 years and ordered to pay $23,000 in restitution to the foundation after pleading guilty in Worcester Superior Court to six counts of larceny of more than $250 from a disabled person and two counts of identity fraud. The identity fraud charges involved allegations that Ms. Boutin, formerly of 19 Nottingham Road, North Grafton, used the personal information of residents to establish telephone and electricity accounts in the victims' names for her North Grafton home. As residence director, Ms. Boutin was in charge of making sure the group home's bills were paid and residents' money was used for their benefit, according to Assistant District Attorney John A. O'Leary. The prosecutor said Ms. Boutin instead cashed checks made payable to residents under her care, purchased money orders and deposited them into her personal checking account. Mr. O'Leary said the thefts came to light after a 2004 foundation audit uncovered discrepancies in patient funds, including missing cash. Ms. Boutin told foundation officials the discrepancies were the result of "paperwork errors" and that she would straighten them out, according to the assistant district attorney. He said Ms. Boutin did not return to work after being contacted by foundation officials. When Grafton police reached out to her, she told them they could keep her last paycheck and that she would not be returning to the area, according to Mr. O'Leary. Her lawyer, Keith T. Higgins, said at an earlier hearing in the case that Ms. Boutin called Grafton police before being indicted in 2005 and left a message saying she was in a shelter for battered women and would not be returning to Grafton any time soon. Saying Ms. Boutin's crimes involved "a significant breach of fiduciary duty" to "vulnerable victims," Mr. O'Leary recommended that she be adjudicated a common and notorious thief and sentenced to 2 to 3 years in state prison with 5 years of probation and an order of restitution. The recommendation that Ms. Boutin be judged a common and notorious thief, which was later adopted by Judge Janet Kenton-Walker, increased the maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment on the larceny charges to 20 years. Mr. O'Leary said the Seven Hills Foundation repaid the victims and that the restitution paid by Ms. Boutin should go to the foundation. Mr. Higgins recommended that his client, a divorced mother of three, be placed on probation and ordered to pay back the money she stole. Mr. Higgins said sparing his client a prison sentence would enable her to continue working at the realty company where she is now employed so she could make her restitution payments and would also allow her to raise her 14-year-old son. If Ms. Boutin failed to pay the restitution or otherwise violated the terms of her probation, she could ultimately be sentenced to up to 20 years in prison, Mr. Higgins told the court. Judge Kenton-Walker, who discussed the case with the lawyers in a lobby conference before accepting Ms. Boutin's guilty pleas in open court, said advisory sentencing guidelines did not call for a prison sentence in Ms. Boutin's case. The judge also said she felt it was more important that Ms. Boutin be allowed to keep her job so she could pay back the money she took. "No matter how miserable and rotten your own life is, nobody has the right to take advantage of people who can't help themselves, and that is just what you did," Judge Kenton-Walker said to Ms. Boutin. "You need to pay back every dime that you took — no matter how long that takes you," the judge said. Judge Kenton-Walker, who retained jurisdiction of the case, ordered that $2,000 in restitution be paid immediately and that the balance of the money be paid at a rate of not less than $100 a month. "I will be watching, trust me," the judge warned Ms. Boutin. "You have a chance here. Let's see what you do with it. It's entirely up to you," she said. Contact Gary V. Murray at . Follow him on Twitter @GaryMurrayTG Source: http://www.telegram.com/article/20140604/NEWS/306049579/1116/RSS03&source;=rss

Woman will stand trial for beating in Detroit group home Caretaker accused of using broom handle, cord to beat autistic woman Small Text Medium Text Large Text Print Email DETROIT - A 49-year-old Detroit foster home worker has been bound over to stand trial in the videotaped beating of a disabled woman with a mop handle and extension cord. Kadia Konate Dennard, 49, is accused of using a broom handle and extension cord to hit the victim, Vera Gossett, at Strathmoor Manor. She had originally been charged with abuse and assault, but an additional charge of torture was added during a hearing Thursday. Quick Clicks Woman charged with beating autistic resident in group home Video exposes caretaker beating autistic woman A co-worker at the home recorded video of the incident on her cellphone. Gossett has a severe form of autism and can't speak. Her mother, Jacqueline Gosset, has mobility issues and decided to move her daughter into the group home seven years ago. She said she trusted the home until she saw the cellphone video, which contains graphic content. "It hurts, it hurts, it's painful to see my child like this," the mother said. "It's very painful." Dominique Blade, the certified nursing assistant who shot the video, had just started working at at the group home. She said she was so disturbed by what she saw that she decided to start recording things. Blade testified that she saw Dennard abuse Vera Gossett for three hours. “She started hitting her … all over her body," Blade said. "She [Konate-Dennard] told me, 'Well this is the way you have to handle her, she's an animal, you have to handle her and deal with her like this,'" Blade said. The owner, Bartholomew Ajulufoh, has had his license revoked and it isn't the first time he's been investigated by the state. Last year he was found guilty for how another resident had been restrained. Vera Gossett has been moved to a different home and is doing better. The other residents have also been taken out of the home. Source: http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/court-hearing-thursday-for-woman-charged-with-beating-woman-in-group-home/26327516

R.I. tightens procedures for prescribing psychotropic drugs for children in foster care Published: June 04, 2014 11:20 PM Comments 9 104 49 +10 0 3 12 By Lynn Arditi Lynn Arditi Providence Journal Journal Staff Writer Published: June 04 2014 11:20 PROVIDENCE, R.I.— Rhode Island’s child welfare agency has brought in a psychiatrist to oversee the prescribing of psychotropic medications for youths in its care in the wake of growing nationwide concerns about the overreliance on these medications for foster children. More than 500 youths in the care of the state Department of Children, Youth and Families in 2013 were prescribed antipsychotics, antidepressants and other psychotropic medications, according to an analysis of data from Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, an HMO that serves Medicaid recipients. Many of these children were prescribed multiple medications, which increases the risk of side effects. “There are too many kids on meds and too many kids on multiple meds,” said Dr. Elizabeth A. Lowenhaupt, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Rhode Island Hospital who is overseeing the program at DCYF. “It’s really about making sure we have services that are alternatives to the meds.” In one extreme case, she said, a child was on six psychotropic medications and a doctor was requesting permission to add a seventh to treat the side-effects. Instead, she said, after talking it over “he decided to take the child off three medications and the side effects went away.” Until this year, the DCYF had allowed regional administrators with no medical expertise to sign medication consent forms authorizing

requests for new prescriptions for children and adolescents who have no parent or other legal guardian to oversee their medical care. New regulations enacted by the DCYF now require these administrators to get the approval of the department's consulting psychiatrist, in this case Lowenhaupt, for any new prescriptions for psychotropic medications for these youth. Administrators also must identify "red flags" for any new medication requests — including those for children under the age of 6 or for those taking three of more such medications — and seek the consulting psychiatrist's permission before approving them. Other red flags, she said, include children who are prescribed two or more of the same category of medications, such as two antidepressants, those taking more than the daily recommended dosage, and those who are taking any psychotropic medication without therapy or other behavioral health services. The data from Neighborhood Health showed that 518 youths — 22 percent of the 2,360 youths in state care — were taking psychotropic medications during the fourth quarter of 2013. Of those, 140 were taking two psychotropic medications, 86 were taking three and 54 were taking four or more. (A report released in April by the General Accounting Office found that hundreds of foster children in several states studied, as well as those in the general population, were prescribed five or more psychotropic medications even though there is no medical evidence to support such a regimen.) Of the 518 youths up to age 21 taking such medications, 442 were 17 years old or younger, according to Colleen Carron, an epidemiologist and director of data and evaluation for the DCYF. Among them were 32 children under 6 years old, the report showed. Most of those children were 4- or 5-year-olds who were being treated with ADHD, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, medications, Lowenhaupt said. The report provided no comparison data for the use of psychotropic drugs among foster children with those of youths in the general population. However, a 2011 report by Neighborhood Health showed that children in state care in Rhode Island were three times more likely to be prescribed psychotropic medications than those in the general Medicaid population. Nationwide, children in foster care are prescribed psychotropic medications at a rate four times higher than the general Medicaid child population, and more often receive multiple medications, according to a study by the nonprofit Center for Healthcare Strategies. Rhode Island is one of six states where state child welfare officials are working with the Center for Healthcare Strategies to improve policies and procedures to reduce reliance on psychotropic medications in children. The other states are Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Illinois and Oregon. The project, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, provides technical support to help states develop and adopt more effective protocols for use of psychotropic medications. Janice DeFrances, the DCYF's director, said the department had applied for a grant to participate in the project in 2011, and when it wasn't chosen she offered to fund the effort anyway. The department has since received some technical support from the center for its work, she said. On Twitter: @LynnArditi Source: http://www.providencejournal.com/breaking-news/content/20140604-r.i.-tightens-procedures-for-prescribing-psychotropic-drugs-for-children-in-foster-care.ece

Youth collects gifts for kids in foster care Story Comments ShareShare Print Create a hardcopy of this page Font Size: Default font size Larger font size Previous Next Nile Trice Posted: Thursday, June 5, 2014 12:05 am Youth collects gifts for kids in foster care By Bridjes O'Neil St. Louis American Pattonville High School sophomore Nile Trice recently celebrated her 16th birthday in a unique way. Nile hosted a party at the Creve Coeur Ice Skating Rink where she collected more than $1,600 in gifts to be donated to the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition. Attendees at Nile's birthday party earned free admission by bringing items most frequently requested by foster children – an MP3 player, bath and body products, a gift card or a remote control vehicle. It is a tradition Nile began when she was in the sixth grade. Within five years, she has raised nearly $5,300. "The one thing I've learned through my birthday charity events is that we all have the power to touch another person's life in a positive way," Nile said. "You just have to want to do it and not let anyone or anything stop you." Because of her efforts, Nile said many people have told her that they plan to host similar birthday charity events. "We actually had a family that was thinking about adopting a child," Nile said. "We're all very proud of her," said Pattonville Principal Joe Dobrinic. Dobrinic said that Nile is a dedicated student and a young lady with outstanding principles. Each year she selects a different local charity to support. This year she wanted to do something more personal in honor of her 9-year-old brother Jadon, who is adopted. The Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition is a United Way agency. For 25 years, the agency has strived to create permanency in every foster child's life by recruiting and supporting foster and adoptive families in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Nile donated her gifts to the organization's Birthday Buddies Program, coordinated by volunteer Fonda Fontroy Richards. The program matches donors with requests from foster children who would not otherwise receive a gift on their birthdays. Richards, who has volunteered with the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition for nearly four years, is the adoptive mother of six and the proud grandmother of 15. "Foster parents are often short on funds but long on love," Richards said. "They want to give their foster children a gift, but just don't have the financial means. We are always looking for more donors – especially for older teens who often go without." Like Alexis, who will celebrate her 16th birthday in July and is in need of a donor to make her birthday wishes come true. Alexis has been in foster care for about two years. For her 16th birthday, Alexis has requested tickets to a St. Louis Cardinals game, a gift card to Forever 21, or a Fandango gift card that she could use at a movie theater. According to Shelley Thomas-Benke, director of FosterServe Volunteers, over 50 percent of children in the Birthday Buddies Program are teenagers in transitional or independent living who have high chances of aging out of the foster care system without families. "They really have no adult in their life close to them who are buying them gifts," Thomas-Benke said. Gifts should be donated by July 16 to reach Alexis in time for her birthday. Prospective donors can view the birthday wishes and notify the organization of their desire to fill a request or more. For more information, visit www.foster-adopt.org/BeaBirthdayBuddy. Follow this reporter on Twitter: @BridjesONeil. Source: http://www.stlamerican.com/news/community_news/article_0788f08c-ec5d-11e3-bed7-0019bb2963f4.html

Report Raises Concerns Over Homelessness After Foster Care Daily Real Estate News | Wednesday, June 04, 2014 About 25,000 young people age out of foster care each year, with a large number then facing homelessness, according to a new report released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Health and Human Services. The report sounds an alarm to policy makers for the need to increase funding to programs to better serve this population and for greater research to determine what type of housing programs best work for former foster-care children. Youth who age out of the foster-care system may be the "single age group most at risk of homelessness," according to research. Young people in foster care typically age out of foster care on their 18th birthday. Some states extend that to 21. Between 11 and 37 percent of youths who age out of foster care have experienced homelessness, according to the report. What's more, research shows that 25 to 50 percent of these young adults leaving foster care "couch surf, double up, move frequently within a short period of time, have trouble paying rent, and face eviction." "All the available research underscores that these young people are too often faced with the hard choice of being precariously housed or living on our streets or in our shelters," says Katherine O'Regan, HUD's assistant secretary for policy development and research. "As we work toward ending homelessness, policy makers at every level of government must consider the unique challenges of young people who exit a system of care with little or no housing options available to them." Source: "New Report Examines Housing Challenges Faced by Youth Aging out of Foster Care," RISMedia (June 3, 2014)

How one county keeps troubled teens out of prison 10 June 2014 by Ted Roelofs Bridge Magazine contributor Benton Harbor resident Cree Coates on intensive probation for young offenders: "It made a huge impact." More than a decade ago, Berrien County, in Michigan's southwest corner, embarked on a juvenile justice plan built from a core belief: Nothing matters more than family. In 2001, officials in the county's family court system created programs aimed at kids who were at greatest risk of committing a serious crime. One program targets truant teens who had scrapes with the juvenile court system, in which parents and teens learn constructive family dynamics. Another offers intensive probation for teens at high risk of committing crimes, where probation officers all but become part of the family. The results are impressive. According to court data, the average number of juveniles sent to juvenile facilities dropped from 120 in 2001 to 35 in 2010. Recidivism dropped from 56 percent in 1998 to 17.5 percent in 2012. Elvin Gonzalez, who oversaw the programs when he became director of the Family Court in 2001, said the strategy is built on matching high-risk youth with community-based programs with proven track records. Those programs most often begin and end with family. "It is the central domain in a youth's life. Kids live in an ecology. They don't live in a bubble. They live in a family system," Gonzalez said. Before the shift, Gonzalez said, kids who were getting in trouble were usually sent to out-of-county juvenile facilities for a year or more. But that strategy did not address the troubled homes so often at the heart of their problems. Now many remain in their home community, with resources directed at making home and family a constructive – and not destructive – force in their lives. While the programs cost money, it cost more money to send troubled kids away. The average cost of community-based programs in Berrien County is about $5,000 per youth. The average cost of placing kids in a juvenile facility is $91,710 a year, Gonzalez said. Berrien County sent 112 youths to residential juvenile facilities in 2000. It sent 80 in 2013. Getting to know teens The first step is an in-depth assessment of boys and girls and their risk factors for committing crime. Some at highest risk are placed in a home-based, five-month treatment program known as Multisystemic Therapy, a system developed in the 1970s by a Virginia psychologist. It focuses on the array of factors that affect chronic juvenile offenders, including their homes and families, schools, neighborhoods and peer group. It employs three masters-degree level therapists and a supervisor, engaging the children and family members in individual, family and parent therapy sessions in their homes. Therapists also visit the these young people in school and at community or neighborhood sites. "We have worked with families that are literally homeless," said Edie Zars, who supervises the program. "We have worked with cases of domestic abuse and a parent with chronic health issues. We had youth that have had parents pass away. "The things we do range from helping families get furniture, get transportation, arrange medical treatment. We have a saying, 'Whatever it takes.'" Youths diverted from formal processing in juvenile court are enrolled in a nine-month program that includes multi-family classes and up to 20 family coaching sessions, plus up to 10 months more after the youth completes the program. From November 2010 to June 2012, 44 juveniles were served by this program. Of those, 23 graduated and 11 are still in the program. The others either dropped out or were discharged for getting into trouble. Of those who graduated, 82 percent did not commit new crimes during the following 18 months. The county also operates an intensive probation program that overlaps with the in-home treatment program for highest-risk youths.Two probation officers supervise caseloads of up to 20 juveniles, making frequent contact at home each week. The officers make sure the young people are attending school and meeting other requirements of

probation. Part of the family The court-ordered program, typically nine to 12 months, is for youth who have been adjudicated delinquent and are at risk of more serious crime. “We become part of the family,” said probation officer Jamey Frank. “We go to the home. We meet them at their jobs – all aspects,” she said” “We go to schools. When you see a kid that often for a year, you become really close to them.” Frank believes this approach is more likely to work than sending youth away. “Here we are working with trying to maintain in the community the supports they are going to have to live with. The reality is, that’s their family and you have to make the best of the situation they are in.” In 2006, Benton Harbor resident Cree Coates entered intensive probation at 14 after years of skipping school, getting into fights and running away from home. Coates recalled that her mother, a registered nurse, did her best to help. “I was just a kid with bad behavior. I got around with the wrong crowd,” she said. Under intensive probation, she had to produce daily signatures from her teachers that she was at school. She received in-home counseling from a therapist. Probation officer Frank became a most familiar face. “I was seeing her almost every day, even on the weekends. She would just pop up,” Coates said. Something clicked. Coates, now 22, completed the program and graduated from high school. She is now married, enrolled in Lake Michigan College and two semesters short of a degree in corrections, parole and probation. “She inspired me to do more with my life,” Coates said of her probation officer. “It made a huge impact.” Source: http://bridgemi.com/2014/06/one-solution-for-teenage-criminals/

Are We Overmedicating Kids in Foster Care? A third of the kids in foster care diagnosed with ADHD have been treated with off-label antipsychotic drugs. That's too many children getting medicine we know too little about. By Dawn Post | Friday, Jun 6, 2014 Share on reddit Share on facebook Share on twitter Share on linkedin Share on stumbleupon Share on email Share on print Share on gmail More Sharing Services 55 A recent study reported in the Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology reveals that one third of children in foster care diagnosed with ADHD have been treated off-label with an atypical antipsychotic medication. As a parent, would you consent to your child being prescribed an atypical antipsychotic medication? I submit that the label alone should raise alarm. Atypical antipsychotic medications are major tranquilizers and neuroleptics used to treat psychiatric conditions. Some atypical antipsychotics have received regulatory approval for adults for conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, dementia, autism, obsessive compulsive disorder and major depressive disorder. Most atypical antipsychotics are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use by children. But they can legally be used off-label, which means the drug can be prescribed to treat a condition for which it does not have FDA approval. News Topics Justice Health and Environment Author Dawn Post About | RSS These medications can cause troubling side effects in adults, including muscle rigidity, slow movement and involuntary tremors resembling Parkinson’s Disease, as well as substantial weight gain, among other things. Because of the small body of evidence about the use of atypical antipsychotics by children and teenagers, it’s difficult to determine their short term effectiveness and safety. And little is known about their long-term safety and efficacy due to the dearth of studies on this topic. Little is also known among many of the professionals prescribing these drugs about the mental-health impact of entering foster care. When children are initially removed, those who have experienced trauma as a result of removal and the abuse or neglect they suffered in the home will respond in various ways and, thus, there is no uniform means of identifying a traumatized child. For example, some children may suppress their feelings to protect themselves from further disappointment and rejection; others may outwardly misbehave, possibly because that is what they believe is expected of them or because they believe this act of sabotage will allow them to return home. Simply put, it may, in fact, be very difficult to identify from the child’s outward behavior whether a child is experiencing trauma. In addition, services often center on correcting the child’s behavior in the foster home as reported by the foster parent. As a result, the behaviors are addressed without identifying and treating the root cause. It is undisputed that children in foster care have a disproportionately high prevalence of mental health disorders. In New York City studies have shown that a large majority of children in foster care have a mental health problem serious enough to warrant treatment, yet most remain undiagnosed and untreated or, if they are detected, they are over- or irresponsibly medicated. Moreover, even children who have a diagnosis in foster care do not receive adequate or appropriate mental health services. Even for those families who access mental health treatment, they are generally restricted to one of many “Medicaid Mills” which are in the business of processing as many patients as possible. Assuming they are given a block of time, they are frequently faced with practitioners (frequently interns) who simply do not understand the dynamics of foster care and adoption and who cannot offer successful treatment and interventions. In addition, foster parents simply seek a quick fix to address what they perceive to be disruptive behaviors in the home. As a result, situations like this where foster children are medicated with atypical antipsychotics arise. There is action on a national level to address the issue. The PsychDrugs Action Campaign, an initiative of the National Center for Youth Law in Oakland works collaboratively with former foster youth, their advocates, and state agencies to develop more effective regulation of psychotropic medication for foster children and improved access to alternative treatments. By publicizing progress in states such as Florida, Texas, Georgia, Ohio, and California, the PsychDrugs Action Campaign seeks to help all the states to adopt reforms that are being developed in the most progressive states. For example, in Ohio they are using Pharmacy Benefits Claims data to identify the most dangerous prescribing practices and using psychiatric consults and supports to review the children’s cases and the prescribers’ progress towards safer prescribing. Particularly in those situations where psychotropic medications were prescribed to children under age of 6, where children were prescribed two or more antipsychotics for more than 60 days, or where children were prescribed four or more psychotropic medications concomitantly. In Texas, a recent law requires that kids who've been prescribed medication be seen by their prescribing physician at least every 90 days and requires that judges overseeing a child's foster care case be informed of behavioral and pharmacological treatments at all court hearings. Unfortunately, New York has not yet responded as other states have with proposed and enacted reforms. The Administration for Children’s Services has issued guidelines encouraging physicians to “start low and go slow.” According to an ACS “Quality Assurance” document, the prescribing psychiatrist must document his “reasons for prescribing the medication; name and dosage of medication and the date prescribed; previous non-pharmacological interventions; and expected results of the medication and potential side effects.” Promisingly, a Psychotropic Medication Committee is currently being formed to provide further guidance in this area for ACS. We need to raise consciousness inside the local child welfare community and beyond. Potential financial motives must be recognized: Psychotropic medication usually elevates the child’s classification from a “basic” rate to “special” or “exceptional,” a change accompanied by a significant increase in financial compensation. Motivations in reporting of foster children’s behaviors must be closely examined not only for financial incentives but also for practitioners taking the easy way out in terms of managing the behaviors. In reviewing records our office has seen a child as young as 2-and-a-half medicated with an atypical antipsychotic for “disruptive, unpredictable, and aggressive behavior.” Emphasis must be placed on identifying and securing quality and consistent mental health services for children in foster care outside of the standard “Medicaid Mills” to provide for comprehensive treatment plans for children including therapy, parent-management training and specialized educational programs for biological and foster parents. And individuals like me, a member of the court community, must educate themselves about these drugs and seek to intervene if necessary with the legal tools available to us. We need to do better for our foster children. The views expressed are those of the author and not the organization. Source: http://www.citylimits.org/conversations/255/prescriptions-and-foster-care

Ex-boot camp guard sentenced for sex with inmates 0 More By Associated Press June 6 GEORGETOWN, Del. — A former guard at a boot camp program at the Sussex Correctional Institution has been sentenced to three years in prison for having sex with female inmates. Thirty-nine-year-old Christopher Peck of Felton, who had pleaded guilty to six counts of having sex in a detention facility and one count of official misconduct, was sentenced Friday in Superior Court in Georgetown. Delaware’s Department of Corrections suspended the boot camp program after Peck was charged in December. The program aimed at keeping first-time offenders from committing new crimes. The News Journal of Wilmington reports (http://delmarvane.ws/1k29Zvd) that Peck, an Air Force veteran, admitted in court that what he did was wrong. ___ Information from: The News Journal of Wilmington, Del., http://www.delawareonline.com Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/ex-boot-camp-guard-sentenced-for-sex-with-inmates/2014/06/06/61daaae8-eddf-11e3-8a8a-e17c08f80871_story.html

When Foster Youths Reach 18, to Whom do They Turn? When Foster Youths Reach 18, to Whom do They Turn? 5 Saved Save Article My Saved Items Print Email « Buy Now » Buy Now Aging Out of Foster Care DREW NASH • TIMES-NEWS Roxy McMinn, 18, talks about her future after foster care while Independent Living Coordinator with Magic Valley Youth and Adult Services, Susan Baca listens behind her at the city park Friday, June 6, 2014 in Jerome. 2014-06-07T02:00:00Z When Foster Youths Reach 18, to Whom do They Turn?By Alison Gene Smith Twin Falls Times-News June 07, 2014 2:00 am • By Alison Gene Smith (0) Comments Related Galleries Gallery: Aging Out of Foster Care Blog: Foster Care - More than Fits in Print “Foster kids will try hard to hide and won’t open up unless they feel like they trust you,” Martin said. Read more JEROME • How do I work a washing machine? Can you send me some pizza money? My car is making a funny sound — help? Parents whose children recently moved out are familiar with such questions. But to whom do foster care children turn after they reach age 18? A parent isn’t always a text message away. Many foster-care children struggle to build the life-long relationships that some people take for granted, said Susan Baca, independent living coordinator for Magic Valley Youth and Adult Services. The agency currently is helping 62 youths aged 18 and over throughout the Magic Valley. Eight more will turn 18 later this year. The program, which contracts with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, helps adults become employable, works with at-risk youth and trains foster parents. Once children turn 18, they can sign themselves back into the system until they graduate high school. They must agree to abide by foster care rules but are free to leave any time. That’s what Roxy McMinn did when she turned 18. She signed on to stay with her foster parents. Then a few weeks later, she ran into her birth mother. “She said, ‘We need to reconnect,’ and I said, ‘I think you’re right.’” That worked for a while, McMinn said. Then she lived with her brother, then went back to her birth mother’s house. Now she’s looking forward to moving into an apartment near the College of Southern Idaho, where she’ll start classes in August. She said education is the goal that keeps her going. She wanted to be the first in her biological family to graduate from high school. Now she’s thinking about majoring in early childhood education. Mercedes Martin, 18, recently started college and moved back in with friends where she formerly lived while in

foster care. Leaving the system was nerve-wracking and exciting, she said. “It was like, ‘I’m going to be on my own. What do I do?’ But — ‘I’m going to be on my own, this is awesome!’” At 18, Martin moved into an apartment on her own. Then she began to feel overwhelmed and concerned about her safety. A family she had lived with before welcomed her back. “They reminded me, ‘You don’t have to live alone if you don’t want to.’” When Martin was growing up, her family moved a lot — from New York City, to Atlanta, to Twin Falls. They rarely stayed in one place for long. “I don’t think I stayed in one place for more than a year,” she said. She moved from school to school and struggled with classes. Now, with some stability, she’s making progress. She recently started classes at Aletheia Christian College in Jerome. “I’ve learned more in one semester of college than 12 years of school,” she said. Martin described her living conditions in Queens, N.Y., as “the ghetto ... a constant battle for safety.” She said she used to carry a pocketknife everywhere and trained in mixed martial arts, focusing on jujitsu. Now that she feels safer, she’s focusing on how to budget. Initially when on her own, she worried about budgeting and did a lot of research. “I obsessed,” she said. McMinn’s biggest worry was all the responsibility that comes with being an adult. “You’re 18. If you do something wrong, there are consequences.” One of her biggest surprises was learning that she could leave her foster home when she turned 18. Going from two years of rules to freedom was hard, she said. Baca said, “It’s immediate independence.” She said the independent living programs cover some very basic things that some foster children don’t learn. Things such as where to find a doctor, how to make an appointment, how to get transportation, budgeting, banking, cost-comparison shopping, cooking healthful meals and even doing laundry. The agency starts working with foster children when they’re about 15 to begin learning essential life skills. Closer to the 18th birthday, each child has a meeting to plan their future. The plan can change but serves as a guideline. The program helps foster children think about college and vocational programs, and some money is available to help pay for much of their college costs, Baca said. The program aims to keep foster children off the streets. “I can’t say that hasn’t happened,” Baca said. “It’s not a perfect system.” Martin and McMinn are in groups that speak to foster parents, prospective foster parents and social workers. They try to explain how everyone in the system can better help teens. Youth and Adult Services can stay involved with a foster child until age 21 — or 23, if the youth is in college. “They don’t make you feel like you owe them,” Martin said, but she feels as if she should repay the program somehow. “You pay that back by all the good things you do in your life,” Baca told Martin. The Magic Valley is desperate for more foster parents, Baca said. Those who can’t be foster parents can help with respite care, giving foster parents a break. That requires a background check and short training. People also are needed to serve on boards and donate items such as suitcases. “Too often, their (foster children’s) stuff is moved in garbage bags,” Baca said. Call 211, the Idaho Care Line or Magic Valley Youth and Adult Services at 208-734-4435. The goal of foster care is to reunite a child with the birth parents when it’s safe, or find a permanent family if reunification isn’t possible, Baca said. Some prospective foster parents worry that they’ll fall in love with a foster child, then have to give the child up to their biological parents. Others want to try foster parenting but worry about the effects on their birth children. Baca said she tries to work with new parents to quell their fears. McMinn and Martin said they’re doing well on their current paths and look forward to the future. “Here, it’s like a heaven on earth kind of thing,” Martin said. Source: http://magicvalley.com/news/local/when-foster-youths-reach-to-whom-do-they-turn/article_8608f6a0-0f2e-542f-ad01-43640d194e2e.html

Racial Disparities in Michigan’s Foster Care System June 6, 2014 by Patrice Garnette A recent report by the Michigan Race Equity Coalition in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice discusses racial disparities in the Michigan adoption system. Children of color enter into the foster care system at a higher rate due to abuse and neglect (1.3 times more than white children). Children of color also more likely to age out of the foster care system and not return to their families. Of the 13,000 children in Michigan’s foster care in 2013, minority children are 2.1 times more likely to age out of the foster care system. Broken down by race, black children are 2.3 times more likely, American Indian children are 1.4 times more likely, and Hispanic kids were 1.1 times more likely to have to leave the foster care system because of their age. Also, black children live with families that are investigated for abuse or neglect at a rate 1.6 times higher than white children. Key suggestions from the report are as follows: Continue to increase the number of foster care workers Increase the level of assistance available to foster care students who are in college or who are working until they reach 21 Improve data collection and increase data-driven decisions for improvement Increase funding to improve measures to prevent foster care neglect and abuse Patrice Garnette, Joint Center Graduate Scholar, The George Washington University Law School. Source: http://jcpes.wordpress.com/2014/06/06/racial-disparities-in-michigans-foster-care-system/

Green Bay group home for teenage mothers closing its doors By Gabrielle MaysPublished: June 8, 2014, 10:36 amUpdated: June 9, 2014, 1:12 pm GREEN BAY – A Green Bay group home for teenage mothers is closing its doors at the end of the month. Marion House has been serving the community for two decades. The group home is located on Green Bay’s west side on North Taylor Street. Raven Coley and her daughter Nevaeh will have to find a new place to call home. “I’ve lived here for about two years,” said Coley. During that time Coley says Marion House has given her better opportunities. “I think it was good for me to be here because if I would’ve stayed where I lived, I probably wouldn’t have graduated,” Coley said. Now Coley has her high school diploma. She’s also gained some parenting skills from Marion House. “[I've learned] not to co-sleep with your child and how to feed your child the right stuff,” Coley said. The group home opened in 1994. And today is the last remaining group home for teenaged mothers in Wisconsin. “The need for group home type housing for young teenage mothers and their children has changed dramatically. The counties that were placing historically with us are now looking to do relative placement,” said Marion House Board Member Ann Weiss. The organization also lost federal funding. Marion House also offers transitional apartments for teen moms. Now the building, along with the group home, and all other assets will belong to Freedom House. “It’s bittersweet,” said Freedom House President Robyn Davis. Freedom House supports homeless families and gives them the skills they need to live on their own. The home is currently helping 12 families. Freedom House’s president says 44 families are on a waiting list. “It will mean that we can help more people. We will not be using the assets here as a shelter. It’s purely going to be for transitional housing and then we’re going to determine what the next step will be for the use of the group home,” Davis said. Davis says families will most likely move into the building within the next couple of months. As for Coley, she says she’s sad to see Marion House close but she’s working and looking for a new apartment. Marion House says it’s currently helping about six young women find new places to live. Source: http://fox11online.com/2014/06/08/green-bay-group-home-closing-its-doors/

Woman gets prison for allowing kids to be molested Posted: Jun 07, 2014 4:41 PM PDT Updated: Jun 07, 2014 4:41 PM PDT WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP) - A Pennsylvania woman has been sentenced to 3½ to 10 years in prison for taking two children to a state prison so they could be molested by a convicted killer. Forty-two-year-old Rebecca Ann Butler of Danville was sentenced Friday in Wilkes-Barre. Prosecutors say Butler brought the girls to the State Correctional Institution at Retreat for several years, starting when they were 4 and 7 years old, to visit 47-year-old Andre VanCliff. He is serving a life sentence. Butler was convicted of two counts each of child endangerment and conspiracy to allow indecent assault of a child. Luzerne County Judge Michael Vough told Butler it was the "worst behavior" from a mother he'd seen. Butler admits putting the kids at risk but denies conspiring with VanCliff to have him molest them. Copyright 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. Source: http://www.wfmj.com/story/25720607/woman-gets-prison-for-allowing-kids-to-be-molested

Graham denies foster respite home By Jay Ashley / Times-News Published: Saturday, June 7, 2014 at 15:28 PM. GRAHAM — “Inconsistencies and unanswered questions” doomed a request for an emergency foster placement home this week in Graham. Mollissie Peterson of Burlington requested the Graham City Council issue a special-use permit to operate a group home in a residence on Providence Road. Peterson did not attend the meeting. In her stead, Delmonte Blackwell, a co-director with Peterson of the Alamance Academy, said the home was to be used as an emergency foster respite home for children 12 to 18 years of age, rather than a group home for more troubled youth. These homes, he said, are for children who have been taken out of their homes by departments of social services for one reason or another. No more than four boys would stay in the home for no longer than 30 days, he said. Peterson previously appeared before the planning and zoning commission, which tied in a vote to allow the special-use permit. Blackwell spoke of having more than four children in the home, but later admitted he was talking about the Alamance Academy rules and not the plans for the Graham site. There was also a discrepancy in the square footage of the home. Blackwell said the youngsters would be monitored 24 hours a day by three shifts of workers. Neighbors Tisa Long and Blake Marley expressed concerns about placing young people in a neighborhood with high traffic and a reputation for drug busts. They also said they did not know what the plans for the home had been until two days ago. Source: http://www.thetimesnews.com/news/top-news/graham-denies-foster-respite-home-1.329939

Sauk Rapids treatment center fined in infant's death Kirsti Marohn, 9:19 p.m. CDT June 7, 2014 Buy Photo Journey Home is a residential facility providing primary chemical dependency programming and housing for chemically dependent women and their children.(Photo: Times photo)Buy Photo 493 CONNECTTWEETLINKEDIN 4 COMMENTEMAILMORE SAUK RAPIDS The Minnesota Department of Human Services has fined a home for mothers recovering from chemical dependency and their children and ordered its license to be placed on conditional status after determining it was at fault in the 2011 death of an infant. DHS launched a critical review of Journey Home, a Sauk Rapids residential treatment center operated by CentraCare Health, after a second baby died there in September 2013. In that case, the infant drowned after his mother fell asleep while bathing him. In an order issued last month, DHS did not find any maltreatment in the drowning. But in the first incident, the agency determined Journey Home was responsible for neglect of the mother and her infant, who died in October 2011. DHS issued Journey Home a $1,000 fine and ordered its license to be placed on conditional status for two years. CentraCare has appealed. The first death wasn't reported to DHS until May 2013, said Jerry Kerber, DHS inspector general. The agency was investigating the first death when the second death occurred, prompting the review. "Any death in a treatment program is of very, very serious concern to us," Kerber said. Journey Home is a residential treatment center for chemically dependent women and their children that has operated for 25 years. Mothers receive parenting support through classes and counseling. The facility is supervised 24 hours a day. CentraCare spokeswoman

Jeanine Nistler declined an interview request because of the ongoing appeal. She emailed a statement that read, "Journey Home and all CentraCare Health services regularly review our policies and procedures to ensure that we are providing the best possible care to our patients and ensuring the safety of patients and visitors." Tragic event According to the DHS investigation memo, on Oct. 1, 2011, a woman under Journey Home's supervision allowed her 6-week-old infant to sleep in an unsafe location and position. The infant died during sleep. The mother was diagnosed with substance abuse disorder and had two children removed from her home through child protective services. She and the infant shared a bedroom, which had a single bed and a bassinet. According to the report, the woman brought the infant to a staff person at about 4:45 a.m. and said the infant was unresponsive and cold. CPR was started and the infant was taken by ambulance to the hospital, but died. The woman told law enforcement she had fed and rocked the baby to sleep at about 11 p.m., then laid the infant on her bed propped on a pillow. She fell asleep until 3 a.m., then watched television until 4:40 a.m., when she noticed the infant "didn't look right," according to the DHS report. An autopsy found no developmental problems, disease, injury or trauma. Co-sleeping in an adult bed with a pillow and blanket was noted as a significant condition contributing to the infant's death. According to the DHS report, on the night of the incident, a staff person reported checking on the woman three times. Each time, the staff person saw the woman awake in her bedroom holding the infant on her lap. Because the woman was awake, the staff person did not request that she move the infant to the bassinet. Journey Home staffers were trained that if they observed a mother sleeping with her infant in bed with her, they were to wake her and have her return the infant to the bassinet. Staffers were concerned for the safety of the infant in the woman's bed because she was on a high dose of methadone, and sometimes fell asleep while holding the infant during the day, the DHS report states. Methadone is a narcotic often substituted for heroin in treatment programs for drug addiction. Journey Home's internal review noted that the woman received training on the importance of having infants sleep on their backs in a bassinet. When arriving at Journey Home, parents are given information that included safe sleep techniques and the dangers of co-sleeping. DHS noted that Journey Home's policy at the time stated, "We discourage mothers from having their newborns sleep in their bed with them because of the possibility of suffocation but we do understand mothers may choose to sleep with their infants at times." Photos taken by law enforcement the morning of the infant's death show the bassinet was filled with snacks and soda. DHS found Journey Home was responsible in the first death because staff were aware of the risks involved with an unsafe sleep arrangement, the woman's high dose of methadone and her vulnerability as a parent. "They were aware that the mother was prone to falling asleep while caring for the infant," Kerber said. It also was clear that the bassinet wasn't being used, he said. 2nd death In the death last September, a woman staying at Journey Home fell asleep while bathing her child. The woman was also taking methadone. The woman told investigators she had started the water in the bathtub, left the drain open and used a washcloth to wash the baby. She left the baby in the bathtub while she used the toilet, and fell asleep. When she woke up, she saw the infant floating in the bathtub, which had filled with water. Efforts to resuscitate the child failed. DHS concluded that although the baby's death was tragic, Journey Home wasn't responsible. A staff person had checked on the woman at least four times the morning of the incident. Journey Home has a policy stating mothers are responsible for their children at all times unless they are signed into day care. The second death wasn't as predictable, Kerber said. While Journey Home staff were aware that the mother occasionally fell asleep, they didn't know she was going to bathe the child at that time. Unique model Journey Home is one of only six residential treatment programs in the state that allow parents to bring their children. Kerber said such programs are beneficial because they increase the likelihood of chemically dependent parents participating in treatment. "There are people who need treatment, but are refusing to go to a treatment program because they don't want their children to end up in the child protection system," he said. "This is really a nice alternative to that, in that they can bring their children with them and the bonding can continue." However, such programs raise questions about what times the parent or the center's staff is responsible for the child, Kerber said. "This arrangement presents unique risks," he said. "And we're certainly reviewing regulations in this area to see whether or not they're adequately addressing this situation." Kerber said he's confident the center is taking the deaths very seriously. DHS's order requires Journey Home to improve its assessment of parents and their ability to provide necessary supervision of their children. A contested case hearing will determine the outcome of Journey Home's appeal. If DHS's ruling is affirmed, a conditional license means Journey Home will be subject to closer and more frequent monitoring, Kerber said. Follow Kirsti Marohn on Twitter @kirstimarohn. Source: http://www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2014/06/07/sauk-rapids-treatment-center-fined-infants-death/10179079/

The Hidden Danger of Internet Addiction Mania: Sketchy Treatment Centers Written by Whitney Mallett @whitneymallett June 7, 2014 // 02:38 PM EST If your loved one is plagued by turtleneck syndrome, characterized by a hunched forward posture causing numbness in the fingers or wrists, they may be suffering from an addiction to their smartphone, tablet, or other wifi-connected device. Poised to be the illness of the future, it's likely Internet addiction will also be the next moneymaker for America's multi-billion-dollar troubled teen industry. As the media jumps on study after study sensationalizing the amount of time tweens and teens spend online, we should be looking at regulating the programs marketed toward fixing the youngest pathologically screen-obsessed generation. The United Stated has lagged behind Asia in diagnosing and treating Internet addiction. China's Tao Ran opened the first treatment program in a Beijing military hospital in 2004 and South Korea soon followed suit with similar internet bootcamps, while internet addiction was only added as an appendix to the DSM in 2013. Better late than never, residential facilities across America are beginning to see a market in underage net addicts. America's first Internet addiction treatment program, reSTART, which opened in 2009 in Seattle not far from Microsoft's headquarters, now has a youth program. And other behavioral modification programs usually targeted at rebellious and/or drug and alcohol-addled teens are adding Internet addiction to the laundry list of problems they solve. One of these programs, Liahona Academy, shared this infographic with Motherboard in an unsolicited email. The US, however, should look at the proliferation of internet bootcamps in China as a cautionary tale. Over the past decade, hundreds of residential facilities for net-addicted teens have cropped up from Hebei to Guangxi. These facilities vary wildly. Ran, an expert in net addiction who holds a masters degree in medicine, runs a legitimate treatment program—the help he provides families is apparent in the independent documentary Web Junkies. But other facilities in the country are often run by quacks and snake oil salesman happy to pocket the yuan desperate parents are willing to fork over. Treatments at these facilities include unlicensed electrotherapy, and abuse that has ended in at least two deaths. 15 year old Deng Senshan died from a beating he suffered his first day at the Qihang Salvation Training Camp in Nanning City in 2009. The tragedy resulted in the China's Ministry of Health drafting guidelines for bootcamps which ban physical punishment, destructive surgeries, and forced lockups. Ran, the net bootcamp's pioneer, has been an advocate for increased regulation in the industry, and told Wired these oversights are at least a "first step." A year later, another teen Chen Shi was reportedly beaten to death at another camp in the Hunan province. Western media is quicker to pounce on human rights abuses abroad than at home. Shenshan's and Shi's deaths were more widely reported than instances of alleged abuse at residential treatment centers in the US. While treating Internet addiction in the US is very recent, bootcamp style facilities targeting troubled teens have been a growing industry for decades—there are even escort services that will kidnap your teen to get them there—and allegations of abuse have been numerous. In 2005, 33 states reported more than 1,600 staff members were involved in incidents of abuse in these residential programs, and a 2007 report from the US Government Accountability Office examined 10 closed civil or criminal cases from 1990 to 2004 where a teenager died. These programs are big money. Back in 2002, Forbes estimated the troubled teen was a $2 billion a year industry. While as in China, these therapeutic boarding schools, wilderness camps, and behavior modification centers (some promising to de-gay teens) can vary wildly, the problem is that right now they are totally unregulated at the federal level. An effort to draft a bill enforcing standards for these programs was introduced to Congress last spring but did not progress past the committee stage. A new documentary Kidnapped for Christ about an American residential program in the Dominican Republic, executive produced by Lance Bass, is striving to galvanize greater support for regulations. The US isn't the only country just beginning to tackle internet addiction. In January, the first Internet addiction program in Sweden launched. And while the teen addicts in the Chinese camp featured in Web Junkies are all boys addicted World of Warcraft and other MMORPGs, Patrik Wincent at the Stockholm center reported that most of their prospective patients were girls addicted to social media. If the US wants to tackle Internet addiction head-on and avoid the inconsistent and potentially harmful programs that will likely crop up in a vacuum of services, South Korea provides the best model. Bootcamp-style programs are government run and counseling is funded by taxpayers. The Ministry of Public Administration and Security is making the dangers of Internet addiction a mandatory part of the curriculum from preschool to high school. This seems like a preventative measure that could limit how many youth might otherwise eventually need to attend an extreme residential program that separates parents and children and introduces the risk for potential institutional abuse. Source: http://motherboard.vice.com/read/the-hidden-danger-of-internet-addiction-sketchy-treatment-centers

Wrongful-death suit filed against DSS, foster parent in Charleston infant's death Christina Elmore Email @celmorepc Jun 7 2014 10:00 pm Jun 8 8:57 am Former DSS Director Lillian Koller By all accounts, the birth of Aiden Dean Clark was nothing short of miraculous. His mother, wheelchair-bound from spina bifida, had miscarried three times before Aiden was born July 7, 2011. The hopeful beginnings of new life in the family came to an abrupt end less than two weeks later after state social workers removed him from his parents' Charleston home. They had placed Aiden with a foster mother after allegations of abuse surfaced against his father shortly after the baby's birth. Aiden died 15 days later. Aiden's parents stood by the then-brain dead infant at Medical University Hospital as doctors turned off the machines keeping him alive. His father held Aiden's tiny foot as the baby took his final breaths. Ellen Babb, an attorney for the family, said this didn't have to happen. A wrongful death lawsuit she filed last week in Charleston County alleges Aiden essentially suffocated after the foster mother left him alone in a sweater box instead of a crib. The suit is the latest in a string of setbacks for the beleaguered state Department of Social Services, which has been the subject of widespread criticism regarding its practices and child deaths that have occurred on its watch. Former DSS Director Lillian Koller and the foster mother, Jennie Downard, 71, of North Charleston, are both named as defendants in the suit. Aiden's parents weren't identified in the court documents. Charleston County Coroner Rae Wooten said she can't say whether the baby died as a result of the foster mother's actions. A lengthy and thorough investigation conducted by her office failed to determine a manner or cause of death, she said. "Whatever Ellen Babb alleged in her complaint is what she believes to be the case," Wooten said. "It's not necessarily based in fact." No criminal charges were filed in the case,

North Charleston police spokesman Spencer Pryor said. "As a result of our investigation at the time, there was no evidence presented to show any intentional and harmful acts, nor was there any probable cause to lead to criminal charges in this incident," Pryor said. DSS spokeswoman Marilyn Matheus would not speak directly to the allegations in the suit, but she defended the decision to remove Aiden from the parents' home. A DSS investigation and subsequent court order resulted in his father being placed on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect and Aiden's placement with a well-regarded foster mother, Matheus said. "Law enforcement conducted a full investigation into this incident and the police report described Ms. Downard as a wonderful woman and caring person, that in no way was suspected of any wrong doing," Matheus said in a statement. "As an agency, we are constantly exploring new ways to better serve the at-risk children of this state and will never stop fighting to place them with the best and most devoted foster parents possible." Agency problems The family's wrongful-death suit was filed in the wake of some state lawmakers' calls for a massive overhaul of DSS to ensure South Carolina's children are adequately protected. Gov. Nikki Haley announced changes last month to the department's Richland County office after an infant in that county died in April while a DSS staffer searched for the baby's family. She's sending in back-up workers to help deal with case loads and is taking steps to improve communication between the office and law enforcement. Similar problems have been reported in the Lowcountry and other parts of the state, but Haley has not announced any policy changes addressing issues outside of Richland County. In an email, state Rep. Peter McCoy, R-Charleston, said that as a former prosecutor and a father of three children, he's been "extremely concerned" with the string of child deaths that have occurred under DSS supervision. "When children are placed in their care, there has to be a series of checks and balances to ensure the safety of these children at all times. It's time for the Legislature to take a hard look at DSS and their day-to-day operations and safety checks for children," McCoy said. "Anytime there is a fatality of a child, especially if the safety of that child has been placed in the hands of an agency like DSS, there should be absolute accountability to that agency," he said. "I'm hopeful we can get to the root of the problem at DSS and do all we can to ensure the safety of our children." After months of rebuffing calls for her resignation, Koller stepped down from her post as the agency's chief last week, the same day the wrongful-death complaint was filed in Aiden's case. A life cut short Questions about possible abuse arose shortly after Aiden's birth, prompting DSS to take an interest in the baby. The infant had been left in his father's care while doctors treated his mother for an infection that had developed following a Caesarean section. The father checked into Trident Medical Center days later, on July 20, after a neighbor advised that he should be evaluated for possible mental health issues, a North Charleston police report said. Hospital staff who examined Aiden during his father's visit called authorities to report signs of what was thought to be malnutrition, sepsis, pinkeye and bruising to his abdomen and knee, Babb said. The baby was transported to Medical University Hospital for a more thorough exam. That hospital's staff could not immediately tell whether a pair of bruises to the child were signs of an assault or if they were caused by something else, a police report said. Babb said Aiden was deemed to be in good health but he was placed with a foster mother anyway. "He was not malnourished and no signs of sepsis were found. He didn't have pinkeye, his tear ducts were just clogged," Babb said. "He was a healthy child when he left that hospital and was released to the foster mother." Aiden was placed with Downard on Aug. 2 and died roughly two weeks later. Downard could not be reached for comment. 'Another tragic tale' While in the foster parent's North Charleston home, Babb said, Aiden was left unattended in a sweater box that was filled with towels and blankets. He rolled onto his side on Aug. 14, 2011, and fought in vain against cloth and plastic as he gasped for air, she said. By the time Downard returned, the baby was unresponsive. Downard did not have CPR training and was unable to provide the care that Aiden needed to save his life, the complaint alleges. He lingered on life support for three days before he died. A crib in Downard's home had been filled with boxes during Aiden's stay. According to Babb, Downard reported during a deposition that social workers were aware that she kept the child in a sweater box perched atop a stool instead of the crib. At least three social workers had visited the home, Babb said, yet no one intervened. "The first time you go into a home as a caseworker and you see a child is kept in a sweater box, you should alert someone," Babb said. "It's a broken agency, and to be honest with you, it was broken long before Lillian Koller took over. She just made things worse," Babb said. "Caseworkers have too many cases and people aren't following up with what those caseworkers are doing." A Post and Courier story last month revealed that nearly a third of DSS workers were shouldering larger than recommended case loads for the month of May, according to internal preliminary reports. In Charleston County, 39 percent of the office's 33 workers had 20 cases or more, while 60 percent of workers had to see 21 children or more in a month. The numbers differed from a reported statewide case load average of six per worker, a number frequently repeated by agency leaders. Matheus said the department's caseworkers saw nothing in Downard's home that was cause for alarm. The sweater box that Aiden slept in, Matheus said, was a makeshift bassinet. "If you go into any hospital or NICU (neonatal intensive care unit), you would see similar situations where newborns are kept in an open container," Matheus said. "That wouldn't be an immediate cause for concern." A history of service Matheus said DSS caseworkers are trained to look for all safety concerns in addition to noting a child's condition during their visits. DSS is "dedicated to protecting South Carolina children" in partnership with foster parents and group homes that provide care when others cannot, she said. Downard said during a deposition that she had served as a foster parent for more than three decades and cared for more than 100 infants, Babb said. She reported watching over at least five other children in the wake of Aiden's death. Wooten, the coroner, said Downard had "a great track record," considering the number of infant children the woman had cared for over the years. "A lot of foster parents don't take children that young." Source: http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140607/PC16/140609417/1005

Washington trip gives chance to address foster care concerns Washington trip gives chance to address foster care concerns Saved Save Article My Saved Items Print Email « » 2014-06-09T09:00:00Z Washington trip gives chance to address foster care concernsDUSTIN DUNCAN THE SOUTHERN The Southern June 09, 2014 9:00 am • By Dustin Duncan Dustin Duncan Follow @zd2000 Loading… CARBONDALE -- A former foster child in Illinois now is fighting for changes in the foster care system. Yemisi Pleasant-Sloan, 25, formerly of Chicago, is now a Carbondale resident and SIU graduate. She spent her childhood as a foster child in Chicago. On May 21, she went to Washington D.C. to participate in the third annual Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day where individuals affected by foster care can talk with their local congressman. “The whole purpose of the event is for current youth and former youth that have spent time in the foster care system to have the opportunity to go and meet with their local congressman,” Pleasant-Sloan said. “We got the chance to talk with them and share our experiences in care, whether it was good or bad.” Pleasant-Sloan said the idea was to talk to congressmen about procedures that were not so helpful in hopes they would take suggestions into consideration and make changes. Individuals at the event had the opportunity to see the day-to-day activities of members of congress by job shadowing certain members. Every participant could have a meeting with the members of Congress, during which they shared their personal experience and recommendations for the system. Pleasant-Sloan said the event allowed her to voice her concerns. “It was interesting for me because it was motivating,” Pleasant-Sloan said. “There is definitely some work that needs to be done” she said “But things have gotten a lot better since the '90s when I was in the system.” Pleasant-Sloan now works at Rainbow’s End, a daycare center through SIU. She works with children from birth to age 1. “I love it,” she said “I always knew I wanted to work with kids.” The SIU grad said she is happy to be there for children in the early stages of their lives. **It is important for children to have a loving environment,” she said. “Somewhere where they are safe and an adult is paying attention to them and letting them know they are important.”** Source: http://thesouthern.com/news/local/washington-trip-gives-chance-to-address-foster-care-concerns/article_f0b8b589-b5e1-50be-b560-f12a00953cdc.html

Number of children in foster care hits record high Agencies see more 'families in crises' as public assistance drops 2 | Children, DCF, Mental Health E-mail Print Share This Facebook Twitter Delicious LinkedIn Digg MySpace The number of children in foster care in Kansas is up, but the reasons why vary. By Dave Ranney KHI News Service June 9, 2014 TOPEKA — The number of Kansas children in foster care has reached an all-time high. The explanations why vary. In April, there were 6,156 children in the system. That’s 356 more children than in April 2013, and 872 more than two years earlier. Cathy Mores/Special to KHI News Service The number of Kansas children in foster care is at an all-time high. View larger photo Dona Booe, chief executive of the Kansas Children's Service League, sees the escalating numbers as evidence of a building crisis. “This is a primary indicator that we’re not reaching families before tragedies happen,” Booe said. “These are families in crises, and we’re not reaching them because the resources for reaching them have been exhausted.” Officials in the administration of Gov. Sam Brownback don’t view the growing numbers with alarm. They attribute the increase to better awareness and reporting of child abuse and neglect. “We are seeing an increasing number of reports being made,” Theresa Freed, a spokesperson for the Kansas Department for Children and Families, wrote in an email to KHI News Service. “The increase in foster care cases is consistent with that. We attribute the increase in reports to greater public awareness of the issues of child abuse and neglect.” In 2010, according to DCF reports, the agency logged about 55,500 reports of suspected abuse or neglect. It expects to field more than 74,000 reports in 2014. “We have done a tremendous job of working with community organizations to promote the reporting of child abuse and neglect,” Freed said. “Our rate of removal, based on the reports, is constant.” But Booe and other children’s advocates suspect that increased public awareness is only one of the factors driving the foster care numbers upward. They noted that the increases have coincided with changes in DCF polices since 2011 that led to thousands of families being dropped from state and other public assistance programs. In the past four years, according to DCF reports, the number of children in households receiving public assistance fell from 24,567 in April 2011 to 11,867 in April 2014. “What we’re seeing is that access to community supports and to government-funded supports have diminished in the last couple years,” Booe said. “That takes a toll on families. It adds to the stress that they’re under, and it increases the risk factors that lead to kids entering the system.” At the same time, Booe said, state-funded support for services for at-risk families has been reduced. In the last four years, she said, state funding for KCSL’s family support programs has been cut 10 percent. “That may not sound like a lot, but when you don’t have a lot to begin with it is,” she said. “I hate saying this, but we’ve lost a lot of our funding sources that went toward helping our highest-risk families. The assumption has always been that the private sector would step in and make up the difference – and people have stepped up, they’ve been very generous – but they’ve not been able to keep pace with the loss of government funding.” According to DCF records, the agency spent $2.8 million on the grants in Fiscal Year 2012 and $2.6 million in fiscal 2013. It expects to spend $1.3 million in fiscal 2014, which ends June 30. The reductions, Booe said, mean programs like those administered by KSCL

have fewer workers available to help families on the brink of having their children taken from them. “There are people, case managers, who know how to help these families get through crises, get things stabilized and then plan for a better future,” Booe said. “But if a family has had its phone disconnected, the utilities have been turned off and they don’t have a car that works, they’re not going to know how to find someone who can help them get those resources. They need someone who can step in and help. “But it’s these case-management kinds of services that there isn’t as much state-funded support for,” Booe said. “The services are there, but they’re incredibly stressed right now. And if your kids are not already in the system, your access to these services is going to be very, very limited.” Dana Cox, operations director at Ashby House, a family shelter in Salina, said she’s also seeing demand for services outstrip supply. “Increased public awareness may be playing a role,” she said. “But the far more serious issues have to do with the lack of services and the difficulty in gaining access to the services that are available. Mental health is a huge issue. Substance abuse is too, definitely.” Cox and Booe said they assume that many of these families’ crises have been heightened by the policy changes that cut thousands of low-income families from the state’s public assistance rolls. Most of the changes involved increased work requirements. DCF has not done an analysis to see how many children now in foster care came from families that lost their welfare benefits, Freed said. But department officials, she said, “have not seen any evidence” of a correlation between fewer families receiving public assistance and more children being in foster care. The stiffer eligibility requirements, she said, were meant to encourage parents to find work instead of depending on government programs. But Ashley Thorne, who runs the Court Appointed Special Advocates office of Sedgwick County, said there’s little doubt that poverty is driving significant numbers of children into foster care. “If you’re a child in a family that’s going through a cycle of violence or substance abuse and you’re removed your home, the court is going to give your parents a list of things they’re going to have to do before you’ll be allowed to return,” Thorne said. “But these things – parenting classes, drug and alcohol testing, getting a psychological evaluation – all cost money,” she said. “So if your parents can’t afford to complete the court order or if they don’t have someone who can show them how to complete it, their rights will eventually be terminated.” Children are placed in foster care after a judge rules their safety or welfare is in jeopardy, usually due to parental abuse or neglect. They remain in foster care until a judge decides their parents are able to care for them in a safe environment. Reduced resources In Kansas, several juvenile court judges are participating in a pair of review panels designed to keep tabs on the state’s foster care system. “Everybody is concerned about the number of kids coming into care,” said Melissa Ness, a longtime children’s advocate who coordinates the review panels. Saline and Ottawa County Magistrate Judge Mary Thrower serves on one of the panels. “I can tell you that in my district, inpatient drug and alcohol treatment for someone who’s uninsured – and a lot of the people we’re talking about here are uninsured – is very hard to come by,” Thrower said. “I’m not saying it’s not available, I’m saying it will be a while before you can get in. There simply aren’t enough beds.” Thrower said she’s becoming increasingly frustrated with the system. “On one hand, we’re dealing with cases that are much more complicated than they used to be,” she said. “It’s not that Mom or Dad has a drug problem, it’s that they have a drug problem, and they need mental health services, and there are disability issues to deal with. “But then on the other hand, when we get these people motivated and they turn to the system for help, that help is difficult for them to access,” Thrower said. “I hear that from parents all the time, and I hear it from social workers, too.” Magistrate Judge Ann Dixson, who presides over most of the foster care caseload in Dodge City, said she’s noticed an increase in the number of criminal drug-possession charges filed against adults whose children were present at the time of their arrest. “That is a grave concern, to know that children are in a house where needles and drugs are present,” Dixson said. “It is neglect for these kids to grow up having no concept of what a normal healthy family is, thinking that drugs being out on the table is just the way it is.” Dixson said her courtroom observations mirror Thrower’s. “The severity of cases is up,” she said. “The resources for responding to that severity are down.” Admissions spike in 2013 Kansas privatized most of its foster care services in 1996, after the system failed several court-ordered reviews. Between 1997 and 2013, the state paid as many as six nonprofit organizations to oversee its foster care, adoption and family preservation efforts. Last year, DCF decided to contract with just two organizations: St. Francis Community Services of Salina and KVC Behavioral Healthcare of Olathe. The decision caused United Methodist Youthville of Wichita, TFI Family Services of Topeka and DCCCA of Lawrence to lose their contracts. At that time, Freed said the bids for the contract from KVC and St. Francis were lower than those from Youthville and TFI Family Services. DCF expects to pay St. Francis and KVC $135.3 million in fiscal 2014, about $12.7 million less than it spent in fiscal 2013. The contracts are projected to cost $142.7 million in fiscal 2015. Marilyn Jacobson, program analyst at KVC, said the agency noticed a spike in foster care admissions in spring 2013 that added more than 300 children to the system. Jacobson said KVC officials still don’t understand what prompted the bubble. “We’re not in a position to know because law enforcement and the courts control the (system’s) front door, and this a front-door issue,” she said. “Children get referred to us after they’ve been removed (from their families).” The numbers of children exiting the system, Jacobson said, have remained steady. “But we have this significant bubble of kids who came in all at once and are still working their way toward permanency,” Jacobson said. “So when that gets added to everything else that’s going on, we find ourselves at an all-time high. The problem isn’t so much the back door as it is the front door.” The federal review panels also aren’t sure why the system saw a big increase in spring 2013. “These are volunteer panels,” said Ness, who’s also a lobbyist for St. Francis. “We do not have the research capacity to really get to the bottom of this. But it’s clear that whatever is happening is happening on the front end of the system. It’s not that kids aren’t moving through the system, it’s that more kids are entering the system.” Fewer foster homes Though the number of Kansas children in foster care has increased, the number of licensed foster homes has remained flat. Records show that in April 2013 there were 2,486 licensed foster homes in Kansas; between 2009 and 2013, the state had access to an average of 2,491 homes. “A lot of homes are taking in multiple kids, more than they have in the past,” said Jeff Piepho, president of the Kansas Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. “Turnover is an issue,” he said. “A lot of times, foster parents will adopt the children they’ve been caring for and decide they’re not in a position to keep being foster parents, so they quit. Another reason is they do it for a year or two and come away feeling like they don’t have a loud enough voice. They don’t feel like anybody listens to what they have to say.” The association and DCF, he said, are trying to change that. “The other thing that’s happening is people don’t want to be foster parents because they think it would be so heartbreaking. They say, ‘Oh, I could never do that,’” Piepho said. “We need to address that, too. We need to show people how they can be a positive, interruptive force in a child’s life.” Piepho, a Salina pastor, and his wife, Meadow, have cared for about 45 foster children in the past five years. The couple have adopted two children and are legal guardians for three others. Additional mental health funding At a Statehouse news conference last month, Brownback announced that his administration would spend an additional $9.5 million on mental health services in fiscal 2015. Most of the money – up to $7 million – will come from the state’s federally funded Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant, which is administered by DCF. It’s not yet clear how much of the $7 million will be spent on services for families at-risk of having their children placed in foster care. During the press conference, DCF Secretary Phyllis Gilmore noted that more than 3,000 children had been removed from their homes since July 2013. “Mental health issues,” she said, “are often at the root of the problems in these homes. That is a serious concern for me.” Gilmore later released a list of seven programs – a mix of job training, substance abuse treatment, early childhood development, and in-home visitation services – that are likely to receive a portion of the $7 million. The governor’s plan also would spend $500,000 on 81 additional beds in drug treatment programs across the state. “We’re especially excited about the $500,000 that’s being set aside for inpatient (substance abuse) treatment,” said Dulcinea Rakestraw, vice president of treatment service at Preferred Family Healthcare, Wichita, and chair of the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals. “But that’s only a drop in the bucket when you compare it to the $10 million in cuts we’ve had to deal with” since FY 2009, she said, referring to reductions in both state and federal support. “The funding that used to be there just isn’t there anymore,” Rakestraw said. “And a lot of that has to do with changes in policies for determining who’s eligible for Medicaid and who’s not. That’s been tightened up to a point where a lot of people who used to be eligible aren’t anymore. So a lot of us are in this situation where we have beds available, we just don’t have – and can’t get – the money to pay for them.” At-risk families, too, Rakestraw said, are being harmed by the governor’s decision to not expand eligibility for Medicaid. “Medicaid expansion would greatly assist families that are struggling and could reach out and access service before things reach the point of being unsafe,” she said. Source: http://www.khi.org/news/2014/jun/09/number-children-foster-care-climbs/

Vineland employee allegedly assaulted foster child, police say Enrique Rivera (Submitted Photo) Print By Don E. Woods/South Jersey Times The News of Cumberland County Follow on Twitter on June 09, 2014 at 4:20 PM Reddit Email VINELAND — A city employee was arrested last week for allegedly sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl in foster care, according to authorities. Enrique Rivera, 40, of McClain Drive, was charged with aggravated sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child. The Vineland Police Department was first contacted on June 6 by the Department of Child Protection and Permanency about a possible assault of a 14-year-old foster child in the Vineland area. After an investigation, Rivera was arrested on the charges and held in the Cumberland County Jail in lieu of $250,000 bail. According to police, Rivera is an employee in the city's Department of Public Works. The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is instructed to contact Crime Stoppers at 856-691-0345, Vineland Police Department's Criminal Division at 856-691-4111 ext. 4180 of the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office at 856-453-0486. Crime Stoppers is offering a $1,000 reward for information about the incident. Contact staff writer Don E. Woods at 856-451-1000, ext. 518 or Source: http://www.nj.com/cumberland/index.ssf/2014/06/vineland_employee_allegedly_assaulted_foster_child_police_say.html

Bill to Decriminalize Foster Youth Goes to California Senate By Brian Rinker, June 9, 2014 Share on Tumblr PRINTER FRIENDLY A new bill that child advocacy groups are hoping will curb arrests of foster youth in group homes will likely be introduced today in the State Senate. The new legislation in its current form will trigger an investigation into group homes that call the police frequently on the criminal conduct of foster youth, limit out-of-pocket restitution demanded of foster youth and reduce time spent in juvenile detention centers. “The purpose of this bill is to prevent foster youth from being arrested and charged for misbehavior that wouldn’t happen to anyone other than a foster youth,” said Martha Matthews, an attorney for the advocacy group Public Counsel, who is helping author the bill. “We don’t want foster care to be a pipeline to prison.” Matthews said that normal teenage misbehaviors become serious, life-altering events for foster youth living in group homes. Instead of handling youth in-house, the homes frequently call the police for the slightest impropriety, exposing youths to the criminal justice system. Several years ago, Matthews

represented a foster youth who had been charged with a felony assault with a deadly weapon. The deadly weapon: an avocado. The foster youth, who lived in a group home, had gotten angry and thrown the gnarled dark green fruit, known for its high fat and creamy texture, at someone. The group home called the police. Under the bill, an investigation by the state agency Community Care Licensing is initiated if a group home calls the police on its foster youth for criminal misconduct more than once a month on average over six months. The state requires group homes to have behavior management plans for the youth. “You don’t want the cops to be your behavioral management plan,” said Matthews. “The bill creates a threshold by separating the normal, well-managed group homes from the more chaotic ones that call the police all the time.” The bill can only trigger an investigation; it lacks teeth when it comes to corrective action. The result and consequence, if any, are left completely up to the investigators. The County Welfare Directors Association, a nonprofit group of welfare workers, has tracked the bill and offered amendments. The association hasn’t had a chance to read over the latest draft and therefore takes no position on the bill, according to their communication coordinator Sarah Jimenez. Sometimes a foster youth will get mad and smash something, often resulting in restitution. Matthews said most of the damage is covered by the group home’s insurances, but the courts still makes the youth pay the full amount. The new bill will limit the restitution to only what isn’t covered by insurance. If a foster youth is arrested, they can be held for long periods in detention, because, unlike kids with parents, they don’t have anyone to pick them up and can spend weeks in jail, according to child advocates. AB 388 aims to reduce the time foster youth spend in detention by requiring immediate notification of the child welfare services and attorney to find alternative placement. There is a paucity of data to support the bill’s assertion that foster youth in group homes are disproportionately thrust into the criminal justice system without good cause. AB 388, in part, is meant to collect this data. A 2011 study in Los Angeles does demonstrate that youth involved in both foster care and the juvenile justice systems fare much worse than those in just one of the systems. Los Angeles youths who exit both foster care and juvenile justice earn less as young adults and cost the public more than youths who only exit foster care, and are more than twice as likely to have been treated for a serious mental illness “We didn’t realize crossover youth would have such striking distance,” said Dennis Culhane, one of the study’s six authors, speaking with The Chronicle’s John Kelly in 2011. “We knew it would find they’d be troubled, but didn’t expect this difference of degree to show up.” Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro (D) introduced the bill, which will be endorsed by Public Counsel, California Youth Connection, Youth Law Center and East Bay Children’s Law Offices. Brian Rinker is a Journalism for Social Change Fellow and a recent graduate from San Francisco State University’s journalism program. Source: https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/news/bill-to-decriminalize-foster-youth-goes-to-california-senate/6924

Become a Foster Parent Open Your Heart & Home to a Child with Special Needs As a licensed provider of foster care placement services, Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS) is seeking individuals and families who can provide a stable and nurturing family environment to children, ages 0-21, many of whom have intellectual, physical or emotional special needs. Training, support and compensation is provided for foster parents. Foster Care Homes: *Provide 24/7 living arrangements, with access to on-call services *Provide warm, supportive, person-centered, family settings *Help children connect with community resources and attend medical appointments, school or day programs and recreational activities *Are monitored and trained to promote a safety-first atmosphere Rocky Mountain Human Services: Screens applicants, including background checks and fingerprinting *Provides access to behavioral therapies for children *Offers ongoing workshops and support for foster care families/homes *Recognizes the need for caregivers to receive respite *Provides monitoring of foster homes by highly trained and certified employees - How to Become a Foster Care Provider with RMHS Foster care provider applicants must: *Be age 21 or older *Have reliable transportation *Have an extra room in the home *Exhibit stability in their lives *Submit a complete application *Provide fingerprint cards and health evaluations for all individuals living at the home *Complete first aid/CPR and other classes *Participate in home study (interviews and home visits by certified employees) Source: http://www.rmhumanservices.org//become-foster-parent

Classroom to Courtroom Helping teens in New Hanover County by BRIDGETTE WAGNER | photo by KATHERINE CLARK Sheila Evans has helped keep troubled teens from landing in district court for almost a decade, and she absolutely loves doing it. “I have the best job in New Hanover County,” Evans says. Evans helps local teens through her dual positions as a teen court coordinator and district court coordinator at the Alternative Dispute Resolution Services and Training Center (ADR). She has helped expand teen court to include a youth court since taking the position in 2005, doubling the program under her direction. When she isn’t working with teens in the courtroom, she’s volunteering to help them in the classroom. Her volunteerism paid off at this year’s YWCA Lower Cape Fear Centennial Gala, where among the group’s picks of accomplished women in the community and one of the ten 2014 YWCA Lower Cape Fear Legends. “I was shocked to win. I don’t even remember half of my speech. I just know that I said it is amazing to get recognized for stuff that you love to do,” Evans says. It all started with volunteering in her children’s schools for Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and as band mom. Her presence in local schools led to her working in child advocacy for seven years, and then as a regular substitute teacher in New Hanover County. She was soon offered a position hosting a television show, The Forum with Sheila Evans, on The Learning Network of the Cape Fear (TLN) station. The half-hour program, which she continues to host, features school board members, principals, and organizations relevant to students and their graduation projects. Evans hosted an episode about the local teen court and the next day received an email with a job offer. She has been working as coordinator ever since. Evans works with the Teen & Youth Court for the 5th District, which covers New Hanover and Pender counties. The program addresses first-time juvenile offenders in New Hanover and Pender, attempting to intervene early and keep them out of the court system. Student offenders who plead guilty for misdemeanors and certain school violations are sentenced by peers with punishments including community service or restitution, according to the program’s guidelines. The alternate court also exposes students to the other side of the legal system. Volunteering students serve as clerks, bailiffs, and jurors. Evans says she owes a lot of Teen Court’s success to her relationships with local attorneys and judges such as Chief District Court Judge J.H. Corpening II. “One time he said to me that it is not what it means to your kids when you volunteer on a regular basis, it’s what it means to other kids,” Evans said. “That is absolutely fundamental in what I do. I hope that it is something that I pass down to my kids.” While rewarding, dealing with teens at war with one another can be tricky. Evans pairs teens who got into a fight as co-defendants, which is a different system from most teen courts. She does this not only to save time, but also because the teens will have to go back to school together. “Nobody said you had to be friends, but you have to go back to school the next day and get along,” Evans says. Although nothing seems to stop Evans, being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010 slowed her down. “I am thankful I didn’t really have that difficult of a time. I purposely did chemo days on Tuesdays because I love my district court job so much I wanted to be there on Mondays,” Evans says. Evans had a double mastectomy and has been in the clear since 2012. While she currently runs both teen court programs in New Hanover and Pender counties, she hopes to gives up the Pender County program soon so that it can be loved a little better, and she can better focus on the New Hanover County program. While she reminds them of the courtroom dress code, most teens continue to show up in jeans, sneakers, and T-shirts. She’s always pleasantly surprised with the teens who go out of their way to meet her expectations. “One kid had no dress pants, only shorts. He sent me a picture the day before court of khakis he bought at a thrift shop and a collared shirt. I love that I projected onto him, this is what I expect,” Evans says. The tough love approach seems to pay off. “If you lay what you expect out there,” Evans says, “they will meet your expectations.” (Special Note: HEAL does not support "tough love". We do support justice and the right of all defendants to trial by jury of their peers.)

Justina Pelletier Begs for Release By Shannon McMahon Boston.com Staff June 9, 2014 3:51 PM Share Comment Share 46 Comment Justina Pelletier, the Connecticut teenager at the center of a lengthy custody battle between hospitals and her family, will reportedly be released. Pelletier, who has been living in foster care and a residential treatment center in Connecticut, appeared in a YouTube video today pleading for Massachusetts officials to send her home. The video shows Pelletier begging to be released. “All I really want to be with is with my family and friends,” she said. “Please let me go home right now.” The Boston Globe reported that state officials have taken steps to return Pelletier to her parents: "Late Friday, Massachusetts Health and Human Services filed a motion for reconsideration and dismissal agreeing that Justina should be returned home and the case should be closed," said Mathew Staver, a lawyer with Liberty Counsel, which is representing Pelletier?s parents, Lou and Linda Pelletier. Reverend Patrick Mahoney, the Pelletier family’s spokesperson, told the Globe: “Through the entire 16 months of this tragedy, the one person we’ve not heard from publicly is Justina herself. Now we can see her in her own words asking Judge Jonston and Governor Patrick for her release.” Pelletier was placed under state care after doctors at Boston Children’s Hospital concluded her condition resulted from psychological issues, rather than the rare mitochondrial disorder her parents say she suffers from. In February 2013 doctors alleged Pelletier was the victim of child abuse and custody was granted to the Department of Children and Families. Read the full Globe story here.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/2014/06/09/justina-pelletier-begs-for-release/KAIkIbjknzA9zstpx1kxyL/story.html#

Most local juvenile justice homes exclude girls By Jordan Gribble Staff Writer Published: Monday, June 9, 2014 at 9:10 p.m. Last Modified: Monday, June 9, 2014 at 9:10 p.m. Local juvenile justice group homes are far more likely to accept boys than girls since 2010 law changes that provided for a set amount of residents. Group homes were under a contract system in which facilities were reimbursed by the state for each child they had per day. Then the state put into place a system under Medicaid that allows such facilities in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes to house only 16 kids at a time. That led local group homes to decide to house only boys in their facilities. “Girls are harder to treat,” said Bob Licalzi, director of the Lafourche Parish Juvenile Justice Center. “We have a saying that two girls together are fine, but put three together and it's volatile. They fight each other and they fight the boys. We've even had girls assault our staff before.” Some group homes made the decision to allow only boys for financial reasons, officials said. Kevin Champagne, executive director of MacDonell Children's Services in Houma, said his facility is one of those places. “The way our facility is set up, we've got two cottages that each have 12 beds. One used to have boys in it and the other one had girls in it,” Champagne said.

"When the state changed the licensure requirements for group homes it made it so we could only have 16 kids at a time. Trying to maintain each cottage with eight boys and eight girls would be financially difficult to fully staff. So we made a decision in 2010 to just keep one of our cottages open just for boys." The Louis Infant Crisis Center in Houma also provides beds for only pre-teen boys, officials said. Source: http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20140609/ARTICLES/140609565?Title=2010-law-pushed-girls-out-of-facilities

Wisconsin: Outstanding Child Abuse & Foster Care Professionals to go Along with the Great Food Posted: 06/09/2014 2:07 pm EDT Updated: 06/09/2014 8:59 pm EDT Print Article Share 12 Tweet 4 5 Email 0 tumblr reddit I had never seen the Mississippi River up close, with its picture-perfect views until I arrived in Wisconsin, but the beautiful city of La Crosse will also stand out to me for some of the best food in AMERICA. Having traveled the country covering Presidential elections or speaking on the subjects of Child Abuse and Foster Care, it's fair to say I have acquired a taste for good food. In La Crosse, with its population of about 50,000, there was the local tradition of "Fazye's" restaurant. The first thing you notice when you walk up is the huge Blue outside awning. Of course Fayze's was recommended, and I was told about its on-premise bakery. In Wisconsin, I just had to have some cheese curds, and it was some of the best food I had ever tasted. Light batter, and it was so good, the curds almost melted in your mouth. Then I ordered the Strawberry French toast. You know when a meal is so tasty that you never want the last bite to come. Yes, the food in New Orleans Louisiana is good, (Especially the Shrimp and Grits at Surrey's Café- a Brunch Spot in the Lower Garden District) but La Crosse can even compete with that. For Dinner, I went to a place called "Buzzard Billy's," which is known for its New Orleans style Cuisine. I ordered a Cajun steak, and it made you want to bite your fingers. That's how delicious it was. But that brings me to the reason why I was in La Crosse Wisconsin. There, like many communities across America, they do such admirable work on the issue of Child Abuse. The Mayo Clinic there was holding its annual Child Maltreatment conference. You may not have noticed it, but all across America "multidisciplinary" teams are now being used to intervene when child maltreatment is reported. Basically, the Multidisciplinary teams are exactly what they sound like. A collaboration with many different local agencies, from law enforcement to assisting the child on an emotional level, to protect children and ensure justice for Child Victims. I will never forget the professionals in La Crosse, like the lead organizer of the conference, social worker Philip Nielson. It's very clear how I feel about the great and positive work of Social Workers from a previous piece I did titled, "We should all hug a social worker." Some of the other speakers just from the morning session alone of day one, were Robert Hugh Farley, a world renown expect on Child Abuse. His session was titled, "Undercover as a Pedophile: Six Years in their Shoes" and Jennifer Lee, from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Even the Medical Director of the La Crosse Mayo Clinic attended, Dr. David Rushlow, opened the conference. At 8:00 AM in the morning, they had hundreds of Child Welfare professionals, eager to improve on their expertise. The topics they were taking on are commendable to deal with the current day reality of abused children: Reconstruction Techniques for Child Abuse Injuries, Identifying adolescent victims of Sexual Exploitation and Gang Rape, the role of the medical exam in child abuse cases, Fractures and Head Trauma Review, how to assess abuse disclosures by children under 6 and of course Parenting Is Best Prevention . Perhaps the most compelling part of the day were the medical doctors that came up and talked to me, and they were down to earth individuals that just want to make the world a better place. But think about this for a moment, such doctors are on the front line with the Child Abuse battle. They are the first ones to see, and document horrendous child abuse. Burn-out for them, like the professionals, can be an issue. Just two weeks before the Mayo Clinic event, I was in Wisconsin again, this time for the Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association annual conference that was held in scenic Wisconsin Dells. (In all likelihood, your community has such a Foster Parent organization) The Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association took on relevant issues like Foster Kids aging out of the system. Imagine, your 18 years old, and thrown into society, on your own, with no support system. Pat O'Brien, a nice man and dedicated professional, also out of New York took on that issue. There are everyday heroes in every local American community. I will never forget the great work and kindness of the President of the Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parents Association, Sherry Benson, or her Vice Presidents Tina Christopherson, and Manda Wirth. All three ladies have several children in their homes as foster parents, and all three are the type of Americans that would give you the shirt off their back. Of course a commendable list starts with those that are a voice for the voiceless, people that stand up for those that can't defend themselves, and that is the Foster Parents throughout the world. Perhaps the next time you see a foster Parent, or a Child Abuse Professional, you should say thank you, for all that you do for others. Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dominic-carter/wisconsin-outstanding-chi_b_5474409.html?utm_hp_ref=impact&ir;=Impact

June 9, 2014 at 11:50 pm **State suspends adult foster facility in Detroit where resident was allegedly beaten** Detroit News staff and wire reports 2 Comments The state suspended the license of a Detroit adult foster care facility where a worker was videotaped beating a special-needs resident. The Michigan Department of Human Services Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing issued an order for Strathmoor Manor after an investigation "found violations of the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act and administrative rules regarding the care of residents," officials said in a statement Monday. "BCAL took emergency action to protect the health, welfare and safety of vulnerable adults." A worker at the adult foster care small group home is accused of physically and psychologically abusing resident Vera Gossett, 24. "Vera Gossett was physically restrained without justification, man-handled, screamed at (often times with profanity), whipped with electrical cords and doused with water, when her behavior was not conforming," according to a complaint the Sam Bernstein Law Firm filed last month on behalf of Gossett's mother. Investigators were alerted to the beating after WJBK-TV (Channel 2) aired a story May 15 featuring footage, filmed by an employee, in which the worker is seen assaulting Gossett, who sustained injuries. The worker, identified as Kadia Konate-Dennard, 49, was arrested by Detroit police. Last week, 36th District Judge Ruth Carter ruled there was enough evidence to try her on felony assault, torture and vulnerable adult abuse charges. Konate-Dennard faces a Wayne County Circuit Court arraignment Thursday. Defense lawyer Suzan Gabbara said her client "was excessively overcharged," and nothing presented in court supports the charges. Strathmoor Manor had held a license to operate an adult foster care small group home since October 2006, the state said. The license was for six adults. The summary suspension order prohibits Strathmoor from operating its adult foster care home on Strathmoor Street or accepting individuals with physical or developmental disabilities, mental illnesses or aged adults, effective June 2. The order also requires Strathmoor to inform all guardians of adults in its care that its license has been suspended and that it can no longer provide adult foster care. From The Detroit News: http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20140609/METRO01/306090106#ixzz34kxLRHyw

DCF to close several group homes By Mark DavisPublished: June 13, 2014, 8:50 pm TORRINGTON, Conn. (WTNH) — The state Department of Children and Families is looking to save $10 million by closing several group homes. Some of the parents of the mentally-challenged kids in those homes say this is not a smart move. DCF says the number of kids in group homes has been reduced by 40 percent. They add that child welfare and foster care system is improving. Fifteen-year-old Ben Schuler has multiple mental health issues but he's been doing very well. He lives during the week in a group home in Torrington — one of the homes DCF has decided to close along with five other similar facilities. It's a decision that is giving him and his adoptive parents who he visits on the weekends a great deal of anxiety. "In the last year that he's been there he has made progress that he has not made anywhere else," says Ben's mother, Cindy Schuler. "His social skills have improved, his ability to communicate with us has improved." "We get to go camping, go-carting, a whole bunch of fun stuff, activities," Ben says. "It's a great place, I like to stay there … I would not want them to close it." In a statement; DCF says Ben will still get individual treatment somewhere else. Adjustments to how we serve children and families are both warranted and necessary … The department is making adjustments to its service array so that children can more readily get the help they need while living with a family in the community. "He would go into a home where supposedly someone was trained and live with their family," Cindy says. "So, it's a foster home." Cindy is certain this will not work and will cause confusion. "Ben already has a family, a very highly-functional, loving family whose unable to care for him, so to put him into a situation like that would be not successful." "I don't want to go anywhere else," Ben says. "I want to stay there." DCF says they have no choice but to close the homes because they are partially empty with just 19 kids in homes designed for a capacity of over 30. Source: http://wtnh.com/2014/06/13/dcf-to-close-several-group-homes/

Omaha sex offender facing life in prison (GOOD!) Updated 12:45 pm, Saturday, June 14, 2014 0 Larger | Smaller Printable Version Email This Georgia (default) Verdana Times New Roman Arial Font Page 1 of 1 OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha man who spent less than three years in prison for participating in the gang-rape of teenager in 2000 now faces life in prison for allegedly sexually assaulting two young girls within months of leaving prison in 2004. Kelvin Smith, 35, was convicted this week by a Sarpy County jury of 11 sex-related crimes against the young girls, including first-degree sexual assault of a child and third-degree sexual assault of a child, The Omaha World-Herald reported (http://bit.ly/SISMR8). He faces up to life in prison when he's sentenced on Aug. 11. The girls were 9 and 10 years old when Smith began abusing them in 2004, months after he had been released from prison, prosecutors said. Smith was charged with first-degree sexual assault and false imprisonment in a 2000 attack on a 19-year-old woman. Prosecutors say several men dragged her into an abandoned north Omaha house and took turns raping her. She managed to escape after stabbing Smith with a knife. As part of a plea deal, Smith pleaded no contest to attempted sexual assault in that case. The victim in that case told the World-Herald on Friday that she had been angry over Smith's sentence in her case, which she felt was too lenient. But she said she's happy he faces decades in prison for his latest convictions. The Associated Press generally does not name victims of sexual assault. "I was really happy," she said, "but I was sorry it had to happen again." Source: http://www.sfgate.com/news/crime/article/Omaha-sex-offender-facing-life-in-prison-5552821.php

DeWitt nurse's lawyer on new charges stemming from resident's death: 'This is a political witch hunt' Tanya Lemon leaves court with her lawyer, Jeff DeRoberts. (Douglass Dowty | ) Print By Douglass Dowty | The Post-Standard Email the author | Follow on Twitter on June 16, 2014 at 1:03 PM, updated June 16, 2014 at 5:05 PM Reddit Email Patient dies in nurse's care State: DeWitt nurse routinely slept on the job, allowing man to die and endangering others DeWitt nurse's lawyer on new charges stemming from resident's death: 'This is a political witch hunt' DeWitt group home patient's death investigated by new state agency

created to protect disabled DeWitt patient who died in nurse's care identified in court papers For 8 hours, 8 minutes 25-year-old man didn't receive needed oxygen at DeWitt group home All Stories | Tanya LemonProvided Photo DeWitt, NY -- A DeWitt nurse was accused in March of falling asleep on the job, allowing a group home resident to die. Tanya Lemon was charged with felony endangering the welfare of an incompetent or physically disabled person in the September 2013 death of Dennis Dattolo at the state-run 4918 Briarwood Lane group home. Lemon is accused of not getting the man oxygen for eight hours and eight minutes. He died 14 days later from a brain injury due to lack of oxygen. Lemon is facing two crimes in connection with his death. But an indictment revealed today also charges Lemon with a dozen additional crimes relating to six group home residents, including Dattolo. She's now accused of endangering all of them between June 1, 2013 and Sept. 6, 2013. The state's year-old Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs is prosecuting the case. The new agency covers abuse allegations within the myriad of caregivers run by the state. All told, Lemon now faces 14 charges -- seven felonies and seven misdemeanors, the center said. Lemon's lawyer, Jeffrey DeRoberts, lambasted the new charges as a political ploy. "It's a political witch hunt," DeRoberts said after court. He criticized the state for taking the case from the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office. "We have a qualified district attorney in this county," DeRoberts said. "We don't need a new governmental organization to come in and try to make work for itself." Lemon faces a much tougher possible sentence given the new charges. She's due back in court July 3. A spokeswoman for the Justice Center declined to respond to DeRobert's comments. Source: http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/06/dewitt_nurses_lawyer_on_new_charges_stemming_from_residents_death_this_is_a_poli.html

Foster mom sues group home operator over alleged sex abuse Foster mom sues group home operator over alleged sex abuse (Tribune Illustration) By Mitch SmithTribune reporter 7:14 a.m. CDT, June 17, 2014 A foster mother is suing a north suburban group home operator, alleging that the Allendale Association negligently allowed one of its employees to sexually abuse her foster daughter for nearly two years. Kelvin Perry, 51, was arrested in February and charged with sexually abusing a ward of the state whom prosecutors said he met in his role as an Allendale counselor. The girl was 16 at the time he was charged. The lawsuit filed Monday in Cook County court appears to reference the same incident, though it names the Allendale employee as Kalvin Parry, with both his first and last names spelled slightly differently than those of the man arrested earlier this year. Asked about the discrepancy by the Tribune, officials at the Deratany Firm, which filed the suit, said Monday evening they were referring to Perry and would be filing an amended lawsuit. Perry, of Waukegan, met a girl at Allendale's North Chicago facility and stayed in touch with her after she was placed in a foster home, authorities said in February. Prosecutors said he abused her in the foster home and in a car outside a Schaumburg mall. Cook County jail records show that Perry is being held on $250,000 bail and is due back in court July 1. In Monday's lawsuit, a girl's foster mother alleges that a man named Perry sexually assaulted a child while she lived at the Allendale home from June 2012 through January 2014 and after she left the facility. The foster mother filed the lawsuit, which seeks more than $100,000 in damages, on behalf of the girl. The Tribune is not naming the plaintiff in order to protect the identity of the alleged abuse victim. A voice mail and email left Monday evening for an Allendale spokeswoman weren't immediately returned. Copyright © 2014 Chicago Tribune Company, LLC Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/suburbs/schaumburg_hoffman_estates/chi-foster-mom-sues-group-home-operator-over-alleged-sex-abuse-20140616,0,822682.story

Teen missing from youth home in Auburn Authorities are searching for 17-year-old Jacob Cabrera, who ran away from a youth home in Auburn on Friday. (Provided Photo) Print By Julie McMahon | The Post-Standard Email the author | Follow on Twitter on June 17, 2014 at 4:11 PM, updated June 17, 2014 at 4:15 PM Reddit Email Auburn, N.Y. -- Auburn police are searching for 17-year-old boy who ran away from the Cayuga Centers group home early Friday morning. Jacob Cabrera ran away from 101 Hamilton Ave. at around 2 a.m., police said. The boy has a few contacts in the Auburn area, police said, but they believe he may have returned to Rochester, where he is originally from. Cabrera, who is 5'5" tall weighing 153 pounds, was staying at the residence, which provides treatment programs for troubled youths, according to the Cayuga Centers website. Cabrera's right ear is pierced, police said. Police are asking the public to call 253-3231 with any information on Cabrera's whereabouts. Source: http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/06/teen_missing_from_youth_home_in_auburn.html

Extended foster care bill helps older teens further their education Story Comments Image (3) Print Create a hardcopy of this page Font Size: Default font size Larger font size 11 Previous Next Theresa Campbell / Daily Commercial Lakesha and Stacy Foster child Lakesha Griffin, 17, left joins her mentor, Stacy Morgan, director of Healthy Start at Kids Central, Inc. in posing for a selfie photo. Theresa Campbell ? Daily Commercial Posing for selfie Foster child Lakesa Griffin, 17, left poses for a photo with her mentor, Stacy Morgan, director of Healthy Start at Kids Central, Inc. Theresa Campbell / Daily Commercial In gazebo Stacy Morgan, left, and Lakesha Griffin mingle inside the gazebo located across the street from Healthy Start at Kid Central, Inc., in Leesburg. Did You Know? Kid's Central, Inc, is the nonprofit, accredited lead agency selected by the State of Florida to coordinate child protection services in Florida's 5th Judicial Circuit, which includes Lake and Sumter counties. Kids Central focuses on the prevention and diversion of families from the child welfare system, the care of children in foster care, and strengthening families in communities. Posted: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 6:00 am Extended foster care bill helps older teens further their education Theresa Campbell | Staff Writer dailycommercial.com | 0 comments Lakesha Griffin is smiling with a sense of relief these days. The 17-year-old Leesburg High school student will benefit from a bill signed in May 2013 by Gov. Rick Scott that will allow young adults living in the child welfare system to have the option to remain in foster care until age 21 in order to accomplish their educational goals. "This gives Lakesha more support. She is going to turn 18 in the middle of the school year, and in previous years, she would have had to move out on her own upon turning 18," said Nicole Pulcini Mason, director of community affairs for Kids Central Inc., who believes Senate Bill 103 6, sponsored by Sen. Nancy Detert — and renamed the Nancy C. Detert Common Sense and Compassion Independent Living Act — was the right legislation to sign into law. Griffin thinks so, too. "I would have been really scared," the teen said of the stress of moving out on her own on the middle of a senior year at LHS. "How would I live on my own? If I was out in the real world, I would have to focus on school and bills and that would be too much while still in high school." Griffin will turn 18 on Dec. 11. After she graduates from Leesburg High School, she plans to attend Lake-Sumter State College and then further her education in Tallahassee at Florida A&M; University. "In five or 10 years, I see myself working with the mentally disabled, because I really like working with them," she said. "I can bond with them." The teen has been in foster care since infancy. "The Department of Children and Families has been in my life since I was 2 days old," she said, recalling she lived in the home of a family friend until age 14, followed by a stay at a Marion County foster home for two years. June 30 will mark her one-year anniversary of being back in foster care in Lake County. "It feels better to me," she said of living in Lake County. "Foster care is not as bad as people may think that it is. My mother was not able to take care of me, and I feel that I am in a better place. I used to be mad at her for letting me go into foster care, but now I am actually thankful for it. I have a better life being in care." Mason praises the teen's attitude and outlook on her life. "She is so motivated, smart, caring and a hard worker," Mason said. "Her grades are great (As and Bs) and she was recognized as a leader recently." "I find Lakesha to be a vibrant and bright young woman," added Stacy Morgan, director of Healthy Start at Kids Central Inc. "I've truly enjoyed being a mentor to her and hope that I have helped guide and shape her in a positive manner. I know she is destined for great success and will truly make an impact wherever she choose to focus. I've tried to be a strong role model and hope that one day she too will return the favor to another." Morgan also touts the extended foster care bill as needed legislation. "This will give our young adults leaving the foster care system more security and a smoother transition into adulthood," Morgan said. "Most 18-year-olds who didn't grow up with abuse or neglect aren't ready to go out on their own at 18, and these youths aren't either. Extended foster care gives them the safety net they need for a few more years. "I can't imagine Lakesha setting out on her own the day that she turns 18 while still in high school. I feel better knowing that she will have a host family to help launch her." However, under the new law, most of the young adults 18 and older, cannot live in a traditional foster home. Kids Central Inc. is currently seeking host families and apartment-style housing for these youths. "The need is critical," John Cooper, CEO of Kids Central Inc. said in a statement. "For these youth to be successful and for them to avoid more disruptions and setbacks, we need local housing for them." Kids Central Inc. wants to find suitable and safe housing options for these young adults, and the agency noted by placing placing older teens like Griffin into semi-independent style housing will help them become independent gradually. Also, it will keep them in their communities and avoid another change of schools. Residents interested in learning more about how to become a host family can visit KidsCentralinc.org and click on the Request for Proposals link, or call Independent Living Supervisor Hannah Rios at 352-387-3551. Source: http://www.dailycommercial.com/news/article_7a5f0343-88f8-54f7-8071-dffb7eb8ee5c.html

New state rules for group homes a first step in neighborhood communication | The Columbus Dispatch New state rules for group homes a first step in neighborhood communication Jane E. Juergens Related Items By Rita Price The Columbus Dispatch • Wednesday June 18, 2014 6:28 AM Comments: 1 34 2 61 Before Jane Juergens was stabbed to death, there was no law that spelled out a way for neighbors to communicate with the operators of the Blendon Township group home where her killer lived. That changed this week with the signing of Gov. John Kasich's mid-biennial review. It includes new requirements for group homes and other children's residential centers to create community-engagement plans and file them with the state. Supporters say they hope to consider even more reforms in coming months. "The bulk of this legislation was focused on child placement and community communication," said state Rep. Anne Gonzales, who introduced the legislation in February. "Now, we're going to start taking a harder look at the function of the home," said the Republican from Westerville. "This is far from over." The legislation also mandates a 10-county pilot program to standardize the assessments used to determine the needs of children entering the foster system. Franklin County Children Services has acknowledged that the teen who attacked Juergens last fall, Jordan T. Stewart, was more deeply disturbed than anyone knew. He was living in a group home for foster youth operated by Consumer Support Services and had gone on an outing to a nearby park on Oct. 20. That's where Stewart encountered Juergens, 55, a Blendon Township resident who had gone for a run. He stabbed her more than two dozen times. Stewart pleaded guilty last month in adult court to charges of murder and

tampering with evidence and was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 18 years. Juergens' friends and family have told legislation proponents "that Jane would be pleased that something positive is coming from this, so that these kids get better care," said Blendon Township resident John McGuire. Outcry over the case also led to a community summit on at-risk youth and a Children Services review of all group-home placements. McGuire said neighbors had long complained about problems at the Copenhagen Drive home where Stewart lived but never received responses. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services said 105 group homes and residential centers for minors will be affected by the new communication requirements. The department has 90 days from the legislation's passage to write the new rules, which will require operators to provide addresses, contact information and a copy of the community-engagement plan to area first-responders. The plan must include protocols for neighbors to communicate concerns. The Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies supported the legislation. Most members, Executive Director Mark Mecum said, already are meeting the requirements or would find it relatively easy to do so. Ben McDay, Ohio operations director for the Pennsylvania-based agency New Story, said its new center on the North Side works hard to be a good neighbor. The agency has held cookouts, and teens regularly perform chores in the community such as raking leaves and shoveling snow. "I think that's a fault that we've had for a long time — we've always been 'that house down the street,' and nobody really knew who we were and what we do," McDay said of the industry. "We're open to conversation and communication." Source: http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/06/17/New-state-rules-group-homes-youths.html

Two more reported missing from Auburn youth home; may be together Amiya Ince and Kendra Dexter Print By Jacob Pucci | The Post-Standard Email the author | Follow on Twitter on June 18, 2014 at 12:44 PM, updated June 18, 2014 at 2:42 PM Reddit Email Auburn, N.Y. -- Two teenage girls are missing from Cayuga Centers, marking the second and third teen to run away from the group home in one week. Amiya Ince, 14, and Kendra Dexter, 16, went missing on June 8 and may currently be together, Auburn police Detective Jeffrey Mead said. The two went missing from 101 Hamilton Ave., the same location that another youth at the home, 17-year-old Jacob Cabrera, went missing from early Friday morning. View full sizeAmiya InceCourtesy of Auburn Police Department Ince is described as a 5-foot-4-inch, biracial girl weighing 130 pounds. She has brown hair, brown eyes and a small scar on the back on her right hand. She was last seen wearing blue denim shorts, a white Tommy Hilfiger shirt and brown moccasins. Dexter is described as 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighing 145 pounds. She is biracial and has brown hair and eyes. She has a lower lip piercing. she was last seen wearing a pink shirt, gray sweatpants, brown moccasins and a head scarf. Source: http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/06/two_more_reported_missing_from_auburn_youth_home_may_be_together.html

NY legislators want better foster care background NY legislators want better foster care background 1 Saved Save Article My Saved Items Print Email 2014-06-18T03:01:56Z 2014-06-18T07:02:00Z NY legislators want better foster care backgroundThe Associated Press The Associated Press June 18, 2014 3:01 am (0) Comments ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York legislators have approved amending state law to require agencies placing children in foster care first check whether prospective parents have done it before and provided poor or questionable care. Sponsors say caseworkers sometimes remove children from homes suspected of being unsafe without either revoking the parents' certificate to provide foster care or reporting them to the state's child abuse hotline. Those parents may simply apply to another agency for foster children and get money for their care. The amendment, if signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, would require all foster care agencies check with the Office of Children and Family Services to determine whether prospective parents ever had foster a child removed from their home, evaluate the reasons why and determine if the foster home should be reopened. Source: http://poststar.com/news/state-and-regional/ny-legislators-want-better-foster-care-background/article_32a5a29b-360f-504e-84f9-38b1fd4c3cbf.html

Sunset area residents opposing addiction treatment center Attorney: Location not suited for 50 persons BOBBY ARDOIN Special to The Advocate June 21, 2014 0 Comments OPELOUSAS — Residents of a secluded area south of Sunset packed the St. Landry Parish Council meeting Wednesday as their attorney argued that a proposed addiction treatment center in the community lacks sufficient drainage and land area. Jack Burson, a Eunice attorney representing residents in the Choctaw Drive area the Interstate 49 service road, said the proposed Acadiana Addiction Center is "an ill-conceived project that has been misrepresented" from its inception. Burson said the facility, which will accommodate patients undergoing treatment for substance abuse, will be housed in a former residence that is unsuitable for the 50 persons the center intends to treat. He said that number of patients would require a level of water, drainage and sewage that the residence currently is unable to provide. Burson also said a 3-acre pond on the property is insufficient for the proposed facility's drainage needs. No representatives from the Acadiana Addiction Center spoke at Wednesday's meeting. St. Landry Parish currently has no zoning ordinance for unincorporated areas of the parish. However, Burson noted that state law allows parish governments to create zoning commissions to handle issues similar to the one faced by the Choctaw Drive residents, who packed the meeting held at the Old City Market building on the courthouse square. "Is it fair to permit something that is totally incompatible with the type of residential neighborhood that exists there?" Burson said. Sheriff Bobby Guidroz told the council his office has not been notified of an occupational license permit application from the Acadiana Addiction Center. Burson said the center will also need to undergo a lengthy permit application and screening process from the State Department of Health and Hospitals before it begins operation. The DHH, Burson said, has reported no activity concerning the treatment center. Council member Wayne Ardoin said he was told by the former owner of the property, whom he did not name, that the facility would operate as a health care business with its offices elsewhere. "This (center) is going to be located on a beautiful home site that is not designed for what it's supposed to be," Ardoin said. "I would like to see this stopped any way (the council) can, so it doesn't hurt these people." The council took no action on the matter Wednesday. Source: http://theadvocate.com/news/acadiana/9496701-123/sunset-area-residents-opposing-addiction

Bring Paris Jackson Home and Rescue Her from Utah! Comment on this story to take action! http://www.kpopstarz.com/articles/96190/20140619/paris-jackson-boarding-school-suicide-michael-jackson.htm

San Clemente to join Newport Beach in seeking controls for group homes By FRED SWEGLES / STAFF WRITER Published: June 18, 2014 Updated: 3:07 p.m. San Clemente is prepared to file a "friend of the court" brief in support of Newport Beach's efforts to apply zoning controls to group homes in residential neighborhoods. On a 5-0 vote Tuesday night, the San Clemente City Council agreed to file a court paper and contribute $5,000 to Newport's request for the U.S. Supreme Court to hear its case. Like Newport, San Clemente has group homes, often known as "sober living" homes, sprouting up all over town. Council members said they continually get complaints about what residents see as a business moving onto a residential street and disrupting neighbors' quality of life. Mayor Tim Brown described the homes as an "ongoing challenge in our city," saying there is little the city can do because federal laws such as the Fair Housing Act and Americans With Disabilities Act preclude local control. City Attorney Jeff Oderman said Newport Beach adopted an ordinance that applied what that city felt were reasonable standards for group homes with seven or more people, but a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned it. Oderman said Newport Beach requested a hearing by the full court, and the full court declined to hear it. But five judges expressed support for Newport's position, which led the city to look to the Supreme Court. Several San Clemente residents asked the City Council for help Tuesday night, saying there needs to be a balance between the rights of group homes and those of neighbors. Speakers described drug activity, street fights, threats, thefts, people crawling through windows and a danger to children. "It's just destroying our neighborhood," Pat Wernet said. "This industry is out of control," Sherman Fowler told the council. A report to the council cited one neighborhood where the Sheriff's Department and city code enforcement have stepped up their presence and the city organized a community meeting and tried for a mediation agreement with the owner of a group home, without success. City staff said one option for residents is to file multiple small-claims actions against a property owner for creating a public nuisance. Council members also suggested an ordinance to deal with homes that spur a lot of police calls, making the property owner responsible to pay for excessive calls. Oderman said a nuisance ordinance is possible as long as the calls involve bad behavior. "Running a drug house is not a permitted use, regardless of the Americans With Disabilities Act," he said. Contact the writer: or 949-492-5127 Source: http://www.ocregister.com/articles/city-618722-homes-court.html

More foster parents needed in Iowa, nationwide Iowa KidsNet also hopes to increase diversity By Hayley Bruce, The Gazette Published: June 21 2014 | 11:01 am in News, 244 8 0 Photos Liz Martin/The Gazette Josh Phams has adopted a teenage son and has two foster children. Liz Martin/The Gazette Josh Phams has adopted a teenage son and has two foster children. 1 1 Joshua Phams always knew he wanted to have kids. It was just a matter of how he would go about it. Now, after being a foster parent for a year and a half, Phams — who is 33, gay and single — has adopted a 15-year-old boy and continues to serve as a foster parent for other children. The Cedar Rapids native said he always had considered being a foster parent, but had the benefit of watching some of his friends in gay couples caring for foster children. After hearing their experiences, Phams went to an information session, started filling out the paperwork and became a foster parent in January 2013. Now, he's also going back to school to become a social worker. Since he became a foster parent, Phams has had five children in his home. And though being a parent can, at times, be challenging, the Kirkwood Community College instructor said the experience has been incredibly fulfilling. "What's really unique and most rewarding is watching them bond and adapt to a new family," Phams said. "My youngest, it might have taken him three to six months, but even crossing the street holding your hand, feeling safe to call you Dad, them feeling comfortable to tell you their terrors — a lot of times when kids come into care, there's a lot of things that have happened to them so they don't know that it's a safe place." FOSTER CARE IN IOWA Between 4,000 and 5,000 children are in Iowa's foster care system, consistently, year after year. And Iowa KidsNet — a collaboration of not-for-profit agencies that recruits, licenses, trains and supports foster and adoptive parents in the state through a contract assignment with the Iowa Department of Human Services — wants more foster parents like Phams. Penny McGee, statewide recruitment supervisor for Iowa KidsNet, said there's always a gap between the number of kids who need foster homes and the number of homes the organization has. But the gap becomes more apparent when one realizes that not

all foster families are willing or able to care for children of every age. “We may have a foster family in Cedar Rapids who is willing to parent a kid age zero to five but not willing to parent a teenager, so, just because the homes match up doesn’t mean there isn’t a need,” McGee said. For example, Linn County had 236 referrals in foster care in 2013 — meaning Iowa KidsNet received referrals from DHS for 236 individual children who needed a foster home. Of those referrals, 79 were 13 or older. Though Iowa Kids- Net has 89 families available to take foster children in Linn County, only 23 accept children ages 13 or older. But Iowa KidsNet is seeking to increase more than the number of foster parents. The organization wants to improve diversity among foster parents, too. A NEED FOR DIVERSITY “There is a saying that culture is to people as water is to fish — in other words, culture influences us constantly, all the time,” McGee said. “I think it’s important to have a diverse pool of families to pick from for kids coming into foster care.” Of the 236 referrals of children into foster care in Linn County last year, 45 were black-identified youths, one identified as Hispanic/Latino and 48 identified as multiracial. Of the 89 families available for a match, six identified as black and five identified as multiracial. McGee said a child could experience additional trauma if the foster family is not dedicated to and skilled in supporting their cultural identity. “They experience abuse or neglect or some other traumatic experience and it’s traumatic to go into foster care,” McGee said. “So if they are going into a home that’s completely unfamiliar to them that just adds to the trauma the child has already experienced.” Training regarding parenting diverse youths is available before and after families become licensed. SUPPORT AND AFFIRMATION McGee said diversity also needs to extend to support children in their sexual orientation and gender identity. “I think, as a society, we fail to recognize LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning) families as a culture that needs to be supported or affirmed,” McGee said. “We think of race or ethnicity, but we often don’t think of sexual orientation or gender identity.” Though there is no Iowa-specific data on the number of LGBTQ youths in the foster care system, McGee said LGBTQ-identifying youths are similar to youths of color in that they are overrepresented in the foster care system. Of the roughly 175,000 youths ages 10 to 18 in foster care in the United States, an estimated 5 percent to 10 percent — likely more — are LGBTQ, according to 2013 estimates from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Phams said he has received nothing but support as a single, gay foster parent, and he encourages anyone on the fence to learn more about the process and its rewards. “I think a lot of barriers are there because people aren’t in a traditional role of having a husband or having a wife — either they’re a lesbian couple or a single gay man or woman or a mixed minority, and they think they don’t have a chance, or that people might not be open to accepting them as a foster parent. But the need is so great,” Phams said. “The kids just need someone to love, and I think a lot of times what deters people that might be interested in my age group is that they’re not educated about foster parenting enough or they haven’t made those connections with people who have done it before.” Phams, whose adoptive son identifies as bisexual, said he realized the gravity of his decision during a recent conversation with his son. “He wasn’t able to come out (in his previous home), and he has said he thought he was going to have to wait until he was an adult to be himself — and now he’s calling me Dad,” Phams said. “It almost made me cry that he is now able to be himself at a younger age and really accept who he is so he can come to terms with that.” - See more at: http://thegazette.com/subject/news/more-foster-parents-needed-in-iowa-nationwide-20140605#sthash.cQbDhnt6.dpuf

Griffo Foster Care Bill Heading To The Governor By Jim Rondenelli June 19, 2014 3:07 PM Share on Facebook Share on Twitter Senator Griffo’s Office A bill sponsored by Senator Joseph Griffo to protect foster children from being placed in unsuitable homes has been passed by the state Senate and Assembly. Griffo says currently, there is no formal system in place that would require an agency to review and evaluate an applicant’s history if the applicant were to apply to another agency to take in foster children. The legislation would require agencies to consult with the Office of Children and Family Services whether a foster parent’s application has been certified or revoked, or if a child was removed from the home. “The state is responsible for the safety and security of every child placed in their care,” said Senator Griffo. The bill was sponsored in the Assembly by Nily Rozic of Queens. It now goes to the Governor to be signed into law. Cuomo, Legislative Leaders Agree On Heroin Bills Read More: Griffo Foster Care Bill Heading To The Governor | http://wibx950.com/griffo-foster-care-bill-heading-to-the-governor/?trackback=tsmclip

GBI Raids Group Home, Charges Workers With Assault And Exploitation By: Winnie Wright - Email Posted: Thu 6:08 PM, Jun 19, 2014 By: Winnie Wright - Email Winnie Wright Multimedia Journalist Connect With Me: Home / News / Georgia / Headlines List / Article Winnie Wright June 19, 2014 Morven, GA - GBI agents raid a group home, after residents report people breaking in their homes to steal food. Six people are under arrest. "It's terrible out there. They beat people, hurt people, everything." Strong words from William Wethersby who claims he used to be a resident of a group home formally known as Uplift Inc. He says he is glad he left the home when he did. On Thursday morning, agents from the Georgira Bureau of Investigations raided the facility and arrested the owner, Tyrone Terrell, and five other people. "We have reports of physical abuse. We have assault charges and battery charges as well on the people that were working there. As well as exploitation' using the finances of the clients for themselves to actually personally profit", says Special Agent, Steve Turner, with the GBI. According to Agent Turner, the facility was unlivable. Terrell was accepting money for patients to stay here and in turn, was taking their food stamps and making them fend for themselves. He says they didn't even provide air conditioning. The raid came after a two-month investigation into this facility in Morven and antother in Hahira. "Morven PD has had multiple complaints about clients that were living there who were breaking out and breaking into people's homes because they weren't being adequately fed", says Turner. Weathersby says people were just doing what they had to do to survive. "Half the time they didn't feed nobody. The food's nasty, bugs, bed bugs, everywhere." Agent Turner says the suspects face charges ranging from Exploitation to Aggravated Assault. The GBI also says this is an ongoing investigation and additional charges are pending. All of the residents have been placed in other facilities. Source: http://www.wctv.tv/news/georgianews/headlines/GBI-Raids-Group-Home-Charges-Workers-With-Assault-And-Ex-263893731.html

Clark County sued by mother whose children suffered harm in foster care Paula Hammack, assistant director of Clark County Department of Family Services, left, and Lisa Ruiz-Lee, director of Family Services, are accused of failing to establish appropriate procedures for training employees and supervising foster parents. (Jerry Henkel/Las Vegas Review-Journal) Buy Photo By YESENIA AMARO LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL The mother of a 17-month-old toddler and a 2-month-old baby who suffered neglect under the care of their foster parents is suing Clark County, several Clark County Department of Family Services’ employees and the foster parents. Former foster parents Andrea Hernandez, 38, and her husband, Waldo Hernandez, 40, were sentenced in March to five years of probation for failing to properly care for the two foster children last year. “Clark County (Department of Family Services) had guidelines for determining the appropriate priority of hotline calls, but failed to adequately train its hotline staff workers as to those guidelines,” The complaint alleges. It accuses Lisa Ruiz-Lee, director of Family Services, and Paula Hammack, assistant director of Family Services, of failing to establish appropriate procedures for training employees and supervising foster parents. Attorney Marjorie Hauf filed the lawsuit last month in Clark County District Court on behalf of Jessica Hargrove, biological mother of the boys. The plaintiffs seek damages in excess of $10,000 for physical and psychological harm the children suffered in foster care. The claim alleges civil rights violations and negligence. Hargrove regained custody of her sons in April, Hauf said. They had been removed because of domestic violence between the parents and because of drug and alcohol use in the home, she said. Hauf and attorney Michael Kane, who is assisting, said once the children were in custody, the county had “the duty to keep them protected.” “They put them off in situations that are worse than where they started,” Hauf said. “Far worse than in their parents’ home.” Family Services spokeswoman Kristi Jourdan said she would not comment on the pending litigation. Hargrove visited the Family Services permanency worker handling her case numerous times and called the county child abuse hotline twice, first on Sept. 4 and again on Sept. 17. Nothing happened until Sept. 19, when Family Services finally tracked down the foster parents and Hargrove’s children at an unapproved location, a trailer in Sandy Valley, 50 miles southwest of Las Vegas. The 17-month-old boy had a 3-inch burn scar on his arm and another large scar on this buttocks, while the 2-month-old baby had infections in every skin fold. The injury to the 17-month-old boy happened when the foster parents’ 13-year-old son changed the toddler’s diaper outside on a hot day, using a plastic bag as a diaper and a black mini-fridge as a changing table, according to records. The foster parents in December each pleaded guilty to one count of child neglect or endangerment with substantial bodily harm. The lawsuit names the foster parents; Anita Moody, who was assigned to investigate an allegation of neglect involving Hargrove’s sons; Lisa Brochu, who was the case manager assigned to oversee the placement and care of the children; Kim Kallas, the social work supervisor supervising Brochu; Lisa Ruiz-Lee, director of Family Services; Paula Hammack, assistant director of Family Services, and other unnamed employees. The complaint alleges Family Services failed to supervise and conduct monthly meetings with the boys to ensure their safety. They also failed to properly investigate the couple and improperly licensed them, according to the lawsuit. It also claims Family Services’ administrators failed to train social workers and supervisors on how to investigate prospective foster parents, how to select proper foster parents for children, how to supervise foster children, how to report suspicions of abuse to Child Protective Services, and how to prepare accurate reports for the county and state. For example, Brochu, who was the assigned case manager, “did not visit the children or the home of (the Hernandezes) as required by applicable policies, which allowed (the foster parents) to violate statutes and administrative codes controlling their licensure as foster parents,” the lawsuit states. If Brochu “had followed Clark County’s stated procedures, she could have discovered evidence of abuse and violations, and removed (the boys) from this foster home before they could be subjected to continued abuse and neglect.” Any financial compensation from the case would be placed in a blocked account, and the children wouldn’t have access to the money until they turn 18, said Hauf, who has been involved in other Family Services’ litigation. Contact Yesenia Amaro at or 702-383-0440. Find her on Twitter: @YeseniaAmaro. Source: http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/clark-county-sued-mother-whose-children-suffered-harm-foster-care

Private foster care troubles in California lead to new scrutiny Foster agency troubles Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times One agency was found to have disputed spending of $50,000 in 2009, part of which went to lease this Hesperia house from the agency's executive director for more than $1,000 over the market rate. One agency was found to have disputed spending of $50,000 in 2009, part of which went to lease this Hesperia house from the agency's executive director for more than $1,000 over

the market rate. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times) Garrett Therolf contact the reporter CrimeAccounting and AuditingCompensation and BenefitsSocial IssuesPrivatization Private foster agency was cited for sexual and physical abuses, substandard housing and spending violations Of $11 million in bad expenditures at foster care charities from 2000-2010, about a tenth has been recovered County auditors looking into one of Los Angeles' biggest foster care agencies in 2003 uncovered $445,000 in ineligible or unsupported spending. Auditors found $234,000 in wages with no supporting documents to verify the hours worked, up to $29,000 in unsupported vehicle expenses and $47,000 that the agency paid to purchase one building and lease another from its top executives, according to the audit report. The county Department of Children and Family Services demanded that the private agency, Homes of Hope, return $440,000. Five years later, the county agreed to settle the matter for $36,000, to be paid in installments without interest. Homes of Hope is still paying off the debt today — at $600 per month. I can't explain it. I would have asked for more information before making the decision to give up on all that money.- Philip Browning, director of Children and Family Services, on the agreement to settle a dispute over $440,000 with Homes of Hope for $36,000 "I can't explain it," said Philip Browning, who took over as director of Children and Family Services two years ago. "I would have asked for more information before making the decision to give up on all that money." Homes of Hope is emblematic of the decades-long failure to adequately monitor California's $400-million-a-year private foster care industry. The agency, which receives about $3.6 million a year to care for neglected children, has become the focus of a renewed government effort to impose stricter controls on private groups that recruit and supervise foster families. Sukhwinder "Suki" Singh, the agency's founder and executive director, said in a brief interview: "We work very, very hard to provide care and supervision to our children." She declined to comment further. California began an experiment nearly 27 years ago that took a portion of foster care away from county bureaucrats and placed it in the hands of private agencies that legislators believed would be cheaper, more efficient and better for children who found their way into the system. lRelated Local L.A. County supervisors vote to hire 'child protection czar' See all related 8 In Los Angeles County, the 46 foster family charities typically undergo financial audits once a decade. Of more than $11 million in inappropriate expenditures identified by auditors at foster care charities from 2000 to 2010, only about one-tenth has been recovered, county records show. And no effort has been made to get back millions more potentially owed the state, according to other county records and interviews. "We have not done nearly as well as we need to be doing," Browning said. Auditors found that one agency, Teens Happy Homes in Los Angeles, spent liberally on cigarettes and beer — 30 cases in one instance. At another Los Angeles County contractor, America Care, taxpayer dollars were spent on alcohol, clothing from Nordstrom, tobacco, jewelry boxes, fine china, perfume and a martini set, according to county auditors. Related story: Private foster care system, intended to save children, endangers some Garrett Therolf Those living in private agencies¿ homes are a third more likely to endure physical, emotional or sexual abuse, a Times analysis found. div.clear { clear:both; } .trb_article_page .right { float: right; margin: 0px; } .full-image img{ width:100%} #bannerbox p.date { margin: auto; font-size:... Those living in private agencies¿ homes are a third more likely to endure physical, emotional or sexual abuse, a Times analysis found. div.clear { clear:both; } .trb_article_page .right { float: right; margin: 0px; } .full-image img{ width:100%} #bannerbox p.date { margin: auto; font-size:... (Garrett Therolf) The two agencies, which are no longer caring for foster children, later reimbursed the county for some of the expenses but never reached an agreement on all the expenses flagged by auditors. Salaries at some charities are high as well. ChildNet Youth & Family Services' former Chief Executive Robert Di Stefano, for example, received a compensation package worth $522,000 in 2010, according to the agency's tax returns. The agency said in a statement that a compensation survey had been used to ensure Di Stefano's compensation was at "market level" and sufficient to attract "the highest-quality executive talent." :: Singh, of Homes of Hope, opened her first foster care agency in 1994 — then another and another. By 2009, Singh was working full time as chief executive of Homes of Hope in West Covina and Interim Care in Rancho Cucamonga. She also worked a third full-time job that year as board president of Specialized Care in Rancho Cucamonga, according to the agencies' tax returns. cComments CPSdocumentary (facebook and youtube) has been covering LA's privatization of CPS and the huge increases the numbers of children taken to keep the profit margins and money flowing. When you create an industry built around profits for 'the more you take, the more you make' the more children will... LAsylum at 4:16 PM June 22, 2014 Add a comment See all comments 35 Between 2008 and 2011, 2,300 children lived in foster homes supervised by the agencies, according to state records. In their federal tax returns for 2009, the agencies reported that Singh worked a total of 120 hours a week at the three nonprofit corporations, receiving $311,000 in pay. In 2012 she collected $195,000, working 80 hours a week at two agencies, according to tax returns. She also charged almost $1.8 million in rent from 2007 to 2011 for properties she owned and leased back to her foster care agencies, according to financial statements filed with the state. "On the face of it, this does not appear to be the best use of funds," said Armand Montiel, spokesman for the Department of Children and Family Services. The privatization of foster care poured hundreds of millions of dollars into a system that had been dominated by government-run facilities. The private system now cares for over 80% of foster children placed with strangers in Los Angeles County. Related story: Jada's case highlights problems in foster care system Jada bears the scars of being scalded by a woman who is serving 15 years in prison for her abuse and got a waiver as a foster mother despite several convictions and abuse complaints. Jada bears the scars of being scalded by a woman who is serving 15 years in prison for her abuse and got a waiver as a foster mother despite several convictions and abuse complaints. Read the story The state pays the private agencies about $2,000 per child each month. As much as 60% of that money can be retained by the agency to pay for rent, supplies and salaries for administrators and social workers, who make weekly visits to foster homes to ensure children are properly cared for. The more children the charities place in homes, the more income. Monitoring the finances of the 46 private foster care agencies in Los Angeles County is the responsibility of the auditor controller. Five staff members are assigned to the task. Robert Fellmeth, director of the Children's Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego School of Law, said: "When there are incentives to gather large numbers of foster homes without contributing very much to the kids' care, you need to check properly. Are they doing it? No." :: Questions about Homes of Hope's finances date to a county audit of the group's 2000-2001 expenditures. Auditors identified $445,000 in unsupported spending, including a $28,750 full-time salary paid to a relative of Singh's who was employed elsewhere. The agency's lawyer told auditors that the relative worked nights and weekends at Homes of Hope. In a rebuttal letter, Homes of Hope also said the supporting records for his hours and those of other employees were destroyed in an accidental fire. The agency declined the county's request to provide signed declarations with the employees' names, titles and typical hours. Auditors also learned that Singh and her then-husband were landlords at three Homes of Hope locations. At one, the charity was charged for more space than it was using, resulting in more than $14,000 in unallowable payments, the auditors concluded. Homes of Hope also failed to obtain required county approval in 2001 when it purchased residential property for $238,000 from Singh and her husband for a group home, the auditors reported. Singh had purchased the property in 1997 for $135,000. In her rebuttal letter, Singh said she was unaware that prior approval was required, and she argued that the purchase price reflected the fair market value. In 2003, auditors forwarded their findings to the Department of Children and Family Services, recommending that it get the money back. After initial letters were sent to Homes of Hope, four years passed without any written communication, according to county files. In 2009, six years after the audit, new fiscal workers took charge of the case and the county dropped its claims in return for a $36,000 settlement without obtaining the requested documentation to support the expenditures detailed by auditors. Related story: Tennessee uses incentives to change a troubled foster care system Garrett Therolf Tennessee instituted large monetary rewards and severe financial penalties to spur reforms among care providers. Tennessee instituted large monetary rewards and severe financial penalties to spur reforms among care providers. (Garrett Therolf) "From everything I've seen, I don't believe we handled this very well," Browning said. Amid Homes of Hope's financial troubles, state and county officials cited the agency for varied deficiencies. State regulators found that an adult male had been convicted of sexually abusing a foster child in her foster home. They also said that a foster father made sexual advances to with a foster child and had been certified despite similar allegations at another agency. In recent years, some of its foster homes lacked hot water, according to state licensing records. Others had no food in the refrigerator and cabinets. One had a bathroom with a crumbling tub and a sink with no faucet handles, according to state records of substantiated licensing violations. In 2008, a baby living with a Homes of Hope foster mother was taken to the hospital and was placed on life support. Doctors believed the baby suffered from shaken baby syndrome, and the foster mother was later banned from foster care for life for the "nonaccidental injury," according to state licensing records and county correspondence. lRelated Local L.A. County supervisors vote to hire 'child protection czar' See all related 8 Homes of Hope was cited for poor screening that allowed the woman to become the foster parent of five children under the age of 5 when she was already running a day-care center. In a written response, Singh said her social worker had properly monitored the home and the incident was unforeseen. State auditors also examined the 2009 finances of San Bernardino County-based Interim Care, where Singh also served as executive director, and found weak fiscal controls and $50,000 in spending that was disallowed. The disputed expenditures included $21,912 in lease payments to Singh above the appraised fair market value for two properties, the state auditors found. One — a house with a dirt yard in Hesperia — cost Interim Care $2,400 per month. The state determined that the fair market rental was $1,036. :: In Los Angeles County, Singh's case has sparked efforts to improve financial oversight of foster care agencies. Officials are working with state regulators to rewrite the rules on real estate transactions to ensure that contractors do not pay more than market value. cComments CPSdocumentary (facebook and youtube) has been covering LA's privatization of CPS and the huge increases the numbers of children taken to keep the profit margins and money flowing. When you create an industry built around profits for 'the more you take, the more you make' the more children will... LAsylum at 4:16 PM June 22, 2014 Add a comment See all comments 35 The officials said that new real estate contracts would have to be approved in advance, and existing contracts for inappropriately high levels of rent will be renegotiated. Despite the focus on Homes of Hope, the county continues to fund Singh's group and send children there. Officials say they can't afford to drop the agency because of the overload of foster children, whose numbers are increasing for the first time since the 1990s. "We just don't have enough homes," Browning said. Times data editor Doug Smith contributed to this report. Source: http://www.latimes.com/local/countygovernment/la-me-foster-financial-20140621-story.html#page=2

Calif. Governor Signs off on Kinship Equity, Support for Exploitation Victims By Victor Valle, June 20, 2014 Share on Tumblr PRINTER FRIENDLY Photo Credit: Courtesy of 401KCalculator Note: This story was updated on June 20 Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown has signed a budget that includes new funding for kinship foster caregivers and more assistance to victims of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC). The Relative Caregiver Funding Option Program brings $30 million dollars in funding to a county-option program that will make payments to kinship caregivers commensurate with payments made to other foster parents. Kinship caregivers in counties that opt in will see their monthly support from the state rise from a $370 welfare benefit to more than $800. Counties must decide on participation by October, and the program begins in January 2015. The state will fully pay for the increase for existing kinship caregivers, and counties will have to share the cost of new caregivers. If the $30 million proves not to be enough, then the amount will be increased appropriately, according to Reed Connell, who has been working with the Alliance for Children's Rights on this issue. "The legislature will provide enough money to cover if all counties opt in to the program," Connell said. "We're really focused on making sure we urge counties to opt in when the time comes." The other proposal that survived, which is focused on commercially exploited children, will cost $5 million in funding for 2014-2015, and $14 million for 2015-2016. The proposal will help fund training for child welfare workers in prevention, intervention skills to work with child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, as well as provide services that would directly meet immediate needs and care for the victims. Counties must opt in to this program as well. If counties opt in to these programs, they will commence on January 1, 2015. Four other child welfare-related proposals did not make the final package sent to the governor: A pilot program to improve permanency outcomes for foster youth Increased funding for child welfare courts, as The Chronicle reported on earlier this week A pay raise for social workers who work at Foster Family Agencies An initiative focused on foster and kinship care recruitment, retention and support "I'm deeply disappointed that the youth languishing in foster care were denied the right to permanent families," said Gail Johnson-Vaughan, executive director at Mission Focused Solutions, who led the push for the permanency pilot project. "The loss was to them and to the fiscal bottom line of the counties and state." Victor Valle is a reporter at the Chronicle of Social Change. Source: https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/news/funding-for-kinship-equity-support-for-exploitation-victims-makes-way-to-governor/7241

Pine Bluff Foster Father Accused of Raping A Teen Boy Melissa Schroeder 7 06/20/2014 10:20 PM 06/20/2014 10:22 PM Jefferson County Sheriff's Department investigating a rape case. PINE BLUFF, AR -- A man who surrounded himself with children is now being accused of raping one. Jefferson County Sheriff's investigators say a foster father -- who also works with Pine Bluff Schools -- is behind bars tonight. 52-year-old Samuel Evans appeared in court today and a judge set his bond at $25,000. According to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Evans is still sitting in a jail cell as they continue to sort out what led up to this crime. Major Lafayette Woods said, "We actually investigate these things very seriously." Major Woods says Evans raped a teen boy last week. His mother called State Police after it happened and deputies arrested Evans on Thursday. Woods said, "So, when you're seeing things like this, it's very heartbreaking." Major Woods says Evans was a foster parent and he also worked -- in the Transportation Department -- at Pine Bluff City School District for 18 years. Woods said, "And their job is to provide those essential elements to a child, not to abuse them in any physical or mental way." While the Department of Human Services couldn't comment on the case, Director of Communications Amy Webb explained the process of becoming a foster parent, calling it rigorous. Webb said, "So we want to make sure people who are foster parents are capable of taking care of children and providing them everything they need." After a foster parent application is filled out, there are state and federal criminal background checks. Then, there's 30 hours of training, also interviews and home checks. It's a process that could take six months or longer, unfortunately it's not always enough. Webb said, "When that happens we want to make sure we respond swiftly and make sure no other kids get into that home." Major Woods says it's possible there are other victims out there. According to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department they're waiting on DNA evidence as they continue the investigation. There's no word on when Evans' next court appearance will be. If you would like to follow Melissa Schroeder's reports on Facebook, you can click here and like her page. Source: http://www.arkansasmatters.com/story/d/story/pine-bluff-foster-father-accused-of-raping-a-teen/19385/-bHY0FUZukatsMJH_o57MA

H.R.4016 — 113th Congress (2013-2014): Introduced in House by Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT-3rd) (02/06/2014) Quality Foster Care Services Act of 2014 - Amends title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to extend medical assistance coverage to therapeutic foster care services. Requires a qualified therapeutic foster care program to be state-licensed and provide: (1) foster care children under 21 with structured daily activities, including the development of age-appropriate social, communication and behavioral skills, trauma-informed and gender-responsive services, crisis intervention and crisis support services, medication monitoring, counseling, and case management; and (2) foster care parents with specialized training and consultation in the management of children with mental illness, trauma, other emotional or behavioral disorders, medically fragile conditions, or developmental disabilities, and specific additional training on the needs of each child provided such services. Please ask your legislators to oppose this legislation. It seeks to fund residential treatment and wilderness programs for Foster Kids. S. 1992 (introduced to Senate by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). To find your legislators, visit http://votesmart.org/ and enter in your address and/or full zip (9 digits) code and click "search".

Ohio A-G applauds new state legislation Attorney General's information COLUMBUS — Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine applauded the signing of legislation strengthening background check and human trafficking laws, as well as legislation signed earlier this week updating aspects of Ohio's foster care laws. "I thank Governor Kasich and the legislature for enacting these important laws," said DeWine. "Because of these bills, employers will receive more complete background checks, prosecutors will have more tools to go after underage sex trafficking, and foster youth will have more opportunities for normalcy while in foster care." Governor Kasich this week signed the following bills that DeWine supported and advocated: Senate Bill 143 (sponsored by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati), signed June 20): authorizes the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) to disclose in background checks certain arrests that still have criminal proceedings pending. (Effective 90 days from enrollment with Secretary of State) House Bill 130 (sponsored by Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo), signed June 20): makes multiple changes regarding human trafficking offenses, including removing the need for prosecutors to prove a victim under 16 or with a developmental disability was compelled to engage in commercial sexual activity, and increasing the penalties for soliciting minors or persons with developmental disabilities. (Effective immediately) House Bill 213 (sponsored by Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville) and Rep. Nicholas J. Celebrezze (D-Parma), signed June 17): makes several changes to Ohio's foster care laws, including enhancing the ability of foster youth to participate in extra-curricular activities, and allowing a court to terminate parental rights if the child has been abused or neglected three or more times (effective 90 days from enrollment with Secretary of State). Source: http://www.thevwindependent.com/news/2014/06/ohio-a-g-applauds-new-state-legislation/

'Boot-camp style' education on agenda: School board to consider alternative model for students with discipline issues School board to consider alternative model for students with discipline issues Jun. 23, 2014 The Rapides Parish School Board will consider major changes to the way it educates students with major disciplinary issues. Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Administration Clyde Washington presented a plan to the board's Education Committee for a new alternative program called RAPPS — Rapides Alternative Positive Program for Students. RAPPS would be a highly structured program for habitual rules violators or students who commit major infractions. The Education Committee passed the proposal on to the full board for consideration. "I'm excited to learn more about it," said board President Janet Dixon. The proposed location for the program is the J.S. Slocum Learning Center in Pineville. Washington described it as a "boot-camp style" experience for students in grades 6-12 who habitually violate rules at their home school or commit major offenses such as battery or possession of drugs or weapons. Currently, those students are assigned to Aiken Virtual School, with the option of completing their online work at the school campus in Alexandria, at a public library or at home. During the time last school year when the most students were enrolled in the alternative program due to suspension or expulsion, nearly 80 percent of them did not attend school on the Aiken campus. That contradicts what successful alternative programs have done, Washington said, which is provide structure. Under the proposed RAPPS model, attendance will be mandatory. The regimen will be strict. Students will adhere to dress code, will be supervised at all times and will participate in physical training unless medically cleared to miss it. Students can exit the program by complying with all rules and showing progress in subjects taken. The program would have a staff of 18 people. Transportation would be through the City of Alexandria's transit system or the school district, at an estimated cost of $80,000-90,000 to the district. Education Committee chair Darrell Rodriguez noted that response from local law enforcement and other support agencies to the RAPPS model has been positive. "We have support from all the agencies in the parish for us to work on this," he said. Source: http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20140623/NEWS01/306230008/-Boot-camp-style-education-agenda-School-board-consider-alternative-model-students-discipline-issues?nclick_check=1

Will Anyone Stop Charter School Corruption? When politicians and pundits take to the barricades to defend "wonderful charter schools," is this what they're thinking of? A recent article in a Minnesota newspaper reported about a change in state law that could imperil the existence of a charter school that serves a student body sorely in need of heroic efforts. According to the reporter, "Nine out of 10 of the school's 275 high schoolers meet the legal definition of 'highly mobile,' meaning they do not have stable housing; 109 are flat-out homeless. Some couch-surf. Some sleep in cars, some in bus stations. Often they spend the night in small groups, for safety. Poverty – a given – is usually the least of their worries. To teens forced to support themselves, a diploma is a life raft." The schools founder and chief operator is quoted: "We have kids who are one credit away from graduating … We are one of the first consistent things in their lives." A compelling story for sure and likely one example, among others, that was in the minds of most in Congress when the US House of Representatives recently passed controversial legislation to expand federal funds for more charter schools without placing any substantial new regulations on those schools. What lawmakers in Washington, DC had been told, of course, was that starting up lots and lots of charter schools was going to create a "marketplace of education," where the problem of "quality" would take care of itself as "bad" charters "go out of business," and the wonderful ones that do such great things for the most unfortunate children get picked up and replicated all over the world. For sure, there were those on "the outside" who advocated against expanding charter schools without taking into account steps toward stricter regulation. As The Nation's Zoe Carpenter pointed

out, the bill's emergence in the House coincided with publication of a report by the Center for Popular Democracy and Integrity in Education that documented "shocking misuses of the federal funds being funneled into the poorly regulated charter industry." Nevertheless the charter sector won the Hill that day and has continued to ascend in state capitals around the country since. Meanwhile, real evidence of "the good charters" remains mostly anecdotal, as financial corruption and poor education results from "bad ones" continue to mount with every passing month. Just look at Ohio. Buckeye State Boondoggle The Buckeye State, where charter schools have operated for well over a decade, has had loose regulations, business-minded state governance, and a Beltway-based conservative think tank serving as a charter sponsor. According to a recent report in the Akron Beacon, "Enrollment in Ohio charter schools now stands at more than 120,000 in nearly 400 schools, with seven more schools expected to open next year. These quasi-public schools enroll less than 7 percent of Ohio's students and receive $912 million in state tax dollars, about 11 percent of all state funds set aside for primary and secondary education." According to charter school enthusiasts at the Center for Education Reform, Ohio is a "Top Ten" state – number 3, in fact – on its rating scale for states that provide "parent power" – something that is, apparently, in abundance when lots of charter and virtual schools and just about anything else but good traditional public schools are prevalent. (Vermont, one of the top performing school systems in the country, based on the National Assessment of Education Progress, is number 47 in "parent power.") Contributing significantly to Ohio's top rating no doubt is the state's citation for "providing even more growth" in the charter school sector. But nowhere on the CER site is there a hint of how all this choice and growth have actually benefited Ohio students and taxpayers. For that information, you have to turn to the progressive state group Innovation Ohio who earlier this year found that, in the 2011-2012 school year, the state's enthusiastic support of charter schools had resulted in a transference of $774 million from the public school system to charter schools that tend to perform worse on the state's school performance rating system. Since that report, very little to any improvements seem to have occurred. As a recent series of reports appearing in the Akron Beacon revealed, one of the states' most popular charter school chains, run by White Hat Management, has enjoyed such carte blanche operation that Ohio lawmakers approved additional funding for about 77 of those schools and exempted them from "full accountability until at least 2017." The legislation passed despite the fact that dropouts are so prevalent at these schools that many of them report "single-digit graduation rates." The Beacon reporter found that during last school year, more students dropped out of these schools than attended on the average day. Anther Ohio newspaper, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, carried a recent editorial explaining that the primary beneficiary of the loophole legislation favoring White Hat run charter schools is not the state's students nor its taxpayers but the charter school operator, Akron businessman David Brennan who "has poured more than $4 million into the coffers of Republican candidates in Ohio during the last decade." In the face of lagging academic results, higher dropout rates, and the aroma of crony corruption, what do Ohio charter promoters do to improve their performance? Amp up their marketing. As another recent Beacon report found, "State audits suggest that some Ohio charter schools spend more than $400 in public money per student to attract them away from public schools." Using keywords such as "free, flexible, one-on-one and find your future," Ohio charter school companies are "advertising on television, radio, billboards, handbills and even automated telephone messages to entice students away from public schools." You have to wonder if this is how the taxpayers in Ohio like to see their hard earned money spent. In the meantime, one state over in Pennsylvania, the situation with charter schools doesn't look any better. Quaker State Cash Cow In the Quaker State, charter schools have long competed for funds with traditional public schools on an uneven playing field that exempts them from serving the full range of student abilities and revealing financial details of their operations to the public. Despite all this freedom from regulation, according to the Pennsylvania School Board Association, "Charter schools continue to academically underperform traditional public schools, with less than half of the brick and mortar charter schools meeting acceptable benchmark scores … None of the cyber charter schools met the mark. Nearly three-quarters of traditional public schools, however, earned passing scores in the first year of the new measuring system." Despite poor academic results, Pennsylvania scores a 12 on the reform index contrived by CER. But what CER calls "parent power" in Pennsylvania is actually "no real oversight" according to the Keystone State Coalition, a "non-partisan public education advocacy group of several hundred locally elected, volunteer school board members and administrators from school districts throughout Pennsylvania." That organization's recent report tallied exorbitant costs associated with charter school operations and lavish CEO salaries and bonuses for charter school operators despite vastly underperforming the state's traditional public schools. A more recent KSC report revealed how Pennsylvania charters have gamed the system for special education funding, resulting in annual profits of $200 million to the schools. As one local Pennsylvania blogger explained, "Charter schools collected $350,562,878 last year for special education funding and spent $156,003,034 for special education! Where did the other $200 million go? The fact of the matter is that charter schools are not obligated to spend special education funding for special education purposes. That money can be spent for numerous miscellaneous reasons." (emphasis original) A KSC video that education historian Diane Ravitch linked to on her blog explained how Pennsylvania charters also game the special education financial process by luring away students from public schools who are classified special education in the least expensive disability categories, which would include relatively mild disabilities such as speech impairment, and neglect to educate students in more expensive disability categories that would include more severe disabilities such as autism. This is especially devastating to school districts such as Philadelphia where budgets are in perennial crisis. As the local news outlet The Notebook reported, " Philadelphia charter schools received more than $175 million last year to educate special education students, but spent only about $77 million for that purpose … nearly $100 million gap at a time when city education leaders are considering raising some class sizes to 41 students and laying off 800 more teachers." To fix a funding system that rewards charter schools for services they do not provide, Pennsylvania lawmakers from both parties introduced a bill (HB 2138 and SB 1316) to fund each district based on the actual number of students with disabilities it has and on each child's needs. Charter advocates responded to this proposed legislation by opposing it. As bad as the situation is with charter schools in Ohio and Pennsylvania, it may be even worse in Michigan. The Great Lakes Robbery In the Great Lakes State, a series by the Detroit Free Press this month reported, "Michigan taxpayers pour nearly $1 billion a year into charter schools – but state laws regulating charters are among the nation's weakest, and the state demands little accountability in how taxpayer dollars are spent and how well children are educated." The yearlong investigation found, "Wasteful spending and double-dipping. Board members, school founders and employees steering lucrative deals to themselves or insiders. Schools allowed to operate for years despite poor academic records. No state standards for who operates charter schools or how to oversee them." Meanwhile, "38 percent of charter schools that received state academic rankings during the 2012-13 school year fell below the 25th percentile, meaning at least 75 percent of all schools in the state performed better. Only 23 percent of traditional public schools fell below the 25th percentile." For-profit corporations are permitted to run 61 percent of charter schools in Michigan even though over a third of those schools are in the bottom 25 percentile for academic performance. The variety of scams at work in the Michigan charter sector make your head spin. In one example, a real estate/investment firm bought property for $375,000 that it sold six days later to a charter school, for $425,000. The quick $50,000 profit went to founders of the firm – one the president of school's management company, the other married to the school's top administrator. At another charter school, members of the founder's family were paid to provide meals and maintenance to the school," and "family members still rent the building to the school or collect a management fee for running it." How does the charter industry respond to such damning evidence of failure and corruption? With a marketing campaign of course. As the local Michigan blog Eclectablog noted, just as the Detroit Free Press series was unfolding, the state's largest for-profit charter chain National Heritage Academies sprung into action and proceeded to purchase nearly all of the available ad space on the newspaper's website. And by the way, the "parent power" ranking CER gives Michigan is 11, commending the state for its "robust charter law." The unchecked charter school chicanery is not limited to the Northern Mid West. Sunshine State Scam A new investigation by the Orlando Sun Sentinel found, "Unchecked charter-school operators are exploiting South Florida's public school system, collecting taxpayer dollars for schools that quickly shut down … virtually anyone can open or run a charter school and spend public education money with near impunity." Examples cited in the series include a man who received $450,000 in tax dollars to open two new charter schools just months after his first collapsed. The schools closed in seven weeks. Another example: A man with "a history of foreclosures, court-ordered payments, and bankruptcy received $100,000 to start a charter school." It closed in two months. Sun Sentinel reporters found an elementary charter school that "sometimes had no toilet paper, soap or paper towels in the student bathrooms … Students sometimes ate hours after their designated lunchtimes, often from fast-food restaurants." School districts have little to no recourse when charters fail to submit financial reports – "some don't file them or turn in unreliable paperwork." And management companies that run two-thirds of South Florida's charter schools add to the problems of transparency and financial disclosure. Despite these problems, charter schools continue to "pop up within blocks of each other – or in the same building – offering similar programs as neighboring schools. With such wild growth, district officials say, many new charters no longer fill a niche or offer innovation. Yet Florida lawmakers repeatedly have declined to tighten charter-school regulations." Florida's score in the CER ranking: 2. Someone Please Say, "Stop!" Despite this cavalcade of corruption – most of which has been published in just the past two months, mind you – must we now pay homage to the "wonderful" charter schools? Take that charter program for homeless children cited above. Do we demand more of those schools to be replicated? Do we ask whether we need an outside, unregulated vendor to reveal the unsurprising conclusion that it's important to pay attention to the special needs of children? Do we ask why these children aren't being accommodated in local schools and take the necessary steps to ensure they are? Or do we ask, why the hell do we have record numbers of homeless school children in this country to begin with? Good questions for sure. Yet in the meantime, at the urging of charter school advocates and others promoting "school choice," lawmakers around the country are proposing and enacting new policies to feed more children into an increasingly corrupt charter chain pipeline. And in Washington, DC, that house legislation that would expand federal funding to these sorts of schools has been joined by a Senate version that is now steaming toward bipartisan consideration. Certainly, faced with such a growing calamity, it's not being "negative" or "oppositional" or a "status quo defender" to stand in the pathway and yell, "Stop!" Source: http://educationopportunitynetwork.org/will-anyone-stop-charter-school-corruption/

'Scream Rooms' in Schools Are Being Taken to a Frightening New Level You won't believe the tactic some educators are using to address misbehavior despite multiple student injuries and deaths. June 19, 2014 By Holly Eagleson Regular TakePart contributor Holly Eagleson writes about social issues, culture, lifestyle, and

food for Redbook, Marie Claire, Glamour, and others. full bio Remember when acting out in school got you time with the principal or detention? Those are dream scenarios compared with the handcuffs, pepper spray, Tasers, and isolation rooms that unruly kids in Washington state could face for breaking school rules. Washington's Bellevue School District recently came under fire for a policy that intended to sanction the use of isolation rooms—cell-like spaces that students are confined to involuntarily—for spontaneous misbehavior. The disciplinary policy was at odds with state guidelines, which only allow the use of seclusion when students are in imminent danger of physically harming themselves or others. Parents were further distressed by the vague language in the district's policy that would OK the use of restraints such as handcuffs and deterrents such as Tasers and pepper spray. Local TV affiliate Q13Fox reported that one parent told the school board, "Putting in language like this will only give permission to some staff members to just do what's convenient and not right." Bellevue School Board President Steve McConnell responded by telling Yahoo Shine, "No teachers in our school district use Tasers or chemical sprays on special needs students." Op-Ed: Schools Must Stop Ostracizing Kids With Special Needs The dustup renewed a fierce debate over the use of seclusion time-outs and restraints in public and private schools. In recent years, they've stoked outrage among parents, educators, and legislators owing to multiple resulting injuries and deaths. Still, their prevalence is shockingly widespread. According to a report from the U.S. Department of Education for Civil Rights, more than 110,000 students experienced restraint or seclusion from 2011 to 2012. With seclusion practices, children are routinely locked in padded isolation rooms for hours without bathroom breaks or monitoring. Given the nickname that sounds right at home in an Eli Roth film, it's no wonder these so-called scream rooms have been host to their fair share of tragic incidents. In 2004, 13-year-old Jonathan King hanged himself in a concrete isolation room in his Georgia school using a cord he'd been given as a belt. It was not his first time in the "time-out" space; he had repeatedly asked not to be confined there and had threatened suicide to teachers weeks earlier. Restraint practices aren't any less appalling. A 2012 ABC News investigation reported students being sat on by school employees, held down in a prone position, and stuffed into drawstring "sensory bags"—essentially glorified duffel bags. Many special education experts say these practices are especially deleterious to students with autism and disabilities who may require special monitoring and have underlying health issues. A 15-year-old Michigan teenager with autism who was pinned down for more than an hour by school employees became the second child in his state to die from restraint techniques, according to the National Disability Rights Network. In another horrifying incident, a seven-year-old girl diagnosed with emotional problems and ADHD was suffocated to death after being restrained by multiple staffers at a mental health day treatment facility. Her crime? Blowing bubbles in her milk during a time-out. The barbarism of seclusion and restraint policies isn't the only cause for concern. There's also a high probability that these practices will be used for the wrong reasons. A 2007 study published in the Journal of At-Risk Issues found that seclusion of at-risk students was initiated more frequently for nonviolent behaviors (leaving an assigned area or disrupting class) than for the intended purpose of curbing physical aggression. Despite the myriad issues with physical restraint and unsupervised seclusion, no research has found any therapeutic and educational benefit to either one. "It's shown no efficacy in reducing maladaptive behavior, and it's a crisis-based intervention only," said Joseph B. Ryan, professor in the School of Education at Clemson University. Even in a crisis, employing restraints and seclusion are bad moves. "You're aggravating a student that you're trying to pacify, so it violates a lot of the evidence-based procedures on how you should respond to a child," Ryan said. "And if you use it as a disciplinary method it can actually escalate aggression." The U.S. Department of Education has set guidelines restricting the use of these methods in classrooms to instances when students are in imminent physical danger. Even with DOE oversight, no federal law is on the books to enforce the rules. Only 30 states have any laws on the practices, and 18 states require parental notification of their use. A report by the office of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, found that existing laws and regulations impede families' ability to bring cases to court. Rather, they force families to remove children from school to stop the practices of restraint or seclusion. This year Harkin proposed the Keeping All Students Safe Act, which would outlaw dangerous seclusion and restraint practices and limit restraints to emergency situations. It would also require extensive training of school employees and parental notification within 24 hours of the use of restraints or seclusion. For what it's worth, McConnell, the Bellevue School Board president, told Yahoo Shine that parents of students who are placed in an isolation room receive verbal notification within 24 hours and a written account within five days. After a June 24 congressional briefing on restraint and seclusion in schools, the Bellevue School Board will do its own deliberating on July 1. That's when it'll conduct a hearing to pass a revised version of its seclusion and restraint policy that contains protections against inappropriate isolation and restraint of students and bans their use as forms of discipline or punishment. Source: http://www.takepart.com/article/2014/06/19/scream-rooms-schools-are-being-taken-frightening-new-level?cmpid=tpedu-eml-2014-06-27-screamrooms

The Dark, Deadly Side of China's Internet Addiction Camps Jun 24, 2014, 4:37 PM ET By RHEANA MURRAY Rheana Murray Teenagers assemble at the Internet Addiction Treatment Centre in the southeastern suburb of Daxing, near Beijing, China on March 1, 2007. AFP/Getty Images Chinese teens glued to their smartphones and video games have been treated in military-style boot camps since the country made Internet addiction an official disorder in 2008. But the strict camps haven't been entirely successful, according to experts who question controversial tactics like strenuous physical activity, and sometimes, abuse. Several young people have reportedly died at the camps, according to state-sanctioned media in China. Hospital First in US to Treat Internet Addiction Chinese Teen Dies at Internet Addiction Rehab Camp Teen Internet Addicts More Likely to Self-Harm: Study This week, supervisors at a camp in China's Henan province reportedly beat a 19-year-old girl to death when she failed to ask permission to use the bathroom, The Beijing News reported. Other reported deaths at Internet addiction camps across the country include a 14-year-old boy struck with a baton and pipe for being unable to do push-ups, according to the Los Angeles Times, and a 15-year-old beaten less than a day after arriving at camp. Some American experts don't think the answer to treating Internet addiction lies in boot camps. "For a treatment to work, it needs to last," Jenny Taitz, a clinical psychologist at the American Institute for Cognitive Therapy in New York, told ABC News. "And the very nature of a camp is that you can only stay there temporarily." AFP/Getty Images PHOTO: Teenagers make their way into the Internet Addiction Treatment Centre in the southeastern suburb of Daxing, near Beijing, China on March 1, 2007. For an addict to change, motivation has to come from within, Taitz added. "At a camp, people are telling you what to do. A more humanistic approach is much more likely to lead to long-standing change," she said. Taitz teaches Internet addicts mindfulness, meditation and emotion regulation tools to control their urges to reach for their smartphones or tablets. "I'm a clinician who bases my entire practice on evidence-based treatment, and I've never heard of a boot camp treatment in my scouring of evidence-based research," Taitz said. Internet addiction camps have been known to use forced physical activity and controversial tactics like electroshock therapy, which China's Ministry of Health banned in 2009. China has an estimated 24 million Internet addicts, China Daily reported. Source: http://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/dark-deadly-side-chinas-internet-addiction-camps/story?id=24282781 (HEAL Comment: http://youtu.be/vgeczZy6IDQ (Meaning it happens here too.))

Report finds abuse at group home where disabled man found bruised, paralyzed Posted: Jun 23, 2014 3:23 PM PDT Updated: Jun 23, 2014 4:04 PM PDT (FOX25 / MyFoxBoston) Kevin Rothstein, Producer - email Mike Beaudet Producer Kevin Rothstein BOSTON (MyFoxBoston.com)--The family of a disabled man found bruised and paralyzed on the bedroom floor of his group home is still fighting for answers after a new investigation found suspicious behavior from a worker at the home but still doesn't say how he came to be so badly hurt. The family of Paul Stanizzi, who has never been able to talk, believes he was abused at the group home in Bedford but the Middlesex District Attorney's office declined to press charges, saying no criminal acts could be proven. But newly-released Disabled Persons Protection Commission investigative report fuels the family's suspicion by substantiating that abuse occurred but still leaving unanswered the question of how he got his injuries. The report was finished in March but first obtained by the advocacy group COFAR – the Massachusetts Coalition of Families and Advocates. "Some of the findings of the report are very, very concerning," said attorney Ben Novotny, who represents the Stanizzi family. "The bruising all over the face, on the arms, the legs, the footprint on the back of the legs are probably most concerning piece of evidence that's come to light." In addition to detailing the injuries, the DPPC report substantiated abuse in so far as the sole group home worker on duty admitted that he found Stanizzi apparently paralyzed on the floor but moved him to his bed anyway, and then waited approximately 25 minutes before calling 911. Once at the hospital, an MRI found damage to the vertebrae around Paul's neck. While the report does not say how Stanizzi was injured, it's clear the overnight worker was suspected. He couldn't explain how he had gotten a fresh scratch on his face, a statement that a Bedford police detective found "suspicious". The worker admitted making several false statements to investigators, for example saying Stanizzi may have gotten a black eye because he sometimes hits himself in the face. He later admitted Stanizzi doesn't hit himself in the face. The worker denied assaulting Paul, but investigators were skeptical. "The truthfulness of (the alleged abuser's) denial is called into question by the false statements he provided during this investigation", the report says. A spokesperson for the Edinburg Center, which runs the group home where the incident occurred, said in a statement, "The Edinburg Center cannot comment given pending legal action but we stand behind the quality care we provide for all of our clients." While the criminal investigation is over, the family's investigation is far from it – and they hope the DA will at some point consider re-opening the case. "Obviously we and the family are disappointed by the fact that no criminal charges have issued. At the same time that's not going to change, inhibit or redirect anything that we are doing," said Novotny. Source: http://www.myfoxboston.com/story/25849828/report-finds-abuse-at-group-home-where-disabled-man-found-bruised-paralyzed (HEAL Note: Institutional abuse affects people of all ages.)

Longmeadow Residents Concerned Over Possible Group Home Placement June 23rd, 2014 LONGMEADOW, Mass. (WGGB) – There were several concerns in Longmeadow at the Select Board meeting Monday night as the discussion of a group home being placed in a residential area picked up again. The property, on 222 Redfern Drive, would be home to four people who suffered brain damage, along with staff members coming and going to help them with their needs. The home is being rented by a company called "Servicenet" and that company has yet to submit and paperwork stating the actual intentions of the property. Some residents are concerned about the affects it will have on the neighborhood. "The concern is that it will, number one, place a commercial entity into a one-family residential zone. It will change

the overall aesthetics of the building, it will increase parking, traffic and we're not sure that the use is the proper use, again, a commercial entity going into a residential zone of single family zoned homes," said Athene Zaleski, who lives nearby the home. The Select Board has directed the Town Council to look at new information regarding the intended use of the property and come back with a recommendation on whether Servicenet will be issued a certificate of occupancy for that home. They intend to have a special meeting next week to discuss the issue. Source: http://www.wggb.com/2014/06/23/longmeadow-residents-concerned-over-possible-group-home-placement/

Iowa Organization Wants to Establish Group Home, Near Beatrice Published Tuesday, June 24, 2014 11:59 am by Doug Kennedy, KWBE An Iowa faith-based organization that operates alcohol and drug abuse group homes, says it wants to forge ahead with establishing a group home for a dozen women in the former Carriage House Bed and Breakfast, a mile east of Beatrice. To do so, Teen Challenge of the Midlands will have to go through a lengthy process of amending Beatrice City zoning rules, which currently don't allow such homes in areas zoned for agriculture. :18 "to drug treatment" Pastor Warren Hunsberger is one of the leaders of Teen Challenge of the Midlands, which acquired the former bed and breakfast and has had two female employees living at the home, establishing relations in the community. Group home participants would stay voluntarily and are free to leave the program. The project did not receive an endorsement before a Beatrice City Council work session, Monday night. Councilman Rich Kerr recalls problems the city had with a former group home for youth with developmental and behavioral problems. :39 "the community's mouth" Teen Challenge Board member David Russell, of Urbandale, Iowa…..says the organization acquired the property from the owner at half price….with the remaining value donated. The organization has homes in Colfax, Iowa…. in Omaha…and has acquired a boys ranch near Alliance. The facilities are not required to be licensed by Nebraska Health and Human Services. Hunsberger talks about the Colfax home, acquired in 1986. :32 "that community now" Some neighboring land owners east of Beatrice are concerned about the group home. John Riha says those concerns include security, the potential effect on property values, and availability of water. :29 "any of them" Rhonda Zarybnicky resides south of the proposed group home. :26 "in the future" Mayor Dennis Schuster said a proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance would have to go before the city's planning and zoning commission and the city council. City Attorney Greg Butcher says a series of public hearings would likely be needed to answer all questions from the public and city officials. Source: http://www.kwbe.com/news/2014/06/24/kutt-local-news/iowa-organization-wants-to-establish-group-home-near-beatrice/

House Bill Would Open Eligibility, Restrict Use of Federal Foster Care Dollars By John Kelly, June 24, 2014 Share on Tumblr PRINTER FRIENDLY Rep. Jim Langevin (D-R.I.) introduced a bill late last week that would implement a number of the major foster care financing reforms proposed by two influential foundations last year. Chief among them: making all foster youth eligible for federal funding under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, but limiting federal funds to three years of foster care for each youth. "Too many children live in limbo in foster care, and we need to support a system that prioritizes permanent home placements," said Langevin, in a statement about the bill. The aim of the Permanent Families for All Children Act is to push states into quicker moves to permanency – reunification, adoption or guardianship – for children. This is accomplished through two principal actions: 1) Allowing states to claim reimbursements for all foster youths. Currently, federal reimbursement is only available for youths whose parents earned below income thresholds set in 1996. This, alongside dramatically reduced overall numbers, has led to a decline in the number of IV-E eligible children. While child welfare finance reform remains a hotly debated issue, there is virtually unanimous support for elimination of the current income test. 2) Stopping federal reimbursements for any foster youth after three years in care. Currently, there is no limit to how long IV-E funds can be drawn for a youth. "When abuse or neglect happens, our responsibility is to act quickly and thoughtfully to give kids their best chance to grow up in a loving and supportive permanent home," said First Focus Campaign for Children President Bruce Lesley, whose organization endorsed the bill. "This bill gives states an incentive to do just that and the supports they need to get the job done." Credit: Office of Jim Langevin Rep. Langevin with foster care alumna Victoria Flanagan during the 2014 Foster Youth Shadow day held in May. Langevin's bill would further limit the federal contribution to congregate care for foster youth. States would only receive half as much from the federal government for placements in residential care, and they could only use federal dollars for one year of placement in an institution. The bill would also use some savings from the limitations on foster care spending to sweeten loan forgiveness incentive programs for child welfare workers. Langevin would drop from ten to five the number of years a social worker needed to be on the job to qualify for student loan forgiveness. Most of the concepts espoused in the bill are identical or at least similar to the key parts of a plan published in October by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. Langevin's bill was referred to two committees: Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce. It does not yet have a companion in the Senate. States would have three years to comply with the legislation. Click here to read the legislation. John Kelly is the editor-in-chief of The Chronicle of Social Change. Source: https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/news/house-bill-would-open-eligibility-restrict-use-of-federal-foster-care-dollars/7284

St. Jude's worker accused, returned to work before new sex charges Aldrin Antonio West was hired as a child specialist at St. Jude's on Sept. 12, 2011. On April 6, 2012, he was cleared by Family Services to become a house parent at St. Jude's Ranch, according to Kristi Jourdan, Family Services spokeswoman. (Las Vegas Review-Journal) By YESENIA AMARO ©2014 LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL A former employee of a Boulder City foster home faces sexual assault charges after he was investigated and cleared to return to work with minors, the Review-Journal has learned. A criminal complaint against Aldrin Antonio West was filed May 21 at the Boulder City Justice Court. He faces one count of open or gross lewdness over allegations of masturbating in the presence of another employee, former child specialist Jodi Lynn Fennell. West also faces one count of open or gross lewdness in connection with allegations of touching Fennell's breast, according to a copy of the criminal complaint. A warrant for West's arrest was issued May 22, but he is not yet in custody. He didn't return calls seeking comment Monday. Fennell has told the Review-Journal that she isn't the only victim. She said West was investigated by the Clark County Department of Family Services after two teenage girls made reports involving him in summer 2012. The Review-Journal does not normally name victims of sexual assaults, but Fennell said she wanted to be named in this article. "I want them to be accountable," Fennell said last week of Family Services and St. Jude's Ranch for Children, where she worked with West. St. Jude's Ranch is a county-licensed therapeutic foster care agency, and all employees must remain in good standing with Family Services at the ranch, which has several foster homes on campus, St. Jude's Ranch officials said. West was hired as a child specialist at St. Jude's on Sept. 12, 2011. On April 6, 2012, he was cleared by Family Services to become a house parent at St. Jude's Ranch, according to Kristi Jourdan, Family Services spokeswoman. A house parent lives at the home, runs the daily operations, ensures a child's needs are met and is the main contact at all times, Jourdan said. "House parents are not licensed foster parents, but they go through the same federal and local background checks and training as foster parents do," Jourdan said last week. West's employment was terminated on Dec. 20, days after Fennell filed a complaint with the Boulder City Police Department. She said she was not allowed to have any contact with the children at St. Jude's Ranch after her reports to police, Family Services and St. Jude's Ranch. In February, she found out she was placed on unpaid administrative leave. Christine J. Spadafor, chief executive officer at St. Jude's Ranch for Children, wouldn't say when and why Fennell was placed on administrative leave and said Family Services was reviewing the matter. The number of children that West supervised fluctuated but did not exceed six, Spadafor said. Before April 2012, when he was cleared to become a house parent, West had been "provisionally cleared" after a background check to work at St. Jude's Ranch under supervision, Jourdan said. Family Services won't confirm or deny that it's investigating or that it investigated inappropriate behavior involving West at St. Jude's Ranch. "While DFS investigates complaints thoroughly, the department does not confirm the existence of or comment upon the results of its investigations because of confidentiality laws that protect the safety, permanency and well-being of children," Jourdan said in May. But officials at St. Jude's Ranch earlier this month said Family Services was reviewing the matter. St. Jude's Ranch has checks and balances in place to ensure the safety of the children and employees, Spadafor said. Allegations are reported to Family Services, which determines whether an investigation is required. "As soon as St. Jude's Ranch for Children is informed about allegations, it takes immediate action," Spadafor said in a statement. "The children's safety is always our number one priority, which is why we aggressively and proactively investigated any hint of impropriety here." Fennell said that Family Services investigated the reports made by two teenage girls assigned West to attend "boundaries classes" and cleared him to return to work. Family Services wouldn't confirm or deny the reports made by the teenage girls and declined to say whether it took any disciplinary action against West. Jourdan did say that Family Services can and has referred people to boundaries classes conducted by outside counseling agencies. But she wouldn't say when people are referred to those classes and what the classes consist of. Jourdan also wouldn't say whether West was referred to boundaries classes. While Jourdan wouldn't say whether West had been investigated in the past, Fennell provided copies of two audiotapes she made with the permission of Family Services investigator Teresa Cragon, who was investigating her case for the department earlier this year. During one of the interviews, Cragon is heard confirming a prior investigation but tells Fennell, "I had no part in that investigation." She tells Fennell that "things would've ended up differently" if she had been involved in the first investigation. "I walked in the dark … with someone who had been a sexual predator," Fennell tells Cragon during the interview. Cragon wouldn't comment for the story and referred questions to Jourdan. The Boulder City Police Department declined several records request for the Review-Journal to obtain a copy of the police report made by Fennell. The Clark County district attorney's office also declined a records request because documents are sealed until an arrest is made. The U.S. Department of Labor also confirmed that the department's Wage and Hour Division in Las Vegas has received some information with regards to St. Jude's Ranch that might or might not involve labor violations. "That information is currently under evaluation to determine an appropriate course of action, which may include an investigation by the division and or a referral to appropriate agencies," spokesman Jose Carnevali said Monday. Contact Yesenia Amaro at yamaro@review journal.com or 702-383-0440. Find her on Twitter: @YeseniaAmaro. Source: http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/st-jude-s-worker-accused-returned-work-new-sex-charges

Residential treatment center to close in Cape Girardeau Posted: Jun 24, 2014 12:33 PM PDT Updated: Jun 25, 2014 3:52 PM PDT Amber Ruch - email (Source: John Broeckling/KFVS) Heartland News CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO (KFVS) - **The Cottonwood Residential Treatment Center in Cape Girardeau, Missouri will close.** By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) - Gov. Jay Nixon has vetoed or frozen more than $1.1 billion of spending in Missouri's next budget, citing concerns about declining revenues and the potential for new tax breaks. Nixon's budget cuts announced Tuesday include nearly $276 million of line-item vetoes and $846 million of spending restrictions affecting everything from public education to Medicaid. The Democratic governor said his actions were necessary because the budget passed by the Republican-led Legislature was "dangerously out of balance." Nixon's actions mean there will be no funding increase for education when the new school year begins. But Nixon said he could release the additional school money if legislators in September sustain his vetoes of bills granting various tax breaks. Senate Appropriations Chairman Kurt Schaefer said Nixon is "holding school kids hostage." Copyright 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. Continue reading >> The closure is a result of Missouri Governor Jay Nixon vetoing a $144.6 million general revenue spending and restricted $641.6 million in general revenue expenditures on Tuesday, June 24 in an effort to put the Fiscal Year 2015 budget back into balance. Debra Walker with the Missouri Department of Mental Health said there are 23 children and youth currently being treated at the Cape Girardeau location. She said they will continue to care for their current clients until they are ready for discharge or provide ongoing care in another residential setting. Walker said current employees will receive layoff notices effective at the end of the calendar year with rights as afforded under the state merit system. Gov. Nixon cited several reasons for why the budget was more than $786 million out of balance. "As governor, it's my responsibility under the Missouri Constitution to keep the budget in balance by ensuring the spending authorized by the General Assembly does not exceed available revenue," Gov. Nixon said. "These actions are not easy, but they are absolutely essential to putting the budget back in balance and keeping the state on a fiscally responsible path." According to Walker, Cottonwood first admitted children in 1987. The treatment center is a residential program designed to meet the emotional and mental health needs of children and adolescents (ages 6-17) who meet the criteria for severe emotional disturbance. "It's actually pretty crushing," said Brittney Patrick. Patrick's 7-year-old son Blake is getting treatment at Cottonwood, and said it really bothers her that the facility is scheduled to shut down. "My son's been through a lot, so he's been in and out of facilities, hospitals all that, and we finally found somewhere that's close to home," said Patrick. Patrick said about a year ago, her son started throwing tantrums, banging his head, tossing chairs, and got out of control. At that point, he was hospitalized. "They kept upping his medicines every time, Blake was up to almost 27 hundred mg as a 6-year-old a day, he was like a walking zombie," said Patrick. Finally, they were able to get him into Cottonwood. "Cottonwood is not about upping his medicine, they're really working with him trying new things, and that's what Blake needs," said Patrick. "He was having really bad behavior and ever since he got here he's been really good," said Katessa Simmons, Blake's godmother. "They need their parents to be close to them when they're in their treatment." "I was just wondering where the kids would go you know most of the parents of the kids that are here are in the area, if cottonwood closed down, they would have to go north," said Jeff Beeson Jr, Beeson's mother has worked at the facility for more than 15 years and he said she was heartbroken to hear the news. "That would put employees out of business and they would have to search for other places to work," said Beeson. Brian Biri works at Cottonwood and said he's surprised and disappointed to see the facility close. "I think the kids that go there that get treatment that really does them some good, and I personally know a few of the kids that went there and got treatment and it really made a difference," said Biri. It's a difference that will now have to come from somewhere else. Patrick said she doesn't know where that somewhere else will be. "I don't know what a lot of parents will do, a lot of them would do without Cottonwood," said Patrick. There is a group petitioning the shutdown. They're asking Gov. Nixon to keep the facility open. You can join their online petition here, and check out their Facebook here. A petition has been started to save the facility. Copyright 2014 KFVS. All rights reserved. Source: http://www.kfvs12.com/story/25859030/residential-treatment-center-to-close-in-cape-girardeau-mo

Jacksonville group home worker arrested after disabled man choked By Dan Scanlan Tue, Jun 24, 2014 @ 5:13 pm Share on facebook Share on twitter Share on email A 44-year-old Jacksonville group home employee was arrested Tuesday in the abuse of a disabled adult, according to the Attorney General's Office. Mark Keith Griffin of Dunn Avenue was arrested by the state's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office after receiving a referral from the Florida Department of Children and Family's Adult Protective Services, the Attorney General's Office said. The arrest warrant said a disabled adult resident was choked at the Shady Pine Group Home at 5496 Shady Pine St. off Ortega Park Boulevard. Two employees told investigators that Griffin became angry at a client who repeatedly turned off a television during a Nov. 23 football game and yelled at him to turn it back on. Witnesses said he put his hands on the victim's neck and started squeezing despite co-workers yelling at him to stop, the warrant said. After being released about a minute later, the victim had "turned red and was coughing," the warrant stated. Griffin was put on administrative leave after the incident, then fired from the facility, which is a state-licensed group home. Source: http://members.jacksonville.com/news/crime/2014-06-24/story/jacksonville-group-home-worker-arrested-after-disabled-man-choked

Bend adult foster care home inquiry leads to 72 charges Home's owner, granddaughter accused of defrauding state By Scott Hammers / The Bulletin Published Jun 25, 2014 at 12:01AM An investigation into theft reported by a resident of a Bend adult foster care home has resulted in 72 charges for defrauding the state and has led to the arrest of the home's owner and her granddaughter. Charging documents filed in Deschutes County Circuit Court in late May outline the allegations against Constance Marie Herrera-Firkus, 66, Lorisa Firkus, 24, and Michael James Gardner, 27, Lorisa Firkus' husband. A probable cause affidavit filed in the case indicates it began with an investigation by Adult Protective Services into a complaint that money had been stolen from a resident of one of two Holden Homes facilities owned and operated by Herrera-Firkus. Instead, investigators discovered Herrera-Firkus had been employing her granddaughter, Lorisa Firkus, a convicted felon legally barred by the state from working in such facilities. Firkus, who was still on probation for a conviction for first-degree theft in 2009, has been held at the Deschutes County Jail since June 3. Investigators discovered Firkus had been using her cousin's name to elude detection by authorities, and that Firkus and Herrera-Firkus both submitted official documents to authorities using the assumed identity. On a November 2013 visit to one of the facilities, licensers with the state Department of Human Services observed someone they later learned was Firkus running out the back door. The resident manager later told the licensers Firkus had been working full time using her cousin's identity with her grandmother's knowledge, and that employees had been instructed to call her by the cousin's name if anyone from the state visited. In January, the licensers visited again, and Firkus introduced herself using her cousin's name and presented a CPR certification card bearing the cousin's name. Firkus eventually admitted in February to the investigators that she worked at the facility, though Herrera-Firkus continued to insist she did not, the affidavit states. Because state law requires a criminal background check that would disqualify Firkus from working at an adult foster care facility, prosecutors contend it was a criminal act for the facility to accept state payments while she was working there. Herrera-Firkus received more than $300,000 in Medicaid payments from the state Department of Human Services between October 2010 and May 2014. Firkus was paid more than $47,000 over four years working for her grandmother, the affidavit states, while collecting $185 a week in unemployment and $200 to $443 per month in food stamps during much of that time. Firkus did not report her income or pay taxes and would have been disqualified from receiving unemployment and food stamps benefits had she done so. In late May, a grand jury indicted Firkus, Herrera-Firkus and Gardner on a total of 72 charges. Several of the charges apply to more than one defendant; Herrera-Firkus faces charges of making a false claim for health care payment and aggravated theft by deception, Firkus for identity theft, unlawfully obtaining pubic assistance and tax evasion, and Gardner for tax evasion and unlawfully obtaining supplemental nutrition. No charges have been filed in connection with the original theft claim that started the state's investigation. Firkus is scheduled to enter a plea to the charges July 10, Herrera-Firkus on Thursday and Gardner on Friday. — Reporter: 541-383-0387, Source: http://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/2188182-151/bend-adult-foster-care-home-inquiry-leads-to?entryType=0

Lawsuit: DSS negligent in assault of 6-year-old MEG KINNAR, Associated Press By MEG KINNARD, Associated Press Updated 4:57 pm, Wednesday, June 25, 2014 0 Larger | Smaller Printable Version Email This Georgia (default) Verdana Times New Roman Arial Font Page 1 of 1 COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina's social services agency failed to protect a 6-year-old girl from a teenage foster child with known behavioral problems who was HIV-positive and admitted to sexually assaulting the girl, according to a lawsuit. The lawsuit currently pending in Richland County was filed last month by the girl's mother, who accuses the Department of Social Services of negligence. According to the lawsuit, a 14-year-old boy who had been placed in a foster home sexually assaulted the girl in June 2013 after he was left unsupervised by his foster parent. The boy had been removed from his mother's home in 2012 and placed in the foster care system. Officials at DSS knew that the boy had severe behavioral problems, had been sexually abused and was HIV-positive, according to the lawsuit. But during his stay in foster care, according to court papers, DSS officials didn't ensure that the teen was properly monitored or received appropriate counseling or other therapies for his behavioral problems. The lawsuit says that negligence ultimately resulted in the girl's abuse and exposure to HIV. Because the agency knew of the teen's history of abuse and his HIV-positive status, "DSS knew or should have known that he presented a heightened threat to others, especially young children, with whom he might come into contact," according to the suit, filed by Columbia attorney Dick Harpootlian. The boy ultimately admitted that he had assaulted the girl and was charged with criminal sexual conduct, according to the lawsuit. Court papers do not indicate if the girl is also now HIV-positive. In a statement provided to The Associated Press, a DSS spokeswoman said the agency investigated the situation, determined that treatment plans had not been followed and had subsequently disallowed the foster parent involved from having future foster children. The statement also said the foster child was regularly monitored and was in a "therapeutic" foster care home designed to meet his needs. "Like everyone involved in this situation, the staff at the Department of Social Services is deeply saddened at what took place here," Marilyn Matheus said. "The agency is committed, and always will

be, to finding the best and most appropriate foster parents possible for our at-risk children and will never stop working to make our communities safer places." ___ Source: http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Lawsuit-DSS-negligent-in-assault-of-6-year-old-5578581.php

Franklinville man accused of sexually assaulting teen at group home Print By Jessica Beym/South Jersey Times Gloucester County Times Email the author | Follow on Twitter on June 27, 2014 at 4:14 PM Reddit Email Express-Times photo A 35-year-old Franklinville man has been charged with sexually assaulting a 17-year-old female resident of a group home in Clayton, operated by the New Jersey Mentor Program, for youth with "complex medical and behavioral challenges," according to police. Thomas Gillett Spio, of 7 Christopher Court, Franklinville, was arrested by the Clayton Police Department on Thursday. Police said Gillett-Spio was a direct support professional at the home and had "supervisory or disciplinary power over the victim," according to the criminal complaint. He is charged with second-degree sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child. Authorities allege the incident happened on June 10. He is being held in default of $50,000 bail. The New Jersey State Police assisted in the investigation. Source: http://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/index.ssf/2014/06/franklinville_man_accused_of_sexually_assaulting_teen_at_group_home.html

Minnesota surgeon suspected of choking foster child By Sarah Smith Forum News Service Posted: 06/29/2014 12:01:00 AM CDT Updated: 06/29/2014 01:32:04 PM CDT PARK RAPIDS, Minn. -- A special-needs child allegedly abused by a Benedict surgeon has been removed from the home. "The county reacted very, very quickly and worked to put him in a safe environment," said Martha Weaver, spokeswoman for Anoka County Social Services. Dennis James Sullivan, 50, was charged this month in Hubbard County with attempted murder and two counts of assault for allegedly trying to choke his 10-year-old foster son by stuffing a surgical glove down his throat June 17. Hubbard County authorities added a fourth count of assault Monday for Sullivan allegedly tying a shoelace around the 10-year-old boy's scrotum in May, as allegely admitted by Sullivan's wife, Rebecca, who has not been charged in the case. As a result, the attempted second-degree murder charge was upgraded to first-degree murder, "while committing domestic abuse with a past pattern of domestic abuse," the complaint states. Weaver said she couldn't comment on any other aspect of the case, but said the boy was placed with the Sullivans through a private adoption/foster care agency, not the county. "The county moved very quickly when it learned the boy was potentially in jeopardy," she said, declining to comment further. Sullivan's attorney has requested a mental evaluation in the case. Source: http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_26057663/minnesota-surgeon-suspected-choking-foster-child

Increasing Foster Children Prompts Focus on Reuniting Families Increasing Foster Children Prompts Focus on Reuniting Families ANCHORAGE - **Increasing reports of abuse and neglect in Alaska's foster care homes is starting to have a strong impact on the state's adoption system**. More from KTUU --According to the Office of Children's Services, there are more than 2,000 children in the state's care so far this year. Officials say despite the challenges, the goal is to find all of these children a safe home. For three-year-old Ashley, Barb Krafft is like her second mom. For a period of time, Krafft and her husband were Ashley's foster parents. Over the past two years, the Krafft's along with their three biological children have had nine kids sharing their home. "You just see the need of all these kids who are hurting and are struggling with what's happening in their life," Krafft said. It's a passion to help that can be tough, especially when it can mean dealing with the children's biologic parents. "The kids are the easy part," Krafft said. "Having to convey the positive and some of the negative to the parents and to the system, it's hard as a parent to watch some of these struggles even if they are not your own children." It's choices that the Office of Children's Services says makes the reunification process a challenge. "You offend, you use drugs again and you go back to treatment," said Kim Guay, child welfare administrator for OCS. "There are a lot of drugs and a lot of alcohol in our state, a lot of domestic violence." With more than 6,800 reports of harm last year, the agency says its focus is to lower those numbers by getting families back on a positive track while their kids are in foster care. "There is so much that needs to be done," Guay said. "There is so much success that can happen in Alaska and helping children out." A journey that through tears of sadness and joy is very much part of this foster mom's life. Officials from the Office of Children's Services say the public can help in a variety of ways, including calling immediately if you see any child abused or neglected. "If you have the love, and if you have the space and you want to share that, take the step forward," Krafft said. "Even if it's through texting, talking, meeting up for dinner." For more information click here http://www.acrf.org/. Copyright © 2014, KTUU-TV Source: http://www.ktuu.com/news/news/increasing-foster-children-prompts-focus-on-reuniting-families/26736732

Former group home manager accused of stealing food stamps Posted: Jul 01, 2014 8:31 AM PDT Updated: Jul 01, 2014 8:32 AM PDT By 19 Action News Digital Team - email Warrant issued of Shawuan M. Telfair. (Source: Westlake Police) WESTLAKE, OH (WOIO) - Westlake Police have issued an arrest warrant for Shawuan M. Telfair, 28. The Cleveland woman was a manager at a Westlake group home and used the Ohio Direction cards of three developmentally disabled male residents to make purchases totaling $749 that were not for those residents. Telfair was let go in Nov. 2013. Police say the thefts occurred during and after her employment and were discovered by the home's staff in May 2014. Westlake PD is seeking information on her whereabouts. Call 440-871-3311 if you know where she can be found. Source: http://www.19actionnews.com/story/25915555/former-group-home-manager-accused-of-stealing-food-stamps

Ex-doctor dies in prison after conviction for illegally distributing drugs Former doctor Nolan Crisp LEXINGTON, Ky. - A former physician at a health clinic in Bolivar died at a federal prison in Lexington, Ken., on Monday, one day after his 77th birthday. Nolan Crisp of Halfway was serving a two-year sentence for illegally distributing prescription drugs. He was sentenced to prison last October after pleading guilty on April 8, 2013, and was also ordered to pay a $10,000 fine. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons hasn't released information about Crisp's death, which is noted in the Bureau's Inmate Locator Service. Before he was sentenced, a physician gave the judge a review of Crisp's medical problems, at Crisp's request. That physician noted Crisp had a "significant hiatal hernia," chronic allergies, Parkinson's disease since 2006, coronary artery disease (after a heart attack in 2005), and a torn tendon in a hip that hampered ability to walk. The physician wrote to the judge that Crisp's "continued survival thus, in my opinion, requires care and very careful management of the medical problems." Crisp worked at Pomme de Terre Wellness Center (also known as the Bolivar Family Wellness Clinic and Northwoods Psychiatric Services) in Bolivar from June 2009 through Nov. 10, 2010, to provide pain management and other services to patients. Crisp admitted he wrote prescriptions for OxyContin, Oxycodone Hydrochloride, and Oxycodone-Aspirin for a purported patient with whom he was involved in a sexual relationship. The prescriptions were illegal because they were not in the usual course of professional practice and for a person who had no legitimate medical need for the prescriptions. Current and former clinic employees expressed concerns about Crisp's prescription-writing practices. For example, clinic staff noticed Crisp meeting people in the parking lot and giving them prescriptions, even though they were not being seen in the clinic. The clinic was getting so many patients claiming that their prescriptions were lost or stolen that they began requiring a police report. A nurse practitioner said word got out that Crisp was generous with narcotics prescriptions, and she would see patients parked across the street in a church parking lot waiting for him so they could get prescriptions. She also said that sometimes the clinic nurses would run a drug screen that revealed the patient was not taking the drugs being prescribed; they informed Crisp, but he continued writing prescriptions for the patient. The federal investigation included reviewing overdose reports from Citizens Memorial Hospital, Crisp's appointment schedule for the clinic, Crisp's Medicaid billing records while he was at the clinic, information regarding prescriptions written by Crisp and filled at six major pharmacies in Bolivar, and information from the Polk County coroner. During the period that Crisp worked at the clinic, there were 96 overdose incidents at the hospital, 29 of whom were connected to his care. During that same period, six of the patients who died from overdoses were connected to his care. The government retained an internal medicine physician specializing in pain management to review patient files. The physician was provided with charts for certain patients who were known to be drug abusers or who had overdosed. In the physician's report, he provided background regarding the standard of care for the use of controlled substances in the treatment of pain. He also provided a detailed analysis of Crisp's treatment of 20 patients. For the 20 patients, his opinion was that Crisp's treatment was reckless, dangerous, life-threatening, and inconsistent with sound medical practice. ---- Some information in this report came from a news release from the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri in October 2013. Copyright Schurz Communications 2014 Source: http://www.kspr.com/news/local/exdoctor-dies-in-prison-after-conviction-for-illegally-distributing-drugs/21051620_26750206

New group home opens amid concerns Kristen Cates, 1:59 a.m. MDT July 2, 2014 Richard Hamilton of Youth Dynamics shows off one of the double bedrooms in the new group home in the Skyline neighborhood.(Photo: TRIBUNE PHOTO/RION SANDERS) 83 CONNECTTWEETLINKEDINCOMMENTEMAILMORE A new group home for children who are predominantly victims of neglect and abuse opened in the Skyline neighborhood this week, stirring up complaints from some within the neighborhood about whether zoning and covenants allow for such a place. Youth Dynamics operates nine other community homes across the state that cater predominantly to emotionally disturbed youths and teenagers and decided to open a group home in Great Falls after an analysis a few years ago determined between 50 and 60 Great Falls youths in need of extensive counseling and therapy were being sent to group homes in all corners of the state, Executive Director Peter Degel said. "The majority of the kids we work with are removed from their homes because of abuse and neglect," Degel said. Kathleen Gessaman, chairwoman of Neighborhood Council No. 3, said she can't address concerns neighbors might have with the group home but said neighbors are upset that a zoning issue didn't come to the neighborhood council for review first. Covenants in the neighborhood where the home is located specify it is for single-family dwelling, and she and others aren't sure if a group home qualifies as a single-family dwelling. She said the city doesn't help neighborhoods enforce covenants, either. "To me it's frustrating," Gessaman said. "It's a point that should be clarified. It's hard to enforce covenants when the city won't tell you what is happening. If the covenants say

no, then the city should respect that." However, the city hasn't been involved in the purchase of the property and opening of the group home as it is not a zoning issue, said Craig Raymond, planning and community development director for the city of Great Falls. Over the years he said the courts have ruled in favor of group homes being considered single-family dwellings. Raymond said this is not a zoning issue but it's up to the neighborhood to determine whether it violates covenants. And it would have to determine if civil action is necessary. "The city does not enforce covenants," Raymond said. But even then, he thinks federal rulings regarding housing and what constitutes a single-family home would supersede any covenants. Carrie Galvez, executive director of the Great Falls Children's Receiving Home, said she doesn't care what the covenants say, more group homes like Youth Dynamics' North Skyline home for children who are victims of abuse and neglect are needed in Great Falls. The Receiving Home can only care for younger children and can only house up to 14 kids at a time. Group homes operated by AWARE and Kairos Youth Services are also trying to respond to different kinds of children in need. "That home is filling a void. Most of these kids are our kids," Galvez said. "We owe these kids in the community something greater than 'We don't want you here.'" She said neighbors of the Receiving Home have never had a problem with the kids living next door in the 20-plus years it's been in the same location. She also knows, much like her employees, those working in the Youth Dynamics group home go through extensive background checks and must be licensed by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services to be in operation. "I would not hesitate as a homeowner to have these kids right next door to me," Galvez said. "These are not bad kids; they come from bad situations." Degel said Youth Dynamics is licensed to treat and work with a maximum of eight children in the home at a time, ranging in age from 11 to 18. There are a home manager and different supervisors working in the house at all times along with a licensed therapist. Though most of the children they serve come from homes of abuse or neglect, they do occasionally work with youths who are working through the juvenile court system, but Degel said that's usually triggered by other familial issues. Children who are in need of a lock-down facility are not going to come to the Skyline North home, he said. "I think people will find that we're good neighbors," he said. Reach Tribune Staff Writer Kristen Cates at 791-1463 or . Follow her on Twitter @GFTrib_KCates. 83 CONNECTTWEETLINKEDINCOMMENTEMAILMORE Read or Share this story: http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2014/07/01/new-group-home-opens-amid-concerns/11936413/

Police charge rape at state group home Posted: Wednesday, July 2, 2014 12:14 pm | Updated: 12:15 pm, Wed Jul 2, 2014. Police charge rape at state group home By Justin Kloczko Journal Inquirer Journal Inquirer | 0 comments SOUTH WINDSOR — A former resident at a state-contracted Woodland Drive group home is facing sexual-assault charges after, police say, he raped a 13-year-old resident on at least one occasion. According to an arrest warrant affidavit, the man, Kevin W. Vargas, 18, of Hartford, is facing a charge of first-degree sexual assault stemming from an October arrest. Police say he had forced intercourse on another boy at a home run by Community Residences Inc. Vargas is free on a $50,000 surety bond and is due back in Manchester Superior Court on Aug. 1. Source: http://www.journalinquirer.com/towns/south_windsor/police-charge-rape-at-state-group-home/article_f9baa45c-0203-11e4-a3d0-0019bb2963f4.html

Innovative new fostering service helps Bristol children avoid residential care By Hilda1 | Posted: July 02, 2014 Comments (0) A new fostering service which aims to prevent children in Bristol from going into residential care has just been launched. The new service, called Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC), pairs foster carers with a clinical team of coaches, social workers, education workers and a therapist. Together, they help vulnerable children and young people to make positive changes in their lives, from behaviour at school to their relationship with their birth family. The aim is to prevent children with complex behaviour from going into residential care by giving them the skills needed to stay in a home setting. MTFC is run by Bristol City Council in partnership with charity Action for Children. The council funds the service as well as employing the clinical team, whilst Action for Children has responsibility for recruiting, training and supporting foster carers. Brenda Massey, the council's Assistant Mayor for Education, said: "Every child deserves the chance to fulfil their full potential. This new service in Bristol will offer children with serious emotional and behavioural issues a structured and nurturing family setting that reinforces positive behaviour. Studies have shown that MTFC has led to fewer foster care placements breaking down in the future." Mark Kingston, children's placement manager at Action for Children, said: "We have long provided fostering and adoption services across the South West, but our new Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care service is the first of its kind in Bristol. "The programme teaches good behaviour by encouragement, introducing clear boundaries and targeting patterns of problem behaviour. It also helps develop positive academic and living skills, allowing children the chance to stay in a home environment and avoid being placed in residential care." Action for Children is recruiting new foster carers in Bristol to help make the service a success. Carers will become integral members of the MTFC team, supported and guided by the clinical team of professionals who will help carers to provide highly structured placements for children who have previously struggled in residential children's units or foster placements. Each carer will have full support and training from the charity to be able to carry out their role to the best of their ability. Read more: http://www.bristolpost.co.uk/Innovative-new-fostering-service-helps-Bristol/story-21316910-detail/story.html#ixzz36edtSpBR Read more at http://www.bristolpost.co.uk/Innovative-new-fostering-service-helps-Bristol/story-21316910-detail/story.html#W5gxLWlXLS06mlX1.99

CASA launches initiative to treat traumatized children in foster care Ashley Goudeau, KVUE 6:43 p.m. CDT July 2, 2014 CONNECT 18 T CASA launches initiative to treat traumatized children in foster care KVUE AUSTIN -- At 27-years-old, Ereka Howard is an entrepreneur and motivational speaker, dedicated to helping people around her. But she wasn't always this put together. "I was dropped from a standing position by my biological mother and made no attempt to pick me up. I know that I was, my mother was on heroine and cocaine up until the day of my birth," said Howard. At five months, she was abandoned and put into foster care. Though she was too young to remember her past, the trauma stayed with her and was reflected in her behavior. "I acted out," she laughed. "I stole things. I was very rebellious," added Howard. "Wanting that comfort. That comfort in saying this is where I come from. I look like them." Helping people who serve foster children identify, address and treat trauma is the goal of a new initiative by CASA or Court Appointed Special Advocates. Thanks to a total of $120,000 from Impact Austin and the Texas Bar Foundation, staff and volunteers will be trained to do Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI), techniques developed and studied by professors at Texas Christian University that focus on healing a child's pain. "How can we treat the trauma and not punish the child for their bad behavior," explained CASA of Travis County Executive Director Laura Wolf. "The key is about understanding what's at the root of whatever it is you're seeing." Wrapping them in a weighted blanket is one way to help kids feel safe. Another is surrounding them with comforting scents and giving them the basics. "Sometimes they will come up, you know as foster mom is cooking dinner and say I need something to eat," said Wolf. "And what TBRI teaches us is instead of saying, which any of us would, instead of saying 'okay, dinner is going to be on the table in ten minutes, don't worry I'm cooking it right now,' you stop, you get down on their level, you look them in the eye and you say 'okay, I'm going to give you this powerbar and you can either put it in your pocket or you can put it by your place at the table and I'm going to finish dinner but you can have this powerbar. Dr. Pervis has taught us that when she's done this before with traumatized children a lot of times, they don't go ahead and eat that power bar they hold on to it because the comfort of knowing 'I'm not going to starve.' When I say I need food, I get it. That enables them to feel safe." Wolf says creating a feeling of safety is the first step to healing. CASA is hoping to have more success stories like Howard's, who serves as a CASA volunteer. Source: http://www.kvue.com/story/news/local/2014/07/02/casa-launches-initiative-to-treat-traumatized-children-in-foster-care/12113469/

THE HEAL REPORT PREMIERES ON YOUTUBE: JULY 4TH, 2014

Arizona heightens oversight of medications for foster children Arizona heightens oversight of medications for foster children S2014-07-06T00:00:00Z 2014-07-06T10:25:32Z Arizona heightens oversight of medications for foster childrenBy Emily Bregel Arizona Daily Star Arizona Daily Star 18 hours ago • By Emily Bregel Emily Bregel Follow @@emilybregel Related Documents Arizona psychotropic study GAO psychotropic study State won't share data about psychotropic drugs State will only release data if the Star pays $175 per hour commercial fee Foster kids on psychotropic drugs A study based on 2008 prescription claims found that 11 percent of Arizona foster kids — 1,681 children — took at least one psychotropic drug, like anti-depressants, anti-psychotics and stimulants such as Ritalin for attention-deficit disorders. More than 1 in 4 children ages 6 to 12 were taking the drugs, compared with one in 20 non-foster children that age. Still, Arizona's overall rate was lower than rates in five U.S. states studied in a U.S. Government Accountability Office report, where 19 percent to nearly 40 percent of foster youth in 2008 were on at least one psychotropic drug. "It is indeed concerning," said Dr. Kathy SmithKathy Smith, director of child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of Arizona."What's causing that, is the question. Is it because we have people who don't have enough expertise prescribing medication? Is it because of changes in caregivers? Is it because these kids are really complicated?" Raised on Tucson's east side by an abusive parent, Angela Luna entered foster care at age 14. After being diagnosed with bipolar disorder, she was put on antidepressants and anti-anxiety medications and stayed on them for seven years. But she says her emotional problems were related to her childhood trauma, not mental illness. The medications numbed her pain and anger, she says, and prevented her from learning how to deal with her emotions — or even knowing how she felt. "I constantly felt stoned and high," says Luna, now 28, who has since been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. "You're never given the chance to properly grow. ... Therapists ask, 'How's your medication?' Not 'How are you?'" Arizona foster children were 4.4 times more likely than nonfoster children on Medicaid to be prescribed powerful psychotropic drugs, a report based on 2008 data found. Arizona hasn't updated that report, but the number of foster kids on psychotropic drugs likely has grown along with the state's foster-care population: Between March 2008 and March 2014, the number of Arizona children in foster care soared by 62 percent from 9,721 to 15,750. Child-welfare advocates attribute the growth to deepening poverty leading to more cases of neglect. When used appropriately, psychotropic drugs — which affect mood, thought or behavior — can be lifesaving, experts say. But some child-welfare advocates say the drugs can be prescribed more for the convenience of overwhelmed caregivers than for the benefit of the child. "I see youth that are so overly medicated that they're literally drooling," said Christa Drake, former executive director of In My Shoes, a mentorship program for foster youth. "Sometimes it's like, 'Let's just medicate him and subdue him so we don't have to deal with the behavior.'" This year the state implemented new oversight and heightened reporting requirements regarding prescriptions for foster kids, said Steven Dingle, chief medical officer of the Arizona Division of Behavioral Health. As of January, "regional behavioral health authorities" — organizations that coordinate behavioral health care for foster kids — must regularly submit data on medication utilization rates among foster kids. The behavioral health authorities will also monitor the prescribing habits of doctors in their region and identify outliers. In addition, doctors must now get authorization — attesting they first tried psychosocial interventions like therapy — before prescribing the following: antipsychotic or ADHD medications for children under age 6; any psychotropic drug at a dosage level exceeding FDA recommendations; more than one antipsychotic or antidepressant simultaneously. The state has also formed the Arizona Psychotropic Monitoring Oversight Team, a partnership between the Department of Child Safety, AHCCCS and the Division of Behavioral Health Services focused on ensuring appropriate prescribing, Dingle said. The team plans to replicate the study on psychotropic prescriptions among 2008 foster children with more recent data, likely within the next six months, he said. Normal behaviors Despite the new reporting requirements, some worry medication use could increase as Arizona's child welfare system is stretched. Last November, the Arizona Department of Economic Security admitted that its Child Protective Service division failed to investigate more than 6,500 reports of abuse or neglect, in part due to sky-high caseloads for CPS caseworkers. CPS oversight was taken from DES and given to the newly created Department of Child Safety in May. Heavy caseloads leave caseworkers, caregivers and doctors with less time to concentrate on each child's medication regimen. A foster family shortage also means more children are in group homes, with less individualized attention, increasing the risk of fragmented oversight of their care. "The system remains ripe for medication misuse or overuse," says Sen. David Bradley, D-Tucson, who worked in child welfare for 20 years. Finding solutions other than medication takes resources, time and patience, said Drake, formerly of In My Shoes. Foster children need stability and a safe space to explore and express their emotions, she said. Instead, lots of kids get a diagnosis of conditions like "oppositional defiance disorder" when they act out, she said. That diagnosis can sometimes medicalize normal behavior, she said. "Most people would be upset if they were ripped away from their families and sent to live in a group home," she said. "A lot of our youth are acting appropriately in their surroundings." Foster kids with complex needs are often bounced between therapeutic and regular foster homes as their behavior stabilizes, then deteriorates again, said Sarah Huntoon, foster program director for Intermountain Centers for Human Development, which trains and licenses therapeutic foster homes. The more transitions, the more instability for the foster child — and the less likely he is to have a familiar caregiver who will notice and report concerns about medications. "Consistency of care is an issue," she said. Trauma is a given Experts say it makes sense that kids in foster care have a higher rate of psychotropic-drug use than other kids. Between 60 and 80 percent of foster youth have at least one psychiatric diagnosis or developmental disability, compared with 15 to 20 percent of the general population, said Dr. Sandy Stein, associate medical director of Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, the Regional Behavioral Health Authority for Pima County. The authority coordinates and manages behavioral health care for children in the child welfare system. Some of those diagnoses in foster children are related to lack of prenatal care, to parental substance abuse or to a family history of mental illness, Stein said. Lengthy stays in foster care, or transitions between foster families and group homes, can add to a child's sense of instability. "These kids have been traumatized," says Susie Huhn, executive director of Casa de los Niños, a social-service and foster-care agency in Tucson. "The very fact that they're in the foster care system means they've been exposed to toxic stress and traumatic events — so why wouldn't we expect they'll have more social or emotional issues?" But some worry about questionable prescribing practices. Among the 2008 psychotropic drug report's findings: Foster kids were nine times more likely than nonfoster children to be prescribed five psychotropic medications at one time. Almost 800 children, or 5.4 percent of the foster population, were taking two or more drugs. Only limited evidence supports the use of even two psychotropic drug in children, and no evidence supports children — or even adults — taking five at once, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Arizona foster children ages 5 and younger were 5.5 times more likely than nonfoster children to be prescribed at least one psychotropic medication. That year, 225 Arizona foster children 5 and younger were prescribed the drugs. The state's foster kids were 7.4 times as likely to be prescribed the drugs in doses exceeding the maximum recommendation for their age group. Fifty-five foster children ages 1 and younger got a psychotropic prescription in 2008, though the report notes some drugs could have been prescribed to treat other conditions. The drugs can have serious side effects for infants, and the GAO points out that there is no established use for these drugs to treat mental-health conditions in infants. Long-term harm Even if kids improve with medication, powerful psychotropics may do a lifetime of harm. Common side effects include paranoia, weight gain, extreme fatigue and reduced bone density. Little research has been done on long-term impacts on brain development in children. And unlike in adults, side effects like weight gain can become permanent for children, even after they're taken off the medication. Proper diagnosis is often a challenge. Post-traumatic stress disorder can look a lot like ADHD, and the treatments for each are different, said Laurel Rettle, critical-care coordination administrator for Cenpatico, one of four Regional Behavioral Health Authorities in Arizona. Although medications can help those who suffer from PTSD in the short term, long-term use of stimulants — like ADHD treatments — will not. PTSD "is not, in and of itself, a serious mental illness," she said. "These children are dealing with things they never should have to deal with. You can compare it to children of war." Geara Patten has been a therapeutic foster mom since 1998. Most of her foster children came to her already on medications, she said, and many stayed on them until they aged out of the system. She believes psychotropic medications were used generally only when necessary and helped many of her foster kids get through a difficult time. Still, most of her foster kids ended up stopping their meds as soon as they gained independence, she said, and they seemed to thrive without the drugs. "They're at a calmer place," she said. "I imagine 90 to 95 percent of them take themselves off the medicine." "Assent" sought Bouncing between foster homes, group homes and behavioral-health facilities for foster youth, Luna learned to accept that the drugs were a necessary part of her life. "You take the meds and shut up and deal with it, or you get in trouble," she recalled of her time in a group home. "No one's there to tell you that we all struggle. It makes you hopeless." A foster-care mentor was the first person to suggest her emotions and anger were understandable, and that she wasn't destined to always need medication. Drake, of In My Shoes, encouraged Luna to question her medication protocol. "Christa saved my life," she said. "Christa told me, 'You have a right to know about your medicine.'" Starting this month, CPSA is formalizing an "assent" process for foster children under 18 to sign off on their treatment plan, said Stein of Community Partnership of Southern Arizona. "Assent" is not legally binding, as the child's caregiver has the final say on treatment, but the process will ensure children understand their diagnosis, treatment options and the goals of their medications, she said. "It's absolutely essential to engage kids in their overall health-care treatments," she said. Luna got off her medications at age 21 and earned her GED. She put herself through cosmetology school and as a hairstylist, client after client praised strengths she never realized she possessed: her compassion and listening skills. Now in her work as a mentor to foster youth, Luna says she sees children on four or five different psychotropic medications at a time. Some may have serious mental illnesses and require medication, but she thinks many of them just need understanding. Giving foster kids the emotional tools to cope with their trauma will have a far more positive effect on their lives, she said. "You have to cherish all your broken pieces," she says, "because it makes a beautiful mural." Source: http://azstarnet.com/news/local/arizona-heightens-oversight-of-medications-for-foster-children/article_d4ee1bb3-a7d3-55ac-b7a6-ddc410f3064a.html

State Halts Foster Care Placements With Contractor Alexa Ura, The Texas Tribune 1 07/07/2014 02:39 PM 07/07/2014 02:41 PM Following the drowning of two foster children on Sunday, the Department of Family and Protective Services has halted placements by a state contractor that was responsible for overseeing the children's care. Following the drowning of two foster children in Lake Georgetown on Sunday, the Department of Family and Protective Services has placed a temporary hold on foster care placements by a state contractor that was responsible for overseeing the children's care. DFPS said on Monday that placements of foster care children

with Providence Service Corporation have been temporarily suspended pending an investigation into the death of a 4-year-old boy and his 6-year-old sister, who had been placed in a Cedar Park foster home. Officials with Providence could not immediately be reached for comment. The incident is likely to be met with scrutiny from child advocates who have suggested that the state's "foster care redesign" initiative, which Providence is spearheading through a pilot program, could be problematic. "This is an unspeakable tragedy," DFPS Commissioner John Specia said in a statement. "We will find out exactly what happened and whether or not it could have been prevented. Foster children must be kept safe." The state has tasked Providence, which oversees 29 foster children in eight homes in Central Texas, with leading the redesign of the state's foster care program, which pivots on increasing partnerships with private contractors to streamline the foster care placement process and keep children closer to home when they're placed with a foster care family. The redesign process formally began in 2010, though its first contract with Providence took effect in February 2013, according to DFPS. Through its contract, Providence has received $8.3 million from the state for foster care services, according to DFPS spokesman Patrick Crimmins. Its contract for 2014 alone is estimated to be worth $30.4 million, and the corporation has a five-year contract with the state. Opponents of foster care redesign have raised concerns about the oversight of the private contractors, and they have called for the state to examine the program's outcomes before expanding. The redesign has already been gradually rolled out in North Texas and West Texas, and the state is gearing up for a wider implementation. Ashley Harris, a child welfare policy associate with Texans Care for Children, said the state "shouldn't push further privatization" under the redesign initiative until it establishes better safety standards for children. "We're still learning the details of this heartbreaking case, but we know that Texas needs stronger statewide standards for screening and training foster parents," Harris said. In its review of the department, staffers at the Sunset Advisory Commission, which is charged with identifying inefficiencies at state agencies, also recommended that DFPS further evaluate performance data from its current contractors to better assess the foster care redesign model before implementing it more broadly across the state. DFPS said it agreed with the directive and was currently evaluating its contractors. This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at http://www.texastribune.org/2014/07/07/cps-halts-foster-care-placements-state-contractor/. Source: http://www.myhighplains.com/story/d/story/state-halts-foster-care-placements-with-contractor/26100/KTM9fawjlUWF0cU-blyL3g

Pastor, Church Members Plead Guilty To Beating and Abusing 13-Year-Old Boy Updated: Tuesday, July 8 2014, 08:32 AM CDT A pastor and two members of a Corona church pleaded guilty Monday to state charges of beating and threatening the life of a 13-year-old boy, who was forced to dig his own grave, authorities said. **Lonny Lee Remmers, 56, Nicholas James Craig, 24, and Darryll Duane Jeter Jr., 30, tortured the boy in the church-run group home** where he lived, according to a witness report in affidavits for search warrants. Remmers was then the pastor of Heart of Worship Community Church and ran the group home where Craig, Jeter and the victim lived. It was unclear Monday whether Remmers was still the pastor. The March 2012 incidents included Craig and Jeter driving the victim to the desert and forcing him to dig his own grave. They then made him get in and threw dirt on him. They were responding to Remmers' instruction to "scare" the boy, according to the affidavits. While the boy was showering, one of the men rubbed salt into the cuts on his back, according to Steven Larkey, who lived in the group home and provided the witness report in the affidavit. He told investigators he could hear the boy screaming and saw blood all over the shower the next day. The victim was later tied to a chair with zip ties and placed in the shower. Mace was sprayed on his face, causing it to bleed, and he was not allowed to rinse off for about 30 minutes, according to the victim's account in the affidavit. At a Bible study later that evening at Remmers' home, Remmers asked the boy to sit in the middle of the group and then squeezed his nipple with pliers. The boy, his mother and sister were members of Remmers' church. His mother and sister lived in a women's group home, but the boy said he had been moved to the men's home as a disciplinary action. Remmers entered guilty pleas to inflicting bodily injury on a child and assault with a deadly weapon. He will receive a sentence of up to two years in state prison. At a minimum, he will receive the same sentence as Craig and Jeter, who each were placed on three years of formal probation and must complete a year in custody. They each pleaded guilty to charges of child abuse and making criminal threats, according to the Riverside County district attorney's office. "There were new developments, which we will not be discussing, that caused us to believe this was the best disposition for all those involved," said John Hall, spokesman for the Riverside County district attorney. Remmers' sentencing date is scheduled for Sept. 26. Source: http://www.fox17.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/pastor-church-members-plead-guilty-beating-abusing-13yearold-boy-22212.shtml

California pastor, 2 others admit they tortured 13-year-old, forced him to dig own grave Lonny Remmers, the pastor of a small church in Corona, sicced two of his goons on a 13-year-old boy in order to 'scare' him straight. The men beat the boy, forced him to dig his own grave, rubbed salt in his wounds and maced him in the face until he bled, documents show. BY Philip Caulfield NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Tuesday, July 8, 2014, 10:44 AM A A A 13 Share this URL cbs los angelesPastor Lonny Lee Remmers, 56, pleaded guilty Monday to torturing a teen who lived at his Corona, Calif., church group home in March 2012. The thuggish pastor of a small Southern California church and two of his parishioners tortured a 13-year-old boy who lived at a church-run group home, savagely beating him, grinding salt into his raw wounds and forcing him to dig his own grave. The pastor, Lonny Remmers, 56, and his two goons even tortured the teen during a group Bible study session, forcing him to sit in front of the others while they twisted his nipples with pliers, court documents show, according to the Los Angeles Times. The assaults were part of a brutal campaign to "scare" the boy straight after he was moved from one home, where his mother and sister lived, to another allegedly for acting out, the Times reported. Remmers, Nicholas Craig, 24, and Darryll Jeter Jr., 30, pleaded guilty Monday to charges including inflicting corporal injury on a child, assault with a deadly weapon and making criminal threats. Remmers, who runs the Hart of Worship Community Church in Corona, was expected to be sentenced to two years in prison. The other two were given a year in home confinement, plus three years of probation. "It was a harebrained idea that got out of control and should've never gone that far," Jeter's attorney Rodney Nosratabadi told the Riverside Press-Enterprise after Monday's hearing. The brutal attacks occurred in March 2012, court document showed. cbs los angelesDarryll Jeter Jr., 30, Nicholas Craig, 24, and Remmers appear in a California court. Remmers sent the two younger men to scare the boy after he was allegedly acting up, court documents showed. After getting orders from Remmers to "scare" the boy, Craig and Jeter drove him to a remote area, where they lashed him with a belt and forced him to dig his own grave. The twisted pair then forced the boy to get in the hole as they tossed dirt on him from above, as though they were burying him alive, the documents said. Later, they returned to the home and the boy took a shower, while Craig and Jeter rubbed salt into the cuts on his back, authorities said. They also tied him down and sprayed mace in his face, causing his nose to bleed, the documents said. The boy later told police he thrashed so violently, he left the shower spattered with blood, the Times reported. Other members of the home reported seeing the blood the next day. The torment continued later that night at the Bible study session at Remmers' home, where the men clamped his nipples with pliers in front of about a dozen other men. Authorities said the sicko pastor claimed the boy needed to be disciplined for "not accepting responsibility for his actions." Corona Police DepartmentRemmers is facing two years in prison. The other men were sentenced to a year in home confinement and three years of probation. The boy's mother had brought him to Remmers' church, which has 15 to 20 members. Corona is in Riverside County, about an hour east of Los Angeles. The teen hasn't been identified. By pleading guilty, the men avoided a kidnapping charge, which would have been the most serious against them. Remmers is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 26. Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/calif-pastor-2-plead-guilty-savage-torture-13-year-old-boy-article-1.1858546

Proposed East Waco treatment center meets unanimous opposition Story Comments Image (12) Print Create a hardcopy of this page Font Size: Default font size Larger font size Previous Next Staff photo— Rod Aydelotte open house ra3 Linda Wilkerson-Long told Snugg Harbor officials the neighborhood around the site for a proposed residential treatment facility at 1916 Seley Ave. in East Waco had its share of problems already, and wasn't prepared to handle any more. She was one of about 60 community members who attended a midday meeting to show opposition to the proposed plan. Buy this photo Staff photo— Rod Aydelotte open house ra10 Concerned residents, including Waco city manager Dale Fisseler, ask questions during the public hearing for a proposed 90-bed residential treatment center at 1916 Seley Ave. Tuesday. Buy this photo Staff photo— Rod Aydelotte open house ra9 Buy this photo Staff photo—Rod Aydelotte open house ra11 La Vega superintendent Dr. Sharon M. Shields told Snuff Harbor officials her district was not prepared to handle an additional 90 students with special needs. Students at the proposed residential treatment center would attend La Vega schools. Buy this photo open house ra15 Buy this photo Staff photo— Rod Aydelotte open house ra6 Inside the former nursing home in East Waco. Buy this photo Staff photo— Rod Aydelotte open house ra1 Elwayne Gilbert was one of about 60 community residents who attended Tuesday's public hearing. Like the others who attended, she did not support plans to put a residential treatment center in the former Pecan Ridge Assisted Living Center. Buy this photo Staff photo— Rod Aydelotte open house ra14 Outside the former Pecan Ridge Assisted Living Center, a home for disabled adults located at 1916 Seley Ave. The facility was purchased for $275,000 and the new owners have filed for a license to open a 90-bed residential treatment facility for emotionally or mentally disturbed boys. Buy this photo Staff photo— Rod Aydelotte open house ra4 Concerned residents were not satisfied with the answers they received to questions about how the residential treatment facility on Seley Avenue would be managed. Buy this photo open house ra13 Staff photo-Rod Aydelotte Inside the former nursing home, which once housed disabled adults. Buy this photo View all 12 images in gallery. Location 1916 Seley Ave. Waco TX Posted: Wednesday, July 9, 2014 12:01 am Proposed East Waco treatment center meets unanimous opposition By TOMMY WITHERSPOON Waco Tribune-Herald A proposed 90-bed residential treatment center in East Waco could cost La Vega schools an additional $1 million a year, plus force a building program to accommodate the extra students in the filled-to-capacity district. About 60 people who attended a four-hour public hearing Tuesday were unanimous in their opposition to an application filed by Snugg Harbor to operate a center for boys with severe mental, emotional or behavioral disorders. The public hearing, which took a negative tone toward Snugg Harbor owner Rosalyn Ruffin from the beginning, was required as part of the licensing process by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Ruffin, a psychologist and marriage and family therapist from Katy, took a defensive posture from the opening minutes when members of the audience questioned the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. hearing time, accusing Ruffin of selecting a day meeting when many are at work to discourage a larger dissenting crowd. The crowd, which consisted of area residents, Waco and La Vega school officials

and Waco and Bellmead city and police officials, met in the cafeteria at the center at 1916 Seley Ave., which most recently was Pecan Ridge Assisted Living Center, a home for disabled adults. Ruffin hopes to turn the 27,148-square-foot facility into a residential treatment center for boys ages 8 to 17 that would be placed there through contracts with Child Protective Services. While the center is in East Waco, its potential clients would attend La Vega schools. As the hearing grew more contentious and audience members grew more frustrated with what many called Ruffin's "vague" answers, La Vega Superintendent Sharon Shields and Bellmead City Council member Kevin Wilson both asked Ruffin to have a second public hearing in the evening so those who had to work Tuesday can attend. Ruffin said only that she would "take the matter under advisement," drawing groans from the audience. After Shields asked Ruffin a second time to agree to another hearing, Shields invited Ruffin and Lea Long, a DFPS licensing inspector, to attend the La Vega school board meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday to provide school officials with more detailed plans for the center and how it will affect the district. Ruffin said she also would take that invitation under advisement. Shields and Waco City Manager Dale Fisseler told Ruffin that they both were a little frustrated in their attempts to contact her to find out more information about her plans. Ruffin denied that she was dodging their calls, saying she had nothing to gain by alienating leaders from the community to which she plans to move. More students Shields said Ruffin's lack of specificity about her plans for her clients make it difficult for administrators to plan for the possible infusion of 90 more prospective students. She said most every school is over or approaching the state-mandated student-per-teacher ratio, and Snugg Harbor students, especially those with special needs, could force building projects, strain budgets and challenge the district to find specialized teachers for the troubled children. She said the school district currently has 11 students with some type of disorder and that adding dozens more would be "daunting." "We have difficulty dealing with students with these types of disorders," Shields said. "If they are our students, we will deal with them, but it will be a tremendous challenge for us and we are not getting the type of communication we need to prepare for these students." Ruffin, who dodged many of the most direct questions, allowed Catherine Wells, Snugg Harbor administrator, to answer most questions dealing with specific treatment and educational programs for the boys. Wells said the center will not accept sex offenders or those prone to violence or running away. Ruffin grew defensive and accused the crowd of cutting her off and not allowing her to answer their questions. At one point, she charged that the audience, filled with at least a dozen educators, does not care about children. "The problem is you are being vague," said Phil Bancale, a 39-year member of the La Vega school board. "You have lost our trust. Don't tell us we don't care about kids. We care about kids. We don't trust you." Randy Devorsky, La Vega school board president, said he lives 500 yards from the facility, which Ruffin bought in 2012 for $275,000. He complained that the grounds, which are surrounded on three sides by wooded areas, and the interior have not been kept up properly and likely are in violation of several codes. "This just ain't right, people," Devorsky said. "Somebody from the state of Texas should shut this down now. It should have never gotten this far." Waco City Council member Wilbert Austin pledged to see that the city deny Ruffin any special permits she may need from the city to operate the center. "I live 10 blocks from here and I don't want this here," Austin said. "You haven't done your homework. You won't answer our questions. You say you want us to work with you but you don't want to work with us. There is going to be a picket line around this place because you are not being fair to the people." Licensing process Long, who attended the hearing, said the DFPS licensing process could take two to three months longer. She said the overwhelming opposition to the center expressed at the hearing and the impact the center could have on the school system and the community will play significant roles in whether DFPS grants Snugg Harbor a license. Lacy Hollingsworth, a diagnostician at La Vega schools, and other educators challenged Ruffin's knowledge of state and federal guidelines regarding the education of students with special needs. "We are not attacking you, Ms. Ruffin," Hollingsworth said. "We are attacking your lack of a plan. Your plan does not have much depth. Your students are our students, and we will love them and care for them. But even a hypothetical plan is better than no plan at all." Ruffin applied for a state license for a smaller facility in Liberty County in southeast Texas two years ago. She said she withdrew her application after her proposal was met with hostility from the community. She said she is not getting the same kind of response in McLennan County. "The reaction in Liberty County was a slap in the face when it comes to humanity," she said. "I think this population here is more knowledgeable, more educated, more with it. They are able to express themselves better." After the hearing, Ruffin said she remains optimistic despite the opposition. "If the community would give us a chance, I think they will see that there is a need for this type of facility in this area and that we can become an asset to this community." Source: http://www.wacotrib.com/news/business/proposed-treatment-center-meets-unanimous-opposition/article_5e059ebe-a7ad-59cf-9733-fd4a7b6e9880.html

New study examines the foster care system in Arkansas Posted: Jul 08, 2014 4:53 PM PDT Updated: Jul 08, 2014 4:55 PM PDT By Julie Parr - bio | email TEXARKANA, Ark. - For a young child entering the foster care system can be a traumatic experience. Leaving their home, school, and familiar environment can cause alot of stress for the child and new study exposes an alarming trend in the foster care system in Arkansas. Advocates now want to find better alternatives to meeting their needs. Mandy McLelland is not only new mom planning to one day foster children in Arkansas, she's also a county coordinator with "The Call," a statewide group that helps meet the needs of local children in foster care. "Anything that could cut down the time that children are going to spend in foster care, of course, we want to do that," said McLelland. According to the Arkansas Department of Human Services, at any given time there are roughly 4,000 children in the state's foster care system. Of those, between 500-700 have had parental rights terminated and are in need of adoption. But according to a recent study, there's a high rate of children entering foster care who may be better served in their own home. "We were surprised at how short of a time period the children stayed in the foster care system," said Jennifer Ferguson, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. In her report, statistics showed that nearly a third of the children who entered the system during a five year period left within 30 days. "More than likely if they're in there that short of a time period, they're not receiving alot of services because it's hard to get services in place that quickly, " said Ferguson. Half of all children entering foster care in Arkansas are under the age of six. State advocates want to come up with alternatives to keep short-term foster kids out of the system. Ferguson says the first step involves getting a waiver from the federal government to shift foster-care spending. "Currently, the way federal money is set up it really only helps pay for services when a child is in foster care," said Ferguson. Area four, which includes nine counties in the Texarkana region, recorded 23 percent of children exiting foster care within a week. It's the second largest percentage in the state. To help reduce the number of children entering foster care, the state is implementing new programs to identify needs of the child and families sooner. "So especially for some place like, area four, that has kids coming in for a very short period of time, that may be able to put more services in the home, so those kids are coming in and there will be funding for those services," said Ferguson. While the most common reason for removing a child from a home in Arkansas is neglect, the study showed the Texarkana region had a higher rate of children removed from the home due to physical or sexual abuse. McLelland says while there are cases where a child needs to be removed from home many children could benefit from staying at home with more services that meet their needs. "Parents could just need a little help, parenting classes, things like that. Get the wake up call they need, so they can have a nurturing home for their little ones," said McLelland. The Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families will soon release two more studies that'll look at reducing time spent in foster care and increasing stability of a child's placement in foster care. Source: http://www.ktbs.com/story/25970718/new-study-examines-the-foster-care-system-in-arkansas

Care provider charged with $164K in Medicare fraud By Tom Olsen on Jul 8, 2014 at 8:58 p.m. Email A Duluth adult **foster care provider is accused of defrauding Medicaid of more than $164,000 by billing the state for professional services that were not performed or properly supervised.** A Lisa Marie Huffman, 42, was charged recently by summons in State District Court in Duluth with seven counts of felony theft by false representation. The criminal complaint states that an investigation by the Minnesota Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit determined that Huffman billed the state for services through two adult foster care companies she owned: Proactive Caring Accommodating Services (PCA North) and Peace of Mind Health Services. The companies provided in-home personal care services. Under state law, a "qualified professional," such as a registered nurse, licensed social worker, mental health professional or developmental disabilities specialist, must supervise all personal care assistant services in order for the services to be reimbursable by the state. State investigators began looking into the businesses in October 2011 after receiving a signed statement from a client stating that she had not received any supervisor visits from the company. A former personal care assistant also reported that she never had qualified professional supervision during three years with the agency. During the course of the investigation, several other clients and their families reported that they never received the necessary qualified professional visits, and complained about the level of care they received from the personal care assistants. Huffman spoke with investigators, telling them that she billed the state based on what her personal care assistants and qualified professionals documented on their timesheets, according to the criminal complaint. Investigators reviewed 3½ years' worth of timesheets and receipts, finding that documentation of the visits were lacking. Huffman claimed to investigators that most of her clients were not subject to qualified professional visits, according to the complaint. She stated that all required visits were made by two other employees. Investigators calculated what they determined to be overpayments for undocumented qualified professional visits from January 2012 to December 2012. The total amount is estimated at $164,234.46. A phone number listed for Huffman's home address was not in service Tuesday, and she could not be reached for comment. Court records indicate that she has not yet retained an attorney. Huffman is scheduled for an initial court appearance on Aug. 7. Source: http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/content/care-provider-charged-164k-medicare-fraud

Federal Monitor Raps State On Underfunding Community Services For DCF Kids Malloy's Budget Chief Defends Program Comments 0 Email Share 33 By JOSH KOVNER, The Hartford Courant 4:05 p.m. EDT, July 9, 2014 The latest federal oversight report on the Department of Children and Families criticizes the state for underfunding community programs at a time when large numbers of needy children are being diverted from institutions As a result, "thousands of children and families" are lacking some essential services, including medical, behavioral, drug-abuse, educational and foster-care programs, according to the federal-court monitor's report for the first quarter of the year. DCF Commissioner Joette Katz has said she wants to rapidly reduce institutionalization from 21 percent of the children in the department's care, to 10 percent. Topics Medical Research Courts and the Judiciary Finance See more topics » X Justice System Conservation Budgets and

Budgeting New York City The monitor, Raymond Mancuso, said he supports DCF's shift away from institutional care, but says the department may have to scale-back the initiative until the state increases funding for a range of smaller, neighborhood-based programs, foster care, and services in the family home. Purchase your Officially Licensed UConn National Championship Gear HERE! The court oversight stems from a class-action lawsuit on behalf of children who suffered neglect while in DCF care in the late 1980s. Mancuso notes that DCF's budget has been reduced by more than $75 million over the last three years, and said those cuts should have been reinvested. "A sizable portion of this funding is desperately needed to provide services" for the children diverted from group care, the report states. Benjamin Barnes, budget chief for Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, took issue with Mancuso's analysis. Barnes said that since 2009, "spending per case on community-based services … has risen from $19,627 to $23,422, an increase of over 19 percent." Barnes said there have also been "significant increases in Medicaid funding for behavioral health services, which are not included in DCF's budget but are a key part of the community supports offered to the clients of that agency. "It is clear from our view of the budgets over the last few years that a sizeable portion of the savings from reduced institutional care has and continues to be used to augment community supports," Barnes said. Ira Lustbader, one of the lawyers representing the children in the class-action case, said the monitor's report "starkly shows that key resource problems threaten to overwhelm (DCF) and erode the progress that's been made with (Katz) at the helm." Lustbader, associate director