OVERVIEW

Adolescent well-being is a top priority for social workers. In this regard, NASW has focused on fundamental issues affecting adolescents including healthcare, socio-economic conditions and school environments.

Through the NASW Partnership in Planning for Adolescent Health Project (PIPPAH) project, NASW has worked to maintain and improve adolescent health care by participating in and promoting interdisciplinary collaborative efforts. Other activities have included revising the standards for social work practice with adolescents, and developing resources for professionals.

The following is a synopsis of the policy, practice, and programming activities that NASW is undertaking to promote adolescent health.

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

- The seventh year of the PIPPAH project has been completed. Partnerships and projects were further developed with the PIPPAH partners: the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Medical Association, American Bar Association, American College of Preventive Medicine, American Dietetic Association, American School Health Association, and American Nursing Association.

- The PIPPAH partners are developing a collaborative presentation to be used at different association conferences and meetings. This presentation will focus on the positive effect of interdisciplinary collaboration on adolescent health.

- NASW participated in the Association of State and Territorial Directors of Health Promotion and Public Health Education (ASTDPHE) and National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 21st Annual Conference. Topics included: local public health, building partnerships, policy and advocacy in public health, human sexuality and HIV/AIDS education in the juvenile justice system, and school based health care.

- NASW was involved in the Association for Maternal and Child Health (AMCHP) Core Capacity Project. The Association participated in the policy and advocacy workgroup, reviewing project criteria that would serve as policy and regulations for state adolescent health programs.

- NASW has begun to collaborate with State Adolescent Health Coordinators, encouraging them to build relationships with NASW state chapters. These partnerships will continue to increase awareness of social workers’ roles in promoting adolescent health in the public health system.

RECENT RESOURCES FROM NASW


- The practice update, The Impact of Poverty on Adolescent Health, discusses the accessibility of health care for low-income adolescents and
the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). It is available at www.socialworkers.org/practice/adolescent_health

- The PIPPAH Pack is a toolkit designed to explain the concept of promoting positive youth environments. The toolkit describes how social workers can contribute to creating safe, supportive, inclusive, accepting, and affirming environments for adolescents. It includes a pull-out poster that describes the principles of positive youth environments, five “tools” that present facts about the importance of environments on adolescent health, tip sheets for social workers, and a community checklist. The toolkit has been distributed to NASW members, and is now available on the PIPPAH Web site at www.socialworkers.org/pippah/toolkit.asp

- The PIPPAH Web site was reconfigured this year. In addition to providing resources and program information, it will contain the PIPPAH Pack, Tip Sheet for Teens, practice updates, and information about the PIPPAH project. Provider resources and publications are also available, this site is located at: www.socialworkers.org/pippah

- A Tip Sheet for Teens is available at www.socialworkers.org/pippah/tips.asp

Laurie J. Emmer, LICSW, MSW
Senior Policy Associate, Adolescent Health
lemmer@naswdc.org