

Your Quarterly News & Updates Vol.10 Issue 1/Winter 2025  
From The Association of Child and Youth Care Practice



## **THE CYC ADVOCATE**

*"Real Expertise Comes From Those Closest To The Challenge" ---Anonymous*



**[CAN PLURALISM EVEN WORK IN THE CURRENT MOMENT?](#)**

**[DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION \(DEI\): THE ACYCP POSITION](#)**

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**[COMMON HUMANITY MEDITATION](#)**

Illustration: geralt on Pixabay.com (ai-generated)

## **"I LOVE BEING A YOUTH WORKER! HOW ABOUT YOU?"**

**ACYCP Members, Share With Us Why You Love Being A Youth Worker. Send A Short Blurb And Fun Photo To Devina At: [djcenter4youth@yahoo.com](mailto:djcenter4youth@yahoo.com)**

**Consider This (From the Editor):**

**"I AM NOT A LIBERAL SNOWFLAKE...**

**My feelings aren't fragile. My heart isn't bleeding. I am a badass believer in human rights. My toughness is in my tenderness. My strength is in service to others. There is nothing more fierce than formidable unconditional love. There is not a thing more courageous than compassion. But if my belief in equity, empathy, goodness, and love make me, and others like me snowflakes, then you should know:**

**WINTER IS COMING!"**

----- Howard Kraft

<https://characterstrong.com/houston-kraft>

[Editor's Note: T-shirts and hoodies can be had on Amazon.com.]

**Editor's Gratitude To All Who Make The CYC Advocate Possible:**

**As we start our 9th year of publication, I want to sincerely thank our columnists, contributors, donors, and support staff. I owe a special debt of gratitude to the ACYCP Board and President Jody Rhodes for their support and encouragement, which has allowed me to find a productive CYC niche in my retirement years. Perhaps only people who have walked my shoes [like Dale Curry in this issue] know just how meaningful this can be. Together we turn out an anticipated and consistent publication, which serves both the ACYCP and the CYC profession, as a information conduit and a resource tool. Last, but not least, I want to thank YOU, our readers, who have contributed to the over 3,000 "opens" each issue, which indicate that our collective efforts are filling a genuine need within the CYC worker community, both in North America and overseas. While I always appreciate and value your feedback, I would be even more grateful if YOU would forward your copy to CYC colleagues as a measure of your appreciation for us and your colleagues work with children and youth. ----Michael Mitchell, MAT, Editor**



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**Our Mission: ACYCP's mission is to engage practitioners in building the child and youth care profession. We build collaborative partnerships, promote innovative training and education, shape public policy, and inform developmental practice through research and scholarship.**

**Our Vision: We envision a society which recognizes, understands, and supports the essential role of child and youth care work in ensuring the well-being and success of children, youth and families. ACYCP aspires to excel as an influential and innovative organization advancing child and youth care practice throughout the profession.**

**Our Value Proposition: There is probably no undertaking more essential to the stability of humanity than the nurturing of each generation into mature self-actualizing adults. This task falls mainly to youth and childcare workers. Often underpaid and overworked, these**

professionals are society's first responders to the many crises, which can impact human development in the most formative years. Primarily through its professional certification program, the Association for Child and Youth Care Practice, Inc. (ACYCP) supports these care providers in the acquisition and use of best practices. Employing research-based methods, plus personal dedication, ensures strong measurable outcomes. ACYCP bolsters both the individual and the collective field through communication, education, and advocacy. These activities encourage individual live-long learning, selfcare and career dedication. As such, ACYCP seeks the financial support of its Vision and Mission, which guide its daily practices. ACYCP reaches every community of care across the entire spectrum of youth and childcare services, with proven results. Through the prudent stewardship of its resources by an all-volunteer staff and board, ACYCP has maximized its direct benefit to its members and the profession at large for over 45 years. An investment in ACYCP is an investment in the quality of tomorrow's citizens.

Find out what ACYCP is all about. See a quick video at: <https://www.acycp.org/acycp-at-a-glance>

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ACYCP is on social media! Follow us on [Facebook](#) using [The-Association-for-Child-Youth-Care-Practice-Inc-186063394783003/](#) and [Twitter](#) using [@ACYCP](#) and on [Instagram](#) using [@ACYCP\\_Inc](#) . We look forward to hearing from you!

Illustration: Pixabay.com



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### **IN THIS EXCITING ISSUE:**

- **ACYCP PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**
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- **YOUR AGENCY NEEDS THIS MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT NOW!**
- **YOUR AD CAN GO HERE!**

**Check out our display ad section at the end of this issue for more valuable CYC resources.**

## **What Our Readers Are Saying**

*"I think the range of [articles] in the [CYC] Advocate is truly impressive...[each] issue...looks extremely professional...the [CYC] Advocate does a good job of appealing both to the most advanced workers and to workers just getting started."*

*"Great! Lots of links to valuable resources. Again, so well done!"*

*"Wow that is quite a newsletter! Very impressive work."*

**LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? FEEL FREE TO SHARE, ANNOUNCE, PRINT AND POST AS YOU SEE FIT. FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS AT [propman46@gmail.com](mailto:propman46@gmail.com) REPRINTS?-See terms and conditions at end of this issue. Comments, questions, or concerns? Contact Michael Mitchell [propman46@gmail.com](mailto:propman46@gmail.com), or (608)846-2860 Madison, WI (Central Time)**

**IF YOU LIKE THIS QUARTERLY CYC ADVOCATE...Join ACYCP and get the monthly ACYCP Membership Memo, as one of many membership benefits!**

**TO JOIN ACYCP OR RENEW YOUR INDIVIDUAL, STUDENT, AGENCY, or ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP, GO TO: <https://www.acycp.org/acycp-membership>**

## **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**Yes, YOU! And while you're at it, please forward this issue to colleagues, peers, friends and anyone else who has the interests of youth and child care workers at heart. You'll be doing them a real service.**

**Next Issue: Copy for the winter issue is due January 1, 2025 to: Michael Mitchell, [propman46@gmail.com](mailto:propman46@gmail.com) (608)846-2860, Madison, WI**

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## **ACYCP PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**



**By Jody Rhodes, CYC-P, MS, Board President**

Dear ACYCP Members and Friends,

Welcome to the Winter edition of the CYC Advocate!

I hope everyone is having a fun great start to their 2025. At ACYCP we are very excited to announce in this edition of the CYC Advocate our Annual Youth Work Award Winners. We are honoring a tremendous group of youth workers across 4 categories:

Happy reading and exploring!  
Jody Rhodes

ACYCP President



## 2024 ACYCP AWARDS

Each year, the ACYCP accepts nominations for youth care workers in a variety of categories. This year's award winners are exceptional youth care workers who have contributed to the field and continue to advocate for youth workers across the country.

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Sister Madeleine Rybicki, C.S.F.N. Training Consultant, ACYCP Board Member  
Nominated by Dale Curry

Frank Eckles, Academy for Competent Youth Work  
Nominated by Dale Curry and Jody Rhodes

### **Lorraine Fox Dedication Award**

Deb Getz, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Science School of Public Health, Indiana University  
Nominated by Devina Jani and Indiana Journey Staff

### **Dr. Carol Kelly Newcomer Award**

Ashley Moore, Indiana Youth Services Association, The Journey  
Nominated by Melinda Bowman

### **ACYCP President's Award**

Christina L. Scanlon, Ph.D., Research Associate, University of Chicago  
Nominated by ACYCP Board President Jody Rhodes

## AWARD NOMINATIONS

**Sister Madeleine Rybicki, Training Consultant, ACYCP Board Member**  
**Lifetime Achievement Award**



For over 50 years Sister Madeleine has exemplified the highest standards in child and youth care practice. My first experience with Sister Madeleine was admiring her organization skill in coordinating transportation by

bus for a large number of child and youth care (CYC) practitioners from the Pittsburgh area to attend the Inter-Association Child Care Conference. She has continued to support the CYC workforce in many ways for more than half a century. Much of my experiences with Sister Madeleine has centered on our mutual interest in training and development. Over the years, thousands of workers have been inspired by her training sessions. The quality of her workshops and the professionalism that are routinely demonstrated set standards which many trainers strive to achieve.

Sister Madeleine has taken various other leadership roles in the training and development area such as Chairperson of the Education and Training Committee of the National Organization of Child Care Worker Associations. Other education and training and development activities in which Sister Madeleine has been involved include:

1. Part-time faculty, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh.
2. President, Academy of Child and Youth Care Professionals.
3. Staff Member, Holy Family Services for Children and Families, Pittsburgh, PA.
4. Co-author of a trainer development model. Assessment of child and youth care trainer competencies (1995), Journal of Child and Youth Care Work.
5. Member, International Leadership Coalition for Child and Youth Care (education and training committee).
6. U.S. Steering Committee member, providing curriculum review and input into the development of ten modules of competency-based training for child and youth care workers in the U.S. and Canada (1999-2000). Also, certified to teach the curricula.
7. Founder and Director of the Parmadale Training Institute, Parma, Ohio.
8. Vice President, Certification of Child and Youth Care Professionals (providing a national child and youth care worker certification based on the work of the North American Certification Project).
9. President, National Association of Child Care Workers (NOWCA)
10. President, Pennsylvania Child Care Association
11. President and long-standing Board member of the Ohio Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals (helping to organize the annual professional development conference).
12. Long-standing Board member of the Association for Child and Youth Care Practice (promoting the CYC workforce).

Sister Madeleine has presented at numerous state, national, and international human services conferences. She is a widely recognized trainer and inspirational speaker. She is a past recipient of the Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center Trainer of the Year Award, the 2003 Ohio Child Welfare Training Program Rising Star Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Staff Development and Training Association. Sister Madeleine Rybicki truly exemplifies the spirit of the ACYCP Lifetime Achievement Award. Send congratulations to: [sr.madeleinerybicki@aol.com](mailto:sr.madeleinerybicki@aol.com)

**Frank Eckles, Academy for Competent Youth Work**  
**Lifetime Achievement Award**



Frank Eckles has served children, youth, families, communities, and the child and youth care (CYC) field for more than 50 years. Many of his contributions have focused on direct service, administration, and advocacy for the CYC workforce.

Frank Eckles began his career as a childcare worker in a psychiatric hospital in 1970 and initiated his CYC training and development career in 1972. He has been serving children, youth and families through direct service; program development, administration; evaluation; research; advocacy; and leadership in local, state and national professional associations. A common theme throughout his career has been his leadership in the professional development and training areas. He is recognized nationally and internationally by leaders in the CYC profession for his contributions in training and development and advocacy in promoting the CYC workforce.

Since 2001, he has served as the Executive Director of the Texas Child and Youth Care Worker Certification Institute and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Academy for Competent Youth Work (<https://www.youthworkacademy.org/>). He has served on numerous boards and advisory committees pertaining to child welfare training and development.

Frank was integrally involved in several committees of the North American Certification Project (NACP), most notably as the Co-Chair of the Concurrent Planning Committee that brought the work of several NACP committees together and finalized the certification program that led to the development of the Child and Youth Care Certification Board (CYCCB) [www.cyccb.org](http://www.cyccb.org).

Frank was elected as the first President of the CYCCB and currently serves as the Administrator of the CYCCB international office, in collaboration with the Academy for Competent Youth Work.

Under Frank's leadership, the CYCCB brought together leaders of the varied child and youth work fields (after school, residential treatment, juvenile justice, early and school-age childcare) to promote an integrated national system of career development in child and youth work. Various state and national professional associations have endorsed the work of the CYCCB. Through Frank's leadership, CYCCB certification testing is now available at many child and youth work state and national conferences, at various proctored testing sites and online testing is now widely accessible via Indiana University. In-person testing sites in several Canadian Provinces are also currently supporting the CYCCB certification program and providing testing. One Canadian province has mandated that at least 2 persons from an agency must be certified by the CYCCB to receive government funding. Discussions are currently underway regarding the possibility of piloting CYCCB certification in Scotland.

Frank has volunteered countless hours and contributed a significant amount of his personal funds to activities in support of the CYCCB, ACYCP and other CYC workforce advocacy causes. Receiving the ACYCP Lifetime Achievement Award is an important way to recognize his significant contributions to the CYC workforce and profession. Mr. Frank Eckles is truly an exemplary candidate for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Send congratulations to: [frank.eckles@youthworkacademy.org](mailto:frank.eckles@youthworkacademy.org)

**Deb Getz, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Science School of Public Health,  
Indiana University**  
**Lorraine Fox Dedication Award**



If we had to point to one person in Indiana who has dedicated her professional career to promoting the professional development of the field of youth development, it would be Deb Getz. Deb brings a spark of enthusiasm and determination that is contagious. She steps up, volunteers, and goes the extra mile. She is a leader taking on many leadership roles including current President of CYCCB. She is a believer in the field and promotes the professionalism of current and future youth workers. She has worked to make sure the CYC credential is credible and accessible. She has worked at Indiana University (IU) for 32 years and is able to work within that system to access their resources such as online CYC certification testing and sharing the course work based upon the CYC competencies. Deb led the establishment of the Youth Development major and minor, based on the CYCCB competencies, in the IU School of Public Health-Bloomington in 2013. After ten years, current enrollment in both programs is estimated to be over 120 students across public health, psychology, social work, and counseling. This was a huge step to professionalize the field of youth work across the State of Indiana.

Dr. Getz is committed to supporting the professionalization of youth work in the U.S. She led the development of the IU APHS major and minor in Youth Development, actively engages in efforts to support national certification through the Child and Youth Care Certification Board and works to support awareness of issues critical to protecting child safety. Deb has engaged in curriculum development, design, delivery, and evaluation on youth development, child protection, personal financial education, and community engagement. She is particularly passionate about educating youth workers and the public about human trafficking prevention and identification.

Dr. Getz has also been instrumental in expanding CYC efforts across programs and campuses at IU to increase the number of graduates attaining the CYC certification while students. Dr. Getz is known as a pioneer and advocate for CYC, and she continues to dedicate research, time, and efforts to bringing greater exposure to CYC certification and the field.

The Lorraine Fox scholarship is focused on dedication. Dedication to youth and families, dedication to the child and youth care providers and dedication to growing the professional field of youth development. Deb Getz is following in Lorraine's footsteps of dedication, and we proudly recommend Deb for the first Lorraine Fox ACYCP CYC Dedication Award. She is most deserving.

Send congratulations to: [dgetz@indiana.edu](mailto:dgetz@indiana.edu)



**Ashley Moore, Indiana Youth Services Association, The Journey  
Dr Carol Kelly Newcomer Award**



From 2019-2023, Ashley worked as a Youth Program Director for Edna Martin Christian Center. Ashley started out as a part-time youth worker and was consistently promoted for her valued contribution to the organization and the families they served. She worked hard, heart first, to engage families in out-of-school time programming while building meaningful relationships with the youth in her programs. At the same time, Ashley earned the respect and confidence of her peers, mentors and those working under her supervision.

When The Journey had to hire a new program coordinator earlier this year, Ashley was an easy choice for us to make. She won us over with her heart for youth work and the field. Ashley joined our team in March of 2024, just 5 months ago, but it feels like she's always been here.

Ashley jumped right into the work, helping create organizational processes and procedures for our renewal program. She understands the value and respect of youth work and works hard to make sure everything we deliver is to the highest standards and celebrates the youth workers and organizations we serve. More importantly, as a youth worker herself, Ashley understands what youth workers are going through. She connects with them through authentic empathy and understanding, listening to their struggles and successes and finding ways to leverage our resources to their furthest potential.

Ashley stepped up to support the efforts of credentialing and competency education in the state of Indiana. She pushes for the professionalization of the field and will continue to support it throughout her career. She continues to grow personally, working to obtain her bachelor's degree, volunteering in the community and focusing on her own professional development. Undoubtedly, Ashley will soon become a leader in the state of Indiana and the field of youth work. I am not only excited for her future, but for the future of the field of youth work. What an honor to call her my colleague and friend.

Send congratulations to : [amoore@indysb.org](mailto:amoore@indysb.org)

**Christina L. Scanlon, Ph.D., Research Associate, University of Chicago  
ACYCP Presidents Award**



Christina, a Research Associate at the University of Chicago's Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, is this year's recipient of ACYCP's President's Award. She received her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh in 2021, and during her studies received mentorship from CYC founders such as Karen VanderVen, Martha Mattingly, and Andrew Schneider-Muñoz. Her work focuses on translating findings from rigorous research into accessible, practical recommendations for youth workers, always with the intention of improving relational dynamics between professionals and the children with whom they work.

Christina has held an elected position on the ACYCP Board of Directors since 2015. As a member of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Research and Ethics Committee, she has provided guidance for ACYCP's research endeavors, assisted in setting the groundwork for ACYCP's successful webinar series, and helped establish ACYCP's relationship with the Council of Accreditation. In 2020, Christina spearheaded a participatory action research project to collect baseline data about the state of the CYC workforce in the U.S., including demographic information, salaries, certification/education, and current issues in the field. This project allowed ACYCP to participate in data-driven advocacy while simultaneously providing services more responsive to the needs of our membership base, all in the best interest of helping youth and youth workers thrive.

From 2022-2023, Christina led the review of the Code of Ethics. This revision including updating language to be more inclusive and emphasizing that "ethics" is a verb. That is, ethics is an active process that requires commitment rather than a passive code. The revised Code also includes guidelines for (a) ethical practice surrounding virtual/online spaces and (b) indirect care practitioners. Perhaps the most exciting element of this revision has been the collaboration between U.S. and Canadian child and youth workers, as ACYCP worked alongside the Canadian Council during the revision process. Alongside her Canadian colleague Dr. Varda Mann-Feder (Concordia University), Christina spearheaded a Special Edition of the Journal of Child and Youth Care Work focused on ethics within the CYC field. The special edition is set to be released in early 2025 and includes 10 articles from leaders in youth work, all of which focus on ethical CYC practice in the post-COVID era.

Christina has led these foundational AYCYCP efforts that will be a contribution to the field of child and youth work for decades to come. Her dedication and contribution is worthy of the ACYCP Presidents Award.

Send congratulations to: [CLScanlon@uchicago.edu](mailto:CLScanlon@uchicago.edu)

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**SAVE THE DATE**



## **Thank a Youth Worker Day**

**Thursday, May 8, 2025**

**THIS YEAR COORDINATING WITH CYC-NET'S  
THANK A YOUTH WORKER WEEK, MAY 4-10, 2025**

If your organization employs or supports volunteers in work with children or youth, or your organization would like to take an active role in supporting this vital work in communities around the world, we hope you'll become a partner....

**It's FREE!**

**Just go to:**

<https://www.thankayouthworkerday.com/>

Becoming a partner is a simple investment of your organization in the following:

Promote Thank A Youth Worker Day in your networks.

Help spread the message through social media.

If a youth and children serving organization, honor child and youth care workers in your organization on that day.

Participate in partners' teleconference sessions: (Dates and call-in details TBA.)

**As a partner, you'll receive:**

Your logo on the Thank A Youth Worker Day page of the ACYCP website.

A link from the website to your organization.

Use of all Thank a Youth Worker Day resources, including letters, media releases, ideas for celebrating, logos, proclamations, etc.

These materials can be modified and adapted to fit your particular service and culture.

**Questions, comments or concerns?**

**To become a partner, just email us at:**

[acycp2011@yahoo.com](mailto:acycp2011@yahoo.com)

**Who Is a Youth Worker?**

Youth Worker: n. An individual who works with or on behalf of children and/or youth to facilitate their personal, social, and educational development and enable them to gain a voice, influence, and place in society as they make the transition from dependence to independence. (Definition from the National Collaboration for Youth.)

**Want to see who your other partners are (you'll be surprised!):**

<https://www.thankayouthworkerday.com/partners/current-partners>

So, don't wait and **save the date**, because it'll be here before you know it!

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## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Please also take a minute to see that your membership is current, so that you continue to receive your full menu of membership benefits and services, including the monthly ACYCP Membership Memo.

[Follow this link to renew](#)

## **ACYCP ENCOURAGES OUTREACH TO ALLIED CYC ORGANIZATIONS**

For 45 years, the Association For Child and Youth Care Practice has worked hard to lift up the recognition, status, and compensation of child and youth care workers. They have done this primarily through professional Certification, supported by webinars, workshops, trainings and conferences, not to mention awards, scholarships, and media recognition.

Now, ACYCP is reaching out to potential allies in every community of care, with a cost-free reciprocal promotional exchange program, with other social service organizations focused on the welfare of youth, children, and families.

### **Collaborator**

- ◇ Exchange of logos and links to website homepage on respective websites Partner
- ◇ Exchange of logos and link to website homepage on respective websites
- ◇ Exchange of promotional advertisement in newsletters and online periodicals

### **Associate**

- ◇ Exchange of logos and link to website homepage
- ◇ Exchange of promotional advertisement in newsletters and online publications
- ◇ Exchange designation of liaison person for on-going communications
- ◇ Reciprocal endorsements of respective Mission and Vision Statements

[GO HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

### **CONTACT US TODAY AT:**

Michael Mitchell  
ACYCP Online Periodicals Editor  
propman46@gmail.com  
(608)846-2860

Madison, WI (Central Time)

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)-The ACYCP Position**

The Association Child and Youth Care Practice (ACYCP) stands in solidarity with all who seek social justice and equality. We are grateful to be associated with Black Lives Matter and others, who demonstrate their commitment to these ideals and to a vision of a future that recognizes the value and worth of all human beings irrespective of their race, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, national origin, economic status, or religious beliefs. These are fundamental values upon which the child and youth care field is founded. It is the foundation upon which we humbly stand.

As an association, we strive to uphold these values but know that we, as a board and as a profession, have fallen short of living up to this vision. The recent tragic events connected to the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and others, have brought to light just how big this gap is in our country as well as in our field. We promote diversity and inclusion, but racial disparity and exclusion are still prevalent. We proclaim justice and equality, but injustice and inequality are everywhere we turn.

As child and youth care practitioners, we meet our youth where they are at and accept them for who they are. We are the foundation of society, helping to raise the next generation of leaders. If we don't take this seriously, who will?

We can start making changes to better the world we live and work in – for the youth, children and families we serve, as well as our own lives. It won't happen overnight, but if we do this together, it will happen. ◇

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## **CYC PRACTICE METHODS**



### **TIPS, TOOLS, AND RESOURCES ON DAILY CYC PRACTICE**

**DOWNLOAD THE ACYCP BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS OF CARE AT: <https://acycp.org/best-practice-standards>**

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the US Department of Labor and was posted January 16, 2025.]

### **2025 IQBAL MASIH AWARD FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOR**

#### **Nominations due February 21, 2025**

The Iqbal Masih Award is a non-monetary award presented annually by the U.S. Secretary of Labor and administered by ILAB's Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking. This page outlines the eligibility criteria, the nomination process and the administrative procedures for this award.

**[READ MORE](#)**

## BONUS FEATURES

[Child Welfare Ideas From the Experts](#)

[RESOURCE: National Guidance on Essential Specialty Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Care](#)

[The Real Cause Of The Opioid Crisis Isn't What You Think](#)

[Fighting Misinformation Like a Doctor](#)

[RESOURCE: Equity Focused Suicide Prevention Resources for LGBTQ+ Populations](#)

[RESOURCE: Crisis Resources](#)

[10 Ways to Be More Inclusive and Learn About Diversity Within Disability](#)

Illustration: FreeImages.com

## RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT



WANT SOME GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE? (Of Course You Do!)  
[SUBSCRIBE FREE HERE](#)

## CYC RESEARCH, REPORTS & RESOURCES



### STAYING CURRENT WITH THE LATEST DISCOVERIES IN CYC WORK

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the John Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health- Center For Gun Violence Solutions website and was accessed December 21, 2024. Special thanks to David Couper and John Sepanski.]

### GUN VIOLENCE IN THE U.S. 2022: EXAMINING THE BURDEN AMONG CHILDREN & TEENS

We don't have to live with gun violence as a normal part of American life Our team at the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions includes highly experienced researchers and public health-trained

advocates to address gun violence as an epidemic-level public health emergency. Because gun violence disproportionately impacts communities of color, we ground our work in equity and seek insights from those most impacted on appropriate solutions.

[READ MORE](#)

[SUBMIT AN ANONYMOUS TIP](#)

[RELATED: Gov. Evers Signs Executive Order Creating Wisconsin Office of Violence Prevention](#)

[RELATED: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Action To Combat Emerging Firearm Threats And Improve School-Based Active Shooter Drills](#)

### **BONUS FEATURES**

[RESOURCE: SAMHSA Releases Publications Supporting Recovery](#)

[Lithium Restores Brain Function and Behavior in Autism](#)

[Special Report: ADHD Treatments Scorecard from ADDitude Readers](#)

[CDC Warns Of Deadly Drug 100 Times More Potent Than Fentanyl](#)

[Scientists Claim They've Found The Cause Of Mystery Colon Cancers In Young People](#)

[Reading Strengthens Key Brain Regions for Language and Empathy](#)

[New Youth Mental Health Campaign Focuses On Building Trust With Caring Adults](#)

Illustration: rawpixels on Unsplash.com

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## **REFLECTIONS FROM THE JJ SIDE**



**By Felix Brooks, MS & Carol Cramer Brooks, MS-CYC Advocate Staff Writers**

**WE REALLY WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Yes, YOU! See our contact info below. \*

### **THE CONVERSATION**

In the early 2000s, a young woman entered a detention center's interview room. Her body language and demeanor screamed indifference. I was assigned to be her probation officer. As I reviewed the ground rules

for her release, she politely nodded and said “yes” in all the appropriate places, careful not to come off as defiant but also letting me know this would not be easy. But at age 14, what is easy? At 14, youths are still trying to figure life out, trying to find answers to “Who am I?”, “What am I?” and “How do others see me?”

This would be the first of many conversations over the upcoming months, me restating the conditions of her release and her keeping her cards close. As conversations go, it was mostly one-sided. My intuition told me that this one was going to be trouble, at least in the short run. About this, I was correct.

Fast forward to a Starbucks in the lobby of a luxury hotel almost 25 years later. The young lady that I spoke with a quarter-century ago is now initiating a wide-ranging conversation about trauma, spirituality, love, and loss. She speaks on how these things defined her and informed the woman she has become and the career path she followed. She has multiple degrees and certifications and teaches others about leadership and self-awareness.

I am reminded, again, of the overshadowed fact that some of our youth succeed. Too often in our profession, we talk ourselves into believing first impressions. The time we spend with many of our young people is often when they are at their worst, but it is only a snapshot of their lives. This moment-in-time picture does not give us enough evidence to make bold predictions about outcomes. A dose of humility can provide us with more clarity in such matters. Widening our lens allows us to recognize that our youth can and do change.

No one can predict the future, but maintaining an open mindset about the youth we work with is critical. What I did not know was that when I told her she could become something, she listened. I spent my entire professional career trying to get young people to visualize a positive future for themselves. Our conversation validated why I got into this profession. I encourage each one of us to consider this as we work with young people. Difficulty and resentment can turn into hope and optimism. Openness and optimism are your strongest tools. Young people can recognize both. We typically encounter youth in this profession at the worst of times. My conversation at the hotel reminded me that things don't stay that way.

Readers: As we come to the end of this year and the beginning of the next, Felix and I hope that your holidays were peaceful and that you are feeling energized to do this important work in 2025. ◇

\*Carol Cramer Brooks  
carol.brooks1959@att.net  
269.377.1605 (ET)

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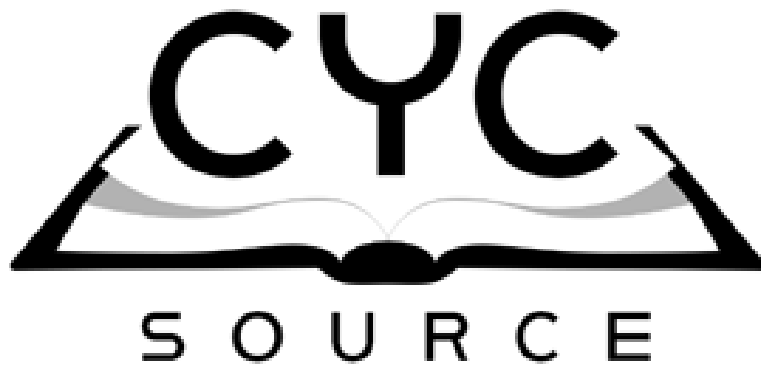
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**Dr. Deb Getz**

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## FAMILY SUPPORT & SERVICES



[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the authors and MedPage Today and was first posted on December 17, 2024]

### THE FORGOTTEN TOLL OF POLIO

By Jeremy Faust, MD, MS, MA, Editor-in-Chief, MedPage Today

Science and public health turned survival into the norm, says Perri Klass, MD

In part 1 of this exclusive video interview, MedPage Today's editor-in-chief Jeremy Faust, MD, talks with Perri Klass, MD, of NYU Grossman School of Medicine in New York City, about the forgotten toll of polio and how public health transformed childhood survival.

The following is a transcript of their remarks:

Faust: Hello, I'm Jeremy Faust, medical editor-in-chief of MedPage Today. I'm so excited to be joined today by Dr. Perri Klass. Dr. Klass is a professor of journalism and pediatrics at New York University. Her book, *A Good Time to Be Born: How Science and Public Health Gave Children a Future* opens in a new tab or window, was published in 2020 and is now out in paperback under the new title, *The Best Medicine* opens in a new tab or window. It's more relevant than ever and I'm so glad to have Dr. Klass with us today. Dr. Perri Klass, thank you so much for joining us.

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### **BONUS FEATURES**

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[Casey Family Programs Announces 2025 Excellence for Children Awardees](#)

Enjoy! ◇

Illustration: Omar Medinal Films on Pixabay.com

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## WHAT ABOUT ME?



**“IF YOU DON’T MAKE TIME FOR YOUR WELLNESS, YOU’LL BE FORCED TO MAKE TIME FOR YOUR ILLNESS!”**

[Editor’s Note: The following is reprinted in part with thanks to the author and Science Alert, which was posted December 11, 2024.]

## **LEADED FUEL MAY HAVE TRIGGERED A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AMONG GENERATION X**

By Ludovica Gazze

In its various forms, lead has been used in many everyday products for millennia. The Romans even added it to wine as a sweetener. Its most widespread use, however, was its addition to petrol.

And it is this use that has been associated with increased mental health disorders, according to a new study published in the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry.

Americans, especially those born between 1966 and 1986 (largely so-called generation X), have probably suffered from an additional 151 million mental health disorders that would not have occurred without the use of leaded petrol.

The study finds increases in anxiety and depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and neuroticism, as well as decreases in conscientiousness.

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## HELP APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION



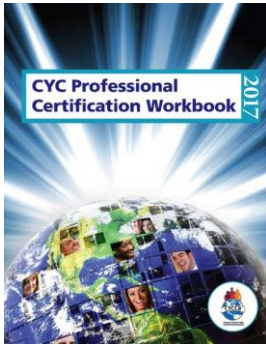
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**“If the only tool you have in your toolkit is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail.”—Abraham Maslow**

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## THE OTHER HALF OF THE JOB



### **BUSINESS TIPS FOR CYC AGENCIES, PROGRAMS, & EMPLOYEES**

[Editor’s Note: The following is reprinted in part with thanks to Pro Publica\* and was posted December 13, 2024. “ProPublica is a nonprofit newsroom that investigates abuses of power. Sign up to receive our biggest stories as soon as they’re published”: <https://www.propublica.org/newsletters/> ].

### **UNITEDHEALTH IS STRATEGICALLY LIMITING ACCESS TO CRITICAL TREATMENT FOR KIDS WITH AUTISM**

Leaked internal documents show that the insurance giant is culling providers of applied behavior analysis from its network and scrutinizing the medical necessity of therapy. Advocates say the company’s strategy may be illegal.



There was a time when Sharelle Menard thought her son would never be able to speak. She couldn't soothe Benji when he cried, couldn't read him books he could follow, couldn't take him out in public. "The screaming, and screaming, and screaming," she said. "He would get so frustrated because he couldn't communicate."

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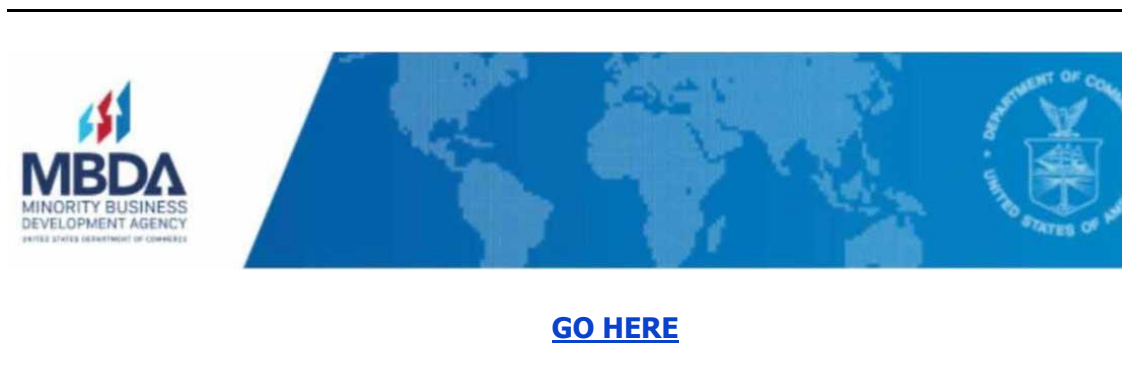
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Enjoy! ◇

Illustration: pixels.com



## **THE ACCIDENTAL PRACTITIONER**



**By Dale Curry, Ph.D., LSW, CYC-P, Professor Emeritus-Kent State University; CYC Advocate Staff Writer**

## **WILL YOU BE AN ACCIDENTAL CHILD AND YOUTH CARE RETIREE?**

In a previous column, I described a career development approach that includes five transition times:

1. Student to entry-level practitioner.
2. Entry-level practitioner to competent/professional practitioner.
3. Competent practitioner to leader in the organization.
4. Leader in the organization to leader in the field.
5. Leader in the field to "passing the torch" – recruiting and supporting new leadership.

In order to feel comfortable "passing the torch" to others, it helps to feel comfortable financially leaving the security of a paid position. Many retirement advisors indicate that retirees should have a retirement revenue stream that is 70 to 80 percent of one's pre-retirement income. Although less than 100% due to reduced expenses such as no longer a need for savings and work-related expenses; providing this amount of annual income for one's remaining life expectancy can be an enormous challenge for many retirees.

### **Child and Youth Care (CYC) Practitioner Retirement Challenges**

While many of us entered the field accidentally, it is clear that for most of us the primary motivation was not financial riches. However, that should not compel us to ignore our financial well-being during and after our CYC career. In many ways we are in a disadvantageous position when it comes to retirement planning. Similar to many who have chosen a career in human services, CYC practitioners must overcome a number of obstacles to have a financially comfortable retirement. Following are a few challenges that can have a financial impact before and after retirement.

1. Few CYC practitioners have access to defined benefit pension plans. In recent years, public sector CYC programs have increasingly vanished. Therefore, there are fewer CYC practitioners working in the public sector which overwhelmingly have defined benefit pension plans that provide guaranteed income for life. Increasingly, CYC retirees will need to rely on Social Security income and other revenue generating income such as defined contribution retirement plans.
2. According to a recent workforce survey by the Association for Child and Youth Care Practice (ACYCP), less than half (47.9%) report having a retirement account (Scanlon et al., 2020). Ruggles and colleagues (2023) state that 82% of direct care workers are without employer sponsored retirement plans.
3. Many retirement plans offered by the private non-profit sector provide fewer investment options than those in the private sector. So, when CYC practitioners have access to a plan, the potential for retirement savings may be stunted compared to workers in the private sector.
4. CYC practitioners receive relatively low pay when compared to the general population and especially when compared to those with similar expectations of competence. Therefore, retirement savings are likely to be less than the general population.
5. The myth of the unskilled care worker. Historically, marginalized populations are over-represented in care work; who have provided enormous social benefits but have been economically under valued by society. Yet, quality care work requires a high level of knowledge and skill as documented by the Competencies for Professional Child and Youth Work Practitioners (Connacher, 2023; Mattingly et al., 2010 revised). There is a significant disconnect between the competence required and the financial and benefit compensation provided to care workers.
6. CYC is challenging work. Working longer past average retirement age may not be an option for many. The 2024 EBRI Retirement Confidence Study indicated that 58% of employees retire earlier than expected. Leaving the workforce early can have adverse financial impact. There is less time for retirement savings and a longer period of time to rely on one's savings. Research by the Economic Policy Institute finds that significant numbers older employees endure difficult

working conditions, including physically taxing, dangerous, and stressful jobs with difficult schedules—jobs that often don't even pay enough to allow them to ever retire (Morrissey, 2023). This could be the situation for many CYC practitioners.

#### A Few Retirement Planning Suggestions Before Passing the Torch

I am not a financial planner and could probably be described as a semi-accidental retiree since I luckily secured a CYC position relatively early on that provided a defined benefit pension. Few of these positions are available now. The pension benefit was not part of my decision-making process at the time. However when I secured a faculty position at Kent State University 22 years later; the fact that Kent State provided a pension system that included my previous 22 years of service was heavily considered. I was also fortunate to receive a financial buy-out provided over five years in a defined contribution plan when I retired. If not for the pension and the buyout, I would not have been in a financially sound position to retire. However, I recognize the challenges to a financially secure retirement that CYC practitioners typically experience. So, I am providing a few general suggestions to encourage a planful and non-accidental approach to retirement.

Start planning for retirement early in your career. If there is no employee retirement program, prepare as much as you can by doing things such as contributing as much as you can in a Roth IRA and looking for employment in an organization that offers retirement benefits. Take advantage of compound interest over time.

Advocate for higher pay and retirement benefits. Support organizations that advocate for the CYC workforce such as the ACYCP.

#### **Seek out CYC employers that offer retirement benefits.**

Continue to increase your knowledge and skills through education and training so that you can increase your career flexibility in case you decide to seek promotion into supervision, administration, training or other areas of related practice.

Consider using your CYC knowledge and skills for additional part-time service such as training, consulting, and parent education.

Explore other employers that provide higher salary and better retirement benefits.

Explore retirement resources that provide information regarding social security, Medicare, saving rates, income replacement ratios, savings withdrawal strategies and other retirement planning information.

Our code of ethics requires us to be effective advocates for those we serve. We must also be effective advocates for ourselves which includes advocating for (1) safe working conditions, (2) financial compensation commensurate with competency level, and (3) retirement programs from the start of employment. A CYC career development approach includes preparing for one's retirement. It's better to start planning now than to be an accidental retiree! ♦

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Mattingly, M., Stuart, C., & VanderVen, K. (2010 revised). North American Certification Project (NACP) Competencies for professional child and youth work practitioners. Child and Youth Care Certification Board.

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Illustration: Dale Curry, Ph.D , Karen Vander Veen, Ph.D.

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## WHY WE STAY



**By Angelo "Chip" Bonsutto, Ed. D., CYC Advocate Staff Writer**  
**[ambonsutto@zoominternet.net](mailto:ambonsutto@zoominternet.net)**

### **AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD J. TRUMP**

Dear President Trump:

I would like to congratulate you on your inauguration as the 47th President of the United States.

The Association for Child and Youth Care Practice (ACYCP) is the nation's oldest organization dedicated to advocating, supporting, and training the direct care professionals and paraprofessionals working with children suffering from mental and behavioral health challenges in our communities, homes, schools, hospitals, juvenile detention facilities, and other child and youth care settings. As a dedicated board member, I would like to share some personal professional insights and background on our nation's child and youth care challenges.

In 2018, as the 45th President, you signed the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). This legislation was designed to promote the provision of evidence-based mental health, substance-abuse treatment, and in-home therapy, including parent skill-based programs. In addition, it was designed to reduce funding for and the use of residential care programs and promoted the development of a plan to track and prevent child maltreatment. The FFPSA, by design, directed more and focused resources on interventions designed to treat children in their home and community rather than sending them "away to be fixed" at congregate care institutions. By many, the FFPSA is considered one of the most significant pieces of legislation to impact child welfare in decades.

Yet for many youth and their families, this Act has not always developed the appropriate and needed interventions based on a child's needs, life, and setting. Over the past several years, we have all been witness to youth with un- or under-addressed trauma and mental health challenges violently acting out in homes, the community or schools. For example, almost all children that have perpetrated a school shooting have a history of trauma, family problems, substance abuse issues, and/or mental health needs. Society as a whole, has often missed or minimized the warning signs resulting in unspeakable tragedies that leave communities, schools, families, educators, and children scarred forever.

I support FFPSA and believe that greater focus needs to be placed on community and school resources to identify and work with youth that are experiencing trauma and may act out violently. Though cognitive based talk-based therapies are often helpful, I believe more services need to be offered within the child's milieu. An hour or two of counseling each week often does not meet the needs of children in crisis and it provides little support for community-based schools or similar settings. Many schools and community centers have resource officers who often come from law enforcement. Police can confront external and internal threats, but often do not have the training or certification to interact and engage children well prior to the crisis.

In addition to traditional resource officers, I advocate for the creation of child-centered professionals trained to deal with trauma and recognize the warning signs of child violence that can work directly within community and educational settings. These individuals could monitor and address student interactions, social media, and family challenges. As you know, it is impossible to make any setting for children 100% safe; however, having specialized professional staff focused on those youth with the greatest need would be a major start in addressing the behavioral health and safety need. Sadly, most perpetrators of school and similar setting violence are often well known, but their needs have not been addressed adequately. I believe that a caring, highly trained, and certified adult can make a significant impact.

I believe that training and certification of paraprofessional and professional staff increases both the child's and communities' safety and well-being. In the late 1990's, the ACYCP along with Kent State University, the University of Pittsburgh, The National Resource Center for Youth Services at the University of Oklahoma, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Nove Southeastern University, and scores of child and youth leaders and professionals from around the country and Canada, created the North American Certification Project (NACP). NACP resulted in the creation of the nation's first certification process and testing for child and youth care workers. The Child and Youth Care Certification Board (CYCCB) was born out of this project's years of work. CYCCB, since its inception in the early 2000's, has trained and certified thousands of child and youth care professionals.

In late December 2024, the Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act, championed by Paris Hilton, was signed into law. This law instructs the Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, to investigate institutional child abuse and recommend ways to reduce its occurrence. I applaud these efforts and look forward to their findings. All too often children are abused in settings by individuals that lack the training, supervision, and, quite frankly, the moral compass to do this work. We have champion the certification of workers in these facilities for decades. Recently, we have worked with the U.S. Department of Labor to have child and youth care recognized as a profession. To date, only a small handful of states have any programs or facilities calling for the specialized training of all institutional child care workers and even fewer require any type of certification.

As you did in your first administration, I believe that you have another opportunity to dramatically improve the care and treatment of America's most vulnerable and in-need children. Requiring apprenticeships, specialized training, and certification for all professional and paraprofessional staff working with children with behavioral and mental health needs regardless of setting would again be landmark interventions within the field.

Again, congratulations on your inauguration. Mr. President, thank you for your past advocacy and efforts for children with behavioral and mental health needs. I look forward to the advocacy, work, and changes that will occur for the betterment of children over the next four years. ♦

Illustration: Chip Bonsutto

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**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON YOUTH AND CHILD CARE  
WORK**



[Editor's Note: The following reprinted with thanks to the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance and was first posted November 13, 2024. ]

## **2024 STATE OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE WORKFORCE REPORT: THE SOCIAL SERVICE WORKFORCE AND FAMILY CARE FOR CHILDREN**

This year's State of the Social Service Workforce report highlights the critical role that the workforce plays in ensuring children can always benefit from safe and stable family care. Geared towards a broad audience of donors, NGOs, UN agencies, civil society organizations, social service workers and service providers, the report underscores the importance of a well-planned, developed and supported social service workforce in moving away from residential care models as well as the implications of care system reform on the social service workforce.

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[\*\*Ending Childhood Violence\*\*](#)

[\*\*Every Second, Another Child Becomes A Refugee\*\*](#)

[\*\*The World Must Step Up For Girls, UN Chief Says\*\*](#)

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Editor's Note: Looking to get more involved with international CYC work? Want to bring your international experience to the ACYCP Board?

**ACYCP-FICE is working on some exciting major international initiatives. For more information contact:**

**Janet Wakefield, CYC-P, CEO**  
**Janet Wakefield**  
**6744 Falcon Ridge**  
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## **FROM CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY**



**"IF YOU THINK EDUCATION IS EXPENSIVE, TRY IGNORANCE."**

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the authors and the Chronicle for Evidence-Based Mentoring and was posted December 9, 2024.]

### **FAFSA AND DEPORTATION THREATS**

Hi, this is Ariel Gilreath. With just five weeks until President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, groups that offer advice to prospective college students are rethinking whether filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is safe for students with family members who do not have legal citizenship. If you have any questions or story ideas, please hit reply to share them with us.

A big part of Elizabeth House's job is encouraging students to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

The FAFSA is the key to support for financial aid such as Pell Grants and federally backed loans, but parents must provide their Social Security numbers or fill out nine zeros if they do not have one.

For students who have family members without the proper immigration documents, filling out the form has long been seen as a risky way to draw attention to their family's status. House, however, urges students to take that step and fill out the FAFSA anyway.

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#### **[Inside the Movement to Redirect Billions of Taxpayer Dollars to Private Religious Schools](#)**

#### **[Schools Brace For Clash With Immigration Officials Ahead Of Trump Term \(Includes Video\)](#)**

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## **[GO HERE](#)**

### **[Tuition Tracker link thanks to: The Hechinger Report](#)**

Enjoy!

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# CYC AND NONPROFIT ADVOCACY



[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and The Associated Press and the Free Speech Center at the Middle Tennessee State University website and was accessed December 11, 2024.]

## **NEW JERSEY BECOMES LATEST STATE TO PROHIBIT BANS ON BOOKS IN SCHOOL, PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

By Mike Catalini

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy signed a law Dec. 9 to prohibit public and school libraries from banning books in the state and to enshrine protections against civil and criminal charges for librarians who comply with the law.

New Jersey becomes the latest Democrat-led state to enact a ban on book bans, joining Illinois and Minnesota. Murphy signed the bill at Princeton's public library, a short walk from Princeton University's ivy-draped campus, and cast the legislation in the context of Republican-leaning states that have prohibited certain books in recent years.

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### **BONUS FEATURE**

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[It's Hard to Imagine, but ...\[Post Election Opportunity\]](#)

[Advancing Health Equity at Every Point of Contact](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

***Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the United States***

The United States is the only country in the world that has yet to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Several of the provisions of the CRC came at the recommendation of President Reagan's Administration and President Bill Clinton signed the CRC in 1995. However, the Convention has not been ratified by the U.S. Senate. The failure to ratify this treaty has left U.S. children vulnerable to human rights abuses at the state and federal level. It is critical that every nation, including the U.S., sign and ratify the CRC to protect the human rights of children.

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## FROM THE HILL



### **CYC REGULATIONS, LEGISLATION & COURT RULINGS**

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted in part with thanks to the author and MedPage Today and was posted October 28, 2024 .]

### **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PUTS THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT BACK IN THE BULL'S-EYE**

By Stephanie Armour, KFF Health News

Healthcare is suddenly front and center in the final sprint to the presidential election, and the outcome will shape the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the coverage it gives to more than 40 million people opens in a new tab or window.

Besides reproductive rights, healthcare for most of the campaign has been an in-the-shadows issue. However, recent comments from former President Donald Trump and his running mate, Sen. JD Vance (R-Ohio), about possible changes to the ACA have opened Republicans up to heavier scrutiny.

More than 1,500 doctors across the country recently released a letteropens in a new tab or window calling on Trump to reveal details about how he would alter the ACA, saying the information is needed so voters can make an informed decision. The letter came from the Committee to Protect Health Care, a national advocacy group of physicians.

"It's remarkable that a decade and a half after the ACA passed, we are still debating these fundamental issues," said Larry Levitt, executive vice president for health policy at KFF, a health information nonprofit that includes KFF Health News. "Democrats want to protect people with preexisting conditions, which requires money and regulation. Republicans have looked to scale back federal regulation, and the byproduct is fewer protections."

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[Biden Signs 50 Bills, Including 1 Backed By Paris Hilton \[Residential Reform\]](#)

[HHS Launches Campaign Against Vaccine Misinformation](#)

[The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study changed its name to The Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study \(FFCWS\).](#)

['Dreamers' Will Be Shut Out of the Healthcare Marketplace in 19 States](#)

[Nine States Poised to End Coverage for Millions if Trump Cuts Medicaid Funding](#)

[Biden Grants Clemency To 'Kids-For-Cash' Judge](#)

[Bill To Protect Minors At Residential Treatment Facilities Heads To President's Desk](#)

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Enjoy! ◇

Illustration: Ross Johnston

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# HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY ADULTS



## EXPLORING CYC DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES WITH LIFELONG IMPACTS

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to Chronicle for Evidence-Based Mentoring and was posted December 8, 2024.]

## THE URGENT MESSAGE COMING FROM BOYS AND YOUNG MEN

By Jean Rhodes, Ph.D.

On Thursday [12/12/24] at noon, the Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring and MentorPRO will be hosting a webinar with Niobe Way, Professor of Applied Psychology at New York University. She is also the former President of the Society for Research on Adolescence and the author of the new book *Rebels With a Cause: Reimagining Boys, Ourselves, and Our Culture*. This event will be helpful for mentoring program staff and others who are dedicated to fostering authentic connections with boys and young men.

This talk comes on the heels of an excellent new article in the Wall Street Journal by Rachel Wolfe, which has drawn new attention to the struggles of boys and young men in the U.S. As Wolfe notes, in homes across America, a troubling trend is emerging. While data for young women are gradually improving, many of their male counterparts are struggling to find their footing. This disparity is reshaping the landscape of American youth and raising concerns about the future of an entire generation. It also has implications for mentoring programs. Social isolation has also become a significant concern. Young men aged 18-30 spent nearly 20% more time alone in 2023 compared to 2019, while averaging just 6.6 non-sleeping hours daily. This isolation has profound implications for mental health and social development. ♦

RELATED:[Editor's Note: "See By The Way" column below.]

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#### **BONUS FEATURES**

[Suicide Rates Among Black Youth Are Skyrocketing](#)

[FDA Advisors Say More Data Needed for RSV Vaccines in Young Kids](#)

[How to Explain DEI to Kids](#)

[19 Therapeutic Activities for Sensory Seeking Kids](#)

[The Power of Service for Kids with ADHD](#)

[California Child May Have Bird Flu After Drinking Raw Milk](#)

[Dylan Mulvaney has a new, virtual LGBTQ+ book club: 'For the girls, gays, and theys like me'](#)

["You Are Beautiful": Advice from LGBTQ+ Youth  
Shocking Stereotypes: What Men Are Told Not to Do – Because 'That's Gay'!](#)

Enjoy! ◇

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## OH CANADA!



[Editor's Note: After a couple of years search, we are delighted to have found a Canadian columnist to cover CYC activities in our neighbor nation. Welcome Julia Hollings and enjoy!]

By Julia Hollings, CYC-P

### **NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS**

Wishing a Happy New Year to all of our Canadian and American Child and Youth Care Practitioners! With a 2025 just starting, you may be a believer in new year resolutions or perhaps enjoy setting new goals or intentions for the year. One of your intentions might be seeking out new learning opportunities to enhance your skills and knowledge as a CYC. Additionally, this is an important activity for keeping your membership and/or certification active as a CYC practicing in the social service field.

You may be familiar with where to look for educational opportunities or you may not, particularly if you are new to the field of child and youth care work. The 24th National Canadian Conference will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland in 2026, so here are a few suggestions of places where you can seek out webinars and conferences in the meantime.

If you are a new supervisor or just wanting to learn how you can get more out of supervision in your workplace, then check out the Developmental Supervision webinar being offered by Heather Modlin in Nova Scotia. [Events from January 17, 2025 – January 17, 2025 – NSCYCWA](#)

Nova Scotia Child and Youth Care Workers Association is also holding their provincial conference from June 18-20, 2025 and have named it Rejuvenate: Renew Our Relationships. No further information has been posted yet on their website so stay tuned. [NSCYCWA](#)

CYC Source offers an excellent selection of live and pre-recorded webinars for a low price. A few examples of webinars offered on their website include Effective CYC Practice, Resilient Parenting, Ethical Standards and Creating a Safe Environment for Youth. The pre-recorded webinars are a great opportunity to fit in learning at a time that works for your schedule. [Home- CYC Source](#)

CYC Assets is a Canadian based organization that also has a webinar library with some great topics. [Webinar Library - CYC Assets](#)

There are a number of organizations in Ontario that are offering webinars and access to the various websites can be found on Children's Mental Health Ontario. This is an excellent web page that directs you to a link for each organization, including Safeguards, George Hull Centre Institute of Childhood Trauma and Attachment, UMind, Leading Edge Seminars and more. Some of the webinars are free to register for and others have a fee. [Professional Resources - Children's Mental Health Ontario](#)

Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto, Ontario is world renowned for the excellent health care they provide to children and youth around the world. The Garry Hurvitz Centre for Community Mental Health, a part of Sick Kids offers excellent educational courses and webinars from leaders in the health field. If you are interested in learning about different treatment modalities or mental health concerns that children and youth may experience, then this is a great website to explore. They offer topics such as self harm, eating disorders, substance use and mental health and dialectical behavior therapy. [All Courses - The Garry Hurvitz Centre for Community Mental Health at SickKids](#)

One final resource to share is YouthRex, which is an Ontario based organization that acts as a knowledge hub for research evidence and evaluation practices relevant to those working with youth. They offer free online certification courses in topics such as Centering Black Youth Wellbeing, Critical Youth Work and Cannabis and Youth. They also offer a virtual café where you can exchange information and ask questions to others working in the field. This is an excellent resource that I have used myself and would highly recommend their certificate courses. [Home - Youth Research and Evaluation eXchange](#)

Although this is not an exhaustive list of all the great resources for learning that are available out there, these are great places to start. Happy learning! ♦

**[Editor's Note: Learn More About CYC In Canada](#)**

## **BONUS FEATURE**

**[What Happened to the Canadian Teen Who Became Critically Ill With H5N1 Bird Flu?](#)**

**[Canada: First Nations Group Presses Ottawa To Come Back To The Table For Child Welfare Talks](#)**

**[Changes Now In Effect To Allow More Kids In Manitoba To Be Kept In Care Of Families](#)**

**[Shaking the Movers Workshop Series](#)**

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**FROM THE SOAPBOX... AGAIN!**



**Karen Vander Ven, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Department of Psychology in Education, University of Pittsburgh; CYC Advocate Staff Writer at [kvander@pitt.edu](mailto:kvander@pitt.edu) Enjoy!**

[Editor's Note: This issue's column is a re-run of one which appeared in the Fall 2022 issue of the CYC Advocate, Vol.7/Issue 4. Enjoy! Karen's regular column will return in the Spring issue.]

### **TELLING OUR STORY: MARKETING 101 AND MARKETING REDUX**

Of all of the 'Soapboxes' I have spoken from over the years, I think the topic that has yielded the most eyes rolled heavenward, not-so subtle sighs (oh, no, not that again), and folded arms of non-verbal resistance, is that of Marketing.

So --- here it is again with only a few minor changes. Why?

Marketing to me is one of the most powerful and effective concepts I have ever learned about – as well as one of the most misunderstood. There was an 'assignment' on CYC-NET to consider why the media only seem to have 'bad things' to say about what happens in child and youth care. Questions offered for consideration included: Is that because we are silent ... we don't tell the world about 'the good things' that happen in our programs, we feel we shouldn't say anything, or we don't know how to?

I have decided to 'do' this assignment as my column for this month, considering the issue and how marketing can address it. First, let's review with a brief reply to the usual questions.

We don't tell the world about the good things that happen, I think, because we don't know how to, and because we feel implicitly that this is not part of our job. We also don't do it because unconsciously we resist anything that may smack of 'advertising' or, as the saying goes, "tooting our own horn". Too bad.

I once made up a name for this resistance: "unproductive humility". We think we need to be modest, and this does us nor our field any good whatsoever. I have described elsewhere that being comfortable with marketing is "another form of caring."

Now, as to Marketing 101: Marketing is not equivalent to advertising (not that I feel there is necessarily anything wrong with advertising either). Rather, it is akin to planning and pertains to how one designs one's product or service, what information one needs to do same, who the service is for, how it will be delivered, and how it will change as the context and conditions in which it operates also change. There are powerful marketing ideas, such as 'positioning' and 'distinctive competence'. There is a wonderful concept known as the 'marketing mix'. There are four concepts in the 'mix': Place, Product, Price, and Promotion. The latter notion, 'Promotion' relates to how we describe our 'product' to our 'publics' – those who consume it or have a stake in it.

But don't take my word for it in this brief exposition. Check it out yourself. There's a fine literature on 'non-profit' marketing. Start out with the pioneer expert, Philip Kotler. Learn about another interesting notion, 'social entrepreneurship'. If I had my 'druthers', everybody in child and youth work preparation programs

would have a course in marketing, or if not that, one in relevant business concepts that included major coverage of marketing, the concept and its methods.

Let's make sure first that our services or 'products' (this isn't necessarily a bad word either), are good – and use the best methods there are for telling our story – widely! Knowledge about marketing can help show us the way.

And one more thing: there is a body of literature on child care marketing. “Google” child care marketing and see what you get! ♦

[Editor's Note: As I've often said, “Out of sight, is out of mind. Out of mind, is out of business.”]

Illustration: geralt on Pixabay.com

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## BY THE WAY



[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks a press release from Dr. Leonard Sax , M.D., Ph.D., and was posted January 19, 2025.]

### **NEW EDITION OF BOYS ADRIFT**

Way back in 2007, I wrote a book called Boys Adrift. In my own practice as a family doctor, I was seeing many families where the girls were thriving, but the boys were goofballs, playing video games and flunking out. And I soon discovered it wasn't just my practice. It was a nationwide, even global phenomenon. What was going on? I identified five different factors that I believed, and still believe, to be driving this phenomenon.

The book did well. The publisher brought out a second edition in 2016. Many other authors have since written on the same topic.

But a lot has changed since 2007. Andrew Tate, AI-customized-girlfriends-to-order, normophobia, and many other weirdnesses have led the publisher to ask me to write a third edition of Boys Adrift, due October 1.

That's where you come in. I am looking for true stories of "boys adrift" with a happy ending, boys who were drifting, not fulfilling their potential, who managed to turn it around and get their act together. Maybe somebody or some program helped them. If you have a great story to share of a "boy adrift" who became a good young man, and the young man is willing to talk with me, please send an email to me at [leonardsax@gmail.com](mailto:leonardsax@gmail.com).

In researching the new edition, I have been visiting the website of the American Institute for Boys and Men (AIBM), a nonprofit organization founded by Richard Reeves in 2023. Reeves has attracted big bucks from major philanthropists, such as a \$20 million gift from Melinda French Gates. His team is churning out lots of



useful research papers, all available online at no charge. In their latest report, published January 14, they document that girls now earn better grades than boys do, in every subject: in math, in science, in English, and even in career and technical education. Among students in the top ten percentiles of grade point average, the kids in the 90th to 99th percentiles by GPA, girls now outnumber boys two-to-one. ♦

[Read the AIBM report on girls, boys, grades and SAT scores](#)

Contact Dr. Leonard Sax, M.D., Ph.D. at:  
Leonard Sax MD PhD | 610 296 2821 | leonardsax@gmail.com | leonardsax.com

## **BONUS FEATURES**

[Seeking Young Adults With Lived Experience \[Is This You?\]](#)

[Child Sex Abuse Crisis Inside A Secretive Christian Sect](#)

[Christian Bale Breaks Ground on 16-Year Passion Project: 12 New Homes for Foster Children](#)

[By Investing In Early Childhood Literacy, Mississippi Went From Ranking 49th To 29th In Reading Achievement](#)

[People Who Used To Be Homophobic, What Changed You?](#)

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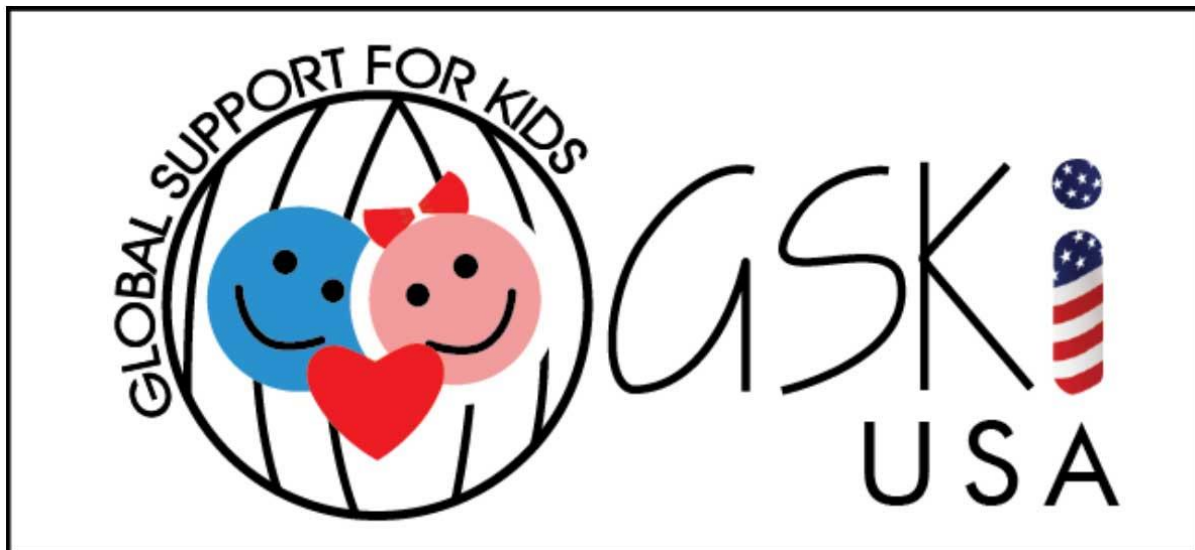
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Following our premiere episode with Daniel Radcliffe, the second episode of our roundtable series "Sharing Space" features transgender, intersex, queer, and nonbinary young people who join Nova Bright-Williams,

Head of Internal Training, Learning, and Development at Trevor, to talk about their experiences with gender euphoria, stigma, and acceptance.

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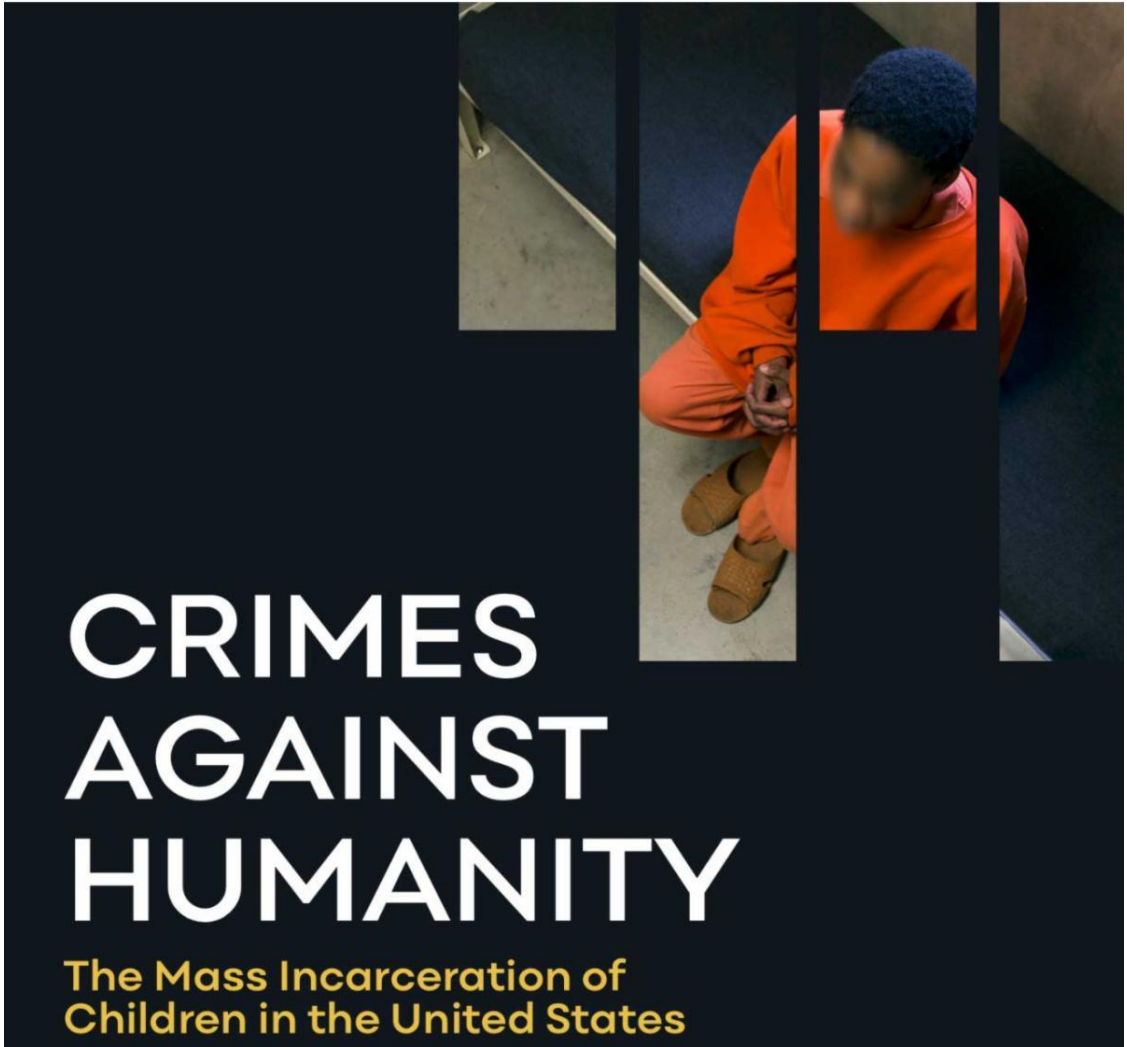
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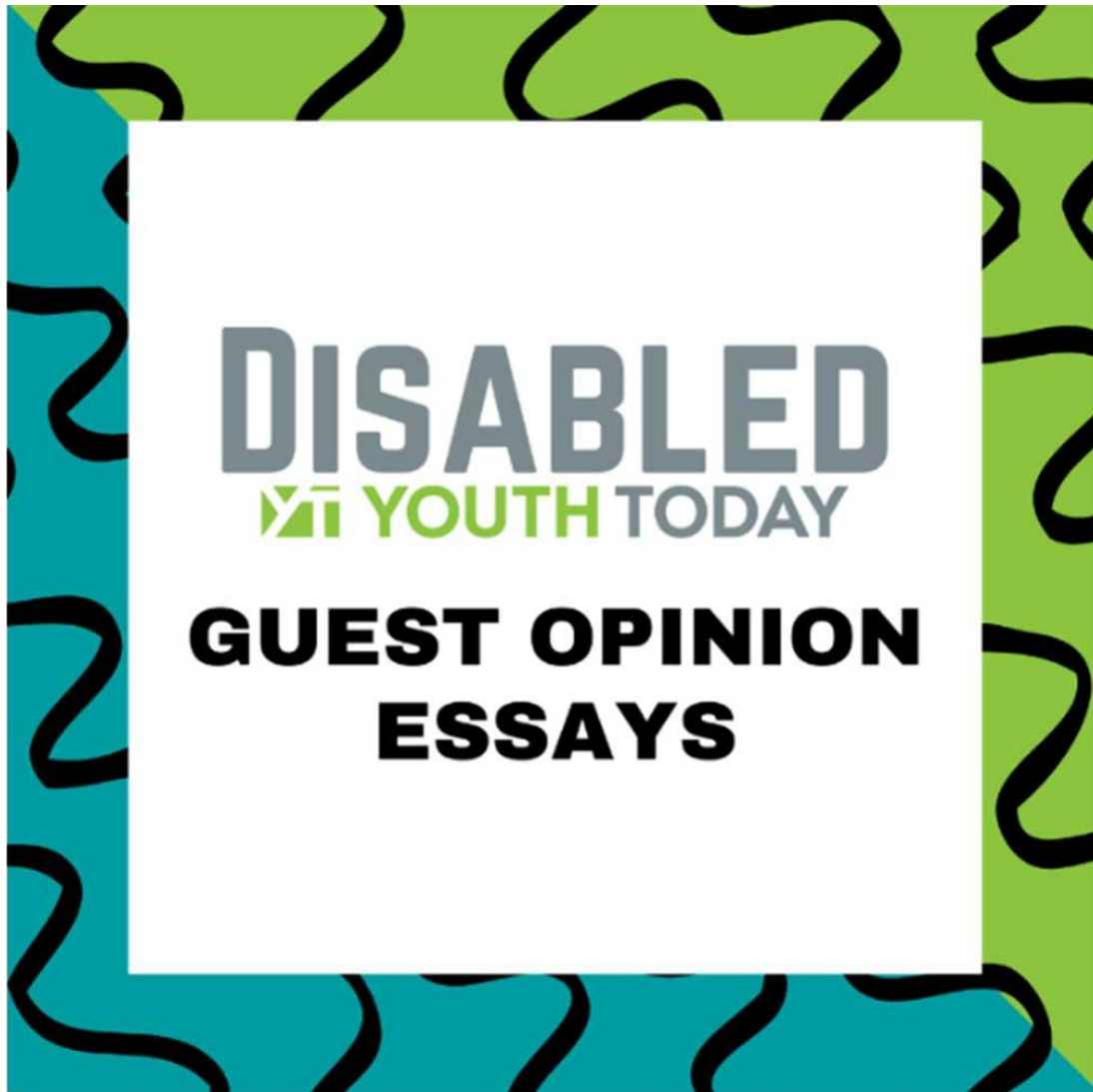
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