

Massachusetts Citizens for Children

Campaign for Children Newsletter

January 26, 2004

Democratic Presidential Candidates on Children's Issues

The 2004 Presidential Primary races are close this year. Do you know where the candidates stand on children's issues?

The [Every Child Matters Fund](#), a non-partisan organization that works to bring children's issues to the top of the political agenda, hosted a series of candidate forums with eight of the Democratic presidential candidates from October 20th to November 3rd. The one-hour long sessions included a set of six questions on topics such as child abuse, education, and child poverty.

Massachusetts Citizens for Children (MCC) has compiled highlights from the forum's transcripts of each candidate's response to provide you critical information on each candidate's proposed policies on children's issues. Visit MCC's new page on "Children's Issues in the 2004 Presidential Election" at <http://www.masskids.org/president04>

Voter Registration Deadline is February 11th

Massachusetts holds its Presidential Primary on Tuesday: March 2nd 2004. To be eligible to vote in the primary, you must register on or before February 11th. To register visit: <http://www.state.ma.us/sec/ele/eifeiv/howreg.htm>

The Department of Social Services Looking for New Recruits

Job posting notice from DSS:

"The Department of Social Services is currently seeking dedicated, experienced child welfare professionals who are committed to fundamentally revising the nature of the agency's child welfare practice. Current openings include positions at all levels, including managers in central, regional and area offices. A commitment to diversity and cultural competence is central to the agency's organizational change."

Candidates interested in a position with DSS should send a cover letter and resume to:

EOHHS
Children, Youth & Families, Office of Human Resources,
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111

Resume and cover letter may also be sent via fax to 617-348-5980. A list of current openings can be found on the Commonwealth Employment opportunities (CEO) website at <http://ceo.hrd.state.ma.us>

SAVE THE DATE: 2nd Annual Statewide Conference on Child Sexual Abuse

Keep your calendars clear! The 2nd Annual Statewide Conference on Child Sexual Abuse will be held on October 21st, 2004 in Marlborough, Massachusetts. The conference is a must for local leaders and concerned citizens who want to learn how they can prevent child sexual abuse in their communities.

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: New Language for Parents

An interview with child sexual abuse expert Jan Hindman, conducted by Howard King MD, gives parents guidelines on how to comfortably speak to their children about sexuality. As Jan Hindman points out, "Sex offenders could not do what they do if parents talked to their children about sexuality. Communication is key." To read the article visit:

http://www.drkingsoffice.com/PA_new_language.html

MCSAPP Selects Adult-Focused Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training Programs

The Massachusetts Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Partnership (MCSAPP) is excited to announce that two training curricula have been chosen as the primary prevention tools for use in the three pilot sites of Newton, Gloucester and North Quabbin. To train professionals, MCSAPP has selected the highly regarded "Understanding and Responding to the Sexual Behaviors of Children and Adolescents" developed by Gail Ryan, MS of the Kempe Children's Center in Denver. The Partnership also chose the comprehensive community education program, "Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse: for parents, professionals and people who care about kids" developed by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont.

Professionals from the three communities will participate in "Train the Trainer" sessions in March and April. Community trainings for parents, adults and targeted professional groups will subsequently be held.

In April, MCSAPP will unveil a bold, new public awareness campaign in the local pilot sites to encourage citizens to participate in these community prevention trainings.