

Best of the NETWORKER

Feature Articles from Past Issues

The Northwest Youth Networker; newsletter of the [Northwest Network for Youth](#), edited by [Jerry Fest](#) of the [InterNetwork for Youth](#)

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COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICES BECOMES ACCREDITED

Community Youth Services has received notification that it has been accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA), according to an announcement made to **Charles Shelan, Executive Director** of the organization, which is located at 711 State Avenue, NE, 3rd Fl. Olympia, WA 98506, USA.



COA accreditation attests that an organization meets the highest national standards of best practice and is delivering the best quality services to the community it serves. **Community Youth Services** is proud to join COA's Community of Excellence, which is comprised of more than 1,800 private and public organizations that serve over 7 million children, youth, individuals and families in North America.

The above is from a Community Youth Services press release. For more information, contact Charles Shelan, Executive Director; Phone: (360)-943-0780; wtanner@communityyouthservices.org or [visit their website here](#). See the Bits 'n Pieces feature below for more information on the Council on Accreditation.

Bits 'n Pieces

About COA: The Council on Accreditation -- [Click here to visit the homepage of COA](#)

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations. COA's mission is to partner with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying and promoting accreditation standards. COA envisions excellence in the delivery of human services globally, resulting in the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administrative operations and service delivery against national standards of best practice. All of the programs contained within an organization for which COA has a service standard are subject to review as COA reviews and accredits the entire organization, not specific programs.

COA is endorsed by leading consumer and professional groups and by many regulatory bodies and managed care organizations. COA is sponsored by the Alliance for Children and Families, Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies, Catholic Charities USA, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Home Society of America, Foster Family-based Treatment Association, Joint Council on International Children's Services, Lutheran Services in America, National Council For Adoption, National Foundation for Credit Counseling, National Network for Youth, National Organization of State Associations for Children, Prevent Child Abuse America and Volunteers of America.

COA's supporting endorsers include the following organizations: American Association of Children's Residential Centers, American Network of Community Options and Resources, Child Welfare League of Canada, EAGLE Program of the United Methodist Association, Mental Health Corporations of America, Inc., National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, National Association of Family-Based Services, National Association of Psychiatric Treatment Centers for Children, National Association of Social Workers, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Inc., National Association of Therapeutic Wilderness Camps and National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare.

Liz Murray: Homeless to Harvard

submitted by Gary Hammons

If you get the chance to hear Liz Murray in person, don't pass it up.

The real person portrayed in the Lifetime Movie "Homeless to Harvard", she was the luncheon speaker at the Washington State Coalition for the Homeless in Yakima, WA on May 8th. Virtually



everyone in the audience was in tears as she related the stark reality of her childhood, the despair, and humorous moments that led to her being featured on Oprah, the subject of the movie and many talk shows and presentations.

After receiving a prestigious New York Times Scholarship, it came out that she was on the streets at 15 when her mother died, and she completed high school in two years while sleeping on the subways. Liz went on to share intimate aspects of her life with highly addicted parents on welfare, her time in the streets of New York, and the values and beliefs she developed and sustained. Her talk, with alternating tears and laughter, left us all uplifted and emotionally drained in a very positive way.



The Northwest Network welcomes Galen Phipps!

Those of you familiar with the Northwest Network may wonder why we are welcoming such a familiar face. Galen has been involved in the Network since it began, and has been advocating for runaway and homeless youth services on the national level for just as long. He has been with [Looking Glass Youth and Family services](#), a private non-profit organization serving youth and families in Lane County, Oregon, since 1981, and is currently chair of the [Oregon Homeless and Runaway Youth Coalition](#) (OHRYP), statewide advocacy group. So why the welcome? Because as part of the Northwest Network's new focus on state-level organizing, Galen has been selected to be the NWNY Coordinator for Oregon. Galen is the first of the State Coordinators to be named, with selection of the Alaska, Idaho, and Washington Coordinators to be completed by August.

So, welcome, Galen. Oregon and the Northwest Network will be well served by your experience and dedication.

The Northwest Network for Youth continues to expand its mission to address the entire range of youth services in addition to Runaway and Homeless Youth programs as noted in the current newsletter format. In addition to the "Networker," comprehensive writing guides are distributed to member agencies along with practical research into recurring challenges (differences in juvenile justice from state to state, for example). The writing guide for FYSB's recently announced STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM RFP (due July 18th) is now available. If your agency is not a current member of NWNY and you would like to receive writing guides, FAQs, information about funding opportunities and targeted research for your agency, consider joining for the initial annual dues of \$50. You can receive a membership application by sending an email to [Gary Hammons](#) or [Jerry Fest](#).



American Bar Association and the National Network for Youth Co-sponsor Homeless Youth and the Law Conference in Seattle

Submitted by Jerry Fest



Last week, June 19th and 20th, I had the pleasure of representing the Northwest Network at a conference on Homeless Youth and the Law in Seattle. Co-sponsored by the American Bar Association and the National Network for Youth, the goal of the conference was to draft model state laws around issues related to homeless youth, in order to provide a blueprint for states that may wish to enact laws in the future. Participants from roughly 30 states tackled areas including Legal Issues for Homeless Youth Service Providers, Status Offenses and Juvenile Offenses, Education, Health Care, Housing, Income Support and Legal Assistance, Family Law, Youth Access to Custodial Systems, Discharge from Custodial Systems, Homeless Immigrant Youth and the Law, and Homeless LGBTQ Youth and the Law. The conference was a valuable step in an on-going process to establish model state laws. For more information, contact the [National Network for Youth](#).

As an aside, the reason why I was taking Gary Hammons place at the conference is because Gary is in the middle of the Pacific ocean participating in the Victoria-Maui Sailboat Race. You can track his progress [here](#) – he's on The Seeker.