



Annual report

Annual Report 2009

Our Mission

TeenNow California increases the knowledge, skills, and resources of individuals concerned with preventing teen pregnancy, supporting young families, and promoting adolescent sexual health.

Agency Overview

TeenNow California is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of expectant and parenting teenagers and their young children, and to the prevention of adolescent childbearing. Established in 1971, our membership represents educators, social workers, health care providers, parents, policy makers, and others committed to supporting:

- Delay of early sexual activity or repeat pregnancy among adolescents.
- Teenagers who experience early pregnancy and childbearing.
- Children of young parents.

Objectives:

- To recognize and support best practices.
- To provide consultation and dissemination of information on existing and proposed research-based programs.
- To provide and exchange information on new developments and pending legislation.
- To increase awareness among state and local decision-makers in areas of education, social and medical service needs.

- To provide a support network among agencies, professionals and communities.
- To stimulate social action.

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These Objectives are met through:

- Annual State Conference
- Regional Workshops
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Trainings and Technical Assistance
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Grassroots and Legislative Advocacy
- Service on State Advisory Groups

2009 Year in Review

2009 has been a year of growth and planning for TeenNow California. After changing our name in late 2008, we have begun the process of expanding recognition for the organization, growing our program areas and member services, embarking on leadership and organizational development, and increasing support from both the private sector and government and public agencies.

We have redoubled our efforts to build partnerships with foundations, corporations, individuals and government funding sources to ensure that we can continue to provide programs and services to youth-serving professionals throughout California and beyond. New partnerships have enhanced our services and helped us meet member needs as well as the needs of the field in general. We partnered with the California Adolescent Health Collaborative to provide trainings throughout the state, and formed an agreement with Sociometrics, Inc. to provide discounts to members, sponsor a teen media contest, and compete for Federal grants. In addition, we participated in the conference planning committee for the California Wellness Foundation's Teen Pregnancy Prevention conference.



TeenNow California Board and Staff

TeenNow California leadership was selected to participate in several leadership development opportunities, including the Center for Civic Partnership's Organizational Development Program, the National Women's Law Center's Progressive Leadership and Advocacy Network (PLAN), and Advocates for Youth's State Organizations Leadership Academy and Roundtable through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These opportunities allowed our leadership to expand their capabilities and experience beneficial professional growth to help move the agency forward to meet new and expanding goals.

In addition to building the capacity of the organization and its leaders, TeenNow California has started some new projects in 2009. We now have a lending library for evidence-based sex education curricula. This service helps our members plan and implement programs that have been proven to be effective, and expands on our goal to promote science-based, medically accurate sex education to all California youth. In

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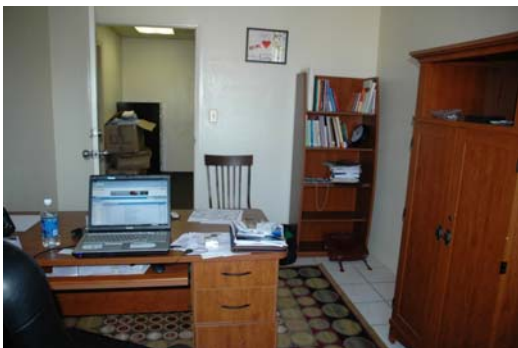
Organizational Capacity-Building

Since TeenNow California was founded in 1971 (as the California Alliance Concerned with School Age Parenting and Pregnancy Prevention), we have largely been run by a volunteer board of directors. In 2008, with a grant through the California Wellness Foundation, we were able to hire an Executive Director to run the organization. From that time on, we have been diligently working to build the infrastructure necessary to expand the organization and better fulfill our mission.

In August 2008 we rented office space in Lemon Grove, CA, which has become our headquarters. We have installed a network server, phone system, office equipment, and all necessary furniture and have been operating smoothly since September 2008. Having an office also allowed us to hire an Operations and Communications Coordinator, who oversees all outside communications and clerical work at the agency.



Moving into our new, four-room office space.



An office in our new space.

We also started an internship program, working with local universities to create learning experiences for college students, graduate students, and young graduates in the field of public health and social work. We had our first intern in the Spring of 2009, and a graduate-level intern is beginning her term with us in January 2010. These developments have made possible the growth we've enjoyed in the last year, and we will continue to add staff and resources as we change and expand.

Training and Technical Assistance

This year we planned two regional trainings that were implemented throughout the state. The first was Minor Consent and Confidentiality, and was offered in San Diego, Hanford, and Sacramento. We partnered with the California Adolescent Health Collaborative and the National Youth Law Center to hire Rebecca Gudeman to educate practitioners on the laws surrounding pregnant and parenting teens, requirements on confidentiality for clinics, schools and community-based programs, and gaining trust among young people and their families.

The second was a training on using evidence-based approaches in sex education, and was offered in Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, and Redwood City. Advocates for Youth’s Tom Klaus and Barbara Huberman conducted the training, which presented information on the importance of using proven methods in the classroom, choosing a curriculum for your program, and managing controversy associated with sex education. Both of these topics are critical issues for the field, and attendees rated the trainings very highly. TeenNow California plans to continue to offer regional trainings in addition to our on-demand trainings.

In addition to our regional trainings, TeenNow California hosted a webinar on how to engage in advocacy for your programs, and provided individual technical support to member programs who requested assistance. For example, we researched and created a list of sex education curricula for young people with special needs after being asked about what resources existed for this population. We also assisted a school district in Northern California in finding a suitable curriculum for in-class sex education, in addition to other technical assistance projects.

Conference 2009



General session in the Mission Bay Ballroom.

Our annual conference was a wonderful event that received incredible ratings from those who attended. We held it at the beautiful Bahia Hotel and Resort on Mission Bay, in San Diego. The conference featured top-rate keynote speakers, informative and relevant workshop sessions, and a networking reception onboard the William D. Evans sternwheeler boat. We’re extremely grateful to all who participated in planning and implementation of the conference, and look forward to another wonderful event in 2010.

Attendee Quotes from the Conference Evaluation:

“Thank you. This was a top-quality conference.”

“TeenNow folks thanks for all your hard work. The grounds, the beach, the rooms, the meals, and the walk-able location were really a treat!”

“It was the best conference in a long time! Location was nice and the food was great.”



Dynamic, youth-presented workshop.

Advocacy

With the economic downturn and the budget issues that have plagued California over the last year-and-a-half, TeenNow California has been busy advocating for the rights and needs of our young people. We took the lead in the state to rally against the elimination of the Male Involvement Program and TeenSmart Outreach, an effort which began in late 2008 and lasted throughout 2009. TeenNow California created resources and materials for use by advocates throughout the state, hosted a weekly, then bi-weekly conference call to discuss strategies for reinstatement of the funds, and sent information packets to legislators to educate them about the programs and their value to the state. In addition, we also worked on advocacy efforts to protect the California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE) program, a teen parent program that keeps teen parents in school and helps them with parenting skills, educational resources, and other supports. In concert with the Cal-SAFE Advisory Group, we created resources and helped lead the effort to inform Californians of the importance of this program.



Our advocacy work helped us increase the visibility of the new name and the organization, and helped us grow our membership.

Youth Scholarships

TeenNow California awarded 6 youth scholarships in 2009, to teen parents who plan to continue their education after high school. The teens must have plans to attend college or vocational school, and be sponsored by a TeenNow California member. We gave out one statewide scholarship of \$500, and five regional scholarships of \$300 each.

We also offer scholarships to teen leaders who volunteer or work for teen pregnancy prevention programs and teen clinics. Scholarships are funded through an annual raffle (held at the conference) and through private donations. To view the winners and read their essay entries, you can visit www.teennowcalifornia.org/newsletter.php.

I'm experiencing a lot of hardships being an expectant teen parent. At this point in my life it's very hard to balance school, family, and my goals for the future but I know that I can overcome these struggles. —Elizabeth Ramos, Statewide Scholarship Winner

Future Goals



CACSAP's first membership "database" from 1971.

TeenNow California has come a long way from our origins. Founded almost 40 years ago by a group of dedicated volunteers, in the past year and a half we have established the infrastructure needed to grow and expand the organization to better serve our members and the general public.

In the coming year, TeenNow California will broaden its support base, both financially and through membership and increased visibility. Our goals include expanding our individual donor program, garnering more support

from foundations and corporations, and securing government contracts to expand services such as:

- Promoting science-based sex education throughout California.
- Creating promotional and educational resources for use in the field.
- The prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.
- Providing information and resources to parents and other community members concerned about adolescent health and teen pregnancy prevention.
- Using social media to reach out to a broader audience and provide vital information to the public.

In addition, we aim to grow our staff and to further expand our

program areas to include more member services, training opportunities, and professional development vehicles that will help increase the capacity of teen parent and pregnancy prevention agencies and their staff, and reduce turnover.

Central to our goals for 2010 is increasing awareness among Californians of the importance of teen pregnancy prevention and support for young families. In the current budget crisis, it has been far too easy for people to back away from their support of these programs, and it is imperative that we remind them of why ensuring that all teens have opportunities to achieve and thrive is so important to the overall health and well-being of our state.

We believe that it is our responsibility now, more than ever, to work hard to provide support and services to the people who work so hard to care for our young people. We will spend the next year continuing to provide services and resources that youth-serving professionals need to do their jobs effectively.



TeenNow California Board President, Stephanie Smith (center), with Executive Director Dana Goodrow and Bill Albert of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unintended Pregnancy.



TeenNow California banner

2009 Year in Review (Continued)



Preventing Teen Pregnancies, Supporting Young Families

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ing need for professional development opportunities in the fields of teen parent programs and teen pregnancy prevention. Organizations or individuals can request a training from our extensive list, and TeenNow will send a trainer out to their location to conduct the program. This new element of our training and technical assistance program will be a vital asset to schools, clinics, community-based organizations and coalitions throughout the state, especially as more and more training opportunities are being eliminated due to budget cuts.

With the help of our new Operations and Communications Coordinator, we have improved our newsletter in several ways. First, we have moved to a monthly e-newsletter, rather than the quarterly print version we used to offer. In addition, we now supplement our newsletter with weekly “e-blasts,” which consist of timely pieces of information on funding, events, advocacy issues, and more that can’t wait until the beginning of the month. We are also adding new features to the newsletter, including interviews, product reviews, and opinion polls to help make the newsletter more valuable to our members. Our efforts in this area have paid off; we now have 428 active members of our list serve, and are getting new enrollees every week.

Despite the challenges facing California and the nation, we have managed to grow the organization and greatly increase our visibility through advocacy efforts, an improved newsletter and e-blast, and new programs and services. We anticipate that the coming year will see an increase in funding, as well as even more new programs and services that we offer to our members and to Californians at large.

TeenNow California Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President: Stephanie Smith, Director of Health Education, Riverside Community Health Foundation

President-Elect: Brian F. Hayes, Youth Program Manager, Operation Samahan

Secretary: Micha Suarez, CCG Program Coordinator, Operation Samahan

Historian: Sue Simonson, CEO, Without Regret

Director of Membership: Lynn Posey, Prevention Specialist, Orange County Department of Education

Regional Coordinators:

Region 2: Adriana Kimbriel, Youth Program Director, California Rural Indian Health Board

Region 3: Holly Kreider, Vice President/Senior Researcher, Sociometrics, Inc.

Region 7: Jodee Palmer, Executive Deputy Director, Inland Agency

Region 8: Jennifer Barber, CEO, The Talk Institute and Cindy Hoffman, Private Therapist

State Liaisons

California Department of Education, Cal-SAFE Program: Mitzi Inouye

California Department of Public Health, Office of Family Planning: Stephanie Roberson

California Department of Public Health, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health: Kathy Sanchez

