



The TACSAP Newsletter

Texas Association Concerned with School Age Parenthood

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- Sunday afternoon through Wednesday at noon.

Teen Pregnancy on the Rise

A [report](#) released today shows that the U.S. teen pregnancy rate rose 3 percent in 2006—rising instead of falling for the first time since 1990. While we have known that the teen *birth* rate rose in 2006 and 2007, this is the first confirmation of a rise in the *pregnancy* rate, which takes into account not only births, but also miscarriages and abortions. [more](#)

Did you see “The Pregnancy Pact”?

“The Pregnancy Pact” premiered on January 23 on Lifetime Television, and it has stirred a lot of thought and conversation! This is a fictional account of a real news story about a spike in the number of teen pregnancies in Gloucester, Massachusetts. It is not clear if a pact ever existed, but the movie does highlight the fact that some girls want to get pregnant at a young age. The research suggests that most teen pregnancies are unplanned and unintended, but recent celebrity “baby bumps” may be helping to glamorize teen pregnancy. What do you think about the movie? [more](#)

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New Board Members

Rhonda Peters, is a 1992 graduate of Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO, with a B.S. in Education. She is certified as a CTE teacher, ACE Personal Trainer, Motherwell Pre/Postnatal, Sports Nutrition, Pilates Allegro and Clinical Exercise Specialist.. Currently, Rhonda is the Life Skills Parents Instructor for Richardson ISD. She teaches Health and Parenting Education to teen parents. She is responsible for case management, counseling, coordinating community programs to assist the teen parents and is the founder/sponsor for TLC: The Ladies Club (an after school program). TLC is an organization that empowers young ladies. The meeting topics include relationships, life choices, future and fitness/health. Rhonda said, “This is our 4th year and we have maintained a membership of 40+ students. The young women who have remained members have shown an increase in grades, become more involved in their community, and have shown a more positive outlook on their choices both academically and personally (positive self-esteem)”.

Janet Corral, is a graduate of New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, with a B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences. Currently, Janet teaches parenting, child development, and apparel classes to middle and high school teen that are pregnant. She works at the School Age Parent Center in el Paso, Texas. The school is an alternative school for pregnant teens. Janet is the founder of an after school program, “Time to Talk”. The girls bring their significant others to the meetings where Janet conducts activities on relationship, parenting, and self-esteem skills. Janet brings various work experience to her position in El Paso and the TACSAP board. She worked as a reservation agent for Frontier Airlines, client service agent for Children Protective Services, a summer youth supervisor for the City of Las Cruces, and a licensed child care provider. Janet said, “I was a teen mom and became pregnant at the age of 18. I am now a very proud mother of two, ages 10 and 7. I can guide my students to believe anything is possible since I have walked in their shoes and been able to achieve my education and a respectable occupation.

Emily Lewis Will Be Missed

Emily submitted a letter of resignation to the TACSAP Board of Directors during the January board meeting. November, 2010 is the end date of Emily’s current three year term. She is unable to continue with TACSAP board responsibility due to her promotion into a new position in Health Services, Dallas ISD. Her new position, Nursing Supervisor, is demanding of time, energy and increased days of employment. Emily is supervising 37 schools in the South East Learning Community of Dallas ISD. She also is the liaison for various health initiatives.

Gilbert Chavez is Nationally Recognized

The federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) recognized Gilbert Chavez at the 19th National Child Support Enforcement Training Conference in Washington, D.C. for his efforts to improve the well-being of children. Gilbert received the OCSE Commissioner’s Award for High Performance for his work to promote healthy families, encourage responsible parenthood, and decrease the need for adversarial child support enforcement. He oversaw the implementation of two major projects, No Kidding: Straight Talk From Teen Parents and Strong Start, Stable Families.

The No Kidding project trains and equips young parents to deliver a four-part paternity and parental responsibility curriculum to students in middle and high schools in Austin, Houston and El Paso. Strong Start, Stable Families is a project designed to test a new approach to prenatal services that specifically includes the expectant father and engages both parents in a range of medical and social services that promote positive birth outcomes, healthy couple relationships, paternity establishment, responsible fatherhood, and economic stability.

Chavez also led the implementation of the Parenting and Paternity Awareness (p.a.p.a.) curriculum that is legislatively mandated to be taught in all high school health classes across the state of Texas. During the 2008-2009 school year, approximately 300,000 Texas high school students received p.a.p.a. education.

“During his time with the Child Support Division, Gilbert has had a huge impact on teens and young adults both in the state of Texas and across the nation,” said Child Support Director Alicia Key.