

Promoting What Works
A Symposium of Promising Approaches for Supporting
Pregnant and Parenting Adolescents

Top of the Hill Banquet and Conference Center
Washington, D.C.
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Next Steps and Closing Thoughts

Alicia Richmond Scott: Good afternoon. Good afternoon.

This is a last session. People on-line, good afternoon. (laughter) I just want to say how I was so excited to be able to for us to have this conversation. I felt that it was long overdue and I felt that as an office we needed to have this conversation and we should have really had it a long time ago, but I don't care about that. We are having it today. And today is the beginning of the conversation. I anticipate that it will continue on. Let me rephrase. I expect that it will continue on. The people that are here, as well as the people that are on-line. I hope that there will be some sort of synergy based on what we have discussed today because the reality is health disparities exist for pregnant and parenting adolescents. And they are worse in sub populations and hard to reach groups. I think we have all heard from the various panels and the realities of what teens-- the pregnant and parenting teens have to go through. So with that in mind there's a need for a very comprehensive models to effectively meet their needs and the fact that replication and the science of implementation is needed for teen mothers and teen fathers who are improved outcomes for the entire young family overall. I guess in thinking about those things one of the sessions focused on getting informed and staying involved in policy issues. I think Lara did a very good job along with Pat Paluzzi on the policy issues are also the additional need at legislation to fill in the gaps for this population. So, what I do and I know that my staff knows this. I like to think long term. I like to think outside the box and I wanted to think about well 20 years from now where can we be? Twenty years from now how do we move forward? What might it look like and so I just throw this out there for you to think about, so in terms of like in 20 years from now I would anticipate that there are stronger collaborations and coordinated efforts to strengthen young families on every level on the national level federal, state and local. I also anticipate that there will be integrated, integrated service model on the community level that looks different from what we have now. I anticipate that there may be community empowerment and community mobilization around this issue so that they are then holding others accountable for the services that are needed for pregnant and parenting adolescents whether it's connecting with the Department of Labor or HUD or the Department of Justice. I think that there will be a need to have everyone at the table to be able to catch those pregnant and parenting adolescents that age out to be able to age out of foster care to be able to catch those adolescents that drop out of school, so I think that you know over time there will be opportunities for that, and for opportunities for communities to be able to discuss national databases for being able to collect the data

that's needed as it relates to pregnant and parenting teens based on the conversations we had today about what's missing. I am going to go back to this and say, you hear a lot, you heard a lot today about evidence based models and the testing of models. And I really do hope that you are able to embrace what that means but it needs to fit where you are as a program. It needs to fit where you are as a researcher and it needs to fit where you are in terms of your policies if you are a policy maker or advocate. I think that it just needs to make sense. I think there's also room to the need for innovative strategies because 20 years from now face book isn't going to be the thing that's in. Texting isn't going to be the in thing. It's going to be something else. There will always be a need to take into account the environmental changes that take place within the lives of young teens. So, the last thing that I want to say about this is 20 years forward I anticipate that there will be policies and programs, policies and programs will be aligned at all levels to be able to better serve pregnant and parenting adolescents. So I know I will probably walk away you know from this meeting today and you will be like I don't know how much all of that is going to happen. But if I have a hand in it then we will continue to move forward in this way. And the way to do it is by small successes. So again, once you make sure that we continue the dialogue about this topic I open it up for you to also to be able to respond to the panel or if you have other thoughts in terms of continuing the conversation. If you want to stand up and share your thoughts that's fine. I welcome that. If you are kind of shy and you don't want to please feel free to e-mail us our e-mail address is on the back of the programs. Again, I will be reaching out to you all. Once I get your e-mail that was it. You will be hearing from me. In terms of questions for this panel, and in terms of opportunity to think about or reflect on the day or if you want the share your thoughts you are more than welcome too. On-line you can send in your comments and we will definitely be able to read those for the group too.

Victoria Bella: My name is Victoria Bella I am very excited to be here and this was amazing, thank you so much. In speaking about social media wouldn't it be a great way for us somehow an continuing the conversation that we can all stay in touch by some form or means, Blogging or getting everyone's e-mail address a place where we can all connect and share our thoughts an information so we can continue what's lapping in our small success?

Alicia Richmond Scott: Definitely. I guess I just want to say I am open, I am very available so that as you have suggestions like that I think that I would like for us to be able to take advantage of that. I anticipate that the planning committee if you look at your green folder here. I mean your green program. Right on the front page is a list of the collaborators. A number of them participated actively in this, in participating in this symposium. I am definitely grateful for their participation. The other thing is once you say yes to me once it's hard to say no. So, I anticipate that we will have other coordinated efforts around this topic in terms of how to keep the conversation going in addition to your suggestion, but I honestly want to hear from you so please e-mail me so that I can hear your feedback or receive your feedback. I have also visited with Jeanette about the National Crittenden Foundation. I can't express to you enough how much this

work is important and the fact that there are gaps and the fact that there are people in the room that can respond to those gaps. In the coming weeks probably June or July there's a special issue that we partner with the Journal of Family Social Work. There will be a publication coming out for focused on pregnant and parenting adolescents. I anticipate there will be potentially another special issue. I am definitely behind the dissemination efforts. I just again, want you all to think about those things and don't shy away and be able to jump in and learn. So. I want to thank you I want to say thank you thank you thank you. I want to thank my staff. We have Cassandra Chess, please stand. I have Jacquelyn McCain. I have Christina LaChance - a lean machine we got a lot done. Jo Anne Jenson was unable to attend. She was an instrumental part of our group. I want to recognize and thank all of the planning committee members and I want to thank all of you for being committed to building a body of work supporting healthy young families, so in the end let me, JSI? Thank you thank you thank you for my late 3:00 a.m. texts, e-mails. 1 a.m. e-mails. I thank you. Again, I just want to thank you all for being a part of this and all of you in your own rights I respect the work that you do, so please stay in contact because I will with you. Thank you.

Applause.