



## Teen Advocacy Coalition

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WELCOME MESSAGE by- Tamara Moore, Youth Involvement Coordinator

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is my pleasure as the Youth Involvement Coordinator of the Teen Advocacy Coalition (TAC) Organization to invite your child to join this special organization that is youth driven. TAC is in partnership with Smith Community M.H. and One Community Partnership.

The Teen Advocacy Coalition is an organization dedicated to youth with mental and behavioral health issues. TAC educates youth (ages 13-22), about mental health issues and empowers them to reach their full potential.

TAC provides social skills, independent living skills, leadership skills, conflict resolution skills and teaches self-advocacy. Through TAC, youth are encouraged to take a stand on valued

issues and are challenged to bridge the gap between generations and cultures.

Both goals are accomplished by raising awareness and opening lines of communication. Youth are stepping up to assume their responsibilities and roles in developing partnerships in the system of care in Broward County.

Their goals and hopes are to develop a framework that supports them to live, thrive and succeed in the community. One of the objectives of TAC is to integrate the organization into most of the SED Schools in the Broward County system.

The TAC organization is in the process of initiating a Youth Resource Center for youth with special needs, ages 13-22. Currently we have initiated some of

the Youth Development components, Independent Living Skills, Outreach, Drop In activities, etc.

Some of our accomplishments are as follows:

- Leadership Training
- Created Youth Council
- Community Outreach
- Homeless Project
- Community Service
- Created Youth By-Laws
- Coordinated Youth Resource Center (Drop-in center)
- IEP Training



Youth presented in Dallas, San Francisco, San Antonio, Denver, Oklahoma, Washington DC, Orlando, & Tallahassee

## Current Events

During the month of July, the youth attended the Georgetown Training Institutes 2006 Conference (Developing Local Systems of Care for Children and Adolescents with Emotional Disturbances and their Families: Family-Driven, Youth-Guided Services to Improve Outcomes). The venue for this conference was the Gaylord Palm Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Four of our youth from the community (TAC members) along with one parent attended this event. Some of the youth participated in presenting a powerpoint presentation on "Youth Empowerment." The youth also attended the workshops that were provided by the Youth Leadership Track organizer from Washington, DC. The youth had the options of attending workshop in order to learn:

### Promotional Events:

- ❖ Whispering Pines School's open house on August 31<sup>st</sup>
- ❖ ChildNet Resource Fair on August 8<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Nova's Health Fair in September
- ❖ Behavioral Fair in October/talent show
- ❖ Social event for the Youth Resource Center

\*More details about up coming event will be posted closer to event time

For more information please contact Tamara Moore @ (954) 805-2499/[tmoore@broward.org](mailto:tmoore@broward.org)