

# PREVENTION

Newsletter for the Teen Video Study at Carnegie Mellon University and West Virginia University

## TVS Team Among New Cohort of OAH Grantees

The Teen Video Study team at Carnegie Mellon University and West Virginia University have received a new 5 year grant from the Office of Adolescent Health awarded to Dr. Julie Downs and Dr. Pamela J. Murray (TP2AH000027). We will partner with the Center for Sex Education to develop a new curriculum-based intervention targeted at reducing unplanned pregnancy and STIs in adolescent girls. In contrast to *Seventeen Days* which is implemented with girls individually, the new program will be implemented with groups of girls. We are excited to share updates as this new intervention is developed and evaluated.

## Changes to the *Prevention* Newsletter

Beginning with this issue, *Prevention* will be sent out every month. It will be shorter in length and focus mostly on project-related news and updates, although will continue to include occasional current events and research relevant to adolescent sexual health. We'll provide updates on *Seventeen Days* and the dissemination of our findings as well as the ongoing development and evaluation of the new intervention. We hope you like our new look!

---

*"Sexual health is more than freedom from sexual disease or disorders ... Sexual health is non-exploitive and respectful of self and others ... Sexual health is dependent upon an individual's well-being and sense of self-esteem. Sexual health requires trust, honesty, and communication."*

*-Eli Coleman, Ph.D.  
Director  
Program in  
Human Sexuality,  
University of Minnesota*

---



### *In This Issue:*

- New OAH funding for TVS team
- Changes to *Prevention* newsletter
- Team Member Spotlight
- Coming Soon: Training for *Seventeen Days*

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Bill Taverner**  
**Executive Director of the Center  
for Sex Education**

Bill Taverner, MA, CSE, is the executive director of the Center for Sex Education (<http://www.sexedcenter.org/>) and is the editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Sexuality Education*. He has co-authored

several sex education teaching resources and trained numerous educators, counselors, therapists, and nurses throughout his career. Bill's team will be working with the TVS team to develop the curriculum for the new intervention.



**Melissa Keyes-DiGioia**  
**Co-Founder and Director of  
Education for Finding Your  
Individuality**

Melissa Keyes-DiGioia, CSE, is the Co-Founder and Director of Education for Finding Your Individuality (<http://www.findingyourindividuality.com/>). This

is an organization that seeks to provide education and counseling to individuals of all abilities. Melissa is a certified sexuality educator and trainer and has authored several sex education manuals. She is the Lead Editor in developing the curriculum for the new intervention.

## **Coming Soon: Web-Based Training for *Seventeen Days***

We are excited to announce our partnership with ETR Associates to develop a web-based training program for implementation of *Seventeen Days*. We'll keep you posted as this project develops!



## Facts About Teen Pregnancy in the United States:

- Teen childbearing costs U.S. taxpayers over \$9 billion annually.
- Within 3 years of their child's birth, roughly 25% of teen mothers are receiving welfare.
- Approximately 62% of teen mothers who have a child before age 18 do not obtain a high school diploma.
- Less than 2% of teen mothers earn a college degree by age 30.

*(Source: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy)*

## Contact Us

Is there anything you'd like to see included in the next newsletter? Let us know by emailing Dr. Amie Ashcraft at [amashcraft@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:amashcraft@hsc.wvu.edu).

This newsletter was created with support from the Office of Adolescent Health through cooperative agreements TP1AH00040 and TP2AH000027.

It is intended for project staff and partners and should not be shared with TVS research participants.