

October 1, 2012

| | |
|------------|--|
| DIRECTIVE: | JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 12-16 |
|------------|--|

TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: EDNA PRIMROSE
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: National Bullying Prevention Month, October 2012

1. Purpose. To remind the Job Corps community that October is National Bullying Prevention (NBP) Month. This Information Notice provides center staff and students with ideas and resources to support NBP Month.
2. Background. Last year, President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Services welcomed students, parents, and teachers, in addition to non-profit leaders, advocates, and policymakers, to the White House for the Conference on Bullying Prevention.

Bullying is a form of youth violence that can result in physical injury, social and emotional distress, and even death. Victimized youth are at increased risk for mental-health problems such as depression and anxiety, psychosomatic complaints such as headaches, and poor adjustment to an educational environment. Youth who bully others are at increased risk for substance use, academic problems, and violence later in adolescence and adulthood. The ultimate goal is to stop bullying before it starts.¹

Bullying is widespread in the United States. In the 2011 nationwide Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance survey, 20 percent of high school students reported being bullied on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey. An estimated 16 percent of high school students reported in 2011 that they were bullied electronically in the 12 months before the survey.²

Society is becoming more aware of bullying in all aspects of our world – everywhere

¹ Centers for Disease Control, (2012). "Understanding Bullying-Fact Sheet." Retrieved online September 21, 2012 from http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pub/understanding_bullying.html.

² CDC. Youth risk behavior surveillance – United States, 2011. (2012). MMWR, Surveillance Summaries 2012;61(no. SS-4). Retrieved online September 21, 2012 from www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf.

from school to online. We are recognizing that bullying can be found in many different situations such as the workplace.

Statistics from a 2010 survey conducted by the Workplace Bullying Institute show that 35 percent of U.S. employees report being bullied, and an additional 15 percent witness it. Nearly half of all American workers (49 percent) report that they have been affected by workplace bullying, either as a target or as witnesses of abusive behavior against a co-worker. This can lead to reduced productivity, high turnover, and loss of work days during the year.³

Job Corps promotes bullying-prevention efforts and requires centers to provide students with proactive education on bullying prevention and the center's anti-bullying policies during the Career Preparation Period's introduction to center life. Staff members are also required to take an annual online training on bullying prevention each year through SafetyNet in Simon.

This training is designed to increase awareness of the impact of bullying on student retention, and to promote bystander involvement on Job Corps centers. The SafetyNet, located on the Job Corps Community website, also includes information to help centers develop and implement a comprehensive bullying policy. Edits to SafetyNet will be released later this fall.

This past year, Job Corps has offered several trainings on bullying prevention. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) delivered a bullying-prevention webinar in September and presented at last November's National Health and Wellness Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Job Corps also partnered with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to offer webinars for staff and students on violence prevention, including bullying prevention. Copies of all of these presentations are available on the Job Corps Health and Wellness website.

3. Recommendations. Suggestions and resources for centers to enhance and expand upon their current prevention activities for NBP Month include:

- Specific information on NBP Month and resources from PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center make it easy to take action. To learn what your center can do, visit the website <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/>.
- Stopbullying.gov (<http://www.stopbullying.gov/>) is the official government bullying-prevention site. It provides information on preventing and responding to bullying, and standing up to bullies.
- Teens Against Bullying features many ideas and activities for youth, available at <http://www.pacerteensagainstbullying.org/#/home>.
- Check to see if there is a "Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying" event in your city and encourage students and staff to participate. Visit PACER's site for more

³ Workplace Bullying Institute. Results of the 2010 and 2007 WBI U.S. Workplace Bullying Survey Retrieved online September 21, 2012 from <http://www.workplacebullying.org/wbiresearch/2010-wbi-national-survey/>.

information at <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/runwalkroll/>. If there is not an event in your city, consider collaborating with the HEALs committee and host one on center.

4. Action. Addressees are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.
5. Expiration Date. Until superseded.
6. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Carol Abnathy at (202) 693-3283 or abnathy.carol@dol.gov; or Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or davis.johnetta@dol.gov.