9-1-2015

From the Editor

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Recommended Citation
Coven, Arnold B. (2015) "From the Editor," Michigan Journal of Counseling: Research, Theory and Practice: Vol. 42 : Iss. 1 , Article 1. Available at: https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/mijoc/vol42/iss1/1

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FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Counselors, Counselor Educators and Related Personnel. Due to administrative problems and an editor resignation, there has been an interruption in publication of the Journal. The three articles in this journal issue were accepted for publication by Jennifer Bornsheuer, Ph.D., the previous Editor, and the Editorial Review Board. We appreciate their work and contribution to the Journal. At present we are selecting a new Editorial Review Board and sending out notification of the Journal publication to members of the Michigan Counseling Association. If you are interested in joining the Editorial Review Board, please contact the Editor.

In the first article, Finch and Bacon focus on Teen Fathers, a neglected population. Typically they have been portrayed negatively, abandoning the teen mother after sex. The authors interviewed six teen fathers in an urban school district. Contrary, to the expectations, these teens wanted to be more involved with their children and to be seen as contributing citizens. It was recommended that they receive more attention from school counselors.

In the next article, Coven, Jezylo and Jurowicz explored how research findings can be a guide for positive psychology counseling with nursing home residents. The authors first identify the problems nursing home residents face. Then they propose how the common factors of client strengths, the counseling relationship, hope/expectancy and counseling techniques can be used to assist this typically lonely and depressed population.

Saunders and House focus attention on the need of university counseling centers to demonstrate the value and efficacy of their services. Scrutiny from university shareholders provided the opportunity for center staff to assess the outcomes of their counseling effort. Staff performed a two-pronged research investigation of students’ perception of the center’s services. The authors share the assessment methods used to encourage other centers to conduct their own to increase awareness of the importance of university counseling centers.

We are up and running and invite article submissions and comments about the publication. We look forward to publishing the Spring/Summer Journal Issue and hope to continue sharing critical issues facing the counseling profession. We welcome comments and reactions to improve our knowledge in helping our clients. Sincerely, Arnold B. Coven

Teen Fathers: Implications for School Counselors

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Abstract

Historically researchers have focused on teen mothers, while neglecting teen fathers. Teen fathers are portrayed negatively and are often described as using teen girl only for sex and abandoning her when she tells him she is pregnant. Six teen fathers were interviewed in an urban school district in the southeastern region of the United States. The teen fathers expressed their needs, stressors, and involvement with their children. Suggestions for high school counselors working with this at-risk population are discussed as well as suggestions for future research.

Keywords: teen fathers, teen mothers, counseling suggestions

Researchers studying teen parenting have mainly concentrated on teen mothers while neglecting and negatively portraying teen fathers. Stereotypes confronting teen fathers include them being uncaring, absent, disinterested, unable to meet responsibilities, and unwilling participants in the lives of their children (Frewin, Tuffin, & Rouch, 2007). Within several studies, researchers have only included the teen mother’s perspectives of the father and of her baby and have relied on the mother’s opinions regarding the father’s role and involvement (Reeves, 2007; Bunting & McAuley, 2004; Amin & Ahmed, 2004; Robbers, 2009).

The behavior of the teen father is better understood within his internal and external environmental factors. Many times teen fathers are not allowed input in what happens with their children because they are treated with hostility from the child’s mother’s family (Fagan, Bernd, & Whiteman, 2007). When the teen mother’s family disapproves of him and wants her to distance herself from the baby’s father, her family is frequently discouraging an otherwise interested father from having a relationship with his child and with the mother of his baby (Wiemann, Agurcia, Rickert, Berenson, & Volk, 2006). These are very difficult and trying times in a teen father’s life.

Adolescence is a challenging and confusing developmental period where the adolescent experiences profound social, physical, and psychological

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