



ACS Provider Bulletin



Cross Divisional

Foster Care

Preventive

Juvenile Justice

Early Care and Education

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Dear Provider Community:

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This week, ACS joins the nation as we celebrate African American History Month to recognize the contributions made by African Americans in all aspects of the country's life. The ACS African American Heritage Committee at ACS has fittingly chosen to honor the late South African leader Nelson Mandela with a focus on one of his most famous quotes, "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

As child welfare, juvenile justice, and early care and education professionals, we know that resilience, compassion, and dedication to improve the lives of children, young people, and families strengthens our communities and our nation, which is in keeping with the spirit of Nelson Mandela and the mission of our agency. As Commissioner, I am committed to these ideals and to celebrate and recognize African Americans in all of our organizations who everyday make important contributions in all areas of our work.

Let us celebrate their achievements during this month and appreciate their dedication throughout the year..

Sincerely,

Gladys Carrión
Commissioner

Cross Divisional

Participate in Testing **ChildRight: NY** Screening Tool

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has partnered with the International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA) to implement *ChildRight: NY*. This model is being used to build and implement a comprehensive child welfare response to child trafficking throughout New York State. To address the need to quickly and more accurately identify child victims of sex and labor trafficking, the project has developed a brief, scientifically valid screening tool in partnership with researchers at the Center for the Human Rights of Children at Loyola University (CHRC).

The CHRC is currently recruiting organizations and agencies that serve children and youth to participate in testing the brief screening tool. Organizations will be asked to use the screening tool as they deem appropriate and report back to the CHRC on their experiences. Participating in this process is voluntary, both for organizations and for each child or youth. No identifying information will be collected, and all responses will be completely anonymous. It is estimated that the screening tool will take 10 minutes or less to administer. To learn more about the screening tool or to participate in the study, please email chrc@luc.edu no later than February 10, 2014, including "ChildRight" in the subject line. To learn more about the *ChildRight: NY* project, please contact Madeline Hannan at mhannan@iofa.org.

Children's Services Education Forum

Please join us for the February Children's Services Education Forum, and be sure to share this information with your colleagues!

The speaker will be Carol Lieb Himes, Special Education Coordinator from the New York Peace Institute (formerly the Safe Horizon Mediation Program). Ms. Himes, an expert in Special Education mediation services, will discuss how her agency can serve as a resource as well as address the common themes and issues often encountered with families such as parental consent, effective communication and educational planning between parents and school staff.

When: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 - 9:30am to 11:00am

Where: 150 William Street, 13th floor Training Center

Education Forums now available through Videoconferencing - Monthly Education Forums are available via videoconference in six DCP offices throughout the five boroughs. Foster care and preventive agency staff can also visit the videoconference sites to participate in the forums. Handouts are sent in advance and audience participation is featured. Videoconferencing is available at the following sites:

Bronx: 2501 Grand Concourse
Bronx: 1200 Waters Place
Brooklyn: 404 Pine Street
Manhattan: 55 W.125th Street
Manhattan: 110 William Street
Queens: 165-15 Archer Ave.
Staten Island: 350 St. Mark's Place

For more information, please contact the ACS Office of Education Support and Policy Planning:
education.unit@dfa.state.ny.us

[Please click on this link for a recap of the January Forum and to access information distributed at the forum.](#)

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Archived Bulletins



Health Insurance Access Forum

The Human Resources Administration Office of Citywide Insurance Access and the U.S. Small Business Administration is hosting the Affordable Health Ins. Opportunities & Responsibilities Forum on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 @ 26 Federal Plaza, 6th Floor. [Click here to download the flyer with more information.](#)

Foster Care

Consent to Remain in Care

Youth who wish to remain in care after the age of 18 are required to give written consent. ACS Family Court Legal Services (FCLS) has developed a standardized form to be used by case planners in the Family Courts. [Please click on this link to read the memo from FCLS Deputy Commissioner Alan Sputz outlining this practice.](#) For questions, contact FCLS Associate Commissioner Nancy Thomson at (212) 341-2713, nancy.thomson@dfa.state.ny.us. [Click on this link for the standardized form.](#)

Recruiting Youth in Foster Care for Possibility Project

The Possibility Project is currently recruiting for their performing arts program, which runs from mid-March 2014 through December 2014. If you know of any young people 15-20 years old in foster care who may be interested in [The Possibility Project's programs](#), please let them know about these upcoming auditions:

- Saturday, February 8, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00p.m.
- Wednesday, March 5, 2014 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00p.m.
- Saturday, March 8, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00p.m.

[Click on this link to download a flyer for these auditions.](#)

For more information, contact Kenny Phillips at 212-924-9204, e-mail: kenny@the-possibility-project.org, or go to www.the-possibility-project.org.

Preventive Services

Protocol for Step-Up of Preventive Services Released

The Division of Family Support Services (FSS) has released a new protocol for preventive providers who seek to step-up a family to a higher level of services, such as a movement from General Preventive or Family Treatment/Rehabilitation to Evidence-Based, Promising Practice or another current ACS model. In such cases, providers must contact the Office of Preventive Family Team Conferencing to begin the process which is described in the protocol. [Please click on this link to read the protocol.](#)

Community Representatives Now Available to Support Families

Beginning February 10, 2014 Community Representatives supervised by the Division of Family Support Services (FSS) who have been trained to support families are now available to assist with the following conferences: Elevated Risk Conferences, Trial and Final Discharge Conferences and Family Meetings. Agencies will receive additional information regarding this program and how to request a Community Representative.

[Please click on this link to read the letter describing this service](#) from the Deputy Commissioners of the Divisions of Child Protection, Family Permanency Services and Family Support Services. If you have questions, please contact Nigel Nathaniel, Director, Office of Community Partnerships at 212-341-3116.

Caregiver To Caregiver Course for Parents with Mental Illness

Please spread the word about the brand new National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) **Caregiver to Caregiver** course for parents with mental illness. This program is a collaboration between NAMI and the Urban Justice Center. The program consists of NAMI's 10-week recovery-oriented psychoeducational course, Peer to Peer, plus a new NAMI-NYC Metro 2-week module on physical health and wellness, and finally a 2-week "Know Your Rights," module developed by Urban Justice. As with all of NAMI's programs, it will be peer-led, by two very experienced facilitators who are parents who parented their children while also coping with their own mental illness. We ask that you review the information and refer the appropriate parents to this valuable and long-lasting resource!

[Please click on this link for detailed information about each class.](#)

This course will be held at NAMI-NYC Metro's office (near Penn Station) 505 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1103 New York, NY 10018. Contact Mary Lee Gupta, NAMI Program Director at 212.684.3365 or volunteer@naminyc.org.

Juvenile Justice

There are no Juvenile Justice announcements in this edition.

Early Care and Education

Kindergarten Admissions 2014

For students that are born in 2009, the process for admission to Kindergarten begins now for the 2014-2015 school year. The kindergarten application period runs from January 13 – February 14, 2013. The ACS Office of Education Support and Policy Planning has compiled kindergarten admissions information for 2014 to help providers understand the admission process and assist parents with ensuring all students who are turning five are enrolled in school. [Click here to read Kindergarten Admissions Information 2014.](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail the Office at education_unit@dfa.state.ny.us.

Self-Assessment

To better support EarlyLearn NYC agencies during the 2014 Self-Assessment period, the Division of Early Care and Education (ECE) has scheduled an array of workshops during February. Agencies will be able to select the workshops that best meet their program's needs.

The topics are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2014 Self-Assessment Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NYC PQAS Overview
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PIP Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ECERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ITERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FCCERS

To register for a workshop, please click [here](#) to access the ACS/ECE Eventbrite website

EarlyLearn NYC Contractor Surveys

EarlyLearn NYC contractors were asked to submit a Contractor Survey, sponsoring board member listing and staff organization chart by December 20, 2013. Several contractors have yet to submit any documents. Please check with your executive directors and/or directors to see if the above-mentioned documents have been submitted. If you have any questions about this request or need assistance filling the forms out, please contact: [Barbara Alicea](#) (212) 788-2741 or [Alyson Grant](#) (212) 393.5103.

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