



Dear Provider Community:

During April, Child Abuse Prevention Month, we as a nation focuses on efforts to help raise awareness about issues surrounding child maltreatment and ways to promote child well-being. This year, New York State has adopted the theme "Promoting a Happy, Healthy Childhood in New York". At ACS, child safety and well-being is our mission 365 days of the year, and we welcome the added attention during this month.

Every year, our frontline staff investigate over 55,000 reports of child abuse and neglect involving over 100,000 children. We typically find that in more than a third of these cases, families need our immediate assistance to help keep their children safe. And in almost all cases, families need the help of all of us at one time or another to support them in making sure that children are healthy, happy and safe.

Events of the recent months have shown us that we have to remain vigilant in our efforts to keep children safe. As we move forward, we want to refocus our work together so that the people of New York City understand that ACS is and can be a "helping agency," but it is equally important that all of us are invested in the well-being of our children. Raising and supporting our children truly takes a village. Everyone can play a role in embracing children in our communities, especially those most vulnerable, by serving as mentors, becoming foster parents, and most importantly, taking action if we suspect abuse.

On April 4th, Wear Blue Day, we encourage everyone to wear blue to show our support for child abuse prevention efforts. Please go to the Prevent Child Abuse New York website, and support the Pinwheels campaign, or call 1-800-CHILDREN (244-5373) to find out how you can help keep children safe. You may also click on this [link](#) and download the Child Abuse Prevention Month 2014 flyer with more information.

During this month, and every day, let us rededicate ourselves to this mission as parents, as neighbors, as child welfare professionals, as New Yorkers. There is no greater responsibility.

Sincerely,

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Cross Divisional

Training for Competency-Based Behavioral Interviewing Techniques

The ACS Workforce Innovation Department is pleased to announce the return of this popular, best practices training in Competency-Based Behavioral Interviewing techniques designed for hiring supervisors, managers and HR professionals in the provider community. Registration is available through your STARS Coordinator. [Please click on this link for details.](#)

2nd Annual ACS LGBTQ Awards Ceremony: Now Accepting Nominations

On May 22nd, Children's Services will host its second annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) and Ally Awards Ceremony. The awards recognize the commendable leadership, contributions, and achievements of key stakeholders committed to improving services for LGBTQ children, young people, and families involved with Children's Services. The Agency's Office of LGBTQ Policy & Practice is now accepting nominations for the following categories: 1) foster care/juvenile justice involved youth; 2) foster parent; 3) ACS staff, and; 4) community advocate. If you know of an individual that has made such a contribution, please nominate them today by completing a nomination form and submitting it to LGBTQ@dfa.state.ny.us. All nominations must be received by Friday, April 25, 2014. [Click on this link for the nomination form.](#)

Foster Care

Electronic Health Records (EHR) Information Session

ACS and the Office of Child and Family Services in partnership with the NYC REACH, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, is pleased to offer an important information session for foster care agencies that are contemplating about or in the process of transitioning from paper based to electronic health records (EHR). We encourage everyone to make an effort to attend this important session and learn about how adopting EHR may affect your agency.

When: April 11, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Where: 150 William Street, 19th floor – Manhattan Conference Room

[Click on this link for more details.](#)

Preventive Services

Infant Safe Sleep Train-the-Trainer Workshops

ACS Division of Family Support Services is pleased to offer four full-day Infant Safe Sleep Train-the-Trainer Workshops staff

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2014 Campaign LAUNCH

Dads Take Your Child To School (DTYCTS) Day and Beyond:

Reemphasizing Community Resources

April 4, 2014

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Bronx Supreme Court Rotunda
851 Grand Concourse

Contacts

Citywide: Melvin Alston -

Melvin.Alston@dfa.state.ny.us, 917- 921- 5036

Brooklyn: Ronald Bridges -

Ronald.Bridges@dfa.state.ny.us, 718- 623-4990

Bronx: Clyde Wilkinson -

Clyde.Wilkinson@dfa.state.ny.us, (718) 933-6981

[Download event flyer](#)

Developmental Disabilities Champions Workgroup Meeting

Thursday, April 10th

10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

150 William Street. Conf. Room A-1, 8th floor

[Click on this link for more](#)

The Bronx Division of Child Protection & The Bronx Vision Presents the 3rd Annual Father's Resource Fair

Friday, April 11, 2014

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1200 Waters Place, 2nd floor
Bronx, New York 10461

For more information, contact Shaun Blayton (718-933-2702), Lisa E. Bolling, LMSW (718-319-8842), Clyde Wilkinson (718-933-6981), or Maria Biondo (718-319-7240).

[Download Event Flyer](#)

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

[Click here to send a new name and email address](#)

FEEDBACK

[Click here to share comments and feedback about the bulletin](#)



of our provider agency partners and community providers. The ideal candidate for this training is a staff trainer, an individual who has regular contact with the community or a community leader who can share the information with others in their community. We would like your help in identifying the appropriate individuals for this training and sharing this information with them or sending their e-mail address to Ebenezer.Ademagun@dfa.state.ny.us by April 3, so that we can invite them to the workshops. [Please click on this link to read the letter from FSS Deputy Commissioner Dr. Jacqueline O. McKnight.](#)

Juvenile Justice

Crossover Youth Practice Model To Be Launched in the Bronx

The Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) was created to address the unique issues presented by youth who are known to both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. These young people are often referred to as "crossover youth." A disproportionate number of them are young people of color and girls, and the population as a whole generally requires a more intense array of services and supports than other youth known to each system individually. The Practice Model was designed to better address the issues these youth face and meet their needs. It also seeks to reduce the number of youth who enter or re-enter foster care, the number of youth in foster care who move into residential placements in the juvenile justice system, and the disproportionate representation of youth of color in each system.

CYPM is a partnership between Casey Family Programs and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute. The model will be implemented in the Bronx beginning with a roll out on April 14, 2014. The model will roll-out in Brooklyn later in 2014 with the other boroughs to follow. For more information, or questions about CYPM, please call or e-mail Sara Hemmeter, Associate Commissioner, DYFJ sara.hemmeter@dfa.state.ny.us. Please click on the links below for more details:

[CYPM Description](#)

[CYPM Summary](#)

Early Care and Education

City Wide Head Start Policy Council Annual Education Fair

The Division of Early Care & Education and our City Wide Head Start Policy Council is holding their Annual Education Fair on Wednesday, April 23 from 10am to 1pm, at the Administration for Children's Services, 150 William Street, 19th Floor, Manhattan Conference Room. Registration is not necessary.

There will be a panel discussion from CUNY college representatives and information provided about education and training programs including COPE (College Opportunity to Prepare for Employment), the new GED, ESL, and computer skills. Attendees will have a chance to inquire about the CUNY admissions process and learn more about support that is available for individuals receiving public assistance.

Pre-Kindergarten Application 2014-2015

If you live in New York City and your child is turning 4 years old in 2014, he or she is eligible to attend Pre-Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year. The application process has begun! Applications for school-based pre-k will be accepted from March 3, 2014 until April 23, 2014. Applications for community-based organizations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are discussions revolving around increasing Pre-K program options. If this occurs, parents will be able to amend their applications once those new program sites are identified. [Click on this link for a Fact Sheet](#) prepared by the ACS Office of Office of Education Support and Policy Planning. Please click on the links below for more details.

[Information Session](#)

[Pre-K Directory](#)

[CBO Pre-K Application](#)

[Public School Application](#)

[To unsubscribe to the ACS Provider Bulletin click here](#)