



Dear Provider Community:

I am pleased to join with Commissioner Cecile Noel of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) in announcing the creation of the Healthy Relationship Training Academy's Foster Care Initiative to address a compelling need and a critical piece of domestic violence prevention. Through this initiative, youth ages 11-21 in the New York City foster care system will learn about dating violence and the tools needed to build healthy relationships. Studies show that 1 in 10 New York City high school students in an intimate partner relationship reports being physically abused by their boyfriend or girlfriend. It is essential that we educate youth about healthy relationships beginning at a young age.

This Initiative is part of the OCDV NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy and includes workshops facilitated by Peer Educators, ranging in age from 17 to 25, that engage youth in frank discussions and critical thinking about these challenging topics. In 2014, the Academy conducted approximately 300 workshops, reaching a total of more than 7,000 young people, 230 parents, and 500 youth based organization staff in schools, community based organizations, faith-based institutions, homeless youth walk-in centers, alternative to juvenile detention facilities, summer youth employment programs, young adult internship programs and continuing education programs.

As this initiative launches, we will train ACS and our provider agency staff to reach foster parents and youth in care. During November and December, we would like to work closely with your Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Program Directors to plan the implementation of trainings and workshops for agency staff, youth and foster parents. This effort is being coordinated by Elizabeth Falcone, OCDV's Director of Youth Programs at the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence and Courtney Ramirez, ACS' Executive Director of Family Engagement & Youth Advocacy. This project is a fully funded project of the Mayor's Office and the trainings/workshops will be provided at no cost to the agencies.

Please reach out to Courtney at Courtney.ramirez@acs.nyc.gov or (212) 442-5595 if you have any questions regarding this project. Elizabeth will be reaching out to provider agency leadership in the near future to begin making arrangements for staff training and workshop facilitation.

Thank you in advance for your work on this initiative. We believe that the benefits to children, youth and families will be well worth your time and dedication.

Sincerely,
Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Cross Divisional

[Calling all 11th & 12th Grade Students](#)

The ACS Office of Education Support and Policy Planning has launched the College and Career Corner so 11th and 12th grade students in foster care can connect to a peer mentor and receive help with college applications and career advice. College advisors from the Options Institute will also be available for consultations!

Sessions are held twice a month at ACS - 150 William Street. **The sessions for November are scheduled for November 4 and November 18, from 4 p.m. to 7 pm., 19th floor.** Dinner will be provided.

[Download the flyer](#)

[New Immigrant HS and College Support Group at The Door](#)

The Door is launching a new support group for immigrant students. Youth will have the opportunity to create new experiences with other young people who are new to the country, and learn how to navigate U.S. high school culture while developing leadership skills.

When: Every Monday, starting November 2nd, 4:30 - 5:30 pm.

Where: The Door, 121 Avenue of the Americas, Room 219, New York, NY 10013

Contact William Connor wconnor@door.org, (212) 940-9090 ext. 3316, to learn more or sign up. Download the flyer in [English](#), [Spanish](#) or [French](#).

[High School Goal Weekend Volunteers Wanted](#)

The ACS Office of Education Support and Policy Planning is looking for adult volunteers for High School Goal Weekend, which will be held on Saturday, November 14 and Saturday November 21, 2015. HSGW volunteers help 7th and 8th graders learn about the various High School choices in New York City and guide them in selecting the right high school. You may volunteer for one, or both days!

Mandatory volunteer orientations will be held at ACS Central Office, 150 William Street, 19th Floor, on **Thursday, November 5, 12 - 2 pm and Tuesday, November 10, 4 - 6pm.**

For more information and a volunteer application, please contact Odessa Brown at 212-341-0925 or via email at

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

National Adoption Month

NYC Administration for Children's Services



Wednesday, November 18, 2015

NYC Municipal Bldg
1 Centre Street North (on the Mezzanine)
New York, NY 10004

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Archived Bulletins



HighSchoolGoal@acs.nyc.gov

[Download the flyer](#)

Foster Care

[ACS Celebrates National Adoption Month November 2015– Calendar of Events](#)

Family Court Adoption Days

Adoption finalizations calendared by the Family Court in each borough are highlighted during November, National Adoption Month. There will be face painting, refreshments, snacks, Disney characters, giveaways and family photos as part of the festivities for families whose adoption finalization ceremonies take place on the following days in each borough:

Bronx: Thursday, November 5, 8am-4pm, 900 Sheridan Ave, Bronx NY 9 Floor.

Queens: Thursday, November 12, 9am-5pm, 151-20 Jamaica Ave, 5 Floor, Queens, NY.

Manhattan: Monday, November 16 9am-1pm, 60 Lafayette St, 6 Floor, Part 9, NYC, NY.

Brooklyn: Thursday, November 19, 9am-4pm, 330 Jay St, Brooklyn, 6 Floor, PT9.

Staten Island: Friday, November 20, 9am-1pm, 100 Richmond Terrace, 2nd Floor, SI, NY.

Wednesday's Wonderful Kids Adoption Recruitment Training

Tuesday, November 17, 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, & Wednesday, November 18, 2pm-5pm - ACS, 150 William Street, 13 Floor Training Room.

Based on the Dave Thomas Foundation's national model, this training will provide ACS and provider agency staff and recruiters with new skills to help strengthen permanency overall with an emphasis on adoption resources for children freed but not placed in an adoptive home.

Adoption Awareness Recruitment Forum

Tuesday, November 17, 5:30pm-7pm - ACS, 150 William Street, 19 Floor, Manhattan Room.

The Recruitment Forum will include a presentation by an adoptive parent, a short video clip "Making a Difference" and presentation on how to become an adoptive parent. Resource materials will be provided and attendees will have the opportunity to speak with ACS and provider agency representative to learn more about becoming a foster/adoptive parent.

National Adoption Month Annual Reception

Wednesday, November 18, 6pm-8:30pm - 1 Centre Street, Mezzanine, New York, NY.

A festive gathering to celebrate the extraordinary efforts of families, our colleagues, and others who work tirelessly to achieve adoption for children in foster care and to highlight our commitment to provide every child a family at love and support them throughout their lives. By invitation only.

Adoption Family Fun Day

Saturday, November 12, 10am-5pm - Dave & Busters, 234 West 42nd Street, NYC

This all-day event is for newly adopted children and their families and children who are matched/adoptively placed with their permanent family and for the general public/patrons to receive information and talk to ACS representatives about adoption.

For information on recruitment forums and Wednesday's Wonderful Kids child-specific recruitment training, or to register, please email Ronnel.Walker@acs.nyc.gov or David.Widitor@acs.nyc.gov. For Family Fun Day information, contact: Kim.halpern@acs.nyc.gov.

[B2H SED Now Accepting Applications](#)

We are now accepting applications for the B2H SED (Serious Emotional Disabled) waiver, effective October 15, 2015. At the beginning of the year, we notified providers that we had reached our capacity in B2H SED and were forced to implement a waitlist. We are only allowed to maintain 150 children on the waitlist, and since we only have the capacity to serve a predetermined number of children at a time, our waitlist will continue to fluctuate. We will keep you posted periodically as to its status.

The Developmentally Disabled (DD) waiver continues to be closed and not accepting any new referrals.

We currently have vacancies in the Med-f (Medical Fragile) and C2H (Close to Home) waivers, so do not hesitate to send in applications.

We look forward to your referral submissions. All updated forms can be downloaded directly from our website at the following link: www.nyc.gov/acs/b2h. If you have any questions, please email the main B2H mailbox at b2hacs@acs.nyc.gov.

Preventive Services

[There are no Preventive Services announcements in this edition.](#)

Juvenile Justice

[Approved Policies](#)

Visiting Youth in Juvenile Justice Placement Facilities

The policy was approved and signed by the Commissioner on October 28, 2015. Regular visiting between youth in juvenile justice placement facilities and their families and other important people in their lives is critical for sustaining and strengthening those positive relationships necessary to support youths' rehabilitation, well-being, and development into adulthood. It is the responsibility of juvenile justice placement provider agencies to arrange and facilitate agency visits between a youth and his or her parents/guardians, siblings, half-siblings, children, extended family or other discharge resources, and other persons of significance to the youth as long as such visits are not prohibited or restricted by court order and would not compromise the safety of youth, staff, visitors or security of the facility. This policy applies to juvenile placement facilities having care and custody of youth placed with ACS according to Article 3 of the Family Court Act.

[Read the policy](#)

Limited Secure Placement Personal Youth Search Policy

This policy was final approved and signed by the Commissioner on October 28, 2015. The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidance for staff to follow with respect to personal youth searches. Limited secure placement (LSP) providers are required to implement search policies and practices designed to maintain contraband-free programs throughout the LSP system. The primary purpose of any personal search is to protect the safety of youth and staff in the LSP facility, the community, and others who may be present, within a context that respects and promotes dignity and healthy relationships through effective communication, making empathetic connections, being sensitive to a youth's abuse and trauma history, and establishing a structured, consistent environment. This policy makes clear the circumstances under which personal searches described in this policy are mandatory, and the circumstances under which such searches are to be conducted at the discretion of facility staff and/or Administration for Children's Services (ACS) staff. LSP providers are expected to make determinations regarding the need for personal searches based on ongoing assessments of the level of trust and open communication with individual youth and to conduct searches within the broader context of a conversation about personal responsibility, safety, and trust.

[Read the policy](#)

Early Care and Education

[There are no Early Care and Education announcements in this edition.](#)

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