



ACS Provider Bulletin



Cross Divisional

Foster Care

Preventive

Juvenile Justice

Early Care and Education

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Dear Provider Community:

ACS is proud to serve New Yorkers of all nationalities, faiths, and backgrounds. In doing so, we must continuously ensure that our services are culturally competent, accessible, and affirming of our children and families' identities. Fostering our clients and communities' cultural identities is critical in promoting their well-being.

It is deeply concerning that recent events and subsequent rhetoric against the Muslim community have translated into an increase in reports of aggression, bias incidents, and attacks. Last month, the Mayor convened a forum with city officials and Muslim faith leaders who shared accounts of children and families being targeted. The NYPD Special Victims Unit Chief explained that when there is a rise in media attention, acts of bias are both perpetrated and reported in greater numbers.

As an agency, we understand and are aware of the traumatic impact of bias incidents. Since the mayoral forum, our Child Welfare Programs team met with the Arab American Family Support Center and the Sauti Yetu Center for African Women—ACS partners that serve large numbers of Muslim children and families. Both providers confirmed a rise in bullying and bias incidents, primarily at school, on the subway, walking to and from mosques, and directed at individuals wearing Muslim dress.

We are committed to continuing our outreach to our providers and working with the Department of Education and the NYPD to further strengthen our support for Muslim children and families. I encourage staff working with children and families to reach out and take particular care to ensure the safety and well-being of our Muslim clients.

Executive Directors Lena Alhusseini of the Arab American Family Support Center and Zeinab Eyega of the Sauti Yetu Center for African Women have extended their services to the child welfare network as needed during this time. They are experts in serving the Muslim community and can provide such services in a sensitive, multi-lingual manner across the city. Please reach out to them and take extra care in serving our children and families, who may not readily share their experiences. Please let them know that together we can help.

Contacts & Resources

Lena Alhusseini - Arab American Family Support Center
(718) 643-8000
lena@aafscny.org

Zeinab Eyega - Sauti Yetu Center for African Women
(718) 665-2486
zeyega@sautiyetu.org

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Cross Divisional

[January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month – Child Trafficking Relevant Trainings](#)

In recognition of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, January 2016, ACS' Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy unit is hosting a variety of 5 child trafficking relevant trainings beginning on Monday, January 11 - Child Trafficking Awareness Day – through Friday, January 15. Seating is limited based upon the room capacity. These trainings are open to all of ACS, and to preventive agencies and foster care agencies. Registration is only through STARS.

Schedule of all of the trainings:

- Jan. 11 - Child Trafficking Awareness and Skills Development
- Jan. 12 - Vicarious Trauma: Recognition and Coping Skills for Human Trafficking Service Providers (2 sessions)
- Jan. 13 - Child Trafficking & Immigration: Skills to Engage and Work with Immigrant CSEC Youth
- Jan. 14 - Understanding the Mental Health Impact of Child Sexual Exploitation and Skills for Engagement
- Jan. 15 - Child Trafficking & LGBTQ: Skills to Engage and Work with LGBTQ CSEC Youth

[Click on this link for course descriptions and more details about the trainings.](#)

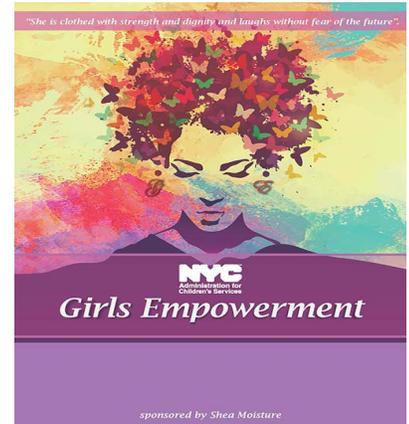
Please note that registration is closed for trainings on January 13-15, but there are still spaces available on January 11 and 12. For more information, or questions, e-mail Selina Higgins, LCSW-R, Director of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy at selina.higgins@acs.nyc.gov.

[Crossover Youth Practice Model Extends to Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island- January 11, 2016](#)

The Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) is a particular approach intended to improve the outcomes for youth in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. A crossover youth is defined as a youth age 7-15 who was first involved in the Child Welfare System and subsequently entered the Juvenile Justice System as a result of an arrest. The model allows agencies working with the crossover youth to share information, and work with the youth and their family to prevent further

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[Girls Empowerment Workshop](#)



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involvement in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and to achieve the best result for the child. CYPM is implemented across several divisions at ACS including the Divisions of Youth and Family Justice (DYFJ), Family Permanency Services (FPS), Division of Child Protection (DCP) and Preventive Services (DPS).

On Monday, January 11, 2016, ACS will begin implementing CYPM in Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. The agency thanks providers who have worked diligently over the last two years to implement CYPM in the Bronx and Brooklyn. Early next year, ACS will provide guidelines on the implementation of CYPM cross-borough cases.

For information or questions on CYPM, contact the following staff:

Foster Care: Patricia Bassy (212) 513-0343

Preventive: Babette Spain, (212) 341-0985

Child Protection: Sandra Davidson, (212) 341-3106

Juvenile Justice: Sara Hemmeter, (212) 442-6326

[ACS and the CUNY Launch the ACS Workforce Institute](#)

ACS and the CUNY School of Professional Studies (CUNY SPS) on January 5 announced a partnership creating the ACS Workforce Institute, which will enhance professional development for frontline staff serving New York City's children and families. The Workforce Institute will offer professional learning initiatives that move beyond the classroom to enhance skill development for new and seasoned ACS and other child welfare staff. Programs will incorporate cutting edge learning methods supported by evidenced-based models, using simulation to strengthen core competencies for staff. [Read more](#)

[Child Welfare Programs' Executive Director Meeting](#)

Preventive/Foster Care executives will meet with Child Welfare Programs (CWP) executive team for an exceptional opportunity to gather and discuss ways of further integrating and aligning the work. CWP officially launched on August 4, 2014, with the focus of collaboration and integrating enhanced practices across the entire child welfare continuum. This umbrella allows for the seamless flow of information across the various divisions of ACS and will lead to improved outcomes for children and families. With the appointment of new leadership to key roles within ACS over the past few months, it became vital to expand on the preventive/foster care director quarterly meetings that were occurring. True collaboration and information sharing cannot occur without our preventive and foster care agencies/network executive leadership at the table. The hard work and dedication of your teams serve to strengthen families and communities.

When: Wednesday, January 13th 2016, 2pm-3:30pm

Where: 150 William Street, New York, NY, 10038, 19th Floor, Brooklyn/Staten Island Rooms.

We hope to see all of you there!

[Children's Services Education Forum](#)

The next Children's Services Education Forum will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 from 9:30 a.m-11:00 a.m. at 150 William Street, 13th floor Training Center, New York, NY 10038.

Youth gang involvement can affect educational engagement and success. At the next forum, a representative from the DOE Gang Prevention & Intervention Unit (GPIU) will discuss in the signs commonly used by youth involved in gang activity, as well as interventions that can be helpful to workers in Child Welfare. The GPIU responds citywide to incidents in schools that may occur as a direct result of youth and gang violence.

For those foster care agencies involved in Project School Success—there will be a data meeting immediately following the Education Forum. We look forward to you joining us.

[ACS Facebook Page Re-launched](#)

The ACS Facebook page has been re-launched! On Facebook you will find up-to-date information on events, outreach for our programs and services, helpful tips, and information from our partners. Help us spread the word and promote our page! Visit and like: www.facebook.com/NYCCchildren and follow us on Twitter [@acsny](https://twitter.com/acsny).

[Foster Care](#)

[College & Career Corner- January Sessions](#)

The Office of Education Support and Policy Planning has launched the College and Career Corner where 11th and 12th grade students in foster care can connect to a peer mentor and receive help with college applications and career advice from peers who have received ACS services. College advisors from the Options Institute will also be available for consultations! Sessions are held twice a month at ACS - 150 William Street.

January sessions will be held:

- January 12th, 4pm to 7pm, 150 William Street, 19th Floor, Staten Island Room
- January 27th, 4pm to 7pm, 150 William Street, 19th Floor, Staten Island Room

Dinner and Metro cards will be provided. For more information contact, Karyn Boutis at Karyn.Boutis@acs.nyc.gov

[CUNY Assistance for Youth in Foster Care](#)

CUNY has established the CUNY Start-ASAP pipeline initiative to serve students aged 17-21 who are currently being serviced by the New York City foster care system and wish to pursue an Associate's degree at CUNY. If students score low on the CUNY Assessment tests, they can be referred to the CUNY Start program for intensive remedial courses.

Students with little or no remedial needs based on their CUNY Assessment tests are ready to matriculate full time into the CUNY ASAP program. Youth in foster care who are part of the CUNY Start-Asap pipeline are eligible for enhanced services and financial support including: 1) assistance with the CUNY Admissions and financial aid process; 2) CUNY application fee waiver, tuition assistance and other financial supports; 3) weekly MetroCards; and 4) paid, on-campus

internships at \$10/hour for up to 15 hours a week.

[Download the flyer](#). For more information, please contact Lutful Khan, Program Coordinator, at 718-254-7791 or Lutful.Khan@cuny.edu and visit www.cuny.edu/cunystart. You can also contact Karyn Boutis in ACS's Office of Education Support and Policy Planning at Karyn.Boutis@acs.nyc.gov.

The CUNY-Start-ASAP Pipeline Referral Tool is now available [online](#). Please note that students must electronically sign the referral form in order for a CUNY representative to contact them.

Preventive Services

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

Juvenile Justice

[Girls Empowerment Workshop for Close to Home Youth](#)

The Division of Youth and Family Justice is presenting a series of Girls Empowerment Workshops in January and February for girls in Close to Home programs. The second in the series will focus on self-care and feature presenters Lakisha Adams, Diane C. Bailey and Naturals4Change. To reserve a space at the workshop for youth in your care, contact Tara Simpson at Tara.Simpson@acs.nyc.gov, or Tamarisk Duporte, at Tamarisk.Duporte@acs.nyc.gov. The deadline for registration is January 11, 2016.

[Download the event flyer](#)

Early Care and Education

[Quality Teaching and Learning Education Town Hall on January 22, 2016](#)

EarlyLearn contractors, please join us for the next *Quality Teaching and Learning Education Directors' Town Hall*. The session will be held on **Friday, January 22, 2016 at 9:30-3:30pm** at The Salvation Army, Railton Hall at 120 West 14th Street in Manhattan. Please register through [Eventbrite](#) under Education Directors' Town Hall. Attendees should bring their professional development plan or policy to review. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Celeste Garcia-Sanchez at Celeste.Garcia-Sanchez@acs.nyc.gov.

[Important Updates for Child Care & Dual Eligible EarlyLearn Programs](#)

EarlyLearn NYC Contractors, there are two important updates from the Child Care Operations Unit:

- **Relocation of Manhattan Resource Area:** Beginning January 11, 2016, the Manhattan Resource Area (RA-7) will be located at 66 John Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10038. The Director of the Manhattan RA is Tanarsha Rankins (Tanarsha.Rankins@acs.nyc.gov) and the Deputy Director is Michael Bradley (Michael.Bradley@acs.nyc.gov). You may contact them with any inquiries.
- **Minimum Wage Update:** The minimum wage was increased to \$9.00, effective last week on December 31, 2015. When employment is an applicant's reason for care (for child care and dual eligibility), they must document income equal to or greater than the minimum wage. [Read the policy bulletin for further details.](#)

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