



## Dear Provider Community

Every April, we observe Child Abuse Prevention Month to raise awareness of child maltreatment and promote child well-being. Over the last several years, the country has made small, but significant gains in reducing child abuse. As of 2013, the rate of substantiated child maltreatment was at its lowest level since 1990.

In New York City, we have also experienced similar progress. While we are heartened by this progress, we still have a long way to go. We still experience unacceptable levels of abuse, parents still struggle with challenging life issues that put their children at risk, and too many infants die due to unsafe sleeping conditions. As New Yorkers and as child serving professionals, we must make sure that we do everything possible to keep our children safe. We all share in the belief that every single child deserves to be safe, healthy, and be able to reach their full potential.

Actively engaging and supporting parents is paramount to the well-being of children, and it is critical that we remind parents how to get help. Over the last year, ACS rolled out a [media campaign](#) highlighting the importance of reporting suspected child abuse or neglect, and encouraging New Yorkers to do their part. The messages—in English, Spanish, and Chinese—addressed the barriers that keep people from reporting abuse or neglect. We also speak directly to parents who may be overwhelmed and encourage them to use the resources available throughout the City. Finally, an important part of the campaign is appealing to all New Yorkers to become involved in the lives of our children by volunteering as tutors, mentors and coaches.

It takes more than just ACS to prevent child maltreatment. It takes a lot of collaboration—as a system and on the frontlines. Over the last year, I am proud of the partnerships we've developed with the Department of Homeless Services, Human Resources Administration, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Health and Hospitals Corporation on a number of fronts including our new [Safe Sleep Campaign](#), addressing the needs of families experiencing homelessness, and linking more families to high quality early care and education.

All of the gains we have made to prevent abuse and help children and families are the result of your hard work and dedication in support of our mission.

Gladys Carrión, Esq.  
Commissioner

## Cross Divisional

### [Child Abuse Prevention Month - ACS Staff and Partners Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge to Raise Awareness](#)

In observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, staff from the Administration for Children's Services and its partner agencies walked across the Brooklyn Bridge on April 28, 2015. The walk was part of efforts to encourage New Yorkers to work together to address child safety and support for families. Thanks to all of our partners who joined us for the walk including the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA), New York Foundling, Graham Windham and CAMBA. Read more and see pictures from the event.

### [Link Magazine Now Available](#)

Volume 2, Issue 1 of **The Link**: Child Welfare Program's Best Practice & Resource E-Magazine is [now available on line on the ACS website](#). This issue focuses on Asthma and the new DSM-V diagnosis Hoarding Disorder. Hoarding, a new diagnosis in the DSM-V. Articles have been expanded to include the word done by the Divisions of Child Protection (child protection) and Family Permanency Services (foster care)!

We hope you will find the articles and resources helpful in promoting best practice. If you have any questions or comments about any of the articles, we would like to hear your feedback. Send an e-mail to the mailbox listed at the end of each article: [acs.reader.comments@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:acs.reader.comments@acs.nyc.gov).

### [ACS Seeks Director for Safe Sleep Initiative](#)

ACS is looking for a dynamic Director for the City's new Safe Sleep Initiative to raise awareness among parents and caregivers about the dangerous risks of unsafe sleep practices. The initiative is a collaboration with Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), Human Resources Administration (HRA), Department of Homeless Services (DHS), and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOMH). [Learn more about the position.](#)

### [New Appointments at ACS](#)

New Appointments at ACS in the Divisions of Administration, Early Care and Education and Youth and Family Justice. [Read more.](#)

### [Crossover Youth Practice Model Training](#)

Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) training continues to be offered during April. We encourage you to ensure that your staff are able to participate in this essential training. The CYPM training will provide a better understanding of how to improve

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### [ACS Parent Support & Recruitment Foster Parent Recruitment Forums](#)

Thursday, April 30, 2015  
5:30pm – 7:00pm

Langston Hughes Library – Community Cultural Center  
100-01 Northern Boulevard (bet. 100th & 101st Street)

Corona, NY 11368

[Download Invitation](#)

&

Thursday, May 28, 2015  
5:30pm – 7:00pm

ACS, 150 William Street – 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

[Download Invitation](#)

### [Save the Date - NYC Identification Card Enrollment Pop Up Center at ACS](#)

May 11th to May 22nd

Administration for Children's Services  
150 William St., 8th Floor Conference Rooms (8A1&2)

**Enrollment by appointment only!**

**Save the Date – Safe Sleep Symposium**

ACS Queens Borough Office of the Division of Child Protection

In collaboration with the Queens Borough Public Library  
Presents a

Safe Sleep Symposium  
Wednesday, June 10, 2015  
10am - 12pm

Queens Borough Public Library (Auditorium)  
89-11 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica New York

[For more information, download the event flyer](#)

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the well-being and outcomes of youth that are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Your agency coordinator should sign up Case Planners, Supervisors, Directors and Agency Trainers in STARS for these half-day trainings. If you have questions, please reach out to:

**Foster Care:** Patricia Bassy (212) 513-0343

**Preventive:** Babette Spain, (212) 341-0985 or Kellian Gould, (212) 227-3497

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

## Foster Care

### [Celebrating National Foster Month](#)

As part of National Foster Care Month, ACS is hosting 5 recruitment forums for the month of May, starting with our Kick-Off tomorrow at the Langston Hughes Library in Corona, Queens.

Please share the information, and if possible join ACS Parent Support and Recruitment (PSR) and the recruitment team as we work towards increasing awareness of the need for foster parents.

The Forum dates are as follows:

**April 30th – Langston Hughes Library – Community Cultural Center**

100-01 Northern Boulevard (between 100th & 101st Streets) Corona, NY 11368

Featuring Little Flower Children and Family Services of NY

5:30pm – 7:30pm

**Saturday, May 9, 2015 – The LGBTQ Center - Manhattan**

Family Building Expo – 208 West 13th Street, NYC 10011

10am-6pm

**Friday, May 15, 2015 – JCCA Headquarters – *Bi-Lingual Presentation***

555 Bergen Street – Bronx, NY 10455

10:30am – 12:00pm

**Tuesday, May 19, 2015 – The Rock Church – *Bi-Lingual Presentation***

57-02 Hoffman Drive – Queens, NY 11373

5:30pm -7:00pm

**Friday, May 22, 2015 – Lenox Road Baptist Church**

1356 Nostrand Avenue - Brooklyn, NY 11226

5:30pm –7:00pm

**Thursday, May 28, 2015 – ACS Headquarters**

The Manhattan Room, 19th Floor – 150 William Street – NY, NY, 10038

Featuring The Children's Village

5:30pm – 7pm

### [Save the Date – The IDNYC Identification Card Enrollment Pop-up Center](#)

ACS will host an IDNYC enrollment pop-up station at 150 Williams Street, specifically for our foster youth and their family members starting on **May 11**. This enrollment center will be open continuously for two weeks and it is our goal to get our youth enrolled between **May 11 and May 22**. We anticipate that we will have flexible enrollment hours that will include late afternoon, early evening and weekend hours.

**Location:** 150 William St. 8th Floor Conference Room (8A1&2)

**Date:** May 11th to May 22nd (Enrollment by appointment only!)

[Read the memo from Deputy Commissioner Benita Miller with more details.](#)

### [Opportunities for Youth](#)

Please share the following information with students in foster care who may benefit.

**Grace Outreach - College Prep opportunity for women ages 16-24 Summer 2015**

Grace Outreach's College Prep program wants to support 20 female students ages 18-24 who have either a high school diploma or a GED/TASC/high school equivalency diploma, who want to attend CUNY in fall 2015. Some stipend support is available via this scholarship.

Grace Outreach's College Prep program aims to give participating students intensive instruction to prepare for the COMPASS/remedial exams at CUNY, and to enter CUNY in the fall, 2015. Students who begin their college work with zero or only one remedial class have a MUCH better chance of graduating within 3 years with an associate's degree. Grace Outreach operates this special summer program as a member of the Bronx Opportunity Network (BON) consortium.

[Potential candidates must to complete the application](#), due June 1, 2015. Interested students are encouraged to complete the application earlier due to high demand for these seats.

Please disseminate information to anyone you think might be a qualified candidate. Also please feel free to forward this to colleagues in the field or to anyone who might be connected to a potential student for this program. If you have questions, contact Carol Williams or Lauren Calderon at Grace Outreach.

**Ascend Club for High School Students in Grades 9-12**

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Psi Lambda Omega Chapter and HeartShare St. Vincent's Services presents the Ascend Club for High School Students in Grades 9-12. Participants will gain exposure to civic engagement opportunities, team-building activities, and cultural enrichment events, while enhancing skills of achievement, self-awareness, communication, engagement, networking and development.

Club meets Every Third Saturday of each Month\*

Time: 1pm – 4pm

Location: 66 Boerum Place Brooklyn, NY,

To attend, please contact Hadijah Alhassan at [adijah.Alhassan@heartshare.org](mailto:adijah.Alhassan@heartshare.org) or 347-986-9328.

[Download the program flyer](#)

#### **Attend an FDNY Open House in Your Neighborhood**

The FDNY is celebrating its 150th Anniversary with an afternoon of open houses on Saturday, May 2, 2015. FDNY invites you to attend an open house in your neighborhood, where you will be able to take a tour, pick-up fire safety education literature, learn more about careers in the FDNY, and meet their local firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs. This event is open to any member of the public who visits one of the participating facilities.

Please help promote this event by sharing this information with agency partners you believe would be interested. [Find which Firehouses and EMS Stations will be open and at what times.](#)

#### **Computer Programming Workshops**

Know HS students who want to [#learntocode](#) with [#CodeNow](#)? CodeNow is springing into another computer programming workshop on **May 16, 17, & 30!** Please encourage high schools students who have an interest in computer science or curious to learn how games are made to [apply](#) by **April 29 (midnight)**.

Throughout the workshop, students work in small groups and receive lunch, snacks, and free giveaways provided by CodeNow. Participants do not need to have any experience in computer programming. CodeNow is looking for students who are curious about technology and willing to learn a new skill!

#### **Preventive Services**

There are no Preventive Services announcements in this edition.

#### **Juvenile Justice**

There are no Juvenile Justice announcements in this edition.

#### **Early Care and Education**

There are no Early Care and Education announcements in this edition.

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