



Dear Provider Community:

I am thrilled to announce the launch of a major foster care initiative, **Strong Families NYC** which will promote family permanency and well-being among children in foster care and their families.

Through Strong Families NYC, we will work with our partners to raise the bar and improve outcomes. This initiative will bring targeted and intensive trauma therapy and other practices built on the science of what works to many more New York City children and families

When fully implemented, **Strong Families NYC** will reach up to 13,000 children annually—about 80% of the children who spend any time in the city's foster care system each year—through four innovative components:

- **Comprehensive trauma screening**
- **Reducing foster care caseloads and increasing supervision**
- **Strengthening young child-parent bonding**
- **Increasing mental health clinician and foster care worker collaboration**

Strong Families NYC builds on our 2012 pilot **ChildSuccessNYC**, introduced evidence-based interventions in five foster care agencies. ACS found that foster care agencies that used ChildSuccessNYC evidence-based models were 11% more likely than a comparison group to achieve permanency. Based on results, the five foster care agencies will continue implementing these two evidence-based models.

Strong Families NYC and **ChildSuccessNYC** are part of the federal government's Title IV-E Foster Care Waiver program, which allows child welfare agencies to use federal dollars to implement innovative child welfare practices. Title IV-E refers to the federal funding that has traditionally only paid for supporting children when they are removed and placed into foster care. By joining a growing number of jurisdictions who are seeking flexible federal funding, New York City has developed creative approaches to engaging with families, increasing permanency, preventing child abuse and neglect, and promoting positive outcomes. **Strong Families NYC** was developed after an analysis of the foster care system, which included interviews and focus groups with leaders, staff, and young people.

For more information about **Strong Families NYC**, [read more on our website](#).

Cross Divisional

[ACS Twitter Page Has Launched!](#)

We are pleased to announce that the agency's Twitter page officially launched yesterday, July 21. If you would like to check it out, go to www.twitter.com/acsnyc. If you have a Twitter account, please follow, re-tweet and otherwise share.

[Belle and George Strell Executive Leadership Fellows](#)

Please distribute the information below to all staff:

The Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College has launched The Belle and George Strell Executive Leadership Fellows Program to identify and develop the next generation of human service CEOs.

Silberman's rigorous nine-month executive leadership program is designed to create a pipeline of MSW leaders to fill future CEO positions. The program includes seminars, personalized leadership assessment and coaching, along and extensive networking opportunities. We are especially interested in applications from women and persons of color serving in senior management positions who are interested in moving into top leadership positions in human service agencies. Applications are due by **July 27th, 2015**.

Program details and applications are available here:

<http://sssw.hunter.cuny.edu/programs/professional-development/>

Curriculum Overview

[Click here](#) to see the curriculum.

Click below for:

[Fellows application](#)

[Seminar Leader and Coach application](#)

[Sponsor recommendation](#)

[Crossover Youth Practice Model Training](#)

Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) training for foster care providers will be offered on July 31. The CYPM training will provide a better understanding of how to improve the well-being and outcomes of youth that are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Seats are limited, sign up now. Your agency coordinator should sign up Case Planners, Supervisors, Directors and Agency Trainers in STARS for these half-day trainings. Foster Care CYPM trainings are **mandatory**.

If you have questions, please reach out to:
Foster Care: Patricia Bassy (212) 513-0343

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[Bronx North Male Health and Emotional Wellness Conference](#)

The Bronx Division of Child Protection North Borough Office invites you to a discussion on "Male Health and Emotional Wellness."

July 30, 2015
10:00am – 1:00pm

1200 Waters Place, 1st Floor
Bronx, NY 10461

For more information, contact 1st Deputy Maryann Ponton at (718) 239-5213.

[Download the event flyer](#)

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Archived Bulletins



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

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

Backpacks for Children in Shelters

Operation Backpack, gives student living in a homeless or domestic violence shelter who needed one, a new, full, grade-specific backpack. This year it is anticipated that approximately 20,000 backpacks will be distributed. To find out how you can get involved, go to <http://www.voa-gny.org/operation-backpack>.

Volunteer for Dads Take Your Child to School Day

Calling all volunteers! Be an ambassador for change! Join the Responsible Fatherhood Coalition (RFC) in its efforts to work with schools on "Dads Take Your Child to School Day" (DTYCTS), as well as a host of school and family-related activities.

RFC partners include city, state and federal agencies, community-based organizations, concerned residents, community leaders and others. Volunteers are needed to partner with Parent Coordinators/Principals in advance of the September 22, 2015 DTYCTS Day activities. Prospective volunteers will participate in a training on Wednesday August 5, 2014 and a debriefing on Tuesday, September 29, 2015. Volunteers will also lead activities on DTYCTS Day, September 22, 2015

[Download volunteer invitation letter](#) and the [Training Information Flyer](#)

Staffing Changes at ACS

Division of Family Permanency Services leadership transition, and the appointments of Michael Ognibene, Peggy Chan, Michael Fanelli and Melissa Brancale. [Read more.](#)

Foster Care

B2H DD Waiver Slots Full

The Bridges to Health program (B2H) has reached capacity in the Developmentally Disabled waiver (DD). The DD Slots are full and no more applications will be accepted by ACS at this time.

The Serious Emotionally Disturb waiver (SED) continues to be closed for new referrals. There are still vacancies in the Medically Fragile waiver (Med-F) with no waitlist in this category. As soon as there are vacancies, we will make an announcement. If you have any questions, please email the main B2H mailbox at b2hacs@acs.nyc.gov.

Preventive Services

There are no Preventive announcements in this edition.

Juvenile Justice

There are no Juvenile Justice announcements in the edition

Early Care and Education

Child Abuse and Maltreatment Training

To [EarlyLearn NYC center-based and FCC partners](#):

To continue ensuring health and safety of all children in our care, ACS is offering Child Abuse and Maltreatment training to all new [EarlyLearn NYC](#) providers. The training will take place at Salvation Army at 120 W 14th St, New York, NY 10011 on [August 10, 2015 at 1-3:30pm](#). Please register using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/english-preventing-child-abuse-maltreatment-for-mandated-reporters-registration-17848792218>

If you have any questions, contact Celeste Garcia-Sanchez, Director of Education and Disabilities, at celeste.garcia-sanchez@acs.nyc.gov or 212.393.5174. We hope many of you take advantage of this training opportunity. Thank you for your partnership and service to the children and families of New York City.

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