



ACS Provider Bulletin



Cross Divisional

Foster Care

Preventive

Juvenile Justice

Early Care and Education

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Dear Provider Community:

ACS Receives Federal Grant to Expand Parent Advocate Child Welfare Program

I am pleased to announce that the ACS has received a \$1.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which will allow us to implement the Enhanced Family Conferencing Initiative, a three-year child welfare demonstration project in several neighborhoods in the Bronx.

Since December 2013, ACS has been offering all parents involved in a Division of Child Protection initial child safety conference the services of trained Parent Advocates who provide peer support and are supervised by partner agencies. Parent Advocates are invaluable resources who draw upon their own firsthand expertise of the child welfare system to engage and help parents in the safety planning process, and connect them with services.

This grant will allow ACS to expand the participation of Parent Advocates beyond initial child safety conferences to include follow-up conferences. In addition, Parent Advocates and Child Protection staff will receive enhanced specialized training for their respective roles. By better supporting parents during this challenging time, this project aims to improve the safety and well-being of children and youth, as well as achieve and sustain permanency with their families.

This project will be implemented and evaluated by our research partners—the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect at University of Colorado School of Medicine, and the Center for Human Development and Family Services.

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Cross Divisional

December Trainings to Help Families Navigate the Public Assistance System

In our continuous efforts to support and strengthen the work of child welfare staff (case planners, supervisors, case aides, etc.) with families on public assistance, ACS has partnered with the Human Resources Administration (HRA) to provide training to help families better access, understand and navigate the Public Assistance system; and when possible avoid a disruption in benefits.

Topics include:

- An overview of HRA Cash Assistance and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility and application process.
- Recipients requirements for maintaining eligibility and reducing risk of disruption to benefits
- Process for families when children are returning to household composition after being discharged from foster care
- Public assistance benefits for youth transitioning out of foster care to live independently.

The dates of the training are 12/14/2015 and 12/17/2015. Training sessions will be held at the Children Center. The training will also be available via video conferencing at the Division of Child Protection (DCP) borough office locations in the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. Each session will be 3 hours in length.

To register, log on to the Human Learning Services Center's website (formerly STARS) and register your staff based on the location and time that is most convenient. The name of the training is "Child Welfare Program -Overview of Cash Assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program."

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and to register your staff as soon as possible, as slots will fill up quickly.

Foster Care

[There are no Foster Care announcements in this edition.](#)

Preventive Services

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

Juvenile Justice

[New Juvenile Justice Policies](#)

Draft Policy for Public Comment

An interim policy, *Infection Control Program for Tuberculosis in ACS Juvenile Detention Facilities*, has been released for public comment.

Detention Services within ACS/DYFJ is committed to providing employees and youth in detention with a safe and healthy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

College and Career Corner

The Office of Education Support and Policy Planning
College and Career Corner

11th & 12th Grade Students

Get help with college applications and career advice
from peers who have received ACS services

December 16, 2015

4 pm to 7 pm

150 William Street

Brooklyn Room, 19th floor

Questions? Contact, Karyn Boutis at

Karyn.Boutis@acs.nyc.gov

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environment. This commitment includes the initial and ongoing screening of employees and youth who may be exposed to tuberculosis, as well as the provision of disposable particulate filtering face piece respirators for voluntary use by employees transporting or interacting with youth in detention. The purpose of this policy is to document protocols for the protection of DYFJ Detention Services employees transporting or interacting with youth in detention who are new to a facility or who exhibit symptoms suggestive of tuberculosis. [Download the policy.](#)

Please submit all comments by **close of business on January 8, 2016** via e-mail to draft.policy.comments@acs.nyc.gov. Comments can also be sent by mail to: ACS Policy Unit, 150 William St., 17th Floor, RM H-2, New York, NY 10038.

New Room Isolation Policy Released

ACS approved a new *Room Isolation in Limited Secure Juvenile Justice Placement* policy on November 30, 2015. This policy applies to all facilities having care and custody of youth placed in LSP, with ACS, pursuant to Article 3 of the Family Court Act. LSP providers may use room isolation as a last resort to calm and contain the acute physical behavior of a youth only after all approved less restrictive interventions have been attempted and found to be ineffective. The purpose of room isolation is to protect a youth from harming himself, herself, or others. The purpose of this policy is to provide clear instructions for staff to follow when considering the use of room isolation to calm and contain the acute physical behavior of a youth, and rules for how such isolation must be conducted.

[Download the policy](#)

New Mechanical Restraints Policy Released

A new *Mechanical Restraints for Limited Secure Placement* policy was final approved on November 30, 2015. This policy promotes the safety of youth and staff in limited secure juvenile justice placement (LSP), as well as the surrounding community, using the least intrusive/restrictive intervention necessary. This policy establishes guidelines, prohibitions, and limitations on the use of mechanical restraints in LSP facilities and during transport. Mechanical restraints shall be used without purposely inflicting pain or harm, only in accordance with the limitations and prohibitions on the use of physical interventions contained in each youth's Behavior Support Plan, and only when other forms of intervention are either inappropriate or have been ineffective.

[Download the policy.](#)

Early Care and Education

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

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