



# ACS Provider Bulletin



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Wednesday, December 23, 2015

## Cross Divisional

### [December Issue of The Link Magazine](#)

[Check out](#) the December issue of The Link Magazine, Child Welfare Programs' Best Practice & Resource E-Magazine. This month's issue, Growing Up, includes features on child development from birth through adulthood. Read stories about Growing Up in Foster Care and Becoming a Teen Parent and Growing Up with Domestic Violence. Learn about factors that go into deciding whether your child can stay home alone and the positive side of social media. Read a spotlight on ACS' new Deputy Commissioner of Family Permanency Services and SCO's Spanish-Speaking Parenting Group in Queens!

## 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](mailto: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 in 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](mailto:Lutful.Khan@cuny.edu) and visit [www.cuny.edu/cunystart](http://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](mailto: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

### [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' Division of Youth and Family Justice is committed to providing employees and youth in detention with a safe and healthy 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](mailto: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 Limited Secure Placement (LSP), with ACS, pursuant to

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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 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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