



ACS Provider Bulletin



Cross Divisional

Foster Care

Preventive

Juvenile Justice

Early Care and Education

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Dear Provider Community:

May is National Foster Care Month—a time to honor the foster families, helping professionals, community members, and advocates who make a difference in the lives of our young people. This month, we also join the country in recommitting ourselves to fulfilling that promise throughout our continuum of services.

As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of ACS, we can be proud that the number of children in foster care has dropped below 10,000 for the first time in our agency's existence. We now have many more families receiving evidence-based preventive designed to meet their specific needs.

And while children are in our care, we are collaborating with our providers to improve the quality of "family time" because research shows that the frequency of contact between children in foster care and their parents is a key factor in successful reunification. When reunification is not possible, we are working toward expanding the use of kinship care and open adoption—two permanency options that can maintain connections with families.

The safety and permanency of our young people must go hand-in-hand with their well-being. As a system, we are shifting from a focus on "beds" to a focus on homes. To that end, ACS has dramatically reduced the number of children in congregate care and is working to provide more tools and resources like our Foster Parent's Guide to Education so our foster families can better support our young people. Through our [Strong Families NYC](#) initiative, we have implemented comprehensive trauma screening, reduced foster care caseloads, and are rolling out programs focusing on strengthening bonds between children and caregivers, as well as increasing collaboration between foster care staff and mental health clinicians.

Over the last two years, we have also expanded programs for our older youth in care. I am pleased with several exciting initiatives including the new ACS Office of Employment & Workforce Development Initiatives and increased assistance for youth to attend and succeed in college.

I want to extend my gratitude to so many of you who work tirelessly to support our children in care and continuously innovate our work.

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Cross Divisional

[Soundview CPP Resource Fair](#)

The Soundview CPP is sponsoring its 2nd Immigration resource fair to help undocumented immigrants and unaccompanied minors with free legal consultation and community resources (healthcare, education, food services, employment opportunities, etc). Metro cards and lunch will be provided at this event for all attending families.

When: Saturday, May 21 from 12pm – 4pm

Where: Sonia Sotomayor Cornerstone Center, 1000 Rosedale Ave, Bronx, NY 10472.

[Please share this flyer](#) with your organization, clients and communities. If your organization is interested in tabling at this event, please email Dishon Ahing (DAhing@LeakeAndWatts.Org).

Foster Care

[Key FPS Documents and Resources](#)

- [Foster Care Strategic Blueprint](#): identifies our key priorities and areas of focus and provides a framework for guiding and tracking our work going forward.
- [ACS Resources for Foster Care Providers](#): identifies the foster care-related offices and functions within ACS, what these offices do and whom you can contact for questions and technical assistance.

[Title IV-E Waiver, Strong Families NYC Update](#)

Strong Families NYC continues to move forward with the implementation of caseload and supervisory ratio reductions, the CANS-NY assessment tool and our evidence-based models -- Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC) and Partnering for Success. All Brooklyn family foster care programs have been trained in ABC and are now making ABC referrals. Additionally, training in Partnering for Success for Bronx agencies was completed during the first quarter of 2016. Brooklyn and Staten Island agencies are currently participating in Partnering for Success training through the end of May. Borough-based Implementation Team meetings have been organized to coordinate, monitor and support the implementation process.

[ACS Workforce Institute - Professional Development Opportunities for Foster Care Agency Staff](#)

The ACS Workforce Institute has rolled out two key programs: Building Coaching Competency, a coaching learning

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ACS Office of Parent Support and Recruitment [Foster /Adoptive Parent Recruitment Forums](#)

To participate, register through the WISH LINE at 212-676-WISH(9474).

Friday, May 13, 2016

Administration for Children's Services
150 William Street – 8th Fl. Conf. Room – 8A-1

New York, NY 10038

10:00am – 3:00pm

[Download the flyer.](#)

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Administration for Children's Services
150 William Street – 19th Floor – Manhattan Room
New York, NY 10038

5:30pm – 7:00pm

[Download the flyer.](#)

NYC Juvenile Justice Reentry Conference

Conference highlights include:

- Core Principles for Reducing Recidivism and Improving Other Outcomes for Youth in Juvenile Justice System
- Best practices and insights to help youth succeed following placement
- Engaging plenary sessions and panel discussions
- Skill building workshops
- Community resources focused on building the assets and competencies in all young people
- Networking opportunities and much more!

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, JUNE 14TH
9AM to 5PM

CUNY John Jay College

More information to come



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program for NYC Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Supervisors and Managers; and Motivational Interviewing, a learning program for NYC Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Professionals. Staff at foster care and juvenile justice agencies across the City are benefitting from these two professional development programs. Please be sure your staff are signed up for these trainings. For questions and to register, please reach out to Wlinfo@acs.nyc.gov.

ACS Employment and Workforce Development Initiatives for Older Youth in Foster Care

ACS' new Office of Employment and Workforce Development Initiatives (OEWDI) has much work underway toward the goal of expanding services and improving outcomes for youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. For more information, please contact Assistant Commissioner Meka Nurse at workforcedevelopment@acs.nyc.gov and 212-676-6891.

- ACS is partnering with the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to develop a **specialized Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP) program, called YAIP Plus**, to serve youth ages 16-24 who are currently or previously in foster care or the juvenile justice system and are not working and not in school. The program includes employment readiness services, placement in paid internships and specialized case management services. YAIP Plus is being delivered by The Door and Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT). To refer youth to these programs, contact [Omanadra Zamora](#) at The Door and [Dani Smejkal](#) at Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT). The deadline to apply is Friday, May 13, 2016.

Download the flyers: [YAIP Doors](#) [Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow](#)

- We are pleased to announce an opportunity for foster care agencies to **receive training and technical assistance from the Workplace Center at Columbia School of Social Work to build the skills of foster care staff to improve employment services and outcomes for youth in foster care**. Foster care agencies will have the opportunity to apply and ACS will select 5 agencies to participate in this initiative. To learn more about this opportunity, please [click here](#) to RSVP for the webinar on June 9, 2016. Delivered through the auspices of ACS' Workforce Institute, the Workplace Center will work with the 5 selected care agencies to implement the *Young Adult Work Opportunities for Rewarding Careers* (YA WORC) model, which has been implemented with success in Rhode Island and California and is currently being implemented at two NYC foster care agencies.
- **Now Recruiting for the Civil Service Pathways for Youth Program (CSPYP)**! The CSPYP educates youth in foster care ages 17.5-21 about the civil service process and helps prepare them to take civil service exams and prepare for civil service careers. The next cohort of the Civil Service Pathways for Youth Program begins July 5th. Please contact Meka Nurse at civilservicepathways@acs.nyc.gov for an application. **Seats are limited.** The deadline to apply is **Friday, May 27, 2016**.

Family Team Conferencing

ACS is moving to centralize family team conferencing under the umbrella of Child Welfare Programs (CWP). CWP is headed by Executive Deputy Commissioner Jacqueline McKnight and includes the three child welfare divisions (Child Protection, Preventive Services, and Family Permanency Services). Previously each of the three divisions maintained its own conferencing function. These functions are now being combined under the CWP umbrella in order to leverage resources, improve integration, make transitions through different parts of the system more seamless for families, and improve outcomes. This new Child Welfare Conferencing program area is headed by Assistant Commissioner Beverly Ali. DCP's and FPS' former offices of family team conferencing have transitioned over to be under Beverly's supervision under the new Child Welfare Conferencing program area. DPS' conferencing functions will transfer next month. For more information, please contact Beverly at Beverly.Ali@acs.nyc.gov or at 212-341-8979.

Upcoming Events

Housing and Supportive Services Forum - May 18th, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Please join us for a discussion about increasing housing stability and services for older youth. OMH, CUCS, NY NY III, foster care alumni youth, ACS and others will provide information regarding accessing services and housing resources. Please [click here](#) to register.

National Foster Care Month

On May 19th, ACS will host the National Foster Care Month Reception to honor outstanding foster parents and the professionals that support them. The event is from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm at Battery Gardens.

- The ACS Parent Support and Recruitment (PSR) Unit is holding Foster and Adoptive Parent Recruitment Forums on May 13th and 24th for prospective families who may have an interest in becoming a foster or adoptive parent. To register for the forums, please call the ACS Wish Line at 212-676-WISH (9474). [Download palm cards.](#)

National Reunification Month - June 25th

This June, ACS will celebrate National Reunification month to recognize the accomplishments of parents in getting their children home safely, and the professionals who support them. On Saturday, June 25th, ACS will host a Family Reunification Celebration at the Children's Museum of Manhattan. Stay tuned for the invite. Please contact Loren Ganoë at loren.ganoë@acs.nyc.gov for more information or if you are interested in joining the planning committee for this event.

Pride Month

Nearly four years ago, the NYC Administration for Children Services established the ground breaking LGBTQ Office of Policy and Practice, with the vision of improving outcomes for LGBTQ youth and families. Since implementing the 2012 LGBTQ Policy, ACS has made great strides towards a key goal of identifying safe, affirming and permanent foster care placements. Our efforts have been enhanced by having a strong presence at all of NYC's borough wide pride events. This year's schedule of Pride Celebrations is listed below:

- Heart Gallery Pride Exhibit Kick-Off (**Wednesday, June 1**)
- Queens Pride (**Sunday, June 5, 10am- 6pm**)

- Brooklyn Pride (*Saturday, June, 11, 9am- 5pm*)
- Manhattan Pride (*Sunday, June 26, 9am- 6pm*)
- Bronx Pride (*TBD*)
- Staten Island Pride (*Saturday, July 16, 9am – 5pm*)
- Foster Parent Recruitment Event (*Wednesday, Sept 7, 6-8pm*)

For more information about LGBTQ resources and this office, please visit www.nyc.gov/acs/LGBTQ or email LGBTQ@acs.nyc.gov.

College & Career Corner 2016 – Final Sessions!

Please share this information with eligible youth. The Office of Education Support and Policy Planning College and Career Corner connects 10th, 11th and 12th grade students in foster care with a peer mentor, assists with college application completion and offers career advice from peers who have received ACS services. College advisors from the Options Institute are available for consultations!

The final two sessions for the year will be held **May 18 and June 15**, 4pm to 6pm, at 150 William Street, 19th Floor, Staten Island Room. Dinner and MetroCards will be provided. For more information, contact Karyn Boutis at

Karyn.Boutis@acs.nyc.gov.

[Download the flyer.](#)

Share Information about Youth Education and Employment Opportunities

Please feel free to contact Meka Nurse, Assistant Commissioner, ACS Office of Employment and Workforce Development Initiatives with any information on education and employment opportunities or special programs for youth in ACS care:

meka.nurse@acs.nyc.gov.

Be sure to include:

- Name of your agency
- Name of Program
- Target Population
- Brief Summary
- Contact Person
- Links to applications or flyers

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

[Cultural Institutions Retirement System Contract Provision Update](#)

Please be advised that the payment process for the Cultural Institutions Retirement System (CIRS) will remain unchanged for Fiscal Year 16 and Fiscal Year 17.

Programs that have signed contract modifications that included new language related to CIRS that have not yet been submitted to the Comptroller will receive a revised modification agreement without such language for signature. For providers that signed a modification agreement that has been submitted to the Comptroller, ACS will remove the language related to CIRS in the next amendment or renewal agreement, whichever comes first.

We thank you for your commitment to the City's children and families.

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