FRAC Report, January Health & Safety, and More!
October 30, 2019

Spotlight
Jenn O’Connor, Director of Policy & Advocacy, Prevent Child Abuse New York.

Today we are spotlighting Jenn O’Connor, Director of Policy & Advocacy at Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCANY). PCANY is a statewide nonprofit that focuses on three things: public awareness of child abuse prevention; trainings for people who work with children and families (including afterschool staff and administrators); as well as policy and advocacy. Much of my work revolves around trying to improve policies and increase state funding for programs that support and strengthen families—like afterschool, summer, and expanded learning.

Jenn has been working at her current position for nearly three years. She also directs the NYS Home Visiting Coordination Initiative at PCANY, which aims to increase the number of children and families served by maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs. However, she began her career working in the NYS Legislature right out of college and transitioned into nonprofit work about 20 years ago, when she decided she wanted to be more issue-oriented. This is the fifth nonprofit she has worked for and she hopes to stay!

Jenn loves PCANY’s current quest to create a Trauma-Informed Legislature. To PCANY, having trauma-informed policymakers means that they are familiar with the concepts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Protective Factors, and Resiliency; that they speak with the same voice (using the same terms and definitions); and that they use this knowledge to inform their decision-making when drafting and/or voting on legislation. She believes that afterschool and related fields provide much-needed Protective Factors for families, including nurturing adults to help guide children and youth. In addition, she also believes if parents are stressed due to a lack of support, they are more likely to respond to their children in a negative way, in which increasing Protective Factors can decrease abuse.
Finally, we asked what Jenn’s favorite part of her job is, she replied, “I enjoy the fact that no two days are the same. I wouldn’t thrive if I was constantly stuck behind a desk. I like the mix of going deep into policy (brainstorming and researching issues) and advocating for change.”

**Quality Self-Assessment Tool**

The Network for Youth Success believes that clear quality standards and ongoing program assessment are central to building effective and sustainable afterschool programs.

Improving afterschool program quality must begin with a commitment on the part of practitioners to examine their programs with a critical eye. A quality program is one that is reflective, willing to improve, change, and grow, and believes in successful outcomes for its participants. Moreover, practitioners must understand that improving program quality is an ongoing process. Self-assessment provides an important opportunity for programs to identify strengths and weaknesses free from the pressures of external monitoring and evaluation. It is upon these concepts that the Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) Tool is based. The Network is working in a number of ways to encourage the adoption of common quality standards statewide.

The QSA Tool is meant to be used in concert with other formal and informal evaluation methods, such as youth, parent and staff meetings, youth and parent focus groups, as well as, external monitoring and evaluation. Each of these methods can help identify program strengths and areas in need of improvement.

Check our website out [here](https://www.BrowsingYrYouthSuccess.org) to read more about the QSA tool, watch webinars on how to use it, and more!

**FRAC Report**

A report was released last week by the Food Research & Action Center last week. Here are some highlights from that report.

*More Can be Done to Feed Hungry Children After School* (FRAC, October 23, 2019) More than 1.3 million children benefited from afterschool suppers at school- and community-based programs on an average weekday in October 2018. That was a 10.4 percent increase from the previous year, according to the annual *Afterschool Suppers: A Snapshot of Participation* report, released today by the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). “We know that poor nutrition can lead to poor academic and health outcomes for children. The federally funded Afterschool Supper Program reduces hunger and draws children into enrichment programs that keep them active and engaged,” said Jim Weill, president of FRAC. “While the increase in participation is encouraging, much more can be done to ensure low-income children who rely on school lunch also can access afterschool supper.”


**Health and Safety Training - January**

*Health and Safety for SAC Directors*

Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. This course will help directors look at policies and procedures that reinforce
high-quality health and safety practices. Directors will get the most out of this training if they bring a copy of the policies and procedures from their program. The dates are as followed:

**January 2020**
January 14, 2020 – 8:00-2:00
January 16, 2020 – 8:00-2:00
January 17, 2020 -9:30-1:30

This is a three-day course. Participants must attend all days. Click below to register.

**OCFS Regulations Resources**
- FAQs on Background Clearances
- ICYMI: Comprehensive Background Clearance Requirements Video
- SAC Regulations & Definitions
- 6000 Packet
- OCFS website - Check daily for updates
- Letter to Families, Funders, and School Personnel
- Leave a comment or question about the new regulations here

**Network for Youth Success Events**

**11/13/19 - 5/7/20: CRELO Trainings, Across the Capital Region**
The Network for Youth Success will be providing various Front Line and Director Trainings across the Capital Region at no cost. For more information click here.

**11/8: Regional Network Symposium, Rochester, NY**
The Symposium is intended for each of the Regional Networks to share their successes and challenges. In addition, we would like to take a look at what their network framework looks like, community collaborations and partnerships they currently have, and how the State Network can better support each region. Network leads are required to create a presentation with a visual aid and share any documents such as strategic plans, marketing materials, and committee documents.

**11/9: Rochester Training Institute, Rochester, NY**
Our Training Institute will be Saturday, November 9, at the Holiday Inn in Downtown Rochester! Participants of this event will receive six OCFS training hours, a variety of training topics appropriate for supervisors, teachers, and frontline staff working with school-age children, networking opportunities, and a buffet lunch! Click here to register. EIP funding may be available for this training. To apply, go here.

**1/14-17/2020: Health and Safety Training for Directors, Troy, NY**
Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. This course will help directors look at policies and
11/8/2019

New York State Network for Youth Success Mail - FRAC Report, January Health & Safety, and More!

procedures that reinforce high-quality health and safety practices. Directors will get the most out of this training if they bring a copy of the policies and procedures from their program. Registration is limited to 12, so don't wait to register! [click here](#).

1/21/20-4/21/20: Distance Learning
The Distance Learning School-Age Care (SAC) Preparatory Course includes viewing recorded videos, reading, and preparing a portfolio and resource file. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State. We are now enrolling for Spring 2020.

3/6: Legislative Breakfast, Greenbush, NY
The Network plans to host its annual Legislative Breakfast on March 6, 2020, at the Greenbush YMCA. Stay tuned for more information.

Our Annual Conference will be in Troy for 2020! Our annual conference will contain two full days of frontline and directors level trainings as well as an abundance of vendors. If you are interested in providing a training at our conference, you must submit a proposal by 10/24/19. The proposal must include a short bio, description and goals of the training, as well as additional details about the proposed training. For more information, or to submit a proposal, visit our website [here](#).

8/20 & 8/24/2020: Health and Safety Training for Directors, Troy, NY
Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. This course will help directors look at policies and procedures that reinforce high-quality health and safety practices. Directors will get the most out of this training if they bring a copy of the policies and procedures from their program. Registration is limited to 12, so don't wait to register! [click here](#).

Other Events

11/7: Kindergarten Transition Planning Summit, Newark, NY
Join keynote speakers Lenny Grozier and Tracy Lyman for a training on creating strong early care education and community school linkages, innovative and promising programs/services, trauma informed practices, and SEL. For more information, or to register, [click here](#).

11/12: Urban League Annual Luncheon, Rochester, NY
The Urban League of Rochester will be having its annual luncheon on Tuesday, November 12th from 12pm-1:30pm at the Riverside Convention Center. This year’s luncheon is called Equity & U with Dr. Debra Warner as the guest speaker. For more information, or to register, [click here](#).

11/5 & 15: Become a Mentor for the Youth, Rochester, NY
The Urban League of Rochester’s Afterschool Academy is currently looking for mentors who are at least 21 years old and would love to make a difference in youth lives who are 6-8 grade students in schools in Monroe County (mostly RCSD). Staff member, Shawntee Ragans, will be hosting a Mentor Social in order for anyone interested to attend to receive information on what it means to be a mentor and answer any questions attendees may have. Here are the dates and times for the social: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 3:30pm to 5:30pm & Saturday, November 16, 2019 11:00am to 1:00pm If you or someone you know would be interested, please RSVP to Shawntee Ragans (sragans@ulr.org), or Detuana (Yana) Henry (dhenry@ulr.org), or just stop by one of the sessions.

11/6: College Essay Help, Hudson, NY
Coaches Mindy Gardner and Eileen Ordu will be available to help students with applications and essays for college. If you are interested, visit the Hudson Area Library from 6:30-8:00pm. For more information, call or text: 518-965-2447.

11/8: 4-H National Youth Science Day, Buffalo, NY
Your afterschool program is invited to Cornell Cooperative Extension’s annual 4-H National Youth Science Day. It will take place Friday, November 8th from 4:30 to 6pm at UB Computer Science Atrium on North Campus in Davis Hall. The theme for this year’s event is computer science, and the activity we are featuring is called Game Changers. In addition to this activity, there will be many other organizations
running fun, hands-on STEM-related activities. This event is most appropriate for youth in grades 3 through 12. See attached flyer for more info. Hope to see you there!

11/14-15: Positive Youth Development Training, Odessa, NY
This highly interactive 2-day training will explore key principles of youth development such as building youth positive outcomes, supportive relationships and environments for youth, youth voice and engagement opportunities, as well as, effective programming strategies. It will also examine the role of the youth worker by discussing core competencies and dilemmas of youth work. To register, click here.

11/15: Workshop: No Empty Seats, Binghamton, NY
Join Ronald Cope, II, from the National Center for Community Schools for a workshop that will focus on: continuous improvement, capacity building with an emphasis on human capital, data-driven attendance work, strong attendance teams, aligning the attendance work with student activities, and parent engagement. To register, click here.

11/23: Maker Faire and Student STEAM Fest, Rochester, NY
Maker Faire Rochester will be returning for our 6th annual event on November 23rd, 2019 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Additionally there will be a Student S.T.E.A.M. Fest for the second year! What is the Student S.T.E.A.M. Fest? It’s a special sneak peek at Maker Faire Rochester held on Friday, November 22nd, from 9 AM to 2:30 PM. This day is open to school and homeschool groups for 3rd through 8th-grade students. At last year’s event, there was over 1,000 students in attendance, and for this year, they are aiming to raise that number to over 1,500. For more information about the Student S.T.E.A.M. Fest and for registration please visit http://www.nyscate.org/studentsteamfest.

12/14: Middle School Girls Data Bootcamp, NY, NY
Girls+data invites middle-school girls, grades 5-9, to learn about high demand tech careers in data analytics. This three-hour hands-on STEMinar will teach participants to build, customize, and present their own data story using analytics software Looker. Swag and snacks included! For more information, click here.

4/28 - 5/1: 2020 BOOST Conference, Palm Springs, CA
The 2020 BOOST Conference will convene over 2,500 global educators April 28 - May 1 in sunny Palm Springs, CA. They are now in the Early-Bird registration phase with a rate of $465. Register your team today to celebrate the best of afterschool and expanded learning fields. Early-Bird ends October 31, 2019. Click here for more information and how to apply.

3/15-18/2020: NAA National Conference,
Join over 2,000 members of our community at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center for four days of networking, learning, and inspiration. Special events, 200+ educational sessions, daily keynotes, and an interactive Learning Expo all designed to meet the needs of the developing professionals, and emerging current leaders of afterschool. Come to NAA Convention 2020, and leave saying, "I've found my people!" For more information, click here.

Follow us for Activities, Resources, and Policy Updates

Remove my name from all future mass email communications.

Address postal inquiries to:
New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.
415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180