CRELO, QSA, and More Resources!

December 18, 2019

Our goal here at the Network is to spotlight a person, program, or event that exhibits the highest levels of excellence in the afterschool, summer, and expanded learning field. Last week, we spotlighted one of our own - Timothy Fowler, Professional Development Coordinator. However, one thing we haven’t done is highlight our hard working Regional Networks, who make it their mission to consolidate efforts amongst programs in their area to bring about change and quality. Therefore, we decided to reach out and ask the leads some questions about the Regional Network.

First up, the Capital Region Expanded Learning Opportunities Network, or CRELO. CRELO serves Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Greene, Schenectady, and Schoharie counties. Andrew (Drew) Katz and Lauren Shafer lead the charge as the co-chairs of the Regional Network. Drew is the Director of Youth Services at the Albany JCC and has been with CRELO for just under a year. Lauren, who is the Program Manager for 21st Century Community Learning Centers for the Boys and Girls Club of Albany County has been with the Regional Network for about 6 months. CRELO was created with a mission to “support programs and providers and to deliver high-quality out-of-school time programs.” In order to help achieve this mission, Drew and Lauren, with help from us here at NYSNYS, have worked to provide a number of quality services. Some services include: free OCFS frontline and director trainings, advocacy efforts through the annual legislative breakfast, resources on social media, and more!

What makes CRELO unique is its location and make up of the network. For instance, it is situated right in the middle of state government. This at times can be an advantage, and at others a
disadvantage. In addition, Lauren added, that the high concentration of programs in the area makes collaboration efforts rather easy. When scheduling trainings and other events, finding hosts sites at programs across the region is actually quite easy. However, with advantages there are always disadvantages, and one of them being a previous advantage. The concentration of so many programs in one area, despite being helpful at times, makes it difficult to blend all the desires into one outcome. This can be particularly tricky when determining what trainings topics to offer, that will attract as many people as possible.

Despite the challenges CRELO faces, the value of the Regional Network is evident in the area. With the leadership of Drew and Lauren, CRELO hopes to continue to offer quality services to the Capital Region and build a stronger field.

If you are interested in learning more about the free CRELO trainings, Legislative Breakfast, or something else regarding CRELO, please contact Marcos Velazquez at Capacity@NetworkForYouthSuccess.org

A Year with the QSA Tool

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, and external monitoring and evaluation. Each of these methods can help identify program strengths and areas in need of improvement.

In this video we take an hour-long deep dive for self-assessment leaders. In it we explore the recommended strategy for incorporating self-assessment effectively into your program practices to create continuous program quality improvement. Click here to watch.

Supporting Youth's Needs with a Case-By-Case Approach

"To best support youth, we need to know several key categories of information, including the youth's strengths and interests, areas of support, accommodations, and communication supports. It is important to get to know each youth individually and not make assumptions based on a disability label or other categorization. This is called a Case-by-Case Approach to providing child and youth supports. We get this information by observing, talking to significant adults in their lives and by having meaningful conversations with the youth themselves." To learn more, check out this guide presented by TurnkeyPD, Staff Development Resources.
Virtual Infant/Toddler & School-Age Child Care Institute Webinars

The Infant/Toddler & School-Age Child Care (ITSACC) Institute is designed to build the capacity of professionals working to manage and support the child care systems. Particularly they focus on infant/toddler or school-age care policies and practices implemented under the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. The Virtual Institute held two of its three part webinar series on November 13 and December 11. The next training will be held on January 8. Click here, for more information, to register for the upcoming webinar, or view past ones.

OCFS Regulations Resources

For OCFS resources in the new background checks, check out the links below:

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

Network for Youth Success Events

12/11/19 - 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.

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.

1/22: Afterschool Advocacy Day, Albany, NY
Join us for our annual Afterschool Advocacy Day in Albany on January 22, 2020 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Come meet with your state representatives and share with them why afterschool programs are important to you! Let us elevate afterschool and not make it an afterthought! Click here to RSVP.

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 and registration is now open! In addition to two full days of trainings, and vendors, we are now also accepting award nominations. For the second year in a row we will be giving out awards based to those who represent and illustrate the following at high levels: quality leadership, exemplary professionalism, program excellence & innovation, champion of the field, and Regional Network Leader. For more information on nominations or to register, visit our website here. To become a vendor, click 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]

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**Other Events**

What will you do in an emergency? Join the U.S. Department of Education’s You for Youth (Y4Y) Technical Assistance team as they walk you through developing a program safety plan that meets local and national standards. You will be joined by a representative from the U.S. Department of Education’s Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance Center to discuss best practices for safety planning, and aligning your host organization's current safety protocols to relevant regulations. This showcase will also feature 21st CCLC programs who will share strategies for implementing an optimal safety plan. Register now.

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].

1/8:

1/23: Mentoring Boys and Young Men of Color, Buffalo, NY
This training session focuses on best practices surrounding a critical, strengths-based approach to mentoring and developing relationships with boys and young men of color. Data has shown that boys and young men of color face systemic disadvantages in this society, and this training strives to address how mentoring can work towards combating this. To register, [click here].

2/20: Design & Manage a Quality Mentoring Program, Buffalo, NY
For professionals interested in developing a mentoring program, this comprehensive session will provide the necessary tools and information to launch and sustain an effective youth mentoring program. Covered in this training will be the industry’s nationally accepted best practice standards for the development of youth mentoring programs that have proven effective in a wide range of existing mentoring strategies. To register, [click here].

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].

Common Ground is looking for volunteer mediators to serve in our community-based and Family Court Mediation programs. Common Ground is a non-profit mediation center, serving Greene & Columbia Counties, funded in part through a grant from the NYS Unified Court System. Resumes with letter of interest to: dwallant@commongroundinc.org or mail, Dawn Wallant, Executive Director, Common Ground Dispute Resolution Inc., 11 William St., Catskill NY 12414. For more information call 518-943-0523

This conference will take place in Rochester with actress and activist Ms. Abernathy, daughter of American Civil Rights Leader Ralph Abernathy. For more information or to register, [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. Click here for more information and how to apply.

Enrollment for the 2020 National Bilingual Bee & Biliteracy Competition is now open! The competition is open to any bi-literate students fluent in English and one of the following languages: Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Mandarin Chinese, or Spanish. To enroll click here. If you have questions please contact mirta@smartcoos.com.

❄️ Ways You Can Help the Network! ❄️

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