Champions, Child Abuse Prevention Month, and More!
April 8, 2020

School's Out, Make it Count! Award Recipients
Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Director of Program Operations, OCFS, Jim Hart
Recipients of the 2020 Champion Award

The Network for Youth Success Champion Award spotlights the efforts of Legislative members and state staff to improve quality programming for youth and advocate for the benefits of afterschool programming. The winners of this award:

- Supports high-quality afterschool, summer, or expanded learning and development opportunities that support youth success in school, college, work, and life.
- Advocates on behalf of children and families at the state or national level.
- Collaborates to meet a statewide system of high-quality afterschool, summer, and other expanded learning opportunities for youth.

The following candidates more than checked off the former boxes. We here at the Network are honored to have chosen the following award recipients:

New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Stewart-Cousins' longstanding commitment to the importance of and critical need for afterschool programs has been prevalent throughout her career. In her earlier days, she worked as Director of Community Services for the City of Yonkers, where she was then a champion for keeping children in a safe and nurturing environment with caring adults. Today is no different. She is still fighting for our youth and fighting to ensure that there is always legislation in place to protect afterschool funding.
New York State Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee. Jaffee has fought year after year to protect funding for the Advantage After School Program. She has worked hard by circulating sign on letters and championing the program in her committee and with her colleagues. She has always believed and still believes in the importance high-quality programs that care for our children and youth and has been.

When asked for a quote, Assemblywoman said, "As a former educator, I know the positive impact of afterschool programs have on children’s lives. One of my many priorities as a legislator is to guarantee that kids are in a safe learning environment that will provide them with the building blocks to succeed. Afterschool programs provide this and have a meaningful impact on the lives of our students. Afterschool programs also give parents an opportunity to support their families without having to worry about the safety of their kids. I am honored and humbled to receive the Champion Award."

Jim Hart, Director of Program Operation, Office of Child and Family Services. Hart has always exemplified every aspect of the Champion Award. He has illustrated this through his work and collaboration to improve processes and procedures for childcare providers in New York State. He works tirelessly to assist programs in navigating the most pressing issues, whether it was the new background checks back in the fall, or the current COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Jim has always been and continues to be swift to respond and take action to ensure programs are receiving the assistance they need.

COVID-19 Resources

Please see the attached documents in response to the growing concern around COVID-19. Take a moment to read this information and familiarize yourself with the content. We will be updating this section of the newsletter every week with new materials.

- (4/02) Waiver Request for CPR/First Aid Certification
- (3/28) DOH Returning to Work
- (3/27) Guidance for Child Care Providers
Information regarding COVID-19 is evolving rapidly. You and your programs can stay informed by checking the NYS Department of Health, OCFS, and/or Afterschool Alliance websites regularly for updates.

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**Self Care**

Aperture Education recently spoke with Meaghan Dunham, a certified mindfulness and yoga instructor about these current times. Meaghan talks about the "new normal" we as a collective are facing, while also providing tips and tricks on how to be mindful and centered throughout this time. You can stream this discussion on Apple Podcasts or Spotify now.

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**Child Abuse Prevention Month**

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, normally highlighted by gatherings of people and pinwheel gardens. In this time of social isolation, the need to shine a light on child abuse and the prevention of it is greater than ever. The stress brought on by the current COVID 19 crisis increases the likelihood that incidences of abuse will increase.

Join Prevent Child Abuse NY and other professionals, offices, families, individuals, friends and furry friends all across the state and #gobue4nykids

What does that mean?

1. Take a picture or a selfie of you and your crew in blue and post it to your social media accounts with the hash tag #gobue4nykids and make sure to tag Prevent Child Abuse NY (see handles below).

   Facebook: @preventchildabuseny Twitter: @PCA_NY Instagram: preventchildabuseny

2. You can also make blue pinwheels and post them in your window and tag PCANY in those pics too.
3. Post a sentence that you wish all children could hear right now. How would you support them? What do you think they need to hear? Then share that to any of our social media by tagging PCANY in your post, using the handles above.

Not on social media? Email your pics, sentences, pinwheels, and words of wisdom to wbrandow@preventchildabusement.org and they will get them posted.

STEM Corner

Two years ago Left Brain, Craft Brain did "28 Days of Hands-On STEM Activities." They created this with the purpose of engaging children with hands on activities. "Each and every one of these 60 activities gives kids an opportunity to do science, technology, engineering and math in a way that helps them learn the skills they need in the 21st century." Click here to check it out!

Network for Youth Success Events

8/20 & 8/25: 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.

9/2020 - 12/2020: 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 Fall 2020.

10/3: Regional Rochester Training Institute, Fairport, NY
Save the date! Join the Network for Youth Success for a day of high-quality professional development that includes six OCFS training hours on a variety of topics that is appropriate for supervisors, teachers, and front line staff working with school-age children. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to develop your career and network with other like minded individuals! Stay tuned for more information.

Other Events

4/8: Engaging Youth, Not Managing Youth! Webinar
In this webinar explore proactive strategies and concrete techniques to engage youth and keep them engaged. While proactive approaches are preferable, you will also take a look at a few strategies to help you respond to challenging behaviors. As we know from experience, it is always good to have a variety of tools in your toolbox. For more information or to register, click here.
4/9: Child Care Providers and Federal Assistance, Webinar
In conjunction with the Civil Service Employees Association, OCFS will be hosting a live webinar on “Child Care Providers and Federal Assistance: Small Business Administration Loans and Loan Forgiveness.” The webinar will feature Tom Copeland, a leading expert on the business of child care. To register, click here.

4/9: Utilizing Pandemic EBT in Response to COVID-19, Webinar
Join FRAC and partners to learn more about opportunities to utilize Pandemic EBT to ensure children have access to food during COVID-19 school closures. To register, click here.

4/21-23: Literacy for Frontline Staff, Virtual Series
Students’ ability to read, write, speak, and listen effectively is critical to their success in school and beyond. These literacy skills lay the foundation for other academic and 21st century skills. In this three-part webinar series, the U.S. Department of Education’s Y4Y Technical Assistance (TA) Team will share strategies for supporting frontline staff in assessing and improving 21st CCLC literacy initiatives. Site leaders and other participants will improve their understanding of the key components of literacy and take away research-based literacy activities geared toward building 21st century skills like collaboration and critical thinking. Register here.

10/15: WGiOS Celebrate Children’s Mental Health Awareness, Scotia, NY
SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, October 15, 2020. What's Great in Our State has rescheduled their Day of celebration for children’s mental health. The day will include the option to choose between workshops an honorary luncheon celebrating their honorees. Save the date and stay tuned for registration.

Ways You Can Help the Network!

Choose us as your non-profit through Amazon Smile, donate, become a member, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or check out our website!

School's Out, Make it Count! Partners
Please take a moment to view some of our partners for the School's Out, Make it Count! 2020 Annual Conference. Each one offers a variety of resources to the field. Check out their websites for more information by clicking on their name:

Early Care & Learning Council
Buffalo Police Athletic League
Improving the Quality and Supply of Early Care and Education in New York State
Remove my name from all future mass email communications:

*Address postal inquiries to:*
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