OCFS Dear Provider Letter, Summer Activity Guide, and More!
July 15, 2020

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Program Spotlight: Bindlestifff's Cirkus After School

This week we would like to highlight a great program out of the Capital Region. Bindlestifff’s Cirkus After School was founded by Stephanie Monseu some years back with the goal in mind to teach kids a variety of different skills. Specifically, Bindlestifff uses skills like juggling, stilt walking, tumbling, partner acrobatics, prop manipulation, and physical comedy to help youth to become stronger learners, community members, and leaders by encouraging them to express themselves creatively, challenge themselves physically, and work inventively with others.

Needless to say the pandemic has been tough on them, however, multiple partnerships have kept them going; the City of Hudson Department of Youth, Coarc, the privately-funded Morris Memorial in Chatham, the HOST Collaborative (a Regional Network of ours), the American Youth Circus Organization, the American Circus Educators, and the ACE Social Circus Network. Through these partnerships they have had access to a variety of resources that enable them to better serve families and keep in touch with national and international best practices within their sector.

During the COVID-19 shelter-in-place months, it has been difficult to run programs. However, through these months they have maintained weekly outreach via text, YouTube videos, and Zoom classes to over 140 families. In addition, they have attended weekly calls with various networks to create response initiatives and offered volunteer service in food programs in Hudson to help their neighbors.

If you would like to learn more or have ideas on programming for Bindlestifff’s Cirkus After School, you can reach out to Stephanie via email, or check out their website here.
Is your program working hard to offer quality services to your community? Let us know about it by filling out a quick questionnaire and we will spotlight your program in an upcoming newsletter.

Policy Corner: OCFS & DOH Documents Released this Week

On Monday of this week, OCFS released a new Dear Provider Letter. This correspondence serves to communicate important information that may impact your child care program. As a result of the relevant provisions of Executive Order #202.5 not being extended, effective July 7, 2020, all child care program employees, volunteers and household members over 18 years of age in family/group family child care programs are again subject to the OCFS Comprehensive Background Check requirements.

These requirements had been temporarily suspended as a result of the COVID-19 emergency in New York State. The Emergency Child Care Employment guidance that was issued on April 8, 2020 on interim basis is no longer applicable. Additional information and guidance regarding the Comprehensive Background Check requirements can be found here.

The DOH also released a new document on Monday, "Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency." You can access that document here.

For regular updated resources regarding COVID-19 check out our COVID-19 Resource Page.

Summer Activity Guide Units 3 & 4 Now Available!

Unit 3: Passion & Purpose and Unit 4: Invention and Imagination is now available! The Summer Activity Guide was created to support your hard work! We have been working alongside the 50 State Afterschool Network and the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network to develop a suite of fun and engaging activities and challenges designed specifically to accommodate a COVID-19 summer. We hope you find this helpful and hopefully planning for summer just got a whole lot easier!

For more information, click here!

CNN/Sesame Street Racism Town Hall

Last month CNN released an article with video resources from Sesame Street on the subject of racial equity. In this article, CNN's Van Jones and Erica Hill partnered with some of
Sesame Street's favorite characters and spoke on the subject of bringing people together by standing up to racism. To access this resource for kids and families, click here.

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**Network for Youth Success Events**

**9/23: Fall SAC Credential Course, Capital District**
The New York State Network for Youth Success administers the New York State School Age Care (SAC) Credential, which promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation for afterschool professionals. For those interested, 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.

**SAVE THE DATE: 4/23 & 4/24, 2021: School's Out, Make it Count Annual Conference**
Our Annual Conference will be held on April 23rd & 24th 2021 for 2020. Be ready for two full days of trainings on a wide variety of topics, various vendors, awards, networking, and more! Stay tuned for more information.

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**Other Events**

**CARES2: Application Guide**
If you are interested in assistance with completing your CARES 2 application, click here for a 90 minute walk through of two types of applications: one group family day care program, and one day care center application. Frequently asked questions are also answered during the presentation, and the power point is attached here as well.

Note the application deadline for CARES 2 grant opportunities has been extended through 5pm on July 22, 2020.

**7/15: A Post-Covid Queens**
As New York is battered by COVID-19, the people from Queens have responded in remarkable ways: first responders and health care professionals tend to the ill, nonprofit workers care for the most vulnerable, government officials go above and beyond, business leaders support their communities and more. Join City and State NY for this important discussion as they celebrate Queens. For more information, click here.

**7/21: PYD IV: Youth Development Programming**
Act for Youth is offering a final webinar training series on youth development. In this webinar they will review features of effective youth development programming, reflect on inclusive program environments, and explore youth-centered learning approaches and resources. For more information or to register, click here.

**7/23: Positive Youth Development Reading Club**
Positive Youth Development is inviting youth work professionals affiliated to NYS 4-H, Youth Bureaus, and the NYS Network for Youth Success for another reading session regarding the effects of smart phones on young people. For more information or to register, click here.
8/6: SAVE THE DATE - PASE Virtual Conference
PASE leads the field in offering professional development for all levels of afterschool staff, from new and experienced practitioners to program supervisors and executive directors. In August PASE will be hosting a virtual conference which will include professional development opportunities for afterschool professionals. Stay tuned for more information.

8/11: Cultural Responsiveness STEM
This webinar, featuring experts Karen Peterson and Alicia Santiago, will describe the concept of cultural responsiveness and discuss the importance of developing a culturally responsive and anti-racist mindset. They will also discuss how youth benefit from culturally responsive afterschool programs and share specific tactics and practices to develop culturally relevant STEM afterschool programs.

Participants are asked to complete these two activities prior to the webinar. These activities will help participants get a better understanding of the importance of diversity and cultural responsiveness in their role and work. For more information or to register, click here.

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