Spotlight: Benefits of the NYS SAC Credential

Diana Perrella, Site Supervisor of Lakeland Children’s Center located at Cooper Beech Middle School, earned her credential in 2018. Below you will see questions Diana was asked regarding the NYS SAC Credential course and her responses.

1. What would you like to share about the SAC Credential course?
I would suggest this program for all supervisors. The course offers an abundance of information that is essential when organizing an afterschool program. This program helped me to understand my students needs and capabilities, the reason why certain rules are put in place, and how to communicate with staff and parents. I learned how to maintain a safe and clean program while maintaining a program that is stimulating and fun.

2. Why did you take the SAC Credential Course?
To obtain knowledge in order to maintain a best practice program.

3. What did you learn about children by taking the course?
I leaned many aspects of the development of children. I also learned how to run a safe, clean, educational, and interesting program.

4. What you learned about families by taking the course?
I learned how to keep families educated via flyers, internet, community gatherings, and communication. I also learned how to talk to them with a positive attitude and to be sincere.

5. What did you learn about supporting staff by taking the course?
I learned different tactics on how to address the staff's needs. This course was very informative in how to educate the staff regarding different situations that may occur with...
students, as well as parents. I also gained knowledge on how to instill tactics in order for the staff to maintain a clean and safe environment.

6. What did you learn about quality programming by taking the course?
Many aspects of quality program were addressed in this course. Educational programs, along with safety programs. I gained a full understanding on evaluating the students needs and abilities before creating a program. This enables all children to be involved on every level of development.

7. Did you receive any additional benefits from your place of employment (promotion, raise, etc.) from taking the course?
I didn’t receive a raise of promotion; however, I am much more confident in running my program. I walked away with a lot of knowledge that I did not have going into the program.

8. If and why you would recommend the course to others?
I feel this course offers a lot of information on how to run a successful program. All aspects of students and the staff's needs are covered.

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.

Back to School Planning: Checklists to Guide Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers

For many families, back to school planning will look different this year than it has in previous years. Your school will have new policies in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. You may also be starting the school year with virtual learning components. Whatever the situation, these checklists are intended to help parents, guardians, and caregivers plan and prepare for the upcoming school year. Some of the changes in schools' classroom attendance or structure may include:

- Cohorts: Dividing students and teachers into distinct groups that stay together throughout an entire school day during in-person classroom instruction. Schools may allow minimal or no interaction between cohorts (also sometimes referred to as pods).
- Hybrid: A mix of virtual learning and in-class learning. Hybrid options can apply a cohort approach to the in-class education provided.
- Virtual/at-home only: Students and teachers engage in virtual-only classes, activities, and events.

For more, click here.

Policy Corner: ACTION ALERT: Email/Call your state legislators about afterschool support!

As schools reopen in-person, virtually, or a combination of both, children, parents and guardians need to know that they have effective support to adapt – school-age children will need safe, supervised care, and working families will have their peace of mind knowing that their children are cared for. School-age child care (SACC) must be supported to adapt and coordinate with the school system so that they can provide continued support for children, youth, and families. The Network has provided an email and phone script to...
help afterschool providers, advocates, and supporters communicate the urgent need for state guidelines with legislators. Find out who represents you in the State Senate and State Assembly and email/call.

Email Script
Dear Assemblymember/Senator:

As schools reopen in-person, virtually, or a combination of both, children, parents and guardians need to know that they have effective support to adapt – school-age children will need safe, supervised care, and working families will have a peace of mind knowing that their children are cared for. I am reaching out to ask you to urge the State to release important guidelines to support school-age childcare providers as schools reopen statewide.

Specifically, I am requesting that the State:

- Releases guidance allowing afterschool programs the much needed flexibility to continue utilizing their Advantage After School Program, Empire State After-School Program, Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention (ESD/SVP), and 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) and other afterschool funds to support students and families.
- Allows and provides program waivers to expedite licensing and inspection for new or expanded program space
- Issues an Executive Order (similar to Executive Order # 202.5) to expedite the criminal background check process and reduce the immediate burden on programs around background checks

As an afterschool [provider/supporter/advocate], these guidelines and support from the State is more important than ever because [Include information about what your program is doing now or what you could do if guidance is issued to allow continued payments] Afterschool programs are essential and must be supported to adapt and coordinate with the school system to provide continued support for children, youth, and families. I hope that you will join this effort to support families and afterschool programs in the district.

Sincerely,

Phone Script
Hello,

My name is ___ and I am calling to ask Assemblymember/Senator ____ to urge the State to release important guidelines to support school-age childcare providers as schools reopen, and parents and families, educators, and districts adapt to best serve their communities.

Specifically, I am asking the State to release guidance allowing afterschool programs to continue utilizing their [Advantage After School Program/Empire State After-School Program]...
Program/Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention (ESD/SVP)/21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)/state afterschool contracts] to support students and families as schools reopen. I would also like the State to issue an Executive Order and provide waivers to ensure that the background check process for staff and licensing for alternative program spaces are expedited.

These guidelines and support for afterschool programs are crucial to continue meeting the safety and needs of school-age children, support working families, and keep essential afterschool programs operational during these unprecedented times.

I hope that the Assemblymember/Senator will join this effort to support families and afterschool programs in the district.

Thank you for your time.

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**Resources for Addressing Multicultural and Diversity Issues in Your Classroom**

The National Education Association has established a page to help educators integrate multicultural and diversity education into the K - 12 classroom experience. The following resources consist of NEA webpages with information about multicultural and diversity education, books for multicultural educators, and websites containing multicultural education curriculum.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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**Network for Youth Success Events**

9/10: DOH Guidelines: How to Be Successful During the 2020 School Year

COVID-19 will greatly impact the safety precautions we must take running afterschool programs this year. In early June, the NYS Department of Health released new guidelines to help programs ensure the safety of their children, families, and employees this school year. During this session, we will explore the new guidance documents, identify best practices, and discuss what guidelines are mandatory. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss potential challenges and work with others to brainstorm solutions. [Click here](#) for more information.

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.

10/7: Fall SAC Credential Course (VIRTUAL), 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. You must live in the Capital Region to sign up for this course. [Click here](#) to register. For more information email asalamonpowers@cdymca.org.


Our Annual Conference will be held on April 23rd & 24th, 2021. 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.
Other Events

9/21, 9/22, 9/23, & 9/24: Social and Emotional Learning (Four Part Series)
Join the Y4Y team as they dive into each step of the process for delivering high-quality social and emotional learning activities - planning, designing, implementing and assessing your efforts. The webinar will start with assessing your organization's ability to implement SEL instruction. Next up is the program design - reviewing the necessary data and conducting a needs assessment. On the third day of the series, you'll get information on how to plan activities and routines designed to improve social and emotional learning skills in students. The week will end discussing how to maintain and improve your SEL programming. To register, click here.

9/22, 10/13, & 11/10: Million Girls Moonshot Engineering Practice Support Equity [three-webinar series]
Interested in developing professional development focused on engineering mindset in youth? Wondering how to do this in equitable ways that encourage engagement and participation of girls and other underrepresented youth? This webinar, the first in a three-part series, focuses on three core engineering practices: using a systematic problem-solving process, exploring the properties and uses of materials, and considering real-world problems. Click here for more information.

10/22: Lights on Afterschool
Take part in the 21st annual Lights on Afterschool to reflect, celebrate, and call attention to the afterschool programs that are so critical to youth and families. It's been a hard year, and Lights On will look very different this year. There are new ways for everyone to take part. Even if you are not doing a typical event, register! There will be new offerings and developments that all can take part in, no matter your circumstances or operating status. Afterschool programs are rising to the moment to support youth and families during the pandemic — from innovative virtual programming to meals to caring for children of essential workers to wellbeing check-ins. We need to celebrate and recognize your efforts, and call attention to the importance of afterschool supports as our nation moves ahead. For more information or to register, click here.

10/16 & 10/17: Empire State Maker Faire 2020
Regional faires throughout New York State have banded together to create a virtual interactive experience! Empire State Maker Faire will share the creative work and technical know-how of all kinds of makers who share a passion for making. The event features demonstrations, performances and how-to workshops, and an online project showcase. For more information or to register, click here.

Fall 2020 (Multiple Dates): Core Body of Knowledge Virtual Training Series
Explore how the CBK is to be used as the foundation for professional preparation and development of New York’s early childhood workforce and how it fits into the broader scope of training and coaching protocols. The CBK can provide a framework for supervisors and trainers to evaluate performance of individual staff and support the planning of professional development to ensure that it is intentional and relevant to the strengths, interests, and needs of each teacher. The session will include a review of materials; small group discussions; and hands-on, interactive activities to help trainers develop meaningful professional development opportunities. To register, click here.

Fall 2020: NYS SAC Credential Courses, Harvest Professional Services, NYC
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. These virtual sessions are being offered by Harvest Professional Services. You must live in the NYC Region to sign up for this course.
8/31 - 12/14: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session I - 10 AM - 1 PM MONDAYS (VIRTUAL), NYC
8/31 - 12/14: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session I - 7 PM - 10 PM MONDAYS (VIRTUAL), NYC
9/16 - 12/9: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session II - 10 AM - 1 PM WEDNESDAYS (VIRTUAL), NYC
9/12 - 10/24: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session I - 9 AM - 4 PM SATURDAYS (VIRTUAL), NYC
10/24 - 12/12: Fall SAC Credential Course - Session II - 9 AM - 4 PM SATURDAYS (VIRTUAL), NYC

For more information or to register contact Maizelin Knowlin at harvestprofessionalservices@yahoo.com or 347-570-8047.

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!

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

Remove my name from all future mass email communications:

Address postal inquiries to:
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