

Community Schools Grant Initiative – Grantee Convening: May 14-15, 2015

The following are brief descriptions of the agencies present at the convening of community school grantees and contact information for the staff representing each agency.

Council on Children and Families: The Council provides a comprehensive, cross-systems perspective critical for the development and implementation of strategies impacting the availability, accessibility and quality of services for children and families. The Council does not have direct responsibility for the operation of programs or the provision of services. Instead, the Council works with state and local organizations in both public and private sectors to foster interagency, collaborative approaches to solving the problems and meeting the challenges facing government, service providers and the private sector.

- Deborah Benson – debbie.benson@ccf.ny.gov
 - Elana Marton – elana.marton@ccf.ny.gov
 - Mary DeMasi – mary.demasi@ccf.ny.gov
 - Bill Przylucki – bill.przylucki@ccf.ny.gov
-

Department of Health: DOH is dedicated to protecting, improving and promoting the health, productivity and well-being of all New Yorkers. Of particular relevance to children and families, some examples of programs DOH oversees are the following: Early Intervention, Child Health Plus, Family Health Plus, School Based Health Centers, obesity prevention, and sexual health.

- Sue Slade (child health) – susan.slade@health.ny.gov
 - Sharyn Brandt-Ruzza (school-based health care) – Sharyn.brandt-ruzza@health.ny.gov
 - Sherry Tomasky (health insurance marketplace) – sherry.tomasky@health.ny.gov
 - Dan French (chronic disease prevention) – Daniel.french@health.ny.gov
 - Mary Ellen Flynn (nutrition – child & adult care food program) – mary.flynn@health.ny.gov
 - Karen Hopkins (family planning/reproductive health) – Karen.hopkins@health.ny.gov
 - Kara Connelly (school-based dental health care/preventive services) – kara.connelly@health.ny.gov
-

Department of Labor: Through the Career Development and Youth Initiatives Office, DOL provides resources to youth, ages 14 to 24, to help them explore for the future and prepare for careers. CareerZone, a career exploration and planning system, is available to youth and organizations at no cost. In addition, DOL has a “Youth Portal” with information ranging from getting working papers to preparing for a job interview, as well as resources for parents to help guide their children through career choices. DOL also oversees the Governor’s New York Youth Works program which encourages businesses to hire unemployed, disadvantaged youth ages 16-24 that live in 12 target areas of the State.

- Christopher Myers – christopher.myers@labor.ny.gov
-

Office for People With Developmental Disabilities: OPWDD offers individualized, person-centered supports to children and young adults aged birth to 21 who are OPWDD-eligible with a qualifying diagnosis. OPWDD services can be provided in addition to supports received through Early Intervention, the education system, and the Office for Children and Family Services, which are the primary systems serving children with disabilities in New York State. These systems work together to ensure children have the supports they need to build on their strengths and overcome any challenges they face.

Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services: OASAS is responsible for coordinating the delivery of alcoholism and substance abuse services in New York State. With respect to children and youth, OASAS recognizes addiction as a disease that affects the whole family. OASAS oversees a statewide network of services designed specifically for the unique needs of adolescents with substance use disorders and their families. OASAS-certified programs use evidence-based practices to provide supportive, family-friendly and clinically appropriate prevention, treatment and recovery services for adolescents, children and families dealing with substance use disorders.

- Maria Morris-Groves (adolescent treatment) – maria.morris@oasas.ny.gov
 - Danielle Olsen (adolescent treatment) – danielle.olsen@oasas.ny.gov
 - Walt Davies (drug and alcohol prevention) – walt.davies@oasas.ny.gov
 - Brett Harris – brett.harris@oasas.ny.gov
-

Office of Children and Family Services: OCFS provides a system of family support, juvenile justice, child care and child welfare services that promote the safety and well-being of children and adults. OCFS is responsible for programs and services involving foster care, adoption and adoption assistance, child protective services including operating the Statewide Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment, preventive services for children and families, services for pregnant adolescents, and protective programs for vulnerable adults. The agency provides oversight and monitoring of regulated child care, legally exempt child care, child care subsidies, child care resource and referrals and the Advantage Afterschool Program. OCFS is also responsible for all elements of the state's juvenile justice programs, transformation of the juvenile justice system, and administering and managing residential facilities.

- Claire Strohmeier – Claire.strohmeier@ocfs.ny.gov
 - Joanne Trinkle – joanne.trinkle@ocfs.ny.gov
-

Office of Mental Health: OMH's Division of Children and Family Services works to ensure that New York children are equipped with social and emotional development and learning to form a foundation for success in school, work and in life, that children and families have access to the right service at the right time in the right amount, and children and families have integrated and effective supports. OMH programs include various inpatient and outpatient programs, emergency, community support, residential and family care programs. OMH licenses and funds mental health clinics and satellite clinics, including those located on school grounds or linked with schools.

- Donna Bradbury – donna.bradbury@omh.ny.gov
 - Kate Provencher - kathryn.provencher@omh.ny.gov
 - Lisa Clark – lisa.clark@omh.ny.gov
 - Mary McHugh – mary.mchugh@omh.ny.gov
-

Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives: OPCA is committed to improving practices that promote public safety, ensure offender accountability, provide restitution to victims and reduce recidivism. The programs funded through OPCA enhance New York's criminal justice and juvenile justice policies and offer specialized services that are supported by research including employment, training, and treatment. OPCA provides leadership, tools, and training to probation departments across the state to assist in making juvenile justice practice more effective in improving outcomes for youth and their families. Local probation departments are uniquely positioned to coordinate diversion services and supervision to all court referred youth in their counties. OPCA oversees the provision of juvenile probation services at the county level for matters involving Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) where probation is designated the lead agency and Juvenile Delinquency.

- John Adams – john.adams@dcjs.ny.gov
-

Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance: OTDA is responsible for supervising programs that provide assistance and support to eligible low-income families and individuals, mainly through local departments of social services. OTDA's functions include providing: temporary cash assistance; help in paying for food; assistance in paying for heating costs; child support services, including establishing paternity and court-ordered child support/health care coverage, and enforcing and modifying child support orders; employment services; and services to refugees and other eligible immigrants. OTDA also inspects certain homeless shelters, provides capital funding for homeless housing projects, and supports the provision of supportive services in homeless housing. In addition, OTDA makes medical eligibility determinations for federal disability benefits on behalf of the US Social Security Administration, and provides a State-funded supplement to NYS residents receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Through OTDA's web portal, mybenefits.ny.gov, New Yorkers can prescreen themselves for many of these benefits and services, as well as a number of tax credits and benefits/services offered by other State agencies (e.g., free and reduced-price school meals), and apply for nutrition and heating assistance. Parents and guardians can learn more about OTDA's child support services at childsupport.ny.gov.

- Stephanie Boshart (employment and economic supports) – stephanie.boshart@otda.ny.gov
 - Joan Ruger (child support) – joan.ruger@otda.ny.gov
 - Matt Morris (refugee and immigrant assistance) – matthew.morris@otda.ny.gov
-

State Education Department: SED is responsible for overseeing more than 4,500 schools in nearly 700 school districts, more than 1,800 non-public schools, more than 200 operating public charter schools, and more than 3 million public and non-public students in addition to independent and proprietary colleges and universities, libraries, museums and other educationally-related services in New York. The Office of P-12 Education oversees pre-k through grade 12 programs.

- Renee Rider – renee.rider@mail.nysed.gov
- Carri Manchester – carri.manchester@nysed.gov
- Carl Friedman – carl.friedman@nysed.gov
- David Bryant – david.bryant@nysed.gov