



Summit

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Presentations Focusing on Early Childhood and Family Support Organizations

National and New York Statewide Perspectives

Speaker:

Tonja Rucker

Program Manager

The Early Childhood Success Institute for You, Education and Families at the National League of Cities (www.nlc.org)

Summary of Remarks:

Birth through kindergarten is the civil rights issue of our time for all governors in the US. The issue is such that the League of Cities is providing plans for cities of similar sizes to have support and funding to develop, sustain and grow initiatives at the community level. This will be achieved through the engagement of special educators, school boards, government departments, and new businesses. It encourages emotional support for teachers and engagement of public libraries. The National League of Cities is the country's oldest and largest national organization representing the interests of cities, serving as a resource and advocate for the 19,000 cities, villages and towns it represents. The National League of Cities created the Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute), a special entity with over a decade of working with elected officials to create strong early care and education systems.

Speaker:

Susan Perkins

Senior Policy Analyst/NY Project LAUNCH State Coordinator

The NY State Council on Children and Families (<http://ccf.ny.gov/council-initiatives/>)

Summary of Remarks:

The NY State Council on Children and Families was formed 30 years ago to coordinate cross-system efforts with the 12 family- and child-serving agencies. With a focus on birth to adult and hard to place and hard to serve populations, the Council coordinates the state's health, education and human services systems as a means to provide more effective systems of care for children and families. It is a neutral body within state government capable of negotiating solutions for interagency issues. One of the Council's most useful tools for agencies and organizations that work with families is the Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse, or KWIC (<http://ccf.ny.gov/council-initiatives/kids-well-being-indicators-clearinghouse-kwic/>). The Council on Children and Families also coordinates the Early Childhood Advisory Council

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(ECAC), the vision of which is to ensure all young children are healthy, learning, and thriving in families that are supported by a full complement of services and resources essential for successful development. In recognition of the importance of libraries in providing resources for families and children, a public library representative has been added to the ECAC.

Speaker:

Carole Oshinsky

Co-Director

Infancy Leadership Circles (<http://www.nyztt.org/infancyPolicy.html>) a project of the New York Zero-to-Three Network.

Summary of Remarks:

The goal of the Leadership Circles is to be a communication pipeline for the Infancy Movement in New York State. The organization advances better policies and comprehensive services, including and representing a broad array of professionals who provide services to infants, toddlers, and families; and raising awareness of the importance of the early years across and beyond disciplines that interact with young children. Carole described the organization as organic and explained that Circles can crop up on their own and operate for years or be planned by NYZTT; all have opportunities through statewide calls and summits as well as local ILC meetings and events to share and learn from each other. The examples she gave included a Mid-Hudson Infant-Toddler Coalition that does training events and Infancy Summits which grew into a planning group for Seneca County United Way. Over a dozen Circles have been developed by NYZTT to date covering 15 counties/boroughs throughout New York State.

Each Infancy Leadership Circle:

- Identifies local strengths and issues and sets specific goals;
- Develops action plan for achieving goals;
- Brings professionals together across service systems; and
- Nurtures natural leadership and strengthens relationships across systems.

Speaker:

Patricia Uttaro

Monroe County Library System Director and Project Director of Rochester's Educational Alignment for Young Children initiative – a National League of Cities program

(<http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/early-childhood-%28old-page%29/case-studies-on-educational-alignment-for-young-children>).

Summary of Remarks:

The initial goal of the Rochester Educational Alignment for Young Children is to transform family engagement through the following: developmental screenings; creative financing mechanisms; curriculum alignment & professional development; and summer learning. This has positioned the public library to be a partner and valued resource for all agencies and organizations. In the first year of the project, one thousand more 3-year-olds received developmental screenings in fall 2014; Professional development was offered for Pre-K and

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Kindergarten teachers, as well as Principals and Administrators in the summer of 2014 and the project directed summer learning camps at libraries in summer 2014. Ensuing years of the project will build on and refine the goals.

Panel Presentations

Panel 1 - Speakers from three perspectives: Public Broadcasting, Head Start, and Child Care and Resource Referral.

Speaker:

Katherine Jetter

Education Vice-President at WMHT

Representing Public Broadcasting throughout New York State

Summary of Remarks:

Education is at the heart of Public Media's mission, supporting lifelong learning using on-air, online and in person programs and services.

Public Broadcasting can and does impact pre-k development and literacy in a positive way through their Ready to Learn programs and services. Learning takes place *anytime, anywhere*. Using screens and media as tools to support early learning is the primary goal of Ready to Learn. Reinforcing positive, developmentally appropriate screen use is an important component of Ready to Learn workshops. Encouraging parents/caregivers to experience the broadcast program/online game in an interactive way along with their child(ren) is a core goal. Providing wonderful programming, workshops, and supporting materials for parents/ caregivers, Public Broadcasting's resources align with early education curriculum and are designed to help all children in early literacy skill building. Connecting with public libraries builds the concept that books and reading are important tools in our multimedia world. Partnering with agencies such as daycare centers and nurseries can help all these organizations take full advantage of their resources to help all children learn the joy of words, letters, and play, thus developing a strong foundation for the school years ahead.

Speaker:

Patty Persell

Director

New York State Head Start Collaboration (<http://ccf.ny.gov/council-initiatives/head-start-collaboration-project/>).

Summary of Remarks:

Head Start, founded fifty years ago, is a federally-funded program designed to build partnerships between a wide range of state and local programs that provide quality early childhood education and family support to low-income children and their families. These partnerships are important

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for maximizing resources and developing comprehensive, efficient, and effective service delivery systems. Current initiatives include education—NEW Developmentally Appropriate Practice Briefs PreK to 3rd grade; health care; child care; welfare and child welfare; community services; services to children who are homeless; children with disabilities; and professional development. The organization's partnership with *Ready to Read at New York Libraries* is an important step in growing partnerships to meet Head Start's goal to support low-income families and their children.

Speaker:

Abbe Kovacik

Executive Director

Capital District Child Care Council

Representing Child Care Resources and Referral (CCR& R)

(<http://www.childcareresourcesinc.org/about-ccri/what-is-ccrr/>).

Summary of Remarks:

Child Care Resources and Referral (CCR& R) is a national program which, in NY State, exists in every county to support families who combine work with raising children in their daily lives. Not only can parents and caregivers receive assistance from this program, but child care providers can as well. The overall objectives of CCR& R are: supporting families; compiling, analyzing and sharing information; supporting individuals and programs that care for children; and building connections in communities and states. To give but a few examples, for parents and families they help with searches for child care locations, for child care providers professional development and training opportunities, and for all sectors, publications, tip sheets, and multimedia presentations are available online. Ms. Kovacik stressed that community-based CCR&Rs have proven to be effective because they work at ensuring that child care involves all sectors and segments in the community. The growing relationship with *Ready to Read at New York Libraries* is adding useful resources for families, caregivers, and childcare providers.

Panel 2 –

Speakers from two perspectives: Reach Out and Read and the New York State Parenting Education Partnership.

Speaker:

Brian Gallagher

Executive Director

Reach Out and Read (<http://www.reachoutandread.org/about-us/>).

Summary of Remarks:

Reach Out and Read is a national organization of pediatricians that reaches families with young children using volunteers to read to children in their healthcare practices and clinics. Each child

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receives a book to take home every time they visit their pediatrician. The volunteers model reading for visiting family members and caregivers. The organization has 5,200 programs across the US and grows at the rate of 30-40 new programs being added each month. In New York State, 92 % of pediatric interns participate in Reach Out and Read programs. Reach Out and Read and libraries are natural partners to encourage parents and caregivers to read aloud to their young children. “Together we can reach out to all families in the communities we serve and provide them with the books and the guidance required to make reading aloud a daily routine. Giving the youngest members of our society the best chance of success is a worthwhile investment in our future.”

Speaker:

Monique Hardin-Cordero

Program Director

Reach Out and Read of Greater New York

(www.reachoutandreadnyc.org)

Summary of Remarks:

Since its incorporation in 1999, Reach Out and Read of Greater New York (ROR GNY) has grown to over 200 program sites serving 250,000 children. ROR GNY has a long history of collaborating with the public libraries in the five boroughs of New York City, Long Island, and Westchester and the Hudson Valley region. Through a New York City grant-funded initiative, ROR GNY is working collaboratively with the public library systems to create a comprehensive birth-to-five citywide system of supports that ensures all New York City children enter school healthy and ready to learn.

Speaker:

Liz Hood

Director

Office of Educational Television and Public Broadcasting

Founding Member

New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP) (<http://nyspep.org/index.php/about-parenting-education-partnership/>)

Summary of Remarks:

The New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP) was founded in 2006 when a team from public and private New York State agencies came together to consider how to increase families' ability to nurture positive development in their children's activities. NYSPEP recently reorganized its workgroups to focus on the following: examining best practices in parenting education programs; designing methods of evaluating effectiveness in parenting education; developing methods to increase public understanding of positive parenting practices; and promoting professional development for parent educators.

Work group activities include:

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- Providing accessible, user-friendly information for parenting educators on the research regarding elements of effective programs, as well as evidenced -based parenting curricula and programs
- Developing and disseminating documents to assist parenting education programs in a campaign designed to normalize the utilization of community supports and resource-rich websites and materials to strengthen parenting practices.

The goals of the Parenting Education Partnership align with the goals of *Ready to Read at New York Libraries* to reach parents and caregivers with the resources and tools so their children have the skills they need to succeed.

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