MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lately, the dialogue on the importance of early childhood education services to have a positive impact on the success of our children and our futures has gained a new emphasis. With the recent documentary titled “The Great Leap Forward” and the upcoming release of the book titled “The Power of Three,” educators, providers, community leaders and families are recognizing the critical role of early childhood education. The Child Care Council of Suffolk, the program funded through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), Super Storm Sandy Block Grant.

Child care, education and resource and referral services have never been more critical for our nation to come together to fully support early childhood education. A recent study conducted by Columbia University’s National Institute for Early Development and Education highlights all of the concerns parents have with safe, high-quality early childhood education programs throughout the nation. The study states, “High-quality early childhood education is vital for children’s development to become the future workforce and creative adults who contribute to the success of our own and our futures.”

This year’s Annual Meeting speaker Bill Millett will discuss these concerns and many others in the presentation titled “Why Everyone Has a Stake in Early Childhood Education.” Millett will discuss why it is critical for Suffolk County to come together to fully support high-quality early childhood education and the dangers of cutting off support in this critical period. We will also hear from local educators and advocates who share their passion for this important mission.

Our meetings with the legislators were scheduled in a very well-organized manner. We met with the Assembly Democrats in the morning. In the afternoon, we met with the Senate Republicans and Assembly Republicans. Each of the groups had an agenda to accomplish. Joint Workshops were held to allow members of both the House and Senate to provide their input to the legislators. We met with the legislators and gave them a back-grounded and highlighted what was already in the budget and what was new to be added. Details on the last few days that the County has been in Albany are very encouraging. We were able to accomplish many of the goals that we had set as our priorities.

An incredible feeling of pride in our Suffolk County group kept building as the day progressed and more and more personal pledges were being given. It was empowering for our group to have them all stand up and give their personal pledges. This was the key ingredient to what has driven our group this year.

While our advocacy trip was not the details of the adopted state budget that were important, but we do know that there is:

- $1.5 million for Advantage Afterschool Programs; and
- $30 million for Pre-K for three-and four-year-olds statewide (school districts can only create a program for three-year-olds if there is enough funding to cover the cost; four-year-olds can be funded with state aid if there is four-year-old funding); and
- $1.5 million for Expanding Access to Pre-K for Four Year-Olds.

Additionally, the following services are offered:

- Early Childhood Professional Development (ECPD) Programs: In addition to our three annual workshops and trainings on such topics as health and safety, the Children’s Bureau offers additional ECPD Programs:
  - Infant Toddler Intervention (ITI) Resources
  - Health, Safety and Nutrition: A Theory-Based Approach
  - Multi-Generational Family Child Care: A Theory-Based Approach
  - Infant Toddler Intervention (ITI) Resources

The SAFER workshop trainings are designed to assist child care center staff and families to develop and encourage responsive support for children and families. SAFER offers the following services:

- Training and technical assistance to help child care professionals, community advocates and business people)
- Early Childhood Development Toolkits: The Child Care Council of Suffolk also has a phone line available Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to answer questions about social-emotional health and behavioral challenges. The phone number is 631-462-0303 ext. 166 or 112.

The Child Care Council of Suffolk (CCCS) has partnered with the Association for Mental Health and Wellness to offer a variety of family support programs to assist children who may be suffering from trauma and stress in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy. The Child Care Council of Suffolk’s program is funded through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). Super Storm Sandy was a particularly challenging natural disaster for Long Island. As a result, many children and their families were affected by the severity and magnitude of the storm, which resulted in the displacement of thousands of families and business owners. The Child Care Council of Suffolk also has a phone line available Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to answer questions about social-emotional health and behavioral challenges. The phone number is 631-462-0303 ext. 166 or 112.
The Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc. (CCCS) held its annual Champions of Children 29th Anniversary Luncheon on October 2, 2015, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Crest Hollow Country Club, Woodbury. Champions of Children 29th Anniversary Luncheon October 2, 2015, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Crest Hollow Country Club, Woodbury

The Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc. (CCCS) is pleased to welcome Commack resident Matthew Jordan Cohen to its Board of Directors.

CCCS holds an annual Champions of Children 29th Anniversary Luncheon in October to honor dedicated individuals who have made significant contributions to the child care community, specifically the Long Island Association for Recognition and Communication (LIA). Written by principal Bill Millett, the Child Care Industry Report was presented to industry leaders and legislators.

The Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc. (CCCS) is pleased to extend a warm welcome to the new Board of Directors: Pamela Franklin, Joanne Johnson, and Janine Sutula.

MATT COHEN Joins Child Care Council of Suffolk Board of Directors

Prior to joining the LIA in 2011, he was executive director of Government Relations for the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), where he oversaw government and community affairs for the second largest public electric utility in the country at the time – serving 1.1 million customers in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and portions of Queens.

Before LIPA, Cohen served as Long Island director for United States Senator Charles Schumer, where he was the chief political and policy adviser to the Senator for all Long Island-related issues and acted as the primary liaison to local governments.

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In addition to the CCCS Board, Cohen serves on the Board of Directors of New York League of Conservation Voters – Long Island and served as the regional vice president for the Youth for the Environment committee.

Before joining the LIA in 2011, he was executive director of Government Relations for the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), where he oversaw government and community affairs for the second largest public electric utility in the country at the time – serving 1.1 million customers in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and portions of Queens.

The Child Care Industry Report’s findings, the LIA meeting featured an eye-opening (for many in attendance) keynote speech by Bill Millett, a Charleston, South Carolina-based business consultant who does client briefs for clients that are the child care options of states and regions when determining where to locate their facilities or facilities. According to Millett, any region is gaining recognition by its corporate clients that quality early education is such a vital human capital relationship that the companies’ abilities to find the talent necessary for their businesses is economic sustainability and competitiveness.

The Child Care Industry Report continues that the Long Island Association for Recognition and Communication (LIA) – the region’s leading business organization.

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