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The Child Care Connection February 2019



A Message from Our Executive Director

It has long been a priority of the Child Care Council of Suffolk to advocate for the investments needed to support a strong child care industry. This is of paramount importance as child care providers face the increasing minimum wage, expanding regulations, new training requirements and fewer parents are able to afford care.

Right now, the Governor, NYS Assembly and NYS Senate are negotiating toward a final budget that is due by April 1st. The Governor's budget proposal includes some funding for the new Child Care Market Rates, expands employer tax credits and makes child care a priority for local Regional Economic Development Councils. But we need much more.

The Council is working with our statewide partners to advocate for significant increases that will help more families afford child care and support higher rates for child care providers. You can read our full budget ask [here](#).

Legislative Forum & Call to Action

To help inform our advocacy on the state and county level, the Suffolk County Child Care Commission held a Legislative Forum & Call to Action on February 9th to solicit input and feedback from child care providers. With more than 30 providers present, it was a productive and informative session. It is important to me that we continue to create these opportunities to share information and discuss challenges. As a first step we will hold forums like this on a quarterly basis. So, be on the lookout for the next date which will be sometime this spring!

View the Power Point presentation from the forum [here](#).

View the summary of the issues that were discussed at the forum [here](#).

OCFS Updates

OCFS recently released a "Dear Provider" letter that highlights the following updates:

- Smoking restrictions
- New technology wave (FAMS)
- Email communications
- "Blue Card" makeover
- Paid family leave
- Epi-pen shortage
- Flu season
- Child care tip sheets

To access the complete "Dear Provider" letter, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events



2019 Advocacy Day

Meet with legislators, tour the Capitol and take a stand for your profession.

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Bus leaves at 6AM from our office in Commack.

[Click here](#) to RSVP!



Family Child Care Association of New York State, Inc. 28th Annual Conference

**March 15 & 16, 2019
Pre-Conference Thursday March 14th**

Gideon Putnam Hotel
Saratoga Springs, NY

This unique conference is specifically designed for family/group family child care providers and staff. Network with Fellow NYS FCC/GFCC providers and receive up to 20 hours of training.

For pricing, schedule, and registration information, click [here](#).



**Long Island School Age Child Care Conference
Empowerment: You Make a Difference**

**Saturday, April 19th, 2019
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

Melville Marriott
1350 Walt Whitman Road
Melville, NY 11747

The School Age Child Care Regional Training Institute, a collaborative project of the Child Care Councils of Nassau and Suffolk, funded by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, is designed to support child care providers who care for children from 5-12 years of age in before and after school settings. This year, the Institute will be holding its first annual 'Long Island School Age Child Care Conference' titled, "**Empowerment: You Make a Difference**". This professional development opportunity includes a selection of diverse Presenters who will share their expertise of tools and strategies to establish and support social and emotional development in school age children. Keynote speaker *Justin Shaifer*, kicks off the day with a dive into the 'culturally responsive STEM curriculum.' The conference will be open to 150 registered child care providers who will receive 6 hours of OCFS training for attending.

For pricing, schedule and registration information, click [here](#).



Child Care Council of Suffolk Annual Meeting

Save the Date
June 6th, 2019

Featuring Roberta Reardon, NYS Commissioner of the Department of Labor who will discuss the vital role of child care in workforce development.

Upcoming Trainings

- 3/7** - Creative Art
- 3/13** - Infant/Child/Adult CPR
- 3/27** - Pediatric First Aid
- 4/3** - Infant/Child/Adult CPR
- 4/6** - Resuscitation Cardio Pulmonar (RCP)
(CPR)
- 4/10** - Pediatric First Aid



Click here to register

CSEA will sponsor trainings for Family and Group Family child care providers. When registering for a training, contact [Stefanie](#) to see if your program is eligible!

The Child Care Council of Suffolk & the SBDC at Farmingdale State College offers FCC/GFCC providers..

“Business Strategies to Build a Successful & Profitable Child Care Program”

Free training & support to learn...
Business Practices and Planning
Marketing – Plan & Strategy
Financial Planning – Bookkeeping & Billing
QuickBooks

Classes meet the following Saturdays:
April 13th 10:00am – 2:00pm
April 27th & May 4th 9:00am – 12:00pm
May 11th 10:00am – 2:00pm
May 18th 10:00am Graduation

Classes will be held at the Farmingdale State College
2350 Broadhollow Road, Farmingdale NY 11735

Enrollment is limited! For more information, click [here](#).

CACFP



We applaud the entire child nutrition community for the amazing work each and every one of you do every day! Creating awareness of the Child and Adult Care

Check out this yummy #CACFPcreditable snack recipe featuring lemon yogurt*, blueberries, and graham crackers. Recipe for Herry's Blueberry Lemon Parfait.

Food Program helps ensure that over 4 million children will continue to receive healthy and nutritious meals every day.

The National CACFP Sponsors Association has created a number of tools and resources for you to use to promote National CACFP Week. These tools include the official 2019 fliers, digital materials, social media support, handouts, and other materials. We invite you to use all of these materials to promote CACFP Week 2019 within your network, on social media platforms, and inside your homes. [Click here](#) for the toolkit.

**Remember yogurt must meet the new meal pattern sugar limits.*

Herry's Blueberry Lemon Parfait

Ingredients

- 1 cup of lemon yogurt
- 2 cups of blueberries
- 1 large banana
- 4 tablespoons crushed graham crackers

Directions

In each of the flour plastic cups, layer $\frac{1}{4}$ cup yogurt $\frac{1}{2}$ cup blueberries, and 1 tablespoon graham crackers. For a complete breakfast, serve one parfait to each child with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of milk.

Resource & Referral



Does your child care program offer summer and school break options for families?

Call us today at **631-462-0303** and ask to speak with the Resource and Referral Department to update your program's information for the summer season.

We're Hiring!



The Child Care Council of Suffolk is looking for
a Bilingual (Spanish) Early Childhood Specialist to join our team!

For more information, please contact [Joan](#).

