



Annual Meeting Features Veteran Early Care and Education Leader

Be sure to attend the Child Care Council of Suffolk's Annual Meeting at Touro College Law Center, Central Islip, on Friday, June 11.

Delivering the keynote speech will be Maria Whelan, President and CEO, Illinois Action for Children.

Ms. Whelan oversees one of the largest early care and education organizations in the state, providing a broad range of programs and services to support families and child care providers in Cook County. Illinois Action for Children also works to advance a strong advocacy agenda focused on empowering and organizing families throughout Illinois.

Ms. Whelan's presentation is titled, "Strong Families and Powerful Communities, Where Children Matter Most: Creating a Comprehensive Agenda for Children from the Ground Up." Executive Director Janet Walerstein stated, "We look forward to hearing this provocative talk and learning from Ms. Whelan's expertise."

Council Steps Up To 25th Anniversary

Be sure to save Friday, October 1, 2010, for a very special Champions of Children Luncheon: the Council's 25th anniversary! To be held at the Crest Hollow Country Club, the event will honor Executive Director Janet Walerstein and board member Nicholas J. LaMorte, President of CSEA Long Island Region. Entertainment will be provided by Capitol Steps. In its 29th year, the popular comedy troupe composed of many former Capitol Hill staffers, delivers satirical wit in performances around the country. The group has recorded 29 albums and has been featured on broadcast TV shows and National Public Radio.



Maria Whelan, President and CEO, Illinois Action for Children

Ms. Whelan has been a leader in the early care and education field for more than 30 years. Her many roles have included serving as founding Executive Director of the Carole Robertson Center for Learning, Director of Children's Services for the Chicago Department of Human Services and Senior Program Officer at the Chicago Community Trust.

At the Annual Meeting, the Council will also bestow its annual awards to people with outstanding contributions to child care.

The Child Care Councils meet on March 11, 2010 with Rep. Carolyn McCarthy during NACCRRRA's Day on the Hill.



(l to r) Joan Rocchetta, Janet Walerstein, Hon. Carolyn McCarthy, Brian Lahiff, Dana Friedman, Arlene Labenson, Lloyd Herman and Maggie Aschkar



Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.

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Janet Walerstein, Executive Director

The Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc., is the not-for-profit planning and coordinating agency dedicated to making child care work for all of Suffolk County's diverse communities. Through advocacy, education, and resource and referral, the Council takes a leadership role in supporting children, families, providers, employers and the public to ensure that quality child care takes its place as an integral part of society.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Janet Walerstein
Executive Director

The buzzwords that capture the tenor of these times in the not-for-profit community can be summed up with three words: efficiency, effectiveness and engagement with those involved in human services.

Maintaining high quality in the delivery of services has always been a part of the equation, and even though we may be looking at cost savings, the central issue still remains: meeting the community needs.

Our state network for child care resource and referral agencies (CCR&R) is the Albany-based Early Care and Learning Council, formerly New York State Child Care

Coordinating Council. There are now 39 CCR&R agencies across the state, and all have come together in a project called "Crossroads." This initiative promotes forming regional partnerships to make agencies more efficient in delivery of services. Here on Long Island, the Child Care Council of Suffolk (CCCS) and the Child Care Council of Nassau (CCCN), which have a long-standing relationship of working together, represent Crossroads Region 7. We have developed a strategic plan that recognizes the uniqueness of each county and also takes into consideration shared interests of mutual benefit to both agencies.

The federal budget plans from the President have provided a wonderful lift to the child care community in the form of \$1.6 billion added to child care. We have not seen an increase like this in 20 years. We believe this is the time to also call for the reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which includes items such as subsidy, quality, Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and other initiatives passed down to the state and then to the counties.

On the county level, the opening of the wait list for subsidized child care is also a welcome lift due to stimulus dollars (ARRA) coming down. We are hoping that we will be able to support all those who need services.

We are also thrilled to be part of QUALITYstarsNY, New York State's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The initiative is designed to support, sustain and recognize increasing levels of quality in all regulated early learning environments. Again, both CCCS and CCCN are working together to promote this preliminary initiative across Long Island. However, this is just a field test for all child care modalities to be able to learn what some of the pitfalls may be from those participating, before the full rollout occurs after the test.

With all these new initiatives, we may be on the brink of a great movement – not only child care but education in general. We may see a philosophy that calls for a continuum of services starting with early care and learning from birth through age eight – a pathway to a comprehensive look at ways to give children the best environment for learning and critical thinking as they grow into successful adults. What could be better?

To make children a priority, all these endeavors will require not only leadership support, but also the public will. Please join us in this campaign.

Winning Beginning NY Presents Legislative Agenda 2010

Winning Beginning NY, the state's early care and learning coalition, has presented its Legislative Agenda for 2010. The Child Care Council of Suffolk fully supports this agenda.

Of particular interest to the Council is prevention of the loss of child care subsidy funding for low-income families across the state. The proposal would add \$40-\$50 million to the state Child Care Block Grant and restore Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding for SUNY/CUNY child care, migrant child care and child care demonstration programs.

Restoring funding for afterschool programs to FY09-10 levels would include a restoration of Advantage Afterschool funding to \$30.5 million and extended day programs to \$27.8 million.

In addition, the agenda asks to restore funding for home visiting programs, \$25 million for the Healthy Families New York (HFNY) program and \$5 million for the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program.

Winning Beginning NY also supports the implementation of QUALITYstarsNY, Pre-K reform and paid family leave.

President Obama's Budget Proposal a Big Plus for Child Care

The President recently released his budget proposal for FY2011, which includes a \$1.6 billion increase in child care, the largest one-year increase ever. The proposal was received very positively by child care advocates, including Executive Director Janet Walerstein, who stated, "We are very, very excited by this proposal. If you don't have child care, you can't work. It would help hundreds of Suffolk families on waiting lists for child care subsidies and in turn help the local economy."

The proposal helps improve access and affordability for low-income working and middle class families and quality improvements across a range of settings. Highlights of the budget request include: a total increase of \$1.6 billion to the Child Care & Development Block Grant; a \$989 million increase to Head Start/Early Head Start; and \$9 billion over 10 years to the Early Learning Challenge Fund. The Administration would nearly double the Child & Dependent Care tax credit that helps middle class families offset the cost of child care. For instance, families with income up to \$85,000 would be able to take the highest credit possible, 30 percent of expenses.

The initiatives will require approval from Congress.

Friend the Council on Facebook!

Social networking has become such a vital communication tool, not only for individuals but also for businesses. The Council realized that such a tool would be instrumental in connecting with people and sharing information, so on January 1 the Council launched its own Facebook page:

Visit www.childcaresuffolk.org to find the Council's Facebook link.

"We are posting information about child care issues, advocacy efforts, photos from events and trainings, and anything else you may need to know about the field of child care," said Assistant Director Brian Lahiff. "We have begun receiving comments posted by readers and are excited to connect with more people through this valuable social networking device."



The 2010 U.S. Census: Being Counted Makes Sense for Child Care

The U.S. Census has launched a massive public awareness campaign for the 2010 Census, urging all residents to "be counted." Population data gathered from the Census will be used to determine how much federal funding communities receive for a variety of services, including child care.

That's why the Child Care Councils of Nassau and Suffolk are being funded by the U.S. Census to conduct outreach to hard-to-count populations. The effort is being spearheaded by the Health & Welfare Council. Providers, who are a direct link to parents, will be distributing materials from the U.S. Census and urging parents to be counted so that their subsidy dollars are not in jeopardy.



Council Serves as Lead Agency in NYS Quality Rating and Improvement System Field Test

If you're looking for a restaurant, you might check out ZAGAT for its ratings and reviews. If you're a parent looking for quality child care, you might turn to QUALITYstarsNY, New York State's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The initiative is designed to support, sustain and recognize increasing levels of quality in all regulated early learning environments, including child care centers, family and group family child care programs, registered nursery schools and preschools in school settings.

QRIS is being field tested in 13 communities across New York that reflect the diverse geography and demography of the state, including Long Island. The Child Care Council of Nassau and Child Care Council of Suffolk are the lead agencies for Long Island. "To date, we have had seven orientation meetings with providers who wanted to participate," said Suffolk's Executive Director Janet Walerstein.

Participation is voluntary and any regulated program can apply for a one to five star rating. QSNY uses a point system that recognizes a variety of ways to reach higher star levels. Points are earned in four categories: learning environment; family engagement; qualifications and experience; and management and leadership. To learn more, visit www.qualitystarsny.org.

Region 7 Crossroads Plan: Increasing Efficiency and Effectiveness

During these challenging economic times, everyone is tightening their belts and trying to work more efficiently to save money. The New York State network of child care resource and referral agencies (CCR&Rs) has asked all CCR&Rs within the state to propose efficiencies. In response to that request, Long Island Region 7 – the Child Care Council of Suffolk and the Child Care Council of Nassau – offered responses and recommendations. The plan will be submitted to the state for a possible reorganization of the CCR&R contracts.

After a coordinated and collaborative review, both Councils determined that the best system to deliver high quality resource and referral services in such a diverse community as Long Island would be to remain as separate CCR&R agencies, maintaining distinct data and service delivery areas.

Both Councils will continue to share services, such as the Long Island Infant Toddler Resource Center, a catalog of course offerings for providers, advocacy, as well as using the same webmaster, IT services and accountant.

New changes recommended to increase efficiency and/or quality include: linking to each other's websites, creating a regional website, call forwarding allowing the Councils to forward calls to each other when a parent needs cross-county referrals and back office sharing, including bulk purchasing of products, supplies and printing.

PLI Program Initiatives Help to Empower Parents

The Parent Leadership Initiative (PLI) program for 2010, sponsored by the Child Care Council of Suffolk, has begun in the Towns of Babylon, Huntington, Southampton and Islip. PLI is designed to prepare parents from diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds to take on leadership roles in their communities. According to PLI Coordinator Debbie Orr, the program gives participants the skills, tools, knowledge and confidence to become advocates and seek solutions to family, school and neighborhood concerns around raising children in our changing society.

"Last spring we developed a Graduate Coalition," stated Ms. Orr. "This is a network of PLI graduates who meet every other month to discuss advocacy efforts in their communities, share information on upcoming events and work on ways to keep PLI graduates connected."

The Parent Leadership Initiative Summit, held October 24, 2009, attracted more than 30 participants. The summit began with a dynamic address on leadership given by Dr. Frances Brisbane, Dean, School of Social Welfare, Stony Brook University. "Dr. Brisbane's address was both captivating and motivating. In addition, she presented a workshop on cultural competency. Both were well-received by the audience," said Ms. Orr. The Summit also featured a workshop on leadership presented by Lisa Tyson, Executive Director of the Long Island Progressive Coalition, which helped participants learn how to develop a campaign to address their issues. Brian Lahiff, Assistant Director of the Child Care Council of Suffolk, delivered a presentation, which demonstrated how advocacy efforts were successfully used to address the waiting list for child care subsidies.

For more information on PLI, contact Ms. Orr at 631-462-0303, Ext. 160.



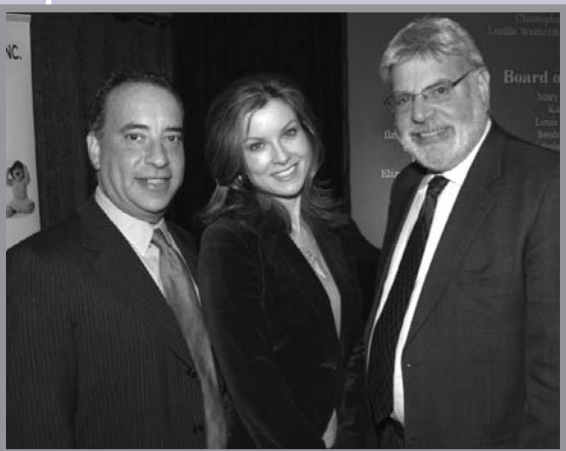
Champions of Children Luncheon



From left, Jennifer A. Casey, Esq., CCCS Board Member and Event Committee Co-Chair; Brian Lahiff, Assistant Director, CCCS; and Elizabeth A. Fitzpatrick, Esq., CCCS Board Member and Event Committee Co-Chair.



From left, honoree Douglas C. Manditch, Chairman of the Board & CEO, Empire National Bank; Janet Walerstein, Executive Director, CCCS; and honoree Wilbur Klatsky.



From left, keynote speaker Gary Parks, Coast to Coast Consultants; emcee Jodie Applegate, News 12 Long Island anchor; and Allen Breslow, Esq., CCCS Board President.

The Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc., celebrated its annual “Champions of Children” luncheon on October 16 at the Crest Hollow Country Club, Woodbury. Emceed by Jodi Applegate, News 12 Long Island anchor, the Council’s major fundraiser drew nearly 200 attendees. “We were delighted at the turnout,” said Executive Director Janet Walerstein. “This is an opportunity to raise needed funds and to spread the word about the vital services the Council provides for working parents, providers and employers.”

At the event, CCCS honored two prominent community leaders: Douglas C. Manditch, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Empire National Bank, and Wilbur “Bill” Klatsky, former Chief Executive Officer of the Community Development Corp. of Long Island (CDCLI). Both honorees have a long history of supporting child care providers through a variety of programs they instituted. Executive and peak performance coach Gary Parks, founder of Coast to Coast Consultants, delivered the keynote address.

“We are grateful to all sponsors for their generous support in helping make Champions of Children a success,” added Ms. Walerstein.

PLATINUM

Empire National Bank

GOLD

Bethpage Federal Credit Union

SILVER

Balfe & Holland
Stony Brook University,
School of Social Welfare

BRONZE

AllSector Technology Group
Girl Scouts of Suffolk County
Pascucci Family Foundation

SUPPORTER

Ahmuty, Demers & McManus
CDC of Long Island
Trevor Davis
DJJ Technologies
Farrell Fritz, P.C.
Lewis Johs Avallone & Aviles
Long Island Head Start
Middleton Environmental Inc.
Mutual of America
National Grid
Timber Ridge Homes of
Long Island
Tutor Time Child Care of
Amityville
Janet & Herb Walerstein
Withers Engelke & Associates, Inc.

CHILD CARE PROVIDER INFORMATION SESSIONS *Rsvp required*

Commack, Child Care Council of Suffolk

English:

April 14, May 11, June 15, 9:30am-1:00pm

Español:

18 de Mayo, 21 de Julio, 9:30am-1:00pm

Español Technical Assistance:

21 de Abril, 22 de Junio, 9:30am-1:00pm

Middle Island, Longwood Public Library

May 26, 6:00pm-9:00pm

Riverhead, St. David's Grace Episcopal Church

Undercroft

Please call for an appointment.

SAVE THE DATE

An Evening of Improv, Boulton Center, Bay Shore

April 29, 7:00pm-9:00pm, show and dessert reception
featuring 2 S.I.C. Improv Troupe

Child Care Council of Suffolk, Annual Meeting

Touro College Law Center, Central Islip

June 11

25th Anniversary Celebration of the

Child Care Council of Suffolk,

Crest Hollow Country Club

October 1

For more information, contact us at:

Commack: 631.462.0303

Southampton: 631.702.2429

Riverhead: 631.905.0184

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