

New York State Council on Children and Families

Logistics

Name of Coordinating Body: New York State Council on Children and Families.

Administrative Home: New York State Office of Children and Family Services. Report directly to the Governor's Office.

Staffing: There are 16 full-time staff. The Executive Director is appointed by the Governor.

Funding: The Council is funded with federal and state dollars. The Council also is a Kids Count grantee receiving funds from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Council does not fund programs.

Membership: The New York State Council on Children and Families is composed of commissioners and directors of the following 12 agencies:

- Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
- Office for the Aging
- Office of Children and Family Services
- Division of Criminal Justice Services
- State Education Department
- Department of Health
- Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs
- Department of Labor
- Office of Mental Health
- Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives
- Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Structure

The membership of the Council includes the agency heads of 12 state agencies. While they currently do not meet regularly, in the past, the agency heads would meet three to four times a year. Since 2008, senior staff from each of the state agencies, as well as family and youth partners, meet once a month to discuss cross-systems issues and share information.

History

Year & Method of Establishment: The Council was established by law in 1977. New York State Social Services Law Article 10-C codifies the Council and its membership and specifies the Council's powers and duties.

Duties/Responsibilities/Goals: The Council is charged with acting as a neutral body to coordinate New York's health, education and human services system to ensure that all children and families in New York State have the opportunity to reach their potential.

The Council coordinates efforts to achieve the collective vision of its member agencies—that all children, youth and families in New York State will be healthy and have the knowledge, skills and resources to succeed in a dynamic society.

Using the Touchstones goals and objectives, the Council facilitates the development of state and local service systems that are coordinated, strength-based, prevention-oriented, and responsive to the needs of children and families.

Current Work:

The "Hard-to-Place/Hard-to-Serve" Unit at the Council helps individual children, youth and young adults with multiple disabilities access needed services and resolve barriers that impede timely service delivery or placement. Other issues the Council is working on include:

- Promoting school attendance
- Preventing student suspensions and expulsions
- Facilitating technical assistance for the development of community schools
- Aligning early care and learning programs
- Building a coordinated statewide trauma-informed system of care
- Promoting family- and youth-guided practice across child-serving systems

Priority Projects/Initiatives

The Council supports New York in building a comprehensive and sustainable early childhood system that will ensure success for all young children by co-chairing and providing staff support to the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council. Also, the Council works to ensure adequate and appropriate services are available for children with multiple disabilities. In addition, efforts related to the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT initiative are a major priority for the Council.

Accomplishments

Recent accomplishments include:

- 1) Successful Every Student Present Campaign: This campaign involves statewide awareness and relationship building around school attendance.
- 2) Launching of the implementation of the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social-Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children. This cross-agency initiative helps equip early care and learning providers and the children and families they serve with social-emotional skills.
- 3) Implementing the federal Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact initiative to increase the developmental skills among three-year olds and screen and treat maternal depression.
- 4) Multiple Systems Navigator tool designed to streamline access and information about programs and services for children, youth and families.

Contact Information

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Words of Wisdom: A belief that has guided my work in state government for over 35 years: An agenda for children requires a broad spectrum of people who are willing to stand together, work together and accept that failure is not an option.

Links

New York State Council on Children and Families:
<http://ccf.ny.gov/>

Early Childhood Advisory Council:
<http://ccf.ny.gov/council-initiatives/ecac/>

Multiple Systems Navigator Website:
<http://ccf.ny.gov/council-initiatives/nms/>

Hard-to-Place/Hard-to-Serve Unit:
<http://ccf.ny.gov/council-initiatives/hard-place-hard-serve-unit/>

New York State Touchstones:
<http://ccf.ny.gov/council-initiatives/touchstones/>