

LEADING THE WAY FORWARD



**New York Public
Welfare Association**

153rd Annual Winter Conference

Program Brochure

January 18-21 & January 24-28, 2022 • Virtual Conference

LEADING THE WAY FORWARD

- January 18-21 & January 24-28, 2022 •
- Virtual Conference •

Opening Address



Leading the Way Forward

Gary Gzik, CEO of BizXcel, will open our conference with an energizing presentation on Leading the Way Forward. It's been a challenging couple of years. The pandemic initially forced a survival mode mentality. Scrambling to meet client needs in a challenging and unrelenting environment. The time for revival is now. It is time for leaders to rebuild, reenergize and build confidence in the future. Leaders must pave the way to evolve. Leaders must prepare their teams, support them, engage them, and cheer them on. This presentation will inspire you, change your thinking and provide you with the knowledge and tools to make positive change happen.

Gary is an international presenter, corporate trainer, coach, management consultant, and all-around enthusiastic guy who has been inspiring people and organizations for over 35 years. He prides himself on being a workplace zombie hunter. Gary is a published author of two books: *The Orange Popsicle* and *The Power of RE* and a keynote speaker at hundreds of events and conferences. He is also the champion of Build a Kick Ass Company. He is on a mission to lead the revolution on how work is done in companies – changing not only the way people work for the better, but also their lives as a result.

Tammy DeLorme, NYPWA President, Welcomes You to Our Conference:

“NYPWA conferences offer a phenomenal opportunity to share our collective expertise—and provide a platform where we come together to reenergize to carry on the important work that we all do.”

Schedule

Attend three workshops daily:

- 10:30 - 11:45
- 1:00 - 2:00
- 2:30 - 4:00 or 2:45 - 4:15

Association Meetings

All local DSS Commissioner meetings will occur on Thursday, January 27, 1:30-4:30 and on Friday, January 28, 9:00-3:00.

This includes our discussions with State Agency Commissioners and additional meetings among local commissioners. A detailed meeting schedule has been sent separately to all local commissioners.

Information

- Webex links emailed 1 day ahead.
- 1 link per workshop.
- CLE materials are in Webex link. Go to event material and click on “View Info”.
- LDSS moderators introduce each session.
- Presenters/moderators login 20 min. early.
- Webinar format allows panelist to speak.
- Chat messages are private to panelists.
- Participants may not record sessions.

Tips to Enhance the Virtual Experience

- Close all programs except Webex.
- Consider headphones, mic, and camera.
- Minimize disruptions.
- Follow your IT expert's advice.
- Use browser recommended by IT.
- *If you lose your internet connection:*
Log off and login again. Or, login on another computer, tablet or phone.
- Login to waiting room 20 min. early.
- Breathe in, breathe out.

The NYPWA Leadership Series

Special Focus on Emerging Leaders

The Culture of Building Leaders and How to Nurture a Dedicated, Engaged Workforce

- **Opening Keynote on Leading the Way Forward:** It's been a challenging couple of years. The pandemic initially forced a survival mode mentality. Scrambling to meet client needs in a challenging and unrelenting environment. The time for revival is now. It is time for leaders to rebuild, reenergize and build confidence in the future. Leaders must pave the way to evolve. Leaders must prepare their teams, support them, engage them, and cheer them on. This presentation will inspire you, change your thinking and provide you with the knowledge and tools to make positive change happen.
Presenter: Gary Gzik, CEO/Workplace Zombie Hunter, BizXcel
- **Managing Today with an Eye on Tomorrow:** Social services administrators met the demands of the past year by nimbly adapting to the ever-changing circumstances they encountered on a daily basis. Agility and adaptability are vital skills. Versatile leaders exist at every level of local district operations and serve as a source of inspiration in challenging times. Our conference will highlight this inspired leadership. Learn how districts continue to serve the public, despite intense difficulties, by tapping into their collective intuition and flexibility to achieve successful outcomes.
Presenters: Sabrina Jaar Marzouka, Commissioner, Dutchess County DCFS; Sarah G. Merrick, Commissioner, Onondaga County DSS-ES; JoAnn Fratarcangelo, Commissioner, Schuyler County DSS; Ellen Wayne, Commissioner, Wayne County DSS & Eileen Tiberio, Commissioner, Ontario County DSS
Facilitator: Mike McMahon, Commissioner, Montgomery County DSS
- **Embracing Innovative Practices and Developing Resiliency:** The pandemic changed the way we do business and has implications for how we work with our employees in the future. Many of the adjustments made to accommodate the work make sense to carry forward. Changes that were forced upon us, have revealed more efficient processes, more flexible ways to do the work, and innovative techniques to develop resiliency in our organizations.
Presenters: Marlene Reynolds, Staff Development Coordinator, Schuyler County DSS & Steuben County DSS; Melissa Eloff, Director of Staff Development, Erie County DSS & Stephanie Hoxie, Staff Development Coordinator, Oswego County DSS
Moderator: Kelly Eagan, Staff Development Coordinator, Cortland County DSS
- **Leadership Skills for Supporting the Workforce:** Every day presents a new experience and challenges to DSS operations, to the people we serve, and of course to our dedicated staff and co-workers. However, with every challenge comes an opportunity to rethink how we do business, serve the public and support our workforce. During this workshop, a panel of experienced Deputy Commissioners will discuss how they have supported staff and what they have planned for the future.
Presenters: Rich Holcomb, Deputy Commissioner, Clinton County DSS; Theresa Giovanniello, Deputy Commissioner, Financial & Supportive Services, Dutchess County DCFS & Irene Kurlander, Deputy Commissioner, Orange County DSS
Moderator: Monica M. Brown, Executive Deputy Commissioner, Onondaga DSS-ES
- **What's in your Leadership Toolbox?:** This three part presentation will focus on how understanding what is in a leader's toolbox of skills can help local DSS supervisory staff manage their teams better, increase productivity, reduce staff burnout and increase staff retention. Topics will include management best practices, encouraging staff accountability, dealing with difficult people and teams, and more. The presentation will help leaders focus on applying leadership principles to their teams' needs and solving seemingly intractable problems.
Presenter: Jesan Sorrells, CEO, HSCT Publishing, LLC
- **To Know Thyself As An Effective Leader:** This session will entail a series of introspective and reflective discussions and leadership assessments to "Discover the Leader Within You." Learn the skills needed to be authentic, agile, adaptive, and successful leading others moving forward.
Presenter: Marvela L. Guice, M.S., President, Marvela L. Guice Organizational and Staff Development Training Services
- **Ethical Decision Making:** As leaders, we are faced with many decisions every day. Some of these decisions are purely technical or opinion based. But many decisions have an ethical component that we need to consider. We have to balance supporting our clients, taking care of our teams, following the regulations, and being accountable to our communities. Finding the right answer is not always easy. In this interactive, fast-paced session, we will define ethical dilemmas, discuss an ethical decision-making model, and then apply the model to a real-world scenario. Sooner or later, we all face these dilemmas, so put on your ethical decision-making hat and join us for a session that will help you prepare for these inevitable decisions.
Presenter: Abrahm DiMarco, Owner, DiMarco Consulting Group

NYPWA's 153rd Annual Winter Conference

January 18-21 & 24-28, 2022 • Virtual Event

Tuesday ■ January 18

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Welcome -

NYPWA President, Tammy DeLorme

Opening Address -

Gary Gzik, CEO of BizXcel

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Managing Today with an Eye on Tomorrow

Social services administrators met the demands of the past year by nimbly adapting to the ever-changing circumstances they encountered on a daily basis. Agility and adaptability are vital skills. Versatile leaders exist at every level of local district operations and serve as a source of inspiration in challenging times. Our conference will highlight this inspired leadership. Learn how districts continue to serve the public, despite intense difficulties, by tapping into their collective intuition and flexibility to achieve successful outcomes.

Presenters:

Sarah G. Merrick, Commissioner, Onondaga County DSS-ES

Sabrina Jaar Marzouka, Commissioner, Dutchess County DCFS

JoAnn Fratarcangelo, Commissioner, Schuyler County DSS

Ellen Wayne, Commissioner, Wayne County DSS

Eileen Tiberio, Commissioner, Ontario County DSS

Michael McMahon, Commissioner, Montgomery County DSS (*Facilitator*)

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Child Support Program Updates Part I

Come hear the latest program developments including federal and State level updates; annual performance overview; recently issued and in development policy guidance impacting districts; recently released and in development training opportunities; and Program Operations and Fiscal Operations updates.

Presenters:

Eileen Stack, Assistant Deputy Commissioner & Director, OTDA/CSS

Monique Rabideau, Assistant Director, OTDA/CSS

Susanne Dolin, Bureau Chief, OTDA/CSS

Aimee Furdyna, Senior Attorney, OTDA/CSS

Karen Sicurelli, Bureau Chief, OTDA/CSS

Shannon Smith, Bureau Chief, Program Operations, OTDA/CSS

Lisa Schroeder, Bureau Chief, Fiscal Operations, OTDA/CSS

Moderator:

Susanne Recktenwald, Coordinator of Child Support Enforcement Unit, Steuben County DSS

2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Confidentiality

(1.5 CLEs, 90 Minutes)

A discussion of new or revised sections contained in the 2022 Confidentiality Handbook, including public access to fair hearings, preventive services, administrative subpoenas, confidentiality of ERAP records, and access to Foster Care records by a former foster child. Also, a discussion of confidentiality questions asked by Commissioners and attorneys during 2021 on all areas of DSS practice.

Presenter:

Mark Maves, Esq., Counsel to NYPWA

Moderator:

Stephen D. Miller, Esq., Supervising Social Services Attorney, Cattaraugus County Attorney's Office

Wednesday ■ January 19

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Getting the Money Out the Door to Provide Services!

The goal of this workshop is to provide strategies to decrease delays related to contracts and claims between OCFS and local districts. Participants will increase their understanding of the OCFS contract development and claiming processes, learn strategies to reduce delays, share obstacles encountered, and explore ways to improve and expedite the process. There will be opportunities to share obstacles experienced and ways to enhance collaboration.

Presenters:

Melaney Szklenka, Senior Manager of MDT/CAC & CFRT Units, OCFS

Meghan Manny, Supervisor of the Financial & Administration Unit (FAU), OCFS

Kathleen Meerwarth, Bureau of Contract Management, OCFS

Kevin Sweet, Bureau of Contract, OCFS

Bob Korycinski, DCCS, OCFS

Sonia Tate, YDAPS, OCFS

Moderator:

Lise Reynolds, Deputy Commissioner of Administrative Services & Finance, Steuben County DSS

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Supporting High Risk Children with Complex Needs

Leaders of voluntary agencies will explore effective strategies that they are using to support high risk children with complex needs. The presentation will include alternatives to residential care and a professional foster care model. Conversations will address wrap-around services, step-down options, community-based supports and efforts to provide system-wide capacity. COFCCA and the NYPWA have an ongoing partnership in working together on cross-systems issues.

Presenters:

Kathleen Brady-Stepien, President & CEO, COFCCA

Brian Parchesky, President & CEO, Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth

Brian McKee, CEO, House of the Good Shepherd

David Wallace, Executive Director, LaSalle School

Moderator:

Kathryn Muller, Commissioner, Steuben County DSS

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Child Support Program Updates Part II

We'll dig into our program "foundations" and discuss recent and upcoming changes and enhancements. Session will provide updates on the centralized system and releases; the Child Support Data Mart; Fiscal Operations; the Integrated Eligibility System (IES); and other matters related to Contract Administration and the State Disbursement Unit.

Presenters:

Eileen Stack, Assistant Deputy Commissioner & Director, OTDA/CSS

Monique Rabideau, Assistant Director, OTDA/CSS

Shannon Smith, Bureau Chief, Program Operations,

OTDA/CSS

Jennifer Pekins, Bureau Chief, OTDA/CSS

Karen Sicurelli, Bureau Chief, OTDA/CSS

Liz McGeough Gamache, Bureau Chief, Contract Administration, OTDA/CSS

Jennifer Sherry, Bureau Chief, State Disbursement Unit, OTDA/CSS

Moderator:

Susanne Recktenwald, Coordinator of Child Support Enforcement Unit, Steuben County DSS

2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

In-depth Child Welfare Caselaw Alert

(1.5 CLEs, 90 Minutes)

The program is for new and experienced attorneys and will provide a deeper look into significant Appellate and Family Court cases from January 2021-January 2022. It involves a variety of topics and cases that will be helpful to Agency Attorneys across the state. This workshop addresses different cases than the workshop presented by Mark Maves, Counsel to the NYPWA.

Presenters:

Vineet Chawla, Esq., Senior Team Leader & Legal Trainer, NYC ACS

Jennifer Sadaka, Esq., Trainer, NYC ACS

Moderator:

Jacqueline Mohrman, Esq., Senior Social Services Attorney, Steuben County DSS

Thursday ■ January 20

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Diving into the Executive Budget

Budget experts from OCFS, OTDA, and DOH will discuss the Governor's budget proposal for social services in SFY 2022-23. There will be an opportunity to dig deeper into the Governor's budget as our panel of local district fiscal experts seek to clarify the new budget proposals.

Presenters:

Michael Kendall, Director, Bureau of Budget Management, OTDA

Bryan Bagstad, Director, Bureau of Budget Management, OCFS

Jeremy Russell, Medicaid Unit Manager, Bureau of Budget Management, DOH

Reactor Panel:

John Befus, First Deputy Commissioner, Westchester County DSS

Rosine Ferdinand, Finance Executive Deputy Commissioner, NYC-DSS
Thomas Herden, Director of Administrative Services, Tompkins County DSS
Donald Horan, Deputy Commissioner I - Finance, Allegany County DSS
Lynn Marinelli, Budget Director, Cayuga County DSS
Michael Moiseyev, Deputy Commissioner, NYC-ACS
Moderator:
Peter Simon, Director of Administrative Services, Dutchess County DCFS

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Hot Topics for State & Local Fiscal Administrators

Join local fiscal administrators and state staff from OCFS, OTDA, and DOH as we focus on fiscal matters affecting social services districts.

Presenters:

Mary Bucca, Assistant Director, Bureau of Financial Services, OTDA
Bryan Bagstad, Director, Bureau of Budget Management, OCFS
Mala Boolchandani, Director, Bureau of Financial Operations, OCFS
Anil Thomas, Principal Accountant, DOH

Moderator:

Lise Reynolds, Deputy Commissioner of Administrative Services & Finance, Steuben County DSS

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Federal Child Support Performance Measures: Collaborating for Excellence

Let's build upon information presented during the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement's OCSE-157 Technical Assistance training offered in October 2021. Together we will review the 2021 annual federal performance measures baseline, recent performance trends, and explore opportunities for program improvement and effectiveness through local district and state activities. Are there other ways to measure the program's effectiveness on improving the lives of children? Be ready to share your ideas.

Presenters:

Karen Sicurelli, Bureau Chief, OTDA/CSS
Anneke Chodan, Program Research Specialist 3, OTDA/CSS

Moderator:

Susanne Recktenwald, Coordinator of Child Support

Enforcement Unit, Steuben County DSS

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Obtaining a CPS Access Order When Efforts at Persuasion Fail

(1.0 CLE, 60 minutes)

Although CPS is usually able to obtain access to a home to investigate concerns about possible child maltreatment, occasionally a parent will refuse access. This presentation will discuss the law and administrative guidance for obtaining an access order in these situations.

Presenters:

Vinton Bovier Stevens, Esq., Assistant County Attorney, Schuyler County Attorney Office
Kristin E. Hazlitt, Esq., Assistant County Attorney, Schuyler County Attorney Office

Moderator:

John Gavenda, Esq., Assistant County Attorney, Orleans County DSS

Friday ■ January 21

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

What's the Latest from Child Care Services?

Join OCFS Division of Child Care Services staff as they share updates on a variety of child care topics—including subsidies, news about federal pandemic relief grant programs (e.g., the Essential Worker Scholarships, Child Care Stabilization Grants, and Provider Incentive Grants), efforts to reduce child care deserts, and more. OCFS will also discuss recent regulatory and organizational changes—and offer an update on the Market Rate Survey.

Presenters:

Janice Molnar, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Child Care Services, OCFS

Nora Yates, Associate Commissioner, Division of Child Care Services, OCFS

Merideth Infantino, Manager of the Child Care Subsidy Program, Division of Child Care Services, OCFS

Sonoma Pelton, Subsidy Unit Manager, Division of Child Care Services, OCFS

Moderator:

Lise Reynolds, Deputy Commissioner of Administrative Services & Finance, Steuben County DSS

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Integrated Eligibility System Program Update

During this session attendees will learn about IES Program updates, including accomplishments to date and plans going forward.

Presenters:

Beth Bloodgood, Deputy Director, Program Management, ITS

Lynn Sidoti, Deputy Director, Business, ITS

Dennis Packard, Business Change Lead, ITS

Mark Israel, Program Manager, Financial Management, ITS

Kim Shaver, OCM Lead, ITS

David Bach, Program Manager, EECM, ITS

Tim Milos, Data Management Lead, ITS

Dana Rosenstreich, IES Director, ITS

Moderator:

Shawn Yetter, Commissioner, Tioga County DSS

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Embracing Innovative Practices and Developing Resiliency

The pandemic changed the way we do business and has implications for how we work with our employees in the future. Many of the adjustments made to accommodate the work make sense to carry forward. Changes that were forced upon us, have revealed more efficient processes, more flexible ways to do the work, and innovative techniques to develop resiliency in our organizations.

Presenters:

Marlene Reynolds, Staff Development Coordinator, Schuyler County DSS & Steuben County DSS

Melissa Eloff, Director of Staff Development, Erie County DSS

Stephanie Hoxie, Staff Development Coordinator, Oswego County DSS

Moderator:

Kelly Egan, Staff Development Coordinator, Cortland County DSS

2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Child Support Caselaw Updates

(1.5 CLEs, 90 Minutes)

This session will provide a review of the significant child support-related court decisions in 2021 and their implications to local district practice and child support operations.

Presenter:

Brian Wootan, Esq., Deputy Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs, OTDA

Moderator:

Mary E. Teator, Esq., Senior Deputy County Attorney, Monroe County Law Department

Monday ■ January 24

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Leadership Skills for Supporting the Workforce

Every day presents a new experience and challenges to DSS operations, to the people we serve, and of course to our dedicated staff and co-workers. However, with every challenge comes an opportunity to rethink how we do business, serve the public and support our workforce. During this workshop, a panel of experienced Deputy Commissioners will discuss how they have supported staff and what they have planned for the future.

Presenters:

Rich Holcomb, Deputy Commissioner, Clinton County DSS

Theresa Giovannello, Deputy Commissioner, Financial & Supportive Services, Dutchess County DCFS

Irene Kurlander, Deputy Commissioner, Orange County DSS

Thomas Lippie, Deputy Commissioner, Montgomery County DSS

Moderator:

Monica M. Brown, Executive Deputy Commissioner, Onondaga DSS-ES

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Statewide Central Register (SCR) Updates

Information will be provided on the many ways OCFS and the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) are addressing reports from anonymous callers. In addition, the SCR is working collaboratively with local districts to address incidents of suspected false reports. False reporting can have detrimental effects on children and parents/caretakers, while also unnecessarily drawing from the critical investigative resources of child protective services. OCFS and the SCR will discuss and share strategies to strengthen existing partnerships with local departments of social

services, law enforcement agencies, and district attorneys offices that are investigating suspected cases of false reporting.

Presenters:

Kathryn Shelton, Associate Commissioner, Division of Child Welfare & Community Services (CWCS), OCFS

Kristin Gleeson, SCR Director, OCFS

Moderator:

Matt Grant, Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, Ontario County DSS

2:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Child Welfare Caselaw

(2.0 CLEs, 120 Minutes)

This session covers a vast number of court decisions in NYS (July – December 2021) including Abuse, Neglect, Dispositions, Permanency Hearings, Foster Care, TPRs, and Adoptions. This complements the caselaw session by NYC ACS and does not include the same cases.

Presenter:

Mark Maves, Esq., Counsel to NYPWA

Moderator:

Marni Bogart, Esq., Executive Director, DSS Office of Counsel, Erie County DSS

Tuesday ■ January 25

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Medicaid Eligibility Updates

In this session members of the New York State Department of Health's Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration (DEMI) will provide updated information in the following areas: disability reviews, PERM and MEQC, and the unwind of Medicaid easements under the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Presenters:

Lisa Sbrana, Director, DEMI, DOH, OHIP

Anne Marie Massaro, Director, DEMI, Bureau of Consumer Relations & Local District Support, & Upstate Eligibility Systems, DOH

Maryann Lashombe, Director, DEMI, Medical Evidence Gathering Unit, DOH

Diane Farrell, Director, DEMI, Program Review & Division Support, DOH

Marguerite Montysko, Director, DEMI, Bureau of External Audit, DOH

Karen Burek, Director, DEMI, Bureau of Program Review, DOH

Kathleen Johnson, Director, DEMI, Marketplace Medicaid Eligibility, Integrity & Third Party Coverage, DOH

Mary Frances Carr, Director, DEMI, Bureau of Long Term Care/SSI-Related Populations, DOH

Moderator:

Kira Pospesel, Commissioner, Greene County DSS

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Update on Long Term Care Policy Issues

DOH will present updates on activities in the long-term care arena, focusing on services such as personal care and consumer directed services.

Presenter:

Susan Montgomery, Director, Division of Long-Term Care, DOH, OHIP

Moderator:

Kira Pospesel, Commissioner, Greene County DSS

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Family First Legislation and the Role of Attorneys

(1.0 CLE, 60 minutes)

The program is for new and experienced attorneys and covers the new "Family First" legislation. It will discuss the new law, it's implementation and the motion practice required by county DSS to implement the law. There will be a short Q/A session at the end of the virtual live session.

Presenters:

Katherine Tedeschi, Esq., NYC ACS

Ian Sangenito, Esq., NYC ACS

Moderator:

Jessica M. Peaslee, Esq., Counsel to the Commissioner, Steuben County DSS

Wednesday ■ January 26

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

QRTP Exception Models and Family First Implementation Updates

This session will feature a panel discussion by key OCFS representatives on three models of congregate care exempt from the Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) requirements: reimagined supervised settings for youth ages 18-21; a program model for prenatal, postnatal and parenting programs; and a new model for youth who experienced or are at-risk of commercial sexual

exploitation. In addition, attendees can expect up to date implementation information on Family First including QRTP/QI assessments, the Long Stayer Review process and a prevention update.

Presenters:

Kerri Barber, Director, Bureau of Education & Transition Support Services, OCFS

Heather Girard, Policy Analyst, OCFS

Madeline Hehir, Director, Bureau of Health & Well-Being, OCFS

David Bach, Associate Commissioner, OCFS

Renee Hallock, Associate Commissioner, OCFS

Dr. Rebecca Colman, Director of BREPA, OCFS

Gail Geohagen-Pratt, Associate Commissioner, OCFS

Moderator:

Edna Kayes, Commissioner, Allegany County DSS

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

TA and Employment Forum

OTDA will participate in a roundtable discussion exclusively for Temporary Assistance and Employment Directors and their staff to discuss items identified by OTDA as agency priorities as well as topics for discussion identified by districts.

Presenters:

Alison Maura, Director of Temporary Assistance & Home Energy Assistance Programs, OTDA

Stephanie Boshart, Director of Employment & Advancement Programs, OTDA

Moderator:

Jennifer Robinson, Deputy Commissioner of Temporary Assistance, DSS-ES

2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Fair Hearings/SCR Reform Legislation

(1.5 CLEs, 90 Minutes)

Presenters will address SCR reform, including regulatory changes, implementation details, and the latest guidance (i.e., 21 OCFS-ADM-26). Information will also be shared on administrative appeals and statute changes.

Presenters:

Cassandra Kelleher-Donnaruma, Esq., Senior Director, Office of Implementation, Community Affairs and Protective Practices, CWCS, OCFS

Kelleena Richards, Esq., Senior Attorney Fair Hearing & Administrative Review Management Team, CWCS, OCFS

Steve Connolly, Esq., Director Bureau of Special Hearings, Division of Legal Affairs, OCFS

Moderator:

Susan L. Flynn, Esq., Bureau Chief, Dutchess County DCYF

Thursday ■ January 27

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

What's in your Leadership Toolbox?

This three part presentation will focus on how understanding what is in a leader's toolbox of skills can help local DSS supervisory staff manage their teams better, increase productivity, reduce staff burnout and increase staff retention. Topics will include management best practices, encouraging staff accountability, dealing with difficult people and teams, and more. The presentation will help leaders focus on applying leadership principles to their teams' needs and solving seemingly intractable problems.

Presenter:

Jesan Sorrells, CEO, HSCT Publishing, LLC

Moderator:

Salvatore Patella, Staff Development Coordinator, Orange County DSS

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

To Know Thyself As An Effective Leader

This session will entail a series of introspective and reflective discussions and leadership assessments to "Discover the Leader Within You." Learn the skills needed to be authentic, agile, adaptive, and successful leading others moving forward.

Presenter:

Marvela L. Guice, M.S., President, Marvela L. Guice Organizational and Staff Development Training Services

Moderator:

Marlene Reynolds, Staff Development Coordinator, Schuyler County DSS & Steuben County DSS

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM

Signs of Safety: Hearing from the Learning Labs

Signs of Safety is a child welfare practice model designed to improve caseworker practice while recognizing the unique needs of children and families they serve—building hope and a network of support through appreciative inquiry. OCFS, along with Casey Family Programs, have developed the

model at three sites (Learning Labs). This session will feature a Signs of Safety overview, a discussion with each site about the model’s impact, and its future in the state.

Presenters:

Mae Major, Director of Services, Seneca County DSS

Jennifer Maurici, Special Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner, OCFS

John Thompson, Principal Education Specialist, PDP/Rockefeller College for SUNY/OCFS

Madi Alridge, Case Supervisor, Tompkins County DSS

Jen Browne, Case Supervisor, Tompkins County DSS

Moderator:

Christine Peters, Esq., Director of Legal and Social Services, Clinton County DSS

Friday ■ January 28

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Ethical Decision Making

As leaders, we are faced with many decisions every day. Some of these decisions are purely technical or opinion based. But many decisions have an ethical component that we need to consider. We have to balance supporting our clients, taking care of our teams, following the regulations, and being accountable to our communities. Finding the right answer is not always easy. In this interactive, fast-paced session, we will define ethical dilemmas, discuss an ethical decision-making model, and then apply the model to a real-world scenario. Sooner or later, we all face these dilemmas, so put on your ethical decision-making hat and join us for a session that will help you prepare for these inevitable decisions.

Presenter:

Abrahm DiMarco, Owner, DiMarco Consulting Group

Moderator:

Stephanie Hoxie, Staff Development Coordinator, Oswego County DSS

Conference workshops end at 11:45.

Local Commissioner meetings continue until 3:00 p.m.

Participants are strictly prohibited from recording any sessions.

NYPWA Staff

Nicole Gee, Administrative Coordinator/Conference

Rick Terwilliger, Director of Policy & Communications

Mark E. Maves, Esq., Counsel to NYPWA

Sheila Harrigan, Executive Director

info@nypwa.org • (518) 465-9305 • www.nypwa.org

Presentations for Attorneys and Interested Administrators and Staff

Legal sessions will take place throughout the Winter Conference. A total of 10.0 CLEs have been approved.

CLEs are authorized for Virtual Legal Sessions attended live and for recorded versions, which will be made available February through April 2022.

CLEs will be provided to attorneys who:

- 1) Register and pay applicable CLE fees,
- 2) Attend the virtual sessions live or view recorded versions, and
- 3) Submit required codes on the Attorney Affirmation & Evaluation to info@nypwa.org using form included with course link.

The CLE fee is \$300 whether you attend one session, multiple sessions, or the entire legal track. For those who do not need CLEs, the fee is \$100.

Confidentiality (1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes): A discussion of new or revised sections contained in the 2022 Confidentiality Handbook, including public access to fair hearings, preventive services, administrative subpoenas, confidentiality of ERAP records, and access to Foster Care records by a former foster child. Also, a discussion of confidentiality questions asked by Commissioners and attorneys during 2021 on all areas of DSS practice.

Presenter: **Mark E. Maves, Esq.**, Counsel to NYPWA

Moderator: **Stephen D. Miller, Esq.**, Supervising Social Services Attorney, Cattaraugus County Attorney's Office

In-depth Child Welfare Caselaw Alert (1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes): The program is for new and experienced attorneys and will provide a deeper look into significant Appellate and Family Court cases from January 2021-January 2022. It involves a variety of topics and cases that will be helpful to Agency Attorneys across the state. This workshop addresses different cases than the workshop presented by Mark Maves, Counsel to the NYPWA.

Presenters: **Vineet Chawla, Esq.**, Senior Team Leader & Legal Trainer, NYC ACS &

Jennifer Sadaka, Esq., Trainer, NYC ACS

Moderator: **Jacqueline Mohrman, Esq.**, Senior Social Services Attorney, Steuben County DSS

Obtaining a CPS Access Order When Efforts at Persuasion Fail (1.0 CLE, 60 minutes):

Although CPS is usually able to obtain access to a home to investigate concerns about possible child maltreatment, occasionally a parent will refuse access. This presentation will discuss the law and administrative guidance for obtaining an access order in these situations.

Presenters: **Vinton Bovier Stevens, Esq.**, Assistant County Attorney, Schuyler County Attorney Office & **Kristin E. Hazlitt, Esq.**, Assistant County Attorney, Schuyler County Attorney Office

Moderator: **John Gavenda, Esq.**, Assistant County Attorney, Orleans County DSS

Child Support Caselaw Updates (1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes): This session will provide a review of the significant child support-related court decisions in 2021 and their implications to local district practice and child support operations.

Presenter: **Brian Wootan, Esq.**, Deputy Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs, OTDA

Moderator: **Mary E. Teator, Esq.**, Senior Deputy County Attorney, Monroe County Law Department

Child Welfare Caselaw (2.0 CLEs, 120 minutes): This session covers a vast number of court decisions in NYS (July – December 2021) including Abuse, Neglect, Dispositions, Permanency Hearings, Foster Care, TPRs, and Adoptions. This complements the caselaw session by NYC ACS and does not include the same cases.

Presenter: **Mark E. Maves, Esq.**, Counsel to NYPWA

Moderator: **Marni Bogart, Esq.**, Executive Director, DSS Office of Counsel, Erie County DSS

Family First Legislation and the Role of Attorneys (1.0 CLE, 60 minutes): The program is for new and experienced attorneys and covers the new “Family First” legislation. It will discuss the new law, it’s implementation and the motion practice required by county DSS to implement the law. There will be a short Q/A session at the end of the virtual live session.

Presenters: **Katherine Tedeschi, Esq.**, NYC ACS & **Ian Sangenito, Esq.**, NYC ACS

Moderator: **Jessica M. Peaslee, Esq.**, Counsel to the Commissioner, Steuben County DSS

Fair Hearings/SCR Reform Legislation (1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes): Presenters will address SCR reform, including regulatory changes, implementation details, and the latest guidance (i.e., 21 OCFS-ADM-26). Information will also be shared on administrative appeals and statute changes.

Presenters: **Cassandra Kelleher-Donnaruma, Esq.**, Senior Director, Office of Implementation, Community Affairs & Protective Practices, CWCS, OCFS; **Kelleena Richards, Esq.**, Senior Attorney Fair Hearing & Administrative Review Management Team, CWCS, OCFS; & **Steve Connolly, Esq.**, Director Bureau of Special Hearings, Division of Legal Affairs, OCFS

Moderator: **Susan L. Flynn, Esq.**, Bureau Chief, Dutchess County DCYF

The NYPWA Financial Assistance Policy for Continuing Legal Education:

To apply, attorneys must submit a letter authorized by the local social services commissioner, explaining why this training is essential and include the unique circumstances as to why the agency and the attorney do not have the resources to cover the entire fee, and forward the request for a specific discount based on need to info@nypwa.org

NYPWA'S 153RD ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

• JANUARY 18-21 & JANUARY 24-28, 2022 • VIRTUAL CONFERENCE •

REGISTRATION INFORMATION (FOR LOCAL DISTRICTS ONLY)

1. Fee is \$100 for every registrant. This fee covers whether you attend one or all sessions.
2. **Attorneys:** Fee is \$300 which includes the registration fee plus the CLEs provided, whether you view one or all sessions.
3. Complete the Registration Form and return to the NYPWA with your voucher, check or credit card information.
4. Cancellations: Registration is fully refundable. Send request to info@nypwa.org.
5. Technology: Please consider your local bandwidth capabilities during the virtual conference.
6. Local District target audience: commissioners and upper-level administrators including deputies, attorneys, fiscal administrators, directors of services, program directors of TA, SNAP, housing, Medicaid, IT, child support coordinators, front-line staff, supervisors, and others that would benefit.
7. Participants are strictly prohibited from recording any sessions.

Please contact Nicole Gee at info@nypwa.org with questions.

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- Registrant \$100.00
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Registration Contact (if other than registrant) **Name, Phone Number & Email:**

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