

New York Public Welfare Association 154th Annual Summer Conference

Change, Challenge & Opportunity

Preliminary Brochure

• July 16-19, 2023 • The Saratoga Hilton Hotel •

NYPWA's 154th Annual Summer Conference

July 16-19, 2023 • The Saratoga Hilton Hotel • Saratoga Springs, New York

Opening Address



Seek; Listen; Do: Creating Change Through Challenging Ourselves and Our Workforce

Change is often an overwhelming concept. Both our work and the workforce are ever changing. Often this leaves us, and our staff, with an uneasy feeling and creates barriers that can negatively impact both production and morale. When we seek, engage, and listen with intent, we can better help guide our staff toward purposeful and productive outcomes.

Kelly Varamogiannis and Rachel-Storm Heasley have worked in the human services field for their whole career (over 56 years collectively). They met over 10 years ago and worked together as trainers for the Center for Development of Human Services (CDHS) conducting state mandated child welfare training.

Kelly first started her career in child welfare in Schenectady County before becoming a child welfare trainer for CDHS. Kelly found her passion as a trainer, with a special interest in the supervisory KEYS model, where she rose quickly to oversee and manage its statewide implementation. Kelly is now Deputy Commissioner of DCFS in Onondaga County where she utilizes her skill, knowledge, and expertise to positively impact her staff as they work to meet positive child welfare outcomes.

Rachel first started her career as a CPS investigator in Cortland County. She has experience as a Preventive Services supervisor, and has worked with individuals with disabilities and with re-entry programs. Rachel's desire to learn more about organizational behavior and training led her to earn her master's degree. She returned to the child welfare field as a CDHS trainer and is now the Director of Staff Development at Onondaga County DSS where she continues to train and support the work of DSS leadership and employees.

NYPWA President, Commissioner Sarah Merrick, Invites You to Our Summer Conference

"Our conferences are vibrant events that recharge, energize, and inspire attendees! Make plans to attend and meet new people, share ideas, and be refreshed. We have an irresistible line-up of presentations by local commissioners and staff that are not to be missed."

NYPWA Conference Liaison/Commissioner, Michael McMahon, Rensselaer County

"Vibrant local presentations are a highlight of our conference. This Summer we have a full contingent of thought-provoking workshops to spark creative conversations! We invite you to attend and be part of our on-going discussions related to meeting the needs of our clientele during these challenging times. When we share our experiences, everyone benefits."

**Attorneys' Can Earn Up To 10.5 CLEs
See Page 16**

Sunday ■ July 16

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Exhibit Setup and Registration

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Conference Registration

6:00 PM

Dinner on Your Own

Monday ■ July 17

7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Breakfast Buffet

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Conference Registration

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Exhibit Area Open

9:00 AM- 10:30 AM

Concurrent Sessions

NYPWA Board of Directors' Meeting

Medicaid and Public Assistance Recoveries

Within the Modern Legal Framework

(1.5 CLEs [.5 CLE in Ethics & Professionalism]

, 90 minutes)

Both Medicaid and non-Medicaid Public Assistance have had major legal shifts within the past 10 years.

This CLE presentation will cover the statutory and caselaw framework governing Medicaid and non-MA public assistance recoveries, as well as best practices and recent trends. The course may also cover ethical considerations, such as "who is your client" and what to do when "local practice" is in conflict with statute.

Presenter:

Thomas F. Turturo, Esq., Assistant County Attorney,
Genesee County DSS

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility in Organizational Change - What Does it Really Take?

"Organizational Change": What does it really mean and what does it entail, particularly when we build upon the foundations of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. The presenters will discuss how they are pursuing Organizational Change at the executive leadership level and engage the audience in an example of an agency-wide professional development experience.

Presenters:

Angelica Kang, Esq., Chief Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Officer, OCFS

Vanessa Icolari, Esq., Associate Attorney, OCFS

Precious Riehl, ODEIA Program Manager, OCFS

Christine Kanawada, Special Assistant to the Acting Commissioner, OCFS

Emergency Housing: Sharing Strategies (Attendance Limited to LDSS Participants)

Suffolk County will facilitate a structured discussion about challenges in THA programs and ways counties are addressing them.

Presenters:

Christine Fellini, Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County DSS

Anne Marie Sexton, Assistant Division Administrator, Suffolk County DSS

New Services and Trends in Addiction Services in NYS: Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction and Recovery

Participants will develop an understanding of how new service models and services are changing the landscape for addiction services in NYS. The panel will discuss how to access services to support families -- and how to best partner with service providers to better serve families in NYS.

Presenters:

Patricia Lincourt, LCSW, Associate Commissioner, Addiction Treatment and Recovery, OASAS

Patricia Zuber-Wilson, Associate Commissioner, Prevention and Problem Gambling Services, OASAS

Mary Brewster, MSW, Associate Commissioner, Harm Reduction, OASAS

Maria L. Morris-Groves, MEd, Director

Adolescent, Women and Family Services, OASAS

Sharing Knowledge - Planning for The Future

The transfer of knowledge when workers get promoted, leave the agency or retire is critical to the on-going success and functioning of the agency, unit, and team. A forward-thinking approach will be examined in order to reduce stress on workers and the agency as a whole. Specific strategies will be shared. Participants will discuss challenges they face and begin to list ways to capture knowledge in a proactive way.

Presenters:

Ona Belser, PH. D, Consultant/Trainer

Stephanie Clarke, Director of Staff & Organizational Development, Clinton County DSS

Effective Child Support Administration (Attendance Limited to LDSS Participants)

This session is designed specifically for Child Support Coordinators and is restricted to LDSS staff who oversee the Child Support program. Please join your colleagues in addressing what is happening in your district and in other regions. This is an opportunity for meaningful dialogue on the issues that matter most to you concerning the local administration of child support.

Presenters:

Maria Restivo, Child Support Enforcement Coordinator, Ulster County DSS

Susanne Recktenwald, Child Support Enforcement Coordinator, Steuben County DSS

Laura McKay, Child Support Enforcement, Coordinator, Sullivan County DSS

Managing Internal Controls

NYC DSS has a comprehensive approach in determining the appropriate level and type of control required for a variety of programmatic needs. The presentation will focus on the type of control districts may employ, using real world examples, the methods or functions in which these controls could be employed, and the successes that have resulted in NYC.

Presenter:

Bedros Boodanian, Chief Accountability Officer, NYC DSS

How We Were Able to Develop New Prevention Programs on a Tight Budget

To prepare for the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), Westchester County DSS worked to identify leaders and assess children and family needs based on data and front-line staff experiences. WCDSS conducted community mapping and evaluated the utilization of preexisting contracted services to see how they align with FFPSA. We leveraged existing contracts and helped them either submit their models or reorganize their services to meet FFPSA requirements. Westchester now has eight new evidence-based models with three more pending—each at low to no-cost. This session will review the steps WCDSS undertook during this intensive process.

Presenters:

Michelle Bethencourt-Garcia, Manager II, Office of Policy, Planning and Program Development, Westchester County DSS

Kanerina Alvarez, PS/FC Support Unit, Westchester County DSS

Juana Peguero, Supervisor of Clinical & Behavioral Assessment Unit, Westchester County DSS

10:30 AM

• **Coffee Break** •

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Welcome & Opening Address

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM

Luncheon

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

State & Local Commissioners' Dialogue

(Limited to State and Local Commissioners)

Commissioners of OTDA and OCFS, and their executive deputies, are invited to discuss current issues facing social services with local DSS commissioners. The session will begin with topics from local commissioners, followed by time for state commissioners to raise additional issues.

Chaired by: Sarah Merrick, NYPWA President

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Child Welfare Caselaw Review, Part I
(1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes)

A review of child welfare case decisions issued between January and June 2023. Included will be cases related to FCA Article 10, TPRs, and others encountered in child welfare practice.

Presenter:

Mark E. Maves, Esq., Counsel to NYPWA

Shifting Culture: On the Road to YES

From leadership changes, to COVID, to a cyber intrusion, Suffolk County DSS has weathered quite a few storms in recent years. Through it all, our dedicated staff issued benefits to those in need. In this presentation, we share ways our leaders ensure staff take a client-centered approach in their roles as public servants, helping Suffolk residents get to the YES.

Presenters:

Christine Fellini, Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County DSS

Anne Marie Sexton, Assistant Division Administrator, Suffolk County DSS

Jim Sluder, Assistant Division Administrator, Suffolk County DSS

Vincent Rothaar, Assistant Division Administrator, Suffolk County DSS

Turning on a Dime: Changing Service Models in Response to Changing Population Needs

In recent years, changes large and small have effected how outreach to street homeless individuals is performed. The NYC Department of Homeless Services has taken several steps to identify trends and respond quickly and effectively. This talk will center on identifying rapidly emerging trends and how such trends have led to the evolution of the Joint Command Center, the creation of two new shelter types (stabilization beds and welcome centers) and the expansion of medical services. It will also touch on incorporating lessons from such changes in order to most effectively respond to the next emergency.

Presenters:

Cassandra White, Deputy Commissioner,
NYC DHS

Constantina Cifu, Strategic Initiative Advisor,
NYC DHS

Medicaid IMD Exclusion and Opportunities for Meeting Care Needs of Children & Youth

In this session, OCFS and DOH will provide an overview of the federal Medicaid Institutions of Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion and how it applies to voluntary childcare agencies. Information will be presented on the submission of a Medicaid 1115 Demonstration waiver for QRTPs that are determined to be IMDs. Additionally, we will discuss opportunities this waiver will provide to implement strategies for ensuring that all children receive the care they need in the least restrictive settings possible and to shorten lengths of stays for children needing residential care.

Presenters:

April Hamilton, Deputy Director, DOH

Myla Harrison, MD, MPH-Medical Director, DOH

Gail Geohagen-Pratt, Acting Deputy
Commissioner, OCFS/CWCS

Child Support and TANF – Engaging to Support Families

How do we strengthen our partnerships to strengthen our families, deliver quality services and lift children out of poverty? This workshop will feature collaborations and practices between the IV-A and IV-D programs and explore barriers and opportunities for successful engagement and delivery of services.

Presenters:

Eileen Stack, Deputy Commissioner & Director,
OTDA/CSS

Susanne Dolin, Assistant Director, OTDA/CSS

TBA — Additional OTDA Staff

OCFS Funding and Claiming: What's Available and How to Use It?

This session will provide an overview of OCFS funding streams -- both federal and state -- that are available for reimbursement by local departments of social services. OCFS will also

discuss notable changes included in the FY 2023-24 Enacted Budget, as well as emerging policies and insights for local fiscal administrators.

Presenters:

Laura Fiske, Acting Budget Director, OCFS;

Shonna Clinton, Chief Budgeting Analyst, OCFS

Finding a “Happy Medium” with Remote Work in Westchester County DSS

Westchester County DSS will share its efforts to find a 'Happy Medium' with remote work. We will discuss the benefits of working remotely while focusing on meeting the needs of children and families, challenges experienced, and strategies used to overcome these challenges. We will also discuss the hidden toll of remote work. Remote work has overall benefits for both employer and employee, but it can also pose challenges to meeting the needs of those we serve. The session will also include our lessons learned that may apply to other counties.

Presenters:

Jill Seelig, Director of Child Welfare, Westchester
County DSS

Marcia Forrester, Manager II, Residential Services
& CWAU, Westchester County DSS

Joanne Infantes, Manager I, Yonkers District
Office, Westchester County DSS

Vanessa Tavarez-Falcon, Manager II, Mt. Vernon
District Office, Westchester County DSS

3:30 PM

• **Coffee Break** • *Sponsored by SigBee*

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Child Welfare Caselaw Review, Part II

(1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes)

A review of child welfare case decisions issued between January and June 2023. Included will be cases related to FCA Article 10, TPRs, and others encountered in child welfare practice.

Presenter:

Mark E. Maves, Esq., Counsel to NYPWA

Building Staff Morale

Awareness of staff morale and organizational culture is an important factor in effectively

supporting and leading staff. In recent years, a number of external factors have had a direct impact on staff morale. This presentation will focus on ideas and techniques to ensure that the leadership team is successful at identifying good morale killers and implementing key morale boosters that are proven effective at engaging staff and improving staff morale. Some of these boosters include but are not limited to: paradigm cross training throughout units to empower staff to perform based on their skillset and not their title; staff consortiums; promoting work-life balance; bringing self-care events to the office; and supporting employee-led initiatives and special projects to empower staff and instill trust.

Presenters:

Cassandra White, Deputy Commissioner, NYC DHS
Constantina Cifu, Strategic Initiative Advisor, NYC DHS

Assisting Households with SSI/SSDI Applications Using the SOAR Model

SSI/SSDI Outreach Access Recovery (SOAR) is a method of applying for benefits that increases a household's chance of being approved for benefits after the first application in 90-120 days. This session will outline that method and provide examples of where and how it is successfully being applied in NYS.

Presenters:

Linda Camoin, Assistant Director, OTDA
Abigail Kirkman, Assistant Director, SAMHSA SOAR Technical Assistance Center
Patricia McNeil, Chief Disability Determinations Program Policy & Planning, DDD

WORKSTREAMS: Policy/Staff Development and Quality Assurance's Dual Approach to Supporting Child Protective Staff

While Policy/Staff Development and Quality Assurance are distinctly separate programs within ACS's Division of Child Protection, our commonality aligns: strengthening the professional capacity and development of our workforce. Our collaboration, rooted in creating safety cultures, supports improved outcomes for the children and families we serve. We aim to not only develop staff understanding of policies and

casework practice, we continually incorporate feedback on where we can improve regarding historical policies and/or practices that lend to racial disparities in child welfare.

Presenters:

Michelle Attonis, Director, Policy & Staff Development, NYC ACS
Heide Gersh, LMSW, Administrative Director of Social Services, NYC ACS

Using Technology to Improve Program Performance, Customer Engagement and Services

We continuously fight against the deeply entrenched view of parents and organizations that the program is punitive only. To change this view, we emphasize that we are a service organization – focused on the child, with enforcement as just one component. In fact, we changed our name to the "Office of Child Support Services" because 'enforcement' does not define our program. Policy and technology changes helped us improve. Some technology solutions we will cover include: NYC Child Support Mobile App; Social Media/NYC Website; and an Electronic Case Folder System.

Presenters:

Elizabeth (Beth) Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Child Support Services, NYC HRA/DSS
Frances Pardus-Abbadessa, Executive Deputy Commissioner, Office of Child Support Services, NYC HRA/DSS

Trauma Informed Foster Care: How a 14-Year-Old Girl Helped Reshape Foster Care Services in Clinton County

The presentation will examine how a local district altered its approach to Foster Care through the increased use of Kinship Care, Direct Relative Placements and Fictive Kin Placements. During this presentation we will follow the case of a now 14-year-old girl and identify how she helped reshape the practice of foster care district-wide. The focus will be on a trauma-informed approach to foster care, extending this approach through the agency, schools, and foster homes in the community.

Presenters:

Dana LePage, Grade B Supervisor, Clinton

County DSS
Jenna Kilcoyne, Caseworker; Clinton County DSS

Keeping Your Fiscal Skills Sharp—Claiming & Other Best Practices, Collaboration & Discussion, Part I

(Attendance is Limited to LDSS Staff)

Whether you're a seasoned fiscal administrator or relatively new to the job, hearing from your peers on effective work strategies is essential for professional growth. During the first part of this LDSS-only session, a panel of local fiscal pros will tackle a variety of topics involving, but not limited to: FFFS claiming, funding streams and claiming, staff roles, and more!

Presenters:

TBA

Long Term Care Update

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

Presenters:

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

Cherlyn B. Fay, Director, Long Term Care Section, Division of Long Term Care, DOH/OHIP

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

• **Cocktail Reception** • *Sponsored by*
The Saratoga Hilton

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Buffet Dinner

Tuesday ■ July 18

7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Breakfast Buffet

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Conference Registration

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Exhibit Area Open

9:00 AM- 10:30 AM

Concurrent Sessions

Nuts & Bolts of Article 10

(1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes)

A review of petitions and common motions made by CPS and Respondents in FCA Article 10 cases. Also, an in-depth review of recent issues in Article 10 evidence and caselaw.

Presenters:

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

Jennifer Sadaka, Esq., Legal Trainer, NYC ACS

Organizational Culture Shift: A Strategy for Staff Engagement and Retention

Most organizations utilize staff development efforts to promote best outcomes. But how many are savvy enough to acknowledge that staff development is a wasted effort if we do not cultivate a safe and inclusive work culture? How many organizations take the time to focus on the development of the organization as a whole and seek out creative ways to positively shift the culture? Research shows that employee engagement help answer some of the challenges of employee retention and satisfaction. This workshop will demonstrate how the Westchester County DSS has married the concepts of individual professional development with organizational enhancement to improve outcomes, promote job satisfaction and encourage greater staff retention. By avoiding the common "one and done" method of training and fostering a safe culture, DSS leaders can better impact the heart and the head of staff to optimize their engagement.

Presenters:

Catherine Arman-Santana, Director of Operations, Westchester County DSS

Nina Herman-Schlissel, Program Coordinator, Westchester County DSS

Giannina Frino, Staff Development Specialist, Westchester County DSS

Streamlining Administrative Processes in Family and Childrens Services

LDSS Workgroup Members Only
(as Designated by Commissioners)

Workgroup members will review recommendations

Monday ■ July 17 & Tuesday ■ July 18

completed to date. The group will continue to consider processes, reports, or plans that could be eliminated or streamlined to improve operational efficiencies.

Facilitators:

Moira Manning, Commissioner, Albany County DCYF

Eileen Tiberio, Commissioner, Ontario County DSS

Streamlining TA Administrative Processes

***LDSS Workgroup Members Only
(as Designated by Commissioners)***

Workgroup members will review recommendations made to date. The group will review existing requirements and ways the operation of Temporary Assistance Programs could be improved to maximize resources.

Facilitator:

Jennifer Robinson, Executive Deputy Commissioner, Onondaga County DSS/ES

Child Support Program Updates, Part I

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

Presenters:

Eileen Stack, Deputy Commissioner & Director, OTDA/CSS

Monique Rabideau, Assistant Director, OTDA/CSS

Susanne Dolin, Assistant Director, OTDA/CSS

Aimee Furdyna, Bureau Chief – Policy & Training, OTDA/CSS

Elizabeth McGeough Gamachei, Bureau Chief - Program Operations, OTDA/CSS

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

Continuing Down the Road to Expanding Access to Child Care Assistance in NYS

OCFS will provide an overview of the childcare elements included in the enacted budget, share information about the work of the recently reconvened Child Care Availability Task Force, and provide updates and data on how initiatives over the past two years have impacted childcare availability and utilization of the Child Care

Assistance Program.

Presenters:

Nora Yates, Deputy Commissioner, OCFS

Erin Cassidy, Associate Commissioner, OCFS

Merideth Infantino, Director, Bureau of Child Care Assistance Program, OCFS

Supervisor, Senior Caseworker, and Caseworker Series: Dedicated Child Welfare Trainings Designed to Improve Practice and Strengthen Supervision

Suffolk County Family and Children's Services Administration will present on their Supervisor, Senior Caseworker, and Caseworker Series. With a focus on improving practice and strengthening supervision, the multi-pronged training approach was designed to ensure that all staff levels have the necessary tools to achieve the common goal of ensuring safety and reducing risk for the children they serve. The presentation will share how Suffolk County developed and delivered the trainings, how the trainings were received by staff, and the lasting impacts on work practices.

Presenters:

Carleen Newlands, Assistant Division Administrator - Family & Children's Services Administration Suffolk County DSS

Julia Carlson, Casework Supervisor - Family & Children's Services Administration, Suffolk County DSS

Sandra Davidson, Chief Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County DSS

Medicaid Unwinding Process for Local Districts

Since March 2020, special protections guaranteed continuous coverage for anyone with Medicaid or who had obtained Medicaid since then. With the end of the Public Health Emergency, the federal government directed states to resume renewals starting in April 2023. New York State has begun this process for Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan—and representatives from DOH will be on hand to provide a status update on the Medicaid Unwinding process.

Presenter:

Lisa Sbrana, Director, DEMI, DOH/OHIP

10:30 AM

• **Coffee Break** • *Sponsored by Northwoods*

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

Bankruptcy and Child Support Debts
(1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes)

Discussion of the interrelation between the Bankruptcy Code and Child Support Enforcement, with an emphasis on what child support enforcement activities are permitted. A review of recent court decisions related to child support enforcement during bankruptcy.

Presenter:

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

The Latest on PERM/MEQC, IT Updates & Other Issues

Representatives from DOH's Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration (DEMI)/OHIP will discuss issues related to Federal eligibility review programs: Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) and Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control (MEQC). An update on IT matters will also be reviewed.

Presenter:

Lisa Sbrana, Director, DEMI, DOH/OHIP

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Creating a Leadership Development Series with a Local Community College

We partnered with our local Community College to create a yearlong Professional Development Series that consists of eight sessions focusing on leadership, team building and time management skills. Originally created for Supervisors, the need for general staff to attend relevant sessions was also identified.

Presenters:

Elizabeth Strelchun, Staff Development Director, Dutchess County DCFS

Lois LoPresti, Staff Development Coordinator, Chenango County DSS

Julanne Burton, PHD, MSW, Associate Professor of Social Science & Human Services Institute

Coordinator & College of Liberal Arts, Sciences & Society, SUNY Morrisville

Strategies for Successfully Partnering With Media to Advance Child & Family Well-being

Much of the media coverage generated today is driven by tragic stories of individual cases that imply that the system is inadequate or overwhelmed. We'll explore how to prime the media landscape to talk about the importance of supporting families in a productive and positive way. This presentation will help attendees shift the media coverage of child welfare to highlight all of the positive work that local districts and community partners do every day to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and maltreatment. With presenters from national, state and local perspectives, we will explore strategies for partnering with the media to advance stories and coverage on child and family well-being, including how to frame approaching the media and responding to the media when there is a crisis. We'll review a comprehensive media toolkit that includes samples of a letter to the editor, press release, press response to a critical incident, an op-ed and how to make a compelling media pitch.

Presenters:

Solomon Syed, Deputy Commissioner - Public Information Office, OCFS

Jennifer Devlin, Communications Consultant, Social Current, Consultant for National Partnership for Child Safety

Thalia Wright, Commissioner, Monroe County DHS

Karen Tararache, Managing Editor, Spectrum News

Signs of Safety Learning Lab Journey

This session will explain who we are, how long we have been involved with Signs of Safety (SoS) and our role with state initiatives. We'll describe the trainings we have been involved in and what SoS implementation looks like in Tompkins County--including its impact on our relationships with community partners, courts and families. Finally,

we'll discuss our goals for SoS moving forward.

Presenter:

Madi Alridge, Case Supervisor, Tompkins County DSS

Homeless Housing/Code Blue Workgroup

***LDSS Workgroup Members Only
(as Designated by Commissioners)***

A closed session, workgroup members will continue to discuss experiences districts are having related to these topic areas--looking for the emergence of common themes and brainstorming possible solutions.

***Mind the Gap - Filling the Need
Between Supportive and Traditional
Affordable Housing***

Supportive housing is a critical component of the affordable housing spectrum, however there are very few models that serve clients that have needs that fall between what is provided in traditional supportive housing and independent affordable housing. New York City has created a model that finances housing which fills that services gap, leveraging a City-funded housing voucher (CityFHEPS) and paying for social services contracts that covers services and maintenance and operations. Not only does this program fill a critical hole in the service continuum, it also leverages social service dollars to create affordable housing. During this session presenters will walk through the landscape of housing need for individuals experiencing homelessness in NYC (data), share the existing model/tools created by DSS/HRA/DHS to lease housing, and discuss how the city is using the tool to take advantage of the current hotel and speculative housing market to create additional affordable housing with light-touch social services.

Presenter:

Meghan Smith, Associate Commissioner of Rehousing Operations, NYC DHS

***Hot Topics for State &
Local Fiscal Administrators***

Join local fiscal administrators and invited state staff from OCFS, OTDA and DOH in a discussion of fiscal issues directly affecting social services districts--including any new developments in the

SFY 2023-24 Enacted State Budget, Child Care Services, Child Welfare/Family First Initiatives, Housing, Employment, Medicaid, and other important hot topics.

Presenters:

Laura Fiske, Action Budget Director, Bureau of Budget Management, OCFS

Mala Boolchandani, Director, Bureau of Financial Operations, OCFS

Mary Bucca, Assistant Director, Bureau of Financial Services, OTDA

TBA, DOH Invited

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

Lunch

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions

***Mental Hygiene Law Art. 81, Part I
(1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes)***

A comprehensive review of Article 81 guardianship legal practice from the decision to file a petition through the hearing, administration, and termination of the guardianship.

Presenters:

Mark E. Maves, Esq., Counsel to the NYPWA

Morgan R. Thurston, Esq., Assistant Welfare Attorney, Onondaga County Department of Law

***The Development and Evolution
of Strategic Leaders***

The goal of this workshop is to present the development and evolution of strategic leaders from the experience of managers, supervisors, and senior social caseworkers. Leaders must be able to look to the future and understand the past as they help to achieve the organization's goals. Through a panel discussion, we will provide participants with practical and effective managerial competencies used as our roadmap for strategic leadership development. We will also share how data has steered and influenced our strategies and decision making as we experienced this evolution.

Presenters:

Cassandra White, Deputy Commissioner, NYC DHS

Keesha Matthews, Program Administrator, NYC DHS

Janice Bonsu, Director, NYC DHS

Glenda Bryan, Child Welfare Manager III,
Westchester County DSS
Tara Linh Leaman, JD, Program Director,
Westchester County DSS
Edith Coyle-Mishk, Child Welfare Manager I,
Westchester County DSS
TeShanee Blackman, Child Welfare Manager I,
Westchester County DSS
Esther Rosado, Supervisor of Casework,
Westchester County DSS

Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START) Overview and Implementation Updates

Oswego County conducted a workshop last year at NYPWA to introduce the START program. As a contender for the NYS FFPSA plan, we would like to provide another overview and an implementation update. The START model is an evidence-based program that has been shown to improve outcomes for families in the child welfare system due to parental substance use and child maltreatment. Rated by the Family First Prevention Services Clearinghouse as a "supported" program, START has clearly defined components and fidelity standards. Attendees will receive an overview of the National START Model, including discussion on implementation pathways, available funding sources, program evaluation design, and detailed review of current scientific evidence including comparative outcomes for Black children served by START. Oswego County DSS will participate on the panel to update their implementation progress in an effort to improve outcomes with this ever-growing population.

Presenters:

Marti Babcock, Deputy Commissioner,
Oswego County DSS
Sara Finley, Director of Services, Oswego
County DSS
Meghan Rose, Grade B CPS Supervisor, Oswego
County DSS
Missy Verdoliva, Grade B START Supervisor,
Oswego County DSS
Stephanie McDonald, START Senior Caseworker,
Oswego County DSS
Tina Willauer, Program Director, Children
& Family Futures
Eric Stranak, Recovery Services Director, Farnham

Family Services

Child Support Program Updates, Part II

The session will provide updates and information on changes, challenges and opportunities for the child support program in the areas of systems; services; data analysis and information security; and the State Disbursement Unit operations.

Presenters:

Eileen Stack, Assistant Deputy Commissioner & Director, OTDA/CSS
Monique Rabideau, Assistant Director, OTDA/CSS
Susanne Dolin, Assistant Director, OTDA/CSS
Karen Sicurelli, Bureau Chief - Data Management, OTDA/CSS
Shannon Smith, Bureau Chief -IES, OTDA/CSS
Linda Ward, Bureau Chief -Contract Administration, OTDA/CSS
Jennifer Pekins, Bureau Chief - Systems Operations & Development, OTDA/CSS
Jennifer Sherry-Glenn, Bureau Chief - State Disbursement Unit, OTDA/CSS

Reflecting Critical Thinking in Documentation: Engagement Assessment Documentation Guidance and Outline

The ACS-DCP Program Development team will discuss the implementation of the Engagement Assessment Documentation Guidance and Outline (EADG+O). EADG+O offers ACS an opportunity to address a challenge that has faced our Child Protective Staff for many years. ACS has utilized a Casework Practice Recording Template since 1999 to support CPS documentation of casework contacts and activities. Since implementing and expanding the FAR/CARES differential response, ACS noticed that the free narrative documentation of this response could be beneficial for CPS that conduct investigations by reducing the burden of documenting separate templates for all family members. The new guidance also supports family engagement and a framework that promotes open-ended questions for improved information gathering and assessments.

Presenters:

Roslyn Norrell-Fleming, Assistant Commissioner – DCP, NYC ACS
Nicole McKnight, Program Director – DCP, NYC ACS

Pre-Discharge Benefit Application Assistance: Building a Better Pathway to Stability for Justice-Involved New Yorkers

Many New Yorkers incarcerated in local jails and state correctional facilities are discharged with limited, if any, funds or other resources to help reestablish them in their home communities. The funds and transportation assistance these New Yorkers may receive from the correctional system upon discharge are often insufficient in helping them address immediate needs, such as food, employment and housing. NYC HRA has developed a unique partnership with the National Executive Council and leadership from the NYS Department of Correction and Community Supervision to develop pilot programs for pre-discharge benefit application processes at Queensboro Correctional Facility in NYC. We are working to help New Yorkers being released from those facilities and returning to their home communities in NYC have ready and tangible benefits, such as SNAP and Cash Assistance, to meet their daily living needs as soon as possible following discharge. We aim to build programs that are replicable across other local and State facilities throughout the State.

Presenters:

Marjorie A. Cadogan, Executive Deputy Commissioner, Supportive Programs & Initiatives, NYC HRA

Rebecca Chew, Chief Program Officer, NYC HRA

Amy Delisle, Director for Transitional Services, NYS Department of Corrections & Community Supervision

Sirica McIntosh, Co-Director for Legal Education, NEC

Patrick Rodriguez, Co-Director of Operations, NEC

Jay Holder, B.S., Program Developer, Director NEC at Columbia University's Center For Justice

Developing A Trauma-Informed Organization

Knowledge of the emotional, physiological, and neurological impacts of trauma changes the way we perceive and interact with others. When we meet adversity with compassion and a desire to validate & heal--rather than to judge or condemn--we can be more successful. Come and learn techniques for developing a

trauma-informed organization.

Presenter:

Marie Cannon, Commissioner, Erie County DSS

Integrated Eligibility System Program Update

(Vendors Are Prohibited From Participating in This Workshop)

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

Presenters:

Dana Rosenstreich, Director, ITS

Beth Bloodgood, Deputy Director, Program Management, ITS

Lynn Sidoti, Deputy Director, Business, ITS

Dennis Packard, Business Change Lead, ITS

Kim Shaver, OCM Lead, ITS

David Bach, Program Manager, EECM, ITS

3:00 PM

• **Coffee Break** •

3:30 PM- 5:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Mental Hygiene Law Art. 81, Part II

(1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes)

A comprehensive review of Article 81 guardianship legal practice from the decision to file a petition through the hearing, administration, and termination of the guardianship.

Presenters:

Mark E. Maves, Esq., Counsel to the NYPWA

Morgan R. Thurston, Esq., Assistant Welfare Attorney, Onondaga County Department of Law

How to Build a Successful Recruitment Campaign

Come learn some of the recruitment strategies and steps needed to build a successful campaign--including basic terminology, types of marketing/PR strategies, creating campaign foundations, benefits of paid and organic content, and more! The Onondaga DSS-ES recruitment campaign will be used to highlight these strategies.

Presenters:

Alexis Varamogiannis, Public Information

Specialist, Onondaga County DSS/ES
Denise Read, Deputy Commissioner of Monroe County DHS

Use of Strategic Planning to Garner Multi-Sector Support for Health System Improvements in Government Homeless Service Agencies

Overdose is the leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness in New York City. In 2023, the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) launched a two-year NYC Harm Reduction in Shelter Strategic Plan, the first of its kind for a governmental homeless services agency in the United States. The plan builds on the success of the DHS Opioid Overdose Prevention Program, which has trained thousands of DHS shelter staff and clients to administer naloxone in all suspected overdoses. Strategic Plan activities include training frontline and clinical shelter staff to deliver risk reduction services and treatment in shelter, as well as provide linkage to syringe service programs, medications for addiction treatment, overdose prevention centers, peer training programs and other evidenced based interventions. The Plan aims to strengthen policy, environmental, and data management systems so that shelters can more effectively deliver harm reduction services to shelter clients. DHS shared the plan publicly to raise awareness and coalesce partner agency and public support – resulting in an investment of over \$3 million per year for at least two years - and will report on outcomes annually to demonstrate accountability and sustain support over time.

Presenters:

Fabienne Laraque, MD, Medical Director, NYC DHS
Nirah Johnson, Director of Special Populations, NYC DHS

Universal Assessment Transformational Change

This workshop will focus on the implementation of the Universal Assessment. It will explore moving the child welfare system to a family and child well-being system by incorporating collaborative partnerships with families to identify their strengths and areas of need, and the use of the Signs of

Safety approaches.

Presenters:

Molly McHale, Children & Family Services Specialist, OCFS
John Thompson, Principal Education Specialist, PDP
Joanne Trinkle, Center for Innovation in Population Health, College of Public Health, University of Kentucky

State & Local Child Support Dialogue ***(Attendance is limited to OTDA & LDSS Child Support Coordinator Staff)***

This "wrap-up" session is an opportunity to discuss new policy and procedures that were presented at the conference and to strategize how local districts will be able to implement them, leaving time for Q&A.

Facilitators:

Maria Restivo, Child Support Enforcement, Coordinator, Ulster County DSS
Susanne Recktenwald, Child Support Enforcement Coordinator, Steuben County DSS
Laura McKay, Child Support Enforcement, Coordinator, Sullivan County DSS

Collaboration and Partnership: Key to Increasing Client Engagement & Employment

Nassau County has partnered with local organizations such as Island Harvest and Nassau Community College to create unique training programs free of charge for our clients. The goal of these programs is to assist our clients obtain a marketable skill for today's workplace.

Presenters:

Nancy Nunziata, Commissioner, Nassau County DSS
Sunita Manjrekar, Deputy Commissioner, Nassau County DSS

Keeping Your Fiscal Skills Sharp—Claiming & Other Best Practices, Collaboration & Discussion, Part II

(Attendance is Limited to LDSS Staff)

Whether you're a seasoned fiscal administrator or relatively new to the job, hearing from your peers on effective work strategies is essential for

professional growth. During the second part of this LDSS-only session, a panel of local fiscal pros will tackle a variety of topics involving, but not limited to: budgeting for homeless shelters, IV-E, non-reimbursement reports, SEFA schedules, audits, and more!

Presenters:
TBA

Temporary Assistance, Employment & SNAP Forum

(Attendance is Limited to State & Local DSS)

OTDA will participate in a roundtable discussion exclusively for Temporary Assistance, SNAP 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:

- Stephanie Boshart**, Director, Employment & Advancement Programs, OTDA
- Bill Koncelik**, Bureau Chief, TA & SNAP Employment Policy, OTDA
- Jerrod Ogden**, Bureau Chief, TA & SNAP Employment Operations, OTDA
- Tracy Gatchell**, Director, Temporary Assistance Bureau, OTDA
- Shannon Al-Jabi**, Bureau Chief, Temporary Assistance Bureau, OTDA
- Tammy Thackrah**, Bureau Chief, Temporary Assistance Bureau, OTDA
- Wendy Demarco**, Director, Food and Nutrition Bureau, OTDA
- Elida Esposito**, SNAP Bureau Chief, OTDA
- Sherry Tomasky**, SNAP Bureau Chief, OTDA

Integrated Eligibility System Meeting
(LDSS Workgroup Only)

5:15 PM - 6:15 PM

Commissioners' Reception
(LDSS Commissioners Only)

Saratoga Dine-Around

If you purchase a hotel and meal package or an individual ticket for Tuesday night dinner, you will receive a \$35 dinner voucher. Please come to the NYPWA registration table for information on using your Dine-Around voucher at participating local restaurants on Tuesday evening.

LDSS Commissioners' Meetings

(Attendance is restricted to local commissioners only)

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

Commissioners Only Networking Breakfast

8:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Commissioners' Meeting & Policy Discussion

NYPWA President Sarah Merrick will facilitate a discussion on issues that arose during the conference and other compelling topics of interest to local commissioners.

10:45 AM - 12:00 AM

Wrap-up and Next Steps

7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Breakfast Buffet

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Conference Registration

9:30 AM

• **Coffee Break** •

9:00 AM- 10:00 AM

Concurrent Sessions

Local DSS Fiscal Policy Dialogue

(Attendance is Limited to LDSS Staff)

Fiscal administrators will recap their conference experience and share any useful strategies they learned about or that they have already implemented locally.

Facilitator:

John Befus, First Deputy Commissioner, Westchester County DSS

Deputy Commissioners' Leadership Network Meeting

(Attendance is Limited to LDSS Administrators)

Deputy Commissioners and other upper-level administrators will address issues that arose

during the conference, local experiences, new challenges, and other topics of interest.

Facilitated by Steering Committee:

Theresa Giovanniello, Deputy Commissioner, Dutchess County DCFS

Monica Brown, Deputy Commissioner, Onondaga County DSS/ES

Rich Holcomb, Deputy Commissioners, Clinton County DSS

Irene Kurlander, Deputy Commissioner, Orange County DSS

Sandra Davidson, Chief Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County DSS

Staff Development Association Meeting

(Restricted to Local Districts)

Chairperson:

Kelly Eagan, President, SDANYS, and Cortland County SDC

9:00 AM- 11:00 AM

Meeting with State Agency Counsel

(Attendance Restricted to LDSS Attorneys Only)

LDSS attorneys are invited to meet with OCFS

(9:00-10:15) and OTDA (10:00-11:00) counsel to discuss questions related to their respective areas of practice as well as those where clarification from the State agencies are needed.

Facilitator:

Mark E. Maves, Esq., Counsel to the NYPWA

10:30 AM- 12:00 PM

Developing Strategic Leaders Utilizing the Human-Centric Style of Leadership

The focus of this interactive session is to continue the discussion to develop strategic, agile, and human-centric leaders, especially in our current and post-COVID-19 era. This session will also focus on the need for leaders to promote mental wellness and self-care for themselves and staff in the midst of major staff shortages and outages. In the absence of human-centric leadership, staff retention will continue to be at risk.

Presenter:

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

Attorneys' CLE Information

All legal sessions are in-person only and will not be recorded. Local DSS attorneys are eligible for up to 10.5 hours of CLE credits with their paid registration and confirmed attendance.

Sign-in for CLEs opens 15 minutes prior to start of each session.

NYPWA will be providing CLEs for:

- ***Medicaid and Public Assistance Recoveries Within the Modern Legal Framework (1.5 CLEs [.5 CLE in Ethics & Professionalism], 90 mins.)***
- ***Child Welfare Caselaw Review, Part I (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***
- ***Child Welfare Caselaw Review, Part II (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***
- ***Nuts & Bolts of Article 10 (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***
- ***Bankruptcy and Child Support Debts (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***
- ***Mental Hygiene Law Art. 81, Part I (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***
- ***Mental Hygiene Law Art. 81, Part II (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***

Materials will be posted at www.NYPWA.org for you to review and choose which documents to download to your device or print and bring to the conference. Copies are not provided on-site.

Attorneys must attend in person to participate and to qualify for CLEs.

Documents will be posted approximately one week prior to the conference.

To access documents, click the "Education & Events" button on our website.

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 154TH ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

JULY 16-19, 2023

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete the Conference Registration form (upper portion) and it to the NYPWA with your voucher, check, or credit card information. 2. Meals ARE included with multi-night hotel packages at The Saratoga Hilton. If you want to order meals only, and do not need lodging, use the "Meals Order Form" below. Send it, with payment, directly to the NYPWA by **Thursday, June 15, 2023**. Please note: meals are NOT included with the cost of conference registration; they must be purchased separately. Multi-night hotel package meal tickets will be available at The Saratoga Hilton Registration Desk under the name listed on the hotel registration form. Tickets purchased with the Meals Order Form below will be available at the NYPWA Registration Desk.
3. Carefully read the Hotel Reservation Policy, noting that the cut-off date for hotel registration is **Thursday, June 15, 2023**.
4. Complete the Hotel Registration form with all applicable information — be sure to check the correct rooming package and return the form to The Saratoga Hilton. (One night reservations will be accommodated at the nearby Courtyard by Marriott.)
5. **Registration Cancellation Policy:** Refund of registration fee, less a \$15 administrative fee, will be made only when cancellation is received in writing and emailed by July 3, 2023.

NYPWA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

	By June 16	After June 16	6 th LDSS Registrant
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> \$209.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$223.00	<input type="checkbox"/> FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> One-Day	<input type="checkbox"/> \$134.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$137.00	<input type="checkbox"/> FREE

NYPWA Forms of Payment:

Check: Make Payable to "NYPWA"

Voucher: Email to info@nypwa.org or use surface mail.

Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, Amex, Discover):

Provide ONLY by surface mail or by phone

Card Holder Name: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

District: _____

Name & Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number & Email: _____

Credit Card Payment Contact

(if NOT the same as above [name, title, email & phone number] -

NYPWA will call): _____

Payment Options:

1) Mail: Please complete this form and return via mail:

NYPWA, 130 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210

2) Call: (518) 465-9305

3) Email: Send form to info@nypwa.org and we will call you for credit card information.

MEALS ORDER FORM

If you are not ordering a hotel package, all meals must be purchased individually through the NYPWA by completing this MEALS ORDER FORM. Please return the completed form with payment directly to the NYPWA. **MEAL CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of meals will be made only when received in writing and emailed by July 3, 2023. After July 3, 2023 all meals MUST still be paid for.

	PRICE	SELECTION
MONDAY, JULY 17		
Breakfast	\$39.16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunch	\$45.69	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dinner	\$74.41	<input type="checkbox"/>
TUESDAY, JULY 18		
Breakfast	\$39.16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunch	\$44.38	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dine-Around Credit	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
WEDNESDAY, JULY 19		
Breakfast	\$39.16	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please inform your server at each meal of any special dietary needs.

Please submit conference registration form:

NEW YORK PUBLIC WELFARE ASSOCIATION • 130 WASHINGTON AVENUE • ALBANY, NEW YORK 12210
 • www.nypwa.org • PHONE: 518-465-9305 • FAX: 518-465-5633 • info@nypwa.org •