

New York Public Welfare Association  
156<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Conference

# *Ambassadors of Hope:*

## *Elevating Our Way to the Future*

Program Brochure  
July 20-23, 2025  
The Saratoga Hilton Hotel

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[www.NYPWA.org](http://www.NYPWA.org)

## NYPWA Conference Mobile App

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## Sunday, July 20

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Exhibitor Setup.....Gallery  
Registration.....Lower Lobby

## Monday, July 21

7:30 am - 8:45 am  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**9:00 am - 10:30 am**

Breakfast Buffet.....Pavilion/Saratoga 2  
Registration.....Lower Lobby  
Exhibit Area Open.....Gallery  
All Day Refresher Break • Sponsored by **Equifax**.....Lobby/Gallery

### Concurrent Sessions

NYPWA Board of Directors' Meeting.....Phila  
Article 81 Guardianship-Best Practices and Caselaw Review.....City Center-Meeting Room 1  
Staff Development Association Meeting (**Restricted to LDSS**).....City Center-Meeting Room C  
Healing the Healer: Creating Trauma-Responsive Environments for Staff.....Broadway 1/2  
Promoting Continuity of Benefits with Automated Solutions & Reliable Data.....Broadway 3  
Go Big or Go Home: Albany DCYF's Journey through FAR Implementation.....Broadway 4  
"Come on Down" - A Medicaid Roundtable Discussion for  
the LDSS (**Restricted to LDSS & Vendors Are Prohibited**).....Travers/Alabama

Public Benefits Accessibility: 2024 NYS OTDA Survey Results.....Highrock  
Updates from the Division of Child Care Services (**Vendors Are Prohibited**).....Saratoga 1  
TA Directors Meeting (**Restricted to LDSS**).....Saratoga 3

10:30 am  
11:00 am - 12:15 pm  
11:30 am - 1:15 pm  
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Coffee Break • Sponsored by **Conduent**.....Gallery  
Opening Ceremonies.....City Center-Meeting Room 2  
Luncheon • Sponsored by **Salesforce**.....Pavilion/Saratoga 2&3  
State & Local Commissioners' Dialogue  
(**Restricted to Commissioners**) • Sponsored by **KPMG**.....Travers/Alabama

**1:30 pm - 3:00 pm**

### Concurrent Sessions

Fundamentals of ICWA through the Social Work Lens.....City Center-Meeting Room 1  
Temporary Assistance & Employment  
Roundtable (**Restricted to OTDA & LDSS**).....City Center-Meeting Room 2  
Hot Topics for State & Local Fiscal Administrators.....City Center-Meeting Room C  
Effective Child Support

Administration (**Restricted to LDSS & Vendors Are Prohibited**).....Broadway 1/2  
Project Management 101.....Broadway 3  
Building Bridges: Fostering Positive Connections Between Youth & Families.....Broadway 4  
The Emotionally Intelligent Leader.....Highrock

3:00 pm

Coffee Break • Sponsored by **Cúram, by Merative**.....Gallery

**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**

### Concurrent Sessions

Nicholson v. Sapphire W: The Collision of Two Landmark Cases  
That Change the Landscape of Child Protection.....City Center-Meeting Room 1  
EPIC Leadership: Creating Moments That Transform Culture,  
Retain Talent, & Restore Hope.....City Center-Meeting Room 2  
LDSS Fiscal Administrators

Roundtable Discussion (**Restricted to LDSS**).....City Center-Meeting Room C  
Child Support Reports.....Broadway 1/2  
Catching Up with ICWA.....Broadway 3  
Onondaga County DSS/ES: Supporting Family Wellbeing.....Broadway 4  
Leveraging Local Resources & Partnerships to Increase

Client Participation & Engagement in Your District.....Highrock  
Long Term Care Update.....Saratoga 1

Reimagine Visitation: How to Objectively Assess Visitation  
Progression from Supervised to Unsupervised in Child Welfare.....Saratoga 2

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Commissioners' Reception.....Private  
Cocktail Reception • Sponsored by the **Saratoga Hilton**.....Foyer/Pavilion  
Dinner Buffet • Live Music by the **Made in the Shade**.....Saratoga Ballrooms

## Tuesday, July 22

7:30 am - 8:45 am  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**9:00 am - 10:30 am**

Breakfast Buffet.....Pavilion/Saratoga 2  
Registration.....Lower Lobby  
Exhibit Area Open.....Gallery  
All Day Refresher Break • Sponsored by **Deloitte**.....Lobby/Gallery

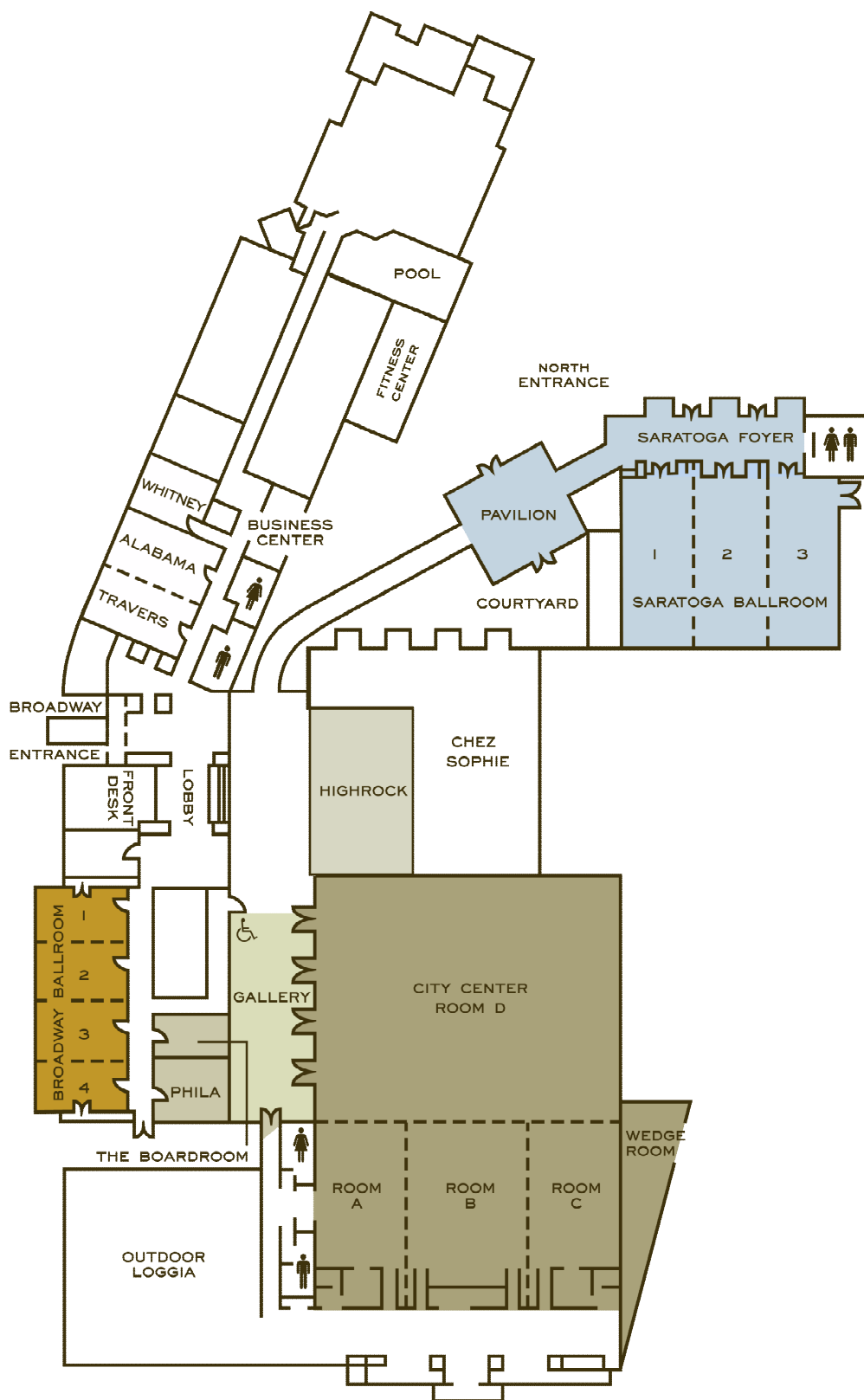
### Concurrent Sessions

Child Welfare Caselaw Review, Part I.....City Center-Meeting Room 1  
Introducing the CONNECTIONS Companion.....Broadway 1/2

	Innovations in Housing: Getting to Housed.....	Broadway 3
	Worker Safety <i>(Restricted to Commissioners Only)</i> .....	Broadway 4
	Lost No More: Best Practices When Youth Go Missing.....	Travers/Alabama
	Developing a Department of Leaders.....	Highrock
	FFPSA: Tying Together the Family Assessment Service Plan (FASP), Child Specific Prevention Plan (CSPP), Data & Systems.....	Saratoga 1
	Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDS) Saratoga County <i>(Vendors Are Prohibited)</i> .....	Saratoga 3
10:30 am	Coffee Break • Sponsored by <b>Northwoods</b> .....	Gallery
10:45 am - 12:15 pm	Child Support Program Updates, Part II.....	City Center-Meeting Room 1
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> CARES-Collaborative Assessment Response Engagement & Support: NYC Utilization of FAR to Enhance Engagement of Children & Families.....	Broadway 1/2
	Emergency Housing Panel Discussion.....	Broadway 3
	Long Term (DSS & OFA) Collaboration = Great Outcomes & Local Savings.....	Broadway 4
	Community Diversion Boards: A New Way to Divert Young People in the Juvenile Justice System.....	Travers/Alabama
	Future-Proofing the DSS Workforce: Recruitment & Retention Post-HELP.....	Highrock
	Integrated Eligibility System Program Update <i>(Vendors Are Prohibited)</i> .....	Saratoga 1
11:30 am - 1:15 pm	Lunch.....	Pavilion/Saratoga 2&3
12:15 am - 1:15 pm	Large County Commissioners Meeting <i>(Restricted to Commissioners Only)</i> .....	Board Room
12:15 am - 1:15 pm	Integrated Eligibility System Workgroup Meeting <i>(Members-Only)</i> .....	Phila
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> Exploring Family Court Act Section 1038: Issues in Discovery & Evidence.....	City Center-Meeting Room 1
	Deep Dive into the Fiscal World, Part I <i>(Restricted to LDSS)</i> .....	Broadway 1/2
	The Schenectady Outreach Hub: Program Updates on the Multifaceted Approach That Serves Our Most At-Risk Community Members.....	Broadway 3
	Administrative Data: Leveraging to Assess Practice & Improve Outcomes.....	Broadway 4
	Child Support Program Updates Part I.....	Travers/Alabama
	Positive Partnerships with Personnel People Particularly Pertaining to Performance Policies.....	Highrock
	Medicaid Eligibility Updates.....	Saratoga 1
3:00 pm	Coffee Break • Sponsored by <b>TipCo Automated Systems</b> .....	Gallery
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> OCFS Legal Training for Child Welfare Workers.....	City Center-Meeting Room 1
	Deep Dive into the Fiscal World, Part II <i>(Restricted to LDSS)</i> .....	Broadway 1/2
	Transition Age Youth: Reimagining Foster Care Practices for Youth Age 18 & Older.....	Broadway 3
	The Life of an Administrative Review.....	Broadway 4
	Child Support Program Updates Part II.....	Travers/Alabama
	A Resiliency Building Supervision Model.....	Highrock
	MECM Demo & Updates.....	Saratoga 1
	Best Practices in Code Blue.....	Saratoga 2
	Housing Development Planning.....	Saratoga 3
5:00 pm	Dinner on Your Own	

## Wednesday, July 23

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Commissioners' Breakfast <i>(Restricted to LDSS Commissioners)</i> .....	Saratoga 1
8:30 am - 12:00 pm	Commissioners' Business Meeting & Policy Discussion <i>(Restricted to LDSS Commissioners)</i> .....	Saratoga 1
	• Sponsored by <b>KPMG</b>	
7:30 am - 8:45 am	Breakfast Buffet.....	Pavilion/Saratoga 3
8:00 am - 11:00 am	Registration.....	Lower Lobby
9:00 am - 10:30 am	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> Meeting with State Agency Counsel.....	Broadway 1/2
	LDSS Fiscal Policy Dialogue <i>(Restricted to LDSS)</i> .....	Broadway 3/4
	State & Local Child Support Dialogue <i>(Restricted to OTDA &amp; LDSS)</i> .....	Travers/Alabama
	Deputy Commissioners' Leadership Network Meeting <i>(Restricted to LDSS)</i> .....	Saratoga 2
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Special Feature Presentation (Open to All)</b> Holistic & Empathetic Approaches to Self-Care for Management.....	Highrock





# Welcome & Keynote Address

## Monday, July 21

### 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

### City Center Meeting Room 2

#### Presiding:

**Sabrina Jaar Marzouka** NYPWA President and Commissioner of Dutchess County DCFS

**Phil Barrett**, Chairman, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors

**DaMia Harris-Madden**, Commissioner, Office of Children and Family Services

**Barbara Guinn**, Commissioner, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

## Keynote Speaker

**Rear Admiral June Ryan**



## Leaders Hold the Light and Inspire Hope for the Future

Rear Admiral June Ryan is a motivational speaker, trainer, and coach drawing upon her 35 years of trailblazing military experience. She served in various leadership roles, ranging from ship captain to multistate regional commander along the northern international border. RADM Ryan specializes in delivering customized executive leadership training and organizational development programs that have a profound impact on leaders and their teams for years to come.

What does it take to lead when the pressure is on and the storm is raging? Leadership isn't just about titles or authority—it's about igniting optimism and cultivating connection, even in the most challenging moments. Whether you're navigating tough

seas at work, guiding your family, or supporting others in your community, leadership starts with one simple act: holding the light.

Join us for this powerful, interactive keynote as we take you to the freezing North Atlantic, where a mayday call turned into a life-and-death battle for survival. Through this gripping story, you'll uncover the practical and tactical lessons great leaders rely on to inspire others and keep their mission alive.

What you'll take away:

- Learn what sets true optimists apart from blind positivity and how to embody authentic hope.
- Harness the power of the 4-SWs to stay motivated through hardships.
- Discover the untapped potential of reframing "NO" as the "Next Opportunity."
- Become a "positive node," spreading impact in your workplace, family, and beyond.

This keynote will leave you inspired, equipped, and ready to hold the light for others—even in life's stormiest moments.

## Sunday ■ July 20

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Gallery

Exhibit Setup and Registration

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Lower Lobby

Conference Registration

Dinner on Your Own

## Monday ■ July 21

7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Pavilion/Saratoga 2

Breakfast Buffet

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Lower Lobby

Conference Registration

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Gallery

Exhibit Area Open

- All Day Refresher Break • Lobby/Gallery
- Sponsored by Equifax*

**9:00 AM- 10:30 AM**

**Concurrent Sessions**

***NYPWA Board of Directors' Meeting***

**Phila**

**City Center-Meeting Room 1**

***Article 81 Guardianship- Best Practices and Caselaw Review***

***(1.5 CLEs 90 minutes)***

The first part of the program will cover best practices for guardianships, including responding to Petitions for Guardianship; intake and first steps for caseworkers after appointment; required actions for caseworkers and local service districts once appointed; reporting requirements; managing income, resources and property; applying for Chronic Care Medicaid and other financial assistance programs; and post-death procedures. The second part of the program will review fundamental and recent cases relevant to Art. 81 guardianship.

***Presenter:***

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

**Alex J. Cameron, Esq.**, Deputy County Attorney, Monroe County DSS

***Moderator:***

**Raghuvijai Guntur, Esq.**, Counsel to the Commissioner, Greene County DSS

**City Center-Meeting Room C**

***Staff Development Association Meeting***

***(Attendance is Limited to LDSS Only)***

***Chairperson:***

**Sal Patella**, President, SDANYS, and Orange County SDC

**Broadway 1/2**

***Healing the Healer: Creating Trauma-Responsive Environments for Staff***

Human services professionals are often at the frontlines of society's most complex challenges, carrying the emotional weight of those they serve. This session takes a leadership lens to the silent stressors that impact teams, focusing on toxic stress, secondary trauma, and vicarious trauma in the workplace. Participants will learn how to identify trauma responses in staff behavior, foster

emotional safety, and implement trauma-responsive leadership practices that boost morale, retention, and long-term effectiveness. This is more than self-care – it's organizational care.

***Presenter:***

**Dr. Ebony Green**, CEO, Hello Kind Soul

***Moderator:***

**Joseph Seeber**, Commissioner, St. Lawrence County DSS

**Broadway 3**

***Promoting Continuity of Benefits with Automated Solutions and Reliable Data***

Social service agencies provide essential assistance to eligible individuals and families in need; however, determining eligibility for these programs can be complex and time-consuming, often relying on manual verifications and outdated data. Delays in determining eligibility for benefits like food, healthcare, or housing assistance can have a devastating impact on individuals and families in need.

In this session, participants will learn how using automation to access differentiated data sets, such as income and employment data, can efficiently accelerate eligibility determination and renewal processes. It can also improve the applicant experience, and better support continuity of benefits. Additionally, we will demonstrate how using other similarly unique data sets, such as incarceration data, can help attendants quickly learn when additional research is needed.

***Presenters:***

**Michael Hartman**, VP, Key Client Leader - NY State, Equifax

**Todd Byrnes**, Solution Architect, Equifax

***Moderator:***

**Theresa Giovanniello**, Deputy Commissioner, Dutchess County DCFS

**Broadway 4**

***Go Big or Go Home: Albany DCYF's Journey through Far Implementation***

Albany DCYF will discuss their FAR implementation and their decision to "go big or go home". Bright spots and challenges will be discussed, as well as lessons learned in implementing an alternative response in CPS. The presentation will also

highlight how differential response enhances engagement of children and families. We will discuss how FAR promotes safety and reduced risk for children while engaging and partnering with families using solution focused tools for better outcomes. We will emphasize the importance of FAR as an instrument of racial and social equity due to there being no SCR determination/record of abuse or maltreatment, allowing CPS and families to focus on resolving challenges and accessing services to reduce recidivism to the child welfare system.

*Presenters:*

**Molly Mchale**, FAR Lead, NYS OCFS

**Gina Newlin**, Training Program Coordinator/FAR coach, PDP, NYS OCFS

**Sonoma Pelton**, Director of Service, Albany County DCYF

**Brendon Behan**, FAR supervisor, Albany County DCYF

*Moderator:*

**Jeannine Bickford**, Director of Children Services, Washington County DSS

Travers/Alabama

### **"Come On Down!" - A Medicaid Roundtable Discussion for the LDSS**

**(Attendance Limited to LDSS Only)**

**(Vendors Are Prohibited From Participating in This Workshop)**

The Medicaid program is constantly evolving. Recent and upcoming changes often present LDSS staff with new challenges. Join this facilitated discussion to share your successes and seek out best practices from others.

*Presenter:*

**Jim Sluder**, Division Administrator - Medicaid Services, Suffolk County DSS

*Moderator:*

**Kira Pospesel**, Commissioner, Greene County DSS

Highrock

### **Public Benefits Accessibility: 2024**

#### **NYS OTDA Survey Results**

Governor Hochul's Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (CPRAC) is charged with making recommendations to reduce child poverty by 50% in the coming years. Part of the CPRAC's role is to assess and make recommendations to improve

access to public benefits. In 2024, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) administered an on-line Public Benefits Survey to better understand administrative burdens and/or access barriers that New Yorkers experienced when seeking or receiving support through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Public Assistance (PA) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit programs. During this session, OTDA staff will present and facilitate a discussion of the results of the over 1,200 responses to the survey received during 2024. The survey remains open, and collection and analysis of responses continue.

*Presenter:*

**Renée Overdyke, Ph.D.**, Program Research Specialist, NYS OTDA

*Moderator:*

**Karen Rybicki**, Commissioner, Erie County DSS

Saratoga 1

### **Updates from the Division of Child Care Services**

**(Vendors Are Prohibited From Participating in This Workshop)**

This interactive presentation will provide an overview of the initiatives rolled out during the first half of 2025, those currently in process, and updates on New York State's work to move towards compliance with the requirements for paying based on enrollment and prospective pay. This presentation will also include updates on implementing the OCFS IT systems modernization initiative, the Child Care and Development Fund Plan status, and the NYS Enacted Budget items relating to childcare. This session is not open to vendors by local districts. The presentation will include information on how to access reports and an overview of the data contained in the report.

*Presenters:*

**Emily Meyer**, Associate Commissioner, NYS OCFS  
**Merideth Infantino**, Director of Child Care Assistance and Enrollment Services, NYS OCFS

*Moderator:*

**Michael Drum**, Director of Services, Wyoming County DSS



Saratoga 3

**TA Directors Meeting****(Attendance is Limited to LDSS Staff)**

Join your peers for a discussion of the newest developments in the eligibility world of SNAP, Temporary Assistance and Medicaid. We'll also be addressing areas of concern on the part of districts and responding to questions that may come up during the course of the meeting.

*Facilitator:*

**Jennifer A. Robinson**, Executive Deputy Commissioner, Onondaga County DSS-ES

**10:30 AM**

Gallery

• Coffee Break • *Sponsored by*  
**Conduent**

**11:00 AM - 12:15 PM**

City Center Meeting Room 2

**Welcome & Opening Address****11:30 AM - 1:15 PM**

Pavilion/Saratoga 2 &amp; 3

• Luncheon • *Sponsored by*  
**Salesforce**

**1:30 PM - 5:00 PM**

Travers/Alabama

**State & Local Commissioners' Dialogue****(Limited to State and Local Commissioners)**

Commissioners of OTDA and OCFS, and their executive deputies, will 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:*

**Sabrina Jaar Marzouka**, NYPWA President

• Coffee Break • *Sponsored by*  
**KPMG**

**1:30 PM - 3:00 PM****Concurrent Sessions**

City Center-Meeting Room 1

***Fundamentals of ICWA through the Social Work Lens***

**(1.5 CLEs [1.0 CLE in Diversity, Inclusion, and Elimination of Bias, 0.5 CLE in Skills], 90 minutes)**

This presentation will present an overview of the Indian Child Welfare Act, as well as the Act's state law counterpart. As we review the unique requirements imposed on local DSS by the Act, we will also discuss the importance of understanding implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and the historical systemic discrimination that led to the passage of the Act. This presentation will use case studies to illustrate specific problems that DSS attorneys are likely to encounter while prosecuting an ICWA-compliant Article 10 petition.

*Presenter:*

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

*Moderator:*

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

City Center-Meeting Room 2

***Temporary Assistance & Employment Roundtable*****(Attendance Limited to State & Local DSS Only)**

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 and topics for discussion identified by districts. .

*Presenters:*

**Stephanie Boshart**, Director, Employment & Advancement Services, NYS OTDA

**Bill Koncelik**, Bureau Chief, Employment & Advancement Services, NYS OTDA

**Stacey Nodelman**, Director, Temporary Assistance Bureau, NYS OTDA

**Tammy Thackrah**, Bureau Chief, Temporary Assistance Bureau, NYS OTDA

**Melissa Alexander**, Bureau Chief, Temporary Assistance Bureau, NYS OTDA

*Moderator:*

**Melissa Johnston**, Associate Director-Temporary Assistance Employment Program, Onondaga County DSS-ES

## City Center-Meeting Room C

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

Join local fiscal administrators and invited state staff from OCFS, OTDA and DOH in a discussion of official issues directly affecting social services districts make a - not --including any new developments in the SFY 2025-26 Enacted State Budget, Child Care Services, Child Welfare/Family First Initiatives, Housing, Employment, Medicaid, and other important hot topics.

*Presenters:*

**Mary Bucca**, Principal Accountant, NYS OTDA

**Shonna Clinton**, Chief Budgeting Analyst, NYS OCFS

**Laura Fiske**, Director, Bureau of Budget Management, NYS OCFS

**Anil Thomas**, Principal Accountant, NYS DOH

*Moderator:*

**Tracy Hudson**, Director of Administrative Services, Washington County DSS

## Broadway 1/2

**Effective Child Support Administration**

**(Attendance Limited to LDSS Only)**

**(Vendors Are Prohibited From Participating in This Workshop)**

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 other regions. This session is an opportunity for meaningful dialogue on the issues that matter the most to you concerning the local administration of Child Support.

*Facilitators:*

**Maria Restivo**, Child Support Enforcement, Coordinator, Ulster County DSS

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

**A. Michelle Henry-Walker**, FA Coordinator-Child Support Services, Monroe County DSS

## Broadway 3

**Project Management 101**

Project Management ideas and principles are becoming more common in most workplaces; however, many people do not understand what project managers do, how they can help us, and

how we can help them. During this session, we will discuss some basic terms and concepts, and their application in your daily work.

*Presenter:*

**Abrahm DiMarco**, DiMarco Consulting Group

*Moderator:*

**Mariah Ernhout-Fegley**, Staff Development Coordinator, Ontario County DSS

## Broadway 4

**Building Bridges: Fostering Positive Connections Between Youth and Police**

Dutchess County will share its experience implementing Youth & Policy Initiative (YPI) as part of its Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) efforts. YPI is an early intervention and prevention approach based upon evidence-based practices in gang and delinquency prevention. Over the past 20 years, NAFI's Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) program has been successfully implemented in 45 cities. The program's goal is to help youth build trust in law enforcement, reduce stereotypes existing between teenagers and police officers, and decreasing youth involvement in the criminal justice system.

*Presenters:*

**Dave Smith**, National Director, Youth Police Initiative (YPI)

**Karmen Smallwood**, Assistant Commissioner, Dutchess County DCFS

*Moderator:*

**Anne Oh**, Chief Counsel, Suffolk County DSS

## Highrock

**The Emotionally Intelligent Leader**

In this presentation, we'll explore the pillars of emotional intelligence and the role it plays in effective leadership. Then, participants will complete an emotional intelligence self-assessment to create greater self-awareness and determine growth areas.

*Presenter:*

**Deborah J Cabral**, PCC, Founder/President & CEO, Cabral Enterprises, LLC DBA DC Efficiency Consulting

*Moderator:*

**Sal Patella**, Staff Development Coordinator, Orange County DSS

**3:00 PM**

• **Coffee Break • Sponsored by**  
**Curam by Merative**

**3:30 PM - 5:00 PM**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**City Center-Meeting Room 1**

***Nicholson v. Sapphire W: The Collision of Two Landmark Cases That Change the Landscape of Child Protection***

***(1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes)***

This course will first summarize the holding of the 2025 second department decision in Sapphire W. and how it alters Article 10 proceedings in New York State. The course will further discuss the most updated legal analysis of Nicholson case law and how it sets Article 10 proceedings on a crash course between the interests of non-respondent parents as domestic violence victims and custodial parents no longer subject to orders of supervision. Finally, the course will provide recommendations and practice points for managing child safety in this new landscape.

***Presenters:***

**Faith Lovell Esq.**, Bureau Chief, Suffolk County Attorney's Office, Family Court & Social Services Bureau

**Jennifer Basile Esq.**, Deputy Bureau Chief, Suffolk County Attorney's Office, Family Court & Social Services Bureau

**Mara Cella Esq.**, Trial Supervisor, Suffolk County Attorney's Office, Family Court & Social Services Bureau

***Moderator:***

**Carolyn R. Kellogg, Esq.**, Social Services Senior Attorney, Allegany County DSS

**City Center-Meeting Room 2**

***EPIC Leadership: Creating Moments That Transform Culture, Retain Talent, and Restore Hope***

In this inspiring, interactive session, Rear Admiral June Ryan and Dr. Lisa Patierne join forces to explore how you can create an EPIC workplace by harnessing everyday moments. Moments of Elevation, Pride, Insight, and Connection (EPIC) can transform an organizations culture and address today's most significant workforce

**Gallery**

challenges. Drawing from June's national leadership experience and Lisa's groundbreaking work in Schenectady County DSS, participants will explore real world examples and leave this session with practical and tactical tools they can use to create their own EPIC workplace culture, positively impacting recruitment and retention, while simultaneously building an organizational culture of trust and respect.

***Presenter:s***

**Rear Admiral June Ryan, USCG (retired):**

CEO/Founder: June Ryan Global Solutions

**Dr. Lisa Patierne**, President, Co-Founder, I'm Human 360

***Moderator:***

**Marlene Reynolds**, Training & Development Coordinator, Schuyler County DSS

**City Center-Meeting Room C**

***LDSS Fiscal Administrators Roundtable Discussion***

***(Attendance Limited to LDSS Only)***

Come meet with your district colleagues from around the state to informally discuss policies and best practices regarding Housing & Homeless Services, Child Welfare, Child Care, Temporary Assistance, Medicaid and other important topics.

***Facilitator:***

**John Befus**, First Deputy Commissioner, Westchester County DSS

**Broadway 1/2**

***Child Support Reports***

Child Support performance and federal reporting are everyone's responsibility! This session covers updates to the OCSE-157 Child Support Annual Report performance and how case and account data entered by local district staff impacts federal performance and reporting. The session also covers effective use of reports to enhance program performance and benefit the families we serve.

***Presenters:***

**Karen Sicurelli**, Bureau Chief - Data Management NYS OTDA

**Elizabeth McGeough Gamache**, Bureau Chief - Program Operations NYS OTDA

*Moderator:*

**John Ferry**, Child Support Coordinator, Oswego County DSS

### Broadway 3

#### ***Catching Up with ICWA***

Participants will learn and apply the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and adhere to federal regulations and guidelines. They will also receive tools and resources to work with native children in your county. In addition, participants will engage in best practices when providing services to Native families. They will learn ways to work with Tribal programs and entities on and off the reservation.

*Presenters:*

**Sky Timmons**, Program Manager ICWA, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe DSS

**Clarissa Chatland**, Deputy Commissioner, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe DSS

**Heather Laforme-Maldonado**, Director Bureau of Native American Services, NYS OCFS

*Moderator:*

**Kristin Post**, Staff Development Coordinator, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe DSS

### Broadway 4

#### ***Onondaga County DSS/ES: Supporting Family Wellbeing***

2Gen Onondaga and the new Housing Case Management Team in Onondaga County are two programs that are changing how we do business with children and families in Syracuse and the surrounding areas. This presentation will give an update on 2Gen Onondaga, provide a quick overview of what the Housing Team is working on with families. It will also include a taped interview with a few parents to give their testimonials.

*Presenters:*

**Sarah Easterly, LMSW**, Social Services Program Coordinator, Onondaga County DSS/ES

**Megan Shirtz**, Supervisor, Onondaga County DSS/ES

**Kevin Corlett**, Senior Caseworker, Onondaga County DSS/ES

*Moderator:*

**Denise Read**, Deputy Commissioner, Monroe County DSS

Highrock

#### ***Leveraging Local Resources & Partnerships to Increase Client Participation & Engagement in Your District***

Exploring new and existing DSS partnerships, including WIOA partners, financial institutions for financial literacy, community colleges, and how districts of varying size and region leverage those partnerships to create fresh and unique E&T opportunities for client participation and engagement.

*Presenters:*

**Michael Thornton**, Employment Services Advisor, Employment and Advancement Services Bureau, NYS OTDA

**Brionna Ryder**, Employment Services Advisor, Employment and Advancement Services Bureau, NYS OTDA

*Moderator:*

**Marisa Alber**, Deputy Commissioner, Saratoga County DSS

### Saratoga 1

#### ***Long Term Care Update***

DOH will present any upcoming changes in the long-term care arena, including implementation of the CDPAP statewide FI.

*Presenters:*

**Trisha Schell-Guy**, Director, Bureau of Medicaid LTC Policy, Division of Program Development & Management, OHIP, NYS DOH

**Deborah McClure**, Bureau Director, Bureau of Medicaid LTC Policy, Division of Program Development & Management, OHIP, NYS DOH

*Moderator:*

**Jannelle Reome**, Deputy Commissioner of Financial Assistance, Franklin County DSS

### Saratoga 2

#### ***Reimagine Visitation: How to Objectively Assess Visitation Progression from Supervised to Unsupervised in Child Welfare***

“Reimagine Visitation” is a work group developed as part of a QIC-R grant that included an Institutional Analysis of Services. Suggested opportunities that arose from the analysis include:

- Review current policies guiding family visitation,



- Increase family voice & improve department-family collaboration around all aspects of care,
- Improve/enhance communication with service providers to build collaboration on behalf of families.

Monroe County created a work group that included two parents with lived experience, SPCC - our contracted visit supervision program, and all levels of CW staff to look at how we make decisions to progress visitation, how fear can be a barrier to objective assessment, and the importance of supporting caseworkers to prioritize regular reassessment of family time and clear feedback to families to support their knowledge of process, steps to support progression, and barriers to overcome. A tool was created to support objective observation and assessment. The work focused on the importance of clear communication between caseworkers and Family Time supervisors as well as with parents, based on behavioral observations opposed to feelings.

*Presenter:*

**Amy Natale-McConnell**, Director of Family Services, Monroe County DSS

*Moderator:*

**Kathy Cardilli**, Director of Child Protective, Monroe County DSS

## 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**Commissioners' Reception**  
(LDSS Commissioners Only)

Private

## 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Foyer/Pavilion

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

## 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Saratoga Ballrooms

**Buffet Dinner with *Live Music* by Made in the Shade**

## Tuesday ■ July 22

### 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Pavilion/Saratoga 2

**Breakfast Buffet**

### 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Lower Lobby

**Conference Registration**

### 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Gallery

**Exhibit Area Open**

- **All Day Refresher Break** • Lobby/Gallery  
*Sponsored by Deloitte*

### 9:00 AM- 10:30 AM

#### Concurrent Sessions

City Center-Meeting Room 1

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

A review of the reported child welfare cases from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025. Part 1 will primarily focus on abuse and neglect cases.

*Presenter & Moderator:*

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

*Presenters:*

**Vineet Chawla, Esq.**, Family Court Legal Services, Legal Training & Support, NYC ACS

**Jennifer Sadaka, Esq.**, Senior Team Leader & Legal Trainer, NYC ACS

Broadway 1/2

***Introducing the CONNECTIONS Companion***

NYS ITS in partnership with OCFS is developing the CONNECTIONS Companion to bring more mobility to CONNECTIONS for users in the field!

The CONNECTIONS Companion combines critical aspects of CONNECTIONS with a more mobile-friendly platform, and some exciting enhancements. Users will be able to access CONNECTIONS from any web browser, particularly for much easier viewing and navigation on tablets and even smartphones.



The CONNECTIONS Companion is available to all CONNECTIONS users.

*Presenters:*

**Brian Washock**, Director of Program Systems Support, NYS OCFS

**Jason DeSantis**, Associate Commissioner, NYS OCFS

**Alene Call**, Project Manager, NYS OCFS

**Megan Scullin**, Project Manager/Lead Analyst, NYS ITS

*Moderator:*

**Robert Horan**, Staff Development Coordinator, Otsego County DSS

### Broadway 3

#### ***Innovations in Housing: Getting to Housed***

This session explores how the Westchester County Department of Social Services leads the charge in innovative solutions to combat homelessness. We will showcase our groundbreaking approach to Emergency Rent Arrears Assistance, featuring a solution-focused denial review process designed to ensure fairness and maximize support for families in crisis. Attendees will learn about our newly established Office of Housing Counsel, a county-wide program that offers comprehensive assistance, resources, and access to legal and advocacy services to individuals and families navigating housing challenges. Additionally, we'll highlight our successful partnerships with eviction prevention agencies and the Department of Planning, which are key to preventing homelessness before it starts. This session offers a unique opportunity to discover how collaboration, innovation, and a community-centered approach are transforming homelessness solutions in Westchester County.

*Presenters:*

**George Asante**, Director of Housing Counsel, Westchester County DSS

**Elizabeth Maher**, Manager, Westchester County DSS

*Moderator:*

**Sarah Easterly, LMSW**, Social Services Program Coordinator, Onondaga County DSS-ES

### Broadway 4

#### ***Worker Safety***

***(Attendance Limited to LDSS Commissioners Only)***

This session will be an open discussion for Commissioners Only to discuss what processes counties have in place to ensure safety of staff.

*Panelists:*

**Sabrina Jaar Marzouka**, Commissioner, Dutchess County DCFS

**Michael McMahon**, Commissioner, Rensselaer County DSS

**Leonard G. Townes**, Commissioner, Westchester County DSS

### Travers/Alabama

#### ***Lost No More: Best Practices When Youth Go Missing***

When a youth goes missing from care, it creates tremendous anxiety and concern for families, districts, agencies, and other youth. OFCS partners with the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to lead multidisciplinary Missing Children Rescue Operations, the most recent held in the Capital Region. Outcomes, lessons learned, and processes from this operation will be discussed, as well as the larger approach to addressing missing youth. Participants are encouraged to consider how local practices compare to the lessons learned statewide.

*Presenters:*

**Kevin Maloney**, Director, Rensselaer CAC

**Victoria Martuscello**, Investigator, NYSP;

**Nichole Wood**, Supervisor A – CPS, Schenectady County DSS

**Nicole Consiglio**, Albany County Crime Victims

*Moderator:*

**Denise Peterson**, Director of Temporary Assistance, Schenectady County DSS

### Highrock

#### ***Developing a Department of Leaders***

In public service, where civil service exams often determine who rises, how can organizations cultivate a strong pipeline of effective and efficient leaders? This presentation will showcase how Westchester County DSS (WCDSS) has embraced a proactive approach to leadership development that extends beyond titles. Learn how WCDSS fosters a leadership culture at every

level through a strategic plan designed to equip staff with the skills and growth mindset necessary for innovation and enhanced service to the community. Join us to discover practical strategies for empowering your workforce and transforming your organization into a department of leaders.

*Presenters:*

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

**Nina Herman-Schlissel**, Program Coordinator, Westchester County DSS

*Moderator:*

**Marlene Reynolds**, Training & Development Coordinator, Schuylar County DSS

**Saratoga 1**

***FFPSA: Tying Together the Family Assessment Service Plan (FASP), Child Specific Prevention Plan (CSPP), Data and Systems***

We will walk through how to create a FASP that auto-launches a CSPP, the recertification process, and how to use a data warehouse report to inform WMS and BICS coding. We will also do case study examples and a hands-on walkthrough as there seemed to be great interest and demand for this in January.

*Presenters:*

**Rebeca Colman**, Director, OREPA, NYS OCFS

**Jessica Brown**, Research Scientist, OREPA, NYS OCFS

**Matthew Dilmore**, Principal Accountant, LDSFS, NYS OCFS

**Jason Hibbard**, Training Specialist 2, BTB, NYS OCFS

**Patricia Mantey**, Associate Commissioner, CWCS, NYS OCFS

*Moderator:*

**Jeremiah Pond**, Deputy Commissioner of Family Services, Franklin County DSS

**Saratoga 3**

***Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDS)-Saratoga County***

***(Vendors Are Prohibited From Participating in This Workshop)***

Saratoga County is currently the only county in NYS required to implement ABAWD requirements.

All other counties in NYS are waived from implementing ABAWD requirements through February 28, 2026. Saratoga and OTDA staff will facilitate a discussion of the lessons learned that other districts may benefit from as ABAWD implementation proceeds.

*Presenters:*

**Ami Sodemann**, Principal Social Welfare Examiner, Saratoga County DSS

**Jerri Groff**, Social Welfare Examiner, Saratoga County DSS

**Danielle Auspelmyer**, Senior Social Welfare Examiner, Saratoga County DSS

**Bill Koncelik**, Bureau Chief for SNAP Employment, Bureau of Employment & Advancement Services, NYS OTDA

*Moderator:*

**Lisa Diehl**, Director of Eligibility, Saratoga County DSS

**10:30 AM**

**Gallery**

**• Coffee Break • Sponsored by Northwoods**

**10:45 AM - 12:15 PM**

**City Center-Meeting Room 1**

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

Part 2 will focus on termination of parental rights and other miscellaneous cases in the child welfare area

*Presenter & Moderator:*

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

*Presenters:*

**Vineet Chawla, Esq.**, Family Court Legal Services, Legal Training & Support, NYC ACS

**Jennifer Sadaka, Esq.**, Senior Team Leader & Legal Trainer, NYC ACS

**11:00 AM - 12:15 PM**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Broadway 1/2**

***CARES- Collaborative Assessment***

***Response Engagement and Support:***

***NYC Utilization of FAR to Enhance***

***Engagement of Children and Families***

This presentation will demonstrate how NYC-ACS implemented the FAR/CARES response to enhance

the engagement of children and families. We will discuss how CARES promotes safety and reduces risk for children while engaging and partnering with families using solution-focused tools for better outcomes. We will emphasize the importance of FAR/CARES as an instrument of racial and social equity due to there being no determination of abuse or maltreatment, allowing CPS and families to focus on resolving challenges and accessing services to reduce recidivism in the child welfare system.

*Presenters:*

**Roslyn Norrell-Fleming**, Assistant Commissioner, NYC ACS

**Sheyna Douglas**, Child Protective Manager, NYC ACS

*Moderator:*

**Lori Baker**, Staff Development Coordinator, Saratoga County DSS

### Broadway 3

#### ***Emergency Housing Panel Discussion***

Dutchess and Suffolk Counties will share their districts' emergency housing program design, challenges, solutions, and ongoing concerns at it relates to emergency housing. Topics of discussion will include placement determination, service animals/pets, room conditions, fair hearings, and more.

*Presenters:*

**Christie Bonomo-Gose**, Director of Adult Services, Dutchess County DCFS

**Nicole Singleton**, Assistant Director of Adult Services, Dutchess County DCFS

**Vincent Rothaar**, Division Administrator, Suffolk County DSS

*Moderator:*

**Jacquie Canute**, Director of Financial Assistance Programs, Livingston County DSS

### Broadway 4

#### ***Long Term (DSS & OFA) Collaboration = Great Outcomes & Local Savings***

In 2007, the DSS and the Office for the Aging (OFA) in Washington County entered a Memorandum of Understanding to co-locate OFA with Adult Services. A call center was created, and the "transportation" unit was subsequently added to the intersection of services.

Our DSS embraces what has become the NYConnects Call Center within the combined Office for the Aging & Disabilities Resource Center. Beyond the single point of access to traditional aging services, the OFADRC provides resources to recipients of Temporary Housing Assistance (THA) and other non-traditional services. The outcome is excellent customer service to Washington County residents of all age groups and overall local savings for the administration of the collaborative services.

*Presenters:*

**Tammy L. DeLorme**, Commissioner, Washington County DSS

**Gina Cantanucci-Mitchell**, Director Aging & Disabilities Resource Center, Washington County

*Moderator:*

**Jeannine Bickford**, Director of Children Services, Washington County DSS

### Travers/Alabama

#### ***Community Diversion Boards: A New Way to Divert Young People in the Juvenile Justice System***

Research supports that diverting young people out of the juvenile justice system can improve mental health outcomes, increase public safety, and decrease re-offending. As the juvenile justice census continues to rise across the State, exploring diversion models that will improve outcomes for young people is imperative. This presentation will discuss the utilization of community boards in two counties (Broome and Cayuga), comprising of relevant stakeholders, practitioners, and community members, who meet regularly with young people post-arrest to discuss, collaborate, and determine and connect what resources are relevant on that young person's situation. The presentation aims to present a new diversion model and equip other counties with the tools they need to implement this model in their own county.

*Presenter:*

**Katelyn Greco**, Director of Prevention, Juvenile Justice & Equity, COFCCA

**Samuel Bligen III**, Juvenile Justice Coordinator, Broome County District Attorney's Office

**Kelly Lee**, Director of the YES JJ Program, Children's Home of Wyoming Conference

**Brittany Antonacci**, District Attorney, Cayuga County

**Denise Farrington**, Executive Director, Booker T. Washington Community Center

**Jennifer Hayes**, Assistant Director of Diversion Programs, Cayuga Centers

*Moderator:*

**Tara Wilkosz**, Child Welfare Director, Livingston County DSS

**Highrock**

### ***Future-Proofing the DSS Workforce: Recruitment & Retention Post-HELP***

This session will discuss how counties successfully onboarded their HELP hires and continued to support the growth of existing staff through succession planning.

Key topics will include:

- Onboarding Child Welfare HELP hires through a cohort model,
- Broome's two-year journey to develop and successfully advocate for a Retention Bonus for all Department of Social Services (DSS) staff, and,
- The evolution of our succession planning efforts over the past two years.

*Panelists:*

**Nancy Williams**, Commissioner, Broome County DSS

**Thalia Wright MS, MSL**, Commissioner, Monroe County DHS

**Brandy Hillard-Bouldin, MPA**, Commissioner, Schenectady County DSS

**Saratoga 1**

### ***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:*

**Caroline Thompson**, IES Program Director, NYS ITS

**Dennis Packard**, IES Business Change Lead, NYS ITS

**Bill Capozzi**, IES Deputy Technical Director & Fair Hearings Workstream Lead, NYS ITS

**Raju Cheeti**, IES EECM/FM Workstream Lead, NYS ITS

**Brian Waage**, IES Platform & Shared Services Workstream Lead, NYS ITS

**Trinity Hallenbeck**, IES Procurement Analyst, NYS ITS

*Moderator:*

**Matthew-Paul Ballantine**, Director of Information Management, Suffolk County DSS

**11:30 AM - 1:15 PM**

**Pavilion/Saratoga 2/3**

**Lunch**

**12:15 PM - 1:15 PM**

**Board Room**

***Large County Commissioners Meeting***  
***(LDSS Commissioners Only)***

**12:15 PM - 1:15 PM**

**Phila**

***Integrated Eligibility System Meeting***  
***(LDSS Workgroup Only)***

**1:30 PM - 3:00 PM**

### **Concurrent Sessions**

**City Center-Meeting Room 1**

***Exploring Family Court Act Section 1038: Issues in Discovery & Evidence***  
***(1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes)***

We will discuss section 1038 of the Family Court Act regarding discovery in Article 10 cases and issues with obtaining discovery, as well as evidentiary issues in admitting it into evidence.

*Presenters:*

**Vineet Chawla, Esq.**, Family Court Legal Services, Legal Training & Support, NYC ACS

**Jennifer Sadaka, Esq.**, Senior Team Leader & Legal Trainer, NYC ACS

*Moderator:*

**Aimee E. Greer, RN, BSN, Esq.**, Attorney, Saratoga County DSS



## Broadway 1/2

***Deep Dive into the Fiscal World, Part I  
(Attendance Limited to LDSS Only)***

Come and join a panel discussion with fiscal administrators regarding: Managing Through Difficult Fiscal Times & Automation Panel.

*Facilitators:*

**John Befus**, First Deputy Commissioner,  
Westchester County DSS

**Kenneth Knappe**, Deputy Commissioner,  
Suffolk County DSS

## Broadway 3

***The Schenectady Outreach Hub: Program  
Updates on the Multifaceted Approach  
That Serves Our Most At-Risk Community  
Members***

Community providers are increasingly finding themselves on the front lines of critical social issues. Housing insecurities, substance use disorders, and mental health-related disparities not only have devastating effects on those most at-risk but continue to challenge behavioral health and emergency service providers each day. In Schenectady, N.Y., a partnership between the police, county behavioral health professionals, and key stakeholders continues to transform the way communities approach these issues from the inception of their diversion and deflection programs aimed at helping those with substance use disorders.

*Presenters:*

**Michelle Cejka**, Adult Behavioral Health  
Coordinator, Schenectady County

**Lieutenant Ryan Macherone**, Lieutenant of  
Neighborhood Engagement, Schenectady City  
Police Department

**Lauren Pierce**, Behavioral Health Navigator,  
Schenectady City Police Department

**Jennifer Hayden**, Dual Recovery Coordinator,  
Schenectady County Office of Community Services

*Moderator:*

**Denise Petersen**, Director of Temporary  
Assistance, Schenectady County DSS

## Broadway 4

***Administrative Data: Leveraging to Assess  
Practice and Improve Outcomes***

OCFS and Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) will provide an overview of standardized reports that can help guide data-driven decisions by local districts. The presentation will include instructions for accessing reports, and an overview of the data contained in reports.

*Presenters:*

**Dr. Rebecca Colman**, Director, Office of Research,  
Evaluation and Performance Analytics (OREPA),  
NYS OCFS

**Jon Zafra**, Unit Lead, Data Warehouse Reporting  
and Analytics- OREPA, NYS OCFS

**Gail Geohagen-Pratt**, Deputy Commissioner,  
NYS OCFS

**Britany Orlebeke**, Director, Bureau of Data  
Management and Analysis (BDMA), NYS OTDA

*Moderator:*

**Robert Horan**, Staff Development Coordinator,  
Otsego County DSS

## Travers/Alabama

***Child Support Program Updates Part I***

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

*Presenters:*

**Eileen Stack**, Deputy Commissioner & Director,  
NYS OTDA

**Susanne Dolin**, Assistant Director, NYS OTDA

**Monique Rabideau**, Assistant Director, NYS OTDA

**Elizabeth McGeough Gamache**, Bureau Chief -  
Program Operations, NYS OTDA

**Karen Sicurelli**, Bureau Chief - Data Management,  
NYS OTDA

**Evelyn Addams**, Bureau Chief - Policy & Training,  
NYS OTDA

*Moderator:*

**Michelle Richmond**, Supervisor Child Support  
Program, Saratoga County DSS



## Highrock

### ***Positive Partnerships with Personnel People Particularly Pertaining to Performance Policies***

This workshop will explore the benefits of creating a collaborative relationship with your county Personnel Department. We will focus on tips for bringing together effective teams to achieve meaningful results, including:

- Probation and evaluations: formats, benchmarks, skills testing, and practical training,
- Communicating and collaborating on performance issues and improvement plans,
- Didn't Document? Darn: effective communication and documentation, and,
- When to Hold 'em, When to Fold 'em, When to Walk Away, When to Run: finding consensus on employment decisions.

*Presenters:*

**Daniel Auwarter**, Commissioner, Chenango County DSS

**Matt Caldwell**, Personnel Officer, Chenango County DSS

**Beth Beers**, Director of Services, Chenango County DSS

**Patty Hodge**, Head Examiner, Chenango County DSS

**Holly Finch**, Staff Development Coordinator, Chenango County DSS

*Moderator:*

**Paige Rispoli**, Training Specialist, Orange County DSS

## Saratoga 1

### ***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 updates in the following areas: Completion of the public health emergency unwind, Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) and Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control Program (MEQC) and other eligibility updates.

*Presenters:*

**Gabrielle Armenia**, Director, DEMI, NYS DOH

**Anne Marie Massaro**, Deputy Division Director, DEMI, NYS DOH

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

**Kathleen Johnson**, Deputy Division Director, DEMI, NYS DOH

**Daniel Washington**, Eligibility Program Manager 2, DEMI, NYS DOH

**Mary Lisa**, Director, Bureau of Program Review, DEMI, NYS DOH

*Moderator:*

**Kira Pospesel**, Commissioner, Greene County DSS

**3:00 PM**

Gallery

• **Coffee Break** • **Sponsored by**  
**TipCo Automated Systems**

**3:30 PM- 5:00 PM**

### **Concurrent Sessions**

City Center-Meeting Room 1

### ***OCFS Legal Training For Child Welfare Workers***

**(1.5 CLEs, 90 minutes)**

Presenters will outline the legal issues covered in training. These will include the framework of constitutional rights of parents and subject children. Covered will be relevant portions of the Family court Act, and Social Services Law, and Regulations, interacting with Family Court and participants.

*Presenters:*

**Gene D Skarin, Esq.**, Attorney, NYS OCFS Trainer

**Philomena Stamato, Esq.**, Attorney, NYS OCFS Trainer

*Moderator:*

**Alicia Maves, Esq.**, Assistant County Attorney, Ontario County Attorney's Office

Broadway 1/2

### ***Deep Dive into the Fiscal World, Part II*** **(Attendance Limited to LDSS Only)**

Come and join part two of a panel discussion with fiscal administrators regarding: topics related to child care, Medicaid administration, proposed changes at the federal level and other topics relevant to you and your fiscal administrator peers

*Facilitators:*

**Elizabeth Provenzano**, Director of Finance, Ulster County DSS

**Thomas M. Rooney, Jr.**, Reimbursement Manager, Westchester County DSS

### Broadway 3

#### ***Transition Age Youth: Reimagining Foster Care Practices for Youth Age 18 & Older***

Youth who age out of foster care are often unprepared for adulthood, lack stable housing and community supports, and return seeking other system benefits after discharge from foster care. OCFS/YDAPS Division worked with Casey Family Programs and three counties to focus on practice, services, and supports for older youth in foster care and how to improve the outcomes of older youth exiting foster care. This session will outline lessons learned and discuss the next steps for a practice model that can meet the needs of this population.

*Presenters:*

**Dana Barrett**, Advocacy Specialist 2, NYS OCFS

**Selena Bermejo-Romero**, Advocacy Specialist 2, NYS OCFS

**Kerri Barber**, Director, NYS OCFS

**Kelly Pennebaker**, CFSS 2, NYS OCFS

*Moderator:*

**Donna Becker**, Commissioner, Schoharie County DSS

### Broadway 4

#### ***The Life of an Administrative Review***

The presentation will walk attendees through each step of the 422 and 424a Administrative Review process from requesting a review, to submitting records and the possible decisions of the administrative review. Information will be provided regarding SCR Reform Legislation and how it impacts the review process. Presenters are subject matter experts from the OCFS FHARM Unit and Appeals Processing Team - Bureau of Clearances and Records.

*Presenters:*

**Tracy Swanson**, Senior Director, Bureau of Legislative Matters and Administrative Reviews, NYS OCFS

**Nancy Stroud**, Director of FHARM, NYS OCFS

**Kara Boni**, Assistant Director, Bureau of Clearances and Records, NYS OCFS

**Becky Wood-Hulbert**, Director, Bureau of Clearances and Records, NYS OCFS

**John Chimento**, Manager, Bureau of Clearances and Records, NYS OCFS

*Moderator:*

**Sonoma Pelton** Director of Children's Services, Albany County DCYF

### Travers/Alabama

#### ***Child Support Program Updates Part II***

This session will provide information on system enhancements and releases, Integrated Eligibility System (IES) projects, Contract Administration, Data Management, Fiscal Operations, and the State Disbursement Unit.

*Presenters:*

**Eileen Stack**, Deputy Commissioner and Director, NYS OTDA

**Susanne Dolin**, Assistant Director, NYS OTDA

**Monique Rabideau**, Assistant Director, NYS OTDA

**Shannon Smith**, Bureau Chief - Integrated Eligibility System, NYS OTDA

**Jennifer Pekins**, Bureau Chief - Systems Operations, NYS OTDA

**Linda Ward**, Bureau Chief - Contract Administration, NYS OTDA

**Jennifer Sherry**, Bureau Chief - State Disbursement Unit, NYS OTDA

**Tiffany Gardner**, Bureau Chief - Fiscal Operations and Internal Controls, NYS OTDA

**Karen Sicurelli**, Bureau Chief - Data Management, NYS OTDA

*Moderator:*

**Michelle Richmond**, Supervisor Child Support Program, Saratoga County DSS

### Highrock

#### ***A Resiliency Building Supervision Model***

Essex County needed to modify its supervision approach to improve staff retention, work performance, and service quality. After listening to input from employees, it became clear that our approach to supervision was not working effectively. Hence, we developed and implemented a trauma-informed, resiliency-building supervision model. This presentation is one part direct training on Resilient Supervision, and one part the development of that model.

*Presenters:*

**Angie Allen**, Commissioner, Essex County DSS

**Renee Bruno**, Deputy Commissioner, Essex County DSS

Moderator:

**Paige Rispoli**, Training Specialist, Orange County DSS

#### Saratoga 1

### **MECM Demo & Updates**

New York State Department of Health will be providing a demonstration and updates of the Medicaid Eligibility Client Management System (MECM).

*Presenter:*

**Gabrielle Armenia**, Director, DEMI, NYS DOH

**Sara Oberst**, Deputy Director, DEMI, NYS DOH

*Moderator:*

**Kira Pospesel**, Commissioner, Greene County DSS

#### Saratoga 2

### **Best Practices in Code Blue**

OTDA will share the results of visits of 17 warming centers this past Code Blue season. Best practices in warming center service delivery will be shared with an emphasis on connecting to those with complex needs.

*Presenters:*

**Arden Estep**, Program Manager, NYS OTDA

**Heather Diamond**, Program Manager, NYS OTDA

*Moderator:*

**Tracy McCaughey**, Commissioner, Livingston County DSS

#### Saratoga 3

### **Housing Development Planning**

OTDA Bureau of Housing staff will discuss the different types of housing for people experiencing homelessness, give an overview of supportive and affordable housing, and explain how it can be used to address homelessness. Emphasis will be given to how DSS and County Government can assist non-profits in developing permanent housing.

*Presenters:*

**Dana Greenberg**, Director, NYS OTDA

**Sarah Watson**, Assistant Director, NYS OTDA

**Michael Washburn**, Assistant Director, NYS OTDA

*Moderator:*

**Monica Brown**, Deputy Executive Commissioner, Onondaga County DSS-ES

**5:00 PM**

**Dinner on Your Own**

## Wednesday ■ July 23

#### Saratoga 1

### **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 Sabrina Jaar Marzouka 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**

• **Coffee Break** • **Sponsored by**  
**KPMG**

### **7:30 AM - 8:45 AM**

Pavilion/Saratoga 3

**Breakfast Buffet**

### **8:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Lower Lobby

**Conference Registration**

### **9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

### **Concurrent Sessions**

Broadway 1/2

### **Meeting with State Agency Counsel**

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

Broadway 3 & 4

### **Local DSS Fiscal Policy Dialogue**

*(Attendance is Limited to LDSS Staff)*

Fiscal administrators will come together to share successful strategies that they have been involved

with. This is an opportunity for meaningful conversations and free-flowing dialogue on finance with your colleagues across the state. The session will end with the Fiscal Administrators' Association Meeting.

*Facilitator:*

**John Befus**, First Deputy Commissioner, Westchester County DSS

**Travers/Alabama**

### **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

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

**A. Michelle Henry-Walker**, FA Coordinator-Child Support Services, Monroe County DSS

**Saratoga 2**

### **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

**Irene Kurlander**, Deputy Commissioner, Orange County DSS

**Randolf Scott**, Deputy Commissioner, Westchester County DSS

**Cynthia Stumer, DBH**, Deputy Commissioner, Orleans County DSS

**Denise Read**, Deputy Commissioner, Monroe County DHS

**10:30 AM- 12:00 PM**

**Highrock**

### **Holistic and Empathetic Approaches to Self-Care for Management**

This interactive training explores holistic and empathetic approaches to self-care tailored for those in management roles. Participants will learn strategies to foster personal well-being while creating supportive and emotionally intelligent team environments. The training will emphasize mindfulness, emotional resilience, and sustainable self-care practices. Through reflective exercises and practical tools, leaders will feel empowered to model healthy habits and lead with empathy.

*Presenters:*

**Michael Clements**, Adjunct Lecturer, Silberman School of Social Work Hunter College

**Patrick Schelle**, Adjunct Lecturer, Silberman School of Social Work Hunter College

**Shola Thompson**, Adjunct Lecturer, Silberman School of Social Work Hunter College

**Shermira Busby**, Director, Business & Industry Workforce Training Center, Silberman School of Social Work Hunter College

**Tracey Rho, PhD.**, Student-Social Welfare, Silberman School of Social Work Hunter College

*Moderator:*

**Theresa Giovanniello**, Deputy Commissioner, Dutchess County DCFS

### **Parking Policy:**

Only Saratoga Hilton Hotel overnight guests are permitted to park in the lot. Your room reservation will be linked to your vehicle license plate number which you will need to provide when you check-in. Cameras will monitor parking lot use. All other conference guests will need to pay to park in the spacious new City Center Garage next to hotel OR seek out parking in lots that are further away.

### **Paperless Conference:**

Conference information including the program brochure, meeting agendas, and materials will be in electronic format. Please plan to use your own laptop, tablet, or phone to access documents. You may wish to download or print them in advance. We will have printed name badges.

## 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:

- ***Article 81 Guardianship- Best Practices and Caselaw Review (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***
- ***Fundamentals of ICWA through the Social Work Lens (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins. [1.0 CLE in Diversity, Inclusion, and Elimination of Bias, 0.5 CLE in skills])***
- ***Nicholson v. Sapphire W: The Collision of Two Landmark Cases That Change the Landscape of Child Protection (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***
- ***Child Welfare Caselaw Review, Part I (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***
- ***Child Welfare Caselaw Review, Part II (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***
- ***Exploring Family Court Act Section 1038: Issues in Discovery & Evidence (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***
- ***OCFS Legal Training For Child Welfare Workers (1.5 CLEs, 90 mins.)***

**Materials** will be posted at [www.NYPWA.org](http://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.

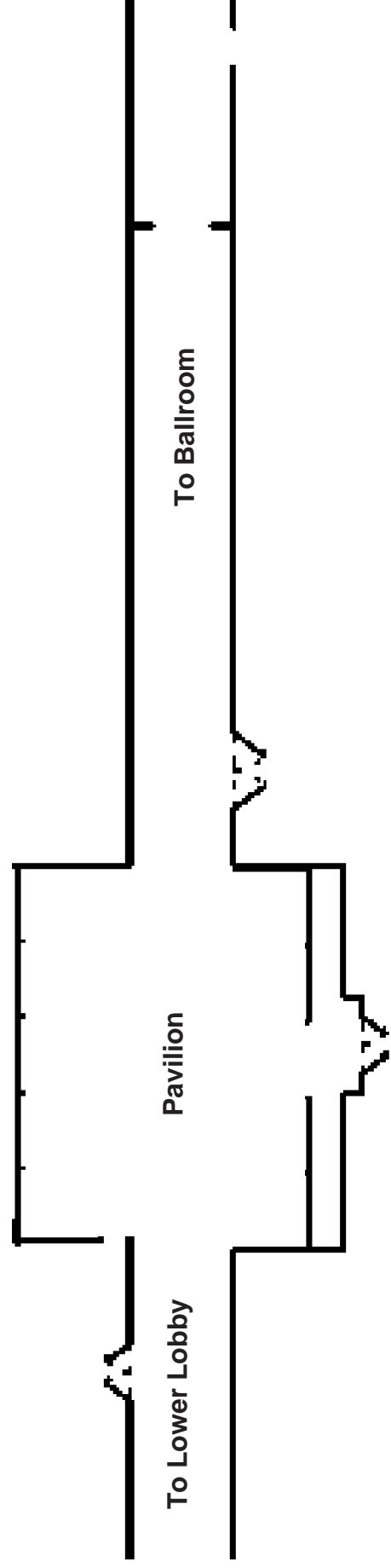
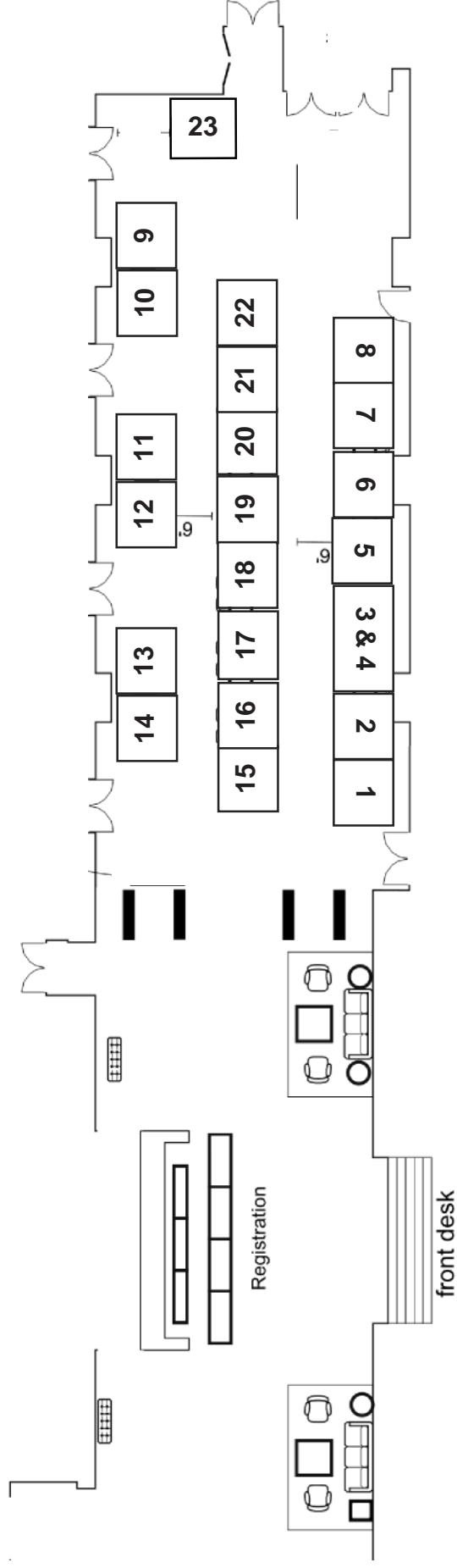
To access documents, click the "Education & Events" button on our website.

### **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](mailto:info@nypwa.org)



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Standing at the forefront of developing responses to complex challenges, the EY organization has a century-long legacy of global commercial and public sector experience. We offer technology-enabled solutions designed to drive modernization at the state and local levels. From fostering community equity and wellbeing to optimizing operations and assisting agencies to enhance service delivery, we are collaboratively forging a stronger nation. We specialize in aiding government organizations on their digital journeys. Our services aim to elevate the user and employee experience to match the quality offered by the private sector. Our approach to technology transformation starts with understanding our clients' unique challenges and focusing on designing and implementing the right technology to deliver accessible and intuitive systems that propel agencies toward their desired mission outcomes. Every step of the way, we're dedicated to making a tangible difference and enabling real change.

## **Equifax**

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(585) 943-1843  
[michael.hartman@equifax.com](mailto:michael.hartman@equifax.com)  
<https://theworknumber.com/solutions/industries/government-verification>

Equifax helps social service agencies improve the timeliness of benefit eligibility determinations by combining the power of The Work Number®, the largest centralized commercial repository of payroll information in the U.S. with complementary Equifax data sources. We can help your agency break through its caseload backlog, so your staff can focus on those hard calls and expedite applications, whether that's an enrollment, re-enrollment or a disenrollment and transfer to another healthcare coverage program allowing for continuity of care.

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Lin Douglas  
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[lin.dee.douglas32@conduent.com](mailto:lin.dee.douglas32@conduent.com)  
<https://www.conduent.com/>

From processing and disbursing child support payments to electronic toll collection, Conduent helps you better serve the people of New York. Conduent delivers mission-critical services and solutions on behalf of businesses and governments – creating exceptional outcomes for our clients and the millions of people who count on them.

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[aberliner@salesforce.com](mailto:aberliner@salesforce.com)  
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Salesforce, the #1 CRM, is enabling public sector organizations around the world to modernize government service. Salesforce for Public Sector allows you to transform digital service delivery with easy automation tools, achieve faster time to value with purpose-built solutions, and improve mission success with smart insights that help you move the mission forward - all within a secure, compliant cloud environment. We lead with our core values of trust, customer success, innovation, equality, and sustainability, and we are proud to be recognized as a leader in innovation, culture and philanthropy. For more information, please visit [www.salesforce.com/government](http://www.salesforce.com/government).

## **Cúram by Merative**

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<https://www.merative.com/curam>  
Cúram by Merative, has over 25 years of experience helping national, regional, and local governments, and organizations across health and social ecosystems, to transform the delivery of social services, empower caseworkers, and help individuals and families access the programs they need to achieve better outcomes. Cúram solutions and services expertise are trusted in 12 countries and jurisdictions, and support over 970 government programs. Available in 7 languages, the Cúram platform connects benefits administrators, social services agencies, and case managers, to serve and protect 187 million citizens annually.

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[cvannamen@deloitte.com](mailto:cvannamen@deloitte.com)  
[www.deloitte.com/us/government](http://www.deloitte.com/us/government)

Our people, ideas, technology, and outcomes – are all designed for impact. Our team of over 20,000+ professionals across the country bring fresh perspective to help you anticipate disruption, reimagine the possible, and fulfill your mission promise. Whether you are at the crossroads of AI and workforce transformation, cyber and IT modernization, or digital and citizen experience—we bring actionable insights to drive bold and lasting results. Our shared purpose and passion help you make an impact and improve the lives of New Yorkers. Our health and human services experience and capabilities help your agencies transform how they deliver these benefits to New Yorkers while infusing automation and efficiency into your operations.

Contact us to get started. [www.deloitte.com/us/government](http://www.deloitte.com/us/government)

## Northwoods

**Sponsor • Coffee Break • Tuesday, 10:30am •**

Darrell Kuhn  
5200 Rings Rd.  
Dublin, OH 43017  
(419) 439-5319

[Darrell.kuhn@teamnorthwoods.com](mailto:Darrell.kuhn@teamnorthwoods.com)

<https://www.teamnorthwoods.com/>

Northwoods: Empowering Human Services with Traverse and Case Aide Services Discover the perfect blend of technology and human services expertise with Northwoods. Our flagship software, Traverse, elevates document management with its cloud-based, intuitive design, while our Case Aide Services extend your team's capabilities by expertly handling the most time-consuming administrative tasks.

Traverse puts timely and relevant case information at your caseworkers' fingertips. It allows human services casework to be completed from anywhere, helping everyone in your human services agency work efficiently and effectively.

With Case Aide Services, we handle time-consuming administrative tasks so your team doesn't have to. This unleashes your team's potential by shifting the focus from paperwork to peoplework.

Together Traverse and Case Aide Services ensure your focus remains on what truly matters, delivering exceptional human services.

## TipCo Automated Systems

**Sponsor • Coffee Break • Tuesday, 3:00pm •**

Andrea and Greg Tipping  
(614) 940-3434

[Andrea.Tipping@thetipcogroup.com](mailto:Andrea.Tipping@thetipcogroup.com)

[Greg.Tipping@thetipcogroup.com](mailto:Greg.Tipping@thetipcogroup.com)

[www.tipcoautomatedsystems.ai](http://www.tipcoautomatedsystems.ai)

TipCo Automated Systems (TipCo) was founded to utilize technology to address agency workforce challenges and improve access to vital support for individuals and families in need. We're creating solutions that not only make it easier for community members to access the support they need, but also help agencies handle increasing workloads with already overburdened workers. By combining automation and AI with a deep understanding of the human services landscape, we aim to drive positive change and improve outcomes for vulnerable populations. EVA, our AI-powered assistant, helps health and human services agencies nationwide streamline eligibility determination processes, ensure consistency, and improve compliance. EVA enables agencies to better serve their community while also helping to meet timeliness and accuracy requirements.

## KPMG

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[gplante@kpmg.com](mailto:gplante@kpmg.com)

[Tomorrow's New York Today](http://Tomorrow's New York Today)

KPMG, a global network of professional services firms providing Audit, Tax, and Advisory services, is renowned for its expertise and commitment to delivering value to clients. Our Albany, NY office, located in the heart of New York's capital, plays a crucial role in our State and Local Government practice. Our dedicated team of professionals brings local knowledge and a deep understanding of regional issues. We are committed to supporting the growth of local government entities, ensuring they are well-equipped to serve the public with transparency and efficiency.

At KPMG, our goal is to empower state and local governments to achieve excellence and foster public trust through innovative solutions and unparalleled expertise.

## EXHIBITORS

### KidsPeace

Chris Sylvester, National Customer Relations Liaison  
4085 Independence Drive

Schnecksville, PA 18078

Phone: (610) 597-5130

[chris.sylvester@kidspeace.org](mailto:chris.sylvester@kidspeace.org)

[www.kidspeace.org](http://www.kidspeace.org)

KidsPeace is a private non-profit organization dedicated to serving the behavioral and mental health needs of children, pre adolescents and teens. Founded in 1882, KidsPeace provides a unique psychiatric hospital; a comprehensive range of residential treatment programs; accredited educational services; and a variety of foster care and community-based treatment programs to help people in need overcome challenges and transform their lives. KidsPeace provides emotional and physical health care and educational services in an atmosphere of teamwork, compassion and creativity.

### Amazon Web Services

Terry Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98109-5210

Scott Elliott

518-435-5832

[sdeaws@amazon.com](mailto:sdeaws@amazon.com)

<https://aws.amazon.com/>

Amazon Web Services (AWS), the world's most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud, enables customers to build anything they can imagine with the industry's greatest choice of fully-featured services and solutions. Security is our top priority. Our infrastructure and services are architected to provide the most secure cloud computing environment available today, to meet the unique requirements of even the

most sensitive workloads across government, financial services, and healthcare sectors.

Powered by the world's largest and most extensive global infrastructure, AWS delivers unparalleled scalability, performance, and reliability for applications running in the cloud, on-premises, or at the edge. We're also driven by a commitment to deliver industry-first capabilities, constantly looking around corners and thinking years ahead to innovate on behalf of our customers.

Through our trusted partner network, customers can leverage trusted third-party offerings and expertise to optimize

their cloud-native workloads, fill expertise gaps, and maximize their investments. With AWS, organizations can modernize faster, scale more efficiently, accelerate innovation, and achieve unprecedented success in the cloud.

## The Bonadio Group

Courtney Handy  
171 Sullys Trail  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
[chandy@bonadio.com](mailto:chandy@bonadio.com)  
[www.bonadio.com](http://www.bonadio.com)

The Bonadio Group provides consulting services to Social Services Departments throughout New York State and Ohio. For over 15 years, we've performed operational reviews and internal control studies that focus on how departments can both increase efficiency and improve their services to the community. Additionally, through our experience, we've developed the following areas of focus:

- Software tools specially tailored to several high-risk areas of the department:
  - o CareFindr: A modern foster care software that eliminates reliance on manual forms, spreadsheets and emails to track critical foster care processes including vendor availability, placements and movements, LOD re-assessments. Daily emails and auto-generated letters replace manual caseworker duties and helps you stay on track of time-sensitive OCFS requirements.
  - o FraudFindr: Forensic analysis tool that detects instances of financial exploitation in representative payee or similar accounts;
  - o ResourceFindr: Medicaid Five-Year Lookback scanning tool that significantly reduces long-term care application processing time
- Quality and compliance evaluations in child welfare departments,
- Forensic accounting and investigation support, including litigation assistance;
- Medicaid long term care assistance including eligibility reviews;

With a proven track record and innovative tools, The Bonadio Group is committed to helping Social Services Departments operate more effectively, meet regulatory requirements, and strengthen the impact of their programs.

## Together For Youth

Stacy Williams, Chief Program Officer  
(518) 516-1904  
[swilliams@togetherforyouth.org](mailto:swilliams@togetherforyouth.org)  
Brian Parchesky, Chief Executive Officer & President  
(518) 781-1860  
[bparchesky@togetherforyouth.org](mailto:bparchesky@togetherforyouth.org)  
13640 State Route 22  
Canaan, NY 12029  
<https://www.togetherforyouth.org/>

Embracing a trauma-informed model of care, we collaborate with youth and families to help them overcome past traumas, enabling them to live safely and regain control of their lives. Across New York State, Together for Youth offer trauma-informed care exactly where it is needed most: in the homes and communities of these youth and families. When in-home support is not feasible, Together for Youth provide a

safe haven through over 550 certified foster homes, community group homes, and both non-secure and secure detention centers.

## Northern Rivers

60 Academy Road  
Albany, NY 12208  
(518) 426-2600  
[www.northernrivers.org](http://www.northernrivers.org)

Northern Rivers is a family of human services agencies that work together and are committed to helping children, adults, and families. Formed in 2012, Northern Rivers is the parent organization to Northeast Parent & Child Society (founded in 1888 in Schenectady), Parsons Child & Family Center (founded in 1829 in Albany), and Unlimited Potential (founded in Saratoga Springs in 1979). Together we serve more than 19,000 children, adults, and families in more than 40 counties in New York state who struggle with abuse, neglect, trauma, mental health challenges, educational difficulties, career training and employment, and service navigation through an innovative continuum of home, clinic, school, and community-based services, vocational rehabilitation, supported employment, and senior-supporting programs that provide person-centered, trauma-informed innovative solutions to ensure clients live their best lives. With a 1,400-strong workforce and informed by our nearly 200-year heritage, our quality of care, depth of programs, combined size, and passion for the mission make us a leading human services provider.

## Binti, Inc.

Deirdre Brodie, Enterprise Account Executive  
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(844) 424-6844  
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[www.binti.com](http://www.binti.com)  
[info@binti.com](mailto:info@binti.com)

Binti is revolutionizing child welfare with modern software. We serve 500+ agencies across 36 states + DC, with 12 statewide implementations including the state of New York. Our growth is fueled by measurable results: on average, agencies see a 30% increase in foster families, in 18% less

time, and our intuitive tools save 20-40% of social worker time.

## The Stetson School, An Affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation

Pete Gow, Senior Director of Marketing and Admissions  
455 South St/P.O. Box 309  
Barre, MA 01005-0309  
978 355 4541 Ext. 4128  
[pgow@sevenhills.org](mailto:pgow@sevenhills.org)  
<https://www.sevenhills.org/programs/stetson-school-at-seven-hills>

Company Description -Stetson School is a COA accredited, Residential and Education Treatment program, which is fully licensed by the Massachusetts Departments of Early Education and Care, and Elementary and Secondary



Education. We serve young men and transgender individuals, ages 9-22, who have problematic behaviors, sexually reactive behaviors, complex developmental difficulties, chronic mental illness and other behavioral issues. Stetson supports young men who have suffered from severe trauma, have histories of physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse and who may have had disrupted living arrangements or placements.

## KinderSystems

Jorge Robledo, Senior Vice President, Operations  
101 State Place, Suite Q  
Escondido, CA 92029  
(800) 991-6120

[jrobledo@kindersystems.com](mailto:jrobledo@kindersystems.com)

[www.kindersystems.com](http://www.kindersystems.com)

KinderSystems ([www.KinderSystems.com](http://www.KinderSystems.com)) is the leading provider of subsidy management software-as-a-service (SaaS) solutions to state agencies, Head Start programs, and child care providers. Built and supported by industry experts, KinderSystems envisions a world where all families, no matter their income level, have access to high quality child care. Hundreds of agencies in the publicly funded child care sector use KinderSystems applications via the cloud or mobile devices to streamline their operations, ensure compliance with government regulations, and meet the needs of the families they serve.

## Diona

Patricia Donaldson  
925 S. Capital of Texas Hwy, Suite B-110  
Austin, TX 78746  
(512) 692-6817

[patricia.donaldson@diona.com](mailto:patricia.donaldson@diona.com)

[www.Diona.com](http://www.Diona.com)

Diona provides innovative systems of engagement solutions to government Health and Human Services, Social Care, and Social Security agencies and NGOs around the world. Diona's solutions turn mobile devices—such as smartphones and tablets—into tools to achieve better business and social outcomes by helping agencies serve people more effectively, while improving how their employees work and collaborate. Diona solutions extend organizational systems of record and deliver real-time data directly into the field for clients and workers. Diona's solutions are secure, robust, scalable, and reliable and feature flexible cloud-based or on-premise deployment options. With deep domain expertise and a user-centered design philosophy, Diona delivers digital solutions that help government agencies and NGOs solve real-world problems for their clients and employees.

## LaSalle School

Jessica Repko, LCSW-R, Director of Admissions  
391 Western Ave.  
Albany, NY 12203  
(518) 242-4731

[Repko@lasalle-school.org](mailto:Repko@lasalle-school.org)

[www.LaSalle-School.org](http://www.LaSalle-School.org)

Qualified Residential Treatment Program (Q RTP); Day Education Services; Outpatient behavioral health clinic: The Counselling Center at LaSalle

## New Directions Youth and Family Services, Inc. (NDYFS)

Julie Angelone COO  
Randolph Residential Campus  
356 Main Street ER  
Randolph, NY 14772  
(716) 449-2324

[jangelone@ndyfs.org](mailto:jangelone@ndyfs.org)

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New Directions' mission is to foster resilient, self-reliant families and permanence for at-risk children in the shortest time possible, by promotion safe, respectful, responsible and goal-directed behavior.

New Directions' heritage dates back more than 150 years with a proven record of responding to the ever-changing needs of the families we serve. New Directions was formed in 1999 by the merger of Wyndham Lawn Home for Children and Randolph Children's Home, who began caring for children in 1871 and 1878, respectively. Today, New Directions offers more than 20 programs from those two campuses and eight additional locations across Western New York. Each year, we serve more than 2,500 children and their families.

## Thomas Reuters

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Thomson Reuters informs the way forward by bringing trusted content and technology to support decision-making in human services programs. Its products combine specialized software and insights to empower professionals with data and solutions, aiding agencies in their pursuit of justice, truth, and transparency.

## NYSTEC

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NYSTEC is an independent, nonprofit technology consulting company created in 1996 to facilitate the transfer of technology, innovation, and expertise between the public and private sectors in support of economic development. Today NYSTEC is a trusted advisor to government agencies and institutions, assisting with strategic planning, technology acquisitions and implementations, and data optimization across industries. NYSTEC has offices in Albany, New York City, and Rome, NY. Please visit their website to learn more at <https://www.nystec.com>.



## Accenture

Jennifer E. Walden  
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Accenture is a leading global professional services company that helps businesses, governments and organizations build their digital core, optimize their operations, and enhance services—creating tangible value at speed and scale. We are a talent- and innovation-led company with approximately 791,000 people serving clients in more than 120 countries. Technology is at the core of change today, and we are one of the world's leaders in helping drive that change, with strong ecosystem relationships. We combine our strength in technology and leadership in cloud, data and AI with unmatched industry experience, functional expertise, and delivery capability. Our broad range of services, solutions and assets across Strategy & Consulting, Technology, Operations, Industry X and Song, together with our culture of shared success and commitment to creating 360° value, enable us to help our clients reinvent and build trusted, lasting relationships. We measure our success by the 360° value we create for our clients, each other, our partners and communities.  
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Dave Weber  
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(610) 291-7541  
[dweber@healthytogether.co](mailto:dweber@healthytogether.co)  
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Healthy Together solutions deliver outcomes for government agencies and programs. With a focus on flexible composable SaaS, efficiency, and user-centered design, Healthy Together empowers government agencies to operate more effectively and provide better services to their constituents. The company's platforms streamline operations in programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, and WIC, enabling automated program management, service delivery, compliance, and cost savings.

Built on AWS and powered by PolyCore™, Healthy Together's composable SaaS platform brings automation, data integrity, and adaptability to the forefront. Traditional

systems are often fragmented, inflexible, and error-prone; by contrast, PolyCore enables real-time data sharing, creates software leverage, and automates workflows across programs. Healthy Together's IE&E system ensures states can adapt to changing policies and requirements quickly and with confidence. Trusted by state and tribal governments across the country, Healthy Together is committed to delivering secure, scalable, and human-centered technology.

### North American Family Institute, Inc. / Youth & Police Initiative

Mary Preston, Director of Operation  
(816) 868-3336

[marypreston@nafi.com](mailto:marypreston@nafi.com)

Dave Smith, National Director  
(816) 309-8317

[davesmith@ypiworld.org](mailto:davesmith@ypiworld.org)

90 Maple Street, Unit 2

Stoneham, MA 02180

<https://www.ypiworld.org>

Over the past twenty years, North American Family Institute (NAFI)'s Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) program has successfully been implemented in over 45 cities. YPI's mission is to help youth build trust in law enforcement while reducing stereotypes existing between teenagers and police. This type of programming strengthens communities by involving youth to assist in diffusing potential volatile scenarios, such as incidents of anti-social, delinquent behavior, racial and violent situations while promoting positive behavior and attitudes. YPI is a highly structured, interactive program occurring over five-daily sessions, and is an early intervention and prevention approach based upon evidence-based practices in gang and delinquency prevention.

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<b>NASSAU</b>	Jose Lopez	<b>WESTCHESTER</b>	Leonard Townes
<b>NYC DSS</b>	Molly Park	<b>WYOMING</b>	Ben Dennis
<b>NYC ACS</b>	Jess Dannhauser	<b>YATES</b>	Amy Miller

## **2025 NYPWA Board of Directors**

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