



The New York Public Welfare Association

*NYPWA President Sabrina Jaar Marzouka
Introduces*

Social Services Leadership & Policy Forum 2025

In Person

Supporting Children and Families in Our Communities

*Special Focus on the Ever Changing
World of Social Services*

*Presented in Partnership with
Casey Family Programs*

October 21 & 22, 2025

*The Albany Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY
The Empire Room*

Tuesday, October 21

*12:00 to 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner
&*

Wednesday, October 22

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., includes breakfast & lunch

NYPWA Social Services Leadership & Policy Forum

Supporting Children and Families in Our Communities

in Collaboration with Casey Family Programs

Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 12:00-5:00, with dinner, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 9:00-1:00, includes breakfast & lunch

Please register by October 17, 2025

The Empire Room, The Albany Marriott Hotel • Albany, New York

Special Focus on the Ever Changing World of Social Services

NYPWA President Sabrina Jaar Marzouka and First Vice President Leonard Townes invite local DSS Commissioners to share their expertise, knowledge, and experience at our Policy Forum. Our program is being offered with the generous support of Casey Family Programs, with special thanks to Howard Knoll, Senior Director.

This event is dedicated to addressing compelling policy matters facing local departments of social services and the people we serve. Our intention is to use this opportunity to convene with our partners to find effective avenues to deal with emerging issues. The format is designed to stimulate ideas through presentations, panel discussions, and interactive conversations.

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

12:00pm-1:00pm — Arrival, Afternoon Snack & Coffee

1:00pm-1:30pm — Introductions & Welcome

Intersection of Child Poverty and Involvement in the Child Welfare System.

Caroline Black, PhD Director of Research Services at Casey Family Programs

1:30pm-3:30pm — Background and establishing a context for the discussion

- A. Negative Consequences of Poverty and Maltreatment on Developmental Stages and Economic Well Being.
- B. Theorized Explanation of the Link Between Inadequate Financial and/or Material Resources and CPS Involvement.
- C. Identification of Income and Economic Strengthening (i.e. Social Safety Net Programs) as recommended by the U.S. Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization and the National Academy of Sciences to Prevent Violence Against Children.

Research

- A. Highlight Relevant Research Findings that Demonstrate Causal Impact on Child Welfare and Wellbeing Outcomes.
- B. Systematic Review of the Impacts of U.S. Social Safety Nets on Childhood Maltreatment. Palermo et al. 2024.

C. The Effects of Child Poverty Reductions on Child Protective Services Involvement
Pac et al.2023.

D. Magnitude of Effects for Black and Latinx Children.

Interventions

A. What Types of Interventions have been taken in other Jurisdictions.

B. What have been the Outcomes. Have the Interventions reduced CPS involvement while ensuring the safety of children.

C. What are the Lessons Learned.

Discussion

3:30pm-3:45pm — **Break**

3:45pm-4:45pm — **New York State Office of Children and Family Services**

A. Current Efforts/Proposals at the State Central Registry to Reduce Poverty Related Reporting.

B. Primary Prevention Strategies/Upstream Supports

C. Help, Empower, Advocate, Resource and Support (HEARS Line). Status of the Project.

D. Motivational Interviewing

E. Discussion of Policy/Legislative Initiatives that could Successfully Divert Families from CPS Involvement.

4:45pm-5:00pm — **Wrap Up & Adjournment**

6:00pm-9:00pm — **Dinner**

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

7:00am-9:00am — **Breakfast**

9:00am-10:00am — **New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance**

A. Baby Benefit Program. Administration and Potential Benefit of Reduced Reporting to the SCR.

B. Open Discussion on ABAWD and SNAP Changes.

C. Policy and/or Legislative Initiatives Emerging from the Child Poverty Reduction Task Force.

10:00am-11:00am — **Local District Discussions**

A. Anonymous Reporting

B. Miranda Warnings

C. Worker Safety

D. Other Topics

11:00am-11:15am — **Break**

11:15am-12:00pm — **Follow Up Discussion from Forum & Next Steps**

12:00pm-1:00pm — **Lunch**

Special thanks to Howard Knoll, Senior Director, and his team from Casey Family Programs
Casey Family Programs

Casey Family Programs is the nation's largest operating foundation focused on safely reducing the need for foster care and building Communities of Hope for children and families across America. They work in support of a range of public, private, tribal and community partners.

Caroline Black, PhD, Director in Research Services at Casey Family Programs

Caroline brings over 10 years' experience designing and supervising quantitative, mixed-methods, and participatory research projects to inform the development and testing of community-relevant programs and services for children and families experiencing social and economic injustice. In her current role, Caroline collaborates with child welfare jurisdictional leaders, stakeholders, and families impacted by the system to design, execute, and actualize research projects and program evaluations that respond to complex contexts in the field. She received her PhD in Human Development and Learning Sciences (University of Washington) and completed postdoctoral training in community centered program evaluation (Harvard Center on the Developing Child and University of Oregon Center for Translational Neuroscience). She also holds an MA in Early Childhood Education (New York University) and a BA in Cultural Anthropology (Whitman College). Prior to her academic career, Caroline worked as an early childhood educator and center director in New York, NY and Brooklyn, NY. Outside of work, Caroline enjoys wilderness adventuring with her husband and two rescue dogs, trail running, playing the fiddle, and cooking for family/friends.

To register for the Policy Forum please respond to our Microsoft Outlook calendar invite; email us at nicole.gee@nypwa.org; or call us at 518-465-9305, Ext. 3.