

Eastern Regional Commissioner's Meeting 4-6-26 Notes

Agenda:

1. Conference: We need workshops and a suggestion for the Keynote.
 - Keynote suggestion: from Suffolk County - Shadrack Boakye: He did a presentation to Suffolk County in the fall, and he was incredibly well received.
 - We have had proposals come in, but we only have 10 right now.
 - We discussed how counties are going to send less people to our conference this summer, as county budgets are tightening a little bit.
2. Convening: The workgroup is meeting with OCFS/OTDA on 4/7, ideas for discussion.
 - They have changed the meeting date again (April 28th now).
 - We are seeking tangible items to take away from the Convening.
 - Status on CMS letter, work requirements for the population that is going through the exchange (MAGI Population) are examples.
 - We are going to request a summary of the questionnaires that were collected in reference to convening issues.
3. OCFS Changes to qualifications for CPS/APS: What are local Civil Service Officers Saying?
 - State is indicating there are more stringent requirements for CPS/APS staff, but most people use the title of caseworkers. Then it is up to management where to assign a case.
 - Multiple counties have cross-trained case workers, but minimum qualifications for CPS (non-supervisory must have bachelor's degree or equivalent degree, and relevant human services. Supervisors must have same, and 2+ years of relevant human services).
 - APS caseworkers, each district sets out its own qualifications for APS workers.
 - Different models for different counties: case workers / case managers are the same title (same work, same requirements) but just defined differently per county.
 - One county encourages workers to get credits for a degree, and then they can add that to their relevant human services experience.
4. Hotel/Motel Regulation Comments: Feedback from OTDA?
 - We have not heard any feedback yet. But one of our main points was that social welfare examiners cannot and should not be doing medical assessments (not in their background nor their training).

5. NYPWA Submission to Governor's Request for Regulatory Amendments.

- Governor's EXPRESS NY is looking to eliminate red tape. We submitted a 6-page document laying out all our issues. If you would like a copy of this document, please email Paul.

6. Child Welfare Cases Involving ICE detainment.

- We are continuing to monitor if there is an increase in ICE detainment, and therefore and increase in CW cases. This was an inquiry of the NYS Senate, as they may be exploring legislation to address this, if it were to become an issue.
- Destitute child petition is a county's last resort. If there were no resources identified, this would normally be filed this.

7. Current Status of Child Care Allocations.

- The state believes that further allocations are going to help counties re-open programs that closed, but that is not going to be the case. The funding needed would need to be much higher, as the program has exponentially grown in every county.
- The three childcare pilot counties had meetings with OCFS to discuss specific information; however, these were three separate meetings. A concern is that OCFS has a list of questions for the pilot counties, whereas the pilot counties also have questions which have not been considered.
- What the childcare pilot programs are proposing: By the end of the third year, State says counties will have ~1000 new spots. County must demonstrate how they are going to advertise or enroll for it. It is a subsidy program for 0–3-year-olds. Implementation would start in January 2027.
- Legislation being proposed in relation to this is [A10494 \(Clark\) / S.9529 \(Gaskin\)](#); Renames the block grant for child care as the "Early Childhood Fund". Also establishes the Early Childhood Fund within OCFS, where funds shall be allocated to social services districts to "provide child care assistance to families receiving public assistance and transitional child care." Districts would still be determining eligibility.
 - The Schuyler Center and the Children's Agenda are leading advocacy for this bill.