



early care &
Learning COUNCIL

New York's child care resource network



Early Care & Learning Council Newsletter

January 2012

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

Having just returned from Baltimore and the National Women's Law Center National & State Advocates meeting, I can tell you we had lots to talk about!

- Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge Grant
- Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
- Budget challenges

Linda Smith, new Deputy Assistant Secretary and Inter-departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Education at the Administration for Children and Families also met with us after 30 days on the job. Her advice: Be creative and Act.

The Early Care & Learning Council has followed that advice in New York with our own Tiny Feet with Big Dreams campaign. [Click here to view a video](#), [download a letter template or print out a campaign card](#). Spread the word; those with Tiny Feet and Big Dreams need our support!

Best,
Marsha

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Kudos to New York's CCR&Rs

New York's Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs) have been working very hard to improve their services while going through [National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies \(NACCRRRA\)](#)

Quality Assurance! NACCRRRA is a national organization whose mission is to promote national policies and partnerships to advance the development and learning of all children and to provide vision, leadership, and support to community Child Care Resource & Referral. We would like to recognize all the New York agencies for all the hard work that they are doing during this process. As stated by Gail Upton of NACCRRRA, “Congratulations to Albany, Jefferson and Oneida agencies as they are the New York agencies that passed all three parent services assessments and the provider training direct assessment on their first attempt! Congratulations to these agencies for a job well done. Kudos also go to the 11 other agencies that passed their referral assessment call on the first try, 20 other agencies that passed the consumer education packet on their first attempt, and 13 other agencies that passed the online referral assessment on their first try. Kudos to New York's CCR&Rs Congratulations to Erie for also passing their provider training on their..first..try.” To put Gail Upton’s statements in context and better understand their impact on the CCR&Rs of New York, the NACCRRRA’s Quality Assurance Best Practice is the industry’s highest professional level of excellence. To afford NY families the highest level of service they want and deserve best practice needs to be in place in all CCR&R function areas. This nationally recognized accreditation is designed, published and maintained by NACCRRRA. The 30 months required to reach NACCRRRA Quality Assurance demands great attention to detail, much dedication and a sustained effort to attain. All agency policies, procedures, business operations, services and structure are painstakingly evaluated against industry best practice standards. Once accomplished, QA will position New York Child Care Resource & Referral agencies at the TOP of this field in the nation.

ARRA Projects Wrapped Up!

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulated the early childhood field across the country! Even though the federal dollars are gone, many stimulus projects have left their mark. The Early Care & Learning Council managed a \$3 million investment that had to be planned, implemented and evaluated in 18 months! Lasting effects from these efforts include:

- PITS Training – 130 Trainers from child care, Head Start, CCRR, higher education and others participated in Intensive Training Institute for Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC) presented by West ED. This internationally known program is considered the gold standard for best practices for babies and toddlers in group child care settings. New York now has a cadre of certified PITC trainers who will become part of the state trainers’ registry!
- Social and Emotional Consultation - Four communities across the state were chosen to demonstrate models of onsite consultation. Putnam County, Syracuse Early Head Start, a collaborative of programs in Westchester County and a collaborative in East Harlem. Each got limited funds for a one year period. The grants required collaboration between the CCR&Rs (Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies) and their Infant Toddler Specialist, a mental health provider in the community, and infant and toddler child care programs. Even though funding for direct services ended, many lessons were learned and new relationships were formed. Training on Infant mental health brought new awareness to participants and systems in each of these communities gained new understanding of each other. A full evaluation of the effort was conducted by ECLC.
- Field Test of 10 Components Tool – The New York Infant Toddler Resource Network was expanded with ARRA dollars. This enabled us to put more Infant Toddler Specialists in the field and include CCR&R trainers in infancy activities. Florida State University (FSU) is developing a program assessment based upon the 10 Components of

High Quality Care, currently used as a definition of quality in both New York and Florida. Our network conducted a field test with five of the components. We worked statewide with over 40 child care centers. FSU and UNC Chapel Hill have analyzed the results and are ready to test the final five components. This was a great learning experience for all involved and will result in a new assessment tool for the field

- Comprehensive Evaluation system in place for the IT Resource Network - ARRA Funds also brought a new evaluation system to the IT Resource Network so we can measure the impact of our work statewide. Previously each region implemented their service plan and informally evaluated their results. Now we have standardized the forms for data collection and can produce information about our results in every region and state wide.

IT Specialists gather for In-service Training with Early Intervention and Mental Health!

Every year the IT Specialists identify topics for statewide in-service training. One of their main concerns in 2011 was helping child care programs address many special needs in young children. Across the state there is an increase in challenging behaviors, autism spectrum disorders, special medical and dietary conditions and other concerns with children and families. These problems require child care programs to work with many other specialists and develop a comprehensive plan that organizes services and gets systems working together. The IT Project organized a 3 day event December 13-15 in Poughkeepsie and invited partner professionals from mental health and early intervention to join the conversation. The program “Transforming Child Care Practice: Strengthening Family and Community partnerships to support the individual/special needs of children” was presented by 4 different trainers.

Evelyn Efinger provided the introduction and overview which focused on Component 10 – Comprehensive service delivery. Deborah Borie is a state level trainer for the Early Intervention system. She presented legal and regulatory details of the Early Intervention system in New York and interviewed a parent whose child was born with multiple disabilities. The star presenter was Gina Dieuveuille, who shared her parenting story and her reactions to the health care, early intervention and social systems that she has worked with. Rebecca Shahmoon Shanok from the Jewish Board of Family and Children Services in NYC gave an overview of mental health classifications from the ZERO TO THREE DC 0-3R, a manual for understanding developmental concerns in infants and toddlers and provided practice with reflective supervision and consultation strategies. Participants also explored the importance of developmental screening and ongoing assessment within child care programs. Through curriculum planning every child can have an IFSP! An individualized family service plan! The program was packed with information but also gave the statewide network an opportunity to be together to network with other regions and with other service providers.

For more information contact [Evelyn Efinger](#).

New York Represented at PITC Graduate Conference

Karen Harkness, a project associate at the Early Care & Learning Council and certified PITC trainer had the

opportunity to represent New York State at the PITC Graduate Conference in California in October of 2011. Karen presented during a poster session at the conference. [Click here to view the poster and the great work that PITC Training Institute participants are doing in New York!](#)

Council Staff Earn Trainer's Early Learning Credential

Congratulations to the Early Care & Learning Council's [Abbe Hahn-Hook](#), [Karen Harkness](#) and [Mary Stalker](#)! They have all earned the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children (NYSAEYC) Early Learning Trainer's Credential. [To learn more about the credential click here.](#)

QUALITYtstarsNY Readiness Project

On January 5th and 6th, 24 early education trainers from across the state gathered in Albany to attend the QUALITYtstarsNY Readiness Project Facilitators' Training. These 24 trainers will facilitate QUALITYtstarsNY Readiness Project Workshops for child care center directors and family child care providers throughout New York State. The three workshops focus on introducing programs to QUALITYtstarsNY and beginning the process of self-assessment and program improvement. [To learn more about QUALITYtstarsNY click here.](#)

Save the Date Annual Meeting & Luncheon 2012

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

12:00pm – 2:30pm

The Albany Country Club
300 Wormer Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186
518-765-2851

Please make plans to join us at the Early Care & Learning Council's Annual Meeting & Luncheon. Don't miss out... be a part of the fun! We hope to see you there. With

questions, contact:

Donna Hercules:

<mailto:dhercules@earlycareandlearning.org>

518-690-4217

New York Families: Get Your Tax Credits

Families in New York: Whether or not you owe income tax, you could get thousands of dollars in tax credits. More families than ever are eligible for these credits this year. To get these credits, you must file a tax return. Find out where you can get FREE help with your taxes by calling the IRS toll-free at (800) 906-9887 or go to www.irs.gov. You can also contact the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance at (518) 457-5181. To find out where to get free income tax preparation assistance, call AARP Tax-Aide toll-free at (888) AARPNOW or (888) 227-7669. New York City residents call 311. [To find out more click here.](#)



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