



Children's System of Care Awareness Day: Our Bright Future

May 7th, 2010

Join us for an important half day of education and celebration featuring a morning welcome by Erie County Mental Health Department Commissioner **Philip Endress** and a morning address by **Michael Weiner** – CEO of United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, informative workshops and a Luncheon with special keynote speakers:

Marie Morilus-Black – Children & Youth Services Director, DC Department of Children's Services formerly of Erie County Department of Mental Health

Josh Dean- Director of Family Ministry, Renovation Church and a success story from the Children's System of Care

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Mike Weiner, CEO of the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

United Way of Buffalo & Erie County board members initially sought out Michael Weiner to help with their search for a new president. Within a few weeks, Weiner turned into a serious candidate for the coveted job based on his extensive experience as the Commissioner of the Erie County Department of Social Services

As the former head of Erie County's largest department, with an annual budget of \$540 million and a work force of 1,800, Weiner has deep knowledge and broad connections in government and the nonprofit health and human services sector.

Prior to his appointment as social services commissioner in 2004, Weiner served as Commissioner of Mental Health from 2000 to 2004 and as regional director of the Western New York field office of the state Office of Mental Health prior to that.

Marie Morilus-Black

Child & Adolescent Services Director, District of Columbia Department of Mental Health--formerly of the Erie County Department of Mental Health

Marie Morilus-Black is currently the Child & Adolescent Services Director, District of Columbia Department of Mental Health. She is the former Director of Family Voices Network of Erie County, the children's division of the Department of Mental Health of Erie County, Buffalo, New York. She obtained her Master of Social Work at the University of New York at Buffalo. She has been in the field of Human Services for almost 20 years. She is an expert in the field of Child Welfare and Mental Health and is very

knowledgeable of the Juvenile Justice System. She was responsible for managing and implementing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administrative (SAMHSA) grant of \$9.5 million dollars over six years for the Erie County Department of Mental Health, which works in collaboration with the Department of Social Services and Juvenile Justice Probation of Erie County. In March 2007, Marie Morilus- Black was invited to present at the 20th Annual Research Conference of the University of South Florida, the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health in Tampa, Florida. Marie Morilus-Black has conducted numerous workshops on issues impacting children and families involved in the multiple systems cited above both, locally and nationally. She served on the Federal Advisory Board of SAMHSA's Adolescent Division, the Council of Collaboration and Coordination (the CCC). During her time in Buffalo, she served on the Board of Sarah Minnie Badger Foster Care Agency and was a member of many civic, community and professional organizations. She believes that all families deserve immediate access to services that are strength based, culturally competent, community based, family driven, youth guided and cost effective.

Josh Dean

Director of Youth & Family Ministry--Renovation Church

Josh Dean believes that if children are given a chance and people are willing to love them and invest in them, their future can be bright. Josh currently serves as Director of Youth & Family Ministry at Renovation Church where he helps young people shape their bright futures. He has much experience in this area as a former participant in the Children's System of Care who, through intervention, became a successful adult.

"Parents as Agents of Change Model"

Vicki L. McCarthy

Director

The Families' Child Advocacy Network, Inc.

And

Tanya Hernandez

Family Support Partner/Juvenile Justice and NYS OMH Western Region Family Support PEP Trainer

In a family driven system of care, parents and caregivers are expected to be full partners in the change process to help their child/youth and the family achieve their goals. In the "Parents as Agents of Change Model" parents identify the values, social norms, attitudes, beliefs, feelings and their own self efficacy towards change. Strategies and action steps complete the process.

"Sexting & Social Networking Among Youth"

Kisha L. Johnson

Director of Programs & Operations

Computers for Children, Inc.

Through collaborative partnerships with a variety of online safety experts, such as the NYS Attorney General's office, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and ikeepsafe.org, CFC has developed a series of comprehensive parent and youth educational "talk" shops based on keeping kids safe on line. Topics range from general internet usage, to sexting, social networking, and cyber-bullying.

Teens have always pushed the envelope of sexual development and the digital native is no different. The ways in which youth use media form opinions on topics from music and clothing, to serious social issues such as the environment or politics has expanded to a creative world where parents don't usually have a clue of what kids are either doing themselves, or are unintentionally exposed to.

During this workshop we will educate teens, parents and caring adults on the dangers of “risky” behavior online, including sharing personal information, such as sexualized pictures via cell phones or other media. Attendees will be given tools on how to avoid the “drama” of online activity.

“Vicarious Trauma”

Day Cummings, LMSW RN
Founder
Circle of Daughters, Inc.

Day after day we open our hearts and mind to the worst in human experience. When we are witness to others’ suffering, it can, over time, change the way we see ourselves, the world, and what matters to us. It can rock us to the core and challenge our deepest sense of meaning, purpose and hope. During this workshop we will address this issue and learn practical skills to become vicariously resilient.

"Gangs & Success Stories"

Moses Robinson
Community Police Officer
Rochester Police Department

Kids are joining gangs as young as 9 years old...is this what we as a community want? Moses Robinson has a long history of gang prevention activities and has been a main presenter at many conferences dealing with youth and family issues. His presentation includes such topics as why & how youth join gangs, gangs and schools, parents and gangs, community responses to gangs and conducting a comprehensive community gangs assessment. He will provide success stories to illustrate how intervention works.

Teen Reality Theatre

Planned Parenthood of Buffalo & Erie County

The Teen Reality Theatre is an educational tool that youth can really appreciate as it comes from youth experience and is presented entirely by youth. It is peer education in its most enjoyable form. The peer educators are trained to teach others their age about real life issues like HIV, AIDS, birth control, abstinence, self-esteem, etc. through skits and full-length plays.

All of the plays are developed by the teens with guidance from Planned Parenthood staff.

Hear it straight from a teen:

“We’re not just actors, we’re educators. We just don’t perform for entertainment... we teach people of all ages through theater because it’s a fun way to learn.” Donald, 17