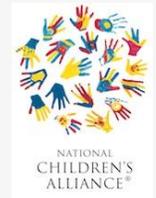




NYSCA News

Issue 7: Summer 2016



Letter From NYSCA's Executive Director:



Terry Whitt, Executive Director

Hello NYSCA Members!

So glad that it is summer outside, bringing energy and positivity with the sun; and renewal for those of us lucky enough to get a good break!

I am sure feeling that energy as NYSCA is continuing to coalesce around our increasing staff and increasing resources. We have managed to complete our NYSCA NCA Chapter application; worked with the membership on NCA's 'Gap Map' Project; and completed the first significant steps of our Chapter NCA Re-accreditation process. Since the Spring newsletter, where I was a staff of one, I am moving from doing everything required of NYSCA, with the assistance of our dedicated and passionate Board of Directors, to the luxury of dedicated staff to attend to Program needs. While Clare focuses on the expanded programming and technical assistance of NYSCA, which she nicely details below, I am gearing up our infrastructure to bring on an additional staff person.

I have also been beginning my travels around the State to visit your community CAC and MDTs. That has been an absolute pleasure and honor to meet you in person! I have visited over half of the CACs our Board members represent along with others that currently total almost 1/4 of New York State CACs. I am finding both strong commonalities and tremendous diversity - which should surprise no one who has

traveled the State. It will be important in the times ahead to identify and build on the common ground, but also address the needs that vary across the State in what supports and advocacy NYSCA will provide that will best address each community CAC/MDT. My goal is to get to as many of you as I can before the snow flies! We will see how I do with that! We've had two Regional CAC meetings - one in Mid-Hudson and one with the Northern CACs; attended the NCA Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. in June; and visited with representatives from our two Senators and one key Congressman on the Appropriations Committee. We are very busy planning a great 2016 NYSCA Annual Membership Conference to be held on September 13th and 14th. NYSCA is also helping to coordinate the New York State Child Fatality Review Team Annual Conference this year - to be held on September 20th through half of the 21st. NYSCA is also assisting with logistics for the Children's Justice Task Force Meetings that are held quarterly throughout the State. We have been very busy the last couple of months!

I think that NYSCA is just barely scratching the surface of building our potential to be of service and assistance to you in the field. You will continue to be hearing from me, but increasingly you will be working with our growing staff. If there is anything I can do for you, please don't hesitate to call or email me anytime. Look for a very important survey coming out that I will ask you to take the time to fill out. We will be using that survey to inform future training needs, technical assistance needs, and other ways that you see NYSCA supporting the work that you do. Until then, be sure to sign up for the NYSCA Annual Membership Conference and I will see you then, if not before! And take some time to take a well-deserved break this summer if you can!



A Word From NYSCA's New Program Coordinator:

Hello Everyone,

I am thrilled to join the growing NYSCA team as your new Program Coordinator. During the past year, I had the opportunity to get to know many of your centers while also strengthening my understanding of and appreciation for the CAC/MDT model. I am very excited to now be expanding my capacity to support all of you in the field. Though NYSCA is still evolving, I will be the point for questions regarding our programs. This includes NCATrak, OMS, various learning opportunities/training as well as other technical assistance for MDTs. I am still managing the listserv, supporting the Children's Justice Task Force and am now assisting Terry with regional meetings and issues surrounding NCA accreditation. As a reminder, the CARCC listserv has become the NYSCA Listserv, but it is still a forum to pose questions/challenges to your colleagues around the state and to get the word out about learning opportunities. If you are not on the listserv just write me and I can add you.

In the last few years I have taught, run after-school programs and managed a program

that worked with women incarcerated in Upstate facilities. I hold a BA in International Studies and Elementary Education from Nazareth College in Rochester and my Master of Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh. Though my background is varied, there are several themes that run through it: youth, community development and non-profit work. I see the CACs as blending these while also healing children and families.

I was born and raised in Naples, NY where I graduated from high school. I moved on to Rochester where I lived for 7 years with some time spent in Germany, Slovakia and India. I now live in Brooklyn with my husband Matt. I love New York and am really happy to be working with all of you across this state.

Contact me with any programming questions at: clare.robinson-henrie@nyschildrensalliance.org or 516-406-0225.

Best,

Clare Robinson-Henrie

NYSCA News

New York State Children's Alliance, Inc.:

2016 Annual Membership Conference

September 13th & 14th, 2016

**This Year's Theme: Engaging and Caring
for the TEAM**

Location:

Holiday Inn

232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs

For more information and to register:

**[New York State Children's Alliance 2016
Annual Membership Conference](#)**

NYSCA Visits Capitol Hill June 2016

NYSCA staff and representatives from NYS CACs traveled to Capitol Hill as part of the NCA Leadership Conference on June 7th, 2016. We had productive and informative meetings with representatives from the offices of Senators Gillibrand and Schumer as well as Congressman Jose Serrano (NYS 15th District).



From Left to Right: John Pickett, Fabio Cotza, Karrie Damm, Terry Whitt, Clare Robinson-Henrie, Renee Smith-Rotondo

Congratulations to both Oswego and Erie Counties for recently being re-accredited. Fantastic work!



Fun in the North Country

The North County Region met in June to discuss upcoming trainings and conferences as well as have a fantastic time on Lake George!



Left to right: Stephanie Stuart, Lynn Chabot, Jamie Rock, Nicole Iwaniec, Richelle

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CACs & MDTs:

Register now for the Allegany County District Attorney's "Training and Abuse Conference". July 29th, 2016 in Wellsville, NY.

**To Register email:
OzzellSL@alleganyco.com**

Save the Date for the 3rd Bi-Annual "Northeast Tribal Summit on Child Victimization and Exploitation" taking place at the Seneca Niagara Casino and Resort September 7th and 8th, 2016.

**Click here for details:
[Tribal Summit](#)**

Save the Date for McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Center's 2nd Annual Conference: "Stand Against Child Abuse". This day-long conference will take place on September 27th, 2016 in Syracuse, NY. For more information visit McMahon/Ryan's Website:

[Stand Against Child Abuse Conference](#)

Register now for "Hope Changes Everything" the Clinton County District Attorney's Conference on Child Abuse, Exploitation and Trafficking. October 12th, 2016 in Plattsburgh, NY

**For more information and to register email Jami Rock:
jami.rock@clintoncountygov.com**

Check back with NYSCA for information on upcoming trainings and conferences on:

- Vicarious Trauma**
- Interviewing Children with Disabilities**
- Recording Forensic Interviews**

CAC News:

Making Connections in the Bronx

Recently ten young people who are part of the NYPD Explorers program visited the Bronx Child Advocacy Center with Sargent Bennett to learn about the services that Safe Horizon's BXCAC provides for Bronx children. After the tour, our Bronx Child Abuse Squad Sargent met with these incredible young adults and shared his experience as a Detective on the MDT. He stressed the value of teamwork and collaboration when addressing these issues. Many of the young people also shared how much the Explorers program changed their lives. Many of them said they would have been school dropouts or would have joined gangs without the NYPD Explorers.



NYSICA Members Present at the NCA Leadership Conference

Danielle Weisberg, LCSW Director of the Children's Advocacy Center at the Westchester Institute for Human Development and Beth Reiman, LCSW-R, PhD., Coordinator of Forensic and Clinical Services each presented workshops at the 2016 National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference held in June in Washington, D.C. Dr. Reiman's presentation was entitled "Opening our Eyes to Bias" and focused on how our CAC developed a unique response to dealing with diversity by identifying areas of team bias and recognizing how it might affect a family and the case. The workshop discussed how biases are identified and how Case Review is used to discuss issues and address attitudes in order to make the CAC a more culturally sensitive environment for all. Ms. Weisberg co-presented "Stepping into the Storm - Lessons from One Team's Improbable Journey," with Michelle James, MS Assistant Director of Administration at Victim Assistance Services/WestCop. Through their presentation they described the unique approach used by the CAC/MDT to improve team communication, trust and cohesiveness through the use of an outside facilitator and the introduction of tools like the "ladder of inference" and team development models.

Team Wellness in Westchester

The CAC/MDT from Westchester County continued its deep dive into mindfulness and team development as participants in the 2016 Strengthening Communities Summit at OMEGA in beautiful Rhinebeck New York. The CAC was honored to be selected as a recipient of OMEGA's service week grant which offers working retreats to nonprofit organizations working across the spectrum of social, economic, and environmental issues. The overall goal of Omega Service Week is to bring staff and/or board members out of their normal working environments so new ideas can be generated and participants can return to their demanding work feeling rejuvenated and re-inspired. Each organization creates and leads its own retreat program, and has access to all Omega amenities as part of their retreat. The CAC/MDT used time during the retreat to redouble our team development efforts by developing a sustainable plan for activities that will foster collaboration and coordination across all the disciplines that are involved in the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child sexual and physical abuse in Westchester County. Seventeen team members attended the two and one half day retreat which ran from May 30th to June 1st.



Understanding Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

by Adrienne LaFrance
Atlantic Monthly Magazine, June 2016

"For many parents, the specter of sudden infant death is one of the dominant

anxieties in the chaotic early weeks with a newborn. It is a fear that drives 3 a.m. internet searches, and prompts incessant checking to make sure baby is still breathing.

Part of what makes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or SIDS, so terrifying, is that it kills newborns who seem otherwise healthy. It does so without warning. And no one really knows how common it is.

Each year, about 3,500 infants in the United States die from Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, or SUID, a broader category that includes SIDS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most of those deaths remain unexplained. About one-quarter of them are eventually attributed to accidental suffocation or strangulation in sleeping environments..."

To Read More Visit:

[Atlantic Monthly's Website](#)

Here at NYSCA, we would love to facilitate more information sharing in the state. If you see articles that you think might be of interest to the CAC world please put them on the listserv, or send them to us so we can add them to future newsletters.

NYSCA Newsletter Schedule



**January 1 - Winter Edition
April 1 - Spring Edition**

**July 1 - Summer Edition
October 1 - Fall Edition**

Newsletter deadlines will be 2 weeks before the edition is sent out.