



Parent Education and Awareness Program Newsletter

www.nycourts.gov/parented

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AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF PEAP

Despite difficult economic times for all, you, our certified providers, have continued to provide high quality parent education to over 18,000 parents since the launch of the program in July of 2005. We now have fifty-one providers at 100 different sites throughout New York State.

New Providers

We have a few new providers we have welcomed to our “family.” These are Cornell Cooperative Extension in Livingston County, Education & Assistance Corp. in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and Mental Health America of Dutchess County, Inc. in Dutchess County. Their agencies and administrators will bring a wealth of experience to our efforts, and we are grateful for their participation. (See our website for contact information).

PEAP WEBSITE

Web Links from PEAP to You

In response to suggestions made at the 2008 May conference, we have now updated our website to include links to those certified programs which have provided us with their website information. For those of you who are developing websites, please be certain to tell us about it once it is ‘live’ so that we can include your information as well. For those of you who put class dates on your website, and continually update it, this will assist parents in finding the information easily. For an example of an excellent certified provider website, please look at the Monroe County one at:

<http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/7jd/act/>

Outreach Inserts To 2008 Outreach Binder

At the May, 2008 Annual Conference in Albany, we provided you with large Outreach Binders with many sub-categories (e.g. educational institutions, health care, legal and related services, community resources, parent/child resources, services for children and a miscellaneous category), to give you ideas regarding which groups to contact in your Counties, and preliminary contact information. Your resource lists contain contacts, too, which can be used for successful outreach. Due to our “green” efforts in the office, we have now provided you with Outreach Binder Inserts in the protected portion of the website. We will continue to up-date the binder on the web. Please check it out!



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Outreach Efforts

Web Links

For some time now we have been making an effort to have other organizations (mostly statewide agencies) put a link on their website to our website as a way to 'get the word out.' We have an extensive list we track. In addition, the Public Affairs Department of OCA has made some contacts for us which we have followed up on. It is an inexpensive way to get 'lasting' publicity for your programs, so you should consider reaching out to your local networks to see if they will put a link to your website as well.

OCA's Office of Public Affairs—School Outreach

The Office of Public Affairs obtained the support of Mrs. New York America and assisted us in establishing relationships with community organizations to secure articles and links on their newsletters which have generated increased awareness about the Program.

In February, Mrs. New York America 2008, KerryLynn Boettcher, visited Kids First, one of our certified programs in Albany County. She met with the PEAP Counsel and Director and curriculum presenters and learned about the structure, mission and objectives of the Parent-Ed program. Her visit was featured by the local newspapers *The Albany Times Union* (Circulation: 100,000) and the *Schenectady Gazette* (Circulation: 90,000). As a sixth grade teacher, Mrs. New York America is supporting the efforts of the Parent-Ed program facilitating introductions to organizations in the educational community that can help raise further awareness about the program among teachers and parents.



Susan L. Pollet, KerryLynn Boettcher,
Greg Murray and Andrea Sahakian

Leveraging the support of elementary school teacher Mrs. New York America to Parent-Ed, the following opportunities to raise awareness about the Program were secured:

- ✓ **The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** is the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation. The April/May issue of its magazine, *Our Children*, featured an extensive article about the Parent-Ed program reaching 330,000 subscribers nationwide (<http://pta.org/2880.htm>). The magazine is distributed to local PTA chapters throughout the US via online and print versions.
- ✓ **The New York State Parent Teacher Association (NYS PTA)** granted UCS "cooperating partner status" and a Parent-Ed link placement on the cooperating partners section of their statewide website: <http://www.nyspta.org/about/partners.cfm>. NYS PTA defines this as a partnership in which a member of NYS PTA Board of Managers maintains personal communication with decision makers of the partner organization. Currently the NYS PTA has a membership exceeding 357,000 in 16 statewide regional districts and more than 1600 statewide local units and councils.



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- ✓ **The New York State PTA Education/Advocacy Committee** agreed to distribute Parent-Ed brochures at meetings and conferences.
- ✓ **The New York State Student Support Services Center** sent an e-mail notice to over 8,000 school educators, counselors and administrators across the State. Information about the Parent-Ed program was also added to the "What's New" section of their website, www.nyssscenter.org, and to the Family Involvement and Supportive Learning Environment sections. A related article was included in their newsletter, *Making Connections....to Increase Student Achievement*.
- ✓ **The New York Association of School Psychologists** included a link on its website section of resources for teachers and parents.

Other Outreach to Schools

By going on to the website, <http://www.nysed.gov/admin/adminindex.html>, you can obtain contact information regarding some of the school districts in New York, which are arranged alphabetically. We have been working on obtaining the names and e-mails of the guidance counselors, school psychologists and school social workers to e-mail them to tell them about our Program. You can consider looking for the school districts in your area and doing an outreach. Since schools are often the first to know about a separation or divorce in a family, they can get information to the parents about your programs early on in the process, which is so necessary.

Presentations about Parent Education

We have made presentations and distributed our materials to many groups, including Bar Associations, Attorneys for the Child (Law Guardians), Judges, Collaborative Law groups and Non-Judicial personnel, etc.

Summer Law Student Interns

This summer, as is our usual fashion, we are mentoring Pace Law Students who are assisting us with outreach contacts and are doing research for a law review article in the field on stepparents and blended families, and the legal and psychological issues which arise in that context.

Dear Certified Providers:

It is a pleasure to summarize the latest PEAP activities which support the wonderful work you are all doing. We strive to think and plan for how we can best facilitate your efforts on behalf of families in New York State. It is an honor and a privilege to spend time on our mutual efforts.

I want to thank Jasmin Brandow for assisting me with the layout of this Newsletter.



Susan L. Pellet



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Trainings: Web Conferences

In lieu of hosting our annual May conference, we already held part of our series of mandatory Lunch & Learn web conferences. The feedback we received from you was very positive. They included:

- May 21
 - Jeremy Zeliger on Presentation Skills for Presenters
- June 3
 - Phil Ferrara and Jane Craig Sebok on Statistics from the PEAP Parent Satisfaction Surveys
- June 11
 - We 'joined forces' with OCA's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program to host a webinar on Children, Grief and Loss presented by Dr. Jodi Mullen, play therapist, teacher, writer and professor

The following are up-coming webinars, so please save-the-dates:

- September 22, 12-1:30pm
 - Jasmin Brandow, Rob Conlon and Rebecca Koch of the Office of Court Administration on cultural humility
- October 27, 12-1:00pm
 - Jan Fink, Esq. of the Office of Court Administration on domestic violence
- November 18, 12-2:00pm
 - Dr. Pedro-Carroll, psychologist, with an update regarding parent and child well being issues for PEAP
- December 2, 12-1:00pm
 - Dr. Naomi Adler, psychologist, on anger and stress management

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NYS Unified Court System, Office of Court Administration, Division of Court Operations
New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program
140 Grand Street, Suite 701
White Plains, New York 10601
(888) 809-2798 (Toll Free)
nyparent-ed@nycourts.gov
www.nycourts.gov/parented