



NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM  
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL AND COURT SERVICES

## Parent Education and Awareness Program Newsletter

February 2011  
Volume 1, Issue 4

### **AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF PEAP**

As of the writing of this newsletter, over 26,000 parents have attended our certified provider's programs since the launch of the program in July of 2005. Our numbers of attendees in 2009 and 2010 were approximately the same. We now have fifty providers at 100 different sites throughout New York State. We added a new provider in Schuyler County, Schuyler County Child Care Coordinating Council, with Kathy Ector as the contact person. The certified providers in contiguous counties should reach out to Kathy (kector@stny.rr.com) to coordinate schedules of classes with her so that all of the parents in that region are serviced most effectively.

### **PEAP Website**

We continue to expand our website to include PowerPoint presentations and the audio portions from our monthly educational webinars, more fully detailed below. We have included articles in the field as well. As you know, our list of certified providers is continually updated and our Parent's Handbook and the training DVDs for presenters can all be accessed from our website. Right now we do have printed Parent's Handbooks if you are in need of any. Please order them from Karen Heath at kheath@courts.state.ny.us

Our most recent project is to up-date and to expand the list of recommended readings for separating and divorcing parents currently provided in the back of the Parent's Handbook, by consulting top experts in the field, and by reviewing the literature. When completed, that list will be available on our website as well. It may be distributed to the parents at classes as well.

### **Outreach Efforts**

The Public Affairs Division of the Office of Court Administration continues to assist us with our outreach efforts. A summary of their efforts in 2010 is detailed below:

In 2010, the Office of Public Affairs initiated a dialogue with community organizations to increase awareness about Parent-Ed. Below please find a list of organizations that have been contacted to secure speaking engagements for Susan Pollet and to distribute Parent-Ed informational materials.

### **Government Agencies**

- Parent-Ed information was shared with the Department of Education's Office for Family Information and Action. This office is responsible for supporting parents by helping them to find answers and resolve problems. There are 34 citywide District Family Advocate offices.
- Materials will be distributed to the New York City Housing Authority which reaches 400,000 residents, public and law libraries statewide and the United Federation of Teachers' Parent Support Offices which offer resources and information to parents in each borough.

### **Community Service Organizations**

Parent-Ed information was shared with the YMCA of Greater New York, a community service organization with 23 centers throughout the city which promotes positive values through programs that build spirit, mind and body, welcoming all people, with a focus on youth.

### **Health and Religious Organizations**

We will continue following up with these and other organizations.

- Greater New York Hospital Association
- Butler Center at Montefiore Medical Center
- The Family Learning Place. This is a resource center for parents in The Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center
- Ministry to the Separated and Divorced for the Archdiocese of New York
- Family Life Department for the Diocese of Buffalo

### **LGBT Community Organizations**

20 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community centers were identified in New York State (7 of which are in New York City).

### **Online**

The Parent-Ed Public Service Announcement (PSA) continues to be available on the website of the New York State Unified Court System.

## **Presentations about Parent Education**

Susan Pollet has made presentations and distributed PEAP materials to many groups, including the New York State Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, newly elected or appointed Family Court Judges and Matrimonial Court Justices, Court Attorneys and Court Attorney Referees and Attorneys for the Child, various committees of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the New York State Council on Divorce Mediation, the Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York and Dispute Resolution at John Jay College, the Westchester legal community, business professionals at networking events and presentations with the Interfaith Center to religious leaders, and others.

## **Interns**

We continue to mentor Pace Law students who are assisting us with outreach contacts and are conducting research on various topics related to PEAP under the direction of Susan Pollet. The most recent articles which have been or will be published in various legal

publications are on the topics of domestic violence and PEAP, forgiveness, single parents, financial abuse and same sex divorce. All of the articles will be on the PEAP website.

## **Trainings: Web Conferences**

The most recent webinars were on the following topics:

- Impact of Divorce on Families When a Child has Special Needs by Adrienne Arkontaky, Esq. (Sept. 2010)
- Child Support Proceedings in Family Court by the Hon. Christine Krahulik (October 2010)
- Putting Children First: How to Reduce Risk and Foster Resilience in Children who are Dealing with Separation and Divorce by Dr. Joanne Pedro-Carroll (November 2010)
- Somatic Skills for Stress Management by Stephen Kotev (December 2010)
- Unmarried young parents-Separated or Divorced Just Doesn't Cover It by Dr. Naomi Adler (January 2011)

Upcoming webinars are on the following topics (please save the dates):

- February 16, 2011: Lee Miller Esq. re negotiation skills
- March 21, 2011: Hon. Sheila Schwanekamp with a domestic violence update
- April 7, 2011: Robert McKiernan, a human resources specialist, regarding job searches for divorcing and separating parents
- May 9, 2011: Dr. Lauren Behrman on electronic etiquette for divorcing and separating parents
- June 8, 2011: Len Florescue, Esq. with an update on recent changes to matrimonial law
- July 13, 2011: Jason Fitz and Lucette Calas, financial experts, re financial planning for low income parents

Please continue to contact Susan Pollet if you have any topics you would like to learn more about for your parents and she will arrange it.

### **Dear Certified Providers:**

**We have much to be thankful for in the New Year. Please tell us how you are doing with the New Year's Resolutions summarized for you below, and if we can be of any assistance to help facilitate these goals:**

-Contact the Judges and Chief Clerks of the Supreme Court Matrimonial Part and Family Court and make certain that they have a ready supply of your brochures, and are reminded about ordering parents to your programs. This should be done on a quarterly basis in some form or another;

-Provide the Judges and Chief Clerks with the stats on your program so they know how

successful you have been. If you don't have stats, get more numbers so you qualify to get them by doing the above;

-Look at what you are doing regarding outreach in the community to let parents know about your program so they can self-refer or others can refer them. (Take a look at the outreach binder on our website at [www.nycourts.gov/parented](http://www.nycourts.gov/parented) to get ideas). Plot out a month-by-month plan to reach out. Get some college or high school interns on board to help distribute brochures and to make up lists of organizations and people to e-mail information to;

-At a minimum contact the Presidents of all local bar associations and see if you can present before their group, and/or if they can do an e-mail blast with a blurb and brochure about your program. The same goes for any local mental health groups, schools, religious institutions, libraries, pediatricians, and any other places parents are likely to go to in your community.

-Go on some local cable TV shows, or get some free advertisements in local newspapers about your program;

Please note that we are doing all of this on a statewide basis with statewide organizations, but we need to 'drill down' into the local communities with your help. Again-thank you for all of your hard work. We will succeed even more in the New Year!

**Best. Susan L. Pollet, Coordinator**

This is a publication of the  
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