



## Parent Education and Awareness Program Newsletter

[www.nycourts.gov/parented](http://www.nycourts.gov/parented)

**June 2010**

Volume 1, Issue 3

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

As of the writing of this newsletter, over 22,000 parents have attended our certified provider's programs since the launch of the program in July of 2005. We now have fifty-one providers at 100 different sites throughout New York State. Despite the recession, everyone is finding a way to be creative and to keep everything going, which includes the PEAP office. The parents continue to be enthusiastic about our programs, as will be discussed more fully below in the section on our post class survey statistics summary.

#### **PEAP Website**

We have expanded our website to include PowerPoint presentations and the audio portions from our many educational webinars. We have included articles in the field as well. 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.

#### **Outreach Efforts**

We appreciate the assistance of the Public Affairs Division of the Office of Court Administration with our outreach efforts. Susan Pollet met with the Fund for Modern Courts' Citizens Jury Project ("CJP") on multiple occasions. CJP pledged their support to disseminate PEAP information via their interns who man nine ombudservice booths, located in the 60, 100 & 111 Centre Street Courthouses in Manhattan, the 320 Jay Street Courthouse and 360 Adams Street Courthouse in Brooklyn, the 120-55 Queens Boulevard Courthouse in Queens, the 215 East 161 Street Courthouse in the Bronx and the 100 Supreme Court Drive Courthouse in Mineola, Nassau County, Long Island. These booths are staffed by trained interns who assist jurors and document their comments and concerns about jury service. CJP surveys jurors in courts throughout New York, also, and participates in collaborative research projects with the Office of Court Administration. As one of their research projects, the interns will explore outreach to New York State's religious organizations to disseminate information about the PEAP program. Finally, the interns of CJP, working in collaboration with the Office of Public Affairs, will explore, also, arranging for interviews of Parent Education staff and the dissemination of parent education information on NYC Public Access television stations.



## Parent Education and Awareness Program Newsletter

[www.nycourts.gov/parented](http://www.nycourts.gov/parented)

We have targeted the medical community to enable health-care professionals to learn more about PEAP. We want them to use it as a referral program for their colleagues and patients via brochure distribution, web links, e-blasts, newsletter articles, and speaking engagements. A few of these opportunities are listed below (and more can be found in our outreach binders and inserts on the website):

- The New York state Conference of Local Mental Health Hygiene Directors posted a link on its website and featured PEAP in its newsletters. The newsletter is distributed to 60 directors statewide, their staff members, partner agencies and members of the public who have signed up for online updates.
- Bronx County Medical Society, Inc. posted a link on its website.
- Seneca County Medical Society displayed brochures in patients' waiting areas and distributed them to medical personnel.
- Upstate Medical University/Department of Family Medicine displayed brochures in patients' waiting areas and distributed them to medical personnel.
- Medical Society of the County of Orange, Inc. published a newsletter article about PEAP.
- Greater New York Hospital Association published a newsletter article about PEAP.
- Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network published a newsletter article about PEAP and created a link from their website to the PEAP website.

### **Presentations about Parent Education**

We have made presentations and distributed our 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, etc.

### **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. Upcoming articles which Susan wrote and will be published include the topics of stepparent's rights and obligations; teen prostitution; and special needs children and divorce. You were previously provided with published articles on teenage self injury and parenting plans which Susan prepared for the New York Law Journal.

### **Trainings: Web Conferences**

The following are upcoming webinars, so please save the dates:

- Webinar with Kathleen Donelli, Esq. re collaborative law on March 16, 2010
- Webinar with Steve Abel, Esq. re divorce mediation on April 14, 2010
- Webinar with Angela Bledsoe re divorce financial planning on May 13, 2010
- Webinar with Elayne Greenberg, Esq. on parent coordinators in June (date not yet set)
- Webinar with Rachel Hahn Esq. on attorneys for the children on July 22, 2010



## Parent Education and Awareness Program Newsletter

[www.nycourts.gov/parented](http://www.nycourts.gov/parented)

### Post Class Survey Statistics Summary

We thank Jane Craig Sebok, Ph.D. of the Office of Court Administration for her analysis of our statistics. From April 2009 through September 2009, 5,592 attendees of the programs of PEAP's certified providers completed surveys about their experiences. These participants, who were very similar to previous groups in most ways, differed slightly in two respects: the percentage of males has increased from 46% to 48%, making the number of men and women almost equal, and the percentage of whites has decreased from 72% to 68%, indicating that the program is now reaching more minorities.

Response to the program remains very positive. In most cases, 88% or more of respondents found the topics presented as relevant/very relevant or helpful/very helpful. Exceptions still exist in the areas of child support and new relationships, although response to these topics has improved slightly (from 79% to 81% and from 81% to 82%, respectively.) Response to the legal topics has also improved and now 85% to 90% of respondents find them relevant/very relevant or helpful/very helpful. Participants are also satisfied with the teaching techniques used in the programs. Although about 10% of respondents wanted more practice exercises and role plays, more than 80% thought there was a good balance of lectures, video, and group discussion. In addition, 95% of participants had at least some opportunity to engage in role plays, group discussions, and practice exercises and almost 80% found them helpful.

Responses to general questions were also very positive. Respondents reported that what they learned would help them in their parenting (96%), in communicating with their partner (90%) and in adjusting and coping with the situation (92%). Most importantly, 87% rated the program as worthwhile or very worthwhile, with 88% saying that they would recommend it to other parents.

### Dear Certified Providers:

**Thank you for all of your wonderful work on behalf of the divorcing and separating parents in New York State and their families. I also want to thank Karen Heath who assists me with the work of our state-wide office!**

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

This is a publication of the  
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](mailto:nyparent-ed@nycourts.gov)  
[www.nycourts.gov/parented](http://www.nycourts.gov/parented)