

New York Public Welfare Association

152nd Annual Winter Conference

Rough Roads

Can Lead to

Great Destinations

Preliminary Brochure

Virtual Event

January 19-22 & 25-29, 2021

Rough Roads Can Lead to Great Destinations

• January 19-22 & 25-29, 2021 • Virtual Winter Conference •

Opening Address



Tara Linh Leaman is a listener, learner, unlearner and re-learner, while speaking from her heart. As a transracial adoptee, who spent the first chapter of her life in international foster care, her voice conveys a powerful calling to share her experiences on transforming adversity into resiliency. Since May 2014, she has helped lead Westchester County's efforts to assist young people in foster care successfully transition to adulthood. Many of us know Tara's work to boost the Bravehearts, Inc., featured in past NYPWA programs, and the BraveLife Intervention, which are both youth-directed initiatives laser-focused on advancing equity through the lens of elevating youth voice and informed choice. Tara helped create our conference theme; and it is our goal that her keynote will inspire us all, knowing that Rough Roads can lead to Great Destinations.

Kathryn Muller, NYPWA President

"It's been a wild ride for everyone. A new camaraderie developed that has lasted through the challenges. Helping people is what really matters. We all have stories to share about how people find themselves in a better place because of the work that we do."

Schedule

Attend three workshops daily:

- 10:30 - 11:45
- 1:00 - 2:00
- 2:30 - 4:00

State/Local Commissioners' Meetings

Restricted, by invitation only. Separate login.

Association Meetings

Private meetings for local commissioners and NYPWA groups. By invitation only. Separate login. Early mornings and late afternoons.

Privacy Protections

- Secure virtual platform
- Attendee verification
- Webinar format
- Participants muted by host
- NYPWA collects questions in advance
- Presenters, moderators, host may speak
- Chat messages can be seen by presenters, moderators, or host only
- Screen sharing by host or presenters only
- Participants are strictly prohibited from recording any sessions

NYPWA's 152nd Annual Winter Conference

January 19-22 & 25-29, 2021 • Virtual Event

Tuesday ■ January 19

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Welcome -

NYPWA President, Kathryn Muller

Opening Address -

Tara Linh Leaman, Westchester

Building Futures

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Inspired Leadership

Our facilitator will engage our panel of local DSS Commissioners in a presentation on why it is an honor and a privilege to be a leader in these times. Topics: What examples of leadership did we see in our districts during the last year? How have we changed the way we lead and provide opportunities for staff? What do we hope for when we return to our former operating environment? How are we preparing for the year ahead? Why do you consider working in human services, and in government, to be a great opportunity?

Presenters: (more to be added)

Kathryn Muller, NYPWA President and Commissioner, Steuben County DSS

Tammy DeLorme, NYPWA First Vice President and Commissioner, Washington County DSS

Michael McMahon, NYPWA Board Member and Commissioner, Montgomery County DSS,
Facilitator

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Designing Sustainable Race Equity and Social Justice Initiatives in Child Welfare: The importance of community, staff and stakeholder engagement

Our national racial crisis has highlighted the need to move from reflection to action on addressing racial inequities, which in New York State is painfully illustrated by the continuing overrepresentation of Black children in the child welfare system. The data shows us that Black children are overrepresented at several key decision-making

points such as substantiated investigations, placement in foster care, and exits from foster care. As we strive to transform child welfare to a more just and equitable system, representatives from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) will present some research-based strategies and tools they have developed to address systemic racism in the child welfare system, including an agency-wide social justice action plan rooted in data, which addresses staff development, policy and data analysis, recruitment and retention, SOGIE and diversity events, among other activities.

Presenters:

Mary Carli, Associate Commissioner, Human Resources, NYS OCFS

Tyler James, Director of Race Equity Strategies, Division of Child and Family Well-Being, NYC ACS

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

The Child-Parent Security Act: A Simple Path to Establishing Parentage

The Child-Parent Security Act (CPSA), signed into law in April 2020, legalizes gestational surrogacy and provides a simple path to establish parentage for children born through assisted reproductive technology (ART). The new Acknowledgment of Parentage created in the law will continue to provide a streamlined administrative process to establish legal parentage of children born to unmarried parents, while also providing a process for both married and unmarried parents to formally establish their parental rights and responsibilities to a child born of assisted reproduction. This workshop will provide an overview of the CPSA, including the legal and technical aspects as they impact the Child Support Program. Related information will be shared in order to prepare for implementation by February 15, 2021.

Presenters:

Ann-Marie Yeates, Program Outreach Specialist 2, Division of Child Support, NYS OTDA

Edward W. Stano, Esq., Associate Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs, NYS OTDA

Wednesday ■ January 20

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA): Status of NYS Implementation

OCFS and Chapin Hall will present an overview of NYS Family First Implementation status. Particular focus will include Preventive Services, QRTP's, and Foster Care landscape. This session is designed to provide information to assist with local implementation.

Presenters:

Gail Geohagen-Pratt, Associate Commissioner, NYS OCFS

Renee Hallock, Associate Commissioner, NYS OCFS

Dr. Rebecca Colman, Director of Research, NYS OCFS

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Response, Recovery, and Partnership: Meeting Emergent Needs in the Child Care Field

We will focus on strategies to help meet the emerging needs in the Child Care Subsidy Program as communities continue to deal with the impacts of COVID-19. Topics include state and local government response resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, impacts on the NYS CCDF Plan and state compliance, discussion on the COVID-19 related waivers available to districts, and working foster families in need of child care.

Presenters:

Merideth Infantino, Manager of the Child Care Subsidy Program, NYS OCFS

Robert Korycinski, Director of Administrative Operations, NYS OCFS

Janice Molnar, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Child Care Services, NYS OCFS

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Child Welfare Caselaw Highlights

1.5 CLEs will be provided by the NYPWA.

This session will provide attorneys with a review of important caselaw that has emerged in and sometimes outside of New York, or in federal court that is pertinent to child protective litigators in New York. An overview of other child welfare

caselaw, complements this session and does not include the same cases. See page 9.

Presenters:

Vineet Chawla, Esq., Senior Team Leader & Legal Trainer, NYC ACS

Jennifer Sadaka, Esq., Legal Trainer, NYC ACS

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Child Support Program Updates, Session 1

This session will provide program updates at the federal and State level; 2020 performance; recently issued and in-development policy guidance impacting districts; recently released and in-development training opportunities; updates on system enhancements and releases; and other updates related to Program Operations and the State Disbursement Unit.

Presenters:

Eileen Stack, Deputy Division of Child Support Services, NYS OTDA

DCSS Managers

Thursday ■ January 21

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Diving into the Executive Budget

Budget experts from OCFS, OTDA, and DOH will discuss the Governor's budget proposal for social services in SFY 2021-22. There will be an opportunity to dig deeper into the Governor's budget as our panel of local district fiscal experts seek to clarify the new budget proposals.

Presenters:

Michael Kendall, Director, Bureau of Budget Management, NYS OTDA

Bryan Bagstad, Director, Bureau of Budget Management, OCFS

Jeremy Russell, Medicaid Unit Manager, Bureau of Budget Management, NYS DOH

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Hot Topics for State & Local Fiscal Administrators

Join local fiscal administrators and state staff from OCFS, OTDA, and DOH as we focus on fiscal matters affecting social services districts. State agen-

cies will speak on current topics and address issues submitted by local fiscal administrators.

Presenters:

Mary Bucca, Assistant Director, Bureau of Financial Services, NYS OTDA

Bryan Bagstad, Director, Bureau of Budget Management, NYS OCFS

Mala Boolchandani, Director, Bureau of Financial Operations, NYS OCFS

George Cusack, Program Research Specialist 4, NYS DOH

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Implementing SCR Reform Legislation

1.5 CLEs will be provided by the NYPWA.

This presentation will provide an overview of SCR Reform, the legislation enacted in April 2020 expected to result in change to child protective practices in New York State in January 2022, when many of the requirements take effect. This law, among other things, will change the standard of evidence necessary for child protective services to indicate reports of child abuse or maltreatment and have impacts on the family court, administrative review and fair hearing process for such matters.

Presenter:

Cassandra Kelleher-Donnaruma, Esq., Senior Director, Office of Implementation, Community Affairs and Protective Practices, Division of Child Welfare and Community Services, NYS OCFS

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Child Support Program Updates, Session 2

This session will provide program updates at the federal and State level; 2020 performance; recently issued and in-development policy guidance impacting districts; recently released and in-development training opportunities; updates on system enhancements and releases; and other updates related to Program Operations and the State Disbursement Unit.

Presenters:

Eileen Stack, Deputy Division of Child Support Services, NYS OTDA

Friday ■ January 22

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Temporary Assistance & Employment 2021

OTDA will present priorities and initiatives specifically for directors of local DSS temporary assistance and employment programs. Topics submitted by districts to info@nypwa.org in advance will be addressed during this session.

Presenters:

Alison Maura, Director of Temporary Assistance and Home Energy Assistance Programs, NYS OTDA

Stephanie Boshart, Director of Employment and Advancement Programs, NYS OTDA

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Forum

OTDA has planned the presentation exclusively for TA and SNAP Directors and staff to discuss OTDA priorities and local DSS topics (submitted in advance to info@nypwa.org) as they apply to the pandemic: Pandemic EBT Benefits for school children; COVID-19-related SNAP interview adjustments and other waivers; certification period extensions and balancing the SNAP recertification caseload; and the QC process for federal fiscal year 2021.

Presenter:

Tom Hedderman, Director of Food and Nutrition Policy, NYS OTDA

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Child Support Caselaw Update

1.5 CLEs will be provided by the NYPWA.

This session will provide a review of the significant child support-related court decisions in 2020 and their implications to local district practice and child support operations.

Presenter:

Brian S. Wootan, Esq., Deputy Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs, NYS OTDA

Monday ■ January 25

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Blind Removals and Kin-First Firewalls

OCFS has released two new policies that will improve practice at key decision-making points in the child welfare continuum – investigations and placements. These policies – the Blind Removal Process and Kin-First Firewall – align with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) of keeping children safely at home, and, when that is not possible, placing children with relatives. This presentation will provide information on performance outcomes associated with Blind Removal and Kin-First Firewall practices, and steps LDSSs and VAs can take to implement these strategies as required by OCFS policy.

Presenters:

Teresa Boykins, Administrative Analyst Trainee 2, NYS OCFS

Barbara Green-Flood, Director of Regional Operations, NYS OCFS CWCS

Naomi Schultz, Children and Family Services Specialist, NYS OCFS

Maria Lauria, Social Services Deputy Commissioner, Nassau County DSS

Dr. Mary McCarthy, Assistant Dean, University at Albany School of Social Welfare

Sabrina Marzouka, Commissioner, Dutchess County DSS

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Integrated Eligibility System Program Update (IES)

During this panel presentation, attendees will learn about IES Program updates, including accomplishments to date and plans moving forward.

Presenters:

Christopher Lloyd, IES Program Director, NYS ITS

JP Scullin, IES Operations Deputy Director, NYS ITS

Dennis Packard, IES Business Change Lead, IES Program

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Stress Reduction Strategies for Child Support Coordinators

This program provides strategies for making your professional and personal life more productive by examining priorities, improving self-motivation, sharpening time management, and reducing stress from outside influences.

Tuesday ■ January 26

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Staff Development and Succession Planning in a Virtual World

This presentation will focus on methods for continuing staff development and succession planning even while dealing with the challenges faced by managing through a pandemic. Methods will be shared to continue staff development, including virtual training and mentoring, whether in-person or through virtual meetings and unit or departmental group coaching. The combination of these methods allows supervisors and directors to learn how to set expectations, track outcomes and hold their workforce accountable even if the workforce or the supervisor are working remotely.

Presenter:

Kate Ebersole, Principal KEE Concepts Consulting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Informed Consent for Psychiatric Medication for Children in Foster Care

Numerous studies have revealed that young people in foster care are prescribed psychiatric medication far more frequently than their peers. Many of these medications are used “off-label,” and are associated with a significant risk of serious long-term health consequences. ACS' new policy, Informed Consent for Psychiatric Medication for Children in Foster Care, aims to address the issue of over-prescription of psychiatric medication to children in foster care by: improving the process for obtaining informed consent from, and improving the quality of information provided to, parents and legal guardians of children; imposing

time limits on consents to ensure that the need for medication is re-evaluated at regular intervals; and requiring clinical review either when a parent or legal guardian has declined to consent or when the treatment being provided to a child meets a certain predetermined threshold.

Presenter:

Dr. Suchet Rao, MD, Medical Director, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, NYC ACS

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Time-Out for a Pre-Recorded Video

We are offering three pre-recorded videos for your convenience to watch on-demand, or pick one to watch in this time slot. See details on page 9 of brochure.

- Confidentiality (2.0 CLEs)
- Adult Protective Services (1.5 CLEs)
- Overview of Child Welfare Caselaw (1.5 CLEs)-this is separate from highlights session by NYC ACS and does not include the same cases.

Any registered guest may view the recordings. There is a surcharge for CLEs.

Instructor: Mark Maves, Esq., Counsel to NYPWA

Wednesday ■ January 27

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Medicaid Eligibility During and Post COVID-19

Please join members of the New York State Department of Health’s Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration (DEMI) for a presentation on the latest information in resuming certain Medicaid activities during and post the COVID-19 public health emergency. This session will discuss recent guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. It will also cover other activities DEMI has been working on.

Presenters:

Lisa Sbrana, Director, Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration, NYS DOH, OHIP

Mary Frances Carr, Director, Bureau of Long Term Care/SSI-Related Populations, Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration, NYS DOH, OHIP

Kathleen Johnson, Director, Bureau of Community Enrollment and Eligibility Processing, Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration, NYS DOH, OHIP

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Long Term Care Updates

This session will explain the 2020-21 LTC budget initiatives including independent assessor and others. It will also include an eligibility update from the OHIP team on the 30-month look back for community based LTC services.

Presenters:

Cherlyn Fay, Director, Bureau of LTC Policy and Program Development, Division of Long Term Care, NYS DOH

Mary Frances Carr, Director, Bureau of Long Term Care/SSI-Related Populations, Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration, NYS DOH, OHIP

Eileen Brennan, Health Program Administrator, Bureau of Long Term Care/SSI-Related Populations, Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration, NYS DOH, OHIP

Thursday ■ January 28

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Mentorship as a Strategy for Staff Development, Support and Retention

In this presentation, you will learn how the ACS Division of Child Protection implemented a virtual peer mentorship program to support staff retention, encourage the transfer of learning through peer discussions and offer staff the ability to support each other while coping with the impact of COVID-19. The DCP CPS Peer Mentorship Program benefits mentors, mentees and the organization as a whole by creating an environment for peer learning for newer staff and opportunities for leadership skill development for experienced staff. Through the mentorship program, DCP has cre-

ated a culture of learning and peer support to strengthen the workforce charged with promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and families.

Presenters:

Helene Etienne, Assistant Commissioner of Policy & Staff Development, NYC ACS

Catherine Arman-Santana, Director, NYC ACS

Sharlene Minus, Staff Development Coordinator, NYC ACS

Heide Gersh Rosner, Manager, NYC ACS

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Local DSS Medicaid Administration Panel (This session is restricted to LDSS participants only.)

Commissioner Kira Pospesel (Greene), Marjorie Krohn (Nassau), and Carmen Hlosta (Chautauqua) will share their perspectives on changes in Medicaid Administration with Medicaid directors and other local administrators.

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Updates

1.5 CLEs will be provided by the NYPWA.

This presentation will provide updates regarding the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) program, which provides for the protection and services to children placed across state lines.

Presenters:

Sonia Meyer, Esq., Associate Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs, NYS OCFS

Carol McCarthy, Director, Bureau of Permanency Services and NYS ICPC Compact Administrator, NYS OCFS

Friday ■ January 29

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Effectively Leading A Multi-Generational Workforce

This presentation will help leaders better understand the five generational groups active in the workforce today. Participants will learn about the characteristics, work ethic and social influences of each generation. In addition, we'll discuss how each generation views work, leadership and their preferred method of communication. This knowledge will help leaders to evaluate their staff and lead a multi-generational team effectively.

Presenter:

Deborah J. Cabral, CPO, Founder & President, Cabral Enterprise, LLC

12:00 PM

Winter Conference Adjourns

Participants are strictly prohibited from recording any sessions.

NYPWA Staff

Nicole Gee, Administrative Coordinator/Conference
Kim Voelker, Director of Member Services/Conference Program Development
Rick Terwilliger, Director of Policy & Communications

Sheila Harrigan, Executive Director

info@nypwa.org • (518) 465-9305 • www.nypwa.org

Presentations for Attorneys and Interested Administrators & Staff

We have presenters' permission to offer all video recordings on-demand for CLE purposes for a period of time following the conference. The three NYPWA Mark Maves videos are pre-recorded and available starting January 19, 2021.

NY Confidential, Mark Maves, Esq., Counsel to NYPWA (2.0 CLEs):

Pre-recorded presentation on new issues covered in Confidentiality Handbook on all areas of DSS practice, including child fatality reviews, fair hearing decisions, and disclosure of information to the media and public. A variety of important confidential questions will be explored. This session is offered as a recording only. It is offered on-demand starting January 19, 2021.

For: Attorneys, commissioners, administrators, and directors concerned with confidentiality.

Adult Protective Services Legal Practice, Mark Maves., Esq. Counsel to NYPWA (1.5 CLEs):

Pre-recorded presentation on APS legal practice, statutes, regulations, and directives. This session is offered as a recording only. It is offered on-demand starting January 19, 2021.

For: Attorneys, administrators, and staff with responsibility for Adult Protective Services

Child Welfare Caselaw Overview, Mark Maves., Esq. Counsel to NYPWA (1.5 CLEs):

Pre-recorded presentation on the vast court decisions in NYS from January-June 30, 2020 covering Abuse, Neglect, Dispositions, and Permanency Hearings, Foster Care, TPRs, and Adoptions. This session is offered as a recording only. It is offered on-demand starting January 19, 2021. This is separate from the highlights session by NYC ACS and does not include the same cases.

For: Attorneys, directors of services, administrators, and staff engaged in child welfare.

Child Support Caselaw Update (2020), OTDA (1.5 CLEs):

Significant court decisions and their implications to local child support operations.

For: Attorneys and local administrators that oversee child support programs.

Child Welfare Caselaw Highlights, NYC ACS (1.5 CLEs):

Selected caselaw that is pertinent to child protective litigators in New York. Mark Maves' session, *Child Welfare Caselaw Overview*, complements this session and does not include the same cases.

For: Attorneys, directors of services, administrators, and staff engaged in child welfare.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Updates, OCFS (1.5 CLEs):

ICPC updates regarding the protection and services to children placed across state lines.

For: Attorneys, directors of services, administrators, and staff engaged in ICPC cases.

Implementing SCR Reform Legislation, OCFS (1.5 CLEs):

This new State law will change the standard of evidence necessary for child protective services to indicate reports of child abuse or maltreatment.

For: Attorneys, directors of services, administrators, and staff engaged in child welfare.

IV-E Reimbursement for Legal Representation will NOT be offered. OCFS wishes to delay this session to later in the year.

The NYPWA Financial Assistance Policy for Continuing Legal Education:

To apply, attorneys must submit a letter authorized by the local social services commissioner, explaining why this training is essential and include the unique circumstances as to why the agency and the attorney do not have the resources to cover the entire fee, and forward the request for a specific discount based on need to info@nypwa.org.

NYPWA'S 152ND ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

• JANUARY 19-22 & 25-29, 2021 • VIRTUAL EVENT •

REGISTRATION INFORMATION *(FOR LOCAL DISTRICTS ONLY)*

1. Every local district receives **two free registrations**.
2. Fee is \$100 for every person after the two free registrations. This fee covers whether you attend one or all sessions.
3. **Attorneys:** The fee is \$300 which includes the registration fee plus the CLEs, whether they view one or all sessions.
4. Complete the Registration Form and return to the NYPWA with your voucher, check or credit card information.
5. Cancellations: Registration is fully refundable. Send request to info@nypwa.org.
6. Limits: Please consider your local bandwidth capabilities. Contact us if registering an exceptionally large number.
7. Local District target audience: commissioners and upper-level administrators including deputies, attorneys, fiscal administrators, directors of services, program directors of TA, SNAP, housing, Medicaid, IT, child support coordinators and others that would benefit.
8. Participants are strictly prohibited from recording any sessions.

Please contact Nicole Gee at info@nypwa.org with questions.

NYPWA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: *(Registration Deadline; January 15, 2021)*

- 1st registrant, fee waived
- 2nd registrant, fee waived
- Additional registrant \$100.00
- Attorney (CLEs provided) \$300.00

District: _____

Name & Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number & Email: _____

Registration Contact (if other than registrant) Name, Phone Number, & Email:

NYPWA Forms of Payment:

Check: Make Payable to "NYPWA"

Voucher: Email to info@nypwa.org or use surface mail.

Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, Amex, Discover): Provide ONLY by surface mail or by phone (do not email or fax).

Card Holder Name: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Credit Card Payment Contact (if NOT the same as above [name, title, email & phone number]

- NYPWA will call): _____

Payment Options:

- 1) Mail: Please complete this form and return via mail to: NYPWA, 130 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210
- 2) Call: (518) 465-9305
- 3) Email: Send form to info@nypwa.org and we will call you for credit card information.

Please submit conference registration form:

NEW YORK PUBLIC WELFARE ASSOCIATION • 130 WASHINGTON AVENUE • ALBANY, NEW YORK 12210
PHONE: 518-465-9305 • FAX: 518-465-5633 • EMAIL: INFO@NYPWA.ORG