



Family Enrichment Network, Inc.

News & Views

November/December 2015 Edition

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(607) 723-8313, Ext. 815.



From the Desk of the Executive Director

It is shocking that the summer is gone and the leaves are falling. It seemed like a very long winter and a very short summer, yet here we are.

Over the past months, we have had several positive events which have also presented some challenges for us. We continue to develop programs and services to meet the needs of people in the communities we serve. The need is ever increasing.

Some of the challenges center on funding for our Federal, State and County programs. The funding has been provided for services, but there continues to be no annual cost-of-living increases for programs already in place. Although funding stays flat, our expenses don't. We have annual increases in health insurance, workers compensation, utilities and many other areas.

Several years of stagnant or very minimal increases have not allowed us to provide adequate salary increases for staff. We continue to ask them to do more, but are unable to support them with an adequate salary.

The populations in our service areas have fallen over the past decade; evident in the number of qualified applicants we attract for the positions we have available. The bottom line is we have community need, funding for those needs, and a shortage of staff.

When you factor in the number of unfunded mandates placed upon our Agency and our staff, filling positions becomes even more difficult. Our documentation requirements are becoming so burdensome that we are spending more and more time doing paperwork and less working with the families we serve.

We are at a point where we have more positions open than we ever had before. Over the next several months, we will make a concerted effort to bring these issues to the attention of legislators and other officials.

We could not do what we do without the support of the staff, the Governing Board, and the entire community. Our staff this past year has worked tirelessly to assist us in moving this Agency forward and meet the needs of children and families. We thank you for your past support of our Agency and look forward to future partnership opportunities.

Darrell R. Newvine,
Executive Director

Growing Tomorrow's Leaders ... Today.

Enriching the Commu-

Head Start

Health and Safety is one of Family Enrichment Network's number one priorities. All staff are trained quarterly on our Health & Safety Procedures and our classroom staff conduct daily Health and Safety checks to ensure all environments are free of any potential hazards. Our Program Operations Coordinator also conducts monthly inspections with a member from our maintenance team to correct Health and Safety issues immediately and works with classroom teams to set their environments to prevent unnecessary injuries.



Head Start & Early Head Start employ the six strategies of Active Supervision which include: setting up the environment, listening, redirecting children, anticipating children's behavior, scanning & counting, and positioning staff. Staff are trained on Active Supervision quarterly and consistently use the techniques throughout their day. These strategies prevent safety, supervision, and health issues from possibly occurring.

Health & Safety is viewed as everyone's responsibility at Family Enrichment Network no matter what position they hold. Our job is to keep our children and our staff safe while they are with us and we have put procedures in place to ensure this is our top priority at all times.



Clinic Plus

The Clinic Plus program has been offered through Broome County Mental Health since 2007. In 2014 BCMH collaborated with Family Enrichment Network to continue the program.

1. What is the Clinic Plus Program?

The Clinic Plus Program offers free, voluntary, and confidential social-emotional health screening for children ages three and older in order to promote early identification of the strengths and difficulties children in Broome County may be experiencing. Emotional health issues can affect how well a child does in school, family relationships, and ability to make friends.

2. How is the screening conducted?

The Clinic Plus Program uses the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ), a research-based screening instrument which focuses on five distinct areas of a child's emotional well-being. The five focus areas are: emotional symptoms, conduct, hyperactivity, peer relations, and prosocial behavior. The SDQ is distributed through participating school districts and early childhood education programs for students ages three through fourteen (or Grade 8). Parent packets include a program information sheet, letter from the School Superintendent or Program Director, consent form and SDQ form, and a return envelope. Parents return the completed consent/SDQ form in the sealed envelope to school or by mail. Clinic Plus staff will collect returned surveys from the school, score the results, and return results to parents/guardians.

3. Who receives the questionnaire results?

Results are only shared with parents/guardians, unless permission to share the results with teachers or school counselors is provided. All parents who complete the survey and consent form will receive results and information about local service providers. If a child's scores point to possible emotional or behavioral difficulties, we will provide recommendations for follow up services with providers who can conduct a more comprehensive assessment if needed. Parents/guardians can decide if they wish to share the results with anyone else such as a family doctor.

The program benefits are endless. Research tells us that if emotional health issues are identified early, families can seek help to keep these issues from affecting emotional, physical, and educational development and possibly prevent long-term problems. Early detection, guidance, and support are just a few of the services families will receive.

You will be happy to know Family Enrichment Network families actively participate in the program as well as over 20,000 other children in Broome County. We partner with 12 school districts and work closely with school personnel to guarantee children and families are receiving support needed for the best possible outcome for their child and family.

For more information please contact our Clinic Plus Coordinator,
Kami Dutcher, at kdutcher@familyenrichment.org or at 778-1111.



CCR&R is excited to announce our new program: Eat Play Grow!



EatPlayGrow™ is a new early childhood health curriculum developed between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Children's Museum of Manhattan (CMOM). We are proud to bring this 2-year initiative to our area with funding from Excellus.

The curriculum offers a series of 11 healthy lifestyle lessons with hands-on activities, essential facts and simple strategies which make healthy choices fun and easy to include in daily routines—at home, at school or in the community. Each educational lesson is aligned with the appropriate National Pre-K Health Performance Standards and addresses the multiple ways children learn through storytelling, art-making, music and movement activities to teach the importance of making positive choices in the areas which most affect health: nutrition, physical activity, and sleep.

Designed for use by families, educators, home-based childcare providers, community organizers, health advocates, librarians, and others who work with young children, the *EatPlayGrow™* curriculum can be easily adapted into family life and existing programming, or stand alone as its own health unit!

Programs who want to participate will receive the curriculum and supplies needed to implement the curriculum for free! You will also receive training and individualized support for incorporating the curriculum into the program.

For information or to sign up,
call Linda Miller at (607) 723-8313 ext. 894
or email lmiller@familyenrichment.org.

NEW PROVIDERS

Broome Family Child Care: Fantasia's Playhouse—Ruth Lyons

Chenango Family Child Care: Sarah Crawford, Berna Cross, Jennifer Stewart



The Broome County CCR&R Office is Moving!

The CCR&R staff located in Broome County are moving their offices to Fayette Street, Binghamton effective November 1, 2015.

The CCR&R phone number and extensions are staying the same!

All CCR&R mail should still go to 24 Cherry Street, Johnson City, NY 13790.

All CCR&R trainings and workshop events will still take place at 24 Cherry Street, Johnson City, NY 13790.

The only difference will be for appointments. We will now be located at 29 Fayette Street, Binghamton, NY 13901. (Yes, our old location!)

Any questions can be directed to CCR&R Director, Jennifer Perney at jperney@familyenrichment.org or (607) 723-8313 ext. 872.



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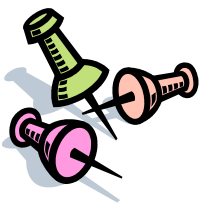
**Alecia is at Family Enrichment every Tuesday from
10am-1pm**

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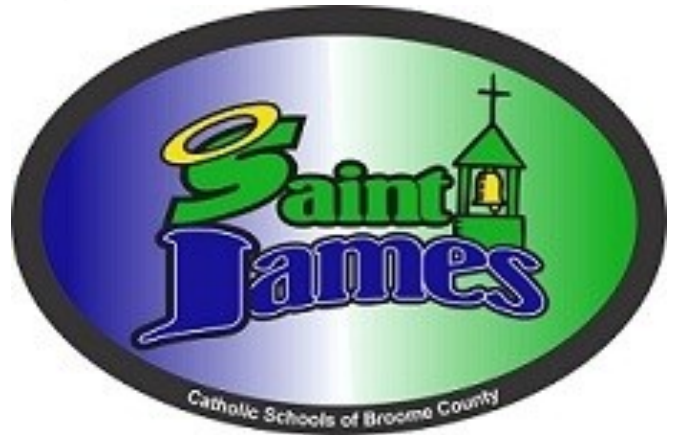
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Employee Spotlight

Hello! My name is Alana Nosar, and I am the School Psychologist for the Special Education Services Department. I just started about a month ago, and I love my position here at Family Enrichment Network (FEN). I get asked a lot “What does a school psychologist do?” I wanted to take a few minutes to answer that question.

I like to think of my position as a “resident problem solver”. As a school psychologist, I support our children’s ability to learn and our teachers’ ability to teach. I apply my expertise in mental health, learning, development and behavior to help children succeed academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. I work with families, teachers, administrators, and other professionals (such as speech language pathologists, PTs and OTs) to create safe, healthy and supportive environments which strengthen connections between home, school, and the community.



Special Education Services - School Psychology

One of the jobs is completing psychological or developmental/educational evaluations to assess a child’s potential need for special education services. We evaluate a child and report on their strengths and weaknesses, so personalized interventions can be developed to enable the child to be successful in the classroom and beyond.

However, this is not the only thing we do. We consult with families through the OPWDD Grant to offer pro-active Behavioral Support Services for children who struggle with challenging behaviors (such as Autism Spectrum Disorders). These services enhance a child’s well-being, and improve daily functioning and social competence.

We are also available to consult with teachers when they have concerns about a child’s development or behavior. We work with teachers to collect data and improve support strategies when children are struggling in the classroom. The psychologists are a resource for ideas on handling aggressive behaviors, difficulty with transitions, teaching and reinforcing coping and social skills.

In the near future, we will begin doing play therapy and counseling with our preschool students. Social skills and coping skills in both individual and group sessions will be taught.

We hope everyone has a little better understanding of what the psychologists do at FEN, and will seek them out as a valued resource when necessary. We all need support at times, and that is what we’re here to do for children, teachers, and families.





Each year Family Enrichment helps to match families who would not be able to provide holiday gifts for their children with local donors. Many businesses and individuals help to provide gifts for these families. Your generosity touches the hearts of our local children and their families and forever changes their lives. We would like to thank everyone who has been a part of this program in the past and all of you who will find it in your hearts to give again this year. It reminds us of the true spirit of the season and inspires us all with hope.

If you would like to adopt a family this season or would like to contribute to this or one of our many programs please contact:

Kelly Weiss @ kweiss@familyenrichment.org, (607) 723-8313, Ext 847.



It is that time of the year that we will be gathering coats for our children and their families. Please help our efforts by donating a new or gently used coat at Raymour and Flannigan's or one of our other locations. WBNG will have updates on other drop off locations and Bates Troy will be helping us by picking up these coats, cleaning the coats and dropping them off to us. We can't thank our sponsors and you the community enough for all the help and support that they provide to this program. Last year we collected over 3,300 coats and we were able to make sure no one was turned away. What a difference it makes in the lives of these children to keep them warm and healthy!!! Thank You!!!

For more information please contact Kelly Weiss @ kweiss@familyenrichment.org, or at (607) 723-8313, Ext 847.

We wish you all the happiest of holidays and a giant thank you from our entire Agency!



Heat and Eat.

With **SNAP**, you don't
have to choose.

When temperatures go down, heating bills go up. SNAP is a monthly supplement that stretches your food budget so that you don't have to choose between heating your home and buying groceries.

Our local **Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) Coordinators** can provide a free prescreening to see if you may be eligible for SNAP.

Our NOEP Coordinators help you fill out the SNAP application, gather paperwork, and send it in. They can even help with home visits and language translation. It's free and confidential.

Contact your local NOEP Coordinators today at: **Family Enrichment Network**

Broome County
Tioga County

NOEP Coordinator
NOEP Coordinator

(607) 723-8313 x827
(607) 687-6721 x1190

Prepared by a project of Hunger Solutions New York, USDA/FNS, and NYSOTDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

DID YOU KNOW...

- FEN held our 37th Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn on October 9th. We had a nice breakfast buffet, gave awards to outstanding individuals of 2015, and featured our new Mission Statement emphasizing partnerships with families and community
- In November, FEN will partner with local businesses for our annual Coats for Kids Drive; Please donate children's and adult's coats; We will arrange to have them dry-cleaned and offer them to our community
- Adopt-a-Family starts up in November. 2014 was successful and we hope 2015 will be too. If you would like to "Adopt-a Family", please contact:
Kelly Weiss, Director of Special Events & Projects
Telephone: (607) 723-8313, ext. 847
mail to: kweiss@familyenrichment.org

As we move into the holiday season, Family Enrichment Network thanks our community for their continued support!

That's how we're Growing Tomorrow's Leaders... To-



Calendar of Events

November Events

Child Care Resource and Referral

12	6:30-8:30pm	Provider Training: Keeping Children & Yourself Safe"	Owego
17	6:30-8:30pm	Provider Training: Early Childhood Trauma	JC
19	6:45-9:15pm	Provider Videoconference: Managing Challenging Behavior	JC/Owego/ Norwich
30	6:30-8:30pm	Provider CACFP Training: Minding Our Peas and Cues	Owego



December Events

1	6:30-8:30pm	Provider Training: Combating Childhood Obesity	JC
9	6:30-7:30pm	Provider Training: Small Talk: Holiday Crafts	JC
10	6:30-8:30pm	Provider Training: Stay Calm & Carry On	Owego





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they make in our community.

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