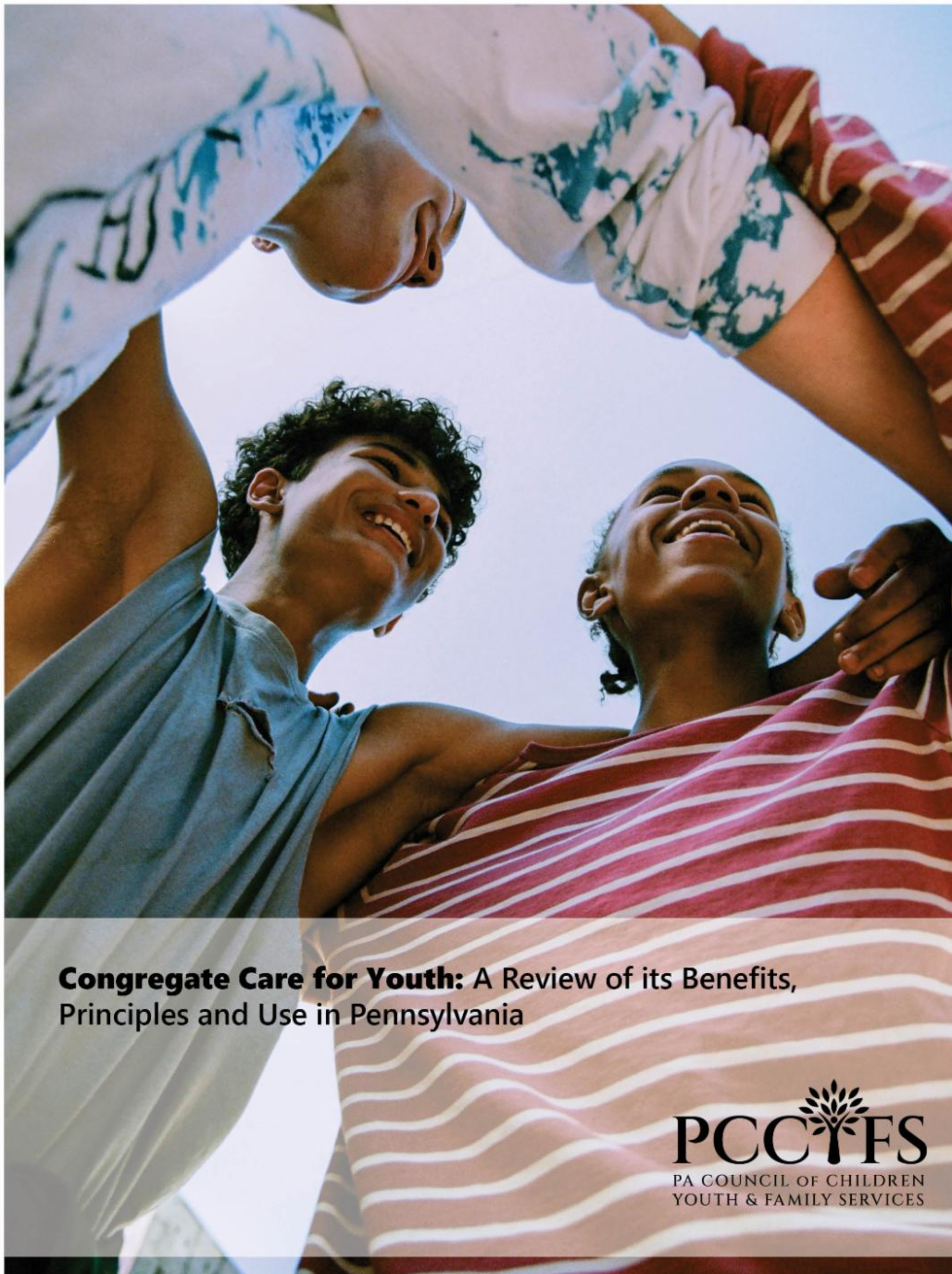




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October 27, 2023



**Congregate Care for Youth: A Review of its Benefits,
Principles and Use in Pennsylvania**



PCCYFS Report Evaluates the Needs Addressed by Children's Congregate Care Settings

PCCYFS released a report, *Congregate Care for Youth: A Review of its Benefits, Principles, and Use in Pennsylvania*. The report includes an overview of the principles and processes applied when identifying an appropriate placement setting for youth in Pennsylvania. It also outlines the various types of oversight to which congregate care settings are subject and other sources of data regarding the use of congregate care settings for Pennsylvania's young people.

"There is a lot of dialogue lately around the need and use of congregate care settings. While

the children's services system continues to move in the right direction by emphasizing community-based and home-like settings, there is still a subset of young people and children who continue to need more intensive support," said PCCYFS President and CEO, Terry L. Clark. "This report gives our system an idea of where service gaps exist. As we emphasize placement in community-based and home-like settings, it is important that we also build a comprehensive network of services that ultimately means that no young person, regardless of how complex their needs, are left behind."

Read the report [here](#).

Missed the Binti - Concern Webinar? Watch it here.

[Presentation Link](#)
[PPT](#)

About the Presentation:

Resource Family Approvals Made Easier: Binti and CONCERN's Partnership



In a recent presentation with CONCERN and Binti, PCCYFS members learned how technology can empower their agency to streamline the application process for resource parents, enabling staff to approve more families and bolster recruitment. Binti's first-of-its-kind portal allows prospective foster parents to fill out their paperwork online. Workers can monitor families' progress, log background checks and training, and see high-level reporting on the health of your licensing and recruiting processes.

Binti is a mission driven technology company focused exclusively on building software to empower better outcomes in child welfare. Since its launch in 2017, Binti has grown quickly through measurable results to work with over 400 child welfare agencies in 34 states, including 10 states state-wide. Binti's software is in use with agencies serving over 38% of children in child welfare in the US.

Speakers:

Paulena Kulp -Supervisor of Foster Care Intake and Recruitment, CONCERN
Meredith Congelio- Foster Parent Recruiter Greater Berks Region, CONCERN
Gavin Laughlin- Partnerships Manager for Pennsylvania, Binti

Contact Gavin Laughlin at (978) 273 - 3534 or gavin@binti.com

Specialized Setting Certification SFY 24-25 - Application Deadline November 30

This is a reminder while Letter of Intent (LOI) deadline has passed, there is still time to submit for the Specialized Setting Certification for SFY 24-25. The deadline for application

packets is November 30th, 2023 and can be submitted to: RA-DepSec@pa.gov.

Questions regarding the Specialized Setting Certification process can be sent to ra-PWFamilyFirst@pa.gov or directed to your contact at the county specific Regional OCYF office. More information can be found on the PA Keep Kids Safe web site [here](#).



November 15, 2023
10:00 am - 12:30 pm

The annual presentation and discussion will be held by Zoom Meeting, available to any interested partner and/or any others that may be interested. Together counties and providers, with support from OCYF, will present the history of the Rate Methodology Task Force 2019 Recommendation and information on opportunities to enhance the contracting process and create a collaborative environment. A discussion will be focused on the timing, negotiation, and financial forecasting for the Needs Based Plan and Budget, as well as include an overview of the Provider Needs Based Plan and Budget Tool. This event is mainly developed for county fiscal staff and decision makers, as well as placement and community-based service providers contracting for ACT 148 services, however, any other interested member may attend.

To attend the session via Zoom Meeting, please register at the link below. Please submit any questions or feedback to be addressed at the training session by November 9, 2023, to: hspr@pccyfs.org

To register: [Register Here](#)

Sponsored by PA Council of Children, Youth & Family Services (PCCYFS) and Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators (PCYA)



Annual PCCYFS / PCYA Enhancing County/Provider Contract Discussions Training

The annual Enhancing County/Provider Contract Discussions training has been scheduled for Wednesday November 15 from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Historically, this annual training has been held in the spring, but due to requests, this FREE training opportunity has been moved to near the end of the calendar year.

PCCYFS is collaborating with PCYA and other partners to continue providing this opportunity to increase the understanding of, and collaboration on, the contracting process for child welfare and juvenile justice services. This training focuses on building a collaborative environment for the financial planning and contracting process by reviewing important timelines, discussing challenges from all perspectives, evaluating how data can play an important role, and outlining opportunities for technical support.

For more information, please navigate to the Resources area of the PCCYFS website for more details and helpful resources. Use link <https://pccyfs.org/enhancing-county-and-provider-contract-discussions/>

Please register by [clicking here](#).



PCCYFS Legislative Updates



Read the latest updates [here](#).

CWRC Diversity Task Force: Community Conscious Trauma Awareness

November 1, 2023

9 am – 12 pm

The Diversity Task Force 2023 virtual event is an interactive session presented by Sakia Foster and the PA Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC) Diversity Task Force, to provide participants with opportunities to explore how systems of oppression, especially racism, generate unique forms of trauma for individuals and groups alike. Participants will focus on the consequences for those impacted by these unique forms of trauma and turn to the trauma-informed approach as a strategy for individual and collective healing.

This workshop is intended for public and private child welfare professionals and is eligible for up to 3 continuing education credit hours.

Please register via Bridge by October 25, [here](#).

Blueprint: Youth With Complex Needs

PA Department of Human Services (DHS) has convened a Blueprint Workgroup to develop recommendations to improve the systems that support youth (and their families) with complex needs. Meetings with the workgroup have been convened and updates will occur when information is received. DHS had a complex case steering committee in the past who

met and spoke about concerns with the current complex case referral process that is in place and the steering committee may regroup in the future to discuss recommendations from the Blueprint Workgroup. This Blueprint Workgroup (consisting of families and youth, county human services partners, behavioral health partners, providers, education) was brought together to discuss changing the current complex case process and look at ways of how PA DHS can support youth. Read more about the Blueprint Workgroup and view a PowerPoint presentation from DHS [here](#).

Call for Speakers and Poster Submissions for PA's 21st Children's Interagency Conference

The 21st Children's Interagency Conference titled, Shine the Light on Mental Health/Building Youth Wellness & Resilience, is on April 22, 2024 to April 25, 2024 in State College at the Penn Stater. This conference provides an excellent opportunity for providers, county administrators, youth, family members, practitioners, and educators to come together and learn about changing trends, promising and best practices, resources, and various systems of care activities across Pennsylvania. Learn more and to apply to be a presenter [here](#).



Behavioral Health Updates

Community Behavioral Health (CBH) –CBH to Host In-Person Research Symposium on Parental Behavioral Health

CBH will be hosting an in-person research symposium about parental behavioral health on Wednesday, November 8, from 8:30 am to ...

[Read more](#)

PCCYFS/2024 Conference

for Child Welfare, Children's Behavioral Health,
Juvenile Justice & Education Professionals



SAVE THE DATE!
APRIL 10 & 11

Upcoming PCCYFS Board of Directors Meetings

January 24, 2024 – 10 am

April 10, 2024 – 5 pm

June 26, 2024 – 10 am

Any members with questions about these meetings may e-mail hbgooffice@pccyfs.org.

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OUR MISSION: PCCYFS is a leading, statewide membership organization serving as a united voice for our valued partners through education, data, resources and advocacy towards achieving a brighter future for children, youth and families.

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