



PCCYFS

PA COUNCIL OF CHILDREN
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

A UNITED VOICE FOR PROVIDERS

April 4, 2025

Welcome to PCCYFS

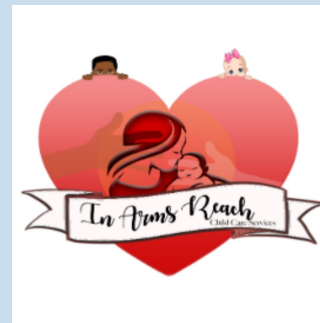
New Members



TRAC Services for Families For Our Kids. For Our Families.

TRAC's mission is to provide a range of services and resources for children, youth, adults and families to ensure stable relationships and strong community connections.

VISIT



Unique Care Provided by Devoted Hearts!

In Arms Reach Child Care Services provides an array of amenities for parents, care givers, and children in need. We are an outlet for families in the community with educated and skilled childcare

VISIT

PCCYFS Members Only Training

Supporting Providers as They Navigate Custody Issues

A Virtual Presentation for Pennsylvania Council of Children,
Youth and Family Services (PCCYFS) Members



Join Tucker Arensberg attorney [Marisa K. McClellan, Esq.](#), an accomplished child welfare leader and advocate for families, for an informative session tailored to foster and adoption agencies and placement providers serving children with special needs. This will be a question-and-answer session about custody laws in Pennsylvania.

Date & Time:
May 6, 2025, from 12:00 - 1:00 PM

To register and submit questions, click here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rwUF-FA0qSDqnArvPcbspjA or e-mail PCCYFS at hbqoffice@pccyfs.org.

Tucker Arensberg: A Full-Service Law Firm
Tucker Arensberg has over 85 attorneys serving clients across Pennsylvania and beyond. In addition to family law and child welfare, we provide services in general business law, mergers and acquisitions, labor and employment, insolvency and creditors' rights, health care, litigation, estates and trusts, school and municipal law, technology and intellectual property, energy, real estate, workers' compensation, employee benefits, banking, criminal defense, investment management, and fiduciary services.

About the Presenter: **Marisa K. McClellan, Esq.**

With over 20 years of experience, Marisa represents clients in custody, divorce, and adoption matters and has served as court-appointed counsel and Guardian ad Litem in parental rights cases. Before joining Tucker Arensberg, she served as Administrator at Dauphin County Children and Youth, overseeing child welfare services, legal operations, and fiscal management. Marisa has been instrumental in implementing innovative programs for youth with special needs and advocating for statewide child welfare improvements.

For more information, contact Marisa K. McClellan, Esq. at mmcclellan@tuckerlaw.com or (717) 221-7961.

TUCKER ARENSBERG
Attorneys

The PCCYFS Legislative Advocacy Page is now LIVE!

This is where members can find all the up-to-date information on current advocacy efforts, bill tracking, PCCYFS advocacy wins, Public Policy Priorities, Public Policy Committee meetings, and more! Note that you must be logged in to review the bill tracker. Check it out [here!](#)



University of
Pittsburgh

School of
Social Work



Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center

ONLINE WEBINAR: Drug Use and Trends in Pennsylvania



April 17, 2025

1:00pm-2:00pm

Drug Use and Trends in Pennsylvania

In this one-hour webinar, participants will learn current information about drug use in Pennsylvania and the United States with a member of law enforcement. Lancaster County Deputy Chief Michael Winters will discuss commonly used drugs and current drug trends and will include current data and overdose reports. Deputy Chief Winters will also discuss the signs and symptoms of drug use.

FY 25/26 Pre-Contractual Budget Submission - 2nd Reminder

This notice is a reminder for the quickly approaching budget submission timeframe for FY 25/26 for all providers who have not yet submitted their pre-contractual budget packets or submitted and received approval of an extension through May 1st.

Please submit all placement services pre-contractual budget documentation forms for FY 2025-26, along with any associated required support documentation to OCYF via the resource account: ra-ocyfcontracts@pa.gov. When submitting, include the following in the subject line of the email: "Legal Entity/Parent Org Name" _FY 25-26_Initial Submission.

Where applicable, the submission shall include all:

- Foster Family Home/Supervised Independent Living Placement Services packet template and associated support documentation.
- Residential Placement Services packet template and associated support documentation; and
- Indirect Administrative Expense Packet template and associated support documentation.

As outlined in the updated Draft bulletin 3170-24-XX, OCYF will accept submissions March 1, 2025, through April 15, 2025. A two-week extension to the deadline may be approved by OCYF for providers experiencing extenuating circumstances that would prevent them from meeting the March 1- April 15th submission period. However, the extension request must be received in the OCYF resource account by April 1. Please refer to the bulletin for additional guidelines and deadlines for requests to be made. The bulletin also outlines ramifications for non-submissions.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact the resource account: ra-ocyfcontracts@pa.gov with any questions or concerns.

Congregate Care History Survey

PCCYFS is developing a resource that outlines a recent history of congregate care settings and the financial and policy-related decisions that have impacted their capacity to operate and are [issuing a survey to gather input from our congregate care providers](#). While general best practice encourages the use of community-based and home-like settings, the needs of the youth our systems serve have not changed and have, in fact, become increasingly more complex. Similarly, there are a number of conversations happening at the state level around complex cases and the barriers within the current service array to effectively support certain youth. As lawmakers and other state-level decisionmakers have this discussion, PCCYFS would like to put together a resource on behalf of providers that shares the “story of congregate care” and how we got to this point. **We are asking all congregate care providers to complete [this survey](#) to help inform how various policies have impacted your work. Please complete [the survey](#) below by COB April 4.** If you'd like to contribute to the project but would prefer a discussion rather than filling out the survey, contact us at hbgoffice@pccyfs.org to schedule some time with our staff.

Scholarship Opportunity for Foster Children

The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA is announcing a scholarship available to students who have been in foster care at some point in their lives. Please pass along this information to anyone who might be eligible.

Taylor J. Ertel Scholarship for Foster Children has been created for:

- PA resident who has been placed in foster care by a child welfare agency at some point in their lives
- Admitted to a program of study: training may range from short vocational courses such as cosmetology, data entry or welding, through college and graduate study

Additionally, scholarship opportunities can be viewed [HERE](#) and students may apply from this page. The application portal where students can create an account and complete a universal application can be found [HERE](#). For step-by-step instructions to apply, click [HERE](#)

Pennsylvania Psychiatric Leadership Council - Centers of Excellence Spring Conference

The upcoming Pennsylvania Psychiatric Leadership Council/Centers of Excellence spring conference, happening on Monday, **April 28, 2025**, is being held at Best Western Premier (800 E Park Dr, Harrisburg, PA 17111). Breakfast is at 8am and the meeting begins at 8:30am. You can attend in person or via zoom.

The title is **Reimagining the Mental Health System: Steering the Behavioral Health System in Times of Change and Turmoil**. Some of the topics that will be discussed are a federal update with keynote speaker, Tim Clement (Vice President of Federal Affairs, Mental Health America), state and members updates on where we are at this moment with PA's Behavioral Health Council, how to address concerns/empower distressed communities for those left behind and happenings in distressed communities.

Earn up to 7 Free CME (Continued Medical Education) & CE credits available

Tentative Agenda
RSVP



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**Annual Conference
2025** for Child Welfare, Children's Behavioral Health,
Juvenile Justice & Education Professionals

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Join us for the PCCYFS Annual Conference, a premier two-day event offering valuable opportunities for professional development. Attendees can earn CEU credits while engaging in a variety of enriching activities, including a networking mixer, a captivating murder mystery event, and much more. Don't miss this chance to connect with industry professionals and advance your knowledge in the field.

PCCYFS NextGen Leadership Institute


PCCYFS NextGen Leadership Institute: Equipping the Future Leaders in Human Services



Leadership & Management Training with Motus9

- ✓ Align and implement Vision, Values, and Mission
- ✓ Learn to manage during change & difficulties
- ✓ Address elephants and have difficult conversations
- ✓ Master the art of effective decision-making
- ✓ Improve your ability to manage down and laterally



 October 13th, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Followed by Networking Dinner
October 14th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

 Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC)
403 East Winding Hill Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

for more info visit pccyfs.org/leadership-institute



PCCYFS, in partnership with Motus9, are excited to announce the PCCYFS Leadership Institute: Equipping the Future Leaders in Human Services. This will be an exciting professional development series beginning this October. It will be a two-day learning opportunity, which includes several virtual bridge session opportunities to help with the transfer of learning.

This will be held **IN PERSON** at the Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC) in Mechanicsburg, PA, on **October 13 & 14, 2025**. In an effort to keep this as a small group learning environment, only a **LIMITED AMOUNT OF TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!**

Visit our [website](#) for more information, including details on the workshops.

Tickets are **NOW AVAILABLE!** PCCYFS Members can purchase discounted tickets during the current **EARLY ACCESS WINDOW**.

Tickets include the in-person and virtual learning opportunities, including all meals during October 13 & 14. An evening dinner networking opportunity is also included. Please visit our [website](#) for more information and to register.

Stop by the Motus9 table at the **PCCYFS conference** on April 9 & 10 for more information!

Please contact hbgoffice@pccyfs.org with any questions.



[Read the latest PCCYFS Legislative Updates.](#)

Behavioral Health Updates

**Carelon – Carelon Health of PA’s First Quarter
2025 Provider Newsletter**

[Access the Provider Newsletter here!](#)

Continuing the initiative set forth in previous editions, Carelon is encouraging providers to take part in their culture of celebration. Are things happening in your practice that you believe should be celebrated? Carelon wants to hear about it! Whether it be a team, a new program or service, a collaboration, or a positive treatment outcome, your efforts towards serving Carelon members are worthy of recognition, and Carelon wants to join you in highlighting that which is worth celebrating.

As always, time-sensitive communications will be sent out through mailing list from the Carelon Health of PA team and archived on the [Provider Alerts](#) section of Carelon's website. [Archived editions of our Provider Newsletter](#) are also accessible online.

The provider voice is an important one. If you have suggestions about this newsletter, ideas about future articles, or a story worth celebrating please let Carelon know through their provider relations email at ProviderRelationsGeneralInbox@carelon.com.

Community Behavioral Health (CBH) – New! Evidence-Based Behavior Management Principles and Intervention Strategies for Outpatient and Mobile Therapists

April 23, 2025, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This training focuses on addressing behavioral concerns for children with externalizing disorders that are risk for a range of social difficulties, academic failure, and other comorbidities. Evidence-based interventions are largely based on principles of positive reinforcement while engaging parents and teachers in the child's treatment plan. This presentation will review the evidence-based interventions that have been shown to be most effective for youth with externalizing disorders across decades of research including reward systems, differential reinforcement, and strategies for scaffolding the environment. This virtual training is free and intended for mental health clinicians (particularly outpatient and mobile therapists) working with elementary/school-aged clients. BHTEN is a co-sponsor of this workshop. CEUs are available. Register [HERE](#).

Wellness Days by Youth MOVE PA

In the summer of 2025, Youth MOVE PA is thrilled to announce the 5th Annual Wellness Days Carnival Edition, "Shattering the Stigma," which will take place at Northmoreland Park in Apollo, PA, and Kirby Park in Wilkes-Barre, PA. This year's events promise to be a vibrant celebration for children, young adults, family members, and service providers alike. Attendees can look forward to a variety of activities, including a DJ, music, guest speakers, community resource booths, balloon art, face painting, food trucks, a bouncy house, arts and crafts, a caricature artist, and opportunities to meet first responders—all offered free of charge.

We express our heartfelt gratitude for the remarkable partnerships and sponsorships

that have contributed to making this year's 5th Annual Wellness Days Carnival Edition, "Shattering the Stigma," our most successful yet. This year's partners and sponsors include The PA Care Partnership, Luzerne-Wyoming Counties, PerformCare, Carelon, the Transitional Age Youth & Young Adult Advisory Group (TAAG) of Carelon, AMI Inc., The Bradley Center, Pyramid Healthcare Inc., Youth MOVE Revolution, and The Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association.

Registration is now open!

Questions may be directed to [Kevin Puskaric](#)

The Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) Updates

[Quarterly Information Sessions](#)

[Quarterly Fiscal Meetings](#)

[Chapter 7 - Medical Assistance Policy](#)

[Reimbursement of Administrative Costs of Independent Legal Representation of Children, Youth, Parents and Relative Caregivers in Dependency Proceedings](#)

Upcoming PCCYFS Events

PCCYFS Annual Conference

April 9/10

PCCYFS Board Meeting

April 9, 2025 5:00pm

Custody Laws in Pennsylvania ~ Question and Answer with Maris K McClellan, Esq.

May 6, 2025 12:00pm - 1:00pm

PCCYFS Board Meeting

June 25, 2025 10:00am

See the full [PCCYFS calendar of meetings and events](#) and email hbgoffice@pccyfs.org with any questions.

PCCYFS Newsletter Archive

Looking for information from a previous PCCYFS newsletter? Visit the [PCCYFS Newsletter Archive](#) which is now live on pccyfs.org.

Support PCCYFS with a donation! [click here](#)



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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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