



May 2, 2025

Congregate Care History Survey - Deadline Extended to May 2, 2025

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 we 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 decision makers 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 May 2.** 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.

Know Your Rights for Employers: Immigration and Human Services (Webinar)

The Pennsylvania Council of Children Youth & Family Services (PCCYFS) is partnering with the American Business Immigration Council (ABIC) and Monty & Ramirez, LLP for webinar designed to help employers, especially for those in the children and human services sectors, state up to date on immigration developments and their rights within this space. The agenda will include presentations on: proactive employer strategies, compliance and readiness, I-9 Audits, the current state of affairs, responding to ICE, federal funding limitations, and other relevant topic areas. This webinar is open to both members and non-members.

Organizations with a specific interest in children/human services are encouraged to attend as spaces are limited – register today!

Please note, this webinar will not be recorded. CEUs are not available for this session.



Do you have an interest in child welfare and ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of Pennsylvania's children?

Do you want the opportunity to take an ACTIVE role in protecting children from abuse and neglect?

JOIN THE



CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS

TODAY



<https://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/CRP/JoinUs.html>

Applications will be accepted from April 15th through July 15th. Orientation for new members will take place in October 2025.

For more information, e-mail the CRP Coordinator at PACRP@pitt.edu

A collaborative effort of the Department of Human Services, the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center, and the Pennsylvania Children & Youth Administrators Association



Join Pennsylvania's Regional Citizen Review Panels Today! Accepting Applications through July 15th

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is partnering with the University of Pittsburgh Child Welfare Resource Center to recruit for the Pennsylvania Citizen Review Panels (CRPs). The CRPs are groups of volunteer citizens who are tasked with examining policies, procedures, and practices to make recommendations to DHS for improvements to the child welfare system in Pennsylvania. CRPs partner with state and local children and youth agencies and rely on maintaining respectful and positive relationships with these agencies to complete their work. To learn more about Pennsylvania's CRPs, including their mission, vision, function, and members, visit the website at www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/CRP.

We are currently recruiting new members to fill open spots on all three active panels:

· **Southeast Panel:** Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties.

· **North Central Panel:** Bradford, Blair, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union Counties.

· **Northwest Panel:** Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Counties.

We are requesting that you forward this information to your contacts and/or provide the names and contact information of individuals you feel would be a good fit for the panels and live or work within the counties listed. An online application can be accessed through the "Join" page on the CRP website. Referral information can be sent to the CRP Program Development Specialist, Kari Coccagna, pacrp@pitt.edu.



Imagine Different...Achieve Different Coalition

ALTERNATE FAMILY RECRUITMENT FORUM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FORUM AND PANEL PRESENTATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 10AM-12PM

ZOOM WEBINAR

Hundreds of children with developmental disabilities are unnecessarily growing up in congregate care settings because of the insufficient availability of alternate family homes in both the child welfare and developmental disabilities systems. This forum will provide an opportunity for agencies across systems and across counties to share their family recruitment ideas.

A panel of alternate family recruitment professionals from Access Services, CONCERN4Kids, Diakon Adoption and Foster Care, EveryChild, TX Inc., and Spectrum Community Services, as well as webinar attendees, will share effective strategies for securing successful family foster homes and Life Sharing homes for children with developmental disabilities.

Click to Register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_51SS4I6gQpel2w7Ij9AQyw

We believe all children should grow up in families and, with the right supports, this can happen for all children with disabilities.

For more information, contact:

Sallie Lynagh
Coalition Organizer
slynagh@pealcenter.org

www.imaginedifferent.org

The Imagine Different...Achieve Different Coalition will be having a Zoom webinar on 5/21/25 from 10am-12pm titled Alternate Family Recruitment Forum. During this presentation, the coalition along with a panel of several provider agencies will be speaking about different family recruitment strategies for youth with developmental disabilities. Register [here](#).

PCCYFS Members Only Training

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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 hbaoffice@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

PCCYFS will continue to update our [NEW ADVOCACY PAGE](#) with resources to support our members' individual advocacy efforts. We've just added two new resources – check them out today!

- **Advocacy Tips:** For members who are just starting to meet with legislators and want some tips on how to get this work going, check out this [resource here](#).
- **Medicaid Talking Points:** As members are meeting with legislators, PCCYFS has put together some [talking/data points](#) to support continued funding for Medicaid.

Federal Education Department Seeks Public Input

on Streamlining Loan Forgiveness Programs

The U.S. Department of Education is seeking public comment to streamline regulations for federal student aid and loan repayment programs, including Public Service Loan Forgiveness, Income-Contingent Repayment, and Pay as you Earn. The Department aims to revise Title IV regulations, which Acting Under Secretary James Kvaal has identified as a barrier to innovation and a contributor to rising higher education costs. **Public comments are accepted through May 5.**

The Department also has the intention of hosting public hearings and establishing rulemaking committees to prepare proposed regulations. The in-person hearing will be held on April 29, 2025, from 9am to 4pm and the virtual public hearing will be held on May 1, 2025, from 9am to 4pm. Additional information on the hearings is available [here](#).



Community-based child welfare providers across the United States are facing challenges accessing adequate and affordable liability insurance. The National Organization of State Associations for Children (NOSAC) and the Association of Children's Residential & Community Services (ACRC), in partnership with multiple state associations and national partners, are attempting to understand the size and scope of the problem nationwide and the risks that this challenge presents to effective public-private partnerships in support of child and family welfare. If your organization provided any services related to foster care and child welfare in the last five years, this survey is for you!

We are requesting one response per organization by end of day May 9, 2025. Please share widely.

[Take the Survey Here](#)


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.

Please contact hbgoffice@pccyfs.org with any questions.

Youth Intervention Center - Now Hiring in Lancaster County

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania is seeking a Director for its Youth Intervention Center, a dynamic, multi-purpose facility which provides detention, shelter care

and alternative rehabilitative treatment programs for delinquent and dependent youth aged 10-18. Leadership candidates should be thoroughly knowledgeable of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems and processes, adherents of evidence-based practices and approaches, and trained in trauma-informed care.

This position will work collaboratively with youth serving agencies and providers, County Commissioners, a Board of Managers, the juvenile Court system, and stakeholder entities in ensuring regulatory compliance, and the health, safety and well-being of all residents and staff. Salary range is \$84,468.80-\$126,713.60. Posting date ends 5/14/25. Please visit the Lancaster County Human Resources website [here](#).

Workforce Crisis Survey

Faculty at the Social Work Department of Kutztown University of PA are conducting research on the workforce crisis impacting Pennsylvania's Child Welfare System through an anonymous survey for child welfare caseworkers. Agency staff who work directly with children, youth and families should participate in this study by completing the questionnaire. This includes any positions that interact with clients as part of their responsibilities, including case carrying supervisors. This is an opportunity to expose the nature of private provider workforce in the third phase of the pre-during-and post COVID eight-year study. Responses will be kept completely confidential, and individual submissions will not be identifiable. Aggregate data will be shared with all members of the PA General Assembly in the form of an executive summary to ensure that our elected officials are fully aware of the challenges facing child welfare workers.

[Survey Link](#)



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

Behavioral Health Updates

Community Behavioral Health (CBH) – Certified

Peer Specialist Training

Training starts June 9, 2025

A Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) is a person willing to self-identify as a person with a serious behavioral health disorder (mental illness or co-occurring disorder) and lived experiences. To be certified, the person must have received specific training in the role, functions, and skills of the Certified Peer Specialist position.

The purpose of a CPS is to support others in their recovery process. This relationship between peers is characterized by mutual trust and respect, sharing of experiences, learning about the recovery process, supporting the peer in multiple settings, achieving goals, and moving toward a more meaningful life in the community.

If you are interested in being trained to be a CPS, [download the most recent application](#) and [submit the application](#) along with all required attachments via email.

Please refer all questions and concerns to DBHIDS.PeerCulture@phila.gov.

Community Behavioral Health (CBH) – Join the MHOP Learning Collaborative Champions Monthly Meetings

The Mental Health Outpatient (MHOP) Learning Collaborative Champions is an open group for MHOP providers that meets monthly to share resources, support one another, and advocate for providers and members. There is no minimum attendance requirement. In addition, this group plans information sessions for the wider MHOP provider network on salient topics such as organizational trauma, racial disparities, and provider network access. We welcome new participants! If you are interested in joining or visiting this group, please contact [Fairleigh Barnes](#).

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](#)

PCCYFS Member Binti Offers Free Training Opportunity on Kinship Care on May 6th

Please consider joining PCCYFS member Binti as they hold a free training titled “Empowering Kinship Care: Lessons from Experts and Leveraging Technology for Stronger Connections”.

Children thrive in kinship care, yet finding and engaging family members remains a persistent challenge for child welfare agencies. How can innovative technology and expert strategies help overcome these barriers? Join this engaging webinar featuring child welfare leaders and technology innovators who have successfully transformed family finding efforts.

REGISTER HERE! This virtual training opportunity will be on May 6th at 1:00.

Speakers include:

- Tiffany Collins from Binti who was a former leader of one of the largest family finding units in the United States.
- Deborah Cook from Thomson Reuters, who is a Government Solutions Director with expertise in data-driven family search.
- Jason Slonceski from Westmoreland County, PA, who is the Assistant Director & hands-on user of Binti’s Family Finding and Engagement module.

Learning Goals:

- Proven strategies for identifying and engaging kinship caregivers.
- How technology is streamlining family finding efforts.
- Real-world success stories from the field

This training is designed for child welfare executives, directors, managers, supervisors, and frontline workers seeking to enhance and strengthen kinship care practices.

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

[Training for Child Residential Facility Staff](#)

[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

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

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

Know Your Rights for Employers: Immigration and Human Services Webinar

May 12, 2025 11:00am - 12:00pm

PCCYFS Public Policy Committee

May 14, 2025 2:00pm - 3:30pm

PCCYFS Board Meeting

June 25, 2025 10:00am

PCCYFS Annual Conference 2026

April 8 & 9, 2026

See the full [PCCYFS calendar of meetings and events](#) and email hbgooffice@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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