



NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

And

OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

And

OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

David A. Paterson, Governor

Gladys Carrión
Commissioner
Office of Children & Family Services

Elizabeth R. Berlin
Executive Deputy Commissioner
Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance

Amy Barasch, Esq.
Executive Director
Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Dear Commissioner and Domestic Violence Service Provider:

We are writing to provide you with an update regarding our work to revise the domestic violence program regulations and to propose ideas for next steps.

As you may know, after some broader conversations, subcommittees convened to address specific issues related to the regulations. Out of those subcommittees, some initial improvements to the regulations were identified that could be accomplished without changes to social services law, as well as some larger issues that are still under consideration. In this time of fiscal challenge, moving forward with these regulatory changes will assist in streamlining the process and reducing the burden on providers and localities. We also acknowledge the concerns raised regarding timely reimbursement to programs for services provided, especially in cross-jurisdictional cases, and are also working to streamline and improve that system, including the development of some training to further clarify the reimbursement process.

Given the focus on real and proposed budget cuts, now may not be the time for government or the nonprofit community to conduct intensive work on the regulations. However, since we have a good list of consensus items for regulatory change and of those items still requiring further conversation, we are circulating it one last time for comment so we can move forward promptly. The regulatory reform process involves a public comment period, at which point any further concerns can be raised. Please let us know of any remaining concerns by 7/29/10 so we can move to the public comment process more quickly.

As for the more complex issues, we propose setting up a date for a broad meeting at a time when people will have the ability to travel and re-focus on this work. Please reach out to any one of us with any questions and/or concerns about this proposed process.

Many thanks for your engagement, and your continued work in the field. Again, let us know about any questions/concerns with the attached proposed amendments by 7/29/10. At that point, we will move forward with the regulatory reform process.

Sincerely,

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Elizabeth R. Berlin
Executive Deputy

Amy Barasch, Esq.
Executive Director