

Social Services Districts' Protective Services for Adults Units Recognized for Outstanding Programs & Practices

The New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) has awarded *Certificates of Recognition for Outstanding Programs and Practices Promoting Protection of Vulnerable Adults* to eight social services districts. The certificates were presented by OCFS Associate Commissioner Kirk Maurer and Bureau of Adult Services Director Alan Lawitz at the Adult Abuse Training Institute on Sept. 15 at the Albany Marriott.

According to OCFS Commissioner Gladys Carrión, Esq.: “With these Certificates of Recognition, we are identifying and publicizing a number of innovative ideas and best practices for protecting vulnerable adults that we hope will be adapted and replicated across the state. As with our previous rounds of recognition, we also celebrate the critical role played by all Protective Services for Adults workers in serving some of our most vulnerable clients.”

The following social services districts received certificates, for the following programs and practices:

- **Columbia County Department of Social Services:** *Adult Services/Foster Care Teaming Initiative*, creating a team to provide services to bridge the gap between adolescence and adulthood.
- **Dutchess County Department of Social Services:** *Use of Case Manager Aides* to provide valuable services (transportation, shopping, teaching homemaking skills) to Protective Services for Adults (PSA) clients, working in conjunction with PSA case managers and supervisors.
- **Nassau County Department of Social Services:** *Homeless Intervention Team*, comprised of representatives of several county agencies, whose mission is to provide outreach and immediate shelter and services to the homeless.
- **New York City Human Resources Administration:** *Financial Focus (Automated System for Management of Representative Payee Accounts)*, serving over 2,500 clients, replacing the previous system which involved nine separate systems applications, backed up by manual ledger books.
- **Orange County Department of Social Services:** *Mental Health Supportive Case Management – DSS/PSA Collaborative*, in which DSS provides adult preventive financial management, and other case management needs are met by the mental health system. *Orange County Adult Abuse and Neglect Task Force*, a coalition of community agencies, businesses and individuals that meet to resolve complex cases, partner with other providers to serve the needs of vulnerable adults and increase public awareness of the abuse and neglect of elderly and disabled adults. *Adult Services Petty Cash Fund*, a fund established voluntarily by agency employees in memory of a co-worker, which provides additional funds to respond to food and medicine emergencies, as well as some of the day-to-day needs of the clients.
- **Rockland County Department of Social Services:** *DSS (Determined to make Seniors – and all adults – Safe)*, an annual campaign to raise public awareness of the issues of adult abuse and neglect.
- **Schenectady County Department of Social Services:** *Collaboration Works!*, a program of extensive outreach, training and collaboration with other agencies in the community, improving outcomes for PSA clients.
- **Tompkins County Department of Social Services:** *Tompkins County Task Force on Hoarding*, a multidisciplinary team that organized a conference on hoarding and developed a field guide and an assessment tool in response to increased demand for more local hoarding resources, and which accepts referrals on hoarding cases.