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Commissioner

Informational Letter

Transmittal:	13-OCFS-INF-07
To:	Commissioners of Social Services Executive Directors of Voluntary Authorized Agencies
Issuing Division/Office:	Strategic Planning and Policy Development
Date:	November 20, 2013
Subject:	Council on Children and Families New Website: Coordinating Council on Children with Incarcerated Parents
Suggested Distribution:	Directors of Social Services Adoption Supervisors Planning Coordinators Staff Development Coordinators
Contact Person(s):	Council on Children and Families-Cate Bohn (518-473-5606) Cate.Bohn@ccf.ny.gov NYS OCFS SPPD-Tom Hoeg (518-402-3976) Thomas.Hoeg@ocfs.ny.gov
Attachments:	No
Attachments Available Online:	N/A

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
11-OCFS-ADM-07			Social Services Law (SSL) 384-b(7)(a); SSL 409-e; 18 NYCRR 430.12; Chapter 113 of 2010		

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Informational Letter is to inform districts and agencies of a new website developed by the Council on Children and Families (Council) devoted to

children with incarcerated parents. This new website provides information and links to helpful materials that may assist with the development of an effective service plan for families with an incarcerated parent. The use of the website resources may also be a part of the social services district's diligent efforts to work with families with an incarcerated parent. The website is located at: <http://ccf.ny.gov/CIP/index.cfm>

II. Background

During its 30-year history, the Council has served the State's health, education and human services agencies developing and implementing cross-system strategies to enhance the availability, accessibility and quality of services for children and families. The Council's website is located at: <http://ccf.ny.gov/>

The Coordinating Council on Children with Incarcerated Parents (CC CwIP) brings together key state agencies, community-based organizations and individuals, including formerly incarcerated parents and family members of incarcerated parents, to improve the lives of children of incarcerated parents. Under the leadership of the Council and in partnership with the Osborne Association and the Division of Criminal Justice Services, CC CwIP addresses ways to improve practices that support children and families. This covers issues that span from the point of parent arrest to issues pertaining to parent-child communication during incarceration and family reunification. The CC CwIP welcomes the input of formerly incarcerated parents and other family members.

The CC CwIP website offers a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section that lists the Council's partners, contacts, and resources. The website currently features an excellent resource; the Sesame Street production *Little Children Big Challenges: Incarceration* in English and Spanish for children, adolescents, families and service providers impacted by incarceration. More information on Sesame Street resources on incarceration is available at:

<http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/incarceration>

III. Program Implications

Districts, agencies, and service providers are invited to utilize the website to inform family service plans and as a resource for their diligent efforts to support children and families impacted by incarceration.

/s/ Jeanne Milstein

Issued By:

Name: Jeanne Milstein

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Strategic Planning and Policy Development