



Securing Every Child's Birthright[®]

While CCC's work has made positive contributions to the lives of New York City Children, staggering numbers of young people continue to go without the services and opportunities they need for a productive, independent adult life. As we reflect on 60 years of advocacy in the service of New York City children, there is still much to be done.

Last fall, CCC embarked on an important policy initiative to chart a new course for the future. Called the 60th Anniversary Initiative, this effort was conceived to offer policymakers and New Yorkers a new and different way of thinking about children. Charged with "thinking big" about the issues facing New York City children, youth and families, partici-

pants were asked to build on CCC's mission and develop a set of proposals to advance structural and lasting improvements for children.

After careful study, we identified three basic issues that affect the well-being and future of every New York City child – and we consider their birthright:

- Economic security – Understanding too well how the daily assault of poverty damages children and families, we are calling for a series of actions that promote and build upon New York City's newly created Earned Income Tax Credit to provide economic security for children and working parents and lower the rate of child poverty.

continued on page 4

Empowering New York City Teens

CCC's YouthAction NYC members provide training at after school and youth development programs in neighborhoods throughout the city. YouthAction NYC peer trainers deliver important information and tools that enable youth to assess their community's strengths as well as unmet service needs. The sessions empower youth to engage in the civic life of their community and the city's budget process, armed with data and research to support their priorities for children, youth and families.

Don't miss out on this unique and important resource for youth who want to learn how to advocate for the services they need and want in their communities and their city – contact Betsy



YouthAction NYC students Melissa Williams and Victoria Fleischer register voters for the presidential election.

Guttmacher, Program Coordinator for YouthAction NYC at 212 673-1800x20 or

bguttmacher@kfny.org for more information or to schedule a peer training.

INSIDE

A Message from Board Leadership	2
Two New Child and Youth Policy Reports Released.....	3
60th Anniversary Breakfast.....	5

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD LEADERSHIP

THE BOARD



Judith A. Garson, President, Gail B. Nayowith, Executive Director, and Heidi Stamas, Chairman.

This fall has been an exciting and productive one at CCC, with staff and volunteers immersed in the research, advocacy, community education and other activities to celebrate CCC's 60th anniversary. This milestone provided an opportunity to look at CCC's accomplishments over the past six decades and served as a catalyst for fresh thought about children's issues. An in-depth analytic effort undertaken by the Board, Advocacy Council, staff, and colleagues resulted in a new initiative, *Securing Every Child's Birthright: Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe*, that will focus on economic, residential and developmental security. This initiative will shape our advocacy activities in the coming year,

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toward our goal of improving the lives of New York City children. The new campaign will be undertaken as an accompaniment to other CCC work including Task Forces, policy and program development, and city and state budget advocacy.

This year, opportunities for volunteer involvement include participating in Task Forces on homeless youth, juvenile justice,

early care for children with special needs, and the health and mental health needs of children in foster care. A new edition of *Keeping Track* will be released in the spring and a Task Force convened to take data out into the community. A Candidate Task Force will meet with candidates for public office to educate them on issues that affect children.

Another successful Community Leadership Course has been completed with Community Day in Crown Heights. The fall YouthAction NYC Community Leadership Course (YCLC) has also drawn to a close with an enthusiastic group of students from private and public high schools educated and ready to join CCC's volunteer corps. Our series of Policy Briefings has also been completed with expert speakers and lively discussions with the audiences. Thanks to all of you who

continued on page 3

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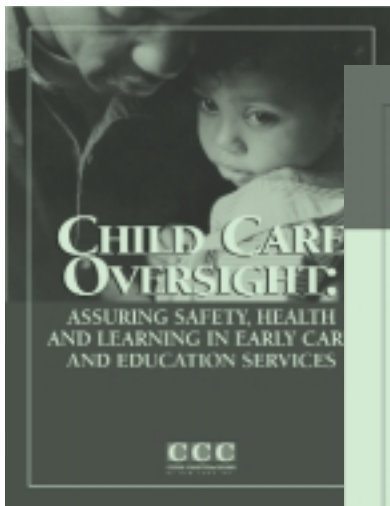
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Policy Change Needed to Protect Children in Day Care and Foster Care

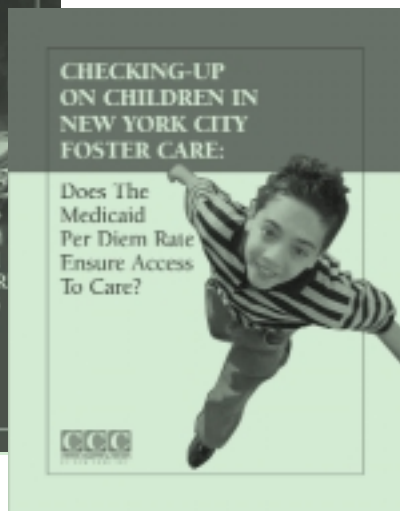
The death of a baby in a group family child-care program in Queens rightly focused public attention on the agencies whose responsibility it is to promote quality child care programs, child safety and development. The circumstances surrounding this tragic event highlight the profound importance of careful monitoring and oversight of childcare programs and providers. It is only with meaningful oversight that New York City can provide children with safe environments and promote the healthy development of children.

This October, CCC released its latest report, *Child Care Oversight: Assuring Safety, Health and Learning in Early Care and Education Services*. *Child Care Oversight* examines the role of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), Bureau of Day Care both prior to and after implementation of the New York State Quality Child Care and Protection Act. Placing regulations and oversight in the context of child care financing, city and state quality initiatives, and recent legisla-



tion, *Child Care Oversight* assesses the quality of child care oversight provided by New York City's system of early care and education, and its implications for children and families.

Child Care Oversight finds that strong childcare regulations are an important means of assuring child care quality. States that have more stringent licensing standards have fewer low quality child care centers, suggesting that raising standards raises quality of care. However, regulations are only effective when they lay out clear expectations for those held accountable and when accompanied by regular and thorough monitoring



and technical assistance. To read this report in its entirety please visit www.kfny.org.

In February 2005, CCC will release "*Checking-Up on Children in NYC Foster Care: Does the Medicaid Per Diem Rate Ensure Access to Care?*" This report documents how the availability of adequate health insurance for children in foster care continues to be treated as a child welfare issue separate and apart from the state's public health insurance agenda.

Children in foster care represent a high-need population whose multiple health and

continued on page 4

Message

continued from page 2

participated and to the staff and volunteers who did the behind-the-scenes work to make these activities so interesting.

Many thanks to all of you who helped to make our Celebration Breakfast a resounding success. It was a great opportunity for CCC to get our message out to a large group of people and to connect with others interested in child well-being. Your presence and show of support for CCC are invaluable and your gen-

erosity helps to advance CCC's crucial work. We were proud to give the Eleanor Roosevelt award to our own Gail Nayowith for her extraordinary leadership and tenacious efforts on behalf of New York City's children. Planning has begun for our next fund-raising event—the preview night of the Works on Paper show to take place on March 2, 2005 at the Park Avenue Armory. Please call Judy Garson (ext. 29) or Heidi Stamas (ext.24) if you are interested in joining a task force or the benefit committee for Works on Paper. Happy Holidays!

Policy Change

continued from page 3

mental health problems and multi-system involvement require comprehensive care coordination and ready access to needed health and mental health services. With the recent success of New York's facilitated enrollment initiative, many of the children entering foster care are likely to have been enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care. However, upon placement in foster care, the health insurance coverage for most children changes and they are disenrolled from their Medicaid managed care plans. Once in foster care they are subject to two types of Medicaid reimbursement: 1) Medicaid Fee-For-Service; and 2) the Medicaid per diem rate.

Sadly, this two tier-system of Medicaid coverage leaves children in foster care with fragmented, uncoordinated outpatient health and mental health services and without ready access to needed services. Reimbursement rates and regulations also discourage much needed communication between health, mental health, and child welfare service providers. From a fiscal standpoint, maintaining three separate systems of Medicaid reimbursement – child welfare, health, and mental health – results in an inefficient allocation of resources to the detriment of the children in foster care and the foster care agencies that struggle to address their needs.

Failing to address the health and mental health

needs of children in foster care has serious and adverse effects on children. The inability to obtain needed treatment often hampers the achievement of permanency planning goals, extends the length of stay in foster care, and prolongs an abused or neglected child's recovery. An improvement in Medicaid coverage for these children is long overdue. CCC urges policymakers to join forces and make the fiscal, regulatory, and policy changes needed to enable health, mental health, and child welfare providers to deliver comprehensive, coordinated, and quality health and mental health services to children in foster care.

Upon its release this report will be available on www.kfny.org.

Birthright

continued from page 1

- **Housing security** – Because every child needs a secure home environment to thrive, we seek a multi-pronged approach of affordable housing, rental assistance and home ownership to promote stability and increase the supply of affordable housing so that fewer families are at risk of losing their homes.
- **Developmental security** – Since every child deserves the developmental underpinnings of success, we will work with local policymakers to build upon New York City's early care and education programs to insure developmental security. Effective programs begin at birth, and have proven results in supporting families and laying the foundation for children's success in school and in life.

These issues are broad in their reach, seeking to move as many children as possible into a positive and productive adulthood, prepared for the challenges of work and family life and to do so with renewed civic enthusiasm and faith in our system of government.

Taking up these issues, doesn't mean that we will neglect our obligations in child welfare, mental health, juvenile justice, or youth development, or reduce our focus on state and city budgets. But, we're committing to

up the ante, raise the stakes, and elevate our game and to come at the economic issues of childhood and family life, head on.

Doing so will require New Yorkers – families, government and residents alike — to imagine a better, greater city for our children. We want to inspire you to take action for New York City's young people. And we want to insure for every child as a birthright — a life of security, opportunity, and achievement.

SAVE THE DATE

Works on Paper

A PREVIEW PARTY TO BENEFIT CCC

Wednesday, March 2, 2005 • 6-9 PM
Park Avenue Armory (at 67th Street)

Honorary Chair: Werner H. Kramarsky
Co-Chairs: Alexander Cortesi and Wendy Mackenzie, Judith A. Garson and Steven N. Rappaport, Nancy and Alan N. Locker & Katherine and Joseph Mele

Tickets start at \$150.
For more information,
call (212) 673-1800, ext. 10.

60th Anniversary Celebrates CCC History and Future

On October 19th, 2004 Citizens' Committee for Children (CCC) marked 60 years of service on behalf of New York City children with a breakfast celebration at the Waldorf=Astoria. The event launched a new campaign – *Securing Every Child's Birthright: Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe*. This bold initiative aims to address three key areas that affect the well-being and future of every New York City child: economic security; residential security and developmental security. (See article on front page.)

Bob Kerrey, President of the New School University, Member of the 9-11

“There is no greater challenge or more important public issue than doing all that we can for our children,”
— Bob Kerrey

Commission and former Senator and Governor of Nebraska, delivered the keynote address at the breakfast celebration to 700 CCC supporters. He touched upon the economic, educational and societal needs of children and youth. “There is no greater challenge or more important public issue than doing all that we can for our children,” said Mr. Kerrey. He noted that terrorist threats posed a lesser risk to American children than did



Board members Lee A. Link, Samuel Peabody, and Martha J. Olson, Esq. at the 60th Anniversary Breakfast Celebration.



the risks associated with failure to provide quality education and early childhood opportunities and added “we’re not spending enough time or money on our children.”

Kaplan, Inc., a company dedicated to providing life-long education, was honored with the Samuel P. Peabody award for Pro-Social Corporate Action. Through scholarships, Kaplan has brought its stellar SAT preparation and tutoring services among other educational innovations to students nationwide. The Samuel P.

Peabody award for Community Activism was presented to **Richard E. Green**, Founder and Chief Executive of the Crown Heights Youth Collective. The Collective provides services and programs to develop the potential of youth in the community of Crown Heights, Brooklyn encouraging peace and constructive problem solving.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Award was given to **Gail Nayowith**, CCC’s Executive Director since 1992, for her commitment to New York City’s children.

CCC’s 60th Anniversary Annual Report can be viewed and downloaded from CCC’s website www.kfny.org or call 212-673-1800 x 11 to receive a copy by mail.

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York Annual Report 2003-2004



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