



Quarterly Newsletter

F a m i l i e s o n T h e M o v e o f N e w Y o r k C i t y , I n c .

- Children’s Mental Health Month
- FOTM begins Just the Basics Advocate Training

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May is Mental Health Awareness Month

New York City recognizes May as Mental Health awareness month. Each borough holds a community forum or event for families in acknowledgment of mental health awareness. If you are interested in attending one of these events in your borough please contact your local Family Resource Center.

The National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health has declared the first full week in May 2nd-8th as National Children’s Mental Health Awareness week. This week as well as the entire month is dedicated to increasing public awareness about the accomplishments and challenges in children’s mental health on a local, national and global level. It is also an opportunity to emphasize the importance of family and youth involvement in the children’s

mental health movement.

The theme for 2010 is **Promoting Positive Mental Health from Birth to Adulthood**. This week and the entire month is an opportunity for state and local chapters as well as family support programs to promote positive mental health, well-being and positive social development for all children and youth. **When you attend an event remember to wear your green ribbon as a show of support.**



Children’s Mental Health Matters.

The following messages are to be promoted during May:

- Mental health is essential to overall health and well-being.
- Serious emotional and mental health disorders in children and youth are real and treatable.
- Children and youth experiencing mental health challenges and their families deserve access to services and supports that are family driven, youth guided and culturally appropriate.
- Stigma associated with mental illness should be eradicated.

FOTM Begins Training Advocates in Just The Basics

Families On The Move has designed a 3-day training for current and future youth and family advocates. The training highlights the roles and responsibilities of an advocate providing information, examples, and resources identified as necessary to prepare advocates for the

work ahead. A total of twelve family and youth advocates completed the training on March 29, 2010. The training will be available on a quarterly schedule. The next training will be held on June 28th-30th. The training site is the Office of Mental Health NYC field office.



Families On The Move partners with Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services to provide parenting classes

FOTM in partnership with JBFC is providing parenting education classes at our office, **358 St. Marks Place**. The classes are being offered in both English and Spanish once a week for 13 weeks. The English classes are held on Mondays from 10:30am-12:30pm. The Spanish classes are held on Thursdays from 10:30am-

12:30pm. We have recently expanded to a third class (English only) which will be held in the evenings from 6pm-8pm to accommodate working families. The class will be held on Wednesday evenings in the conference room. We provide the families with coffee and juice as well as a light refreshment during the time of the class.

Families are encouraged to not only listen and learn but to share their experiences as a parent/caregiver with the group, if they so desire.

The classes follow the **Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities: A Violence Prevention Parent Training Program**. We will soon be expanding to an area near you.



Presence is more than just being there.

Malcolm Forbes

Department of Education Information for Parents

Information found on the DOE website in "A Parent's Guide" To Special Education Services For School-Age Children

IEP what is it?

The IEP documents your child's eligibility for special education services and formalizes the school system's plan to provide special education services that are appropriate for their unique needs. It contains specific information about your child and the education program

designed to meet his/her needs, including:

- Child's current performance in school and goals to be accomplished in a year.
- Any special education and related services, including speech, counseling paraprofessional support, etc.
- Participation with non-disabled children and/or mainstreaming opportunities.
- Participation in state and citywide tests, promotion criteria and diploma objectives.
- Means of measuring your child's progress.

ACS and DJJ to Integrate Operations

Effective January 20, 2010 Mayor Bloomberg announced the integration of ACS and DJJ in an effort to increase the public safety and improve outcomes for children and youth.

The plan is the integration of programs which will make possible the long term

planning for youth and their family in the Juvenile Justice system and place them on a path toward school, work, and non-recidivism.

The new division is called the Division of Youth and Family Justice of ACS. On February 4, 2010 an announcement was made presenting

Laurence E. Busching as Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Youth and Family Justice of ACS. Mr. Busching was most recently the Chief of Family Court Division for the New York City Law Department. Please refer to the ACS website for additional information on this agency merger.

"There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction"

Winston Churchill

Families On The Move to begin working with Community Residences



FOTM expanding our services and providing technical assistance so that they family voice is present.

Families On The Move of New York City, Inc. has partnered with ICL and the Coalition for Hispanic Families on a new RFP (request for proposal) for community residence housing adolescents and youth experiencing emotional/behavioral or mental health challenges.

As a part of the RFP FOTM will provide technical assistance and/or training to the community residences (CR's) working with staff on using strength based

practices to engage families, while also providing trainings for advocates. The goal is to include families in all aspects of care in a culturally competent, non-stigmatizing way recognizing and valuing their strengths in order to produce the best possible outcomes for children and families.

This is only the beginning of overcoming the barriers of family inclusion and engagement in CR's.

Community Involvement and Outreach Committees

In recent months FOTM has established a strong working relationship with the ACS office on Staten Island, as well NY Foundling, Seamen's Society, and SCO Services on Long Island. This relationship has been forged through outreach and the promotion of parenting class facilitated in the FOTM offices. FOTM receives referrals from these

agencies and FOTM helps the case workers promote family driven and youth guided receives.

FOTM participated in the recent Legislative Breakfast held on Staten Island and continues to reach out to legislators across the five boroughs promoting and advocating for families and

caregivers with children and youth experiencing emotional, behavioral or mental health challenges. If you would like to attend an event in your borough please surf the FOTM website for your community information. The web address in www.fotmny.org.

“ACTION EXPRESSES PRIORITIES!”

Mohandas Gandhi

Message from the Executive Director

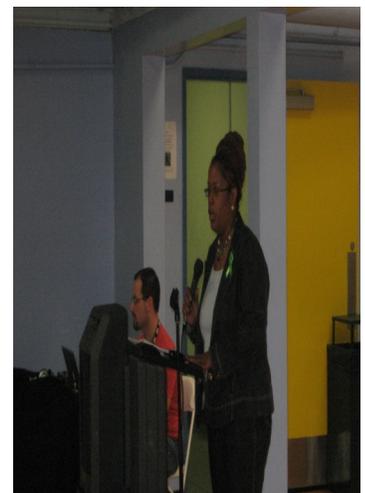
Dear FOTM Members and Partners,

Families On The Move of New York City, Inc. continues to grow by leaps and bounds in membership, staff, trainings and projects. FOTM continues to impress upon leaders and stakeholders in NYC and beyond the importance of the family and

youth voice as it relates to decision making.

This year FOTM is celebrating 5 years as a force in NYC for advocacy and systems change. This is the result of the hard work of the families and youth who have found it not robbery to let their voices be heard and to say, “nothing for us without us.” I

would like to thank our system partners, community supporters, legislators and other stakeholders for their support. I believe that FOTM will continue to grow effecting systems change in NYC and the entire state of NY. I look forward to a wonderful 2010 and an even brighter future.





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**Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow... Families On
The Move**

Families On The Move of New York City, Inc. is a non-profit family run organization dedicated to providing support, education and advocacy for families and caregivers of children and youth who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing emotional, behavioral or mental health challenges. FOTM is the first family run organization to emerge out of the New York City system of care. The organization was incorporated in 2005. Since its inception, FOTM has advocated for family and youth involvement on every level and systemic changes in service delivery.

For further information or contributions to the newsletter please contact Carleton Archer Outreach Coordinator at CArcher@fotmnyc.org or 347-682-4873.

Children's First Network : The Impact On Children and Families

The Children's First Network—CFN is an initiative designed to integrate **OPERATIONAL** and **INSTRUCTIONAL** support to schools. The structure combines the traditional network support team and the functions of the **ISC** (Integrated Service Center) to create an integrated, small cross functional team. **CFN** structure brings operations closer to schools. The goal of **CFN** is to expand and devolve as much decision-making power as possible to the people who know their schools best—principals, teachers and school staff. The **Network Team** is aligned to service the unique needs of its schools. The ultimate goal is to streamline operations,

align resources to schools and build capacity within schools so principles can focus time and resources on instruction thereby accelerating student achievement. The **CFN** network will serve an average of 25 schools.

The CFN Vision:

Each **CFN** team supports schools with three specialized teams: ***instruction***, ***student services***, and ***operations***. Teams meet once per week to discuss past and upcoming events/challenges. Teams are able to work closely together on cross functional projects. Excellent day-to-day support characterized by rapid and accurate responses to requests

and issues.

Three main goals of **CFN**:

- **Improve Efficiency**
- **Increase Service Quality**
- **Student Achievement**

CFN has a two year phase-in process focusing on the advancement of student learning and achievement. The timeline will begin in Spring/Summer of 2010 and be totally implemented by the 2011-2012 school year. For more information go to the **DOE** website.