

John B. Mattingly
Commissioner

October 2, 2009

Valerie Russo
Deputy Commissioner

Ervine Kimerling
Executive Director

Division of Quality
Assurance
James Satterwhite
Academy
492 First Avenue -5th
Floor
New York, NY 10016

646-935-1301 tel
646-935-1583 fax

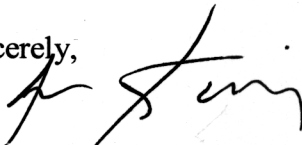
The Administration for Children's Services (Children's Services) continues to develop and build a more professional staff to protect children and strengthen families in their communities. From encouraging staff to attain MSW degrees, to Childstat Quality Improvement case reviews and enhanced training, our agency is focused on continuously improving the quality of frontline practice.

The Social Work Education Consortium and NYC schools of social work are important partners in attaining our goals. We share an interest in promoting the profession of child welfare and in inspiring current and potential social workers to enter and remain in this field. We also share a commitment to educate staff with broad knowledge, the ability to think critically and to ensure competency in the skills necessary to work with children and families. At the James Satterwhite Academy we are working with child welfare programs to implement "best practice" and a professionalized workforce through all of our training and professional development initiatives.

This teaching guide is a product of the connections and collaborations that have developed through the Social Work Education Consortium. ACS administrators and staff, along with faculty and staff of the New York City schools of social work collaborated to select child welfare cases, recruit social work faculty members, and produce this collection of teaching guides. This has been a labor of love, headed by Dr. Carol Cohen of Adelphi School of Social Work, who has persistently carried this project to conclusion and inspired us with the need to infuse MSW coursework with 'real' child welfare cases.

Our vision is that these teaching guides will help to produce social workers with knowledge of child welfare issues and practice. Increased exposure to child welfare content will provide students with an opportunity to make informed choices about entering the child welfare workforce, as well as help current child welfare staff enrolled in MSW programs apply theory to real practice. If current and potential employees are aware of both the challenges and rewards of working in child welfare, they will come into our organization better prepared which will ultimately result in a more stable workforce.

Sincerely,



Ervine Kimerling