



Southern Adirondack

Child Care Network

Strengthening the Quality of Children's Early Care and Learning



Annual Report

2014-2015



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The Southern Adirondack Child Care Network is a not for profit child care resource and referral organization, formed in 1992, to further the provision of quality child care services for parents, child care providers and businesses in Hamilton, Warren and Washington counties of New York.

The purposes of the organization are:

- To develop, strengthen and improve area child care services;
- To recruit, assist and train child care providers;
- To assist parents with finding and selecting child care;
- To work with employers to assist with the child care needs of their employees;
- To inform the community of child care issues.

2014-2015 Board of Directors

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Colleen Majiezka, **Child Care Food Program Educator**

Linda Scimeca, **Child Care Food Program Educator**

Lynn Sickles, **Executive Director**

Community Partners

Warren County Head Start

Washington County Head Start

Children's Health Insurance Connection

Warren County Department of Social Services

Washington County Department of Social Services

Hamilton County Department of Social Services

North Country Association for the Education of Young Children

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Washington County

Warren County Public Health

Washington County Public Health

Family Health Partnership

Warren County WIC

Washington County WIC



From the Executive Director

We are proud to present the 2014/2015 Annual Report to the community highlighting and celebrating selected achievements. This past year has been filled with work dedicated to meeting the needs of families, children and child care providers throughout Warren, Washington and Hamilton Counties. As the local child care resource and referral agency, our work revolves around assisting families in finding child care and to improving the availability and quality of child care services. We do this through a variety of programs and services which are described in the following pages.

As the past programmatic year came to a close (June 30, 2015), we completed work on a two year strategic plan and have embarked on the development of a new two-year plan, which will guide our work and inform services offered to the community.

One of the highlights of the year was the Provider Recognition Dinner and Training on May 8 at the Hiland Park Country Club. 84 providers, guests, staff and volunteers attended. The evening was a beautiful warm night, spirits were high and the speaker, Scott Noyes, was entertaining and engaging. We heard over and over from attendees that *“this was the best dinner yet”*. Child care providers work long hours and are dedicated to providing the best early care and education to the children in care; we are proud to have the opportunity to celebrate and recognize them. Lakeshore and many local businesses donated items to give away as door prizes.

An equally successful event co-sponsored annually by the Child Care Network is the Early Childhood Conference. 111 early childhood professionals attended the 2014 two day conference at the Fort William Henry Resort and Conference Center in Lake George. Attendees can choose from a variety of professional development workshops and meet with vendors who offer appropriate supplies for child care programs.

The pages of this report touches on the programs and services we provide and the accomplishments over the past year. We couldn't do the work we do without the dedicated child care providers, the community, our funders and supporters, and the staff and board of the Child Care Network. As we do our daily work, we never lose sight of our mission to *“strengthen the quality of children's early care and learning.”*

We look forward to the year ahead as we continue to provide services to enhance the lives of children in child care and to advocate for a strong early care and learning system on the national, state and local levels.

Lynn R Sickles
Executive Director

Services

Child Care Referrals

Child Care is one of the most important choices parents make. Our goal is to help families better understand their choices.

We help parents in their search for child care by:

- Providing information on the types of and options for child care;
- Maintaining a database of New York State regulated child care providers;
- Helping families become informed consumers about quality child care and selecting care that best meets their needs.

Building the Supply of Child Care

The development of new child care programs is facilitated by providing technical assistance and training in starting a child care business, including information on state regulations, insurance, child development and maintaining a healthy and safe environment.



Legally Exempt Child Care Enrollment

The Child Care Network is now in our ninth year of providing enrollment services to legally exempt child care providers which include helping to ensure that basic standards of health and safety are met. Criminal history attestations are investigated to determine eligibility for approval, various background checks are conducted with the local department of social services and inspection visits are conducted for a minimum of 20% of enrolled providers. Legally exempt child care providers care for children receiving child care subsidy through the local Department of Social Services.

Professional Development for Early Childhood Professionals

Early care and education professionals have been offered a variety of professional development through workshops, conferences, on site one-on-one mentoring and other networking opportunities that have assisted them in providing quality child care to children in the Southern Adirondack region.



Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)



The goal of the Child and Adult Care Food Program is to improve the health and nutrition of children. CACFP helps to promote quality child care programs by developing good eating habits and providing nutrition education through training and technical assistance. Providers receive reimbursement for meals served to the children in care.

Membership

Members of the Child Care Network receive the following benefits:

- Advocacy updates and timely information about child care news and topics
- Notices about, and fee reductions to, workshops and the Early Childhood Conference
- Discounts on a selection of early childhood publications
- Borrowing privileges at our Resource Lending Library

There are currently 40 members.

Public Policy Initiatives

Community stakeholders, including parents, providers, employers and legislators, were educated about the importance of quality child care services through the following key messages, which were disseminated through the Child Care Network's newsletter, website, blog and Facebook page, special events, phone calls, face-to-face visits and email messages.

- The high price of child care strains household budgets and can force parents to make compromises about the quality and safety of the care they choose for their children.
- Quality child care is good for parents as it provides them with the stability they need to stay employed.
- Quality child care positively impacts children and communities in the short and long terms.
- Quality child care provides children with the foundation they will need to succeed in school and life.
- High quality child care has a direct correlation to economic development.
- Quality child care is good for employers because it allows them to have a productive work force and a well prepared and skilled workforce in the future.
- QualitystarsNY is a path to increasing the availability of quality care and education for all children in New York State.

Literacy in Child Care Project



The goal of this project is to increase reading proficiency and enable children to enter school ready to learn through a rich introduction to reading that provides increased access to books and early literacy opportunities, and developing curricula and educational activities around stories. Child care providers benefit by our early childhood specialists demonstrating ways to use books to encourage reading. In all, 160

children had increased access to books and improved their early literacy skills, and 20 child care providers gained increased knowledge on ways to use books to enhance their programs. Our thanks go to the Stewarts Foundation and Target Foundation for funding this important project.



Healthy Active Living Project



The Let's Move Active Play coaching program is designed to enhance the quality and safety of child care programs for children. The specific goals are to assist child care providers in developing daily plans for active play, offering in depth training and coaching on the topic of providing daily active play and making healthy food choices for all ages of children and to demonstrate how to include early literacy activities throughout the use of movement activities. Thank you to the Stewarts Foundation for providing the funding to launch the Healthy Active Living Project.

Accomplishments during 2014-2015

New York State Standards of Excellence certification was received.

The 2015 Community Needs Assessment, a comprehensive picture of local early care and education issues and data, was completed.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) developed and received funding for a project to expand the number of licensed and legally exempt programs participating on CACFP.

Contact email distribution lists for providers, parents and CACFP participants have been created.

CACFP participants have the ability to email their food claims to a dedicated email address.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program data base (CIPS) has been purged of old unneeded records.

Menus for the providers on CACFP have been color coded to simplify menu recording and used as a strategy to make it easier for providers and to improve retention on the program.

Nine candidates completed the year-long, 120 hour Child Development Associate (CDA) training.

Training and Technical Assistance team offered hours of training and valuable information to child care providers to assist them in improving the quality of their programs.

Training team regularly presents workshops at other local and state-wide early childhood conferences.

Providers may now register and pay for training on-line via the Child Care Network website.

Geo-coding has been added to the provider and parent data base to allowing for more accurate referral searches by location.

Parent referral packet was updated to provide current relevant information that will assist parents in making decisions about their child care needs.

The Legally Exempt team received training on compliance issues for providers and on group enrollment procedures.

Social media messaging has increased through daily posts on our Facebook page that includes useful information for parents and providers.

A Pay Pal account has been established so that providers may pay for training with a credit card.

Staff actively contributed their expertise to statewide and local boards and committees related to early childhood.

The Child Care Network held a very fun and successful Provider Recognition Dinner and Training.

The annual Early Childhood Conference was a great success with 111 people attending.

Providers who attended SACCN training from 2010-2012 received early childhood kits filled with program materials through remaining grant funds from OCFS, and in partnership with Lakeshore.

Services Provided Highlights

 <p>Families Referrals</p> <p>Hamilton County: 1</p> <p>Warren County: 139</p> <p>Washington County: 115</p>	<p>Subsidy Eligible Families Referrals</p> <p>Hamilton County: 1</p> <p>Warren County: 64</p> <p>Washington County: 58</p>	 <p>Requests for Child Care by Age</p> <p>0-11 months: 69</p> <p>12-23 months: 38</p> <p>24-35 months: 50</p> <p>3 & 4 years: 73</p> <p>5 years & up: 94</p>
<p>Child and Adult Care Food Program</p>  <p>Child Care Providers Enrolled in the CACFP: 95</p> <p>Children Benefitting from the CACFP: 1221</p> <p>New providers enrolled in CACFP: 26</p>	<p>2014-2015</p>  <p>Southern Adirondack Child Care Network</p>	
<p>Professional Development for Early Childhood Professionals</p> <p>592 Early Childhood Professionals attended Child Care Network training</p> <p>137 hours of on-site technical assistance was offered to child care providers</p> <p>Providers contacted the Child Care Network 479 times requesting specific information relating to providing services to children and parents</p>	 <p>Regulated Child Care Programs</p> <p>Hamilton: 3</p> <p>Warren: 69</p> <p>Washington: 65</p>	<p>Legally Exempt Child Care Enrollment</p> <p>Total Approved Providers</p> <p>Hamilton: 7</p> <p>Warren: 97</p> <p>Washington: 86</p>

Funding Sources

Funding for programming is provided by:

- The New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- New York State Department of Health
- The Charles R. Wood Foundation
- Glens Falls Foundation
- Stewarts Foundation
- Target Foundation
- Other various fees for services
- Early Childhood Conference Sponsors
 - Lakeshore
 - Kingsbury Printing
 - WB Mason
 - Discount School Supply

Financial Summary

Revenue:

CACFP Expansion	\$	9,990.00
Child Care Resource and Referral Grant	\$	228,402.00
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$	517,932.00
Training Fees	\$	36,368.00
Fall Conference	\$	19,330.00
Stewarts Foundation Grant	\$	500.00
Miscellaneous General Fund Sources	\$	3,470.00
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$	815,992.00

Expenses:

Personnel	\$	259,213.00
Travel	\$	7,347.00
Administrative	\$	64,697.00
Program	\$	66,169.00
CACFP Provider Payments	\$	414,102.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$	811,528.00
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$	226,921.00
Net Assets, end of year	\$	231,385.00
Change in Net Assets	\$	4,464.00

Historical Highlights of the Past 20 Years

Fall of 1992

- The Boards of the Greater Glens Falls Child Development Center (serving Warren County) and the Washington County Child Care Council (serving Washington County) began discussion on consolidating the two organizations. The two organizations consolidated and officially became the Southern Adirondack Child Care Network in November.
- Opened an office in the Washington County Youth Bureau, Washington County Municipal Center, 383 Broadway, Fort Edward
- Began providing child care resource and referral services with 2 employees

1992-1993

- Conducted SUNY Unit Training for child care providers
- Toy and Resource Library opened
- Began sponsorship of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) with 9 providers. The number grew to 38 within the first year.

1994-1995

- Funding received from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services
- Staff size grew from 2 to 4
- Added Hamilton County to our service delivery area
- Created the first logo, brochure and letterhead
- Held the first child care provider recognition dinner and the first early childhood conference
- First start up grants for new providers and health and safety grants for existing providers were awarded

1995-1999

- 1st SUNY sponsored Videoconference was held
- 1st Child Development Associate Credential class was held
- Child and Adult Care Food Program grew to 113 providers participating
- Opened a satellite office at 88 Broad Street in Glens Falls
- Staff size grew to 6
- Relocated our main office from Fort Edward to 88 Broad Street in Glens Falls
- 1st Child Care Network website was developed
- Satellite office moved to Fort Edward

2000-2007

- New York State released new regulations for family and group family child care programs, child care centers and school age programs
- Staff size grew to 7
- Became a legally exempt child care provider enrollment agency
- Staff size grew to 8
- Received New York State Child Care Resource and Referral Best Practices certification

2009-2015

- Re-branded with a new logo, new brochure and website
- Began a 2 year national best practice certification program for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
- Received 1st local grant funding
- November 17, 2012 Celebrated the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Child Care Network
- **The Southern Adirondack Child Care Network achieved National Quality Assurance from Child Care Aware of America, meeting national best practice standards for Child Care Resource and Referral Services.**
- Developed, received funding for and implemented the Literacy in Child Care project.
- Coordinated the development of a local Early Childhood Advisory Committee.
- **The Southern Adirondack Child Care Network received New York State Standards of Excellence certification.**