



HOME FOR CHILDREN

Executive Administration

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Astor Home and The Hudson River Family Support Coalition to Co-Sponsor Conference on Families Living with Mental Health Disorders

Rhinebeck, NY – The Astor Home for Children Parent’s Advisory Board and The Hudson River Family Support Coalition, will co-sponsor the conference, “Families Empowering Families: Living with a Mental Health Disorder,” on Saturday, October 13th in Poughkeepsie, NY.

There will be many speakers on topics of mental illness including: the importance of family support, diagnosis and medication, partnering with the educational system, and transitioning from adolescent to adult services.

The keynote address, *Surviving and Understanding Stigma*, will be delivered by Tom O’Clair who is a parent, survivor and advocate for children with mental health disorders. Tom is best known for his own struggle in trying to get treatment for his son Timothy, who had mental illness and eventually committed suicide at the age of 12. Timothy’s Law went into effect on January 1, 2007, through the tireless efforts of Tom, his family and supporters. The new law mandates equal insurance coverage for the treatment of mental health disorders and substance abuse in the state of New York.

The day-long conference will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Locust Grove – Samuel Morse site on South Road in Poughkeepsie. The deadline for registration is October 12th (cost per person is \$3 and \$5 for couples). The lunchtime break will include classical music provided by local artist Julian Ubraico.

Childcare is being provided for attendees (on a first come, first serve basis). For more information on the conference, please contact Kate Castell at (845) 486-9743 ext. 106.

The Astor Home for Children promotes the well being of children, adolescents and their families through a variety of programs, including the Early Childhood Program in Poughkeepsie. Astor’s current range of services to families include: residential treatment, therapeutic foster family care, early childhood programs and community based services. For additional information about The Astor Home for Children please

visit www.astorservices.org or call The Astor Home for Children Foundation at (845) 871-1117.