



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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Mental Health Awareness Month: Astor Hosts 11th Annual Public Policy Breakfast!

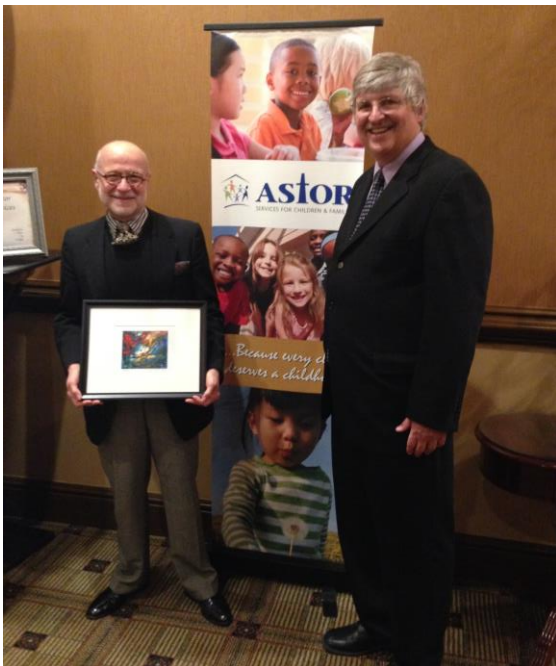
Keynote speaks on children's mental health and preparing them for success

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rhinebeck, NY – May is Mental Health Awareness Month and Astor is drawing attention to and reducing the stigma around mental health, especially for children. As part of bringing attention to this issue, Astor's 11th Annual Public Policy Breakfast was held on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 7:30 AM at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. Keynote speaker, Gil Foley, Ed.D., addressed an audience of business and community leaders on the topic, "Early Childhood Mental Health: Preparing Children for Success in School and Life." County Executive, Marcus Molinaro, gave the opening remarks.



"For too long, the stigma surrounding mental health has prevented many needing treatment from receiving it. We know the importance of early intervention and diagnoses in reducing the severity of mental illness through the services we provide. I am delighted we were able to host Dr. Foley, an expert in the field on children's mental health, to speak with the business and community leaders," says James McGuirk, Ph.D., Executive Director/CEO, Astor.

Dr. Foley's presentation was focused on young children's capacity to form emotional ties. "Children's ability to regulate their attention and to tolerate frustration are often assumed as "givens," with the real work of early care and education centered on rigorous academic preparation and acquired knowledge," says Foley. His presentation's aim was to shatter that "missed placed concreteness" and demonstrate how social emotional competence is the platform for learning and achievement; and why it needs attention as well as a visible and viable place in early care and education.



Dr. Foley serves as Consulting Clinical Psychologist at the New York Center for Child Development in New York City and at the Institute for Parenting at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York. He is a retired tenured faculty member of Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology where he taught for 20 years in the Department of School-Clinical Child Psychology and coordinated the infancy-early childhood track. While serving as the Chief Psychologist in the Pediatric Department of the Medical College of Pennsylvania, he trained in psychoanalysis and also completed a fellowship at the Yale Child Study Center with the late, Sally Provence, M. D. Dr. Foley's clinical and teaching career has been devoted in large part to working with infants and young children with special needs and their families. He is the author of several books and numerous articles. His most current book with Dr. Jane Hochman, "Mental Health in Early Intervention" is published by Brookes. He lectures and consults widely.



McCabe & Mack, LLP, and Rose & Kiernan, Inc., are the sponsors for this year's Public Policy Breakfast.

Since 1953, Astor Services for Children & Families (formerly The Astor Home for Children) has been providing behavioral and educational services in a caring environment where children and their families find strength, healing, hope and trust. Now serving over 6,000 children and families annually, Astor's current range of services to families in the Mid-Hudson Valley and the Bronx include: Residential Treatment, Therapeutic Foster Family Care, Early Childhood Programs, and Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services. For additional information about Astor Services for Children & Families, please visit their website at www.astorservices.org or call Astor Services for Children & Families: Home for Children Foundation at (845) 871-1117.

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