

# Astor Services for Children & Families Advocates for New York's Most Vulnerable Families

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*Lobby Day Events in Albany Bring Together Service Providers and Legislators*



*Government officials and service providers participated in the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies' recent Advocacy Day program in Albany, held in support of New York's vulnerable children and families and social service providers. Among the participants were, from the left, Georgia Boothe, Vice President of Child Welfare, Children's Aid; Jeannine Mendez of Director: Development, Public and Government Relations, The Children's Foundation of Astor; Chief of Staff Jason Laidley for Senator Jamaal T. Bailey; and Annie Miguez, Director of Government and Community Relations, Good Shepherd Services.*

Astor Services for Children & Families, which provides behavioral and educational services for children and their families in the Hudson Valley and Bronx, was among the dozens of providers

that shared concerns related to New York's vulnerable children and families, social service providers, and program funding needs during recent Lobby Day events in Albany.

Throughout January's Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies' Advocacy Day, government officials met with various agencies, including a Bronx Delegation consisting of nine government representatives that convened with agency representatives.

"The focus of our meetings was to bring to light the need of not only supports for the children and families we serve, but also the for supports for our various social service staffs that often go without adequate pay and supports all the while providing crucial and life changing services to the city and state's most vulnerable populations dealing with a plethora of traumas," said participant Jeannine Mendez of Director: Development, Public and Government Relations for The Children's Foundation of Astor.

A second Lobby Day in February that was sponsored by the New York State Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health and Families concentrated on the need for immediate action from the legislature to bypass a proposed two-year waiting period to fund currently needed mental health and other Medicaid-mandated services.

"We focused on bringing to light how vital continuous care is in the treatment of trauma and behavioral and mental health deficiencies," Mendez said.

### **About Astor Services for Children & Families**

*Astor Services for Children & Families, as it has since 1953, promotes the well-being of children, adolescents and their families through a range of programs that prevent and treat emotional problems and facilitate healthy development. Now serving more than 10,000 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 please visit <http://astorservices.org/> or call (845) 871-1117.*