



CCIS News

Child Care Information Services of Montgomery County



Seasons Greetings!

Winter 2016

The CCIS invites all child care providers to attend our next Provider Meeting in January. Details to follow.

Happy New Year!

System Advisory Messages

Please be advised that providers are not able to view historical correspondences via Provider Self Service (PSS). Providers are required to opt-in to eCorrespondence to view historical correspondences and a data fix scheduled every few weeks is required to make these correspondences visible. **Providers who have NOT opted-in to eCorrespondence by February 1, 2017 will not be able to see historical correspondences via PSS.**

Please be advised that due to an identified issue with the invoicing and enrollment processes, **the December 26, 2016 statewide paid closed day will be removed from all December invoices.** Please do not manually add a closed day in the system for December 26, 2016 for any providers, **it will automatically be added back onto invoices before the end of December.**

Required Health & Safety Training

By September 2017, all child care staff will be required to complete **Health and Safety Basics: Requirements for Certification.** This six-hour professional development session will cover nine areas of health and safety required for Certification in Pennsylvania and include up-to-date medically-approved content regarding children's health and safety.

The Southeast Regional Key will be offering this free training on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from 9am - 4pm at the HSC building located at 1430 DeKalb Street in Norristown.

This in-person session will fulfill the training requirement for staff members who are unable to complete the training online. Interactive discussions, hands on activities and visual aids will be available to educate participants on practices which promote health and safety in early child care settings.

Please contact the Southeast Regional Key at (800) 346-2929 with further questions and register online at pakeys.org.

What To Expect While Inspecting

A requirement for obtaining and maintaining a certificate of compliance for a Family Child Care Home is to have annual unannounced inspections. The inspections will be done in partnership with your Certification Representative from the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). It is a time to assess minimum health and safety standards and also an opportunity to improve the quality of child care offered through the supports of technical assistance and professional development.

The representative from the Bureau of Certification will inspect for compliance in all areas of the home that are accessible to children. They will be able to share the results of the inspection with you immediately after the inspection has been completed. The results will include any violations and the steps required to correct them. You will have the opportunity to develop a Plan of Correction to be in compliance. This plan may include resources and training to help address any violations and also a reasonable timeline for corrections. For more information about operating as a child care provider, please contact the Southeast Regional Office of Child Development at (800) 346-2929.

Pottstown Trauma Informed Community

Pottstown School District, along with community partners, is leading an effort for Pottstown to become a trauma-informed community. The work began two years ago with the formation of a steering committee to discuss how to best support Pottstown's children and families. From the work of the steering committee, the **Pottstown Trauma Informed Community Connection (PTICC)** was created. This is a community partnership focused on increasing the awareness of **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** and trauma, understanding the impact on children and families and developing strategies for responding in a supportive manner. For more information on PTICC, visit the web site or contact Mary Rieck, PEAK Coordinator, at (610) 970-6655. You can also join the Pottstown group on acesconnection.com to follow the work in Pottstown. Watch the web site for information on the next community partner meeting and training opportunities.

The Pottstown work is focused in four primary areas. The first is **Networks** – building a system of programs and agencies to use the ACE information their work with children and families. The second area is **Professional Development and Training** - PTICC has been offering Trauma 101 trainings for school district employees and community agencies to increase the understanding of ACEs. The third area is **Communication** - pottstownmatters.org has been developed to share trauma information and the Pottstown work. The final work area is **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**. SEL skills for children have been shown to be a strong buffer against the impact of early adverse experiences. Pottstown School District is rolling out a comprehensive social and emotional learning program for Pre-K through ninth grade that will focus on building essential life skills for resolving conflicts and building positive relationships.

YOUR WAY HOME MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Do you know someone who is homeless in Montgomery County?

Your Way Home Montgomery County is the county's unified and coordinated housing crisis response system for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness.

Montgomery County residents experiencing homelessness are to contact the Your Way Home Call Center at (877) 646-6306 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to access appropriate housing and services.

Calls to the Call Center are answered by Your Way Home Call Center Specialists who conduct screening and assessment and refer eligible callers for services.

Families experiencing housing concerns are encouraged to call (877) 646-6306

For more information, please contact Sharon McClafferty, Community Initiatives Coordinator, at (215) 219-8967 or smclaffer@phmc.org.

Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

Protecting children from abuse and neglect is a shared responsibility. It requires collaboration from the formal child protective services system, community partners and our citizens to provide local safety nets for children and families that are facing challenges within our communities and neighborhoods. The mission of ChildLine is to accept calls from the public and professional sources 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Cultural sensitivity and courteous demeanor will be displayed at all times to all callers. ChildLine will provide information, counseling and referral services for families and children to ensure the safety and well-being of the children of Pennsylvania.

The **ChildLine and Abuse Registry Intake Unit (800-932-0313)** is available 24 hours to receive reports of suspected child abuse. Professionals who come into contact with children are required to report when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child under the care, supervision, guidance or training of that person or of their agency, institution or organization is an abused child. In addition, any person may report suspected abuse, even if the individual wishes to remain anonymous.

Each call is answered by a trained intake specialist who will interview the caller to determine the most appropriate course of action. Actions include forwarding a report to a county agency for investigation as child abuse or general protective services, forwarding a report directly to law enforcement officials or refer the caller to local social services. **Calls of suspected child abuse or neglect should be placed to ChildLine at (800) 932-0313. Mandated reporters can report electronically at compass.state.pa.us/cwis.**

Please visit keepkidssafe.pa.gov and childwelfare.gov for additional resources