

TheChildren'sAgenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

[About Us](#) [Donate](#) [Advocate](#)

January e-update 2016

Dear Advocate,

Here's the latest news and items of interest from The Children's Agenda. We also invite you to visit [our website](#) and let us know how we're doing. We'd love to hear from you!

New Advocacy Effort for Children's Behavioral Health

"All health emerges from emotional behavioral health."

[Dr. James Hudziak](#)

As documented by a new [report](#) from the Greater Rochester Health Foundation's Commission on Children's Behavioral Health in the Finger Lakes, the prevalence and severity of childhood mental health issues in the U.S. and in our region has increased dramatically. The top five reasons for childhood disability are now mental health related. Twenty percent of children and youth under the age of 18 meet criteria for a behavioral health diagnosis in a given year, yet only a fraction of those—estimated at 1 in 4—get the necessary treatment.

Responsibility and services for children's behavioral health are currently divided among an array of NY State, County, nonprofit, and private agencies that are fragmented and often overwhelmed. Children and youth who do receive care enter through multiple doors and receive treatment and interventions that, when available at all, is of variable quality in various systems with little coordination among them. Furthermore, the existing "system" is not well prepared to reach children and families preventively or to reach those with less severe needs who might be helped more expeditiously and thereby avoid more severe illness. This dysfunction replicates and reinforces, of course, the lack of coordination already remarked on by the



Upcoming Events

[FAFSA \(Free Application for Federal Student Aid\) Fest](#)

Sunday, January 31 -

Thursday, March 24

[NY Paid Family Leave Lobby Day](#)

Tuesday, February 2

[Contact Brigit Hurley](#)

[The Raising of America](#)

Wednesday, February 3 &

Thursday, February 9

[Paper Tigers & Trauma-Informed](#)

[Schools Discussion](#)

Thursday, February 9

In the News

[Study identifies gaps in child mental health care](#)

Democrat & Chronicle

[Commission shines light on inadequate mental health resources for children in nine-county region](#)

WXXI

[Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative](#) and the recent [IBM Smarter Cities Challenge report](#).

Thanks to the support of the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, The Children's Agenda will organize parents and professionals in a [new advocacy campaign](#) to improve children's behavioral health throughout the region. Those improvements must come from the leadership of families who are most directly affected by the problems, drawing on the wisdom of professionals on what "works best" and what kids "need most." Half of all lifetime cases of mental illness have begun by the age of 14. In addition to poor adult mental and physical health, the consequences of lack of prevention and effective treatment are myriad and include school failure, criminal justice involvement, drug and alcohol abuse, homicide and suicide. The estimated cost of lost productivity and crime spending related to mental illness for children and youth alone in the U.S. is estimated at over \$200 billion annually, according to the Institute of Medicine. To get more involved, [join us](#).

Press Release: [Dismal State of Affairs for Regions Youth](#)
Greater Rochester Health
Foundation

Report: [Crisis in Care: Gaps in Behavioral Health Services are Failing Our Children](#)
Greater Rochester Health
Foundation

[Group flags abuse report trends](#)
City Newspaper

[Is paid leave practical for New York State?](#)
WXXI

Children's Interfaith Collaborative takes Albany



Interfaith Co-Chair & Islamic Ctr. of Rochester Rep. Najmah Abdulmateen, TCA Policy Analyst Brigit Hurley, and Liaison Beth Sieber of Third Presbyterian Church

On January 26th, TCA Policy Analyst Brigit Hurley traveled to Albany with Interfaith Collaborative leaders Najmah Abdulmateen and Beth Sieber to advocate for increased funding for child care subsidies and for passage of [Paid Family Leave Insurance](#) legislation. A total of 3,948 letters were signed in faith communities in October 2015 (1,840 collected during the 2015 Children's Interfaith Weekend and an additional 2,108 letters in support of child care subsidies delivered by the Catholic diocese). Brigit, Najmah, and Beth had 3 meetings with staff from the offices of Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate President John Flanagan, and Independent Democratic Conference Leader Jeffrey Klein. They also visited the offices of Senators Rich

Funke and Joe Robach to let them know that these issues are important to constituents in Monroe County. Letters will be delivered to Governor Cuomo's office on February 2nd.

Jackie Campbell awarded Plate of Excellence



Imam Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Michael and Jackie Campbell

On January 10th, ROC the Future Alliance Director Jackie Campbell, along with husband Michael Campbell, was presented the Plate of Excellence Award by the [New Africa Cultural Center](#). Jackie was recognized as an educator and leader in Rochester, having "linked history, heritage, education and culture, building strong minds" in the community for decades. The New Africa Culture Center is a local organization and its mission is to create a new mind and vision for the community to reach its full potential. Jackie was also honored for inspiring African American children and youth to follow the [Freedom Movement](#) and to develop an understanding of the African diaspora.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

The Children's Agenda does not accept any government funding, and none of our work is possible without the generous support of private individuals, foundations, businesses and others. Our sincerest thanks go out to the following for their donations since our last update:

Holly Barrett and Joel Lynaugh; Richard A. Bloom; Roberta and Seth Borg; Ted and Peggy Boucher; John Chamberlain; Marshall G. and Doris L. Cohen; Margaret Logan Detty; Bernard and Marsha A. Dumka; Episcopal Diocese of Rochester; James Evinger; Kent and Jill Gardner; Lori Gladstone; Greater Rochester Health Foundation; Barbara Green; Donald A. and Karen L. Grover; Bryan and Susan Hetherington; Christopher Hodgman; Holmes Family Foundation; Donna Jackel; Nathan and Susan Jaschik; William Destler and Rebecca Johnson; Louise Johnson-Toth; Nancy S. and Ron Kraus;

Anne F. Kriz; E. Charles and Susan C. Kurtz; Diane M. and Bob Larter; Deborah T. Leary; Carolyn and Steven Lee-Davis; Sarah F. Leibschutz; Carol S. Love; Richard and Joan Barnet Markus; Carmel Merrill; John B. McGowan and Kathleen M. Muscato; Kathy and Ted Nixon; Robert Joseph Dunlavey and Stephanie Oddleifson; Clay and Dorelis Osborne; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church; Sandra A. Parker and John M. Summers; Gregory H. Partridge and Douglas Potter; Cheryl B. Pipkin; Karen C. and Donald E. Pryor; ROC the Future; Dorothy M. and Robert F. Romanet; Susan Rupp; Reuben Epstein and Joanne A. Siegle; Carol A. Snow; Elaine M. Spaul; The Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation; Tompkins Bank of Castile; David Topa; Moritz Wagner; John F. and Elizabeth Reardon Walsh; Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation.

1 S Washington St Suite 400 | Rochester NY 14614 | (585) 256 2620 | thechildrensagenda.org
[Click here to unsubscribe](#)