

MEMORANDUM

From: Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Sent: January 3, 2011

To: All OCFS Staff

Subject: National Mentoring Month – January 2011

This year is the 10th anniversary of National Mentoring Month. For 7 years, the Office of Children and Family Services has been in the forefront of supporting safe and effective mentoring. We continue to be a leader among state agencies in the effort to encourage all New Yorkers to consider mentoring as a practical and cost-effective way to support positive youth development.

As in past years, we want to encourage you to participate in activities and events this month and to recognize that we still have a great need for more mentors and mentoring programs. The White House has once again recognized National Mentoring Month, and President Obama has made it clear that he supports mentoring and volunteerism. We anticipate great support from our new Governor and have requested a proclamation recognizing the month here in New York State.

The theme for National Mentoring Month 2011 is “Help Them Get There: Be a Mentor.” There are mentoring partnerships in New York City, the Capital Region, Onondaga, and Monroe Counties. OCFS is working with members of the legislature to develop a state-wide Mentoring Advisory Council who will provide input and guidance to their efforts to help support mentoring in New York State. The Capital Region Mentoring Partnership has already scheduled recruitment efforts at 4 malls in the area for January 8, 2011. Big Brothers/Big Sisters affiliates of New York State have received a substantial grant to provide mentoring for children of incarcerated parents and had a wonderful kick off in the Capital Region in October. Other agencies, programs, organizations and partnerships are planning to host activities during the month.

We hope that you will support the national and local efforts to provide more quality, effective and safe mentoring programs for children, youth and families. If you participate in an event this month, please send material and information to Greg Owens, Director of Special Projects, so that we can include it on our website and in the material that we submit to the Harvard Mentoring Project.

Mentoring works! If you want more information, please visit www.mentoring.org.