Rockland Child Care News

childcarerockland.org | info@rocklandchildcare.org | 845-425-0009

September-December 2019

Using Data for Good

by Vicki Caramante, Executive Director

These days, data management is vital for organizations. Collecting, protecting, analyzing, and using data to inform decision-making leads to improved service delivery, efficiencies, and cost savings. This is especially important for nonprofits. But where do we find the time, money, and expertise to help us effectively understand data management systems? When CCRR learned of a pro-bono opportunity to address our data management needs earlier this year, we jumped at the chance! Through VolunteerNY! and the Taproot Foundation, we connected with Westchester-based pharmaceutical company Regeneron. Its Using Data for Good program links Regeneron employees with nonprofits to idendevelop practical solutions.



tify organizational and data needs and (L to R) Vicki Caramante, Stephanie Biedermann (Regeneron), Joana Lamptey, (Regeneron), Elaine Trotta, Karen Ross, and Martin Treich (Regeneron). Also part of Regeneron's Using Data for Good team, but not pictured: Alex Salamun and Fareya Zubair.

In our case, after a couple of introductory meetings, we worked with members of the Regeneron team to identify and understand our needs. A scope of work was developed focusing on our professional development training and event registration; PreK administration; child care site visit forms; and stakeholder surveys. The team will also help address some of our hardware needs and will provide recommendations for near-term, mid-term, and long-term hardware and software solutions.

We have already begun testing some near-term solutions and expect to fully implement them in the fall. Ultimately, systems that give us a clearer understanding of need and create efficiencies will free up time spent creating and managing paper reports and enable us to focus on enhancing the lives of all children by helping families access quality child care, helping programs deliver quality child care, and advocating for smart early childhood policies and investment.

Thank You Volunteer New York! • Taproot Foundation • Regeneron

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Executive Director
Vicki Caramante

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote, support and enhance the healthy development of all children by:

Providing resource and referral services for families seeking accessible, affordable, quality early childhood and school age care and education:

Offering training, support and resources to the early care and education workforce as well as public and private schools:

Connecting with business leaders and public officials to emphasize the value of quality child care to the economic vitality of Rockland County;

Advocating for increased investment in quality child care and education;

Collaborating with strategic partners to enhance our collective abilities to address the needs of the community now and in the future.

A Warm Welcome

to all New and Renewed Licensed/Registered Child Care Programs

FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS Maria Estevez Little MunchKins Daycare Center Natella Natanova Pre-Skool Pushers LLC

GROUP FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS
Bambini Nursery Child Care, Inc.
Rivak Chavoly
Children's Paradise
Gan Simcha Day Care, Inc.
Gitty Brown
Maria Dowling
Rosa Garcia
Just Us Kids
Kids in Action NY Inc.
Little Hands Family Day Care LLC
Lorna Levitin
Lots of Love Day Care
Mommy Carol's Childcare LLC
Mother Goose House

My Little Red School House, Inc.

Precious Moments Childcare. Inc.

Totally Tots
Small Wonders Child Care Corp.
Time for Tots Day Care Center
T-Nee Angels
Reitza Weinberger
Yaldainu At Berdichev, Inc.
Zoe and Friends Daycare, Inc.

CHILD CARE CENTERS
Benim Scholastic Academy of Haverstraw
Children's Corner Learning Center
Jawonio, Inc.
La Petite Academy
Tutor Time Of New City
Viznitz Early Head Start
West Street Child Care Learning Center

SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE PROGRAMS YMCA @ Bardonia Elementary YMCA @ Laurel Plains Elementary YMCA @ Liberty Elementary

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

THANK YOU TO THE FAMILY AND GROUP FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS, CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS, SCHOOL AGE CARE PROGRAMS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO PAID MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN MARCH 31, 2019 AND JULY 23, 2019.

Rosamarie Bucci Joy Pleasants
Natacha Audain Davidson Suleidy Rodriguez
Darnett Davis-White Elsa Sandoval
Maria Estevez Magalite Sylvain
Mary Finnegan Marie Toussaint
Johanny Franco

Rochelle Frey
Rosa Garcia
Busy Bee Playschool of Rockland
Anna Guerra
MLK Multi-Purpose Center
Rochelle Jacknis
Mommy Carol's Child Care LLC
Geraldine Maguire
Nyack Montessori
Irma Pachter
Tiny Scholars

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. is a contract agency of the County of Rockland, NYS Office of Children and Family Services, NYS Department of Health, the NYS Education Department and the United Way of Rockland County. Additional funding for Special Needs Services is provided by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities. We are also supported by our members. Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. is Best Practices/Quality Assurance Certified by Child Care Aware of America demonstrating the competence in the field of Child Care Resource and Referral in New York State.











Congratulations to the Early Childhood Professionals awarded the NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CREDENTIAL

from the Council for Professional Recognition in recognition to their outstanding work with young children and their families.

ROSA ARBELLA

Bilingual Preschool National CDA Credential (English/Spanish)

MARTINEZ LEON

Bilingual Preschool National CDA Credential (English/Spanish)

PAULINA ROMOFF

Bilingual Infant/Toddler National CDA Credential (English/Spanish)

ROSETTA SMART-PARKER

Infant/Toddler National CDA Credential (English)



Learn how you can grow professionally! For CDA information, please contact Debbie Silver, Director of Professional Development. 845-425-0009, x459 | debbies@rocklandchildcare.org

Board Membership

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Deborah Roth

Region 6 Pyramid Hub Cohort 4 Communitywide Leadership Team Member

(Retired Assistant Director Children's Services, Public Health Social Work, RC Dept. of Health)

and

Jessica Werk

HR and Office Manager, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

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Are you committed to improving the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care in the community?

Do you enjoy working with a dynamic team of caring professionals?

Child Care Resources of Rockland is always interested in finding qualified and enthusiastic people to join our Board of Directors.

Would you like to learn more?

We'd love to hear from you!

Please contact Karen Ross: 845.425.0009, x630 karenr@rocklandchildcare.org

2019 Annual Meeting: Increasing Capacity for High Quality Infant Toddler Care

At our 2019 Annual Meeting, we learned about Infant Toddler Provider Networks, which offer professional development education and training to help improve caregiver practices, and the overall quality of each infant and toddler's developmental experience. The first three years of life are critical and lay the groundwork for future success and CCRR is committed to ensuring all infants and toddlers receive the highest quality of care.



(L) Elizabeth Randano, former Infant Toddler Regional Coordinator (R) Jenny Spampinato, CCRR's Infant Toddler Specialist

Vicki Caramante, CCRR's Executive Director (R) presents Lucy Reedy (L) and Danielle Aspinal (C) from the YMCA at Cottage Lane Elementary School's with a Certificate of Recognition for attaining National Accreditation from the NYS Network for Youth Success

2019-2020 Pre-K Update

CCRR ADMINISTERS PREK SERVICES FOR THE FOLLOWING ROCKLAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS: Clarkstown, Nanuet,

North Rockland, Nyack, Pearl River, South Orangetown, and Suffern Central.

A lottery was conducted for each school district mid-April by several Board members—none of which had a child eligible for PreK. All seven school district slots are full for the 2019-2020 school year. There were 255 children on the wait list as of late June.

Universal PreK Slots

Clarkstown=192 Nyack=56 Suffern Central=95

Nanuet=42 Pearl River=29
North Rockland=283 South Orangetown=70

Statewide Full-day Slots

PreK-children must meet income and language eligibility requirements

North Rockland=15 Nyack=10 South Orangetown=30 Suffern Central=20

Number of early childhood programs providing PreK services=42

PREK STAFF WILL KICK-OFF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR BY ATTENDING A SELECTION OF FULL DAY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPENT SEMINARS IN THE AREAS OF SCREENING, ASSESSMENT, AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT.







Jawonio's early childhood education program was selected for the **Sodium Reduction in Communities Grant.** This grant provided multiple training opportunities for program staff and parents. During the grant's third year, an exciting hands-on opportunity was offered: *Sodium Reduction Program Food Service Training* hosted by Rockland Community College's Culinary Center in Nyack, NY. Participants prepared vinaigrettes, marinara sauce, and vegetarian chili from recipes that included salt substitutes and alternatives.

CCRR's nurse, Kristin G. Saunders, RN, BSN, worked with Jawonio to review and revise their nutrition policy. Jawonio was able to tailor its menus in order to meet low sodium requirements. The policy was shared with parents/guardians and staff so that sodium reduction can be accomplished not only in the program but at home as well.



Child Care Resources of Rockland is working collaboratively with the Rockland County Department of Health through a grant offering sodium reduction training and technical assistance to child care centers. We met up with Donna Perreca, the cook for Jawonio's School Age Care program.

Donna found CCRR's sodium reduction training to be very informative and said the low sodium tips and herbal alternatives she learned have been very useful in planning meals for the children.

Donna is fully committed to preparing low-sodium meals and enjoys discovering recipes that are healthy and good tasting—hence the moniker, Sodium Sleuth.

Donna shared, "It is important to curb salt intake in the early years of life as children are developing their palates. I have a family history of high blood pressure, so providing low-sodium meals to the children is personally important to me." In addition to cooking healthy meals for the children, Donna is also passionate about promoting the benefits of a low-sodium diet to her colleagues.



Nurse's Notes Legal Beagle Edition:

New Immunization Law: Removal of Non-Medical Exemptions

By Kristin G. Saunders, RN, BSN

Effective **June 13, 2019**, there is no longer a religious exemption to vaccination requirements for children to attend child day care settings and/or public, private or parochial schools. Children who had a religious exemption in the past will now need to receive the first age appropriate dose in each required immunization series in order to attend or remain in child care or in school.

The required immunizations for child care and/or school entrance are: DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis), Polio, Hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib), Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV), Varicella (Chicken Pox), and Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR). The deadline for the above requirement was **June 28, 2019**.

By **July 14, 2019**, parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to show that they have scheduled appointments for all required follow-up doses. These requirements apply to summer child child care programs as well. OCFS regulates licensed child care programs in the state and all programs must be in compliance with the law. OCFS may sanction programs which do not comply with the law.

If your child will be attending Pre-K in September, please be advised that the deadline for obtaining the first dose in each required vaccinations series is **14 days** from the first day of school or enrollment in child care. However, the New York State Education Department strongly advises

that parent(s)/guardian(s) obtain these vaccinations for their children as soon as possible.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) must show that they have scheduled appointments for all required follow-up doses within **30** days of the first day of school.

The new legislation does **NOT** affect valid medical exemptions. In order to obtain a valid medical exemption:

- It MUST be documented either on Form 5077 issued by the NYS Department of Health (form is available on its website) or on a signed statement that certifies the immunization may be detrimental to a child's health
- It MUST be signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in New York State
- It MUST contain sufficient information to identify the medical contraindication to a specific immunization.
- It MUST be confirmed annually

If you are a child care provider, please strongly advise parent(s)/guardian(s) to contact their pediatrician offices as soon as possible to schedule appointments. They must adhere to the current law to ensure admittance to child care and/or to Pre-K.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) who have immunization questions, should contact their health care provider.

Advance your career! Child Development Associate™ (CDA)

The CDA credential is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education and the best first step on the path of career advancement in Early Childhood Education! The purpose of the CDA is to promote, support, and enhance the health and safety of all children from birth to 5 years of age.

On June 27, 2019, CCRR began a new Child Development Associate™ (CDA) course with 15 students who are pursuing the CDA Credential in Infants and Toddlers, Preschool, and Home-Based Family/Group Family Child Care. CDA requires 120 hours of training, a verification visit, and a written test at the end of the course.

Learn how you can grow professionally! For CDA information, please contact Debbie Silver, Director of Professional Development. 845-425-0009, x459 | debbies@rocklandchildcare.org

Stand up for Rockland's Children

BENEFIT FOR THE JANE BROWN TUITION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

honoring

Fred and Vickie Frelow

recipients of the inaugural Jane Brown Award

join us for good food, drinks, fun, and to learn more about supporting high-quality child care for all children!

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Giulio's, 154 Washington Street, Tappan, NY 10983

X X X



Please RSVP by 9/16 • \$100

childcarerockland.org: Event Calendar, click on Sept. 25 or contact us: 845-425-0009 | info@rocklandchildcare.org

Thank You Summer Interns!

At age 16, **Jake Addessi** is already an expert filmmaker and photographer.

Child Care Resources of Rockland is very grateful to Jake for working with us this summer to support and enhance our communication efforts. Jake went on site with us to child care programs; he took some stellar photographs and created three excellent videos.

Deborah Chatelain came to CCRR through the Rockland County Youth Bureau Summer Employment program and we are so glad she did!

Deborah's assistance with data entry, copying, filing, and Pre-K administrative tasks was a tremendous help; her smile always brightened the office. Thank you, Deborah, for your very skillful support.





The Importance of Outdoor Play

By Jenny Spampinato, Infant/Toddler Enhancement Specialist

During the first few years of life, infants and toddlers are trying to make sense of the world around them through their own experiences. During these experiences infants and toddlers are soaking in every sound and movement. They take in information and try to process it into ideas of how the world works.

Outdoor experiences are not only enjoyable, they are crucial for infant and toddler cognitive development. Outdoor play promotes early language development by providing a rich sensory experience. The knowledge babies gain by being outdoors provides a foundation for literacy and science learning. As teachers or child care providers, it's important to create an environment to help promote physical and social development.

While outdoors, infants and toddlers require constant supervision during exploration, as well as surfaces that will allow them to explore and move freely with ease. Infants explore their world partially by putting objects in their mouths. It is necessary to inspect the area for potential choking hazards, unsafe materials, and a safe accessible surface. Keep in mind infants are learning to crawl and toddlers are learning to walk; they're mastering the art of balance and spatial awareness. Providing a safe area where caregivers are in close proximity to the children is extremely important. An adult should always be nearby to monitor the child's movements and to prevent an injury.

Outdoor play has a multitude of benefits and aids in a child's development. It promotes executive function (skills used to help plan, negotiate, collaborate, and exposure to trial and error), while sun exposure helps create vitamin D which plays an essential role in bone development and to the immune system. Not only does it promote physical health, it assists in improving sleeping habits. Outdoor play also creates opportunities for social interaction for the children and anchors them to the real world. Playing outdoors with the children is fun for adults, too!



For more information please contact Jenny Spampinato: 845-425-0009 x419 | Jennys@rocklandchildcare.org.





References:

Cobb, B (2017). <u>The Importance of Taking Infants and Toddlers Outdoors</u>
McCarthy, C (2018). <u>Six Reasons Children Need to Play Outside</u>.
Faculty Editor, Harvard Health Publishing



Tiffany Davis, Director of Financial and Human Resource Services

WHAT DO YOU DO AT CCRR? As part of the management team, I assist in preparing the organization's operating budget while overseeing its financial and HR processes. I look forward to working with everyone and I am available any time if you need an ear!

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF I grew up in northeast Ohio, just outside of Cleveland, where we do not consider ourselves to be from the *Mid-west*. I attended college in Long Island, where I earned both my Bachelors of Professional Studies and an MBA in Business Management and Leadership. Over the last ten years, I have worked in both finance and HR in mid- to large capacity corporate organizations I decided 2019 was my year for change! My partner (Giovanni) and I, along with our two little ones and our fur-babies, are thrilled to be near family since moving to the area! I look forward to the shift into non-profit; the transition has been great thus far!



DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HOBBY? I love to bake homemade desserts! Cookies, cakes (which rarely turn out successfully), pies, and brownies! It is a calculated craft and an incredible stress reliever!

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP? I wanted to be a famous singer. I remember dancing and singing along with Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey, and Debbie Gibson on cassette tape. Mariah Carey was my very first CD and all I wanted to do was be a power-ballad singer and POP princess! My mother insisted that I hone my skills and I ended up taking six years of private, classical voice training. I love the craft, but I unfortunately was never able to overcome my stage fright. That said, my musical talents remain reserved for myself and the inside of my car!

DO YOU HAVE A PHILOSOPHY BY WHICH YOU LIVE? I am a strong believer that positive energy breeds positive outcomes. I try to avoid speaking negative things into existence or "putting negativity into the universe." I always try to give out the energy that I want to receive. We all have *crumby* days, but positivity and hopeful energy can work wonders!

Remembering Kathleen Sweeney



Kathleen Sweeney, former director of Children of Mary Nursery/ Kindergarten in Stony Point, NY, was a compassionate and very gifted educator. A Rockland County resident since 1969, Kathleen dedicated much of her time to serving the community. She was a teacher before becoming director of Children of Mary and worked for the school for a total of 38 years.

Kathleen was a member of Child Care Resources of Rockland, the North Rockland Rotary, and the Board of Visitors at Helen Hayes Hospital. She loved traveling, reading, and above all, her family. Through her pain, Kathleen spent her final days with her family and finding gratitude for the gift of her life. She wrote, "I was inspired to concentrate on the beauty and long length of my life and not its limitations."

Kathleen was a very special person; anyone lucky enough to have known her will tell you. She will be dearly missed.

Gross Motor Technical Assistance

Rachel Ambroziak, Quality Enhancement Specialist

Young children learn the most when they are actively interacting with other people and manipulating objects in their environment.

(Kamii & DeVries, 1978; Piaget, 1952)

Interaction Child Care was one of the child care programs participating in a technical assistance program we offered with funding allocated in our contract with the NYS Office of Family and Children Services.

CCRR's Quality Enhancement Specialists provided 10 hours of technical assistance program in gross motor play to six child care programs. They guided the teachers through a variety of age appropriate physical activities by explaining how early toddlers through preschoolers could use these activities.

Bubble Wrap Jumping is played by adhering bubble wrap (at least 10 feet in length and 24 inches wide) to the floor with tape. Older children are guided to jump along the bubble wrap to music or specific instructions from the teacher while younger children are guided to crawl along the wrap for a sensory experience.



The Early Years are Learning Years



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019

Early Childhood and School Age Care Conference

St. Thomas Aquinas College, 125 Route 340, Sparkill, NY 10976



Thank you Assembly Member Ken Zebrowski for underwriting this conference!

info@rocklandchildcare.org | childcarerockland.org | 845.425.0009

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NUTRITION CORNER

VEGETABLE SOUP—Here is a recipe for an easy and delicious soup you make with children and enjoy on a chilly autumn day. Follow recipe exactly, use your preferred vegetables, or any you have on hand.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 3 carrots, chopped
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 medium zucchini, chopped
- 6 Yukon gold potatoes, chopped (about 2 cups)
- 3 (14.5 oz) cans vegetable broth
- 1 (28 oz can) diced tomatoes
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp dried basil
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1 1/2 cups frozen green beans
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 1 cup frozen peas

DIRECTIONS

In a large pot, heat olive oil over medium high heat. Add onion, carrot, and celery and cook for 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add garlic, red pepper, zucchini, and potatoes. Cook for 3 minutes.

Add the broth, tomatoes, thyme, basil, and pepper.

Reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer for 25-30 minutes, or until the potatoes are soft.

Stir in the green beans, corn, and peas and cook for another 5-7 minutes, or until vegetables are cooked through.

Serves 10.

Source: twopeasandtheirpod.com



September Fundraiser



Stop&Shop® Nanuet

Supports Quality Child Care!



For every *Give Back* reusable bag you buy (\$2.50), Stop & Shop will donate \$1.00 to CCRR.

Nanuet Stop & Shop

32 S Middletown Rd, Nanuet, NY 10954

Every bag purchase made during SEPTEMBER supports Child Care Resources of Rockland!

You shop. Amazon gives!



Lend your support while gearing up for school

Shop school essentials at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates.

amazonsmile

Shop school supply deals at amazon and help CCRR ensure safe, high-quality child care for all children. The benefit to CCRR will not cost you anything It is a charitable donation made by Amazon.

Thank you for supporting quality child care!

Just go to <u>smile.amazon.com</u> and select *Child Care* Resources of Rockland, Inc. as your charity. Thanks!

Comings and Goings

Staff Directory

OFFICE CLOSINGS

Mon., Sept. 2: Labor Day Mon., Oct. 14: Columbus Day Friday, Oct.18: Board/Staff Retreat Mon., Nov. 11: Veterans' Day

Thurs/Fri., Nov. 28/29: Thanksgiving Holiday

Wed., Dec. 25: Christmas Day

Tues/Wed., Dec. 31/Jan. 1: New Year's Eve and Day

SAVE THE DATE

Wed., Sept. 25: Stand Up For Rockland's Children Fundraiser Sat., Nov. 2: Early Childhood and School Age Care Conference

LOOK FOR IT!

Our Super Bowl with a Twist fundraiser starts in late November.



Boxes are \$100, but we will be giving away \$6,000! There will be a \$200 winner with every score change starting with 0/0.

The final score winner will be guaranteed \$200 and whatever remains of the \$6,000 pot. Last year's winner received \$2000!

Boxes make great stocking stuffers or Hanukkah gifts, birthday presents, or just because gifts for the football fanatic in your life. Give the gift of a box and give someone you love something fun to look forward to plus the added football viewing excitement

with all those score changes!

845-425-0009 info@rocklandchildcare.org



Executive Director

Vicki Caramante x417

Director of Family, Community, and **Operations Services**

Karen Ross x630

Resource and Referral Coordinator

Christina Espindola x610 **Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator** Lisa Kreisel x616

PreK Coordinator Jenine Valentino x460

Director of Professional Development and Quality Enhancement Services

Debbie Silver x459

CDA Coordinator and Special Needs Coordinator Ellen Mitchell x456

Infant Toddler Quality Enhancement Specialist

Jennifer Spampinato x419 **Quality Enhancement** Specialists

Rachel Ambroziak x620 David Del Campo x451 Ellen Mitchell x456 Bonnie Parsekian x613 Maria Rivas x455

Director of Program Standards and Support Services

Elaine Trotta x421

Legally Exempt Enrollment Coordinator

Ines Ortiz x411

Program Standards and Support Services

Coordinator

Priscilla Blanco x458

CACFP Coordinator

Teresa Ortega x633

Standards and

Support Specialists, and Registrars

James Callahan x221 Haiana Doro x487 Edna Saravia x475 **Registered Nurse**

Kristin Saunders x493

Director of Finance and Human Resource Services

Tiffany Davis x615

Finance Coordinator

Kathleen Siuro x662

Contact us:

Child Care Resources of Rockland 235 N. Main Street, Suite 11 Spring Valley, NY 10977

Hours: M-F 8:30 am-5:00 pm

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