



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

August 3, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is pleased to announce New York State's Title IV-E Family First Prevention Services Act Plan (Prevention Plan) has been approved by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)! The development of the Prevention Plan has been a collaborative statewide effort. We remain thankful to you, our partners, as we take this innovative and bold step toward building New York's child and family well-being system – one that is grounded in prevention and upstream intervention, dedicated to supporting families through an array of robust community-based programs that are trauma informed, culturally responsive, evidence-based and accessible, strengthening families and keeping children safely at home.

With our approved Prevention Plan, New York State moves from *plan development* to *plan implementation*. As you can imagine, OCFS has been working diligently to build the infrastructure needed to implement our state's bold vision. We continue to work closely with our partners, local departments of social services, voluntary foster care agencies, community-based organizations, youth and parent advisory boards, national experts, and child welfare advocates – hosting focus groups, listening sessions, and issuing and evaluating survey results to map community and family strengths and needs. This process has been informative, and we look forward to hosting a statewide WebEx (date and time will be announced shortly) to set forth our next steps.

Together, we will transform the current system and leave lifelong, positive impacts upon the children and families of New York State. We remain thankful to you, our partners, and are honored to share the federally approved Prevention Plan, which can be found here <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/sppd/family-first.php>.

Should you have any questions, please contact Renee Hallock by email, at Renee.Hallock@ocfs.ny.gov, or by phone at 518-474-4726. Again, we thank you for your collaboration on the Prevention Plan's development and look forward to working with all of you on its implementation.

Sincerely,

Sheila J. Poole
Commissioner

Lisa Gharthey Ogundimu, Esq.
Deputy Commissioner, Division of Child Welfare &
Community Services

cc: Thomas Brooks, Esq., Deputy Commissioner
Renee Hallock, Associate Commissioner
Rebeca Colman, Director