

Narrowing the Front Door to NYC's Child Welfare System:

COVID-19 Lessons Learned and Charting a Path Forward

Wednesday, December 8, 2021
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. ET

Registration is free but required

Attendees will be emailed a Zoom invite following registration

[Register for the Webinar](#)

This event is a part of the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service James R. Dumpson Children and Families Summit, and is sponsored by the Redlich Horwitz Foundation.

Background

Since the summer, a group of allies (bios attached) have been planning the "Narrowing the Front Door" series in an effort to galvanize us towards action that will relieve families of the undo stress of unnecessary and intrusive child welfare investigations. While the group has a diversity of perspectives on government's appropriate role in child protection, there is a shared consensus that far too many families — almost all of whom are of color and living in one of a small number of NYC neighborhoods — are subject to the stress and trauma of involvement in the child welfare system and that must end. Please see our full Vision Statement attached. We invite you to join us in bringing this Vision to reality in NYC.

The Convening: A 4-Part Series Toward Action

Session 1 - December 8th, 2021: What Do We Know?

A Discussion of Key Data Related to the Front Door of NYC's Child Welfare System & Lessons Learned from the Pandemic-Related Reduction in Family Surveillance

Session 2 - Date TBD: How Does the Money Flow?

A Discussion of How NYC's Child Welfare System is Funded and How it Could Be Re-Oriented Towards Family Support

Session 3 - Date TBD: What Should Help Look Like?

A Discussion of How to Support Community Organizations in Their Work with Families

Session 4 - Date TBD: Where Do We Go From Here?

A Discussion of Recommendations and Collective Actions

Event Planning Committee

Angela Olivia Burton, Director of Quality Enhancement for Parent Representation, New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services

Sarah Chiles, Executive Director, Redlich Horwitz Foundation

Jess Dannhauser, Former CEO, Graham Windham

Julia Davis, Director of Youth Justice & Child Welfare, Children's Defense Fund-NY

Ericka Francois, Youth Advisory Board Coordinator, Fair Futures

Shirley Gatenio Gabel, Professor and the MaryAnn Quaranta Chair in Children for Social Justice, Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service

Tarek Ismail, Associate Professor of Law, City University of New York

Dominique R. Jones, Executive Director, Global Kids

Emma Ketteringham, Managing Attorney, Family Defense Practice, The Bronx Defenders

Nora McCarthy, Founder, NYC Family Policy Project

Joyce McMillan, Founder, Parent Legislative Action Network

Jarel L. Melendez, Youth Advocate Coordinator, Adolescents Confronting Transition Project, Lawyers For Children

Hope Newton, Parent Advocate, Center for Family Representation

Ronald E. Richter, CEO and Executive Director, JCCA

Tricia Nichola Stephens, Assistant Professor, Hunter College-Silberman School of Social Work

Anne Williams-Isom, Professor and the James R. Dumpson Chair in Child Welfare Studies, Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service