



Monthly Newsletter

July 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

Webex Trainings	2
Classroom Trainings	3
YIP Meetings	4
Resources.....	5

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Webex Trainings

Adolescent Sexuality: Promoting Sexual Health & Responsibility

Friday, July 31

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Adult Connections & Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Wednesday, July 22

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

An Introduction to Regulating Emotions

Thursday, July 16

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

An Introduction to Trauma Informed Healing Centered Engagement

Wednesday, July 8

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Boundaries: Setting Limits & Sharing Safely

Tuesday, July 21

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bullying: Spot It, Stop It

Thursday, July 2

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Essential Communication Skills for Working with Youth

Monday, July 13

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Identifying and Supporting Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitations of Children (CSEC)

Part 1

Tuesday, July 7

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Part 2

Friday, July 17

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Milestones & Meaning: A Brief Introduction for Emerging LGBTQ+ Allies

Wednesday, July 1

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Monday, July 27

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Motivating & Engaging Youth

Wednesday, July 8

5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Monday, July 20

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Networking & Mapping Resources

Monday, July 6

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Permanency Options for Youth

Tuesday, July 28

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Preparing Youth for Employment

Friday, July 24

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Preparing Youth for the College Experience

Thursday, July 16

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 28

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Relational Strategies to Build Trust & Connection

Wednesday, July 15

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Street Smarts: Safety Skills for Youth

Tuesday, July 21

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Monday, July 6

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 29

9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

To register: Visit **Human Services Learning Center** <https://www.hslcnys.org>, or email **Seana Yeates** syeates@albany.edu
For training descriptions, visit: <https://youthinprogress.org/events-trainings/>

Classroom Trainings

Region 1

Creating LifePaks with Youth

Thursday, July 9

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Niagara Falls, NY

Adolescent Sexuality: Promoting Sexual Health & Sexual Responsibility

Thursday, July 16

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Cheektowaga, NY

Permanency Options for Youth

Thursday, July 23

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Lockport, NY

Preparing Youth for the College Experience

Tuesday, July 30

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Cheektowaga, NY

Region 2

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Monday, July 27

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Rochester, NY

Region 3

Motivating and Engaging Youth

Monday, July 20

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Syracuse, NY

Transition Plan: Helping Youth Plan for Their Future

Monday, July 27

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Syracuse, NY

To register, email:

Region 1—Kim Grose

kimberly.grose@ocfs.ny.gov

Region 2 - Kendra Drake

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Region 3—

Katie Rushlo-Mercado

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Region 4—Chelsea Perkins

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Region 5 (Long Island)—

Angela Cardarelli

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Region 5 (Westchester)—

Thomas Califra

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Region 6 - Shainek Edmundson

Shainek.Edmundson3@ocfs.ny.gov



YIP Meetings

Your Transition Plan

- Section Overview
- Trial Discharge
- Re-Entry
- Roadblock Activity

Statewide

Thursday, July 16

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Webex)

Region 1 (Buffalo)

Tuesday, July 21

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Randolph, NY

Wednesday, July 29

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Cheektowaga, NY

To register, email:

Statewide—Thomas Califra

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Region 5 (Westchester)—Thomas Califra

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Region 6 - Shainek Edmundson

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Resources

Youth In Progress

Youth In Progress is a platform where youth in foster care can speak up and help shape the future of the foster care system. Visit [YouthInProgress.org](https://youthinprogress.org) to explore valuable resources, upcoming events, and ways to get involved. Your voice matters!

2026 Youth Speak Out Events

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services and the Professional Development Program are pleased to announce the 2026 Annual Youth Event. Youth are invited to advocate for a better future and explore their paths to adulthood in a safe and engaging environment with the experience of former foster youth and support of adult partners.

<https://youthinprogress.org/news/2026-youth-events/>

Your Transition Plan Isn't Just Paperwork, It's Your Future

Advice from a former foster youth on how important a well thought out transition plan can be.

<https://youthinprogress.org/resources/topics/your-transition-plan-isnt-just-paperwork-its-your-future/>

OCFS Transition Plan

The Transition Plan Form is a youth-led document that requires collaboration between the worker (case manager, case planner, or case worker) and youth.

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/youth/transition-plan.php>

Need to Know Series: Transition to Self-Sufficiency

A Transition Plan is a youth-driven document. It's a place where you and your caseworker can work together to document important milestones and decisions regarding your future.

<https://youthinprogress.org/resources/digital-printable-handouts/need-to-know-series/need-to-know-series-transition-to-self-sufficiency/>