



Michael Weiner, MS, MBA
 Commissioner
 Department of Social Services

Family driven. Youth guided. Community based. Culturally sensitive

Philip R. Endress, LCSW, ACSW
 Commissioner
 Department of Mental Health



Marie Morlius-Black, LCSW-R
 Director
 Family Voices Network

Dear Parents and Youth:

Please find enclosed calendars for the next three months for the **Youth Empowerment Advocacy Group** and Peer Support Group. This will allow you and your child to see what is planned for the next three months. Group is subject to be cancelled due to weather or at the group's discretion and if it falls on a holiday. Please note that on the 2nd and 4th Fridays we are meeting at Delaware Park at the playground near the Buffalo Zoo. If it is raining that day we will be meeting at the original place of the Family Resource Center located at 347 East Ferry St. Please note that I will not be attending the open gym sessions. This is just an activity for youth to participate in.

Below is the current schedule for each **Youth Empowerment Advocacy** meeting. Please refer to this schedule when reminding yourself or your child about the time and schedule for youth group meetings.

Meeting Date: Every Thursday of each month
 Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Location Name: Gloria J. Parks Community Center
 Address: 3242 Main Street (Main & Winspear St)
 Buffalo, New York 14215
 Food: *Provided (i.e., pizza, subs, etc.)

I strongly encourage you to have your child call me personally to reserve that they are coming to a group or an event that week. This enables your child and me the opportunity to speak on the phone and talk a little bit before groups. This will also build trust within your child that I am there for them. Please note that all youth must R.S.V.P. the week before an event to attend. This is so we can accommodate anyone who may need a ride. Please note that not all events will have a separate flyer being mailed out. If you have any questions regarding the calendars or an event please feel free to give me a call at 858-1578.

Also if you think your child will need transportation to the group please contact your care coordinator or a natural support to assist you with this matter. If your child is able to ride public transportation bus tokens are available upon request. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation as we try and build youth voice throughout the system of care.

Sincerely,

David Serwinowski,
 Youth Coordinator

478 Main Street, Suite 101, Buffalo, New York 14202-3925
 Office: (716) 858-1578 Fax: (716) 858-7492