



ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Family involvement in the child welfare system

PURPOSE: To examine the child welfare system, including ways in which families initially interact with and enter the system, as well as potential outcomes, services and supports that may be available.

New York City

Thursday

October 21, 2021

11:00 am

250 Broadway

Assembly Hearing Room 1923, 19th Floor

New York, New York

According to data from the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Child Maltreatment 2019 report, New York families' involvement with the child welfare system has increased from 2015 to 2019. Additionally, according to the Office of Children and Family Services 2018 Annual Report, the Statewide Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) received 304,713 calls and transmitted 199,047 reports to local social services districts for further action, which represents an overall increase from 2014-2018. Furthermore, according to the 2019-20 Office of Children and Family Services' Preventive Services annual report, about 95,000 children in 2019-20 were receiving at least one day of preventive services. Finally, in addition to the increased family involvement with the child welfare system, the State has embarked on a major shift in how children are cared for while in foster care with the implementation of the Family First Preventive Services Act (FFPSA).

With the ever changing landscape, recent enactment of legislation and policy initiatives, increased family involvement in the system, and various issues that have been identified by key stakeholders, it's important for the State to understand the most critical issues families may be faced with during this time, as well as examine any potential barriers to service. The Committee would like to evaluate the current child welfare system and learn of any steps the State can take to address potential issues.

Persons wishing to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form by October 19th, 2021. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committee would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Andrew D. Hevesi

**Member of Assembly
Chairman
Committee on Children and Families**

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons wishing to present testimony at the public hearing on family involvement in the child welfare system are requested to complete this reply form by October 19, 2021 and mail, email or fax it to:

Meg Antz
Legislative Associate
Assembly Committee on Children and Families
Room 442 - Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: antzm@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4371
Fax: (518) 455-4693

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on family involvement in the child welfare system to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Children and Families on October 21, 2021.
- I plan to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to five minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____