CSEA/VOICE Action Plan 2017

In hundreds of conversations with family and group family child care providers across the state, the following issues emerged as priorities. We propose that we adopt the following four point action plan to guide our work from today through December 2019.

Negotiate 3rd Contract with OCFS and NYS

CSEA/VOICE Local 100A and Local Chapters
- Build dues paying membership in our 25 VOICE Chapters across the state.

Insurance
- More affordable workers compensation, homeowners, liability and disability insurance for home-based child care businesses across the state.
- Affordable health care for our members and working families.

Child Care Funding
- Get back the 75th percentile standard for establishing ceiling rates for reimbursement.
- Protect and secure new funding for early learning and care at the local, state, and federal level.
- Get Direct Deposit and change subsidy regulations to better meet the needs of providers and the families we serve.

Child Care Regulations, Rules and Policies
- Clarify and simplify regulations, rules and policies
- Ensure that they are enforced fairly.
Since 2002, we’ve built a strong union that bolsters the bottom-line of more than 6,300 family and group family child care providers, our businesses, and the families we serve. We’ve taken action and accomplished and many of the goals we set when we gathered in Albany in May 2011.

Our members voted to ratify our contract in 2010 – the FIRST EVER agreement that New York State and OCFS negotiated with family child care providers. In addition to resources for new programs to support family child care providers, we negotiated a licensing / registration dispute resolution process and “Guiding Principles (Provider Bill of Rights):

- More than 30,000 five hundred dollar quality grants
- Nearly 2,300 CPR/First Aid training and certification
- More than 200 CDA scholarships
- More than 100 ECE Tuition Assistance vouchers / reimbursements
- Nearly 1,500 users of online “Business of Family Child Care” (developed by Tom Copeland)
- More than 1,600 enrolled in No Cost Vision / Dental
- More than 600 ACA rebates (up to $1500)
- More than 2,000 participants in legally-exempt enhanced rate training delivered by VOICE trainers

- We passed legislation to make adult-child ratios more flexible for providers and families, expanding earning potential by $7,000 to $15,000 annually in parent fees.
- CSEA established the first statewide Bi-lingual Child Care Resource Center. We have supported thousands of providers with registration, licensing, inspections, and fair hearings; timely and accurate DSS payments and fraud investigations; zoning and municipal fees; CACFP; and professional development.
- CSEA members have worked with DSS agencies in more than two dozen counties to resolve late and inaccurate payment problems, deliver training and support with subsidy regulations, policies and the Child Care Time and Attendance (CCTA) system.
- CSEA/AFSCME worked with child care stakeholders to maintain funding for child care subsidies at the federal, state and local levels of government.
- We built membership in CSEA/VOICE Local 100A, elected Chapter Representatives and Officers, and established 25 CSEA/VOICE Chapters in 57 counties (outside NYC) across the state.