



CHILD CARE



VOICE Local 100A • CCPT Local 100B – A Union of Child Care Providers

CSEA Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO • 143 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210

Winter 2017

CSEA/VOICE close to Tentative Agreement with NYS/OCFS



Miriam Rodriguez, CSEA/VOICE Monroe Chapter member stands next to her newly arranged music corner. The items were purchased with the CSEA/VOICE Child Care Quality Grant.

Editor's Note: Your CSEA contract ratification ballot will come in the mail. You must be a CSEA/VOICE member to vote on this agreement. Be sure to read and follow the instructions in the letter about how to complete and return the ballot.

We have exciting news. The CSEA/VOICE negotiating team made up of members from New York is close to reaching a third child care Tentative Agreement with OCFS and NYS that exceeds our expectations in these hard times for providers and working families.

Since 2002, we've built a strong union that supports child care providers to deliver early learning and care to thousands of children and families across the state. We have accomplished many of the goals set by our members at regional, statewide, and chapter meetings. Through two rounds of contract negotiations since 2009, we have:

- delivered more than 30,000, \$500 child care quality grants to providers who applied;
- established a professional development fund for family child care;
- implemented Affordable Care Act health insurance rebates and vision/dental insurance;

- implemented a Fair Dispute Resolution Process for Payments and Inspections;
- secured Guiding Principles (Provider Rights) to get the respect we deserve.

Because we have a strong base of dues-paying members, CSEA has a robust program to support our members and providers across the state.

CSEA/VOICE:

- established the first bilingual statewide family child care resource center to assist with registration, licensing, and inspections; DSS payments; fraud investigations and training; CACFP, and professional development;
- assists with CPS, fair hearings, OCFS license and registration enforcement procedures and zoning issues;
- passed legislation to make adult-child ratios more flexible for providers and families. With new ratios, family child care businesses gained the potential to increase earnings as much as \$15,000 per year;
- successfully improved provider payments in more than a dozen counties across the state.

We remember what it was like before we had our union. Do you?

Professional Development is a key to our success

Professional Development is a big part of our successful contract negotiations allowing us to offer training and educational opportunities for child care providers across New York state.

These great programs are open to all NYS Registered Family or Licensed Group Family child care providers outside of New York City.

Follow each link and explore a whole world of opportunities:

- **Professional Development Program**
voicelsea.org/professionaldevelopment
- **CDA Scholarship Program**
voicelsea.org/CDA
- **Tuition Assistance Program**
voicelsea.org/tuition
- **Business Online Training Courses**
voicelsea.org/training
- **CPR/First Aid for Providers**
find training near you via voicelsea.org/events or for more information visit voicelsea.org/CPR.



¿Preguntas? Quiere esta edición en español? Llámenos gratis al (877) 483-CSEA (2732).

Members adopt action plan at child care summits

After months of Chapter meetings and conversations with members at their homes and on the phone, more than 220 CSEA/VOICE members came out in Rochester on May 20, in Albany on Sept. 16, and in Uniondale on Oct. 14 to celebrate our accomplishments, ratify our action plan for the next two years and talk child care with elected officials.

We told our story from the very beginning, starting in Albany in 2002, when family child care providers didn't even have the right to form a union, right up to announcing the happy news that we have our third Tentative Agreement with OCFS and NYS.

We recognized that working together, we are stronger. We have come a long way indeed!

We learned why it was so important for us to use our collective voice to say NO to the proposed constitutional convention (Con-Con). The Summit kick-started our action in communities across the state, distributing literature to other providers, having conversations with families and on Election Day, providing extra time at pick up for parents who needed time, to go vote.

One of the biggest election upsets was the much needed change in the county executive seat in Westchester. Kudos to all involved there. This victory and the 83 percent opposition to Con-Con proves that when we work together with parents and our communities, we can move mountains.

Elected officials joined us — all committing to work to expand funding for child care in New York

and Washington DC to support working families and those of us who deliver quality early learning and care every day. U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko, New York State Sens. Elaine Phillips and Rich Funke, New York State Assemblymembers Michaelle Solages, Patricia Fahey, and Harry Bronson all stood in person, in front of our membership and pledged to advance child care for us and working families across the state.

We enjoyed catching up and welcoming new members over a sit-down lunch. Some folks stayed for the afternoon workshops and headed home with a training certificate in hand.

To read the CSEA/VOICE action plan, visit voicescsea.org/actionplan.



Long Island CSEA/VOICE members vote to adopt the new union action plan, a blueprint for the progress and success we hope to achieve beginning in 2018.



Vice President Roxanne Savage and President Pam Wells hold commitment cards that outline steps we can take to "Grow Family Power." Hundreds of providers filled out these cards as a symbol of their commitment.



Evelyn Casanova and Ingrid Rodriguez check out additional CSEA member benefits like the Solar Power program, \$10,000 accidental death benefit, BJ's Wholesale Club membership discounts and more at the Rochester Summit.



Albany Summit attendees cheer at the progress our union has made.



State Assemblymember Michaelle Solages



State Assemblymember Patricia Fahey



State Sen. Elaine Phillips



Janet Turner and Tammy Dawkins feel the excitement for child care at the Albany Summit.



CSEA/VOICE members feel the friendship and camaraderie at the Long Island Summit held in Uniondale.



Western Region President Flo Tripi, right, offers support to a CSEA/VOICE member.



CSEA Statewide Executive Vice President Mary E. Sullivan addresses members about CSEA's renewed commitment and continued support for our child care members.



At the "Grow Family Power" training (Long Island Summit) providers learned how to advocate for children and families in our communities, how the county, state and federal child care systems work and how we can work together to make a difference. Each attendee received OCFS approved training hours and certificate.



President Pam Wells and Director of Early Learning and Care Programs Denise Dowell discuss the urgency of ensuring access to quality care for families with State Sen. Rich Funke at the Rochester Summit. He later committed to working with us.



From left, Treasurer Sally Heater, U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko, Dutchess Chapter Representative Nikki Johnson and President Pam Wells.



State Assemblymember Harry Bronson commits to ensuring child care remains a priority. He is here with CSEA/VOICE member Nancy Cordero at the Rochester Summit.

"I had never been to a SUMMIT before and didn't know what to expect. I am not a person that has ever gotten up and spoken in front of a room full of people, especially using a microphone but, I spoke in Rochester and then again in Albany! VOICE has taken my "courage" to a new level. From day one, our union has set goals and achieved them. From the networking and training opportunities to Dental, Vision, Health Insurance Rebates and Grants...at this summit we set in place our new action plan! I feel so positive about child care and our union. Everyone should experience it. It's amazing the good we can do together for providers, children and working families in New York."



Lori Roser



New York state lawmakers are drafting the 2018-19 budget. Stories from you and the parents in your program show legislators that we must increase investment now, in both the child care provider and subsidy systems. See our webpage voiccese.org/tellyourstory for more information.



Exciting Enhancements to the NO COST Dental & Vision Coverage

Dental Insurance *(effective 1/1/2018)*

Change highlights:

- Coinsurance increasing from 80% to 100% for Class B (Basic) services
- Coinsurance increasing from 50% to 80% for Class C (Major Restorative) services
- Calendar year maximum increasing from \$1,000 to \$2,500



Vision Insurance *(effective 1/1/2018)*

Change highlights:

- Copayment decreasing from \$10 to \$0 for eye exam
- Copayment decreasing from \$25 to \$0 for spectacle lenses, contact lens evaluation/fitting, and premier level collection frames
- Copayment decreasing from \$90 to \$0 for premium progressive lenses
- Copayment decreasing from \$140 to \$50 for ultra-progressive lenses
- Contact lens benefit changing from 15% discount to \$60 plus 15% discount



Go to voice.cseainsurance.com
or call **1-800-697-2732**

You must be an "active" Child Care Provider with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to qualify for this NO COST Supplemental Insurance Coverage. Additionally, if you are currently enrolled in Medicaid you are NOT eligible for these benefits.