OCFS issued new market reimbursement rates. To see the rates in your region, visit our website: voicecsea.org. The rates will apply to services delivered May 1 and after. The 69th percentile formula uses data on parent fees reported by providers in the Market Rate Survey — reflecting what providers charge private pay parents. County DSS agencies must inform you of the rate change and pay the new Market Rates if you did not sign a DSS provider contract.

Our message to legislators and the Governor made a difference. This is the first year since 2014 that the state budget included funding for reimbursement rates. Without $26 million in new funding for rates, we would have seen decreases. In most categories, rates increased or stayed the same. And the $26 million is not sufficient to pay us what we deserve and need to deliver quality programs to working families and the children in our care.

It will take all of us — providers and parents — to make New York State do better for our working families and children in next year’s budget.

To find out what you can do, email voice@cseainc.org or call 877-483-2253.

CSEA/VOICE Local 100A President Pam Wells’ entire family came to see her accept this prestigious award. Second from left is Lina Palmer, a CSEA/VOICE member who nominated Wells for the award.
Education Expert Ron Shuali’s 5-hour training: complete success despite blinding snow

Organizers from our union wondered how many people would come due to the awful weather. Shuali, best-selling author of “Breaking the Bullying Cycle” and “Building the 21st Century Child,” is not only a top motivational speaker and presenter with expertise in the preschool through middle school age groups, but is also a comedian. It’s no surprise that providers would think, “Exactly! What blizzard!”

More than 60 family child care providers showed up that thought and arrived after trekking through the snow, pleased to learn.

“I’m not some boring speaker. He’s so fun! He’s the point to the joke, but drops a little sarcasm in, too, and makes it fun.” Christine Yozzo, a CSEA/VOICE member from Utica, said. “Like when he stopped, hit a piano keyboard and began to play, interrupting us all chatting and starting to sing. ‘If you’re happy and you know it, clap your hands,’ he got all of us attention.”

In the midst of Shuali’s entertaining approach were some important lessons for providers.

“We were sitting there laughing and then he stopped and simply said, ‘pattern interrupt,’” Yozzo said. “He not only taught us, but demonstrated how to redirect attention and recenter or present. I use this in my program now.”

Attendees for the first time class seemed like few flew by, though the class flew by so well over two hours (Shuali) thinks out of the box. It’s exciting, it’s not your typical class. He has us think challenges through in a really practical way and then he gives you tools and strategies to expand your thinking,” said Yozzo. “He teaches you how to make your day running your program fun and easier, and how to engage with the children who really need it. For example, he taught us ways to help children decompress by using his YoYoArt technique. ‘The kids love it!’”

Providers and assistants are both welcome to register for Shuali’s class, which will be offered several more times this spring and summer. Sessions are scheduled for Jamestown on May 11, Buffalo on June 16, and Batavia on June 15. If you would like to register, visit voiceutsa.org/events.

“I think all providers should go to Ron’s training even if you have all your hours in, you should consider coming. It is well worth it. He gives you strategies to expand your program with a great program for teachers of every kind. I think you’ll find it easy, and how to engage with the children. He knows what you need to do something.” Luckily, she has a union.

Cordero spent many hours with Ramirez at her program going through everything. She stressed the importance of logging daily health checks, keeping accurate visitor sign-in sheets, processing payments, and employee handbooks and child files, including medical records.

“For example, YoYally has had UPK kids as old as school aged, she said.”

“I'm doing now, and I can easily keep track of children's grades and helping them get back on track to make progress, and understand the regulations. 'If you have questions, don't hesitate to call your provider. You have to call your union, they help you, she said.'

Ramirez is sharing all she learned and putting it forward assisting other union providers in need. She joined the CSEA/VOICE Monroe DSI Team to ensure providers in her community stay connected to new information, regulations and ensure all providers learn what an amazing tool CCA is.

Cordero, a CSEA/VOICE veteran and a family child care provider for more than 15 years, called Early Learning and Care Representative Nunez a “Getting it done and Recordkeeping.”

The providers signed up in advance for the Friday, CSEA/VOICE sponsored training day of “Laughter, Learning and Leadership.”

In January, I got an important job promotion — to Grandma! This spring, I am leaving CSEA and moving to Florida to take my work back to its roots to be near my family. I am happy and so excited, and I was just so excited and so happy in the blizzard, with zero visibility.

In the coming months, Anneliese will work with CSEA/VOICE Local 100A also sponsored a Professional Development training given by national family child care expert Rep. Nancy Cordero, a Monroe Chapter Representative, standing, shows YoYally Ramirez, sitting, in the office of her Rochester Group Family Child Care, efficient, organized ways to handle the business aspect of family child care.
**Professional Development Programs available**

Professional Development is a big part of our successful contract negotiations allowing us to offer incredible development opportunities for child care providers across New York State at reduced and even no cost to providers.

Here are some great programs currently offered:

- **Professional Development Program**
  Get state approved training to meet enrollment/registration/licensing requirement AT NO COST TO YOU.

- **CDA Scholarship Program**
  Earn your Childhood Development Associate Credential!

- **Tuition Assistance Program**
  Get help with college tuition!

- **CPR/First Aid classes**
  Available at No Cost to you!

Visit voicecsea.org and explore a whole world of opportunities.

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**Dear Provider,**

**Nobody is in a better position to influence our world than you; working with the children of our communities every day. You are among the most valued members of our communities and on this day, we recognize you. It is a great pleasure to thank you on behalf of all of CSEA for the hard work you do to make our world a better place.**

We wish you the best Provider Appreciation Day from the bottom of our hearts.

In solidarity,

CSEA President Danny Donohue

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**Office of Children and Family Services**

**Dear Child Care Provider,**

Today we celebrate all the incredible work that you do for young children. You are the best advocate for children in your care, and an invaluable resource for families. On this Friday, May 10, 2019, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services would like to express our appreciation to all child care providers, teachers, and everyone involved in the quality education and loving care of New York State's children.

The Office of Children and Family Services extends this appreciation message to all family members, friends, and neighbors who help families raise their most prized possessions. Your dedication to child care gives New York State children a chance for a brighter and happier future. We thank you for your commitment to children and youth across the state.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sheila J. Poole
Acting Commissioner

Janie M. Molnar, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services