

Network Celebration

June 13, 2018



Early Childhood Mental Health Network Celebrates Two Years of Accomplishments

[ThriveNYC](#), the City's comprehensive mental health plan, ensures that our youngest New Yorkers receive the mental health services and supports they need to become healthy and resilient adults.

Helping Young Children Thrive

The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families at DOHMH manages the Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Network that was launched in July 2016. It consists of seven (7) early childhood therapeutic centers (ECTCs) that are linked to licensed mental health clinics and offer:

1. Mental health consultation services onsite in early care and education sites to build the skills of teachers and other staffs to support the social-emotional development of young children.
2. Mental health services for the families of children birth to five years. Services aim to intervene early to support young children and their families using trauma-informed models of care and treating parents/caregivers for depression or other mental health concerns.



3. Family peer support services to engage families, provide emotional support and linkages to community supports.

The ECMH Network includes a Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) that trains clinical staff and allied early childhood professionals in evidence-based models and best practices to promote early childhood mental health and social-emotional development.

This expansion of services was made possible by funding through [ThriveNYC](#). By implementing the ECMH Network as part of the Social-Emotional Learning Initiative, New York City has made a strong investment in the City's children and families.

Celebrating our Network

On June 13, 2018, there was a celebration luncheon to acknowledge the incredible work of the Network and to thank staff for their service. The lunch reception was hosted at the NYU Law School after a morning presentation for early childhood professionals on sensory integration issues by Marie Anzalone. The luncheon was attended by 120 staff from the Network (clinicians, mental health consultants, family peer advocates, supervisors and directors), as well as staff from Children Under Five mental health provider agencies, City agency partners (NYC Mayor's Office, NYC Administration for Children's Services, NYC Department of Education), and NYS Office of Mental Health.



Alexis Confer, Executive Director, ThriveNYC, Mayor's Office, Gary Belkin, MD, PhD, MPH, Executive Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene at DOHMH, and Donna Bradbury, MA, LMHC, Associate Commissioner, Division of Integrated Community Services for Children and Families at the NYS Office of Mental Health spoke in recognition of the Network's success. Some key accomplishments of the Network were shared through stories and data.



Since the 2016 launch, **1,625** families with children under five were served by the seven ECTCs through provision of specialized mental health services, and **1,462** families received family peer support services. **2,532** early care and education staff and caregiver at **76** ACS EarlyLearn sites received mental health consultation from ECTC staff. **1,321** mental health staff and early childhood allied professionals were trained by the TTAC.



The program included stories from the field, with staff from the Network and an EarlyLearn site director describing the impact of the program on the children and families they serve. Their remarks provided invaluable windows into the on-the-ground work of the Network and the importance of supporting young children and families.

By expanding mental health capacity to serve our youngest New Yorkers, **ThriveNYC** shows NYC's commitment to "Act Early" and ensure the wellbeing of children and families.

This work would not be possible without the dedication and effort of all staff and partners to helping young children thrive!



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