



April 26, 2011

For Immediate Release

For more information, contact Suzanne O'Boyle at soboyle@orangecountygov.com or 845-360-6717

**Orange County System of Care Recognizes
National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week May 1 - 7**

Goshen - The first week in May is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. This national week of recognition is dedicated to increasing public awareness of the challenges and triumphs children and their families face when dealing with children's mental health concerns.

In support of Children's Mental Health Awareness week, Orange County System of Care, a federal grant-funded program that gives children and families single source access to the programs and services they need, will host a series of events that will provide families a great opportunity to learn more about mental wellness and the mental health services and supports that are available in our community.

Orange County families are invited to attend the free Family Health and Wellness Day on Sunday May 1 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Newburgh Activity Center, 401 Washington Street, Newburgh. The program will include information and education sessions, activities for children, fun games, and refreshments.

“Serious emotional and mental health disorders in children and youth are real and treatable,” said Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana. “It’s critical for our families to understand that support is available to help our young people and their families so that we can encourage and promote positive mental health, well-being, and social development for all children and youth. I encourage parents and other family members to learn more about Orange County System of Care and our other partners during National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week,” continued Mr. Diana.

In addition to the Family Day event, there will be the 7th annual Children’s Mental Health Conference for professionals sponsored by Orange County Department of Mental Health, Orange Rehabilitation Support Services, Orange Ulster BOCES, Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc., and Occupations, Inc. This year’s keynote speaker is Michael E. Thomas II, of the Sanctuary Institute, who will be presenting “The Effects of Trauma on Childhood Development.” The Conference will be held Tuesday, May 3 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Graham Skea Lodge at

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Orange County’s Thomas Bull Memorial Park, Route 416, Montgomery. Those interested in attending the Conference should contact Zoraida Mercado, Orange County System of Care, by emailing zmercado@orangecountygov.com or calling 845-360-6711. The cost for the Conference is \$15, which includes continental breakfast and lunch. Space is limited, so registration is encouraged.

Other events being hosted in Orange County in recognition of National Children’s Mental Health Week include:

| Location | Date | Activity or Event | When | Contact/Telephone |
|------------------------------------|-------|--|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Rehabilitation Support Services | May 5 | A Celebration of Cultural Diversity | 4 pm - 7 pm | Tara at 845-360-6722 |
| Hands On Advanced Physical Therapy | May 7 | Activities for children and parents to promote preventative physical medicine through stretching, massage and acupuncture. | 10 am - 3 pm | Cindy at 845-775-3636 |
| Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center | May 7 | Introduction to Equine Facilitated Learning | 12 pm - 3 pm | Martha Underwood 845-986-6686 |

To learn more about Orange County System of Care, visit them online at www.orangecountygov.com, click on Departments, then System of Care.

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Edward A. Diana
County Executive



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