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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Orange County System of Care - Change Agents Leadership Group Premiere "Stigma-Buster" Conference Scheduled for November 11**

**Goshen** – Being a young person in today's fast-paced, technology-driven world can present many challenges. Why not give them some of the tools they need to improve understanding and make their lives just a little easier? Consider using the Veteran's Day school holiday for a special youth-oriented program from Orange County System of Care's Change Agents' Leadership Group.

Youth, parents, professionals, and the community are invited to attend a free "Stigma-Buster" conference on sensitivity awareness, based on various stereotypes and labels associated with mental health and the challenges that young people face. The conference will be held Friday, November 11 at Orange/Ulster BOCES, Special Education Building, 53 Gibson Road in Goshen. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the keynote speaker will take the stage at 9:00 a.m. The conference will conclude at 4:30 p.m. Breakfast, lunch, and childcare will be provided. Registration forms must be faxed to 845-346-1170 or emailed to [jhansen@orangecountygov.com](mailto:jhansen@orangecountygov.com) before Sunday, November 6.

Representatives from *Youth M.O.V.E. National*, [www.youthmovenational.org](http://www.youthmovenational.org), a subsidiary of the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, [www.ffcmh.org](http://www.ffcmh.org), will be presenting on all types of stigma that affect young people. They will also enlighten adults and parents on how to be informed and sensitive to youth culture and stereotyping. Youth and young adults will learn to see past stigma and embrace their awesomeness! Together youth, parents, professionals, and the community will explore ideas to identify goals and obstacles to overcome stigma and barriers.

Former President for Youth M.O.V.E. National Inc., Tyrus J. Curtis from New York City, will share his personal story. By sharing the challenges he has overcome, young people will see first-hand that they have the power to make a difference for themselves and others.

This event is the first in a series to educate, advocate, and help put an end to the stigma affiliated with mental health in our community. Orange County System of Care will host their annual event in celebration of Children's Mental Health Awareness in May 2012. Watch for upcoming details! All are invited to this annual community event.

To download the flyer and the required registration form, please visit:  
[http://www.mysystemofcare.org/images/stories/antistigma\\_flyer\\_with\\_registration\\_form\\_101911.pdf](http://www.mysystemofcare.org/images/stories/antistigma_flyer_with_registration_form_101911.pdf)

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