

NEWS



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

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Orange County Youth Bureau Shines at Statewide Conference ***Director Chichester Received NYS Recognition for Outstanding Commitment to Youth***

Goshen – Orange County Youth Bureau Executive Director Carol Chichester was recently recognized for her outstanding commitment and dedication to the youth of New York State and the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus at the association's 41st annual youth development conference and youth bureau's directors' training held in Albany.

"Carol is extremely well-deserving of this recognition," remarked Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana. "She is an active partner with all of our County human services agencies and she believes in the power of collaboration. Under her leadership, Orange County has been recognized for the second year in a row by America's Promise Alliance as one of the nation's '100 Best Communities for Young People' for our county-wide efforts to reduce the high school drop out rate," continued Mr. Diana.

The entire Orange County Youth Bureau team played an integral role as part of the Association's conference planning committee and also presented at the youth bureau director's training. The presentation highlighted Orange County Youth Bureau's commitment to results based accountability and illustrated the County's success in working with community partners to develop a master plan for youth, ensuring a county-wide system of quality programs through monitoring, and implementing youth worker professional development training. Youth Bureau representatives demonstrated how Orange County's comprehensive cross systems collaboration helped the County once again earn the America's Promise 100 Best Communities distinction.

More than 250 youth bureau representatives from throughout New York State participated in the annual conference.

"The annual youth development conference is an excellent way for our youth bureau staff to engage with other youth bureaus from around the State," said Chichester. "We have the opportunity to share our expertise with others and learn from the experience of others. We were very proud to have a number of successful Orange County programs highlighted in different workshops at the conference," she added.

The following programs were highlighted in workshops:

Summer Enrichment Academies: Changing the Culture of a High School and a Middle School was presented by Aaron Hopmayer, Principal and Brian Lynn, Assistant Principal for Pine Bush High School along with Brett Cancredi, Assistant Principal for Port Jervis Middle School. Participants received an overview and framework for the creation and implementation of seven summer academies: Law and Leadership, Literacy and Education, Science, Aviation, Performing Arts, Medical, and a Middle School Outdoor Leadership Academy. Attendees learned how to create an

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academy, the benefits associated with summer academies, the methodologies incorporated in the different programs, and possible funding opportunities.

Strengthening Families in Orange County, New York was presented by Suzan Sussman, of Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Virginia Brown, of Dispute Resolution Center. *Strengthening Families*, an evidenced based, best practice program, has been offered in Orange County in two models. Cornell Cooperative Extension has been offering the preventive model through the schools and the Dispute Resolution Center has been contracted by the Probation Department to provide the crisis model for teens on probation and their families. The presenters explained how both agencies have collaborated to serve different populations in various settings to strengthen the families of our county's youth.

Teen Driving Safety: Partnering with Schools, Teens and Parents was presented by Christina M. Hale, Traffic Safety Administrator and Program Assistant and John E. Jones, from the Orange County Traffic Safety Program, along with Craig W. Cherry, Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Police Liaison Services. Several years ago, the newly formed Orange County Traffic Safety Program embarked upon a mission to revolutionize the way traffic safety messages were delivered to adolescents in an effort to do one thing - change behavior! Attendees learned about the partnership with Orange-Ulster BOCES, United Way, local school districts, and law enforcement to develop annual traffic safety plans for the schools that include: school parking permit programs, "Not One More" forums, teen driving safety classroom sessions, and driving simulators. With community support, seven high tech driving simulators are now owned and circulated through eight school districts that incorporate traffic safety into the entire school year and some summer sessions. Parents, teachers, students and community members all play a role.

For more details about any of these programs, or any other assistance regarding children, youth, and families, contact the Orange County Youth Bureau at 845-615-3620 or visit www.orangecountygov.com/youthbureau. An extensive Online Community Calendar for a variety of events, trainings and conferences for youth, families and youth workers is also available.

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Carol Chichester, Director, Orange County Youth Bureau with Jennifer Petteys, President, Association of NYS Youth Bureaus



Carol Chichester, Director, Orange County Youth Bureau driving simulator as Christina M. Hale, Traffic Safety Administrator and Program Assistant and John E. Jones, from the Orange County Traffic Safety Program look on.