



Family Voices Network  
of Erie County



*Family driven Youth guided Community based Culturally sensitive*

Michael Weiner, MS, MBA  
Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

Philip R. Endress, LCSW, ACSW  
Commissioner  
Department of Mental Health

Marie Morilus-Black, LCSW-R  
Project Director  
Family Voices Network

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Deborah Porter, Social Marketing  
Office: 898-6134 – Cell: 308-2582  
Email: [daporter@buffalo.edu](mailto:daporter@buffalo.edu)

“Our Voices Count Too!” – One Form. One Application. One Process for Erie County

Buffalo, New York, November 16, 2008 – Family Voices Network of Erie County (FVN), a program operating from the County’s Department of Mental Health and working with Department of Social Services has developed a new informational booklet entitled “Our Voices Count Too!”

This booklet was created by a group of parents and youth who felt there was certain information about FVN Referral Process that families, physicians, clinicians and our court system should know when referring families to Family Voices Network to received care coordination services through the wraparound process.

The Erie County Single Point of Accountability (SPOA) initiative has changed over the past five years. Today, the SPOA Application process is now combined with “FVN Referral Process.” Through collaborative efforts, Erie County has created a “One form, one application, and one process for all children in Erie County experiencing emotional, behavioral, and social needs and are at risk of being removed from their home, school or their community. This includes children and adolescents who are involved in mental health, juvenile justice, foster care/adoption, probation, mental health, and social services.

When children, adolescent and families are referred to Family Voices Network (FVN) for services, the agency or individual making the referral must clearly identify the type of service needed for children and adolescents who are at risk of out of home placement (i.e., hospitalization, residential treatment center, etc.).

“Our Voices Count Too!” will be distributed throughout Erie County to all agencies who work with children and adolescent. Watch for the "Green" envelope in your mail soon. It is an educational booklet designed to inform referring agencies and educate parents about the Wraparound Process and Erie County’s referral system. This booklet will appear on our website after November 26 and available for downloading at [www.familyvoicesnetwork.org](http://www.familyvoicesnetwork.org). To request copies contact Deborah Porter at 898-6134 or send an email to [marketing@familyvoicesnetwork.org](mailto:marketing@familyvoicesnetwork.org).

462 Grider Street, CC-120 \* Buffalo, New York 142155  
Office: (716) 898-6134 Fax: (716) 898-3536