



Family Voices Network
of Erie County



Family driven • Youth guided • Community based • Culturally competent

Michael Weiner, MS, MBA
Commissioner
Department of Social Services

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

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

November 26, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Erie County's Single Point of Accountability (SPOA) has been evolving over the past six years since it began through New York State Office of Mental Health New Initiatives in 2001. The progress of this Initiative has intensified since October 2004 when Erie County was awarded a six year Systems of Care SAMHSA Grant to support children, youth, and families experiencing significant emotional, behavioral, and/or social challenges.

Family Voices Network (FVN) of Erie County is both the name of the SAMHSA grant, and includes a network of Care Coordination agencies and vendors that are involved with referred youth and their families receiving services and supports through the wraparound process. The referral process for Family Voices Network (FVN) and Children's SPOA is the same process, application, and informed consent. The Care Coordination agencies include the mental health programs that bill Medicaid for ICM or HCBS Waiver services.

Erie County continues to be committed to simplifying the identification of referrals and access to the best possible services and supports within our community. Particularly, for **youth**, adolescent, and their families that are **most at risk** for hospitalization and/or placement outside of their homes or communities.

We are working to improve knowledge of Family Voices Network, the Wraparound Process, and the FVN Referral Process. Enclosed in this package are:

Our Voices Count Too! (FVN Referral Booklet)
FVN Referral Process Form Application
Informed Consent Form

This package includes the information that agencies or individuals making a referral to Family Voices Network need to know. Mail the FVN Referral Process Form Application to this address:

Family Voices Network
c/o Erie County Department of Mental Health,
95 Franklin St., Room 1237
Buffalo, NY 14202

If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact FVN Administrative Assistant, Angeline Walker at (716) 858-1546. To **request additional copies** of the FVN Referral Process Booklet (Our Voices Count Too!), please contact Deborah Porter at 716-898-6134 or email: marketing@familyvoicesnetwork.org.

Sincerely,

Linda Eckert

Linda Eckert LCSW-R
FVN Clinical Director/
Children's SPOA Coordinator