



# Care Management Coalition

of Western New York, Inc.

## **Baker Victory Services**

James J. Casion  
Chief Executive Officer

## **Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo**

Diane L. Rowe  
Chief Professional Officer

## **Buffalo Urban League**

Brenda W. McDuffie  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## **Child & Family Services, Inc.**

Eugene Meeks  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## **EPIC**

(Every Person Influences Children)  
Vito J. Borrello  
President

## **Gateway-Longview, Inc.**

James M. Sampson  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## **Joan A. Male Family Support Center**

Deborah A. Merrifield  
Executive Director

## **New Directions Youth and Family Services, Inc.**

James W. Coder  
Chief Executive Officer

J. Mark Robinson  
Executive Director  
Chief Executive Officer

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November 4, 2009

Gladys Carrión, Esq.  
Commissioner

Bill Gettman  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Bill McLaughlin  
Director Regional Operations and Practice

NYS Office of Children & Family Services  
Capital View Office Park  
Rensselaer, NY 12144-2796

Dear Commissioner Carrión, Executive Deputy Commissioner Gettman and Director McLaughlin:

Thank you all so much for your valuable time and insight during last week's conference call with the members of the Care Management Coalition of Western New York, Inc. It left all of us feeling as if our dedication and continued efforts to provide top-level care to this region's most at-risk youth and families is well recognized and appreciated by each of you.

As was stated often during this conversation, it is our hope and intent to work more closely with you and your department in delivering increasingly more positive outcomes for these constituents. The Care Management Coalition truly wants to be a readily available and valuable resource in support of your difficult mission. We want you to clearly know that we share your commitment to make a significant positive impact on these children and families and that we are here to work with you in any relevant way to help this happen. Our agencies deliver quality services throughout the eight counties of Western New York and our Coalition has earned a solid reputation as an effective advocate for families and for setting a standard of providing the highest quality of community services possible.

These difficult times are often referred to as the 'perfect storm.' As our societal problems increase, the funds necessary for treatment continue to decline. We have learned and demonstrated that providing up-front, well-planned preventive dollars, along with adequate resources for successfully re-integrating residentially placed youth back into their families and communities, results in shorter stays, less recidivism and ultimately saves substantial dollars. This has also resulted in a more integrated, well coordinated regional relationship with the Erie County Office of Mental Health, Department of Social Services and Judicial System. With the closings of some OCFS facilities, these residents will now be cared for by local private agencies. By ultimately re-investing half of the resultant dollars saved back into these community providers, the system will resultantly produce more positive outcomes for less overall cost.

"It's easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults."



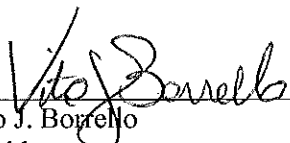
Thank you also for agreeing to notify the respective Erie County officials about the planned continuation of the COPS funding stream. This news should have a dramatic effect on countless services currently on hold here. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance in helping you deliver that positive news.

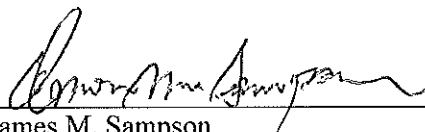
We are excited to follow-up on all of the topics discussed during the call, including providing any possible support from the currently non-represented Western New York region for your Juvenile Justice Task Force. With the growing successes being demonstrated here, particularly in Erie County with the Wraparound Program, these additional resources should prove tremendously beneficial in shaping the future model for New York State. Our coalition also remains poised to assist your office with potential educational opportunities that may be viewed as essential as a result of the ongoing systemic assessment. We are collectively ready, willing and able to be a strong voice and advocate for any of these societal funding issues.

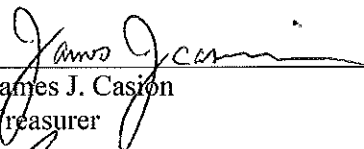
Finally, we would like to re-state our sincere desire to have you visit 'upstate' Buffalo and allow us the opportunity to plan a full Care Management Coalition of Western New York meeting around your visit. I think you'll agree that there's a lot more going on here than great chicken wings and what's left of the Buffalo Bills! There is, in fact, a growing, well-planned and integrated delivery system of child and family services that is growing in scope and effectiveness each day. It is absolutely our intent and commitment for this to continue. It is also our sincere hope that it could be the example you need to truly help implement state-wide changes where needed.

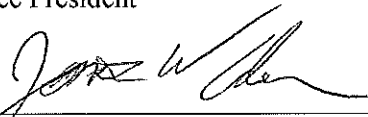
Thank you again for all you are doing for New York's children and families. We look forward to hearing from you soon and meeting with you in person at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

  
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Vito J. Borrello  
President

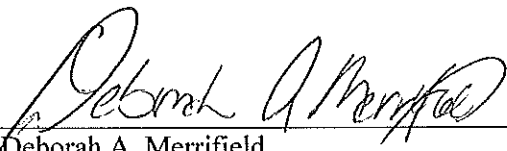
  
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James M. Sampson  
Vice President

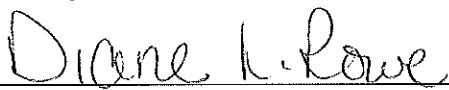
  
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James J. Casion  
Treasurer

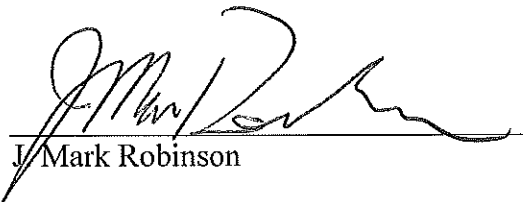
  
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