The Alliance of New York State YMCAs
July 2012
33 Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207
www.ymcanys.org/

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ACCORD

POST SESSION UPDATE

READ ON FOR AN OVERVIEW OF THE WORK WE'VE BEEN DOING IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

IN THIS ISSUE

YMCA Legislative Update
Child Safety Task Force Updates
- **Statement of commitment**
- **Cyberbullying legislation**
- **Child Safety Initiative Meeting**

Editor's Note – August Recess Visits
YMCA News
- **Syracuse YMCA Delta Grant**

Partner Updates
- **Hunger Solutions NY**
- **The Barclays Golf Tournament**

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Contact Alliance of New York State YMCAs
info@ymcanys.org
518.462.8241

Lawmakers have left the New York State Capitol and returned to their newly redrawn districts to begin work on their election and re-election campaigns (image courtesy http://ogs.ny.gov/ESP/CT/Tours/Capitol.asp).

YMCA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AN OVERVIEW OF FOUR YMCA PRIORITY BILLS WHICH PASSED BOTH HOUSES THIS YEAR!

During the final week of the 2012 legislative session, state lawmakers passed four of our priority bills which will have a positive impact on YMCAs in New York.

The chart at the right provides a summary of each of the four bills as well as a current status update. Although only one bill has been signed into law to date, we anticipate that all four bills will be signed by Governor Cuomo in the coming months.

This is another huge win for the Y in a year where we were able to protect or increase funding for our State Budget priorities.

Although session has ended, our advocacy efforts are ongoing. It is critical that we continue to work together to raise awareness for the important work Ys are doing across the state.

Summary/UPDATE	Assembly	Sponsor	SENATE	Sponsor
Permits professionals to practice their licensed profession at a children's overnight, day or summer camp **07/06/12 DELIVERED TO GOVERNOR**	A9794	Paulin	S6466A	Bonacic
Authorizes employers to make deductions from an employee's wages for the convenience of the employee. Includes charitable donations and gym memberships **NOT YET DELIVERED TO GOV**	A10785	Morelle	S7790	Young
Prohibits Cyberbullying in public schools **07/09/12 SIGNED CHAP.102**	A10712	O'Donnell	S7740	Saland
Relates to early childhood education in daycare centers **NOT YET DELIVERED TO GOV**	A7591C	Nolan	S5650	Flanagan

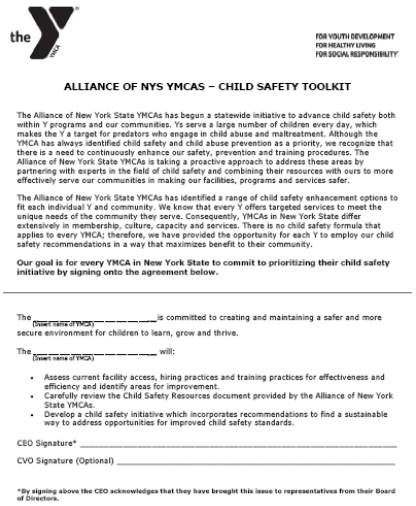
CHILD SAFETY INITIATIVE UPDATE

Our efforts to enhance statewide child safety are continuing to gain momentum with the recent passage of cyberbullying prevention legislation, last month's successful YMCA Child Safety meeting and an increase in the number of Ys which have signed on to partake in this initiative!

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

More than 80% of YMCAs in New York State have already signed on to participate in the Alliance of NYS YMCAs Child Safety Initiative! We are very hopeful that we will reach our goal of 100% participation in 2012.

Email info@ymcanys.org for a statement of commitment or child safety toolkit.



the Y

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ALLIANCE OF NYS YMCAS – CHILD SAFETY TOOLKIT

The Alliance of New York State YMCAs has begun a statewide initiative to advance child safety both within Y programs and our communities. Ys serve a large number of children every day, which makes the Y a target for predators who engage in child abuse and maltreatment. Although the YMCA has always identified child safety and child abuse prevention as a priority, we recognize that there is a need to continuously enhance our safety, prevention and training procedures. The Alliance of New York State YMCAs is taking a proactive approach to address these areas by partnering with experts in the field of child safety and combining their resources with ours to more effectively serve our communities in making our facilities, programs and services safer.

The Alliance of New York State YMCAs has identified a range of child safety enhancement options to fit each individual Y and community. We know that every Y offers targeted services to meet the unique needs of the community they serve. Consequently, YMCAs in New York State differ extensively in membership, culture, capacity and services. There is no child safety formula that applies to every YMCA; therefore, we have provided the opportunity for each Y to employ our child safety recommendations in a way that maximizes benefit to their community.

Our goal is for every YMCA in New York State to commit to prioritizing their child safety initiative by signing onto the agreement below.

The _____ (Insert name of YMCA) is committed to creating and maintaining a safer and more secure environment for children to learn, grow and thrive.

The _____ (Insert name of YMCA) will:

- Assess current facility access, hiring practices and training practices for effectiveness and efficiency and identify areas for improvement.
- Carefully review the Child Safety Resources document provided by the Alliance of New York State YMCAs.
- Develop a child safety initiative which incorporates recommendations to find a sustainable way to address opportunities for improved child safety standards.

CEO Signature* _____

CVO Signature (Optional) _____

*By signing above the CEO acknowledges that they have brought this issue to representatives from their Board of Directors.

NEW YORK STATE CYBERBULLYING PREVENTION LAW

On July 9th, Governor Cuomo signed legislation aimed at preventing cyberbullying and other forms of harassment, bullying, and discrimination in schools. The legislation focuses on changes to reporting, investigation, intervention, training and prevention with the intent of making students safer. (See page 1 for a bill number/status update for this bill and several others).

Click here to read Governor Cuomo's press release on the Cyberbullying legislation.

YMCA CHILD SAFETY INITIATIVE MEETING

On June 14th, 27 attendees from Ys across New York State traveled to Syracuse to participate in the first statewide YMCA Child Safety Initiative Meeting.

Experts in the field of child safety shared their ideas and resources to help enable YMCAs to more effectively serve our communities by making our facilities, programs and services safer. Five partner organizations participated in the meeting, including: Darkness to Light, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, The New York State Police, Raptor Ware Technologies and Praesidium.

Many of the resources presented and discussed at the meeting are available at no cost to Ys. Below is a compilation of links to several free child safety tools and resources:

- NYS Sex Offender Registry and Email/Text Alerts
- Family Watchdog National Sex Offender Registry
- Order a Code Adam Kit
- Darkness to Light Childhood Stories Documentary
- NCMEC Take 25 Initiative
- NetSmartz Online Training for Kids

EDITOR'S NOTE

CALL TO ACTION – INVITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT THE Y!

Kyle Stewart
Executive Director

The summer congressional recess period is just two weeks away and the state legislative session has already concluded therefore, now is a great time to invite your representatives (federal, state and local) to visit your Y. Y-USA distributed a best practices document to help you make the process smooth and gain effective results. Y-USA's toolkit includes a step by step process for initiating, hosting and gaining media recognition for a lawmaker's visit as well as links to draft invitation and thank you letters.

As a first step, please identify upcoming events which highlight the important work that your Y is doing to address challenges in our communities. A few examples may include:

- Summer camp event;
- Swim safety;
- Back to school;
- Summer learning loss prevention;
- Summer meals and healthy snacks for kids; and
- Outdoor/environmental learning.

Please remember that the Alliance of NYS YMCAs stands ready as a resource to you to begin the process of inviting lawmakers to your upcoming YMCA event. We welcome the opportunity to assist by contacting lawmakers on your behalf and by attending local events.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me at kstewart@ymcanys.org with any questions.

THE SYRACUSE Y WAS AWARDED A $20,000 GRANT

THANK YOU TO DELTA AIR LINES FOR SUPPORTING THE YMCA AND THE SYRACUSE COMMUNITY!

Delta Air Lines donated $20,000 to the YMCA of Greater Syracuse to support the East Area Y.

The money will be used to provide memberships, summer programs and afterschool programs to families who otherwise could not afford them.

"The Y does some very important work, whether it's through the programs, or through camp, or through opportunities", said Gail Grimmet, Senior Vice President of Delta Air Lines New York

On June 12th, 2012 Delta Air Lines employees visited the East Area Family YMCA to celebrate Delta's contribution.

Employees were in for a fun surprise in the form of a "Human Foosball" game (left).

Photo from: http://www.ymcaofgreatersyracuse.org/

SUMMER FOOD POSTER PROGRAM

DISPLAY POSTERS SHOW YOUR COMMUNITY WHERE KIDS EAT FREE!

Hunger Solutions NY has created two different summer food posters which are available to all Ys at no cost.

One generally promotes summer meal sites that Ys can display in their area, and the other reminds families to eat at the Y at a certain time if the Y is a meal site.

To have posters mailed to your Y, contact:

Rachel Hye Youn Rupright
Rachel.Rupright@hungersolutionsny.org
Hunger Solutions New York
(518) 436-8757 x121

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

FACEBOOK.COM/YMCANYS

Keep up on policy news from Albany and see what other Ys are doing across the Empire State.

THE BARCLAYS TOURNAMENT

CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH THE BARCLAYS GOLF TOURNAMENT TO RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR Y

The TICKETS Fore CHARITY Program is a fundraising opportunity offered in collaboration with The Barclays golf tournament. This year's tournament is scheduled to take place in Farmingdale, NY from August 21-26, 2012 at Bethpage State Park on Long Island.

Participating Ys will receive 75% of the proceeds (approximately $125 per ticket) for each ticket purchased on their behalf. For more information, contact Daniel Chelel at DanielChelel@pgatourhq.com or by phone at (201) 455-6082.

The YMCA of Long Island has already signed on to participate in the TICKETS Fore CHARITY Program. If your Y decides not to participate in the program, please consider sharing this opportunity with golf fans in your community.

For information regarding ticket sales to benefit the YMCA of Long Island, contact Donna Boyle at hbdymca@aol.com.