



# Council on Children and Families

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## Meeting Summary Navigating Multiple Systems Advisory Council Teleconference November 8, 2013 – 9:00 a.m. – 10 a.m.

### Advisory Members Present

**Deborah Benson**, Council on Children and Families  
**Regina Canuso**, Council on Children and Families  
**Mary Coppola**, NYS Success  
**Barry Donovan**, NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services  
**Kris Frietag**, Parent Advisor  
**Zachary Garafalo**, YOUTH POWER!  
**Victoria L. Gray**, NYS Department of Labor  
**Kathleen Griffin**, NYS Office of Children and Family Services  
**John Johnson**, NYS Office of Children and Family Services  
**Janine Kruiswijk**, Autism Society of America, Albany Chapter  
**Erika Leveillee**, Youth-in-Progress  
**Elana Marton**, Council on Children and Families  
**Mary McHugh**, NYS Office of Mental Health  
**Phyllis Morris**, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance  
**Maria Morris-Groves**, NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

**Cheryl Ohanesian**, State Education Department  
**Susan Perkins**, Council on Children and Families  
**Jean M. Sadowy**, NYS Office of Mental Health, Western NY Field Office  
**Janet Sapio-Mayta**, Council on Children and Families  
**Susan Slade**, NYS Department of Health  
**Jerry Wallace**, Kinship Navigator  
**Kerry Wiley**, NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

### Project Team

**William McLaughlin**, William McLaughlin Associates, L.L.C.  
**Fredda Merzon**, Fredda Merzon Associates  
**Rebecca Meyers**, Independent Consultant  
**Robin Miller**, Council on Children and Families  
**Bill Przylucki**, Council on Children and Families

### Project Goal Statement:

**Navigating Multiple Systems (NMS)** is a statewide, collaborative initiative led by the Council on Children and Families in concert with a broad-based advisory council. With initial grant funding from NYS DDPC, NMS will develop information tools and resources (primarily but not necessarily technology-based), aimed at improving the understanding of and access to appropriate services for children/youth with various needs and disabling conditions, their parents and other family members needing to investigate or rely on supports and services from multiple child-serving, state agency systems.



**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

### Council Member Agencies

State Office for the Aging \* Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services  
Office of Children and Family Services \* Division of Criminal Justice Services \* State Education Department  
Department of Health \* Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs \*  
Department of Labor \* Office of Mental Health \* Office for People With Developmental Disabilities  
Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives \* Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



**Deborah A. Benson**  
Executive Director

➤ **Welcome and Introductions**

Attendees introduced themselves and Bill Przylucki thanked participants for attending and for their submissions from the last meeting, reviewed the meeting agenda-to complete most recent meeting of NMS Advisory Council and suggested ideas to lend discipline to outreach activities and discussions. He then (re)introduced Bill McLaughlin, Member, Project Work Team.

➤ **Clarification and Outreach Suggestions**

- **William (Bill) McLaughlin**

Bill began the meeting by making two important clarifications.

- 1) The primary purpose of this project is to build information tools and resources responsive to parents', family members', caregivers and young people's needs. This project hopes to empower users through information tools to enhance their ability to access and navigate across-systems more independently.
- 2) While it is understood that information resources benefitting families could well benefit frontline workers and enrich the worker-family or worker-youth discussions, a primary project goal is not to build training resources for workers. We want to talk with workers and learn about the information needs of the families, caregivers and youth they serve.

Bill asked the group if this was a new concept and if the group agreed with these premises. Concurrence with Bill's explanation was noted. He proceeded to explain that the purpose of this call was for Advisory Council members to help identify workers and any other cohorts of stakeholders in addition to those already surveyed that might provide perspectives on information needs of families, caregivers and youth.

The project team is evaluating the comprehensive list of outreach suggestions identified on this call and also compiled from the index cards submitted at the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the NMS Advisory Council. The project team will need to select a representative sampling of these suggestions for outreach. Advisory Council Members may be contacted for more specific information throughout Phase 1 implementation.

Project consultants will then contact worker's supervisors and obtain permission to conduct interviews with these individuals where appropriate. Interviews will be conducted over the coming weeks.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be scheduled in January 2014. At that time we plan to report out on Phase 1 outreach, needs assessment and content gathering work and undertake the task of defining the product(s)/system to be built.