

**Name of network: "Southeast Queens Neighborhood Network (SEQNN)"
SPA 5 CDs 12 (Jamaica) and 13 (Queens Village)**

Network Letterhead/Mission Statement

Mission Statement

We are a Network of providers of Human Services in Community Districts 12 and 13 who dedicate ourselves to the strengthening of these communities through our ongoing collaboration and community building activities. We believe that children are best raised, and families' best served by a community of caring, concerned and connected citizenry.

Children and families need services that are culturally and linguistically competent and needs driven. These goals can be best achieved, by the coming together of all parties, with a stake in the community, to include the consumers of services, the private sector, the public sector, religious organizations, schools, businesses, law enforcement, mental health, social services, judiciary, philanthropies and the totality of the citizenry within the community without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, age or sexual orientation. As our network evolves, specific community needs will be identified and it will be our responsibility to match these needs with existing and/or new neighborhood-based services.

Brief history of the network to include when it was officially established:

The **"Southeast Queens Neighborhood Network (SEQNN)"** was founded in January 2001 as a result of the ACS reform plan, which included among other efforts a Neighborhood Based Services community partnership initiative.

Co-Chairs:

Rodney Pride, Borough Director, Co-Chair

Administration for Children's Services
Division of Foster Care Services
92-31 Union Hall Street
Jamaica, New York 11432
718 262-3201

Rodney Pride has been employed with the Administration for Children's Services since 1980. Mr. Pride is currently the Borough Director of ACS/Queens Direct Foster Care. He is a graduate of the Columbia University School of Social Work, Graduating Class of 1988.

Mr. Pride primary day-to day responsibility is ensuring the safety and well being of children living in Queens foster homes. He has managed Queens foster care since 1995. He has managed more than 150 staff members with responsibility for more than 1700 foster children. Mr. Pride considers one of his greatest achievements to have been the reduction of children in Queens fosters homes from 1700 in 1995, to 360 in 2003 through the safe return to relatives and/or adoptive homes.

Mr. Pride has been instrumental in the implementation of ACS/Commissioner William Bell's, Neighborhood Base Initiative from its inception in 2000. He attributes much of his success with Southeast Queens Neighborhood Network to a willingness to lead by example. By lending of himself, he has helped to make his day to day foster care program one of the top foster care agencies to New York while setting the standard for other community cased providers.

Often times as Commissioner Bell's designee, Mr. Pride has educated the community about foster care, and its needs through presentations at the Borough President's Office, at legislative breakfasts, Town Hall meetings, Community Planning Boards, and various schools of Social Work, etc. In bringing more than 50 community service providers together each month on a regular basis, Mr. Pride has provided community organizations with a vehicle to stimulate best case/service practices while encouraging independent program development. Mr. Pride has successfully assisted in the coordination of grantsmanship and proposal writing that has benefited many network members through the expansion of program capacity. His ultimate goal is to develop a self-sustaining collaborative in Southeast Queens that will take on a community life of it's own. Mr. Prides interactive approach with other large systems, such as the Department of Employment, Health and Hospitals, the Human Resources Administration, HPD, NYCHA, The Board of Education, Agenda for Children Tomorrow , NYSFAPA, etc., are all examples of large systems interacting to effectuate systemic changes to structural problems related to child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, housing, income, literacy, etc. Mr. Pride has envisioned SEQNN to be an evolving problem solving, action oriented groups of concerned professional dedicated to making significant contributions to children, families, and community, while enhancing the tools of frontline staff to effectively serve its population.

Rodney Pride was born in New York. He and his wife have enjoyed living and working in the Southeast Queens community for over ten years. In Rodney's spare time, he devotes his time to volunteerism via mentoring, coaching the Junior Knicks, reading to children to improve literacy, providing instruction to social work graduate students, and developing policy programs at the various schools of social work.

Wayne Burrowes, Program Director, Co-Chair

St Christopher Otilie
89-30 161st Street 4th Floor

List of Active Network Participants by agency

(Some agencies have more than one representative on the Network)

Child welfare agencies that are contracted in the community districts including ACS Divisions of the network:

- Administration for Children's Services, Division of Family Permanency, DFCS, Circle of Support
- Administration for Children's Services, Division of Child Protection
- Administration for Children's Services Neighborhood Based Services
- Builders for Family and Youth
- Community Mediation Services, Inc.
- Family Consultation Service
- Forestdale, Inc.
- Harlem Dowling
- Inwood House, Inc.
- Jewish Care of Long Island
- Little Flower Children's Services, Inc.
- Queens Child Guidance Center (3 program sites)
- Salvation Army
- Safe Space
- Southern Queens Park Assn., Inc.
- St. Christopher Otilie
- St. Mary's Children and Family Services
- St. Vincent's Services, Inc.
- VIP Health Care Services, Inc.

Child welfare agencies including ACS divisions that regularly attend meetings:

- Administration for Children's Services, Division of Family Permanency
- Administration for Children's Services, Division of Child Protection
- Administration for Children's Services Circle of Support
- Administration for Children's Services Office of Youth Development
- Administration for Children's Services Neighborhood Based Services
- Administration for Children Services/New York Foundling
- Administration for Children Services/ Satterwhite Academy
- Aspire Program
- Community Mediation Services, Inc.
- Family Consultation Services
- Inwood House, Inc.
- Little Flower Children Services
- Queens Child Guidance Center

- Salvation Army
- Southern Queens Parks Association
- St. Christopher Otilie
- St. Vincent's Services
- VIP Health Care

- Network members (including consumers) other than child welfare agencies that regularly attend:
 - Amistad Early Childhood Education Center
 - Coordinated Children's Services Initiative
 - Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
 - Community Board 12 (Yvonne Reddick)
 - Covenant House/Queens
 - 820 River Street, Inc.
 - DayTop Village
 - Jamaica Father's Project
 - F.E.G.S/Project COPE
 - Hillside Hospital IRT Program
 - Hillside Manor Comprehensive Care Center
 - Human Service Centers
 - Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) Relief
 - Liberty Management
 - Literacy Inc.
 - Loving Hands Day Care
 - Mahogany Sister's Network
 - New Spirit II
 - NYPD Office of Adult Education Police Commissioner Office

 - Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services
 - Queens Borough Library
 - Parents In Action
 - Rabbi David Winters
 - Reap & Keep Educational Services
 - R.I.C.H. Inc.
 - True Insight Marketing, Ltd.
 - The Zucker Hillside Hospital

Network accomplishments/projects to date:

1. Project Title: **Clergy Reception**
Project Goals/Objectives: **To promote the NBS initiative and to identify potential resources in the recruitment of Neighborhood Based resource Parents.**
Outcomes: **Developed relationships with faith-based communities**
2. Project Title: **SEQNN Free drug Screening**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to provide a cost effective drug screening resource to SEQNN member agencies in an effort to monitor the sobriety of their consumers.**
Outcomes : **Free drug screenings provided to consumers of SEQNN member agencies**
3. Project Title: **SEQNN/YMCA Summer Camp Project**
Project Goals/Objectives: **The YMCA to provide discounts for any child and/or family referred by SEQNN members**
Outcomes: **To provide children ages 8-16 who are receiving preventive and foster care services with the opportunity to engage in a summer enrichment project.**
4. Project Title: **NYSFAPA in collaboration with the SEQNN Foster Parent sub- committee scholarship banquet**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to provide children in foster care with financial resources to support their college experience.**
Outcome: **provided college tuition scholarship to several children in foster care May (2002)**
5. Project Title: **NYCF RFP proposal**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to obtain to support network activities i.e. website development, parenting classes, youth internship, etc**
Outcome: **Awarded \$55,000+ grant.**
6. Project Title: **Developed SEQNN website**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to have a webmaster develop a website which can keep all SEQNN member agencies connected and to provide a resource to the Southeast Queens community of available resources, upcoming projects and sub-committee work.**
Outcome: Website developed- WWW.SEQNN.org
7. Project Title: **NYCF RFP proposal for Network Liaison**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to help assist in the coordination of network activities and promote network collaborations to the community**
Outcomes: **Liaison was identified and appointed**

8. Project Title: **HRA Community Awareness Day in collaboration with SEQNN**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to provide community information about service providers in Southeast Queens**
Outcomes: **to have tables for 25+ network agencies to showcase their services**

9. Project Title: **A Family Day Street Festival**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to increase SEQNN network visibility and outreach in SPA 5**
Outcomes: **Amistad Early Childhood Education Center hosted the festival in an effort to inform the community about the services and give the children a day of fun**

10. Project Title: **The Borough President's Task Force on DV and Child Maltreatment**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to provide information, education and support to the Borough President's DV Task Force**
Outcomes: **ACS gave a presentation on the child protective component and neighborhood based initiatives**

11. Project Title: **Mini Champions Meeting**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to identify barriers to developing permanency plans for children in foster care, particularly adolescence**
Outcomes: **case scenarios are presented for solutions to developing permanency plans**

12. Project Title: **Parents Count Proposal**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to enhance service delivery to families in Southeast Queens**
Outcomes: **Grant awarded in the amount of over 100,000**

13. Project Title: **Substance Abuse/Mental health Project**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to inform sub-committee members on the new collaboration and protocol**
Outcomes: **educate SEQNN member and community about the protocol**

14. Project Title: **Youth Empowerment Project**
Project Goals/Objectives: **to engage youth referred by SEQNN members in developing job skills, making decisions about potential careers, mentorship, and job support to assist them in preparing for independent living**

Outcomes: **20 youth were identified for an internship in the community**

15. Project Title: Partners in Parenting

Project Goals/Objectives: **to develop a non-traditional enhanced training for parents who will learn and practice skills to develop resources for effectively raising their children**

Outcomes: **Programs first session is in progress with five families in attendance.**

16. Project Title: Matching Needs and Services

Goals/Objectives: **To assess the pressing need of the community**

Outcomes: **Ideas for projects and/or workshops to address the need i.e. mental health and Domestic violence**

17. Project Title: Top 12 indicators presented / explored.

Project Goals/Objectives: **To inform the network of the data compiled on their community districts by ACS**

Outcomes: **Information to be used in the identification of ideas, presentations, and/or projects to the network providers**