

## **STATEN ISLAND NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK PROFILE ACT WEBSITE**

**Name of Network:** Staten Island Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, Inc. (SICCAN)

### **General Neighborhood Network Overview**

A Neighborhood Network is a collaboration among community-based ACS staff, ACS contract agencies assigned to specific community districts, other service providers, and community stakeholders. Each Network is designed to improve the well-being of children and families in the child welfare system and reduce the use of foster care services in their community. The Neighborhood Network is a forum where members share resources, ideas, information, and referrals. The Network participants also engage in joint planning, service coordination, training, and advocacy.

### **The Staten Island Neighborhood Network (SICCAN)**

Staten Island Council on Child Abuse and Neglect Inc was founded in 1980 out of a growing concern for Staten Island's abused and neglected children. The purpose of SICCAN is to advocate for the development, improvement, and expansion of services, to improve inter-agency cooperation and coordination, to facilitate the awareness of abuse and neglect issues on Staten Island, to identify problems and establish a process for their solution and to establish linkages with other organizations concerned with identification, treatment, and prevention of child abuse. SICCAN is composed of governmental agencies, youth service providers and concerned citizens who serve as a communication network forum on child abuse related issues. SICCAN adopted the ACS Neighborhood Network structure and vision in the year 2001.

### **Leadership/Key Contacts:**

**Co-Chair:** Robert Crisalli  
Director, Preventive Services  
NY Foundling Hospital  
917-408-6502

**Co-Chair:** Madeleine Duran  
Borough Director,  
ACS Division of Child Protection  
718-720-2833

**SI Borough Coordinator:** Laura Haynes-White  
ACS Neighborhood Based Services  
212-227-6376

Network Liaison: Rachel Lynn Scherz  
212-487-8585

**SICCAN Stats**

Geographic Boundaries/Neighborhoods covered: The entire Borough of Staten Island

Community Districts: 1,2, 3

SPA: 1,2,3

Total Membership #: 50

Average # of Members that Actively Participate: 25

Frequency of Meetings: 1/month

List of Subcommittees: Housing, Resource, Mentoring

Total Number of Consumer Participation (i.e. youth, parent, etc.): 0

Top 3 Areas of Focus: Adolescent Services, Housing for Low to Middle Income Families, Coordination of all efforts on S.I.

Number of children in foster care: 753 (as of July 2001)

Number of child protective reports: 2,338 (as of July 2001)

**SICCAN Members**

Children's Aid Society  
Staten Island Mental Health Society  
United Activities Unlimited Beacon Center for Family Services  
Richmond Home Needs  
Staten Island University Hospital  
Richmond County District Attorney  
Staten Island YMCA Counseling Service  
Covenant House  
Safe Horizon  
Project Uth Turn  
Bridge Back to Life Center, Inc.  
NYC Department of Probation  
New York Urban League  
Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, Inc.  
Seamen's Society for Children and Families

Neighborhood Housing Services  
The Jordan Crossing Program  
New York Center for Interpersonal Development  
Catholic Big Brothers  
Roza Promotions  
Catholic Youth Organization  
Daytop Treatment Center  
Camelot Treatment Center  
Education and Assistance Corporation  
Jewish Community Center  
New York Foundling  
Concerned Citizens for Family Preservation

**Network Accomplishments to date:**

- Completed Mission Statement
  - Completed Matching Needs and Services in the Spring 2001
  - Allocated 25 Section 8 Family Unification Vouchers to ACS clients
  - Created Network Letterhead and Logo
  - Created Member list
  - Created Email Mass Distribution List
  - Created Email Listserv
  - Annual Poster/Essay Contest
  - Awarded grant from New Yorkers for Children
  - Awarded grant from SI Bank and Trust Foundation
  - Held "The Awakening"; an Adolescent Forum on February 28, 2003
  - Created Mini Adolescent Service Directory
  - Created and began implementation of the MATRIX
  - Held first annual "Housing Fair 2003" on April 29, 2003
  - Launched 3 Summer 2003 Programs for Special Needs Teens
- SICCAN has begun the creation of a mentoring program entitled "*Sure, I Certainly Can.*" The mission of the mentoring program is to provide at-risk youths with caring role models for the purpose of guidance, isolation reduction, relationship building, and addressing overall youth development. Two members of the network have just completed mentoring supervisory training at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service and Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City Center for Training and Professional Development. The official launch of "*Sure, I Certainly Can*" is tentatively scheduled for Spring of 2004.
- Every April, SICCAN hosts a poster and essay contest for the elementary school children on Staten Island. The purpose of the contest is to spark a dialogue between children and teachers on issues of child abuse and neglect, increase students' self-awareness, and contribute to personal growth. This year's theme "Our Island Living in Harmony" was selected to reflect such contemporary issues as war, bullying, teasing and ethnic diversity. The winners were awarded a hundred dollar certificate in a ceremony

hosted by the Staten Island Borough President, Guy Molinaro. Their art is now on display at SI Family Court.

- In November 2003, SICCAN formed the Child Advocacy Award Subcommittee in an effort to recognize an individual in the community that has gone above and beyond their job requirements to positively impact the quality of life for children on Staten Island. This award ceremony will take place in October 2003 at a Masquerade Ball.

- On April 29, 2003, SICCAN's Housing Subcommittee, referred to as the Staten Island Neighborhood Network Housing Alliance (SINNHA) hosted their first annual Housing Fair. Housing Fair 2003 was designed to educate residents as to all available housing options on the Island. The turnout was remarkable; one hundred community members participated in the event. SINNHA is currently working to address some of the issues surrounding the federally funded Section 8 Housing Program.

### **SICCAN's Future Projects**

- The Resource Subcommittee is currently working on compiling a directory of all social services offered on SI
- Liaison is currently collecting data on all available services for adolescents on SI, their status, and their effectiveness. Results of data collection will be utilized to inform fall programming.
- SICCAN will outreach to SI Community Boards 1, 2, and 3 in order to merge agendas.
- In the fall, SICCAN will be initiating a collaboration of all of the coalitions on the Island in order to coordinate external service and delivery.
- SICCAN will be partnering with the Staten Island Borough Based Council in order to bring local issues to the attention of legislators
- Over the summer, SICCAN's Housing Subcommittee, the Staten Island Neighborhood Network Housing Alliance (SINNHA) will be conducting research on the effectiveness of the Section 8 Housing Program. In the fall, SINNHA will begin consciousness raising workshops for SI landlords.

### **SICCAN's Co-Chair Bios**

**Robert Crisalli** is a native Staten Islander who graduated from St. Peter's Boys' H.S. in 1963. He then entered the Christian Brothers, the order that ran St. Peter's. Bob received a B.A in Sociology from Catholic University in 1968 after which he entered the Peace Corps and taught secondary school in Kenya in 1969-1970. Bob then worked as a medical-surgical technician at Morristown Memorial Hospital, fulfilling his military obligation as conscientious objector. He met and married his wife Colleen. Bob first worked as a counselor, later becoming Department Head of the Richmond Memorial Hospital Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program until 1983. He served as a supervisor for several Methadone Clinics of Beth Israel Medical Center until 1992. Bob worked part time at New York Foundling Hospital from 1990-1992 to develop the

substance abuse component of the Preventive services, and in 1992, fulltime as supervisor of the Diagnostic Reception Center. In 1993 he became Director of Preventive Services at NY Foundling. He obtained his M.S. in Education from Long Island University in 1980. Bob is a Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Specialist and has served on the following committees to promote the well-being of children and families: The Executive Committee of Prevent Child Abuse, New Domestic Violence Subcommittee, The S.I.Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and the S.I. Children's' Campaign. Bob and Colleen have a son Luke who attends the College of S.I.

**Madeleine Duran** is a native of Brooklyn who graduated in 1976 from Brooklyn College with a Bachelor's Degree in Speech Pathology. Ms. Duran began working with the Bureau of Child Welfare in 1980 as a Child Protection Worker. Working with child protection inspired her to continue with the agency. She soon rose through the ranks becoming a supervisor in 1985, a Child Protection Manager in 1987, a Director in 1992 and the Borough Director in 2001. In May 1999 she graduated from Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University with a Master's Degree in Social Work and Community Organization. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) presented her with an Outstanding Accomplishment award upon graduation. As a Deputy Director for ACS, Division of Child Protection, she was challenged and charged with the responsibility of overseeing field operations within the Division of Child Protection. As the agency changed over to the Administration for Children's Services, she remained Deputy Director implementing changes and accountable for enforcing reform plans. Upon her arrival on Staten Island she immediately began networking with the community agencies and in 2002 was elected to co-chair the Staten Island Council for Child Abuse and Child Neglect. Ms. Duran is also a member of the Staten Island Borough Based Council. Presently, as Borough director of the Staten Island Child Protective Services Field office, Ms. Duran strives to prioritize and emphasize the agency's vision of quality case practice and teamwork.