

CLUSTER provides services in four major program areas:

- ◆ Mental Health Residential Services
- ◆ Westchester & Rockland Mediation Centers
- ◆ Youth and Family Programs
- ◆ Housing Resource Center

Tony J. Carrizales

President,
CLUSTER Board of Directors

Kristina Yamin

Executive Director

Diana M. Campos

Newsletter Editor

CLUSTER's Mission is "to provide services and programs that assist residents in Yonkers and Westchester & Rockland Counties to build a better future for themselves and their communities."

CLUSTER receives Summer Camp Grant from St. Barnabas Church

CLUSTER recently received a grant for \$2500 to support children attending the CLUSTER Summer Day Camp. This 6-week camp provides an all-day camp experience for low-income Yonkers children between the ages of 6 to 13 years old. In addition to literacy activities, they go swimming twice a week in Tibbetts Park, participate in sports and take part in arts and cultural enrichment. Children receive breakfast, lunch and a snack daily.

Kristina Yamin, Executive Director stated "CLUSTER is so grateful to St. Barnabas for their support of our Summer Camp. This camp is supported by donations from the community and individuals."



SPRING/SUMMER 2019

28 Wells Avenue, 4TH Floor, Yonkers, NY 10701 ◆ 914-963-6440 ◆ www.clusterinc.org

CLUSTER Summer Camp

Since 1975 CLUSTER has offered a 6-week summer camp program for children from low-income families in Southwest Yonkers. Every year at least 100 students are enrolled and attend the all-day camp. The children engage in cultural enrichment activities, academic enhancement, sports, and swimming. Last year, the camp was able to move the swimming day to the outdoor pool at Tibbetts Park, which the children really enjoyed. They also participate in weekly camp trips to places like the Mystic Seaport Aquarium, Liberty Science Park, and other places which are fun and educational.

This year's summer camp will run from July 8 through August 16. Applications for children between the ages of 6 to 13 years old are now available at the CLUSTER Office (28 Wells Ave. 4th floor, Yonkers) or it can be found online at www.clusterinc.org. The Summer Camp will be held at Hawthorne PEARLS Elementary School from 8:30 to 3:00. Children who attend receive breakfast, lunch and snack, and transportation is also available.



Tajae Gaynor Appointed to Advisory Board

Tajae Gaynor, Director of the Westchester and Rockland Mediation Center of CLUSTER, was recently appointed by County Executive George Latimer, to the Westchester County Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

The Criminal Justice Advisory Board interacts with the Department of Probation, as well as the Corrections Department to help guide policy and identify best practices to support the residents of Westchester. Mr. Gaynor has had extensive interaction with many facets of the Criminal Justice System through his work with the Mediation Center for both youth and adult clients.

Mr. Gaynor expressed appreciation at his recent appointment stating, "I am honored to be appointed to the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, and to use my standing to serve as an advocate on behalf of those involved with the criminal justice system."

The Westchester and Rockland Mediation Center is a program of CLUSTER Community Services. Tajae has over 10 years working with the Mediation Center. "CLUSTER is so proud and pleased that not only is Tajae's hard work and commitment being recognized, but that the work and value of the Mediation Center is also being recognized by this important appointment" stated Kristina Yamin, Executive Director.



Bring It Home



For the past few months, people from all over New York State have been organizing in an effort to get additional funds allocated in the state budget for Mental Health Services. Funding increases for the Office of Mental Health have been small and slow. Staff from CLUSTER joined in the effort, taking part in the marches and rallies organized by the Association for Community

Living, which have taken place across New York State.

The NYS Budget for FY 2019 -2020 was recently enacted and it failed to include funding for which the Bring It Home (BIH) Campaign had fought for. (The enacted budget does include a modest increase of \$10 million for select housing programs, additional monies to support capital projects within OMG-certified programs and targeted workforce enhancement to be implemented in January and April of 2020) for select staff. If you want to get more involved or attend the rallies, please contact Jasmin McCormack or Kristina Yamin at CLUSTER.

Once again, as has been for the last 10 years the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) has been deferred by the legislature.



Shelley Mondelli Promoted to Senior Case Manager

Jasmin McCormack, Director of Mental Health Residential Services at CLUSTER, Inc. recently announced that Shelley Mondelli had been promoted to Senior Case Manager for Supported Housing.

Ms. Mondelli has worked as a Case Manager at CLUSTER since 2016. In her new position she will be responsible for providing assistance along with the Coordinator of Supported Housing in the overall management of the

several Supported Housing Case Managers and 86 residents of the program.

“I am so pleased we are able to promote someone of Shelley’s quality into the position of Senior Case Manager. She has worked hard and is deserving of this promotion” stated Ms. McCormack.

Congratulations Shelley!

Are you looking to get more involved in your community? Are you interested in how to improve your community? Then perhaps you should consider joining CLUSTER Community Services Board of Directors. You will have the opportunity to help



shape policy and build a strong organization that will work to improve the lives of everyone in the community. For more information contact: Kristina Yamin, Executive Director, at kyamin@clusterinc.org

Spotlight On: Daryl Shafe, Housing Case Manager

On May 15th Daryl Shafe was invited to give the Keynote Address to the 59th Graduating Class of the Education Outreach Program of Catholic Charities, in New York City. Daryl is an alumnus of that Program, graduating with the 25th Class.



For Daryl this was the culmination of a long and winding road. Daryl had been on the other side of the microphone sitting in the exact seats that those listening to him occupied. He had been through the system, and proudly, and humbly, acknowledged that he finally feels that he has come out on the other side, into the light of realization. “The EOP Program, helped change my life. They saw in me what I didn’t see. I can now look back on my experience and know that it has helped me become a better person and a better case manager”, Daryl stated.

“I enjoy being able to help the people that come to CLUSTER, and I understand their fears, and their anger”, he continued.

CLUSTER congratulates Daryl Shafe and is proud to have him as a member of our staff.



Congratulations!

In April Kristina Yamin was voted onto the Board of the Association of Community Living (ACL). She will serve a two-year term as the Hudson River Regional Representative. Kristina has been a member of ACL for more than 10 years. “The ACL is a strong advocate and voice for agencies that serve individuals with Mental Illness. I am so proud to serve on the Board of such a great organization” stated Ms. Yamin.

Thank you!

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CLUSTER would like to acknowledge and express our appreciation to the many individuals, foundations, corporations and other organizations that supported our work in 2018. Your support has made a difference in the lives of many. Thank you for your commitment.

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Please visit our sponsor for this years Autumn Gala.



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CURRENT OCCUPANT

Thomas Ross, Clifton Sapp, James Daniels and Bridgette Price went to see the musical "Ain't Misbehavin'" at the Westchester Broadway Theatre. A good time was had by all.

Save the Date

CLUSTER's Annual Gala



Thursday • September 26TH 2019 • 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Peter Kelly's X20 Restaurant 71 Water Grant St. Yonkers, NY 10701

