



Broome County Department of Social Services

Debra A. Preston, County Executive . Arthur R. Johnson, LCSW, Commissioner

October 14, 2014

Dear Colleagues & Members of the Community:

Effective December 1, 2014, per Family Court Act § 735, Broome County Department of Social Services (DSS) will be designated Broome County's "Lead Agency" for PINS diversion services. This will maximize State reimbursement, as DSS receives greater reimbursement for these services than Probation. PINS petitions come before the court will be handled by Probation, once the youth is adjudicated and placed in Probation Supervision. Juvenile Delinquency cases (JD) will continue to be handled by Probation.

Probation and DSS are working closely together to insure PINS diversion Lead Agency responsibilities transition as seamlessly as possible. DSS Supervisor Barbara Ravas, MSW, with 25 years' experience, will lead DSS' PINS Unit. Experienced staff, with a passion for working with these youth and their families, has been selected for DSS' PINS Unit.

DSS and Probation have embraced juvenile justice reform. This has led to far less PINS youth being brought before the Court. This will continue to be our focus. We are committed to providing effective responses to divert filing of PINS petitions. We are committed to working with the entire family to resolve their issues. If you have further questions regarding this change, you may reach Deputy Commissioner Don Bowersox at 778-2642.

Sincerely,

Arthur R. Johnson, LCSW
Commissioner

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