

NEWS RELEASE

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Child Care Providers Avoid Hidden Toxic Dangers

Groups Roll Out Award-Winning National Training Program in Great Lakes Basin

(Rochester, N.Y.) Clean and Healthy New York, Inc. and Child Care Council, Inc. announced today the next phase of their U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-funded program to help child care providers in the Great Lakes Basin identify, remove, and find safer solutions for toxic chemicals in common household and child care products.

The groups announced a schedule of training sessions open to all child care providers that follow the Children's Environmental Health Network's (CEHN) national Eco-Healthy Child Care® curriculum, but are customized to address New York State laws and regulations and focus on reducing specific chemicals that threaten the Great Lakes watershed.

Last month, the Children's Environmental Health Network won the first-ever Environmental Health Innovation Award presented by the National Environmental Health Association for the national Eco-Healthy Child Care® program. This program enables providers to become endorsed if they meet specific criteria. Currently, there are 33 Eco-Healthy Child Care®-endorsed providers in New York State. Clean and Healthy New York and Child Care Council are working to increase that number through the training sessions, which will be held in Monroe, Wayne and Livingston counties as follows:

Monroe County	August 15, 2013	6:30pm - 9:00pm
Monroe County	September 18, 2013	6:30pm - 9:00pm
Monroe County	October 5, 2013	9:00am - 11:30am
Wayne County	October 16, 2013	6:30pm - 9:00pm
Livingston County	November 9, 2013	9:00am - 11:30am
Monroe County	November 19, 2013	6:30pm - 9:00pm
Monroe County	December 18, 2013	6:30pm - 9:00pm

Following participation in the training program (which offers child care providers 2.5 hours of OCFS training hours), CHNY is delivering on-site technical assistance to providers who request it – including testing of products and materials of concern, and troubleshooting. This goes beyond the national program model, and is intended to help enthusiastic

providers make significant changes to protect the health of children in their care and keep toxic chemicals out of the environment. “By working together with child care providers, we can reduce the burden of toxic chemicals within the child care setting, and ultimately, keep them from entering the Great Lakes Basin,” said Katie Kelly, Program Coordinator for Clean and Healthy New York.

“We urge all providers in our area to learn about Eco-Healthy Child Care® and how they can make their settings even safer and healthier for kids. The training is fun, educational, and empowering,” said Kate McArdle, environmental education coordinator at Child Care Council. “Providers who become Eco-Healthy Child Care®-endorsed set themselves apart from others in their field. This program comes at a perfect time, as parents increasingly demand non-toxic products and materials and safer environments for their children.”

Child care providers interested in learning more about Eco-Healthy Child Care® and the trainings that will be offered are encouraged to contact either Kate McArdle at Child Care Council (k.mcardle@childcarecouncil.com, 585-654-4752) or Katie Kelly at Clean and Healthy New York (katie@cleanhealthyny.org, 607-793-1308).

About Clean and Healthy New York

Clean and Healthy New York, Inc. (www.cleanhealthyny.org) conducts crucial research, education and advocacy in service of chemical policy and market reform. Our mission is to promote safer chemicals, a sustainable economy, and a healthier world. CHNY represents, connects and taps into the power of otherwise isolated constituencies, such as scientists, nurses, lawyers, organized labor, health-affected people, teachers, parents, child care providers and businesses.

About Child Care Council

Child Care Council, Inc. (www.childcarecouncil.com) is a comprehensive child care resource and referral agency working to improve the quality of care for all children. As a Child Care Aware® Quality Assured agency, the Council provides information, training and resources to child care providers and parents in Livingston, Monroe and Wayne counties. The agency offers coordinated services to support child care programs, including a professional library, referral services, free notary public, fingerprinting waivers, reduced-cost business services, and a resource/recycle shop.

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