



Maternity & Early Childhood Foundation, Inc.

October 4, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

The Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation is pleased to present the **Pathways to Positive Parenting Training Seminar** to be held on **Wednesday, November 8, 2017** at the **New York State United Teachers Conference Center, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, New York.**

Dr. Ira Chasnoff, an award-winning author, researcher and lecturer, will present a full day workshop on “Drugs, Alcohol, Pregnancy, and the Vulnerable Child.” Dr. Chasnoff will present information on psychosocial and treatment implications and consequences of prenatal drug use and the long term impact and interventions for infants and the growing child affected by prenatal exposure to drugs. The training seminar will also feature a workshop led by **Cheryl Martin of Coordinated Care Services, Inc., “Finding a Trauma Responsive ‘Way of Being’ Through Motivational Interviewing.”**

Furthermore, Social Work Continuing Education hours and will be available through a partnership with University at Albany School of Social Welfare, and Licensed Mental Health Counselor Continuing Education hours will be available through a partnership with University at Albany School of Social Welfare and School of Education, pending approval. Participants can receive 5.5 Continuing Education Credits for attending the training. Call or visit our website, www.mecfny.org, for details.

The purpose of the **Pathways to Positive Parenting Training Seminar** is to expand the capacity of parent educators, social workers, mental health and other professionals serving young parents to learn positive parenting skills, goals setting, making healthy choices, and prevention of child abuse and alcohol and substance abuse. Given the increase in opioid use and abuse, the effect of these substances on the users and the unborn children is a critical and growing concern! It is important for professionals working with these families to have all of the tools available so that children are born healthy and have the opportunity to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment.

The Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation (MECF) is a not-for-profit agency that was founded in 1983 in response to the significant number of teenage mothers and low income single parents who were receiving late or no prenatal care and needed guidance on parenting. MECF provides services to young parents living in high need communities across New York State from Long Island to Buffalo and New York City to the Capital District. Through a network of not for profit funded programs, services are provided to low income pregnant and parenting teens and young parent living in high need communities across New York State. The goals of MECF are healthy babies, children ready to learn, and parents who provide a nurturing environment for their children and reach their personal goals for success.

The Pathways to Positive Training Seminar will impact the quality of life of low income parents of young children throughout the Capital District and other high need communities in New York State. We hope you will consider registering for this event. Please contact me or Molly Johnston-Heck at 518-482-0038 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joy Griffith
Executive Director