

### OCFS HONORS ALBANY COUNTY PSA UNIT FOR OUTSTANDING WORK WITH VULNERABLE ADULTS



The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) today awarded Certificates of Recognition For Excellence in Providing Protective Services for Adults (PSA) to the supervisors and staff of the Albany County Department of Social Services (DSS) PSA Intake and Long Term Units.

OCFS Commissioner Gladys Carrión, Esq., said: “Protective Services for Adults workers are on the front lines in responding to referrals of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation. They are the ones who act to protect vulnerable adults with impairments, who have no one else willing and able to assist them. With these Certificates of Recognition we proudly acknowledge and celebrate superlative work by PSA workers.”

The awards were presented by OCFS Associate Commissioner Kirk Maurer, Director of the Bureau of Adult Services Alan Lawitz and Richard Piche, also of the Bureau of Adult Services. Albany County Executive Michael Breslin and Albany County DSS Commissioner Vincent W. Colonno also attended the ceremony.

This honor recognizes the strides made by the Albany County PSA units in forming collaborative partnerships with various county and community agencies to service vulnerable, at-risk adults. Examples include: a Program Services Coordination Committee to identify high need, multiple disabled individuals and linking them with needed services; a Hospital Discharge Planning protocol to provide successful discharges from the hospital back into the community, along with on-going meetings between PSA and hospital discharge planners; and the development of a closer working relationship between agencies to assist clients with mental illness.

In nominating the units, Albany County DSS Commissioner Vincent W. Colonno stated, “I am very proud of the work that our Adult Protective Services Unit performs in the Albany County community. I cannot think of any better way to salute them for their dedication and effort, than by receiving such an honor from your agency.”

The following Albany County DSS PSA staff were presented Certificates of Recognition:

Patty Smith Willsey	Director of Adult Services/Supervisor A
Robin Metsker	Supervisor B Adult Protective Intake
Kurt Ottendorf	Supervisor B Adult Protective Intake

Kevin McManus	Intake Caseworker
Lenny Gaspary	Intake caseworker
Colleen Hanley	Intake Caseworker
Viola Lewis	Intake Caseworker
Jessica Rogers	Intake Caseworker
Garth Childs	Long Term Senior Caseworker
Jessica Fowler	Long Term Senior caseworker
Woodly Durenay	Long Term Caseworker
Ann Murray	Long Term Caseworker
Tim Smith	Long Term Caseworker
Madalyn Royal	Long Term Caseworker

Adults, 18 or older, may need protective services for a variety of reasons. For the telephone number of a county's adult protective services, call: 1-800-342-3009 (press option 6). For more information, visit the website of OCFS, which oversees adult protective services: [www.ocfs.state.ny.us](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us) .

###