



PRESS RELEASE

Pheffer Amato, Wright Meet with OCFS Commissioner Look at Best Practices for Child Development and Education

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato (D-South Queens), Assemblywoman Tremaine Wright (D-Brooklyn) this past Monday met with Acting Commissioner Sheila Poole of the NYS Office of Children & Family Services. The meeting was held as a follow up to the 2017 National Early Learning Fellowship with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), which all the law makers attended and completed. Pheffer Amato, and Wright were chosen out of about three dozen legislators to participate in the fellowship to learn more about best practices for early child development.

“These are the kinds of challenges I came to the Assembly to tackle,” **said Pheffer Amato.** “As Chair of the Child Safety Subcommittee it is important to recognize the earlier you start investing in our children, the better the outcomes – and that applies to better graduation rates, workforce development, social service, and a reduction in incarceration rates.”

“Meeting with Commissioner Pool was helpful and important on so many levels,” **Pheffer Amato continued.** “The main takeaway is that there are so many angles to early childhood education. We discussed tactics as well as concepts: better ways to engage parents, increased ways to finance early education, the impact of expulsion or suspension in an early-childhood environment.”

“The opportunity to sit with OCFS was a timely and important follow up to the Early Learning Fellowship,” **said Wright.** “There are a myriad of concerns impacting early childhood development and a strong partnership with our state agency is necessary to provide care, education and advocacy. As the Chair on the Subcommittee on Foster Care, I am committed to ensuring strong supports in early years so our children are successful as they grow into adulthood and independence.”

