



New York State  
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
FEDERATION AFL-CIO**

1168-70 Troy-Schenectady Road  
P.O. Box 12414  
Albany, NY 12212-2414

(518) 785-1900  
(800) 342-4306  
Fax (518) 785-1814

**OFFICERS:**

Kenneth Brynien  
**President**

Arlea Gabe Igoe  
**Secretary-Treasurer**

Patricia Baker  
Tom Comanzo  
Joe Fox  
**Vice Presidents**

**REGIONAL COORDINATORS:**

Kevin Hintz  
**Region 1**

Bonnie Wood  
**Region 2**

John Prince  
**Region 3**

Donald Kehoskie  
**Region 4**

Mary Twitchell  
**Region 5**

Kevin Conley  
**Region 6**

Tom Donahue  
**Region 7**

William Wurster  
**Region 8**

Vivian Street  
**Region 9**

Vernetta Chesimard  
**Region 10**

Jemma Marie-Hanson  
**Region 11**

Doris Dodson  
**Region 12**

**TRUSTEES:**

Gail Noble  
Adam Sumlin  
Olubiyi Sehindemi

February 11, 2010

To the Editor:

The administrative judge of the NYC Family Court may only have known for five months that there is a grave shortage of psychiatrists in the state's juvenile justice system (For Detained Youths, No Mental Health Overseer, February 11), but Commissioner Carrion has known far longer than that and has not taken action to address the problem. I know this because prior to my September 2008 appointment to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Task Force, she asked me the changes that needed to be made to reform the system. My immediate response was that she should hire more professional mental health staff, specifically psychologists and psychiatrists. I'm quite sure that I was not the first to raise this concern. She no doubt inherited this deficiency, but that does not excuse her lack of a timely and forceful response to an obvious and serious problem.

Kenneth Brynien  
President  
Public Employees Federation