



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

July 2, 2009

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

Neila Cardus
Region 9

Vernetta Chesimard
Region 10

Jemma Marie-Hanson
Region 11

Doris Dodson
Region 12

TRUSTEES:

Gail Noble
Adam Sumlin
Olubiyi Sehindemi



The Buffalo News

It is all well and good that Commissioner Carrion has a three step plan in place to respond to the brutal murder of Rene Greco ('Gladys Carrion: State will take steps to ensure group home safety') but one vital element is missing: accepting responsibility for allowing this situation to occur in the first place.

There were plenty of signs that something was dangerously wrong before this incident. The shooting of a Rochester police officer by a youth AWOL from a private facility, repeated reports of escapes and altercations in other private programs and unabated violence against residents and staff within the agency's own facilities all demonstrate the mismanagement of her agency and her disregard for public safety.

The Commissioner's overreliance on community based placements and her efforts to push youth out of state facilities before they are ready is having dire consequences. And now we hear that a youth recently released from an OCFS facility has been arrested and charged with a murder in Brooklyn. What more will have to happen before Commissioner Carrion accepts responsibility?

Kevin Hintz
NYS Public Employees Federation
Buffalo Region Coordinator
110 Pearl St.
Dunn Bldg. 7th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 853-3100 ext. 105