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**Westchester Children's Association Hosts Third Annual
"Commissioners' Conversation on Children"**

(WESTCHESTER, NY – June 17, 2025) — Westchester Children's Association (WCA), the county's only independent child advocacy organization, held its third annual *Commissioners' Conversation on Thursday, June 17*, at the **Greenburgh Public Library** (300 Tarrytown Rd, Elmsford, NY), from **8:15 AM to 11:00 AM**. The event had over 80 attendees and was sponsored by **M&T Bank Charitable Foundation**.

The *Commissioners' Conversation* brought together Westchester County officials to share updates, insights, and strategies for addressing the challenges facing children, youth, and young adults. The panelists were Dr. Sherlita Amler, M.D., M.S. Commissioner of Health, Rachel Kotzur Assistant Commissioner of Probation, Leonard Townes Commissioner of Social Services, Lisette Matos Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, Ernest McFadden Executive Director, Youth Bureau, Elizabeth Oliveto Program Administrator, Westchester-Putnam Career Center Network, and Michael Orth Commissioner of Community Mental Health.

This year's discussion comes at a particularly urgent time, as federal funding cuts threaten the stability of critical programs and services that support families across Westchester. The conversation was robust and included burning issues such as marijuana use amongst our youth, disparities that persist for our black and brown communities, and how the county is thinking about preparing the workforce of the future with rapidly changing technology such as AI emerging.

Limarie Cabrera, the Director of Data, Operations and Finance, served as the events moderator. Limarie said, "The point of the WCA's Commissioners' Conversation is to have a meaningful discussion about how the community, non-profit organizations and government agencies alike, can take a proactive stance in the face of uncertainty to ensure that Westchester's children and youth continue to thrive. We here at WCA will continue to ask difficult questions from a place of kindness - the issues that children face today will not be solved in a single morning, but they can be addressed through the cooperation and the coordination that we saw at today's panel."

WCA is deeply grateful to M&T Bank Charitable Foundation for its generous sponsorship, helping to make this important conversation possible.

About Westchester Children's Association

Westchester Children's Association (WCA) is a multi-issue, child advocacy nonprofit that works to ensure that every child in Westchester is healthy, safe, and prepared for life's challenges, regardless of race or zip code. Since 1914, WCA has been the leading independent voice for Westchester's children by identifying their needs, making those needs known to the public, and ensuring those needs are met through advocacy and mobilization efforts. For more information about Westchester Children's Association, visit their website at www.wca4kids.org.

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