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SUPPORTING ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION AS PROTECTVE INFLUENCES FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH POPULATIONS IN ALTERNATIVE SETTINGS



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Dr. Tomassone is the acting Associate Commissioner for Youth Programs and Services for the NYS Office of Children and Family Services Division of Juvenile Justice Opportunities for Youth (NYS OCFS DJJOY).

He has worked in the NYS JJ system for 26 years, both as a practicing clinical psychologist and as an administrator. In his current administrative role, he is responsible for the development and oversight of programs and services for youth in residential and community care with DJJOY. Programs and services offered to NYS JJ-involved youth include, health, mental health and psychiatry, substance abuse treatment, education, ministerial services, recreation, vocational training, family services, and other specialty treatment and support services.

In addition, Dr. Tomassone maintains a role as Chief Psychologist for DJJOY and has responsibility for developing mental health policy and programming in conjunction with the Bureau of Behavioral Health within the Division. He is the principal author of The NY Model, which revised and re-conceptualized



the delivery of services to JJ-involved youth throughout NYS. The NY Model is a trauma-responsive, treatment-focused program. It promotes the use of skillful behaviors to assist youth in effectively maintaining emotional and behavioral self-regulation while working toward self-identified goals. The NY Model of care for justice-involved youth has been presented as several national conferences and webinars and has been published in *The Journal of Child and Youth Care Work*.

A virtual forum hosted by the New York State Youth Justice Institute