



# Assemblywoman Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes



Fall 2015

## Community News

Assemblywoman Peoples-Stokes just concluded a very successful legislative session in Albany and is eager to continue her work back home in the district.

### Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It's time for the little ones to go back to school and for the weather to get a bit cooler. It's also time for my post session report to you on the progress I've been making as your State representative in the Assembly.

I'm proud to say that the state budget included much-needed resources for Buffalo. Specifically, it included increases for healthcare, education, economic and workforce development funding. This letter details some of those increases as well as the bills I was the prime sponsor of that passed the Assembly and are awaiting the Governor's signature.

I look forward to continuing to engage my constituents and community stakeholders to increase the quality of life for all of our residents.

Beginning in October, please come and visit my staff and I at our new district office, located at: 425 Michigan Avenue, Suite 107, Buffalo, NY 14215.

Sincerely,

Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes

## HEALTHCARE Medicaid Reforms

Be in the know! Hundreds of millions of dollars are being poured into the Western New York area to encourage Medicaid recipients to take care of themselves and go to preventative doctor appointments. The money is coming from the new Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program, sometimes referred to as DSRIP. New York State received a total of \$8 billion dollars in Federal money due to the savings generated by the Medicaid Redesign Team. DSRIP is meant to promote community-level collaboration with a focus on reform to ultimately achieve a goal of a 25% reduction in avoidable hospital use over the next five years. It's meant to encourage people to use preventative services. An example of a preventative service is going to your doctor/primary care to manage a chronic disease such as asthma or diabetes. We have two providers in Western New York that are administering these programs for DSRIP: (1) Millennium Collaborative Care and (2) Catholic Medical Partners. Each provider is developing programs to encourage Medicaid recipients to seek care when they need it. Be on the lookout for information from both providers!



## HEALTHCARE

In 2014, providers in the City of Buffalo provided \$1.2 billion in services to 260,000 Medicaid enrollees both from the City and the surrounding regions. The state budget included \$102.6 million in state funding.

## EDUCATION

The State budget this year, included an increase of \$22.5 million in school aid to the City of Buffalo School District. State funding for the City of Buffalo School District is \$697.7 million.

Help Buffalo Public Schools Improve Schools through Public Hearings and School Improvement Plans. For more information contact your school office at [www.buffaloschools.org](http://www.buffaloschools.org).

**If you have a problem, question, or concern,  
Assemblywoman Peoples-Stokes wants to hear from you.**  
Contact our office at 716-897-9714 or at [peoplec@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:peoplec@assembly.state.ny.us)  
and see how we can be of assistance.



**Health Related Services funding for the Buffalo Public School System**

Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes announced a \$1.2 million increase in Health Related Services funding for the Buffalo Public School System that will help make sure there is a nurse in every school. The appropriation remained flat at \$5.3 million for seven years, but this year's state budget increased it to \$6.5 million.

The Health Related Services Department's primary goal is creating and maintaining a Coordinated School Health Program (CSHP). The funding increase will result in a more efficient and comprehensive CSHP, and will expand nursing coverage in all Buffalo Public Schools, Charters, Private Schools and School Based Health Centers.

The District Parent Coordinating Council and Kaleida Health attended the press conference.



**Host Committee holds reception honoring State Regent Dr. Catherine Fisher Collins**

Dr. Catherine Fisher Collins was elected by a joint session of the New York State Legislature on March 10, 2015, to the Board of Regents for a five-year term representing the 8th judicial district. A reception was held gathering community and education stakeholders from across Western New York. From Left to Right: City of Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, State Senator Tim Kennedy, Assemblywoman Peoples-Stokes, Ernestine Green, Regent Collins, Dottie Gallagher-Cohen, Robert Wilmers, Eunice Lewin, Jim McGuire Jr.



**Speaker Heastie meets with Roswell's new President and CEO**

February was a historical month for Roswell Park Cancer Institute as Dr. Candace S. Johnson was the first woman to be named its President and CEO. She is the first woman to hold the post. Here she stands in Assembly Chambers with the Carl Heastie, first African American Speaker of the Assembly.

**Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission**

Assemblywoman Peoples Stokes sponsored legislation that passed in the Assembly. (A.7823). This legislation will extend the authorization of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission through the end of 2017. The 2.5 mile corridor from East Ferry St. to South Division St. is a nationally and internationally recognized Buffalo neighborhood, serving as a focal point to residents and visitors learning about Buffalo's rich and diverse history. Through her advocacy the Assemblywoman secured \$250,000 to fund programming, maintenance, marketing, operational expenses, and volunteer coordination.





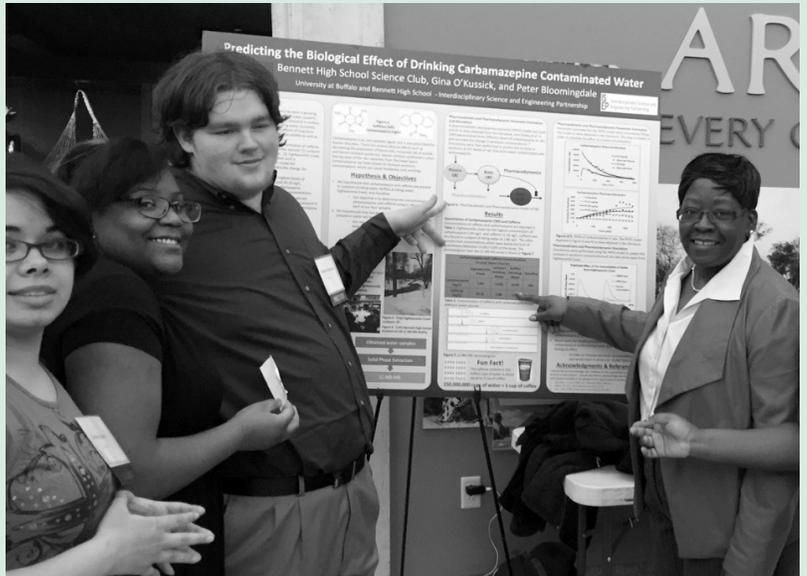
**Catholic Health Systems Administrative & Regional Training Center**

Catholic Health Systems celebrated the official blessing and dedication of the new Catholic Health Administrative & Regional Training Center during a special ceremony held at the facility located at 144 Genesee Street in Downtown Buffalo. Roughly 650 Catholic Health associates have relocated to the new facility. That number will climb to 700 workers when Catholic Medical Partners moves into the facility in August.



**Traffic Adjudication**

Assemblywoman Peoples-Stokes sponsored legislation that would allow the city of Buffalo the same authority offered to its surrounding municipalities to adjudicate traffic violations. Currently, the state of New York adjudicates all traffic violations in the City of Buffalo. Motorists will now have similar options to those in suburban traffic courts.



**Buffalo Schools STEM Experience – Science Week All Year Long**

Assemblywoman Peoples-Stokes and Buffalo Public School students joined educators, scientists and business leaders at the Math, Science & Technology Preparatory School to officially kick-off the new Buffalo Schools STEM Experience – Science Week All Year Long. This public/private partnership is designed to further spark children’s interest in STEM careers by using hands-on learning year-round to engage, excite and educate students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.



**The Western New York Workforce Development Center**

The Western New York Workforce Development Center will be a new hub that will focus primarily on workforce training for careers in advanced manufacturing and energy sectors. The Center will be located at 683 Northland Avenue in the East Side of Buffalo.

# 2015 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

These bills passed both houses and are waiting to be signed by the Governor

**A3341:** Authorizes signage on a portion of interstate 90 for the "Harriet Tubman Home" Update: This Legislation was signed into law by the Governor.

**A7823:** This legislation extends the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission through 2017.

**A7574C:** Authorizes a pilot residential parking permit system in the City of Buffalo. The pilot program will be in the Fruit Belt Community which is adjacent to the Medical Center.

**A3208A:** Will prohibit the diversion of funds dedicated to the Niagara Frontier transportation Authority and its subsidiaries to the general fund. Establishes procedures and action on requests for diversions of funds during certain periods and circumstances.

**A870:** Relates to notification to families receiving child care assistance. To afford families the time necessary to plan should they experience a disruption in child care services due to a reduction in financial eligibility in relation to child care subsidies.

**A8235:** Governor Cuomo signed this legislation that will expand services from the state to the grandchildren of homicide victims, who will now be able to receive reimbursement for counseling expenses.

## 2015 Fall Information

### Harriet Ross Tubman Academy

Public Hearing on Public School Improvement Plans  
September 17 at 5:30 p.m.

The Buffalo Science Museum Daily Activities  
716-896-5200

The Colored Musician Club Daily Activities  
716-842-0969

The Nash House Daily Activities  
716-856-4490

Legal Services For The Elderly, Disabled or  
Disadvantaged of W.N.Y.  
237 Main Street Suite 1015 • 716-853-3087

Erie County Department of Social Services  
95 Franklin Street • 716-858-8000

Buffalo Assessment & Taxation  
716-851-5733

Erie County Veterans Service Agency  
716-858-6363

### Ask A Lawyer:

Everything you need to know about Family Law from A-Z

**Saturday, October 17, 2015**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Willard Pratt Community Center  
422 Pratt Street, Buffalo, NY 14204

#### Presenters:

**Lenora Foote-Beaver**, Support Magistrate for the Erie County Family Court

**Ayoka Tucker**, Family Law Attorney

**Rashondra Martin**, Former Counsel to the Board of Education

**Katie Nichols Harrod**, Civil Rights Attorney



Assemblywoman  
**Crystal D.  
Peoples-Stokes**

Community News

Fall 2015

## WE ARE MOVING!

See Back Panel for Details



Follow me... Assemblywoman Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes



<https://twitter.com/CPeoplesStokes>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKQ91AHo7oo57ULjMx43OTQ>



<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Crystal-D-Peoples-Stokes/>

For more information call our District Office  
at **716-897-9714**

District Office: 792 East Delavan Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14215 • 716-897-9714

Albany Office: Room 625 LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5005

Email: [peoplec@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:peoplec@assembly.state.ny.us)

**WE ARE MOVING!** Our District Office is moving to: 425 Michigan Avenue, Suite 107, Buffalo, NY 14215