



June 12, 2009

Social workers discuss child poverty in Yonkers

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YONKERS - With a quarter of the city's children living in poverty, child advocates met this morning to discuss how to help poor families advocate for themselves.

Members of the Westchester Community Network gathered at the Yonkers Public Library's Riverfront branch to review the city's poverty and income statistics and discuss how to help parents lobby government and school officials for better services for low-income children.

"It doesn't take a lot to make an impression in a local government setting," said Cora Greenberg, executive director of the Westchester Children's Association. "It could take dozens of people and you could have a really big change."

Greenberg told the social workers in attendance a story about a small group of parents in Port Chester who got their Board of Education to agree to bus school children to after-school programs instead of dropping them off where they were picked up in the morning.

Greenberg said her group was ready to help train groups of low-income parents to become advocates for their school children.

Parents interested in receiving such training can contact her at www.wca4kids.org or 914-946-7676.
