

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF OPERATIONS – Michael C. Williams

With over 25 years of progressive leadership in child welfare and behavioral health services, Michael C. Williams returns to DCF bringing a unique mixture of internal and external knowledge and experience. He is a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University of Monroe, University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Trinity College of Vermont, and the University of Connecticut's School of Business' Executive Program in Managed Care. He was CEO of Hartford Behavioral Health for 10 years, before joining DCF in 2003 as a Regional Administrator, then becoming Deputy Commissioner of Operations. As Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Williams led the design and implementation of the Child Protection Practice Model (including introducing the Differential Response System), reform strategy for the state's Juvenile Justice services, and a comprehensive statewide racial justice strategy, among many other initiatives. To complement these efforts, Mr. Williams is a very engaged member of his community. He is an appointed member to the State of Connecticut's Commission on Health Equity, serves as a board member of the Bloomfield Board of Education and Black Administrators of Child Welfare, is a current participant in the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute of the Leadership Academy of Deans and Directors, and a member of the Mayor's Cabinet for Young Children. Most recently, Mr. Williams stepped out of state service to become President and CEO of Our Kids, a provider in Miami-Dade/Monroe, Florida.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION –JODI HILL-LILLY

Jodi Hill-Lilly previously served as the Director of the Academy for Workforce Development. Having served 30 years in the Department, Ms. Hill-Lilly is recognized for her staff development acumen both here at DCF and across the country. Her leadership towards a holistic approach of workforce development is evidenced by programs such as the Mentoring Program and Leadership Academies for Supervisors and Managers, among others. She is on faculty for the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute, is a consultant for the Children's Bureau, and is also the Vice President of the National Staff Development Training Association. Her early years with the Department as a frontline social worker and supervisor remains central to all of her work. Ms. Hill-Lilly is a member of this new administration's Transitional Team and has led the organizational assessment process.

BUREAU CHIEF OF STRATEGIC PLANNING – VACANT (RECRUITING)

We are actively recruiting for this position.

BUREAU CHIEF OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS – KEN MYSOGLAND

Ken Mysogland previously served as the Director of the DCF Ombudsman's Office. A 29 year veteran of the Department, Mr. Mysogland's experiences in child protection began in his own family where he grew up with 8 adopted siblings. Ken has risen through the agency's ranks and has served in the capacity of Careline Director, Foster Care Director, Training Academy Director and Area Office Director in two different Regions. Nationally, he is a Child Protective Services Consultant in two jurisdictions and has spoken in 9 different states pertaining to Kinship care. Mr. Mysogland is also an Adjunct Lecturer at two Universities and is a member of CT's Child Fatality Review Panel. He has served as the Coordinator of Communications, Legislative issues and Advocate Outreach during this new administration's transition.

LEGAL DIRECTOR – MAUREEN DUGGAN

Maureen Duggan will continue in her role as Legal Director. Ms. Duggan has advocated on behalf of our agency in a variety of roles—formerly at the Attorney General’s Office, as a staff attorney in the New Haven Area Office and as an Assistant Agency Legal Director. In addition to providing advice and legal counsel to the Commissioner and our agency, Ms. Duggan is also committed to employee wellness and serves as an adjunct yoga instructor at the Wilderness School.

CHIEF OF CHILD WELFARE – TINA JEFFERSON

Tina Jefferson previously served as a Regional Administrator within the Department. She has over 25 years of experience within DCF where she has ascended through the social work ranks. She is a Certified Workforce Development Trainer. She co-chaired the Department’s Change Management Council which coordinates efforts of the seven communities of practice. Ms. Jefferson most recently chaired and co-authored the program improvement plan of the Child and Family Service Review of CT. The Region 1 Federal Team applauded Ms. Jefferson’s work in the development of the document. She was also just appointed as the Co-chair of the DCF statewide racial justice workgroup.

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF CHILD WELFARE: REGIONS 4 & 6 – CHRISTINE LAU

Chris Lau began her career with the Department of Children and Families in 1985 as a caseload carrying Social Worker. In 1991, she received a Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Connecticut and has shown a pattern of professional growth by holding various supervisory and managerial positions within the Department. In 2008, she was nominated and completed a leadership development program via the National Child Welfare Leadership Institute funded by the U.S. Children's Bureau. Ms. Lau was a leader in the development and implementation of programs designed to enhance the delivery of services to child welfare clients whose families are impacted by substance abuse. In addition, she was a leader in the implementation of CT’s Differential Response System which transformed the way DCF responds to reports of abuse and neglect. She has presented at national conferences on several promising practices aimed at serving substance abusing parents in the child welfare system. Ms. Lau previously served as the Regional Administrator for Region 4, covering the catchment areas of Hartford and Manchester.

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF CHILD WELFARE: REGIONS 2 & 3 – JANICE CURRIER-EZEPCHICK

Janice Currier-Ezepchick, LCSW previously served as the Regional Administrator for Region 2. She has served in multiple roles within the regions since starting as a trainee over 30 years ago. She became a licensed clinical social worker in 1995. During a hiatus from DCF, Ms. Currier-Ezepchick coordinated several community programs in the New Haven area that provided clinical in-home services to DCF families. Nearly 15 years ago, she returned to DCF as a Behavioral Program Director before becoming an Area Office Director and then a Regional Administrator. Ms. Currier-Ezepchick has worked with University of St Joseph’s MSW program as a Clinical Preceptor providing supervision to DCF staff attending the University. Ms. Currier-Ezepchick has continued to participate as a coach for supervisors attending LAS.

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF CHILD WELFARE: REGIONS 1 & 5 – JEANETTE BLACKWELL

Jeanette Blackwell previously served as Director of the Manchester Office. She has over 27 years of experience with DCF, having risen through ranks. After beginning her career at the Long Lane School as a child services worker, Ms. Blackwell was soon promoted to Youth Services Group Leader. In 1993, Ms. Blackwell transferred to the New Britain office as a Social Worker Trainee. In addition to leading the Manchester Office since 2012, Ms. Blackwell also served as Director of the New Britain Office for 3 years. Under Ms. Blackwell's leadership, the Manchester Office has maintained and sustained strong performance in the areas of relative/kin placements, reduction of youth placed in congregate care settings, completion of investigations and caseload standards of 6% or under for in-home families. Ms. Blackwell attained her MSW from the UCONN School of Social Work through the Department's Social Work Internship Program (SWIP). She was previously named Mentor of the Year in 2005.

INTERIM CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER – CINDY BUTTERFIELD

Cindy Butterfield brings deep operational experience stepping in to the role of interim Chief Fiscal Officer – she has over 25 years working across a range of state institutions, including as a Business Manager supporting juvenile justice, as well as the roles of Assistant CFO and CFO at the Department of Children & Families. Ms. Butterfield has overseen the full gamut of administrative functions, including Fiscal, Contracts, Revenue Enhancement, Engineering, and Information Systems. At DCF, she is known most recently for spearheading the Department's CT KIND and technology mobility initiatives among many other important projects, working hard to integrate and align administrative systems to enable frontline staff to better serve families and children. Ms. Butterfield is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University with a degree in Management and a Master of Business Administration.

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF THE ACADEMY FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – TRACY DAVIS

Tracy Davis has over 25 years of child protective service experience serving in various roles including social worker, supervisor and program supervisor. For the past 15 years, she has successfully implemented and sustained nationally recognized and innovative workforce development initiatives as the Assistant Director of the Academy. In particular, the pre-service program offered by the Academy has evolved tremendously under her leadership to include activities such as Simulation Training, Discussion Boards and other transfer of learning activities that have advanced practice. Ms. Davis played a key role in the development of the Early Childhood Practice Guide and has been instrumental in implementing agency mandated training and workforce development programs. She is also an Adjunct Professor at The University of Bridgeport and Southern Connecticut State University and is a Co-Chair of the Workforce Development Sub Committee of the Statewide Racial Justice Workgroup. Ms. Davis is an active member of the New England Child Welfare Association of Training Directors, has served as a field supervisor for several social work programs and has been both a formal and informal mentor to many.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – DIANE FASANO

Diane Fasano has worked with the Department for over 12 years having served in several secretarial roles and most recently as a Unit Supervisor in Region 5. Prior to joining the State, Ms. Fasano had over 30 years in the private sector as an Executive Secretary and Paralegal Specialist. She has provided assistance in gathering data for the Casey Family Services Breakthrough Series Collaborative which was focused on reducing disproportionality and disparities for children of color in the welfare system. In her role as Unit Supervisor, Ms. Fasano has supervised and led a productive clerical team in Region 5.