



DCF NEWSLETTER

March 2019 - Issue 2

## Legislative Brunch Hosted by First Lady Tammy Murphy



On Sunday, March 10, Commissioner Beyer attended a Legislative Brunch hosted by First Lady Tammy Murphy at Drumthwacket. Commissioners from the Department of Health and Human Services and several legislators were in attendance to discuss Maternal and Infant Health initiatives. Commissioner Beyer shared the incredible work being done by DCF in the areas of Home Visiting, Family Support Services, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault prevention, Plans of Safe Care, and Keeping Families Together. Keeping New Jersey residents safe, healthy and connected means making mothers a priority.

## Puerto Rico's Department of Family Took a Tour of DCF's Child Welfare Training Academy in New Brunswick



Commissioner Christine Beyer, Chief of Staff Doris Windle and additional leaders from DCF met with Secretary Glorimar Andújar Matos and representatives from Puerto Rico's Department of Family to tour and learn about the NJ Child Welfare Training Academy.

The meeting, which was organized by the NY Regional Office Director of the federal Administration of Children and Families, Alfonso Nicholas, was intended to share information and expertise in support of Puerto Rico's efforts to develop their own Professional Center/Training Academy.

## DCF in Partnership with Casey Family Programs, Hosts Congressional Staffers to Share Info on New Jersey's Child Welfare System



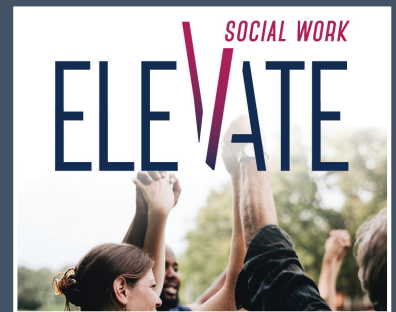
This month, in partnership with Casey Family Programs – DCF hosted more than a dozen Congressional staffers that wanted to learn about New Jersey's child welfare system, including our successful Mobile Response initiative, our network of Family Success Centers, and the State Central Registry screening hub.

Various DCF staff presented and there was discussion with participants of the Keeping Families Together program. Former foster youth also shared some of their experiences. In the afternoon, the group visited Children's Home Society and met with kinship providers participating in the grandparent Family Success Center.



To all the women, named and unnamed, throughout the history of the Great Garden State, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families thanks you, for all that you do.

[#WomensHistoryMonth](#)



We want you to get to know our social workers, so we asked them a few questions. What is one thing you would like people to know about social work?

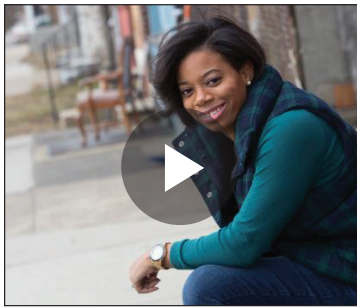
[#THANKYOU](#) social workers of New Jersey, and social workers everywhere, for all that you do!

[Watch the Video Here...](#)



[Commissioner Beyer Video on Social Work Month](#)

## Office of Family Voice has a New Voice!



DCF's new Office of Family Voice has a new voice, Kaysie Getty! Kaysie joined the Office of Family Voice in early March. Prior to joining DCF, Kaysie was a Policy Specialist at FosterClub in Washington DC, a position in which she: managed national state level projects around the implementation of the Family First Preservation Service Act; handled constituent and stakeholder outreach; engaged with congressional offices on child welfare issues, and; worked with policy fellows around the country. Kaysie also worked at Robin's Nest as a Youth Advisory Network Coordinator, as a case manager for Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, and with Center for Family Services as Program Support. She has her BA and MSW from Rutgers University. Kaysie is a former NJ foster youth and current child welfare activist and advocate. Welcome Kaysie!

## Recognizing Sussex County's DCP&P Case Workers

A letter from a resource parent to the editor of the New Jersey Herald led to an article published on March 11, recognizing Social Work Month in Sussex County. The article depicts the dedication and teamwork of the Sussex Local Office staff.

The article starts: "It's National Social Worker Month, and I'd like to take a moment to recognize the outstanding work that is quietly being done 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in an unassuming office building on Clinton Street in Newton." [More...](#)

## CSOC's Reputation of Excellence: Guidance on Strategies to Promote Best Practice in Antipsychotic Prescribing for Children and Adolescents

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released "Guidance on Strategies to Promote Best Practice in Antipsychotic Prescribing to Children and Adolescents" that emerged from an Expert Panel DCF's own Dr. Mary Beirne participated in, last May. Strategy 6: Trauma-Informed and Evidence-Based System of Care, described on pp 27 - 30, uses as its case study New Jersey's System of Care (pp.28-29). CSOC has a national reputation for the excellence of practice around the use of psychotropic medications for children in foster care, a result of adherence to our policy, which is supported by the consultation and monitoring provided by Dr. Beirne and Dr. Vender. Congratulations to the CSOC Team!

## Pinelands Regional JHS - Teen Dating Violence Awareness



Pinelands Youth Thrive students helped spearhead Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February. Youth Thrive students designed shirts as well as came up with some skits on their own which aired on Pinelands Morning TV program. The students also hung posters around the school building. They handed out resources as well as wristbands during lunch throughout the week.

Youth Thrive students also performed a video skit to further awareness.



**Round of Applause! Many thanks to the staff at the DCF Professional Center and the Division on Women for helping the New Jersey Coalition of Latino Pastors and Ministers to host an event there on Saturday, March 23. More than 275 people were in attendance, including Governors Murphy and McGreevey.**

**Congratulations and great work to Team DCF!**

*Ronnie Augustyn*

*Francis Blanco*

*Chuck Buckley*

*Joe Casey*

*Matt Casey*

*Karen Escalante*

*Nadr Gergis*

*Robert Hansen*

*Marilyn Johnson*

*Nelson Kamaris*

*Judy Muldoon*

*Gwen Phelps*

*Heather Schwartz*

*Peter Vasilcin*

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