



DCF NEWSLETTER

July/August 2019 - Issue 5

Celebrity Reader, Commissioner Norbut Beyer and Friends



On July 17, Commissioner Beyer visited with and read to children as part of Project Self-Sufficiency's "Celebrity Reader" event in Newton, NJ, Sussex County! Reading plays an important role in a child's development and social skills. It's a great way to bond and create lasting memories.

[#GrowingStrongFamilies](#)

DCF's Regional Elementary and High School Trip to the Library for the First "Pilot" Read-Share Was A Success!

Incredible evolution taking place at DCF's Office of Education's Bergen Campus! On August 2, elementary and high school students, along with staff, participated in a pilot Read-Share program at the library. High school students read books with elementary students to encourage mentorship and reading. Staff has done an amazing job of cultivating a culture of learning and growth. Congratulations to everyone involved!

NJ Law Mandate Schools Teach Programs On Sex Assault



"Studies show that 81% of US middle and high school youth admit to not knowing what consent means and 41% believe that once someone starts to engage in sexual activity they cannot change their mind. These are outrageous statistics that help to explain the prevalence of rape, sexual assault and intimate violence across the country," said Anna Martinez, acting Director of the Division on Women in the Department of Children and Families. "This new law, which requires education and awareness to be taught in schools will be an effective tool to change the culture. Because when we know better, we do better." [Learn More...](#)

IN THE NEWS

Governor Murphy prioritizes NJ families by signing the NJ Family Leave Act. [Read More...](#)

Common Sense Gun Laws Protect Families [Read More...](#)

"The Trump Administration's planned changes to income eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will put many New Jersey children and families at risk," said Department of Children and Families Commissioner, Christine Norbut Beyer. [Read More...](#)

NJ Schools Required To Post Child Abuse Hotline For Kids To Call. [Read More...](#)

"Schools are critical to a child's emotional and academic development," said Kelley Michalowski, Director of the Office of Education in the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. Children thrive in spaces that provide safety, stability and purpose. [Data](#) shows that NJ continues to be a national leader in this regard.

Americans with Disabilities Act: DCF Is An Ally and An Advocate In raising awareness and promoting equity

"The Americans with Disabilities Act was the first in many steps to bring social justice to children and adults living with disabilities," said Christine Norbut Beyer, Commissioner for the NJ Department of Children and Families, which administers programs and services to children with disabilities and their families. "Over these last 29 years, we've made incredible strides – breaking down barriers and removing obstacles that had blocked people with disabilities from accessing services and opportunities and we continue to work with families to identify areas in need of attention, through Department policy or legislation. DCF is an ally and an advocate in raising awareness and promoting equity."



Salary Equity for Women in the Workforce



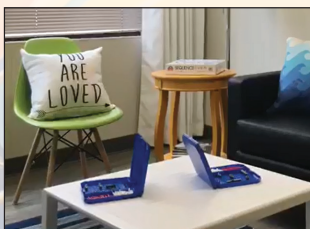
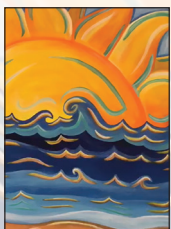
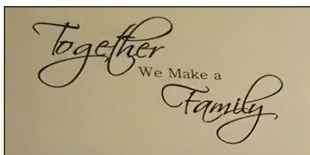
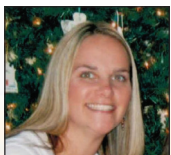
"Women who are in, or about to enter, the work force can now feel more confident that when they walk into those interviews or have discussions around salary with their future employers, their compensation will be based solely on their qualifications and experience, and not on past inequitable salaries," said Anna Martinez, acting Director for the DCF's Division on Women. I applaud the Governor and his Administration for their vision of a fairer, stronger New Jersey for all residents, particularly

women and minorities, who have been held back by inequitable pay practices for far too long." [Learn More...](#)



The Meghan McKeever Memorial Foundation Transforms Atlantic East Local Office Family Visitation Room

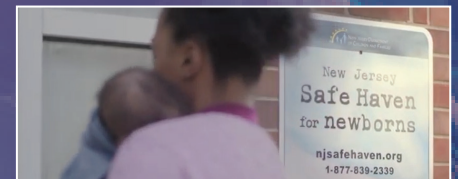
Former Atlantic East Local Office manager, Meghan McKeever, passed away in November 2015 after a courageous battle with breast cancer. In light of her death and her commitment and dedication to the children and families that we serve, her family started the Meghan McKeever Foundation. Recently, the Foundation transformed a visitation room at Atlantic East Local office to a comfortable, family style room to enhance visitation between children in placement and their families.



IN THE NEWS

Governor Murphy signs law requiring survey of untested 'rape kits' held by police
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"Poverty, substance use, disabilities, domestic violence and mental illness are all factors in homelessness that require attention if we are to be successful in providing long-term housing stability to at-risk residents," said Katherine Stoehr, Deputy Commissioner for the New Jersey Department of Children and Families.
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NJ had a safe haven surrender in the month of June bringing the number of surrenders up to 72 since the law was passed on August 7, 2000.
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