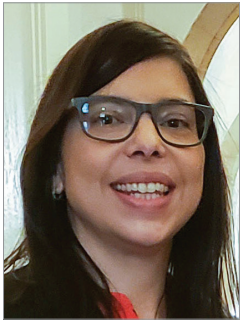




DCF NEWSLETTER

November/December 2019 - Issue 7

Congratulations, Anna Martinez!



After a year and five months serving in an acting capacity, Anna Martinez was confirmed by the Senate Judiciary in December and approved by the full Senate in early January! Anna has been exceptionally patient. She's also been making great strides in elevating the Division on Women as a source and resource for information about gender equity, engaging men and boys in combatting intimate violence, assisting displaced homemakers and raising awareness about services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Anna, and DOW, are a great fit at DCF because we share in wanting all NJ families to be safe, healthy and connected. In related news...

DCF's Division on Women joined the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence and A CALL TO MEN to discuss engaging men and boys as allies in the prevention of violence against women. Statistics show that one in five women and one in four girls will be victim to sexual assault at some time in their lives. For too long, the focus has been on telling women and girls how to avoid being assaulted by telling them how to dress or act. Empowering and including men is imperative in order to create a larger cultural change. By partnering with A CALL TO MEN, New Jersey is forging a new path. Boys and men must be taught how to treat women respectfully. They must be shown and modeled healthy masculinity.

Fall 2019 Regional Forum

Commissioner Beyer closed out the fall 2019 regional forum series in Bergen County with a presentation about the strategic direction of the department. Among the three events, more than 400 attendees learned about DCF's ongoing efforts to keep **#NJ families #SafeHealthyConnected**.

NJ Legislators and Commissioner Beyer talk ACEs



During a State House press conference with Senator Joe Vitale, Commissioner Beyer spoke about the latest ACEs research and how it informs the way DCF connects with the families it serves. "Thanks to the generosity of The Nicholson Foundation, Burke Foundation, and Turrell Fund (NJ ACEs Funders Collaborative), DCF will be hosting an Executive on Loan, a national expert in ACEs that will assist New

Jersey in coordinating a comprehensive strategy that includes all relevant state government entities," said Commissioner Beyer. "This expert will act as a resource and a planner, engaging stakeholders and helping to make NJ a national leader in advancing programs and services that help to heal ACEs. Research has shown that people who experience four or more ACEs in childhood are more likely to face challenges in adulthood, but we also know that identifying ACEs and healing from them can change that trajectory – even in adults." [Read More...](#)

PROMISING PATH 2019 CONFERENCE



DCF's Division of the Children's System of Care held a conference to showcase the achievements of its Six Core and Nurtured Heart strategies, which are made possible through a \$12 million federal grant. The grant helps New Jersey to advance the Promising Path to Success 2.0 initiative, a trauma-informed coaching model that will be used to train staff in multiple divisions and units, as well as their community-based partners with healing-centered strategies. The program is expected to improve interactions with at least 60,000 youth and young adults over the course of the four-year grant period.

"So many of the children and youth we serve have experienced trauma, often complicated by the social determinants of health, throughout their short lives," said Mollie Greene, Assistant Commissioner of DCF's Children's System of Care. "The services we provide and treatment we offer – in collaboration with our partners – needs to be mindful of children's past adversity in a way that is recuperative and restorative. With this grant, we can continue our outreach and instruction, to ensure that we are contributing effectively to the healing process."

Trauma-informed, healing-centered services and treatment are grounded in evidence - understanding the biological, psychological, and social effects of trauma on children and adolescents. Practitioners coached through the Promising Paths to Success Initiative gain the knowledge and skills to avoid interventions that may re-traumatize youth and employ healing-centered, relational approaches to working with youth.

Funding through the grant is \$3 million for each of four years, ending in 2023. The trauma-informed coaching will be provided to: staff from DCF's Divisions of Child Protection and Permanency; staff from the Children's System of Care; staff from DCF's Office of Education schools; licensed resource families; kinship families; 15 contracted Care Management Organizations; 15 Family Support Organizations; 15 Mobile Response and Stabilization Services providers; and, 21 county-based Children's Interagency Coordinating Councils (CIACC).

New Jersey's Adoption Day



Adoptions were held throughout New Jersey and DCF was thrilled to be part of it. Check out these moments of families starting their forever journeys together!



This Month's Featured Child: Sammy



Sammy is a friendly and affectionate young man. A puzzle master, Sammy enjoys the challenge of 100 piece puzzles. Other quiet time activities include sidewalk chalk games and Star Wars movies. He'd love to entertain you with scenes he has memorized from Star Wars. Sammy also enjoys sports, with a special love of basketball. He is a valued member of a special needs basketball team. Sammy has a strong bond with his siblings and his team desires a family that is committed to preserving his sibling bonds. Additionally Sammy will need ongoing supports to assist him in the academic environment and his transition into young adulthood. A home without a dog may be the best due to a long-standing fear.

For more information contact exchange specialist, Andrea Mitreuter, 609-888-7495 or andrea.mitreuter@dcf.nj.gov

IN THE NEWS

Commissioner Beyer lauds Paterson Public Eastside HS for their holistic service of youth who survive trauma
[Read More...](#)

Teens need families too, they make up 25% of NJ adoption pool
[Read More...](#)

Commissioner Beyer emphasizes the importance of NJ Dept of Human Services's #NJSNAP
[Read More...](#)

Racial disparity in child welfare affects families throughout the entire US– not just in NJ.
[Read More...](#)

Anna Martinez, DCF acting Director of the Division on Women, illustrates the urgency of Human Trafficking Awareness
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New Jersey working to help troubled children
[Read More...](#)

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