

HART Shining Star Awards

The HART shining star awards is a new initiative to honor the exceptional work being done by DCF staff, HART Committee Members, and community providers in CT whose focus is on eradicating human trafficking as well as empowering victims of this crime. These awards will be announced quarterly in the Newsletter. Our recipients this quarter are:

Leadership Award

Karen Diaz, LMSW
Program Manager
DCF Careline –



Karen Diaz



Karen Diaz / Tammy Sneed

Karen Diaz earned her bachelor's degree from Trinity College in Hartford, CT and her MSW degree from UCONN School of Social Work. She became an LMSW in 2015. Karen started with DCF in March of 1996 in the Norwich area office as a social worker trainee.

She then transitioned to the Bridgeport Office where she worked as a social worker for the Permanency and investigation units. Her next position in DCF was working as a Primary Investigator, SWS for the CARELINE. She also worked as a trainer for the DCF Training Academy. As a supervisor at the CARELINE and while at the Training Academy she was asked to lead the State and National "operations" with regard to DCF's after-hours response to Human Trafficking cases and assisted in the coordination efforts of these "operations". While at the academy she taught the Human Trafficking in-service training to DCF staff as well as community focused training which was developed by DCF and she continues to be a certified trainer in the Introduction to DMST and CSEC in CT curriculum. Karen is also certified to train law enforcement staff on human trafficking and is a Minimal Facts trainer. She is currently the co-chair of the Governor's Task Force on Minimal Facts. She is also a member of the HART Committee as well as the HART Leadership Committee.

"It comes with great pleasure to write this commentary on Ms. Karen L. Diaz. I have known Ms. Diaz over my 20-year career as a peer, colleague and more recently as her supervisor here at the Careline. What is immediately evident in your first interaction with Ms. Diaz is that she is a staunch advocate for the children and families of Connecticut that we are charged to serve humbly. What I have learned over the past year of supervising Ms. Diaz is that she has an uncanny ability to recall information to its most minute level of detail; something that has proven to be useful in her roles as supervisor, trainer, advocate and now program manager at the Careline. She continues to challenge herself by participating in many different committees, change initiatives and opportunities to collaborate with community stake holders so as not to become uninformed of the quickly changing environment around her that impacts children and families. The future for Ms. Diaz is one that is very bright and filled with considerable promise. I am most glad to call her a trusted friend and comrade in the battle to keep children in Connecticut safe!"

*Dakibu Muley MS, LMSW
Director of Careline Operations
DCF*