

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACADEMY FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



FALL CATALOG
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2026



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Logging on to the Webinar

Microsoft Teams and Zoom will be utilized to conduct the DCF webinars.

When you register, you will receive an automatic confirmation email with the link for the webinar.

Certificate Requirements

The number of credits awarded by the NASW for continuing education purposes are identified within the course description. In situations where applications are in process, but not yet approved by the NASW, the notation is 'pending'.

Non-DCF staff must indicate to the trainer that they are interested in the CEU hours and certificates will be emailed to you within 45 days after the training is complete.

For non-CEU courses, a certificate of completion is offered to Non-DCF Staff after the completion of the course upon request.

[Click To Complete the CEC Certificate Request Form](#)

Attendance

*TRAINING recommended for parents are identified by asterisks****

Participants' Responsibility

It is expected that participants will demonstrate dependability by logging onto training on time, returning from breaks on time, and completing the full training class. Tardiness shall only be excused in the event of an emergency with approval from supervisory staff.

Academy Responsibility

The Academy reserves the right to:

- deny admission to a participant who is late for a training by removing this participant from the classroom or webinar. If a CWT does remove a participant, the CWT will notify that participant's supervisor regarding this event by the end of the day.
- [request participants to turn on their web camera.](#)
- mark a participant "unsuccessful" if they leave a training early, log out of the webinar early without permission or appear to not be actively involved in the webinar session.

Parking DCF Academy – Central Office, Hartford Location

Unless specifically notified by the AWD, all people attending training at the DCF Academy in Hartford must park in the H Street Parking.

Parking SOTA Academy – 1 Long Wharf, New Haven Location

Unless specifically notified by the AWD, all people attending training at the SOTA Academy in New Haven can park in the lot on site in any unmarked spots.

Parking CJTS- 1225 Silver Street, Middletown Location

Proceed down Silver Street and pass the main entrance of CJTS. Take your next right turn- Silvermine Road. This is an unpaved road that will take you towards the back entrance of the campus. Make your next right onto O'Brien Drive or follow the "Receiving" sign. Enter through the gate on your right. The Academy utilizes building number 8 for trainings. Building 8 is located behind Building 4, which is the first building you will pass on your right after entering the CJTS grounds. It is a long building, accessed by the drive to the left of building 4. Participants are to park on the grounds in one of the paved areas along the circular drive.

Entrance to the Building

People entering all training locations must be prepared to show ID upon request at the Central Office, SOTA and CJTS locations.

Disability Accommodations

If you need ADA Accommodations, please notify the Human Resources Division in writing. The Human Resources Division must have at least a 24-hour notice.

NEW COMMUNITY PROVIDER COMPETENCIES!!!

We are excited to offer competencies for our Community Providers. Please see below for a direct link to the competencies. These competencies outline the essential knowledge and skills required for providers working with children and families involved with the Department of Children and Families. They ensure providers can recognize safety concerns, understand trauma, and engage families in culturally responsive, strength-based ways. Providers must collaborate effectively with partners, maintain accurate documentation, uphold confidentiality and ethical standards, respond appropriately to crises, understand child development, and deliver supportive services such as mentoring, parenting education, and supervised visitation. By completing the required training and demonstrating these skills, providers help promote child safety, family stability, and positive outcomes.

[Community Provider Training Competencies](#)

OCTOBER COURSES

ENGAGING FATHERS AND OTHER MEN WHO USE VIOLENCE

This training will focus on engaging fathers and other men who use patterns of coercive control in their intimate relationships. Participants will discuss people who use violence. Participants will also discuss how to the socialization of men impacts the use of violence in adulthood. Participants will ensure they are engaging with children in a safe manner accounting for their mental health needs. Also, during this course there will be an opportunity to practice and build skills around engaging fathers and other men who offend.

Date: 10-1-26

Time: 9am- 1pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams, Sarah Clark

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 4

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR ENGAGING FATHERS](#)

SAFETY PRACTICE MODEL: OVERVIEW MICRO LEARNING LAB (MLL)

This MLL will orient participants to the DCF Safety Practice Model. Upon completion of the course, participants will understand the primary objectives of the model, be able to identify the eight guiding practice commitments, and understand the A-B-C-D paradigm and other key features. Point, discussion questions, case vignettes, and structured transfer of learning activities will be utilized to engage participants and develop skills.

Date: 10-2-26

Time: 9am- 10:30am

Trainer(s): Marc Williams, Aurora Contrino

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 1.5

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR SAFETY PRACTICE MODEL OVERVIEW](#)

IMPLICIT BIAS

Implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. These biases, which encompass both favorable and unfavorable assessments, are activated involuntarily and without an individual's awareness or intentional control. The goal of this training is to learn about implicit bias and to measure our implicit bias based on race, religion, gender and a vast array of other areas.

Date(s): 10-5-26

Time: 9am- 12pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3+CC

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR IMPLICIT BIAS](#)

HOW WIC WORKS WONDERS

Have you heard of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children—"WIC" for short? Even if you are familiar, WIC is always changing! The WIC Program recently celebrated its 50-year anniversary, and we've come a long way since the 1970s. We invite you to learn about WIC's history, how the federal program operates in Connecticut, WIC's funding sources, eligibility requirements, and the many benefits available to participants.

The learning objectives are to:

1. Indicate how WIC is funded at the national level and how the program is administered by the State.
2. List at least two WIC eligibility requirements for participants.
3. Describe how to refer families to the WIC Program.
4. Explain two ways WIC supports breast/chest-feeding families.

Date: 10-5-26

Time(s): 1pm - 2:30pm

Trainers: Marilyn Lonczak, Nutrition Consultant

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): N/A

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR HOW WIC WORKS](#)

EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND INFANT CARE

As children grow physically, they also develop in their knowledge, skills and behaviors. This 2-hour virtual course gives some basic development and infant care tips in learning more about how children grow and develop.

Date: 10-5-26

Time(s) 1pm- 3pm

Trainers: Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 2

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT](#)

ADVANCING CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES FOR PROVIDERS

To provide participants with a shared language and understanding of how to move towards anti racist practices; to develop an understanding of privilege and implicit bias and discuss strategies for engaging in facilitating difficult race discussions.

Date(s): 10-6-26

Time: 9am- 1pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 4+CC

[CLICK TO REGISTER ADVANCING CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES](#)

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: UNDERSTANDING THE SCIENCE OF ATTACHMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Understanding the theory of attachment and the impact of this important developmental process in early childhood is crucial to the DCF worker's casework and other providers working with child and family; as well as documentation, and the decision-making process at every point of the case involvement: Removal and placement, Case planning, Court appearances, Father Engagement, Visitation and family time, Reunification, Adoption & Termination. Participants will build upon previously gained knowledge of attachment theory as it applies to working with young children and their families involved with the DCF system. Participants will be introduced to the concept of the Circle of Security Parenting and how the Circle is "always taking place" in the lives of children and adults.

Date: 10-8-26

Time: 9am- 12pm

Trainer(s): Dawn Jackle, Stephanie Carvalho, Sarah Clark

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR THE SCIENCE OF ATTACHMENT AND ENGAGEMENT](#)

GROUP FACILITATION (FOUNDATIONAL) HOW TO LEAD ENGAGING GROUPS AND MEETINGS

This workshop introduces the essential skills and strategies for leading effective, inclusive, and goal-oriented group discussions. Participants will learn how to establish group norms, manage dynamics, foster engagement, and navigate challenging situations with confidence. Through role-play, discussion, and practical tools, attendees will leave prepared to create a supportive environment that encourages participation and achieves shared objectives.

Date: 10-8-26

Time(s): 10am- 1:30pm

Trainers: Keri Lloyd, Laurie Johnson-Wales

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3.5

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR GROUP FACILITATION](#)

KNOW YOUR ROLE: AN OVERVIEW OF CAPTA AND FAMILY CARE PLANS FOR COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

Recent changes to federal legislation around the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (CARA) have outlined new state mandates requiring data collection around the impact of substance exposed infants and development of Family Care Plans nationwide. In CT, effective March 1, 2019, hospitals began submitting notifications to the Department of Children and Families at the time of the birth event when an infant is believed to have been substance exposed and/or displays withdrawal symptoms. This training will help community providers and health professionals better understand the impact of this legislation on the women and birthing persons we serve and be poised to help provide them with education around this mandate. Information will be provided on developing a comprehensive “Family Care Plan” prior to the time of their delivery.

Date: 10-13-26

Time: 10am- 11:30am

Trainers: Gina Monteleone - Wheeler Health

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 1.5

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR AN OVERVIEW OF CAPTA](#)

IMMIGRATION PRACTICE AT DCF

DCF serves all families in Connecticut, regardless of immigration status. The foundation of DCF's immigration policy is that DCF never reports immigration status to the federal government (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, aka ICE). In this three-hour virtual training, participants will review and receive information on DCF Policy 21-13, Immigration. In addition, immigration terms will be defined, immigration data will be analyzed, and immigration law will be discussed. Immigration and issues related to social work practice with our transitional aged youth population and unaccompanied minors will be reviewed. We will also consider the impact of complex trauma on immigrant children and their families, and how professionals might develop trauma-sensitive practices with immigrants. Finally, we will talk about benefits, services, current challenges, and new developments within the immigrant population of Connecticut.

Date: 10-13-26

Time: 9am- 12pm

Trainer(s): Jennifer Avenia

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3 + CC

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR IMMIGRATION PRACTICE](#)

STREET GANG INTELLIGENCE

This training will discuss what social workers need to know about gangs and gang activity, with a focus on Connecticut. This presentation covers the structure, culture, and dynamics of prominent gangs and their subsets, gang activity and rivalries, and significant aspects of identification.

Training Objectives:

- Understanding gang and gang activity, with a focus on Connecticut
- Focus on structure, culture, and dynamics of prominent gangs
- Identifying gang subsets, gang activity and rivalries, and significant aspects of identification

Date: 10-15-26

Time: 9am- 4pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams, Sargent Daniel Papoosha

Location: Central Office

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): None

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR STREET GANG INTELLIGENCE](#)

SPECIAL QUALITATIVE REVIEW: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE LEARNING FORUM

This forum will explore the Special Qualitative Review process, explore themes from cases involving fatalities and near fatalities where IPV was present, and highlight best practices for families involving IPV.

Date: 10-15-26

Time(s): 9am- 12pm

Trainers: Lori Franceschini

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 1

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR SQR](#)

TREATMENT & RECOVERY CRAFT TRAINING FOR CONNECTICUT PROFESSIONALS

Learn Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT)- an evidenced based approach with more than 40 years of research helping families respond more effectively to substance use and support pathways to treatment in recovery.

****Your attendance is required for all training sessions in this series.****

Training dates will be Thursday-10-15-26; -10-22-26; 10-29-26; 11-05-26; 11-12-26; 11-19-26

****Enrollment into the first class gets you automatically enrolled into the remainder of training dates****

Date: 10-15-26

Time(s) 10am- 11:30am

Trainers: Jane Macky, Courtney Hupp

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): Pending

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR CRAFT TRAINING](#)

WORKER SAFETY AND WELL BEING

It is important to understand the need to be safe in any situation. There are potential safety issues inherent with this job. There can be safety concerns in our client's home and within the office environment. This training should provide you with skills that you can use to effectively deal with crisis and make you aware of safety concerns.

Date: 10-19-26

Time: 1pm- 3pm

Trainers: Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 2

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR WORKER SAFETY](#)

YOUTH WITH PROBLEM SEXUAL BEHAVIOR: THE CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSE

Cases involving youth with problem sexual behavior are often complex and assessing the strengths and needs of the youth and family, while ensuring safety, can be a difficult task. This curriculum is designed to dispel myths and misconceptions about youth who display problem sexual behaviors, provide strategies to positively support children and families dealing with issues of problem sexual behaviors and build the capacity of staff to accurately assess a family's safety needs, with particular attention to the assessment of family systems, sibling separation and parental protective capacities. Participants will also gain insight into current understandings of and options for treatment.

Date: 10-21-26

Time: 9am- 2pm

Trainers: Marc Williams,

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 4

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR YOUTH PROBLEM SEXUAL BEHAVIOR](#)

ENHANCING SUPERVISORY SKILLS FOR PROVIDERS

Effective supervision is a cornerstone of ethical, competent, and trauma-informed practice across human service settings. This interactive training is designed for supervisors, managers, and team leads who are responsible for guiding direct service staff, interns, and interdisciplinary teams. Participants will explore foundational supervisory competencies, including communication strategies, performance evaluation, conflict resolution, and fostering a culturally responsive and psychologically safe work environment. Grounded in the NASW Code of Ethics, this training emphasizes the supervisor's role as gatekeeper for ethical practice, professional growth and client care. Participants will engage in case-based learning, reflective practice, and skill-building exercises that align with best practices in supervision and organizational leadership.

Date: 10-22-26

Time(s) 1pm- 4pm

Trainers: Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3

[CLICK TO REGISTER ENHANCING SUPERVISORY SKILLS](#)

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: UNDERSTANDING A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT- LEARN THE SIGNS

The growth and development milestones of children birth through five years of age will be explored as well as some of the factors that may impact typical/atypical development. This training will also consider what can cause the derailment of a child's development; and how a parent/caregiver can manage some of the challenging behaviors of young children. Do you want to know or refresh your memory and skills on how to care for an infant, change a diaper, feed, hold, or burp an infant? Then, this course is designed to demonstrate those tasks as well. Understanding why the early years are critical and the importance of providing the proper and practical care of our young children will aide participants in this training to better assess the basic needs of children

Date: 10-27-26

Time: 9am- 12pm

Trainer(s): Stephanie Carvalho, Sarah Clark, Bethanne Vergean

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT](#)

NOVEMBER COURSES

SAFETY PRACTICE MODEL: SAFETY VS. RISK- MICROLEARNING LAB

This MLL gives participants an opportunity to practice creating realistic, doable, specific interventions that mitigate immediate safety concerns while utilizing the SPM ABCD Paradigm. This Microlearning Lab will offer participants a refresher on the concepts of Safety vs. Risk and its connection to the ABCD Paradigm. This lab is open to DCF staff and community partners in the hopes of fostering further collaboration. This Microlearning Lab will provide a brief overview of the ABCD language and the importance of using common language with our community providers, discussion guides, and critical thinking to accurately assess safety and risk.

Date: 11-2-26

Time: 9am - 10:30am

Trainer(s): Marc Williams, Aurora Contrino

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 1.5

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR SPM: SAFETY VS. RISK](#)

IMPLICIT BIAS

Implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. These biases, which encompass both favorable and unfavorable assessments, are activated involuntarily and without an individual's awareness or intentional control. The goal of this training is to learn about implicit bias and to measure our implicit bias based on race, religion, gender and a vast array of other areas.

Date(s): 11-2-26

Time: 1pm- 4pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3+CC

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR IMPLICIT BIAS](#)

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND INFANT CARE

As children grow physically, they also develop in their knowledge, skills and behaviors. This 2-hour virtual course gives some basic development and infant care tips in learning more about how children grow and develop.

Date: 11-3-26

Time(s) 9am- 11am

Trainers: Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 2

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT](#)

UNIQUE DYNAMICS OF KINSHIP CARE

At the national and state level there is increasing recognition of the importance of safe family relationships to ensure children's success and well-being. Recognizing the critical role family plays, child welfare systems must strive to identify, locate, and engage kin to support children at all stages of the casework process. This training addresses the benefits of kinship care and the unique challenges of preparing and supporting kin caregivers and family members in providing permanency. Skills demonstration and kinship case examples will be used to assist participants in applying key best practice approaches and strategies. Special topics include differences between kinship care and unrelated foster care and the critical role of the caseworker in engaging the kinship triad in achieving permanency.

Date: 11-5-26

Time: 9am- 4pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 6

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR DYNAMICS OF KINSHIP CARE](#)

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN (DEC) AWARENESS - IDENTIFYING DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

This training will help participants understand who drug endangered children are along with the risks and long-term impacts that are associated with parental and caregiver substance misuse and drug activity. Trainers will discuss the importance of and opportunities for early identification and intervention and the need for multidisciplinary collaborative efforts to identify and help these children. Trainers will provide examples that all disciplines can relate to and activities to assist in understanding this challenging topic. Trainers will help attendees understand that they have opportunities to change the trajectories of the lives of drug endangered children and break multigenerational cycles.

Date: 11-5-26
Time(s): 9am- 12pm
Trainers: Ines Eaton, Alexander Derbacher
Location: Central Office

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN](#)

MINDFULNESS: THE PRACTICE OF BEING PRESENT

From Merriam Webster Dictionary: Mindfulness- "the practice of maintaining a nonjudgmental state of heightened or complete awareness of one's thoughts, emotions, or experiences on a moment-to-moment basis"

In this course, we will explore the definition of mindfulness and delve into the benefits of developing a mindfulness practice. We will learn about the Buddhist roots of mindfulness and how it became a secular wellness strategy in the United States. In this course, we will explore the use of mindfulness in therapeutic modalities. We will also learn and practice several different mindfulness activities that can be easily incorporated into our busy and stressful DCF lives!

Date: 11-6-26
Time(s): 9am- 12pm
Trainers: Dawn Jackle, Stephanie Carvalho
Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR MINDFULNESS](#)

ADVANCING CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES FOR PROVIDERS

To provide participants with a shared language and understanding of how to move towards anti racist practices; to develop an understanding of privilege and implicit bias and discuss strategies for engaging in facilitating difficult race discussions.

Date(s): 11-9-26

Time: 9am- 1pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 4+CC

[CLICK TO REGISTER ADVANCING CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES](#)

IMMIGRATION PRACTICE AT DCF

DCF serves all families in Connecticut, regardless of immigration status. The foundation of DCF's immigration policy is that DCF never reports immigration status to the federal government (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, aka ICE). In this three-hour virtual training, participants will review and receive information on DCF Policy 21-13, Immigration. In addition, immigration terms will be defined, immigration data will be analyzed, and immigration law will be discussed. Immigration and issues related to social work practice with our transitional aged youth population and unaccompanied minors will be reviewed. We will also consider the impact of complex trauma on immigrant children and their families, and how professionals might develop trauma-sensitive practices with immigrants. Finally, we will talk about benefits, services, current challenges, and new developments within the immigrant population of Connecticut.

Date: 11-10-26

Time: 9am- 12pm

Trainer(s): Jennifer Avenia

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3 + CC

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR IMMIGRATION PRACTICE](#)

ENHANCING SUPERVISORY SKILLS FOR PROVIDERS

Effective supervision is a cornerstone of ethical, competent, and trauma-informed practice across human service settings. This interactive training is designed for supervisors, managers, and team leads who are responsible for guiding direct service staff, interns, and interdisciplinary teams. Participants will explore foundational supervisory competencies, including communication strategies, performance evaluation, conflict resolution, and fostering a culturally responsive and psychologically safe work environment. Grounded in the NASW Code of Ethics, this training emphasizes the supervisor's role as gatekeeper for ethical practice, professional growth and client care. Participants will engage in case-based learning, reflective practice, and skill-building exercises that align with best practices in supervision and organizational leadership.

Date: 11-10-26

Time(s) 9am- 12pm

Trainers: Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3

[CLICK TO REGISTER ENHANCING SUPERVISORY SKILLS](#)

WORKING WITH THE RE-ENTRY & JUSTICE - INVOLVED POPULATION (FOUNDATIONAL)

Reentry begins with community. Participants of this session will learn to incorporate supportive programs and services to assist re-entering individuals; use community connections to eliminate common barriers around employment, housing, and education opportunities to limit recidivism; and offer resources to enhance recovery capital. It covers the unique challenges people re-entering the community face after incarceration or separation. Participants will develop strategies for providing supportive programs and services to re-enter individuals and build connections with community partners to enhance recovery capital.

Date: 11-12-26

Time(s): 10am - 1:30pm

Trainers: Faces and Voices of Recovery

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3.5

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR WORKING WITH THE RE-ENTRY](#)

TRAUMA AND DE-ESCALATION

The purpose of this training is to raise the awareness of DCF credentialed providers regarding recognizing the relationship between a child's lifetime trauma history and their behaviors.

Date: 11-12-26

Time: 1pm- 3pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 2

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR TRAUMA AND DE-ESCALATION](#)

WORKER SAFETY AND WELL BEING

It is important to understand the need to be safe in any situation. There are potential safety issues inherent with this job. There can be safety concerns in our client's home and within the office environment. This training should provide you with skills that you can use to effectively deal with crisis and make you aware of safety concerns.

Date: 11-16-26

Time: 1pm- 3pm

Trainers: Marc Williams

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 2

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR WORKER SAFETY](#)

ENGAGING FATHERS AND OTHER MEN WHO USE VIOLENCE

This training will focus on engaging fathers and other men who use patterns of coercive control in their intimate relationships. Participants will discuss people who use violence. Participants will also discuss how the socialization of men impacts the use of violence in adulthood. Participants will ensure they are engaging with children in a safe manner accounting for their mental health needs. Also, during this course there will be an opportunity to practice and build skills around engaging fathers and other men who offend.

Date: 11-18-26

Time: 9am- 1pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams, Sarah Clark

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 4

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR ENGAGING FATHERS](#)

KNOW YOUR ROLE: AN OVERVIEW OF CAPTA AND FAMILY CARE PLANS FOR COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

Recent changes to federal legislation around the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (CARA) have outlined new state mandates requiring data collection around the impact of substance exposed infants and development of Family Care Plans nationwide. In CT, effective March 1, 2019, hospitals began submitting notifications to the Department of Children and Families at the time of the birth event when an infant is believed to have been substance exposed and/or displays withdrawal symptoms. This training will help community providers and health professionals better understand the impact of this legislation on the women and birthing persons we serve and be poised to help provide them with education around this mandate. Information will be provided on developing a comprehensive "Family Care Plan" prior to the time of their delivery.

Date: 11-18-26

Time: 10am- 11:30am

Trainers: Gina Monteleone - Wheeler Health

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): N/A

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR AN OVERVIEW OF CAPTA](#)

CT DRUG CONTROL: LICIT AND ILLICIT SUBSTANCE TRAINING

The CT Drug Control Division works to protect the health and safety of Connecticut residents by regulating all persons and firms involved in the distribution of all legal drugs, medical devices, and cosmetics in Connecticut. In this training, participants will be able to identify and articulate the observable signs of substance impairment. Participants will learn the new terminology related to substance use. A portion of this training will offer licit and illicit substance exhibits. Participants will view the appearance, packaging, and common street names for licit and illicit drugs. Finally, participants will be able to describe different licit and illicit substances and their effects.

Date: 11-19-26

Time(s): 9am- 4pm

Trainers: Marc Williams, Drug Agents Rachel Brown, Robert Jansing, Troy Ruff

Location Central Office

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): None

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR CT DRUG CONTROL](#)

YOUTH FIRESETTING: WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW TO HELP THEM

This course will offer participants a basic understanding of the extent of the problem of youth fire setting, why children and youth misuse fire, and specific interventions used by a Youth Set Fire Interventionist / Mental Health Practitioner. The information provided in this specific training is derived from the National Fire Academy (NFA) curriculum and Clinical Interventions designed for those working with children and youth involved in the Child Welfare system. The course will be interactive, and participants will have an opportunity to identify "typologies" of the fire setting behavior and interventions based on the child's individual needs in the environment in which the youth or child lives.

Date: 11-24-26

Time: 9am- 12pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams, Sarah Clark

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR YOUTH FIRESETTING](#)

QUALITY PARENTING INITIATIVE (QPI) 101

QPI, the Quality Parenting Initiative, is a national movement for foster care change, made up of a network of states, counties and private agencies committed to ensuring that all children in care have excellent parenting and lasting relationships so they can thrive and grow.

Date: 11-25-26

Time: 9am- 12pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams, Carleen Chisholm

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR QPI](#)

CPR AND FIRST AID- INFANTS, YOUTH AND ADULTS

The purpose of this class is to provide any non-medical individual with the necessary skills to recognize an emergency, perform rescue breaths and chest compressions, apply the Automated External Defibrillation machine to ensure an open airway, help a choking individual and the proper utilization of personal protective equipment. It also provides participants with basic first aid skills to recognize, assess and prioritize the need for aid. Participants will learn to recognize an emergency; ensure personal safety is maintained when deciding to help. Participants will understand the concept of SETUP. (Stop, Environment, Traffic, Unknown Hazards, and Personal Safety).

Date: 11-30-26

Time(s): 9am- 4pm

Trainers: Stephanie Carvalho, Gregory Curtiss

Location: Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS)

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): None

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR FIRST AID/CPR](#)

DECEMBER COURSES

MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING SKILLS THAT PROMOTE PEER EMPOWERMENT

Persuasion vs. Empowerment! This motivational interview training covers the skills and techniques that give peers, in recovery the tools and confidence to make their own healthy choices. Participants will be able to define motivational interviewing and gain an understanding of dynamic techniques such as reflective listening, open-ended, and meaningful questions, and the guiding principles of motivational interviewing. Participants also will be able to describe the spirit of motivational interviewing and practice techniques to support peers through change.

Date: 12-1-26
Time: 9am- 4pm
Trainer(s): Keri Lloyd, Eileen Doyle- Faces and Voices of Recovery
Location: Central Office
Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 6

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING](#)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SERVING CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WITHIN CHILD PROTECTION

The purpose of this course is to enhance participant's capacity to engage, assess, advocate and ensure appropriate service provision for children with developmental disabilities and their families. Participants will strengthen their understanding and language regarding developmental disabilities while exploring their own implicit biases regarding persons living with disabilities. Specific laws and policies will be reviewed, as well as techniques for interviewing children with developmental disabilities. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of the four most common developmental disabilities encountered in the child welfare field.

Date: 12-2-26
Time: 9am- 4pm
Trainer(s): Stephanie Carvalho, Sarah Clark, Williams Seals
Location: Central Office
Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 6

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES](#)

IMPLICIT BIAS

Implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. These biases, which encompass both favorable and unfavorable assessments, are activated involuntarily and without an individual's awareness or intentional control. The goal of this training is to learn about implicit bias and to measure our implicit bias based on race, religion, gender and a vast array of other areas.

Date(s): 12-3-26

Time: 1pm- 3pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3+CC

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR IMPLICIT BIAS](#)

POVERTY IS NOT NEGLECT

Poverty is a risk factor for child neglect, but poverty does not equal neglect. Poverty can make it more difficult for parents to meet their children's needs. However, poverty alone does not mean a child is unsafe, unloved, or that a parent lacks the capacity to care for their child.

Date: 12-4-26

Time: 9am- 4pm

Trainers: Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 6

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR POVERTY IS NOT NEGLECT](#)

IMMIGRATION PRACTICE AT DCF

DCF serves all families in Connecticut, regardless of immigration status. The foundation of DCF's immigration policy is that DCF never reports immigration status to the federal government (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, aka ICE). In this three-hour virtual training, participants will review and receive information on DCF Policy 21-13, Immigration. In addition, immigration terms will be defined, immigration data will be analyzed, and immigration law will be discussed. Immigration and issues related to social work practice with our transitional aged youth population and unaccompanied minors will be reviewed. We will also consider the impact of complex trauma on immigrant children and their families, and how professionals might develop trauma-sensitive practices with immigrants. Finally, we will talk about benefits, services, current challenges, and new developments within the immigrant population of Connecticut.

Date: 12-8-26

Time: 9am- 12pm

Trainer(s): Jennifer Avenia

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3 + CC

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR IMMIGRATION PRACTICE](#)

ADVANCING CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES FOR PROVIDERS

To provide participants with a shared language and understanding of how to move towards anti racist practices; to develop an understanding of privilege and implicit bias and discuss strategies for engaging in facilitating difficult race discussions.

Date(s): 12-8-26

Time: 9am- 1pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 4+CC

[CLICK TO REGISTER ADVANCING CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS FOR STAFF

This training focuses on the personal use of social media in a manner that mitigates risk to the personal safety of DCF staff and their families.

Date: 12-9-26
Time(s) 9am- 12pm
Trainers: Marc Williams, Officer James White
Location Central Office
Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): None

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS](#)

SAFETY PRACTICE MODEL: DISCUSSION GUIDES

This virtual MLL focuses on the importance of utilizing collateral contacts to support assessment of family needs, risk, and safety. This MLL will infuse the use of ABCD Child Safety Practice Model Discussion Guides to support critical thinking and gathering of information.

Date: 12-10-26
Time: 9am - 10:30am
Trainer(s): Marc Williams
Location: Virtual
Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): None

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR SAFETY PRACTICE MODEL OVERVIEW](#)

WORKER SAFETY AND WELL BEING

It is important to understand the need to be safe in any situation. There are potential safety issues inherent with this job. There can be safety concerns in our client's home and within the office environment. This training should provide you with skills that you can use to effectively deal with crisis and make you aware of safety concerns.

Date: 12-10-26

Time: 1pm- 3pm

Trainers: Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 2

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR WORKER SAFETY](#)

ENHANCING SUPERVISORY SKILLS FOR PROVIDERS

Effective supervision is a cornerstone of ethical, competent, and trauma-informed practice across human service settings. This interactive training is designed for supervisors, managers, and team leaders who are responsible for guiding direct service staff, interns, and interdisciplinary teams. Participants will explore foundational supervisory competencies, including communication strategies, performance evaluation, conflict resolution, and fostering a culturally responsive and psychologically safe work environment. Grounded in the NASW Code of Ethics, this training emphasizes the supervisor's role as gatekeeper for ethical practice, professional growth and client care. Participants will engage in case-based learning, reflective practice, and skill-building exercises that align with best practices in supervision and organizational leadership.

Date: 12-11-26

Time(s) 9am- 12pm

Trainers: Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 3

[CLICK TO REGISTER ENHANCING SUPERVISORY SKILLS](#)

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND INFANT CARE

As children grow physically, they also develop in their knowledge, skills and behaviors. This 2-hour virtual course gives some basic development and infant care tips in learning more about how children grow and develop.

Date: 12-15-26

Time: 9am- 11am

Trainers: Marc Williams

Location Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 2

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT](#)

TRAUMA AND DE-ESCALATION

The purpose of this training is to raise the awareness of DCF credentialed providers regarding recognizing the relationship between a child's lifetime trauma history and their behaviors.

Date: 12-17-26

Time: 1pm - 3pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 2

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR TRAUMA AND DE-ESCALATION](#)

ENGAGING FATHERS AND OTHER MEN WHO USE VIOLENCE

This training will focus on engaging fathers and other men who use patterns of coercive control in their intimate relationships. Participants will discuss people who use violence. Participants will also discuss how the socialization of men impacts the use of violence in adulthood. Participants will ensure they are engaging with children in a safe manner accounting for their mental health needs. Also, during this course there will be an opportunity to practice and build skills around engaging fathers and other men who offend.

Date: 12-18-26

Time: 9am- 1pm

Trainer(s): Marc Williams

Location: Virtual

Continuing Education Credits (CEC'S): 4

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR ENGAGING FATHERS](#)

TRAINING SERIES

THE FATHERHOOD SERIES: ENGAGEMENT, EQUITY, AND YOUTH

This is a comprehensive three-part professional development designed to strengthen father engagement practices across Connecticut. Grounded in the Department of Children and Families 'Fatherhood Practice Guide', this series examines the critical role fathers play in child safety, permanency, and well-being. Participants will explore systemic and historical barriers to father involvement, address structural disparities and implicit bias, and build practical strategies to promote equity and inclusion. Through discussion, applied learning, a fatherhood panel, and an interactive simulation, staff will deepen their understanding of trauma-informed engagement, maternal gatekeeping, intimate partner violence considerations, incarcerated fathers, and collaborative community partnerships, ultimately enhancing outcomes for children and families.

****Enrollment into the first class gets you automatically enrolled into the remainder of training dates****

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR THE FATHERHOOD SERIES](#)

DATE	COURSE	TRAINERS	LOCATION
December 2 9a-4p	Foundations of Father Engagement in Child Welfare Practice (6 CEC's)	Marc Williams, Eric Smith	Central Office
December 16 9a-4p	Addressing Barriers and Advancing Equity in Father Engagement (6 CEC's)	Marc Williams, Eric Smith	Central Office
December 22 9a-4p	From Knowledge to Practice: Collaboration, Lived Experience, and Simulation (6 CEC's)	Marc Williams, Eric Smith	Central Office

TEAM BUILDING, COACHING, AND GROUP SUPERVISION

The Academy can offer professional coaching, integrated group supervision and team building. These sessions explore the essentials that team members and leaders need to understand for team success. Included in the session is discussion around the four stages of team development and how to understand and deal with different personalities on the team. Additionally, small group work identifies strengths and needs of the team. The results are developed into a plan of action and commitment based on personal ownership. **To inquire about these sessions, please contact your office Academy Coach listed below.**

HOME BASE- VETERAN AND FAMILY CARE TRAINING

The HOME BASE-Veteran and Family Care- The Training Institute offers NASW certified asynchronous training at no charge to clinicians, social workers, health care professionals and community members throughout New England. These trainings also meet the NASW veteran service continuing education requirement.

Webinars are about one hour and range on all different topics, such as, Military Culture, PTSD, Substance Use and Mental Health, Trauma Treatment and Traumatic Brain Injury.

To access training, please visit the [Home Base Training Institute, click here](#). Click on the "Resources" tab. Then click on "The Training Institute at Home Base" tab. Scroll down and select a topic you would like to learn more about. Once you select a training course, you will need to create a Psychiatry Academy account. When your account is activated, you will be allowed to register and view the training.

After the training, you will be able to download your CEC Certificate.

For any other questions regarding how to access these courses, please email educationathomebase@mgb.org

ASYNCHRONOUS TRAININGS

A UNIFIED APPROACH: UNDERSTANDING AND COLLABORATING WITH ADULT PROBATION

Description: This course enhances the understanding of Adult Probation operations and promotes effective collaboration between probation services and other agencies. Participants will learn about the structure and responsibilities of adult probation, risk-based supervision strategies, and how probation addresses noncompliance. The course provides practical insights on how to communicate with probation officers, ensuring child safety and improved case outcomes. Through interactive scenarios and resources, participants will align goals and strengthen partnerships for shared clients. By the end of the course, participants will understand more about Adult Probation and how we can adopt a unified approach to better client outcomes.

[CLICK TO BEGIN THE OVERVIEW OF A UNIFIED APPROACH](#)

REASONABLE PRUDENT PARENT-STANDARD (RPPS) ON-LINE TRAINING

This asynchronous training will discuss the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS). RPPS is defined as the standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety and best interest of a child. Normal childhood activities are defined as extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities.

[CLICK TO BEGIN THE RPPS TRAINING](#)

THIS IS DCF

This web-based course provides an overview of the Department of Children and Families, designed to educate new hires, community members, parents and youth on the agency's mission, statutory mandates and responsibilities. Participants will gain insight into the role of DCF in supporting families, ensuring child welfare, and fostering resilience in children. The training will also cover what families can expect when interacting with DCF, equipping attendees with essential knowledge to help navigate and engage with the system effectively.

[CLICK TO BEGIN THIS IS DCF TRAINING](#)

ABCD CHILD SAFETY PRACTICE MODEL

This course will orient participants to the ABCD Child Safety Practice Model, and how to utilize the associated Discussion Guides and Practice Profiles. Upon completion of the course, participants will understand the primary objectives of the model, be able to identify the eight guiding practice commitments, and understand the A-B-C-D paradigm and other key features. Recorded video, narrated power point, discussion questions, case vignettes, and structured transfer of learning activities will be utilized to engage participants and develop skills.

[CLICK TO BEGIN THE ABCD PRACTICE MODEL TRAINING](#)

MEET THE ACADEMY'S STAFF



Tracy Davis, Director, LMSW, University of Connecticut School of Social Work

Tracy Davis is the Director of the Academy for Workforce Development at the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. She has 32 years of experience working in the field of Child Protection that has included direct service, supervision, management, and leadership roles. She has successfully implemented and sustained nationally recognized and innovative workforce development initiatives during her tenure at The Academy for Workforce Development. As the Director, she works collaboratively with the agency workforce and external partners to develop and implement training products that enhance skills and increase the knowledge base of staff and providers. In addition, Tracy has developed strong university and college partnerships to offer internship opportunities to MSW and BSW students, strengthening their path to employment within the agency.

Tracy holds a bachelor's degree in human development and family relations and a master's in social work, both from the University of Connecticut. She also has over 15 years' experience as an Adjunct Professor at The University of Bridgeport, Southern Connecticut State University, and Sacred Heart University, teaching courses on human oppression and diversity, group work, crisis management, and field practicum. Her academic experience has allowed her to bring awareness of Child Welfare to traditional and non-traditional students, increasing their knowledge and fostering an interest in discipline.

Tracy has been a member of the National Staff Development and Training Association (NSDTA) Executive Advisory Council since 2019, contributing to subcommittees on Engagement, Scholarship, and Conference Planning, and she currently serves as Co-Chair. In addition to her leadership and training expertise, her work has been published in *Policy & Practice* (APHSA's Journal) and *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership & Governance*, the official journal of the Network for Social Work Management. She is also the host of *Real Talk: A Podcast on Well-Being*, reflecting her commitment to supporting the workforce and promoting professional wellness.



Kristine Rivera, Assistant Director, LCSW, University of Connecticut School of Social Work

Kristine has been with DCF since November 2006. She left for a period to complete her master's degree in social work and returned to the Department in August 2008. As a Social Worker she worked in Ongoing Services and Adolescent Mental Health in the New Britain Area Office. She was promoted to Social Work Supervisor in June 2014. Kristine was a Training Supervisor in the New Britain Area Office until October 2016 when she joined the Academy for Workforce Development as a Child Welfare Trainer. In March 2021, Kristine became a program supervisor overseeing the Pre-Service Training and Internship programs. She was promoted to Assistant Director in November 2022. Kristine is also an Adjunct Professor in the undergraduate social work program at Central Connecticut State University. She has been an

adjunct there since fall 2009.



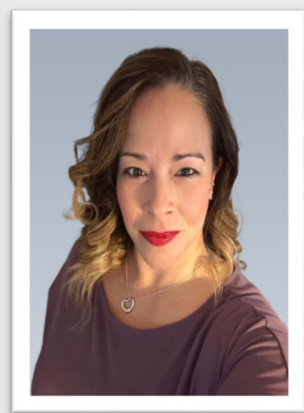
Jennifer Rondini-Zayas, Child Welfare Program Supervisor, LMSW, Springfield College

Jennifer began her employment for the Department of Children and Families in the Waterbury Area Office in September of 2005. As a Social Worker, she gained three years' experience with Ongoing Services before transitioning to the Adolescent Unit. In June 2014, Jennifer became a Social Work Supervisor for the Adolescent Unit. Jennifer joined the DCF Academy for Workforce Development in June of 2016 as a Child Welfare Trainer. In March 2020, Jennifer was promoted as a Program Supervisor for the Academy for Workforce Development.



Carleen Chisholm, Child Welfare, Program Supervisor, MSW. University of Connecticut.

Carleen began her career with the Department of Children and Families as a Social Worker in 2003 at the New Britain Area Office. In this role, Carleen acquired three years' experience with Ongoing Services before transitioning to the Intake Unit. In June 2008, Carleen was promoted to a Social Work Supervisor, where she led staff in the Treatment/Ongoing, Training and Mental Health/Adolescent units, as well as held a position as a Quality Assurance Case Reviewer Supervisor. In March 2021, Carleen was promoted to CPS Program Supervisor in the Waterbury Area Office, where she managed, Ongoing Services, Probate, and a Training Unit. She also served as a Regional QPI Co-Chairperson and QPI Champion. Carleen Joined the DCF Academy for Workforce Development in September of 2022.



Alexa Romer, Child Welfare, Program Supervisor, LMSW. Springfield College

Alexa began her career with the Department of Children and Families as a Social Worker Trainee in 1999 at the Hartford Area Office. In this role, Alexa acquired some years' experience with Ongoing Services before transitioning to the Intake Unit. In 2007, Alexa was promoted to a Social Work Supervisor position, where she led staff in the Treatment/Ongoing, Training Sexual Abuse, Adolescent, and Permanency units. She also held a position as a Quality Assurance Case Reviewer Supervisor. In July 2020, Alexa was promoted to CPS Program Supervisor in the New Britain Area Office, where she managed Intake and ongoing services. She also served as a Regional Racial Justice Co Lead. Alexa joined the DCF Academy for Workforce Development in February 2024.



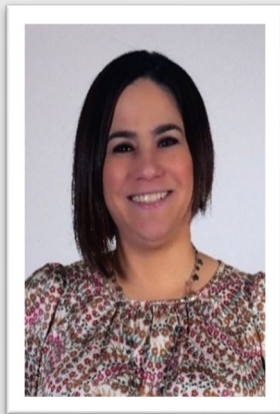
Sean Tenney, Workforce Development Operations Management

Sean began working with the Department of Children and Families in April 2023 as a Business Analyst consultant and, in 2025, became Operations Manager with the Academy for Workforce Development. He oversees statewide technologies, systems, and compliance programs, leads data and reporting initiatives to improve efficiency and accountability, and supports staff in building technology skills through targeted training. With a background in instructional design, IT management, and business consulting, Sean brings a collaborative and innovative approach to strengthening workforce development and advancing DCF's mission.



Lindy O'Brien, Training Program Coordinator

Lindy joined the DCF Academy for Workforce Development in July 2021, after working in post-secondary education for 23 years. During that time, her primary focus was on adult learning. Beginning as an instructor in 1998 for a medical assisting program, she grew her instructional and administrative skills, becoming the Campus Director of Operations and Education. In this position, Lindy was responsible for the education of over 500 students, as well as staff training and development. Lindy brings with her an expertise of adult learning and teaching style.



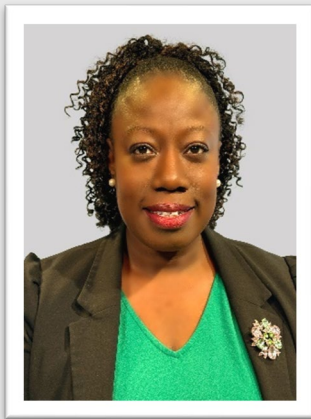
Stephanie Carvalho, Child Welfare Trainer, LMSW. BS in Psychology from Sacred Heart University and a MSW from Springfield College

Stephanie was hired by the Department in 2005. Stephanie began working in the New Britain Office where she was quickly transitioned into the role of a Medically Complex worker until 2008. Stephanie transferred to the Hartford Office until 2017 when she was promoted to Social Work Supervisor in the Manchester Office. During her time in the Hartford Office, Stephanie worked in the areas of medically complex, permanency, and intake. As a Social Work Supervisor in Manchester, Stephanie was a training supervisor and continued her participation in the HART team. Stephanie returned to the Hartford Office in 2020 where she supervised a Sexual Abuse unit. Stephanie transitioned to the Academy in November 2023.



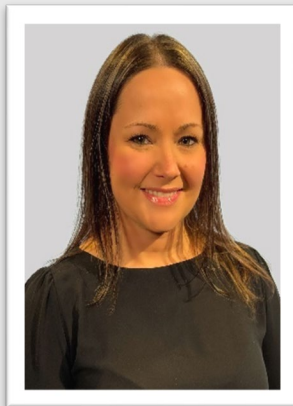
Aurora Contrino, Child Welfare Trainer, M.A. in Clinical Psychology from American International College. Forensic Psychology, American International College

Aurora began her career with the Department of Children and Families as a Social Worker in 2003. Throughout her time as a Social Worker, Aurora gained experience in ongoing services and specialty units such as the mental health unit. Aurora transitioned to investigations in 2006. In 2009 Aurora was promoted to Social Work Supervisor overseeing an ongoing unit. In 2012, Aurora began supervising intake staff until 2018. From 2018-2022, Aurora was a supervisor in the Administrative Case Review Division and then transitioned back to child protective services where I supervised an ongoing unit. In 2016, Aurora completed the Leadership Academy for Supervisors (LAS) program. Aurora Joined the Academy for Workforce Development in March 2024.



Curtisea Anderson, Child Welfare Trainer, B.A. in Psychology from Central Connecticut State University

Curtisea began her work with the Department in September 2000, working as a treatment social worker until November 2008 when she transitioned to Investigations. During her time in investigations, Curtisea was outposted in the East Hartford Police Department for 7 years. She also worked as an Adolescent Social Worker prior to being promoted as a Social Work Supervisor in 2021 where she supervised trainees. Curtisea has served as the Co-Lead for the Racial Justice Committee in Region 2 and 4, a DCF representative of East Hartford Juvenile Review Board , and the Considered Removal Meeting co-liaison in New Haven DCF. Curtisea joined the Academy for Workforce Development in August 2025.



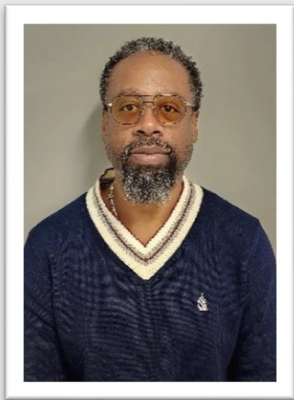
Sarah Clark, Child Welfare Trainer, BA in Sociology and Applied Social Relations, Eastern Connecticut State University. MSW, University of Connecticut, School of Social Work.

Sarah began her employment with the Department of Children and Families as a Social Worker at the Willimantic area office in March of 2007. As a Social Worker, she acquired six years of experience in ongoing services before transitioning to an Adolescent Unit. In 2018, Sarah became a Social Work Supervisor for a training unit. From 2019-2023, Sarah was a supervisor in the Administrative Case Review Division and then transitioned back to child protection services where she supervised a combined ongoing and training unit. Sarah joined the Academy for Workforce Development in August 2025.



Gregory A. Curtiss, Child Welfare Trainer, B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Connecticut.

Greg began his work with the Department in May 2002, working as a treatment social worker until November 2003 when he transitioned to Investigations. Greg served as an investigation social worker for 13 years and was promoted to Social Work Supervisor of Investigations in 2016. Greg has been providing training to mandated reporters since 2005, and in 2012, received his training certification from the Connecticut Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) Council in child abuse and neglect. Since then, he has been training sexual abuse investigation/identification for DCF staff, law enforcement, and community providers. In his 21 years of experience in the Waterbury office, Greg joined the Academy for Workforce



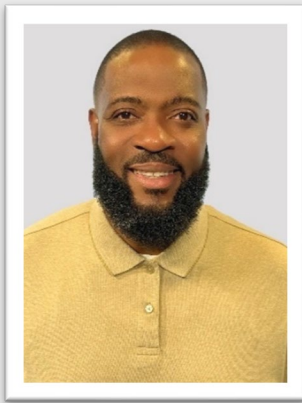
Marc Williams Child Welfare Trainer, B.S. Public Health from Southern Connecticut State University

Marc began his career with DCF in 1995 in region 2. Marc served as an Adolescent Worker until 1997 when he transitioned to Intake. Marc was promoted to Supervisor in 2014. He transitioned to region 1 as an Ongoing Treatment Supervisor until returning to Intake as a Supervisor in 2016. During his tenure in region 1 Marc served as the Fatherhood Engagement Leadership Team (FELT) Lead. Marc joined the Academy for Workforce Development in November 2022 as a Child Welfare Trainer.



Dawn Jackle, Child Welfare Trainer, BSW, Southern Connecticut State University

Dawn began her career with the Department in October 2005, working as a treatment social worker until 2007 when she transitioned to Investigations for the next 10 years. During those 10 years, Dawn was specifically assigned to a detective bureau with specialties in sexual abuse, drug enforcement, and fatality cases. She served as a liaison for the schools, police, and providers, to include being certified by an Assistant Attorney General as a specialist in child abuse and neglect, being called to testify as an expert witness on criminal matters. In 2017, Dawn was promoted to Social Work Supervisor of Trainees. In May 2024, Dawn joined the Academy for Workforce Development.



Eric Smith, Child Welfare Trainer, BA, POST University

Eric began his career with the Department in June 2016, working as a treatment social worker until 2017 when he transitioned to Investigations for the next 5 years. Eric was promoted to an Ongoing Treatment Social Work Supervisor in June 2022, where he supervised Social Work Trainees. While supervising trainees, Eric was heavily invested in the onboarding process and ensuring new hires were adequately acclimated to DCF. He transitioned to Intake/Probate as a Supervisor in 2023. During his tenure in region 5, Eric served as a Wellness, Racial Justice, and Fatherhood Engagement Leadership Team (FELT) Lead. Eric joined the Academy for Workforce Development in October 2025 as a Child Welfare Trainer.



Pamela Williams, Office Supervisor

Pam has been with DCF since November 1988, and held positions as a Clerk Typist, Office Assistant, Head Clerk, Secretary II, Administrative Assistant and Office Supervisor. During her tenure with DCF she has worked for various Divisions such as Protective Services in the Meriden & Middletown area offices, the Administrative Law, Policy and Licensing Division, and the Quality Improvement Division. In January 2005 Pam joined the Academy for Workforce Development, where she assumed the position as a Statewide Clerical Coordinator.



Danielle Perez, Administrative Assistant

Danielle Perez was welcomed to the DCF's Academy for Workforce Development in June 2022 to the position of Secretary 2. This is Danielle's first position as a state employee. Prior to joining DCF, Danielle served as the administrative assistant for the pharmacy department of Mount Sinai West hospital in New York City for 6 years. Danielle earned a BA from Hunter College in English Creative Writing and has also studied music with an emphasis on solo piano for over 20 years. In December 2023 Danielle was promoted to Administrative Assistant.



Tahani Zaben, Secretary 1

Tahani was welcomed to the DCF's Academy for Workforce Development in June 2026 to the position of Secretary 1. Prior to joining DCF Tahani worked as an Administrative Clerk for the Judicial Branch call center. Tahani's previous work includes para educator for special ed in CREC magnet school and patient transport supervisor at Bay State Medical in MS. Tahari earned her B.S. in Healthcare Administrator, Emergency Management Services from Columbia Southern University.