



---

## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present*

### **ACCESSING SERVICES FROM THE CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE**

**November 26, 2019**

**1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**N.J. Forensic Science & Technology Center**

**1200 Negron Drive**

**Hamilton, New Jersey**

### **NOTICE REGARDING COURSE MATERIALS**

You will receive the course materials approximately forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date of the course. The materials will be contained in an email attachment.

#### *Program Summary*

This program will provide DAsG with guidance on how to access services from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' Division of Children's System of Care (CSOC), which serves children with emotional and behavioral health care challenges, developmental disabilities, and substance use issues. A representative of the Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will also provide information on the transition process to adult services.

The program will address:

- The Child and Family Team Process
- CSOC's Service Array
- How Level of Care/Intensity of Service Determinations are Made
- CSOC's Out-of-Home (OOH) Referral Process
- Different Intensities of CSOC OOH Settings
- When to Begin the DDD Transition Process

#### *Who Should Attend?*

This program is only for Deputy and Assistant Attorneys General in the DCF practice group and client agency attorneys who have been invited to attend. Please do not attempt to register if you are not a member of the DCF Practice Group or a DCF agency attorney.

### *Who Is the Faculty?*

**Mike Higginbotham, LCSW**, is the Clinical Administrator for the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' Division of Children's System of Care. He is the clinical lead for behavioral health, substance use treatment and intellectual development disability out of home treatment programming. He was previously the CSOC's liaison to the Judiciary, serving as the primary point of contact between CSOC and trial court judges in both the Family Division and Civil Division of Superior Court. Prior to joining CSOC, Mike was a Coordinator in DCF's Office of School Linked Services. He has also held several positions within the Department of Human Services, including analyst in the Office of Program Integrity and Accountability, and investigator and case manager in the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Prior to entering State service, he was a therapist for youths in resource and adoptive homes, a clinical coordinator for a psychiatric emergency screening service, a manager of several behavioral health and developmental disability group homes, and a case manager for youth, adolescent, and adult programs. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Rowan University and a Master's Degree in Social Work with a concentration in Direct Practice to Children and Families from Rutgers University.

**Dale Mooney, LCSW** is the Judiciary and DCPD liaison for the Department of Children and Families' Division of Children's System of Care. She works to resolve system issues with partnered agencies, serves as the CSOC's representative to the NJ Children in Court Improvement Committee and is a Disaster Response Crisis Counselor with the NJ Mental Health Association. Ms. Mooney began her career with the State as a caseworker in the Division of Youth and Family Services (now DCP&P), where she was the intake screener and a supervisor for the new employee training unit. She received Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Social Work from Monmouth University.

**Nkechi Ugoji-Okoli** is the Senior Coordinator of Transition to 21 Education at the Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities. Using presentations, webinars and supplemental materials, she works to ensure that individuals and those who support them are well versed in the steps necessary to smoothly transition to the DDD service system. She has worked in several units of the division and has developed monitoring tools, forms, and operating procedures to assist DDD staff in enhancing the quality and delivery of client services. Ms. Ugoji-Okoli has worked at the Department of Human Services and the Department of Children and Families. She holds a Master's Degree in Social Work.

**Clarence Whittaker, Esq.**, is an Assistant Director of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' Division of Children's System of Care. He oversees Constituent Affairs and Administrative Appeals for the Division. He previously worked in the legal affairs offices of the Departments of Human Services and Children and Families. Prior to joining DCF, Mr. Whitaker worked for the Administrative Office of the Courts. He received his J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law – Camden.

### *CLE Credit*

**NJ CLE Credit:** This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education

of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 2.7 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

**NY CLE Credit:** 2.5 Substantive Credits (pursuant to the approved jurisdiction policy).

**PA CLE Credit:** 2.0 Substantive Credits (\$3.00 mandatory registration fee required).

## **How Do I Register?**

### **State Employees**

Most State employees are able to register for this course by going to <http://reg2.dcj.lps.state.nj.us/lpcreg/login.aspx?portalid=2> and creating an AGAI Course Registration account. To do so, your computer **must** be attached to the government's Garden State Network. Upon opening the AGAI Course Registration System home page, you will see the Create Account link in the Login Box. Click on it and create your account, which will include you selecting a user name and password. Once you create your account, you can access the AGAI Course Registration System at <http://reg2.dcj.lps.state.nj.us/lpcreg/login.aspx?portalid=2> to register for future courses or to manage your account. Please retain your user name and password for your records.