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## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

*The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present*

### SOLUTION BASED CASEWORK

November 23, 2020  
1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### WEBINAR

#### *Program Summary*

This session will provide an introductory review of the Solution Based Casework Model. The presenters will start with an overview of data related to the model’s effectiveness, explain the differential between checklist and service completion and actual behavioral change to ensure safety for children and families and provide examples of parental experience. They will also discuss current practices and future changes for the Department of Children and Families.

#### *Eligibility*

This program is only open to Deputy and Assistant Attorneys General in the DCF practice group and DCF agency attorneys invited to attend. Registrants will receive the course materials prior to the program date.

#### *Faculty*

**Dr. Dana Christensen** is the model developer of Solution Based Casework (SBC). He has spent the last three decades working closely with state and private agencies in their efforts to study and improve their case assessment, case planning, and case management practices through the adoption of the SBC casework practice model ([www.solutionbasedcasework.com](http://www.solutionbasedcasework.com)). As part of the implementation process, he has also worked closely with contract treatment and service providers in developing practices that facilitate working partnerships with child protection, school services, and juvenile justice agencies.

Dr. Christensen is a Professor Emeritus in the Kent School of Social Work, where he served for many years as the Director of the Family Therapy Program, the only program in the country dually accredited by both the social work and family therapy professions. While at the University of Louisville, Dr. Christensen founded the Center for Family Resource Development and led a team of researchers focused on improving Child Welfare practice and services. He holds a doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy and is a Clinical Member and Approved Supervisor of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. Dr. Christensen has written widely in the fields of, child welfare, juvenile justice, and family therapy for over 35 years. He is the co-author of the book *Family Therapy Theory and Practice* as well as the text *Solution Based Casework: An Introduction to Clinical and Case Management Skills in Social Work Practice*.

**Carmen Diaz-Petti** is the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Child Protection and Permanency in the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. She previously served as DCP & P's Area Director for Hunterdon, Somerset, Warren and Mercer Counties, where she created a collaborative environment with internal and external stakeholders and worked with community partners to enhance the safety net for the most vulnerable children. Assistant Commissioner Diaz-Petti has been a champion of the Case Practice Model and has implemented several quality improvement initiatives in her area to improve services to families.

Prior to her role as Area Director, Assistant Commissioner Diaz-Petti was the local office manager in Somerset County. Before joining DCF, she was an assistant division director for the Youth Services Division and Behavioral Health at Catholic Charities, where she provided counseling assistance to victims of physical and sexual abuse, children with social or behavioral health challenges, and adolescent sexual offenders. Assistant Commissioner Diaz-Petti holds a B.A. in Psychology from Rutgers University, an MSW from the Rutgers School of Social Work and is a NJ Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

#### ***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 1.5 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

#### ***Registration***

Those who are eligible to apply should use the Zoom Webinar registration link in the Program Announcement email. Students who are registered will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the program.

**Students must download Zoom before the webinar in order for the AGAI to record polling responses that are required for attendance verification and CLE credit.**

The AGAI will be unable to verify attendance or grant CLE credit to students who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.