



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

UTILIZING STRUCTURED DECISION MAKING TOOLS (SDM) IN CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

**April 19, 2021
1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

Structured Decision Making (SDM) is a uniform process for reaching Division-wide determinations about critical aspects of the Division of Child Protection and Permanency's child and family interventions. SDM tools are essential in child protective services work. They are research and evidence-based and designed to assist field staff in making important decisions. The presenters will discuss established policies and procedures for utilizing Structured Decision Making tools in protective service investigations.

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

NaKisha Freeman, LMSW, is the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator and a Program Specialist at Evident Change, a nonprofit that uses data and research to improve social systems. Kisha's skills include navigating safety-organized practice tools, team facilitation, practice coaching, facilitating case consultations, developing tools to support child protection work, and continuous quality improvement processes. She is trained in trauma-informed practices such as a Trust Based Relational Intervention, the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment, and the Family Advocacy and Support Tool. Kisha has presented at conferences across the country on best practices targeted at older youth in foster care, partnered in community efforts to address disproportionality within child welfare systems and worked with birth parents who successfully

reunited with children who entered the foster care system. Before joining Evident Change, Kisha was a social worker for Casey Family Programs and the Texas Department of Family Protective Services. She provided in-home prevention and permanency support services for children placed out of home and young adults, and worked with youths and families through adoptions, kinship family support, and reunification with birth parents both pre - and post-termination.

Dayana Kupisk is a Program Specialist at Evident Change, a nonprofit that uses data and research to improve social systems. She is an applied researcher with a passion for translating science to improve programs and policies in support of child and family well-being. Dayana has served children and families in community organizations, worked with runaway and homeless youth and survivors of domestic abuse and in workforce development programming. She received her PhD in human development and family studies from the School of Human Ecology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where she worked on projects to bring research and best practices into the real world, including managing a research-based blog for parents of teens and supporting evaluation of a mindfulness parenting program.

Nancy Carre-Lee is the Deputy Director of Operations at the Department of Children and Families' Division of Child Protection and Permanency. She has served in various supervisory positions at DCF and has extensive knowledge and experience in investigative practices, adoption and permanency. She began her career at CP&P as a caseworker. Ms. Carre-Lee holds an MSW from Rutgers University.

Steven Little is the Assistant Director of Case Practice in the Department of Children and Families' Division of Child Protection and Permanency. He oversees the Case Practice Unit, supports all statewide initiatives and maintains the fidelity of division wide practices. He was previously an implementation specialist and a case practice liaison, supporting statewide immersion and sustainability of the new case practice model. He has also served in the Department's training unit and as a caseworker in Essex County, where he provided direct family support.

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.