



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Supporting Permanency: Partnering with Adoption Operations

**May 8, 2023
1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

This interactive training will provide DCF Practice Group deputies with the competence and confidence necessary to understand the Select Home Adoption Process and permanency planning through family recruitment, child preparation, and family supports embedded in the Public Adoption Program. The presenters will concentrate on permanency planning for youth who are being supported by the Office of Adoption Operations. Deputies will explore individual areas of adoption planning and develop knowledge of program areas that will increase their ability to represent DCF in court proceedings. This training will strengthen the partnership among DCF deputies, the local office adoption staff, and the Office of Adoption Operations.

Eligibility

This program is only open to Deputy and Assistant Attorneys General in the DCF practice group and DCF agency attorneys invited to attend.

Faculty

Lori A. Barry is a Licensed Social Worker and Program Manager at the Office of Adoption Operations, where she oversees exchange and recruitment. Her work focuses on providing trauma informed education and support to resource parents to increase their understanding of the experiences and needs of youth in out of home care. Ms. Barry has also served as a Family Service Specialist, Supervisor, Case Practice Specialist and Casework Supervisor, working with families from intake to adoption, as well as with resource families. She obtained a Master of Social Work degree from Rutgers University through DCF's MCWEP program.

Renee P. Evelyn is an Adoption Field Support Specialist with the Office of Adoption Operations, where she oversees adoption practices and processes at several local offices. She has specialized in supervision, data accuracy, and family planning and is committed to supporting permanency for youth throughout the State. Ms. Evelyn earned a Master of Social Work degree from Rutgers University and recently completed the Minority Professional Leadership Development Program through Adopt US Kids.

Vanessa Merced-Suazo is an Adoption Field Support Specialist with the Office of Adoption Operations, where she supports permanency and adoption practice at six local offices in Essex County and supervises child specific recruiters who specialize in recruitment and building family connections. Ms. Merced-Suazo has specialized in adoption, adolescent and permanency planning, as well as supervision to support best case practice. She is committed to the transformational changes needed to best serve children and families and heal communities. She earned a Master of Child Advocacy from Montclair State University and a Master of Social Work from Rutgers University.

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.