

Stephanie Barnes-Moore Named to NJ CPAC Executive Board

The New Jersey Child Placement Advisory Council (NJ CPAC) has elected longtime child and family advocate Stephanie Barnes-Moore of Maplewood to its executive board, effective Aug. 8.

Operating under the auspices of the New Jersey Administrative Offices of the Courts, NJ CPAC is the only statewide volunteer advisory council mandated by federal and state law to ensure that New Jersey attains timely and safe permanent homes for the thousands of abused and neglected children and youth entering the state's foster care system.

There is at least one CPR board in every county. Barnes-Moore has volunteered on the Essex County CPR board for four years.

"I've always had an interest in advocating for children, especially for those living in economically marginalized communities," Barnes-Moore said. "To step into the NJ CPAC role is an honor, and I look forward to assisting the council in its mission to bring emerging issues of vital importance to the attention of child welfare stakeholders and recommendations on how to close gaps in services and programs to our governor, legislature and the New Jersey Supreme Court."

Barnes-Moore, who has more than 30 years of experience working in finance, education and as a grant writer. She is the CEO of Pearls of Wisdom Educational Resource LLC, which aims to increase access to home ownership for low- and middle-income families and eradicate historic racial/ethnic barriers to generational wealth. She also is executive director and founder of POWER Institute, Inc., a non-profit which offers on-line training in such areas as career skills and financial literacy.

CPR boards study cases and conduct interviews 60 days after each child's initial placement to determine progress made on receiving appropriate services and that the permanency plan is in the child's best interests. The CPR board makes recommendations, which are read by the family court judge overseeing the case.

Each NJ CPAC board member is required to volunteer on their community-based, county Child Placement Review (CPR) board, where they review the cases of all children and youth removed from their homes and placed under the temporary supervision of the state's child welfare agency, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

For more information about Child Placement Review (CPR) boards or to become a volunteer, go to njcpac.org