



**New Jersey Child Placement Advisory Council  
and  
Wynona's House Child Advocacy Center**

**June 22, 2023 Conference at the NJ Law Center**

**Putting the Child First:  
The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)**



## ABOUT YOUR HOST

### **New Jersey Child Placement Advisory Council (NJ CPAC)**

**[www.njcpac.org](http://www.njcpac.org)**

**NJ CPAC** operates under the auspices of the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts. It is a statewide council of citizens who volunteer on Child Placement Review (CPR) boards from each of the 21 New Jersey counties. At least once a month, working as a team, the CPR board volunteers review the cases of children within their counties placed outside their homes by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), New Jersey's child welfare agency. Each CPR board makes recommendations to their judge to ensure that the best interests of these children are served.

NJ CPAC was established in 1978 by the New Jersey Legislature with the Child Placement Review (CPR) Act and has mandates including advising the New Jersey Supreme Court of the effectiveness of the CPR Act; reviewing the policies, practices and procedures of the DCP&P; and developing and delivering training for CPR Board volunteers and other organizations in the child welfare system

NJ CPAC produces an annual report that is distributed to the Supreme Court, the Governor and the Legislature, as mandated.

To volunteer on your local county's Child Placement Review Board, please refer to volunteer services on the public page of the NJ Courts website, [www.njcourts.gov](http://www.njcourts.gov). For further questions about NJ CPAC, please contact [Barbara.McClurken@njcourts.gov](mailto:Barbara.McClurken@njcourts.gov).



## **NJ CPAC WELCOMES YOU**

**Welcome, Colleagues.**

**It is with pleasure that I welcome you to our first in-person annual conference since October 2018.**

**Together with our co-host, Wynona's House, the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) serving Essex County, we have put together an amazing collection of presentations and panels and we encourage your participation in the day's activities.**

**Today you will learn how the Department of Children and Families (DCF) connects with communities, agencies and non-profits. You will hear from medical and mental health professionals, prosecutors, the multi-faith community and family advocates on how they establish partnerships to ensure child and family well-being throughout our state. At lunch, Margaret Hoelzer will share her story about her Olympic successes after experiencing childhood trauma.**

**On behalf of the New Jersey Child Placement Advisory Council (NJ CPAC) and Wynona's House, we hope that you find our conference engaging and leave feeling excited that you are part of this dedicated community.**

**Sincerely,**

**Lorene S. Wilkerson  
Chair, NJ CPAC**

**Member AOC Children in Court Improvement Committee (CICIC)  
Member NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (NJTFAN)**



## **ABOUT YOUR CO-HOST**

### **Wynona's House**

[www.wynonashouse.org](http://www.wynonashouse.org)



**Wynona's House Child Advocacy Center in Newark, New Jersey, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children from 21 municipalities of Essex County who have been abused or neglected and their non-offending caregivers/families. It is named after Sen. Wynona Lipman, the first African American woman in the New Jersey Legislature and the legislative champion of women and children, who helped develop the Center in 1999.**

**Wynona's House aims to promote hope, healing and justice for victims of child abuse and neglect by coordinating the investigation, prosecution, treatment, prevention and supportive services using the "child-centered" multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach. On-site partners include the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, the Special Victims Unit, the Metro Regional Diagnostic Treatment Center (RDTTC) of Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health, and the NJ Department of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P).**

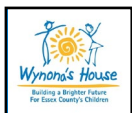
**In a typical year, Wynona's House serves approximately 950 child victims. It is estimated that Wynona's House has served over 8,000 children and families since its founding. It is an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance, established to support and ensure all CACs deliver multidisciplinary services based on national standards.**

#### **Contact Information:**

**Main Number: 973-753-1110**

**Address: 185 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07201**





## June 22, 2023 PROGRAM

### Putting the Child First: The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

#### 9:30 A.M. CHECK-IN

#### 10:00 A.M. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Eunice I. Salton, NJ CPAC Vice-Chair and Program Chair

Lorene S. Wilkerson, NJ CPAC Chair

Dominic Prophete, Wynona's House CEO

#### INTRODUCTION TO KEYNOTE

Debbie Riveros, NJ Children's Alliance (NJ CA) Executive Director

#### 10:15 A.M. KEYNOTE: TRANSFORMING CHILD WELFARE IN NEW JERSEY

**Christine Norbut Beyer, MSW, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

DCF Commissioner Beyer is redefining the DCF from a traditional, reactive child protection system to a child and family well-being support system for all New Jersey residents. Partnerships, collaborations and engaging authentic voices of youth and parents with lived experience are central to this effort. She will share how the DCF and the Department of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) are working with various stakeholders, including Child Advocacy Centers and law enforcement, to address barriers and create a seamless and effective statewide system.

#### 10:45 A.M. THE FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY: A PLACE AT THE TABLE

**Moderator: Rev Darrell Armstrong**

**Panelists:**

- **Rev. Darrell Armstrong**
- **Senior Cantor Lucy B. Fishbein, Temple B'nai Jeshurun**
- **Imam Deen Shareef, NJ Council of Imams**

In keeping with today's theme, many communities are involved in the well-being of our children and families. This multi-faith panel will highlight the special roles that faith and culture play in the intersection between families, faith and mental health. They will talk about how faith-based communities in all our neighborhoods are becoming increasingly connected and work with the broader community to develop strategies and trauma-informed supports.



**11:45 AM Q&A**

**12:00 P.M. LUNCH AND GUEST SPEAKER**

**12:30 P.M. INTRODUCTION TO LUNCHEON SPEAKER  
Dominic Prophete**

**A STORY OF RESILIENCE**

**Margaret Hoelzer, Guest Speaker**

Margaret Hoelzer will share how she overcame childhood trauma with the help of a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and became a three-time Olympic medalist and advocate for children. Her experiences show that no matter what obstacles we face, we can still chase our dreams.

**1:00 P.M. INTRODUCTION TO AFTERNOON PROGRAM  
Dominic Prophete**

**THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC): WHERE HEALING BEGINS**

**Debbie Riveros, Executive Director, NJ Children's Alliance**

The NJ Children's Alliance (NJ CA) promotes hope, healing and justice for child abuse victims by supporting Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) with training, resources, advocacy and leadership. CAC's are nationally recognized approaches to limiting trauma for abuse and neglect victims and their families. Investigations, interventions and treatments are conducted in a single, child-friendly setting where the needs of the child always comes first. There are two CAC models: prosecutorial and non-profit. Debbie Riveros will explain their differences and similarities.





## 1:30 P.M. NJ CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS: WHAT WE DO

**Moderator:** Peter Boser, J.D., Director of Member Services, NJ CA

**Panelists:**

- *Melissa Boege, MS, LPC, ACS, NCC, Program Director of the Family Growth Program with Catholic Charities and Surf, Facility Dog with Family Growth, Monmouth County*
- *Kate Lyon-Boswick, Esq.*
- *Jennifer Caprioni, MDT Coordinator, Cape May County*
- *Captain Stacie Lick, Special Victims Unit, Gloucester County*
- *Maria Saavetiere, Esq., Director of Deidre's House, nonprofit CAC of Morris County*
- *Rani Steinberg, MSW, LCSW*
- *Maryanne Wisniewski, MDT Coordinator and Victim Witness Advocate, Burlington County*

Using case examples, Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) participants will explain how they collaborate to gather forensic information and make coordinated decisions about the investigation, treatment and prosecution of an abuse case. Members will discuss their unique roles and how they each contribute to creating a place where children feel safe and comfortable to talk about their experiences.

## 3:30 P.M. Q&A

## 3:50 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS



## HOST BIOGRAPHIES



**EUNICE I. SALTON** is the Vice Chair of NJ Child Placement Advisory Council (**NJ CPAC**) and Program Chair. She is Dispute Resolution Specialist in the New York State Unified Court System mediating in various New York courts, as well as arbitrating in the New York State Lemon Law Arbitration and New York State Part 137 Attorney-Client Fee Dispute Resolution Programs. In addition to participating in the New York Federal Executive Board Shared Neutrals Program, she mediates in Middlesex County New Jersey Municipal courts and serves as a mentor, conflict coach and mediator in the Community Dispute Resolutions Centers (CDRC) in Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island and Manhattan. Additionally, she is a delegate to the United Nations representing Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI). She holds an E.d.S. from Florida Atlantic University, an MS from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BA from William Paterson University.



**DOMINIC PROPHETE, JD**, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Senator Wynona Lipman Child Advocacy Center, known as **Wynona's House**. He has held this position since 2020. Previously, he had more than 22 years of experience in nonprofit and government leadership, fund/budget development, program development and team coordination. He has served as Executive Director of Union County Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. (CASA) for the past ten years, Brooklyn Borough Director – Domestic Violence Response Team of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, Brooklyn Borough Director of New York City Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc., and Court Coordinator of Operations of Children in Placement, Inc. (CIP).

Dominic holds a Juris Doctorate (JD) from Quinnipiac College School of Law and a Bachelor of Art (BA) from Hofstra University with a focus in social science and third-world development. Dominic is most proud of his two beautiful children, Delphine and Lucien Prophete.



## KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHY

**Christine Norbut Beyer, M.S.W.**  
**Commissioner of the New Jersey**  
**Department of Children and Families**



**CHRISTINE NORBUT BEYER, MSW** has been Commissioner of the NJ Department of Children and Families since 2018. She is redefining the agency as a prevention-focused, child and family serving department, with a vision to help keep all New Jerseyans safe, healthy and connected. Some of her initiatives include: preventing maltreatment and promoting strong families; increasing kinship and familiar placements; supporting evidence-based, data-driven contracting; reducing staff safety incidents; evolving the integrated, inclusive system of care for children with behavioral and developmental diagnoses; promoting ACEs prevention, and transforming child welfare.

Years prior to being named Commissioner, Ms. Norbut Beyer was with the NJ Department of Human Services when the child welfare division was elevated to become the first Cabinet-level child-serving state agency. She helped to transition staff and build the new agency's identity. During that time, she served as Director of the (former) Division of Youth and Family Services, and then as Assistant Commissioner.

During her time away from the Department, Ms. Norbut Beyer served as Senior Director and Strategic Consultant at Casey Family Programs, a national child welfare foundation, during which time she partnered with and supported the efforts of Public Child Welfare Agencies, State Legislatures, the Judiciary and Governors in creating better outcomes for at-risk children. During her tenure at Casey Family Programs, she had the opportunity to delve deeply into the

areas of Brain Science, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and Trauma-Informed Care and their intersection with child welfare. These are policy areas she continues to pursue at NJ DCF.

Commissioner Norbut Beyer earned her Bachelor of Science degree in social work from the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and her Master of Social Work Administration, Policy and Planning from Rutgers University School of Social Work. She also holds a post-graduate Adoption certificate from Rutgers University Institute for Families, received the 2013 Employee Achievement Award from Casey Family Programs, the 2010 Child Welfare Leadership Award from Rutgers University School of Social Work, and the 2009 Professional Achievement Award from Richard Stockton College, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Most recently, in 2021, she was selected as an Aspen Institute Ascend Leadership Fellow.



## PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



The **REVEREND DR. DARRELL LARUE ARMSTRONG, M.DIV., ED.S.-MFT, D.D.** is a proud co-parenting father of two teenage, college-bound children, and one amazing four-legged "fur-baby!" A fun fact about him is that he carried the Olympic Torch in December of 2001, for the 2002 Winter Olympiad held in Salt Lake City; a run he dedicated to displaced children, all over the world!

Professionally, he is the Pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, only its 3rd in the last 118 years! Shiloh is Trenton's first Black Baptist Congregation, founded in 1880. In addition, he is also the Founder/CEO of the Shiloh CDC (Comm. Dev. Corp.), a sister organization to the church, responsible for neighborhood revitalization and place-based development.

Pastor Armstrong is deeply committed to advocating for issues of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and access. Based on his early educational experiences of integrating Los Angeles public schools (in 1974) and his early childhood experiences of foster and kinship care through Los Angeles County Welfare System, he has cultivated a deep conviction to embolden & empower marginalized communities.

His policy training at Stanford University (BA in Public Policy), theological training at Princeton Theological Seminary (Masters in Divinity), and his clinical training at the College of NJ (postmasters' Ed.S. In Marriage & Family Therapy) has made him a respected voice in the national and international child and family well-being communities.

He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Social Work at the University of Southern California, where his research focuses on the intersectionality of trauma, resilience, hope, faith, religion and spirituality, and the elimination of racism in our nation's child welfare system!

He is the former Director of NJ's Division of Child Abuse Prevention and Community Partnerships (2006-2009) and the former Chief Administrative Officer to the United Nations for the Baptist World Alliance (2016-2022).

He is founder and Board President of the F-A-A-I-T-H (Faith-leaders Against Abuse In The Home) Global Network, a new global NGO working to help houses of worship around the globe become



trauma-Informed/responsive, resilience-minded, strengths-based, family-oriented, centers of hope and mindfulness!

He is currently the Vice-Chair of the Board of APSAC (American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children), one of the country's leading multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral membership organizations advocating for optimum child & family well-being.



**DEBBIE RIVEROS** is the Executive Director of NJ Children's Alliance. She previously served as the MDT Coordinator for the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, where she started in 2006 as a bilingual victim advocate. She has extensive experience in community outreach and raising awareness about child abuse prevention and response.

Debbie has also served on numerous state committees and task forces, including as President of NJCA's Board of Trustees and as a member of the CAC – MDT Board. Prior to working for child welfare non-profits, Debbie worked as an elementary school teacher in California. She has a B.A. in History and is finishing her Master's degree in Public Administration.





# LUNCHTIME GUEST BIOGRAPHY

## MARGARET HOELZER

### OLYMPIC SWIMMER AND CHILD ADVOCATE



**MARGARET HOELZER** is a Double Olympian and three-time Olympic Medalist in Swimming, as well as a former World Record holder. At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, she was awarded Silver medals in the 200m Backstroke and the 400m Medley Relay. She also holds a Bronze medal in the 100m Backstroke. Originally from Huntsville Alabama, Margaret attended Auburn University where she was a 22-time All American and a six-time National Champion. She has a degree in psychology with minor in criminology and pursued a graduate degree in sociology from Auburn.

In 2008, after competing in her second Olympic Games, becoming a three-time Olympic medalist and breaking a World Record, she revealed to the world that she had been sexually abused as a child. She was one of the first professional athletes to speak out about her experiences.

After having been on the US National Team for nine years, Margaret retired from competitive swimming in 2010. She happily resides in the Pacific Northwest. She teaches private swim lessons to Olympic hopefuls and travels frequently for swim clinics and motivational speaking. Margaret is a vocal advocate for victims of sexual abuse, having given speeches on TEDx and at various conferences and fundraisers around the country. In her speeches, Margaret shares her personal experience as a survivor of sexual abuse and focuses on lighting the path toward healing for other victims, their families and friends. She has received numerous awards for her advocacy work.

Margaret is currently the National Spokesperson for the National Children's Advocacy Center as well as being a featured survivor in the training video 'Stewards of Children' by Darkness to Light. She has also been involved with USA Swimming's Safe Sport program since its inception in 2010. She has also worked with the US Olympic Committee in forming their Safe Sport Program.

## PANEL MODERATORS AND PANELISTS



**MELISSA BOEGE, MS, LPC, NCC, ACS** (pictured with Surf) is the Program Director of the Monmouth Counseling and Family Growth Program of Monmouth and Ocean Counties at Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton. The Family Growth Program provides outpatient trauma-focused therapy to children, teens, adults, and families who have experienced trauma, particularly sexual abuse. Melissa is certified in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and trained in various treatment modalities. Melissa also provides animal-assisted therapy to her clients with her facility dog, Surf, a yellow lab trained and provided by Canine Companions. She has worked at the Family Growth Program in various clinical and supervisory roles since 2013.

**PETER J. BOSER, JD**, has been the statewide Director of Member Services for the NJ CA since 2017, after retiring as Senior Litigation Counsel/Assistant Prosecutor with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. He also recently assumed the directorship of the Finding Words/Child First – New Jersey program. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and English from Rutgers University in 1982, he then graduated from the Rutgers University School of Law in 1985. Thereafter, he spent 31 years at the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, where he was Director of the Special Victims Bureau, responsible for the supervision of the assistant prosecutors and detectives assigned to handle investigation and prosecution of all sexual offenses, child abuse cases and Megan's Law matters. He also supervised the Monmouth County MDT for the investigation of child abuse, the Monmouth County CAC and the Monmouth County Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team program. Peter is currently board chair of the Friends of Monmouth County CAC, Inc. He lives in Rumson with his wife Susan, and has two adult children.

**KATHLEEN "KATE" LYON-BOSWICK, ESQ.** has been with the Essex County Prosecutors Office for over 16 years and been with the Special Victims Unit for over 12 years and as a Supervisor since 2019. While at the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, she has investigated and or prosecuted all types of cases including sexual assault, child abuse, homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, narcotics, elder abuse, human trafficking, child pornography, etc. In the past she has also worked as a Law Guardian representing children whose families were in DCPD litigation. Kate graduated from Georgetown University with a BSN in Nursing and worked as a kidney transplant nurse before switching gears and going to Seton Hall Law School.



**JENNIFER S. CAPRIONI** is the Director of the Cape May County CAC. Jennifer has been with the Cape May County Prosecutor's office for over 25 years with experience in the field of victim advocacy. Prior to becoming the Director of the new Cape May County Center, she held the positions of MDT Coordinator, Victim Advocate and Agent to the Prosecutor assigned to the litigation unit. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. Jennifer serves on the Executive board of the New Jersey Multidisciplinary Coordinator's Association in the position of Treasurer. She is also a board member of the NJ CA.



In 2012 **LUCY FISHBEIN** began her pursuit of a life-long dream to become a cantor. Since then she has had the privilege to receive the Tisch-Star Cantorial fellowship for the class of 2017 and has been honored to serve many wonderful communities. These include Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Central Synagogue and Congregation B'nai Jeshurun where she served as Cantorial Intern for 3 years until being named Assistant Cantor in 2017. She proudly continues to serve there as Senior Cantor today. Lucy received her BA in Religious/Jewish Studies from Trinity College in Hartford, CT in 2009. Her undergraduate thesis addressed the intersection of Sufi and Jewish mystical practices in the Middle Ages. After spending a summer at URJ Camp Eisner, Lucy was inspired to begin her studies as a Religious Educator. She received a certificate in Israel Education from the iCenter and her MA in Religious Education in the spring of 2017. Lucy's passion for Israel and Israeli music led her to her master's thesis and recital; "HaTishma Koli: Voices of Biblical Women in Israeli Popular Music." Lucy was ordained as Cantor that same spring. Lucy currently lives in Maplewood, NJ with her husband, Eli and her daughter, Willa. They enjoy cooking all kinds of cuisine and taking walks with their adorable dog, Bernie.



**CAPTAIN STACIE LICK** has been in law enforcement since 2000. She began her career at the New Jersey Attorney General's Office investigating insurance fraud. In 2003, she was hired by the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office and was assigned to the Major Crimes Unit. In 2016, she was transferred and promoted to Sergeant of the Special Investigations Unit. In 2019, she was transferred and assigned to create and manage the Special Victims Unit. In 2019, she was also promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and her responsibilities in this role increased to oversee the High-Tech Crimes Unit and the Crime Scene Unit. In 2023, she was promoted to Captain and now oversees all of the investigative units at the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office. Although Captain Lick has a diverse background in investigations, she specializes in crimes against children, specifically, physical and sexual assaults involving children, missing children, forensic interviewing, child fatalities and human trafficking. In her title, Captain Lick was also responsible for assisting in the creation and oversight of the CAC of Gloucester County, which is a place where children come to share their stories of abuse. Captain Lick is also responsible for creating and managing the Child Abduction Response Team and her team is the first team in the state of New Jersey to receive certification from the US Department of Justice. Additionally, Captain Lick created the Friends of CAC of Gloucester County non-profit that provides resources from both public and private financial support opportunities to the CAC of Gloucester County and the families they serve. She is a member of the Gloucester County Commission of Missing and Abused Children who provides education to individuals and institutions in Gloucester County that provide services for children. Captain Lick is recognized statewide and nationally as an expert in the field of crimes against children. Captain Lick has also been a mentor to other women in law enforcement and created the Gloucester County Women in Law Enforcement Association to assist with the procurement and advancement of women in the field.







**MARIA VINCI SAVETTIERE, ESQ.** has been the Executive Director of Deirdre's House, a nationally accredited CAC, since June 2003. It is the only site in Morris County where child victims of abuse and/or neglect can be forensically interviewed and prepared for trial by law enforcement, medically examined and treated by a pediatric abuse specialist, and clinically counseled-in English or Spanish. Maria has combined her legal knowledge and business acumen to improve and add to the programs and services offered to child victims and their families and increased cooperation and collaboration among law enforcement, agencies and organizations investigating crimes against children and providing services to child victims. She is a member of the NJ CAC and MDT Advisory Board, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Blair Academy, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Preschool Advantage and a member of their child placement committee. Before leading Deirdre's House, Maria was an international transactions attorney for 13 years. She received a BA degree in International Relations from American University's School of International Service, and a Juris Doctorate from American University's Washington College of Law.



**IMAM WAHY-UD DEEN SHAREEF** is the Convener of the Council of Imams in New Jersey, and co-founded the New African Partnership and the Newark Interfaith Coalition for Hope and Peace. He is a member of the New Jersey Coalition of Religious Leaders, and the NJ Office of Homeland Security and NJ State Attorney General's Outreach Advisory Councils. Imam Shareef was a Senior Advisor to former Mayor, now Senator, Cory A. Booker. He attended an Iftar (breaking of the Ramadan Fast) at the White House as a guest of President Barack Obama. A frequently invited speaker at college campuses and corporate and public sector events, he has appeared as a commentator and contributor on several television programs presented by CNN, MSNBC, ABC, PBS, NJTV and Ebru. A graduate of East Orange High School, Imam Shareef received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, NJ. Retiring after a 25-year career in engineering for Kraft/Nabisco Foods, Imam Shareef is currently the President/CEO of his own consulting company, Shareef Professional Services LLC (SPS). Imam Shareef and his wife Helima share their lives with four children, eight grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and many nurturing family and community members.

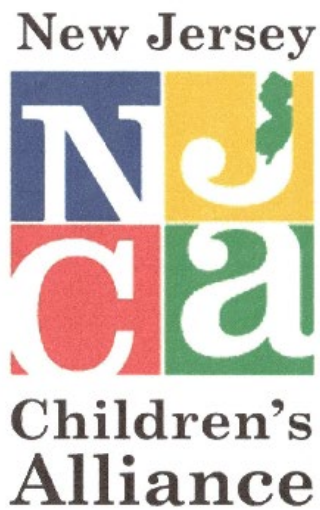
**RANI STEINBERG, MSW, LCSW**, is a licensed clinical social worker with more than 30 years of experience working with children, adolescents and youth. She works for two Regional Diagnostic Treatments Centers (RDTC), at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and at Hackensack University Medical Center, where she provides treatment and evaluations for child abuse victims and their families. She is a core member of two MDTs in Essex County and provides expert testimony for child abuse victims. She received her undergraduate degree from Rutgers University and her graduate degree at New York University.



## POWERPOINT

### THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC): WHERE HEALING BEGINS

Debbie Riveros, Executive Director, NJ Children's Alliance



#### NEW JERSEY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

##### MISSION

The New Jersey Children's Alliance promotes hope, healing and justice for child abuse victims by supporting Child Advocacy Centers throughout the state with training, resources, advocacy, and leadership.

##### VISION

Every child abuse victim in New Jersey will have access to the hope and healing provided by the full range of quality, comprehensive, coordinated and evidence-informed services offered by Child Advocacy Centers in order to create a world without child abuse.

#### MEET THE STAFF



DEBBIE RIVEROS,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PETE BOSER, DIRECTOR  
OF MEMBER SERVICES



OLGA STARR, DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS AND  
OUTREACH



KATHERINE RUIZ, TRAINING  
AND COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR



NYDIA Y. MONAGAS, DIRECTOR  
OF TRAINING AND STATEWIDE  
INITIATIVES





A Child Advocacy Center is the ONE place that provides a safe, child-focused environment where law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical and mental health professionals share information and develop a coordinated strategy that seeks justice while also working to meet the unique needs of each child and family.

To understand what a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is, you must understand what children face without one. Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again, to doctors, law enforcement, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges, and others. They may have to talk about that traumatic experience in a police station where they think they might be in trouble, or may be asked the wrong questions by a well-meaning teacher or other adult that could hurt the case against the abuser.

With the CAC model, a child discloses, or when abuse is suspected, the child is brought to the CAC, a child-friendly facility, where they are interviewed by a specially trained forensic interviewer. The professionals involved in the investigation can view the interview in monitoring rooms, with the goal of eliminating the need to re-interview the child. The team members share case information with one another and determine next steps. The family is then connected with needed services that promote healing, including medical and mental health care.

## WHAT IS A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)?



## WHAT IS A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)?





## NEW JERSEY'S CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS (CACs)

New Jersey Children's Alliance actively supports and promotes New Jersey's Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), and is working toward the mission of ensuring that every child in the state has access to the full range of evidence-based, best-practice multidisciplinary services. In support of that mission, we have achieved the strategic goal of having 21 CACs in New Jersey by the end of 2021 - a CAC in each of the 21 counties - and are now working on initiatives to help grow the capacity of the CACs and expand their ability to serve children and families.

All of the CACs can be found on our web site: <https://njcainc.org/our-cacs/find-my-cac/>



New Jersey  
**NJCA**  
Children's  
Alliance

## PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- Accreditation and Development Support for CACs
  - Annual Strength and Needs Assessment.
  - MDT case review observation and assessment of compliance with 10 Standards.
  - Mock site reviews in preparation for accreditation and reaccreditation.
  - Support for internal metrics gathering and analysis.
  - Technical assistance on accreditation and grant applications.
- ChildFirst/Finding Words – forensic interviewing protocol
  - 5 trainings per year provided, through CJA funds and partnership with NJCA.
  - Expanded and advanced topics include interviewing children with disabilities and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).
  - Peer review.

New Jersey  
**NJCA**  
Children's  
Alliance

## PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- Training
  - Provide training across all disciplines to align with best practices and accreditation requirements
  - Maintain training documentation for team members to assist with accreditation and licensure requirements
  - Create opportunities for consultation and peer review
- Know & Tell prevention training program for adults
- Advocacy
  - Represent CAC and NJCA policy interests and positions on the CAC-MDT Advisory Board
  - Advocate with policy makers in the legislature and elsewhere for stronger laws regarding child protection



## PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- Problematic Sexual Behaviors (PSB) initiatives
  - Participate in a statewide workgroup to develop and implement a framework for a therapeutic response to Problematic Sexual Behaviors in youth.
  - Manage DCF grant and supervising clinical case managers for the PSB response system.
- Print and web resources
  - Create content and resources to be shared by NJCA and CACs with clients and community members.
  - Customize content and resources for CACs as requested.
- Outreach
  - Represent NJCA and CACs at professional and community events; distribute relevant marketing and educational materials suited to various audiences.
  - Form relationships and have meaningful conversations about the work of NJCA and CACs and child abuse related subject matter.





## CONTACTS FOR NJ CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS

### Atlantic County

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office  
Address: 4997 Unami Boulevard Mays Landing, NJ  
Contact: Kristie Gardener (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (609) 909 7929  
Email: [gardener\\_k@acpo.org](mailto:gardener_k@acpo.org)

### Bergen County

Bergen County Prosecutors Office  
Address: 100 Eisenhower Dr. Paramus, NJ 07652  
Contact: Coreen Matarazzo (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (201) 226 5116  
Email: [cmatarazzo@bcpo.net](mailto:cmatarazzo@bcpo.net)

### Burlington County

Burlington Child Advocacy Center  
Address: 118 High St. Mount Holly, NJ 08060  
Contact: Mary Anne Wisniewski (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (609) 265 5889  
Email: [mwisniewski@co.burlington.nj.us](mailto:mwisniewski@co.burlington.nj.us)

### Camden County

Camden County Child Advocacy Center  
Address: 200 Federal Street, Camden, NJ 08103  
Contact: Carmen Castillo (Acting MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (856) 614 8000  
Email: [castilloc@ccprosecutor.org](mailto:castilloc@ccprosecutor.org)

### Cape May County

Cape May County Prosecutor's Office  
Address: 11 North Main St. Cape May Court House, NJ 08210  
Contact: Jennifer Caprioni (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (609) 465 1135  
Email: [jcaprioni@cmcpros.net](mailto:jcaprioni@cmcpros.net)

### Cumberland County

Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office  
Address: 115 Vine St. Bridgeton, NJ 08302  
Contact: Kristy Kakoda (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: Work: 856-453-0486 ext. 11159; Fax: 856-453-5219  
Email: [kristyka@co.cumberland.nj.us](mailto:kristyka@co.cumberland.nj.us)



### **Essex County**

Wynona's House Child Advocacy Center  
Address: 185 Washington St. Newark, NJ 07102  
Contact: Morae Toler-Williams (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (973) 753 1110  
Email: [mtolerwilliams@wynonashouse.org](mailto:mtolerwilliams@wynonashouse.org)

### **Gloucester County**

Child Advocacy Center of Gloucester County  
Address: 47 Cooper St. Woodbury, NJ 08097  
Mailing Address: Gloucester Co. Prosecutor's Office, PO Box 623, Woodbury, NJ 08096  
Phone: Work: 856.384.5536; Fax: 856.384.8624; Cell: 609.605.3200  
Contact: Captain Stacie Lick (SVU); Celines Mitchell (Victim Advocate/MDT Coordinator)  
Email: [slick@co.gloucester.nj.us](mailto:slick@co.gloucester.nj.us); [cmitchell@co.gloucester.nj.us](mailto:cmitchell@co.gloucester.nj.us)

### **Hudson County**

Hudson County Prosecutor's Office  
Address: 595 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Contact: Silena Shuta (VW Director)  
Phone: (201) 915 1234  
Email: [sshuta@hcpu.org](mailto:sshuta@hcpu.org)

### **Hunterdon County**

Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office  
Address: 65 Park Ave Flemington, NJ 08822  
Contact: Holly Hoff (VW Director)  
Phone: (908) 806-8765  
Email: [hhoff@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:hhoff@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

### **Mercer County**

Mercer County Prosecutor's Office  
Address: 1589 Lamberton Rd. Trenton, NJ 08611  
Contact: Jane Reynolds (FNE Director, MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (609) 989 6350  
Email: [jreynolds@mercercounty.org](mailto:jreynolds@mercercounty.org)

### **Middlesex County**

Middlesex County Child Advocacy Center  
Address: 25 Kirkpatrick St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Contact: Bianca Rojas (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (732) 745-3394  
Email: [Bianca.Rojas@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:Bianca.Rojas@co.middlesex.nj.us)

### **Monmouth County**

Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center  
Address: 500 Kozloski Rd. Freehold, NJ 07728  
Contact: Laura Finlay (Victim Advocate)  
Phone: (732) 683 8660  
Email: [lfinlay@mcponj.org](mailto:lfinlay@mcponj.org)





### **Morris County**

Deirdre's House Child Advocacy Center  
Address: 8 Court St. Morristown, NJ 07960  
Contact: Mirella Diaz (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (973) 631 5000 | Fax: 973.829.8683  
Email: [mirella@dobcac.org](mailto:mirella@dobcac.org); [maria@dobcac.org](mailto:maria@dobcac.org)

### **Ocean County**

Tina's House Child Advocacy Center  
Address: 7 Hadley Ave Toms River, NJ 08753  
Contact: Deb Giordano  
Phone: (732) 929 2027  
Email: [dgiordano@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:dgiordano@co.ocean.nj.us)

### **Passaic County**

Passaic County Child Advocacy  
Address: 30 King Road Totowa, NJ 07512  
Contact: Melina Delgado (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (973) 837 7636  
Email: [mdelgado@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:mdelgado@passaiccountynj.org)

### **Salem County**

Salem County Prosecutor's Office  
Address: 98 Market Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Salem, NJ 08079  
Contact: Sharmin Harvey (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (856) 339 8630  
Email: [sharvey@salemcountynj.gov](mailto:sharvey@salemcountynj.gov)

### **Somerset County**

Somerset County Prosecutors Office  
Address: 40 N. Bridge St. Somerville NJ, 08876  
Contact: Melinda McCabe (CAC Manager/MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: 973-575-3381  
Email: [mccabe@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:mccabe@co.somerset.nj.us)

### **Sussex County**

Ginnie's House Child Advocacy Center  
Address: 4 High St. Newton, NJ 07860  
Contact: Kristi Young (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (973) 579 0770  
Email: [kristi@ginnieshouse.org](mailto:kristi@ginnieshouse.org)

### **Union County**

Union County Child Advocacy Center  
Address: 240 West Jersey St. Union, NJ 07202  
Contact: Ana Maria Melara (MDT Coordinator)  
Phone: (908) 965 3866  
Email: [amelara@ucnj.org](mailto:amelara@ucnj.org)



### Warren County

Warren County Prosecutor's Office

Address: 199 Hardwick St. Belvidere, NJ 07823

Contact: Kassandra Gray

Phone: (908) 475 6275

Email: [Kassandra Gray: kgray@co.warren.nj.us](mailto:kgray@co.warren.nj.us)

## Additional Names and Numbers

### National Children's Alliance

516 C Street, NE

Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (800) 239-9950 –or- (202) 548-0090

Fax: (202) 548-0099

Website: [www.nationalchildrensalliance.org](http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org)

### New Jersey Children's Alliance

Debbie M. Riveros, Chapter Executive Director

Cell: 732-778-1948

e-mail: [debbie@njcainc.org](mailto:debbie@njcainc.org)

Website: [www.njcainc.org](http://www.njcainc.org)

### Anthony DeVincenzo, Northeast Regional CAC

Phone: 201-247-5391

e-mail: [tony@nrcac.org](mailto:tony@nrcac.org)

Website: [www.nrcac.com](http://www.nrcac.com)





# NJ COUNTY COURT CONTACTS FOR THE CPR PROGRAM

## To Become a CPR Board Volunteer

We welcome your interest. Please refer to the Volunteer Services page on the NJ Courts public website for general information and the application form:

**<https://www.njcourts.gov/public/overview-volunteer-services>**

Or contact your local county Volunteer Services Liaison as listed below.

## CPR Program Overview

The Child Placement Review (CPR) program is a key component of the NJ court's role in the oversight of children in foster care. Groups of trained judicial volunteers, appointed by the assignment judge, assist the court in reviewing cases of children placed outside of their homes by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) and make recommendations to the judge.

<b>Atlantic County</b> <b><u>AtlVolunteer.mailbox@njcourts.gov</u></b> 609-402-0100, ext. 47248	<b>Middlesex County</b> <b><u>MidVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u></b> 732-645-4300, ext. 88748
<b>Bergen County</b> <b><u>BerVolunteer.mailbox@njcourts.gov</u></b> 201-221-0700, ext. 25108	<b>Monmouth County</b> <b><u>MonVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u></b> 732-358-8700, ext. 87080
<b>Burlington County</b> <b><u>BurVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u></b> 609-288-9500, ext. 38220	<b>Morris County</b> <b><u>MrsVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u></b> 862-397-5700, ext. 75050
<b>Camden County</b> <b><u>CamVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u></b> 856-650-9100, ext. 43120	<b>Ocean County</b> <b><u>OCNVolunteer.mailbox@njcourts.gov</u></b> 732-504-0700, ext. 64490
<b>Cape May County</b> <b><u>AtlVolunteer.mailbox@njcourts.gov</u></b> 609-402-0100, ext. 47248	<b>Passaic County</b> <b><u>PasVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u></b> 973-653-2910, ext. 24063
<b>Cumberland County</b> <b><u>Vic15volunteer.Mbx@njcourts.gov</u></b> 856-878-5050, ext. 15158	<b>Salem County</b> <b><u>Vic15volunteer.Mbx@njcourts.gov</u></b> 856-878-5050, ext. 15158



<b>Essex County</b> <u><a href="mailto:EsxVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov">EsxVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</a></u> 973-776-9300, ext. 55854	<b>Somerset County</b> <u><a href="mailto:V13Volunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov">V13Volunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</a></u> 908-332-7700, ext. 13095
<b>Gloucester County</b> <u><a href="mailto:Vic15volunteer.Mbx@njcourts.gov">Vic15volunteer.Mbx@njcourts.gov</a></u> 856-878-5050, ext. 15158	<b>Sussex County</b> <u><a href="mailto:SsxVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov">SsxVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</a></u> 862-397-5700, ext. 75050
<b>Hudson County</b> <u><a href="mailto:HudVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov">HudVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</a></u> 201-748-4400, ext. 60418	<b>Union County</b> <u><a href="mailto:UnnVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov">UnnVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</a></u> 908-787-1650, ext. 21354
<b>Hunterdon County</b> <u><a href="mailto:V13Volunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov">V13Volunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</a></u> 908-332-7700, ext. 13095	<b>Warren County</b> <u><a href="mailto:V13Volunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov">V13Volunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</a></u> 908-332-7700, ext. 13095
<b>Mercer County</b> <u><a href="mailto:MerVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov">MerVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</a></u> 609-571-4200, ext. 74804	

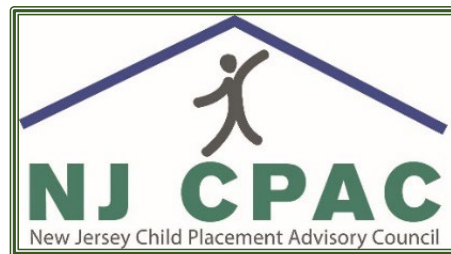






## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY

All of us at the New Jersey Child Placement Advisory Council (NJ CPAC) want to extend a warm thank you for attending today's conference. We would also like to thank our co-host, Wynona's House, NJ Children's Alliance (NJ CA) and all our panelists. Special thanks to Rev. Darrell Armstrong and to Margaret Hoelzer. We also want to thank the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for their support.



[www.njcpac.org](http://www.njcpac.org)

