



New Jersey Child Placement Advisory Council

**May 9, 2025 Conference at the
New Jersey Law Center**

**The Magic of Mentoring: The Impact of One Person on the Lives
of Children and Youth**

May 9, 2025 PROGRAM

The Magic of Mentoring: The Impact of One Person on the Lives of Children and Youth

LOCATION: WILENTZ AUDITORIUM

8:30 A.M. CHECK-IN

9:30 A.M. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Eunice I. Salton, NJ CPAC Vice-Chair and Program Chair

9:45 A.M. KEYNOTE: RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTION

Johanna K.P. Greeson, PhD, MSS, MLSP, Associate Professor, School of Social Policy & Practice, Managing Faculty Director, The Field's Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Johanna Greeson will address the critical challenges faced by youth aging out of foster care. She will define the "aging out" crisis, highlighting the abrupt loss of support and services that place these young adults at a disadvantage. Emphasizing the importance of healthy relationships, she will explore how disruptions and trauma hinder bond development, complicating the transition to adulthood. Dr. Greeson will critique prioritizing independence over interdependence, advocating for supportive networks that encourage belonging. Attendees will learn about the negative outcomes of aging out without support, including increased risks of unemployment, homelessness, and the societal financial burden. Dr. Greeson will also cover resilience, the role of caring adults, and her innovative C.A.R.E. intervention, which acknowledges that youth need independent living skills and lifelong connections to caring adults. Finally, Dr. Greeson will present three calls to action: engage, educate, and advocate for policy changes reflecting her proposed paradigm in child welfare.



10:30 A.M. MORNING SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS: 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Attendees may choose one to attend.

LOCATION: WILENTZ AUDITORIUM

WORKSHOP # 1: NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL WORLD: SUPPORTING TEENS AND TWEENS THROUGH ONLINE ADOLESCENCE

Shanie Israel, Dean of Community Life, Middle School, Montclair Kimberley Academy

Daniella Kessler, LPC, NCC, Director of Counseling, Counselor, Health, Wellness, & PE Teacher, Middle School, Montclair Kimberley Academy

In today's fast-paced world, the digital landscape is evolving more rapidly than ever, reshaping how teens and tweens interact, learn, and develop. Social media, AI-driven content, and immersive digital experiences are redefining social connections, mental health, and personal success. This ever-changing digital environment challenges educators, mentors, and caregivers to continually assess and adapt their approaches to meet the evolving needs of young people in 2025.

Join us for an interactive session where we'll explore the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities in the digital world. Through reflection, dynamic discussions, and real-world case studies, we'll examine how to help young people navigate online spaces safely, balance screen time with real-world engagement, and develop healthy digital habits. Together, we'll uncover practical strategies to empower the next generation—not just to adapt, but to thrive—in an increasingly connected and complex world.

LOCATION: MCCARTER & ENGLISH

WORKSHOP # 2: ARE YOU LISTENING? UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING CONFLICT

Genesis Fisher, Esq., Founder, Fisher Law Practice

When tension erupts, how do we lower the temperature? When people shut down, how can we get through? This workshop explores essential mediation skills to lead with curiosity, build empathy and better communicate with youth, educators, colleagues, and more. Attendees will learn when to use and

how to apply these skills to diffuse tension and facilitate understanding. After an exploration of core tools, the second half of the workshop will explore exercises to apply the audience's collective experience to real-world scenarios.

LOCATION: BOARDROOM

WORKSHOP # 3: WHERE'S THE MONEY? FOSTER YOUTHS' COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Greg Rapport, Founder and Executive Director, Age-Out Angels

The demand for skilled workers has never been higher. There are many careers that start between \$40,000 and \$60,000 (some at \$100,000) that can transform a youth from a life of poverty to a successful career and financial independence. Many youth would like to have access to these opportunities, but don't know how to take advantage of them. In this interactive workshop, attendees will learn the step-by-step method to become self-sufficient. This workshop reveals: The minimum education required to elevate above minimum wage, options for a career, and lesser-known opportunities. This workshop is appropriate for all adult stakeholders and youth between the ages of 16-24 with or without a high school diploma.

LOCATION: GIBBONS

WORKSHOP # 4: THE MENTORING DESTINATION: UNDERSTANDING THE JOURNEY

**Shannon Oreficé, Director of Programs, Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Coastal & Northern New Jersey**

**Jessica Raczyk, Associate Director of Programs, Big Brothers Big
Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey**

**Lisa Cieplechowicz, Program Manager, Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Coastal & Northern New Jersey**

At this interactive workshop, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal and Northern New Jersey's program leadership team will go beyond the basics of mentoring, introducing a hands-on approach to connection and understanding. Group activities will explore real-life mentorship scenarios through role play, and attendees will walk away with the key ingredients of impactful mentoring, providing meaningful programming that elevates lives.

The team hopes to provide attendees with some relevant takeaways that they can bring with them as we all serve our diverse communities TOGETHER with great compassion, flexibility, and integrity.

LOCATION: WILENTZ AUDITORIUM

12:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:30 P.M. AFTERNOON SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS: 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. Attendees may choose one to attend.

NOTE: Morning workshops repeat in the afternoon. The same workshops will be offered in the same rooms.

3:30 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS

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



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Johanna Greeson, PhD, MSS, MLSP

Associate Professor, School of Social Policy & Practice, Managing Faculty Director, The Field's Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research, University of Pennsylvania



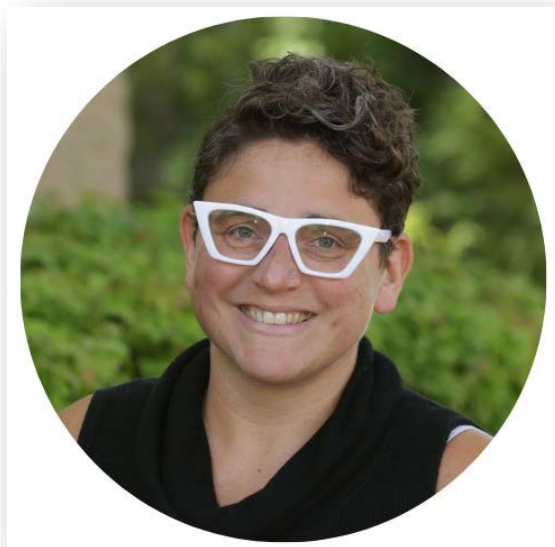
Dr. Johanna Greeson, an Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy & Practice, is passionately committed to transforming the child welfare system to better support youth aging out of foster care. Her research, driven by evidence and empathy, emphasizes the importance of connections with caring adults and fostering resilience. She aims to create brighter futures for youth aging out of foster care by leveraging the profound impact of connections with caring adults. Her focus on resilience and strengths empowers foster youth to thrive.

Dr. Greeson's scholarly work spans natural mentoring, evidence-based practices for older youth in foster care, independent living programs, residential group care, intensive in-home therapy, low-income homeownership, child and adolescent traumatic stress, domestic minor sex trafficking, international family strengthening, cash transfer interventions, and child welfare reform. Her publications have been cited nearly 4,000 times in peer-reviewed literature.

She developed C.A.R.E. (Caring Adults 'R' Everywhere), an innovative mentoring program for at-risk youth aging out of foster care, emphasizing resilience through supportive adult relationships. In 2015, she completed a pilot feasibility randomized controlled trial of C.A.R.E., funded by the Children's Bureau and in partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Human Services.

Dr. Greeson also serves as the Managing Faculty Director of the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice, & Research, the university's only interdisciplinary research center dedicated to child and family well-being. Additionally, she directs the Child Wellbeing & Child Welfare specialization for advanced MSW students. She received her Ph.D. in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2009.

Shanie Israel
Dean of Community Life, Middle School, Montclair Kimberley Academy



Born in Cleveland, OH, and currently a resident of Bloomfield, NJ, **Shanie Israel** has been an educator since 2003. A graduate of Ohio University with a B.A. in Journalism and an M.A. in Middle Childhood Curriculum, Shanie has worked at Montclair Kimberley Academy since 2011. She has served as a Middle School English and social studies teacher, a member of the Middle School Administrative Team as the Dean of Community Life, and the Associate Director of Curriculum, Professional Development, and Multicultural Innovations. Prior to her current school, Shanie worked as an educator in the New York City Public Schools.

Shanie has presented at state and national conferences focusing on social justice, diversity, equity, social and emotional learning, advisory programming, and inclusion within public and independent school structures.

An avid reader and theater goer, Shanie likes to center storytelling and the arts in her personal and professional endeavors.

Daniella Kessler, LPC, NCC
Director of Counseling, Counselor, Health, Wellness, & PE Teacher, Middle School,
Montclair Kimberley Academy



While **Daniella Kessler** grew up on the West Coast, she has been a New Jersey resident since 2014. She lives in West Orange, NJ and has been working as a counselor in some capacity for almost 15 years. Most of her time has been spent in schools, but she has done work on and off in addiction counseling as well as with at-risk youth. Currently Daniella is the Director of Counseling at the Montclair Kimberley Academy, spending much of her time thinking about and working on mental health initiatives and programming for students, families and teaching faculty.

She co-leads the Office of Student Support and partners with various community constituents to ensure continuity between mental health and academic support for students.

She has been at MKA for 11 years and prior to her role as director, she worked mostly with middle school students. Daniella also has a small local private practice where she works primarily with children, adolescents and their parents.

Daniella spends her free time reading, traveling and adventuring the tri-state area with her husband, also an educator, and her two young sons.

Genesis Fisher, Esq.
Founder, Fisher Law Practice



Genesis Fisher is the founder of Fisher Law Practice, which provides mediation for legal matters and tailored internal conflict resolution for businesses. She also leads Fisher Beacon, which offers award-winning workplace education to help employees address differences and repair trust. Her workshops have helped over 2500 people in six countries.

Ms. Fisher is the former Director of New York Law School's Mediation Clinic. She has been an Adjunct Professor since 2014 and taught over a dozen courses at NYLS, John Jay College and Rutgers Law School. Ms. Fisher has also presented to mediation students at New York University School of Law, Columbia Law School, Fordham Law School, Cardozo Law School, Brooklyn Law School and Howard Law School.

Ms. Fisher is a Certified Mediator, Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services (JAMS) Neutral, and on the Advisory Board for the Center for Creative Conflict Resolution, providing conflict resolution services for over 70 NYC agencies. She is a sought-after speaker adept at connecting with a range of audiences.

Prior to starting her firm, Ms. Fisher was a public defender with the Legal Aid Society and a civil rights attorney at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Ms. Fisher graduated from Smith College and New York University School of Law.

Greg Rapport
Founder and Executive Director, Age-Out Angels



Greg Rapport's professional career has spanned over 5 decades. He became a teacher after college—to share that sense of discovery with young people. Sadly, in the 1970s, teachers didn't earn enough to support a family so in 1983, Greg moved to New York to work at The Village Voice newspaper and later at New York Magazine, as well as Scholastic (best known for their book clubs in schools). He climbed the ladder of publishing until 2001 when he and his wife Robin left corporate employment and launched Rapport Communications to provide writing services to the pharmaceutical and other industries. Fast forward to 2022, NJ BIZ Magazine gave Greg an ICON of the YEAR award for his lifetime of achievement in business.

Through all his success, Greg could never shake the ghosts of his past. Separated from his parents and brother for several months at age 11, Greg knows what abuse feels like, and more importantly, understands the odyssey of being “rescued” only to trade one abuse for another. By 2015, when retirement would have been a valid option, Rapport answered the call of his past and created Age-Out Angels, to help youth aging out of foster care. In 2020, he launched Bridges to Employment with Mercer County Community College. Together this partnership shows youth how to monetize their education with the ultimate goal of financial wellbeing. Rapport's mission is to level the playing field to allow youth in foster care the same opportunities as their more affluent peers, thereby making education and upward mobility accessible to all.

Shannon Oreficé
Director of Programs, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey



Shannon Oreficé serves as the Director of Programs for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey, bringing over 15 years of leadership in youth mentoring and program development. A New Jersey native, she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications from Virginia Tech before beginning her career in television and corporate event production in New York City. Her passion for community impact led her to Big Brothers Big Sisters, where she transitioned from volunteer to a key leader within the organization.

Since assuming her role, Shannon has played a pivotal part in the agency's expansion, growing its service area from two counties to ten and increasing the number of youth served from 250 to nearly 1,850. She has led the implementation of innovative, evidence-based mentoring initiatives that strengthen youth development, social-emotional learning, and academic success. Committed to advancing social justice, Shannon continues to advocate for equitable opportunities that empower young people to reach their full potential.

Jessica Raczky
Associate Director of Programs, Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Coastal & Northern New Jersey



Jessica Raczky is an experienced nonprofit professional with 17 years of expertise in youth development, program management, and community engagement. As Associate Director of Programs for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey, she oversees program strategy, staff training, and outreach initiatives that enhance mentorship opportunities and expand the organization's impact.

Jessica holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Rhode Island and has dedicated her career to fostering positive youth outcomes. Her work focuses on designing and implementing scalable mentoring programs that drive measurable success for children and families across diverse communities.

Lisa Cieplechowicz
Program Manager, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey



Lisa Cieplechowicz is a social work professional with extensive experience in program development, curriculum design, and case management. She serves as the Program Manager for Bergen, Passaic, and Warren Counties at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey, where she leads group mentoring programs, oversees the agency's enrollment team, and manages the MSW internship program.

Lisa holds a Master's of Social Work (MSW) and a Bachelor's degree in Communication and Sociology from Rutgers University. With a strong background in social services, she is committed to implementing best practices that support youth mentorship, family engagement, and community collaboration. Her leadership ensures that programs are designed to create lasting, positive outcomes for the youth and families served.

ABOUT YOUR HOST

New Jersey Child Placement Advisory Council (NJ CPAC)

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. For further questions about NJ CPAC, please contact NJCPAC.mbx@njcourts.gov.



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.njcpac.org/resources/volunteer.html>

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

CPR Program Overview

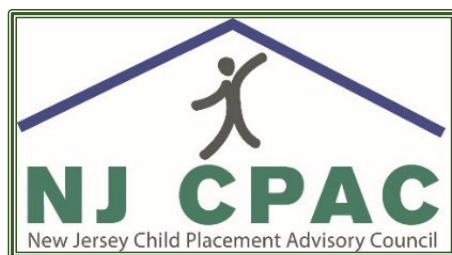
The Child Placement Review (CPR) program is a key component of the NJ court's role in the oversight of children in foster care. Groups of trained judicial volunteers, appointed by the assignment judge, assist the court in reviewing cases of children placed outside of their homes by the Division of Child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

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

<u>EsxVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u> 973-776-9300, ext. 55854	<u>V13Volunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u> 908-332-7700, ext. 13095
Gloucester County <u>Vic15volunteer.Mbx@njcourts.gov</u> 856-878-5050, ext. 15158	Sussex County <u>SsxVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u> 862-397-5700, ext. 75050
Hudson County <u>HudVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u> 201-748-4400, ext. 60418	Union County <u>UnnVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u> 908-787-1650, ext. 21354
Hunterdon County <u>V13Volunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u> 908-332-7700, ext. 13095	Warren County <u>V13Volunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u> 908-332-7700, ext. 13095
Mercer County <u>MerVolunteer.Mailbox@njcourts.gov</u> 609-571-4200, ext. 74804	 New Jersey Courts Independence • Integrity • Fairness • Quality Service

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY

All of us at the New Jersey Child Placement Advisory Council want to extend a warm thank you for attending today's conference. For more information about NJ CPAC, please see the link to our website below.



www.njcpac.org