

CASA OF NEW JERSEY SYMPOSIUM 2021

Disproportionality and the Impact of Structural Racism in the Child Welfare System

June 10, 2021 and June 16, 2021



Darlene Fusco

Permanency for
Children of Color
Roundtable

Darlene Fusco has served in the capacity of the Deputy Director of Adoption Operations, Resource Families and Resource Family Licensing since 2018. In this role, Ms. Fusco provides oversight of all statewide operations involving Adoption, Resource and Resource Family Licensing. Ms. Fusco is responsible for evaluating and supporting statewide resource family initiatives, recruitment, and retention efforts as well as all areas of adoption including oversight of the subsidy program, adoption exchange and registry. In addition, Darlene oversees state resource family licensing regulations to ensure conformance with DCF policy, federal and state laws, and regulations.

Darlene has 33 years of comprehensive experience in the field of Child Welfare. She began her career with Child Protection and Permanency in 1988 as a Family Service Specialist and has served in various positions during her tenure with DCF. Darlene has held a multitude of leadership roles including Supervisor, Casework Supervisor, Local Office Manager, Assistant Area Director and served as the Area Director of the Bergen/Hudson Area Office prior to her role as Deputy Director.

Darlene earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from St. Peter's College and a Certified Social Work Manager Certificate from the Academy of Certified Social Work Managers. She is a graduate of the DCF- National Child Welfare Workforce Institute- Leadership Academy for Middle Managers.