

Learning, Leading, Changing



Vanessa Dorantes, MSW, is the Torrington Area Office Director for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, overseeing the 22 towns of the northwest corner of Connecticut. Ms. Dorantes has worked for DCF for the past 20 years in various capacities and has specialized most often in the intake/investigations component. She is a certified mandated reporter trainer and field placement supervisor for BSW & MSW student interns, and currently co-chairs the Statewide Racial Justice workgroup which focuses on addressing disparities and reducing disproportionality from a child welfare practice framework.

Along with child protective service work, Ms. Dorantes is an adjunct faculty member at Central Connecticut State University where she has taught 6 social work courses: Child Welfare I & II, Social Welfare Policy & Practice II, Human Behavior in the Social Environment I & II and Social Work Practice with Black Families. She is also a member of University's Social Work Advisory Board, and is a NCWWI LAMM graduate of the 2011 New York cohort.

Jenny Hinson is the Division Administrator for Permanency for Texas Child Protective Services. In this role, she is responsible for the development of policy and programs associated with permanency, kinship, education, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor program. Ms. Hinson spearheaded the development and implementation of the Texas Permanency Roundtable model, and leads the development and implementation of the Texas Enhanced Visitation model, as well as the implementation of Permanency Values Training for all CPS staff. She is also a member of The Texas Blueprint Transforming Education Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care implementation taskforce and a member of the Texas Trio collaboration. She began her career with Child Protective Services in 1998 as an intake worker at the Texas child abuse hotline, and her professional experiences include working as a CPS investigator, providing reunification services to children and families, supervising family based safety services and conservatorship, and serving as a program director and program administrator.



Tricia Mosher, MSW, LCSW, brings over twenty-five years in social work, child welfare, and organizational development practice. A national consultant, coach, and trainer in the field of Child Welfare Organizational Systems Change, Tricia's work has increasingly focused on assisting agencies and individuals develop and implement practice improvement plans to better public and privatized child welfare systems. Tricia's personal and professional focus is on building collaborative relationships to further the work and goals of agencies and communities engaged in



change efforts. Tricia has served as a child welfare training director in Maine and in Florida, in both public and privatized systems. Currently an independent consultant, Tricia travels nationally to do systems change work, coaching and training to promote inclusive practice in child welfare, and has served as a trainer and coach for the Leadership Academy for Middle Managers since 2010.

Deborah Reed is the Project Manager for NCWWI Leadership Academy for Middle Managers (LAMM), Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services, Portland State University School of Social Work. Ms. Reed previously held positions within the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Children’s Administration, including statewide Supervisor of Placement and Permanency Services; CFSR Project Manager; Field Operations-Risk Management Program Manager; Supervisor; and Case Manager. She began her career working in residential treatment facilities in Oregon and has over 30 years of experience in public and private child welfare agencies.



Scott Steuby has over 23 years of experience in the field of child welfare, with experience as a Social Worker, Child Protective Services and Intake Supervisor, Human Resources Manager, Area Administrator, Deputy Regional Administrator and Statewide Program Manager. Scott’s current assignment is analyzing Human Resource issues within the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Children’s Administration. Scott has received multiple awards for his innovative work and collaboration with community partners and universities, holds Masters’ degrees in both Psychology and Public Administration, and is a graduate of NCWWI’s Leadership Academy for Middle Managers (LAMM).