

Dr. Rebecca Colman

Rebecca Colman is the Director of the Bureau of Research, Evaluation and Performance Analytics at the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. As Bureau Director she oversees a team of research scientists dedicated to Integrating data and research into OCFS policies and practices. The Bureau conducts research and evaluation studies to improve understanding of the needs, circumstances and outcomes of children and families touched by child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Dr. Colman has a Ph.D. in developmental psychology and over 20 years of experience evaluating human service programs. Her recent portfolio of work includes a wide array of child welfare and juvenile justice related projects, including Family First, prevention services, permanency, detention reform, and raising the age of criminal responsibility in NYS.

Renee R. Hallock

Renee R. Hallock has over forty years of experience working in child welfare. She began her career as a caseworker in Franklin County in upstate New York before joining state government. She worked on the child abuse hotline for sixteen years, and then moved to a quality assurance position where she monitored local casework practice related to child protective and foster care services. She spent several years as a special assistant to the Deputy Commissioner of Child Welfare, where she coordinated the Child and Family Services Review. In her current capacity as the Associate Commissioner for the Office of Prevention, Permanency and Program Support she supervises the Bureau of Permanency Services, the Bureau of Domestic Violence Prevention and Support Services, the Bureau of Program and Community Development, and the Bureau of Adult Services.

Sonia Meyer, JD

Sonia Meyer, JD, serves as an Associate Counsel within the Child Welfare Legal Services Bureau of the Legal Division of the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). With previous experience in New York State Government and private practice, she is able to see issues from varying perspectives and understand the nature of collaborative work from many lenses. Sonia currently serves as the co-representative of cross-systems projects with the New York State Unified Court System's Child Welfare Court Improvement Project as well as providing legal support to many child welfare initiatives within OCFS. Those initiatives previously included Child Abuse and Maltreatment, assistance to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment, administrative reviews of child abuse and maltreatment reports, Child Advocacy Centers and Multidisciplinary teams, but now include human trafficking, preventive services, child abuse/maltreatment in care, foster care, and adoption, Title IV-E State Plan administration, claiming, legal assistance to budgetary and rate setting areas, among others. Sonia also serves as the agency representative and litigation liaison to the Office of the Attorney General on class action and other related programmatic matters.