

Bios

Carol McCarthy currently serves as the Director of the Bureau of Permanency Services within the Division of Child Welfare and Community Services of the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). The bureau is responsible for administration of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA), Adoption Subsidy, Photo Listing, the Family Registry, the Putative Father Registry as well as oversight of post adoption and kinship programs and services. She also serves as the New York State Compact Administrator for both ICPC and ICAMA. She has been the Director of the bureau since 2015 and has served in Adoption Services since starting at OCFS over 15 years ago. Prior to working at OCFS, Ms. McCarthy worked with children with special needs at the Center for Disability Services in Albany, NY. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology from Rutgers University.

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.