



Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

March 6, 2020

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Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
HUMAN SERVICES	-L

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Confirmation of the Appointment of the Commissioner of the Department of Human and Health Services

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body confirm the appointment of Thalia Wright as the Commissioner of the Department of Human and Health Services, pursuant to Section C2-6(C)(9) of the Monroe County Charter.

Ms. Wright currently serves as a Regional Director for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS"). Her prior experience includes serving as a Child Abuse Prevention Specialist for OCFS from 2008 to 2018 and as a Monroe County Caseworker in Child Protective Services Investigations from 2004 to 2008. A copy of Ms. Wright's resume is attached for your review.

With 16 years of community agency experience, Ms. Wright is well qualified to manage the Department of Human and Health Services. She shares my commitment to providing compassionate, coordinated, and efficient person- and family-centered assistance so that Monroe County may thrive.

Ms. Wright's appointment is to be effective April 20, 2020.

The specific legislative action required is to confirm the appointment of Thalia Wright as Commissioner of Human and Health Services, effective April 20, 2020.

The legislative action requested in this referral is not an "Action," as that term is defined in 6 NYCRR § 617.2(b), and is not subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

No additional net County support is required in the current Monroe County budget.

I recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,

Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive

AJB:db

—○ THALIA WRIGHT ○—

NEW YORK STATE
CHILD WELFARE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

PROFILE

Extensive experience in monitoring NY State regulatory compliance and ongoing monitoring of social services, congregate care/residential programs, domestic violence, runaway and homeless youth programs as well as other licensing functions of the Office of Children and Family Services.

I have proven myself to be a highly motivated human services specialist with the ability to remain focused in high stress environments

SKILLS

- Particular areas of expertise include setting objectives and priorities within New York State for the provision of consistent service delivery, accountability, regulatory oversight and efficiency.
- Extensive knowledge of local, state and federal rules and regulations pertaining to social services.
- Extensive knowledge and framework of the principles and techniques of effective supervision.
- Knowledge of the principles and methods of planning and directing a local Social Services

EXPERIENCE

Regional Director, NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

2018-Present

- PLANS FOR THE REGION INCLUDING SETTING THE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STAFFING.
- SUPERVISE THE PROVISION OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICE IN LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES DISTRICTS AND PROVIDES ASSISTANCE DISTRICTS AROUND THE COUNTY PLANNING PROCESS.
- DIRECTS STAFF IN THE MONITORING OF LOCAL DISTRICT SERVICES PLANS AND THE SUPERVISION OF ALL LOCAL DISTRICT SERVICES DELIVERY PROGRAMS.
- DIRECTS THE COMPLETION OF FATALITY REPORTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE REGULATIONS.
- DIRECTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS ITS INITIATIVES, ROLLOUTS AND BUILDS TO THE CONNECTIONS SYSTEM TO ENSURE USERS ARE ABLE TO USE THE SYSTEM OF RECORD EFFECTIVELY.
- INSURES THAT REVISED AND/OR NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE PROMULGATED THROUGHOUT THE LOCAL DISTRICTS AND THAT POLICY AND PROGRAM INITIATIVES MANDATED BY THE AGENCY ARE IMPLEMENTED.
- INSURES THE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TARGETS, AS FORMULATED WITH THE EXECUTIVE STAFF OF THE DIVISION OF CHILD WELFARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES WILL INSURE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF REALISTIC AND APPROPRIATE GOALS.P
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- DIRECTS THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES DISTRICT STAFF INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUTREACH INFORMATION FOR PROGRAMS SUCH AS ADOPTION AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES.

Department.

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Organizational Management & Strategic Leadership

2005

Roberts Wesleyan College

Bachelor of Science in Human Services

1997

State University and College at Brockport

- DIRECTS STAFF IN THE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT, OVERSIGHT, INSPECTION (INCLUDING FIRE SAFETY), AND SUPERVISION OF VOLUNTARY FOSTER CARE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS WITHIN THE REGION. THIS INCLUDES LICENSING AND OPERATION OF AGENCIES IN ACCORDANCE TO FIRE SAFETY, POLICY AND PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS.
- DIRECTS STAFF IN THE COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATION OF INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE JUSTICE CENTER.
- OVERSEES THE ASSESSMENT OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT NEEDS FOR THE DISTRICTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE REGION AND SUPERVISES THE REGIONAL OFFICE PROJECT ASSOCIATE, ADOPTION SPECIALIST AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALISTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRAININGS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE FIELD.
- DIRECTS THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CONTRACTED PROVIDERS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW LEGAL, POLICY AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND INITIATIVES
- DIRECTS THE MONITORING OF CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS AS A RESULT OF COUNTY OR AGENCY REVIEWS, INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS OR FATALITY REPORTS.
- PARTICIPATES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS AND PROGRAM STANDARDS.
- OVERSEES THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS OF THE WESTCHESTER REGIONAL OFFICE AND THE SATELLITE OFFICE IN HAUPPAUGE.

Child Abuse Prevention Specialist 2, NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

2012-2018

- Coordinates with central office staff in the clarification of policies and procedures identified to meet the mandates of child abuse investigations based on technical experience gained in the regional office.
- Managed child protective services and the implementation of corrective action plans.
- Supervises child fatality reviews assigned to the Rochester Regional Office (RRO).
- Supervises Foster Care and Daycare Investigations assigned to RRO.
- Supervised RRO licensing of domestic violence residential services.
- Supervised RRO licensing of Runaway Homeless Youth settings.
- Supervised a team of staff members in all aspects of Child Protective Services Investigations and coordinates all Region 2 investigative case reviews.
- RRO liaison to the Racial Equity and Cultural Competency agenda within OCFS, NY state and Region 2.
- Supervised Safe Harbor – Sex Trafficking Act for RRO.
- Analyzes data collected from the regional offices to child welfare performance, trends, corrective action, or training needs.

Child Abuse Prevention Specialist 1, NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

2008-2012

- Voluntary and Local District Lead for Region 2 which included assisting voluntary agencies towards performance goals, negotiate desired improvements and provides technical assistance as requested.
- Conducted investigations of alleged institutional abuse/neglect in residential care facilities.
- Conducted activities geared to the prevention of child abuse/maltreatment in residential care facilities.
- Conducted fatality reviews within the mandated timeframe to include on-site review, supervisory review, home office review, local district response, and final issuance of report.

Monroe County Caseworker, Child Protective Services Investigations

2004-2008

- Investigated child abuse and maltreatment reports for Monroe County.
- Prepared court petitions of neglect and abuse for Monroe County family court.
- Completed progress notes and compiled uniform record for NY State.
- Interview families and children to assess safety risks and address child/abuse neglect allegations.
- Effectively managed caseload responsibilities while adhering to NY state mandates and timeframes.
- Testified in family court and during fair hearing process.