



YOUTH-FOCUSED CAREERS PANELISTS

Biographies



Kenyatta Lewis

Kenyatta Lewis serves as the Manager of the Public Education and Intake Unit at the Office of Children's Ombudsman. Kenyatta is responsible for management of day-to-day operations of the PEI Unit, is responsible for three intake analysts' direct reports, and serves as the OCO's equity and inclusion officer and is the OCO's point of contact for data mining. Kenyatta brings a wealth of knowledge to the OCO. She has a bachelor's degree in public administration and a master's degree in social work. During her nearly two decades of experience in child welfare investigations and child welfare investigation management, Kenyatta held positions in Child protective services (CPS) supervision, CPS program management, foster care supervision, foster care program management and funding supervision. Kenyatta also has experience with adult foster care licensing investigations. Additionally, Kenyatta aided MDHHS in information technology development and testing of the department's SWSS and MiSACWIS applications, in addition to contributing to the development of several programs as it relates to the MDHHS' consent decree with the federal government.



Seth Persky

Seth Persky received both his BA and MSW Degrees from The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Besides teaching at Wayne State, Persky is the State Manager for the Office of Family Advocate, a unit within Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services Children's Services Agency (CSA) which is focused solely on issues of child welfare and acts as a monitoring mechanism for the State's programs. Persky also leads or serves on several projects including Michigan's Child Safety Forward federal grant committed to reducing child fatality, the CSA Safe Systems Review which reviews cases involving child fatalities, the CSA suicide prevention initiative, Michigan's Child Death Review, the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, the CPS Compliance Review Team, CPS and Foster Care MDHHS Advisories, the Foster Care Review Board State Advisory, the CSA LGBTQ workgroup, the Child Welfare University Consortium, and the CSA Anti-Racism Transformation Team. Persky joined Wayne State as a part time teacher in 2017.



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Jonathan Norris

Born and Raised in the city of Detroit, Mr. Norris is a proud product of the Detroit Public Schools System and Wayne State University. After 7 years, 3 different colleges Mr. Norris finally graduated with his CRJ Degree in 2015. After working several odd jobs, Mr. Norris began his career March 2019 with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services-Children's Services Administration. Starting his career in Oakland County as an CPS Investigator, Mr. Norris investigated very serious claims of child abuse and neglect. October 2019, Mr. Norris came back home to work with the youth in the communities that he grew up in as a Residential Unit Foster Care Specialist. The Residential Unit is a specialized unit that manages cases of what would be considered as violent and high-risk youth. Mr. Norris affectionately refers to them as "babies". Mr. Norris serves on several boards including the Wayne State Organization of Black Alumni, MDHHS BSC5 DEI Committee, Wayne County DEI Core Team, and S.E.E.D. (Servicing Essential Educational Development).