Office of Workforce Development and Training Staff

Cindy Ahmad
Manager, Design and Development Division

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Cindy Ahmad has over 28 years of experience in child welfare, most notably in training and education. As the OWDT design and development manager, she oversees the production of training and professional development for those working with Michigan’s most vulnerable children and adults. She is an MSW field liaison, teaches for Michigan State University, and is the president of the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Anita Asbury
Human Resources Developer

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Anita Asbury has over thirty-five years of service working with children and families. Anita’s experience includes curriculum development and training for child welfare workers and mandated reporters and child abuse trainings for community organizations and child care facilities. She has worked as a family independence specialist, prevention case manager, and a child protective services investigator and case manager. She was a member of the first specialized sex abuse unit, which partnered with Care House in Pontiac (established in 2006). Anita joined the Family Preservation Services training team in 2014.
Dawn Brown
Secretary

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Dawn Brown has worked at MDHHS since 1995. She is responsible for training registration for CWTI. Her organizational and problem-solving skills are invaluable. She is pursuing a B.A. degree in family life education. Dawn grew up in the foster care system, and her passion is mentoring young adults and foster care youth aging out of the foster care system.

Shaure Brewer
Human Resources Developer

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Shaure Brewer has worked with youth since 1999. His experience includes working with male juvenile delinquent populations in residential facilities. He has worked as a foster care specialist with the State of Michigan and has taught middle school students. Shaure specializes in foster care trainings for CWTI.

Shulonda Brown
Child Welfare Trainer

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Shulonda has 20 years of work experience in Child Welfare. She worked as a Foster Care Worker for 10 years; Maltreatment in Care Investigator, Toddler Court (Baby Court), and as a Child Welfare Funding Specialist (CWFS) all in Genesee County. She worked five years as a Business Analyst assisting with the development and implementation of the MiSACWIS system. She provided statewide field support to MDHHS and private agencies during the implementation of MISACWIS. Shulonda is passionate about empowering individuals to overcome barriers and reach their full potential.
Tony Calleja
Facility Coordinator

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Tony Calleja has worked for the MDHHS since 1995, serving Wayne County
MDHHS administration, field operations, and the director’s office before
joining OWDT in December 2011. He is currently the training facility
coordinator, responsible for oversight of OWDT training centers located
throughout the state. Tony has the administrative and technological skills
required to keep the training facilities operational. Other responsibilities
include data analysis, internal/external collaboration, DTMB liaison for
technology-related enhancements, scheduling, and making recommendations
regarding training room/facility expansion/reduction. With an interest in
graphic design, Tony has also created the brand identity for various statewide
initiatives, including the design of the former DHS logo.

Brenna Cavanaugh
Human Resources Developer

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Brenna Cavanaugh is a University of Michigan graduate with a background in
psychology and mental health. While obtaining her bachelor's degree, Brenna
worked with Genese Health Systems (GHS) as a tutor at the psychosocial
rehabilitation center in Flint. Brenna then worked two years with the family
reunification program (FRP) at the Judson Center, transitioning later to a
position as a post adoption resource center (PARC) advocate for another year
and a half. Ms. Cavanaugh also has experience working in children's protective
services at the Genesee County Michigan Department of Health and Human
Services. Brenna is interested in the arts and is a freelance writer and musician
in her free time.
Rochelle Cooper
Human Resources Developer

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Rochelle Cooper joined the State of Michigan in 2011. She worked in Washtenaw and Wayne Counties as an eligibility specialist and assisted in various roles, such as a liaison with Washtenaw County for AMP and re-entry programs with various Washtenaw community partners. In Wayne County, she was a member of the FIP intake team. She is a recent graduate of the Emergent Leadership Program. She holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration and an MBA with a specialization in human resource management from Davenport University. She is joining the OWDT team because she has a passion to help others learn, develop, and excel in their role.

Michelle Coplin
Human Resources Developer

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Michelle Coplin joined the OWDT team in early 2016. She graduated from Michigan State University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice. After graduating, she came to work with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in Calhoun County. She worked as a children’s protective services investigator for over four years and a children’s foster care worker for over three years. Michelle provides training to child welfare field staff.
**Darrah Davis**  
Human Resources Developer

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Darrah Davis has over eighteen years’ experience in law enforcement and human services. Darrah's experiences include training Michigan State Police, Michigan Department of Corrections, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the National Conference on Community and Justice. She has worked as a foster care case manager, a children's protective services investigator, and as a children's protective services manager. Darrah was instrumental in the development and implementation of Family to Family for the State of Michigan. She is the master trainer/coordinator for PRIDE Foster & Adoptive Parent Trainings.

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**Jessica Dean**  
Human Resources Developer

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Jessica Dean started her career with MDHHS in May of 1989 as an assistance payments worker in Genesee County. In December of 1989 she received her master's degree in public administration from Wayne State University. She earned a bachelor’s degree in speech and communication from Michigan State University in June of 1982. In January of 2003, she joined OWDT as a human resources developer. Since 2005 she has worked almost exclusively on the e-learning team.

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**Susan Doyle**  
Human Resources Developer

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Susan designs and develops training across all areas and provides train-the-trainer expertise for instructor led training (ILT) instructional design and development.
Kate Durda
Human Resources Developer

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Kate Durda has worked in the social services field for over 30 years. She started her career as an evaluation specialist at a large community mental health agency. While there, she initiated a mental health ethics committee and served as acting evaluation director. Later, she served as the coordinator of a four-county HIV/AIDS consortium and oversaw evaluation, reporting, services, and RFP processes. At MDHHS, she was a trainer for public assistance, and her work included offering Bridges training, PA webinars, Crucial Confrontation and Crucial Accountability. Current duties include serving as lead for the evaluation team and guiding the development of a robust evaluation program at OWDT. Kate earned her B.S. in Psychology at Penn State and her M.A. in developmental psychology at MSU.

Veronica Eades
Human Resources Developer

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Veronica has over twenty years of experience in human services. She worked for non-profit organizations in community and educational settings. She gained most of her work experience as a foster care case manager and guardianship specialist for MDHHS in Wayne County where she served for 14 years.

Veronica hopes to inspire CWTI/PSI attendees to move from theory to practice with practical tips that will lead to a fulfilling career serving children and families.
Chris Fisher
Human Resources Developer

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Chris Fisher joined the OWDT team in 2017. He graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice. Chris has experience working in various capacities with at risk youth and families in the child welfare system. Prior to OWDT, he worked for a private adoption agency for 10 years as an adoption worker and supervisor. Chris provides training to child welfare field staff.

Pam Fitzgerald
General Office Assistant

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Pamela Fitzgerald has many years of experience working in human services. She started with the Office of Child Support and then transferred to the Foster Care Reconciliation and Recoupment Department where she processed foster care payments and Social Security applications. She also worked out-of-class for the Office of Communications as a secretary. Currently working as support staff with OWDT, Pam orders materials for all the OWDT staff trainings. She not only helps produce the department's training materials, but she works closely with the trainers to translate their needs into viable products. She also schedules venues for all the CWTI pre-service and family preservation trainings.

Mike Firestone
Human Resources Developer

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Mike Firestone is a trainer for OWDT, specializing in new ES training and long-term care Medicaid training. Prior to joining OWDT, Mike had experience as a family independence manager, an assistance payments worker, and a teacher at the college and high school levels.
Mychael D. Foster
Human Resources Developer

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Mychael D. Foster has been employed with the Department of Health and Human Services for the state of Michigan for 11 years. Ten years of Mychael’s state career was spent under the umbrella of child and family services. Mychael investigated allegations of child abuse and neglect for seven years before becoming employed as a peer coach for three years. While still a peer coach, Mr. Foster was asked to become a trainer and train Crucial Accountability to child welfare staff on a part-time basis. Mychael later obtained a full-time position training Crucial Accountability to public assistance employees as a member of the Office of Workforce Development and Training. Before becoming employed with MDHHS, Mychael was a teacher at the middle and elementary school levels.

Bill Furby
Human Resources Developer

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Bill Furby started with the Department of Health and Human Services in February 2001. He has extensive experience as a public assistance case manager/case worker, a public assistance classroom trainer, and as a developer of public assistance e-learning and job aids. Bill believes his main purpose as a trainer and training developer is to bridge the gap between Central Office policy and procedures and local office staff.
Ann Gaines
Training Delivery Manager

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Ann Gaines has over 14 years of experience in human services. For three years, she specialized in working with developmentally disabled adults. For the past 11 years, child welfare has been her specialty. Ms. Gaines has worked both in management and as a supportive staff person. Her child welfare experience was gained in the field as a children’s protective services specialist in Macomb County. Ms. Gaines has also worked with the Family to Family Program as a team decision-making facilitator (back-up). She also has experience conducting trainings for the nine-week CPS New Hire Institute, the New CPS Supervisor Institute, and Safety by Design. She currently manages staff that deliver public assistance and family preservation training.

Odette Gardner
LMS Administrator

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Odette Gardner is an LMS administrator of the OWDT learning management system (LMS) and has over 40 years of experience with various child welfare agencies. Odette continues to share her LMS experience with child welfare users.

Stacie Gibson
Director

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Stacie has 20 years of experience with the Department of Health and Human Services including services specialist, family independence specialist, public assistance trainer, assistant director at the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity, director at the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity, and public assistance training manager. Stacie has been the director of the OWDT since 2013. Stacie also has experience as a sociology instructor for MSU and Southern New Hampshire University.
Kevon Goodge
Human Resources Developer

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Kevon Goodge is a 25+ year state employee with experience in Children’s Services delivery and AP administration. He is a certified master trainer and holds a MSW degree. Kevon has worked as an e-learning specialist in project training and software presentations for over 12 years. After training both CPS and CFC, he worked with the Crucial Conversations and Crucial Confrontations programs, which continue to be taught and valued by the MDHHS staff. Currently, he is assisting OWDT in the conversion of its resources and training materials into digital and mobile platforms.

Robin Grant
Human Resources Developer

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Robin V. Grant has twenty years of experience working with children, families and other at-risk populations. Robin’s MDHHS child welfare experience includes CPS, foster care, and TDM facilitation. Robin has also represented MDHHS on the Dexter/Elmhurst Area Building Community Partnership Committee to bring awareness to the needs of foster care givers, recruitment, and children aging out the of foster care system. She has served as one of the primary trainers for TDM community representatives and the Parent Partners Program.
Romell Green
Leadership Development Specialist

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Romell Green is a Leadership Development Specialist with OWDT (Office of Workforce Development & Training). Currently he co-leads development for trainings that are being created to enhance awareness, performance, and accountability. As a member of the Leadership Development Functional team, he specializes in the development of leaders within OWDT and the MDHHS. He also participates and contributes to various internal and work groups that focus on employee engagement. He completed the inaugural Leadership Track through the Michigan Lean Consortium and has completed LPI (Lean Process Improvement) boot camp and Visio Mapping certifications.

He has experience as a Social Services Specialist in Wayne and Oakland Counties, Services Program Manager in Oakland County, and State Administrative Manager in Business Service Center 5. Additionally, Romell has program experience in Foster Care and CPS. He has been a local training liaison on several initiatives including Safety by Design, Licensing Foster Care Case Facilitation, MiTEAM, Problem Based Learning, Permanency Planning, and Health Liaison Officer training. He recently completed LPI boot camp and Visio Mapping training.

Michele Harper
Leadership Development Division Manager

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Michele Harper has over 18 years of experience with MDHHS; 14 of those years have been achieved working in training with the Office of Workforce Development and Training. In her current role as the leadership development division manager, she is responsible for the overall direction of the unit and management of leadership development staff responsible for statewide training, technical, development, and consultation for DHHS leaders at all levels. In addition to her current duties, she is also extremely passionate about her work with diversity and inclusion initiatives that are working to achieve multicultural organizational transformation.
Raquelle Harris  
Human Resources Developer

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Raquelle Harris has over 16 years of experience working with at-risk children and their families in programs such as residential care, Families First, and juvenile delinquency. Prior to joining OWDT as a CPS/FC program trainer, Raquelle worked at MDHHS in Wayne County as a MiTeam specialist for five years and as a foster care specialist for eight years. A proud alumna of the University of Michigan and Specs Howard School of Media Arts, Raquelle holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and Afro-American and African studies and a broadcast media arts diploma.

Jennifer Henderson  
Leadership Development Trainer

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Jen Henderson has 11 years of experience with MDHHS. In her current role as a leadership development trainer, she is responsible for creating and delivering curriculum for all levels of leadership. She also partners with other DHHS departments who have similar leadership goals for the agency. She is involved in performance consultation services and general skills training. Jen currently co-trains Women in Leadership and is very passionate about the material and the ability to have discussion with women across the state to assist them in achieving their leadership goals.
Linda Henderson
Human Resources Developer

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Linda has been a trainer/developer for over 35 years in corporate, non-profit, and government settings. Since coming to the state in 2012, she built and continues to deliver all three adult services programs including Adult Community Placement, Independent Living Services, and Adult Protective Services. Linda also supports centralized intake in taking and making assignment decisions for adult protective services referrals. She has a passion for facilitating the learning and performance of her customers so they are equipped to address the adult vulnerable population of Michigan.

Pam Hogan
Secretary

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Pam Hogan has over 25 years of state service, composed of work done within the Department of Transportation, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Health and Human Services. In 2008, she joined OWDT where she lends her expertise as a secretary. She previously assisted the cash assistance training programs and currently assists the child welfare training programs. In her primary role, she handles training registrations/cancellations and in-service training registration requests. As a child who grew up in a home where her parents were foster parents, Pam is passionate about the work done within child welfare training and willingly supports staff and management in meeting the vision and values of the department.
Chris Kilmer
Training Delivery Manager

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Chris Kilmer has over 15 years of experience working in the human service field. Chris started his career as a police officer in Jackson, Michigan. He also worked as a program director for a tri-county non-profit organization, an adjunct instructor at Spring Arbor University, and a facilitator of parenting classes. He started his career with the state of Michigan as a Children’s Protective Services worker and a foster care education planner in Jackson County. He then became a trainer with OWDT and was soon promoted to training delivery manager.

Martin Levin
Human Resources Developer

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Marty has worked in the training department of MDHHS for over 15 years. He has served as the administrator of the Pathlore learning management system (LMS) and is currently involved in its migration to Cornerstone LMS. He has trained many policy and non-policy related courses including children’s services, safety, customer service, telephone interviewing, cultural diversity, engagement, Crucial Conversations, resolving conflict, coaching, team building, and workplace bullying. Marty has also helped with the organization, development, training, and monitoring of OWDT’s Management Development Program (MDP).
Marsha Lewis
Human Resources Developer

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Marsha Lewis joined the family preservation services (FPS) training team in 2003. Marsha's experience as a non-degreed parent-aid at Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI) led her to continue her education and graduate studies to provide services to mothers and infants born addicted to substances. As a supervisor with BFDI, her experience working with Family Preservation Services and training staff to use the strength-based model has led to her success as a trainer with CWTI, specializing in family preservation.

Laura Locker
Administrative Manager

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Laura Locker has over 20 years of experience with the Department of Health and Human Services and has been with OWDT since 2011. She is the administrative manager and works with the support staff to assist trainers in providing a quality training experience.

Angelica MacFarlane
Human Resources Developer

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Angelica MacFarlane has been with MDHHS for over ten years. Her experience in child welfare includes working as a teen parent support partner and infant mental health specialist with St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher. Angelica has worked as a foster care specialist for Wayne County MDHHS - Western Wayne District and has experience as a family independence specialist. Her experience in working with families and her dedication has led to her success as a CWTI trainer, specializing in foster care programs.
Amy Makowski
Human Resources Developer

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Amy Makowski has seven years of experience with MDHHS. She is currently the facilitator for the Emerging Leader program. She is also involved in performance consultation services, general skills training, and the development of structured curricula for leadership at all levels. Amy previously trained new eligibility specialists and was a lead worker in the field.

Kathy Melick
Human Resources Developer

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Kathy has over 25 years of experience with the assistance payments side of MDHHS, starting as a mail clerk, then moving on to positions as an assistance payments worker, assistance payments lead worker, family independence manager, and now working as a human resources developer for OWDT for the past five years, primarily training new eligibility specialists.

Amalia Mitchell
Human Resources Developer

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Amalia E. Mitchell has worked in child welfare for over 10 years and has experience as a CPS worker, a contract compliance analyst, and a peer coach. She currently serves as the liaison with OWDT and MiSACWIS.
Robin Moore
Human Resources Developer

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Robin Moore is an instructional designer and e-learning specialist who joined the State of Michigan in 2008 after working as a contractor on web-based training for the Bridges rollout. Prior to 2008, she spent 14 years working in the private industry as a multimedia developer, classroom trainer and project manager. Robin’s assignments in OWDT focus on high level, special projects including electronic document management and the Affordable Care Act. In addition to developing training materials using a variety of tools, she frequently gives presentations to management groups and has expertise in graphic design, video and audio editing, and scriptwriting. You may also have heard her voice on one of many webinars or training presentations across the state.

Steve Munger
Human Resources Developer

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Steve Munger has worked with MMDHHS for 16 years, primarily in the capacity of a CPS investigator. Steve has extensive experience and is a subject matter expert regarding American Indian and Alaskan native children and families. Steve has worked with the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Bay Mills Indian community and has broad experience in tribal courts. Steve conducts in-service trainings for local office staff and our community partners; field training related to conducting joint-coordinated investigations between CPS and law enforcement involving prosecutor’s, victim advocates, court officials, and other related entities; and a plethora of various trainings at the Child Welfare Training Institute including substance abuse, secondary trauma, sexual abuse, CPS report writing 101, and ICWA/MIFPA. Steve is also the backup trainer for JJ-PSTT. Steve also worked at the juvenile justice program office on a special project regarding MiSACWIS-JJ. Steve has an intricate knowledge of the legal process associated with child welfare.
Natasha Myles
Human Resources Developer

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Natasha has been with MDHHS since 1999, specializing in New ES training, supervisor training, general skills training, and the development of those structured curricula. Prior to joining OWDT, Natasha was an assistance payments worker, and she worked on piloted programs within MDHHS.

Carrie Nichols
Human Resources Developer

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Since 1998, Carrie Nichols has worked in the human services field. Before coming to MDHHS, Carrie worked with mentally ill adults in a residential treatment facility and with foster children as an independent living caseworker and a caseworker for the education and training voucher program. Since coming to MDHHS, Carrie has worked as a services specialist in Foster Care and Adult Services and as a peer coach. Carrie joined OWDT in March of 2014 and trains Crucial Accountability and the Adult Services programs.

Tammy Novak
Executive Secretary

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Tammy is responsible for assisting Stacie Gibson, Director OWDT. She has 19 years of state service, starting her career with Corrections in 1998. She has worked for MDOC, MDOT, MSP, Treasury, DHHS, and DTMB. She is a director on the board with the Michigan Society of Government Meeting Planners (MISGMP) and serves as board liaison for two MISGMP committees. She is also a state of Michigan Red Cross blood drive coordinator, serving three locations. In her free time, she enjoys playing poker, riding her Harley, and spending time with her three grandchildren.
Neetin Parag
Human Resources Developer

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Neetin has over fifteen years of training experience with both the public and private sectors. His experience includes work as a program manager for a private non-profit employment and training program, which provided services to ex-offenders. His continued experience as an analyst with MDHHS, a foster care social services specialist, and as an assistance payments worker contributes to his success as a trainer with CWTI.

Joe Peterson
Human Resources Developer

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Joe Peterson was a teacher for the Lansing School District where he taught special education for seven years. For two of those years, he developed and taught the middle school autistic program. Joe has worked in three state youth residential facilities including the Michigan School for the Deaf, Adrian Training School for Girls, and the Pine Lodge Halfway House for Boys. Joe has his degree in legal studies from National University in San Diego, California. He is also POST (Police Officer Standard Training) certified from California.
Katie Saputo Reece
Human Resources Developer

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Katie Saputo Reece, LBSW, is leadership development trainer and curriculum developer for MDHHS with the Office of Workforce Development and Training (OWDT). She graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. She began her career as a preschool teacher. She has also worked with homeless teens and mentally ill adults. In January of 2000, she became a foster care caseworker for a private agency. She transitioned within the agency to an adoption worker position in a year and a half time. She spent nine years as an adoption worker for a private agency and placed over 120 children for adoption from the foster care system. In June of 2010, she became a trainer for the State of Michigan with a focus on training all new child welfare workers and supervisors. She transitioned to become a leadership development trainer in May of 2016.

Kimberly Reese
Training Delivery Manager

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Kimberly Reese has over 15 years with the Department of Health and Human Services. She began her career as an eligibility specialist with Lapeer County and later transferred to Genesee County. Kimberly has experience as a CPS investigator, CP/CP prevention specialist, Family-to-Family team decision-making facilitator, Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative coordinator, OWDT child welfare trainer, departmental analyst for The Division of Continuous Quality Improvement, CPS and peer coach supervisor, and Centralized Intake supervisor. She is currently the training delivery manager for the Office of Workforce Development and Training.
Laura Schneider
Division Manager, Training Logistics and Development

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Laura Schneider started her career with the Department of Health and Human Services in 2001 as a child protective services worker in Allegan County. She came to OWDT in May 2004 as a child welfare trainer and was instrumental in the development of the CPS supervisor training, as well as the drug-endangered children protocols. Laura currently manages training development and logistics for the Office of Workforce Development and Training.

Charie Springfield
PA Trainer

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Charie started with The State of Michigan in November 2009 as an Eligibility Specialist in Macomb County. She quickly became acclimated and started helping others in her office. Upon seeing her love to help other specialist in the office, she was asked to assist the local office with New Hires and other employees that needed assistance. In the last year Charie has worked on her professional development growth and was afforded the opportunity to develop and deliver trainings in her local office to staff. Within the last year, she has also become the hearings facilitator and shadow with OWDT. In September of 2017, she joined the OWDT staff as a New Eligibility Specialist Human Resource Developer. Prior to her employment with The State of Michigan she worked for DTE Energy and Best Buy, where she was responsible for training of new hires within the company.
Meon Stubbs
Training Delivery Manager

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Meon Stubbs holds a master’s degree in social work from Eastern Michigan University and a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Central Michigan University. She has worked at MDHHS for 16 years in various roles. She has experience as a family independence specialist with Genesee County, a foster care specialist, a Family-to-Family facilitator, a children’s protective services manager, and a training coordinator. She is currently a manager in OWDT’s training delivery division.

Dan Surratt
Human Resources Developer

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Dan Surratt joined the OWDT leadership development team in 2016. He graduated from Wayne State University with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. He has worked in the child welfare field at DHHS for eight years. Dan began his career at DHHS as a services specialist in Macomb County, working as both a CPS worker and a CPS maltreatment in care worker. He became a CPS supervisor in Oakland County in 2013 and remained in that position until joining the OWDT. Dan provides training to child welfare workers and supervisors.
Andrell Thomas
Human Resources Developer

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Andrell Thomas joined OWDT in the spring of 2017 to pursue his passion for teaching others. He has five years of experience working in MDHHS Foster Care and Children’s Protective Services. Prior to MDHHS, he worked at Cooper Street Correctional Facility as a substance abuse therapist and program coordinator. He has diverse experience working in residential facilities serving delinquent teenagers and teenagers with substance abuse issues. Andrell graduated with a B.A. from Michigan State University and an M.A. from Spring Arbor University. He will help train child welfare workers assigned to Children's Protective Services.

Jim Townsend
Analyst/LMS Administrator

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Jim Townsend joined OWDT in 2013. He is the primary administrator of the Cornerstone learning management system (LMS) and manages the MDHHSTraining@michigan.gov help desk. He also facilitates many OWDT webinars. He has a BA in business administration from Alma College. Prior to joining OWDT, he held various management positions over nine years with the Walgreen Company.
Lisa Trimble
Human Resources Developer

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Lisa Trimble has over 17 years with the Department of Health and Human Services. Lisa’s child welfare experience includes CPS, Children’s Foster Care, Licensing, Adoption, and MYOI coordinator. She has experience working with families in both rural and urban counties. Lisa coordinates and conducts trainings for the Pre-Service Institute as well as facilitates and participates in various workgroups regarding the MITEAM practice model.

Denise Turner
Executive Secretary

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Denise has been with OWDT (former CWTI) since 2009 under a temporary agreement to audit private agency travel vouchers. Denise is also responsible for the registration of Civil Service Training for DHHS.

Debbie Ulbrich
Administrative Assistant to the Director

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Beginning in 1996, Debbie Ulbrich worked in child welfare serving boys and girls in foster care, residential county and state facilities, and in independent living. In 2000, she managed the Bryne Grant at the former W.J. Maxey Boys Training School. Debbie has been with OWDT since 2009, working to provide quality training for MDHHS and private agency employees. She was a developer and a trainer presenting CWTI’s supervisory training, and she facilitated New Supervisor Institute and provided local office consultation when she was with Professional Development. As the administrative assistant to the director, Debbie supports OWDT’s strategic planning, implements the onboarding and exiting protocols, and provides lean process improvement workshops and implementation support. Debbie is an active race equity team member promoting institutional change to create an anti-racist workplace culture. Debbie also facilitates social worker continuing education contact hours for the OWDT trainees. Debbie has two master’s degrees—one in agency counseling and the other in human resource development.
Eric Washburn
Human Resources Developer

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Eric has twenty-two years of child welfare experience through a variety of positions with at-risk youth through juvenile court and Community Mental Health, as well as working at Lutheran Social Services as a caseworker, team leader and supervisor. Eric has also taught PRIDE classes for foster and adoptive families. Eric specializes in training foster care as well as the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) with CWTI.

Janet Waterstradt
Media Production Specialist

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Janet Waterstradt is a media specialist with many years of experience developing training and communication materials. She has completed numerous instructional web and video projects on many different topics for the department. Prior to MDHHS, she worked on development teams at two multimedia companies to create e-learning for Fortune 500 companies. She has also worked in the training departments at two major west Michigan corporations. She has a bachelor’s degree in communications from Grand Valley State University.

Ramona Webster
Human Resources Developer

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Ramona joined the OWDT team in October 2016. She has worked in various training departments for nearly 30 years in both the private and government sectors. Ramona’s roles have including being an instructor, trainer, and instructional designer. Her favorite talent development quote is: “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn.” ~ Benjamin Franklin
Alvin Williams
Human Resources Developer

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Alvin Williams has been with MDHHS since 2008, working as an assistance payments worker in both Wayne and Oakland Counties. In that time, he served as an expert in Bridges, providing site support and post training assistance to newly hired ES staff in his local office. Prior to working for MDHHS, Alvin had extensive management experience gained from hiring, training, and providing guidance to his employees to help them be successful. Alvin has a Bachelor of Arts degree in public administration from Michigan State University.

Marie Wilson
Human Resources Developer

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Marie has been with MDHHS since 2005. After field experience as a family independence specialist and a child support specialist, she came on board with the Office of Workforce and Development in 2010. Currently, she works as an instructional designer and developer for MDHHS staff.

Brant Wimbush
Human Resources Developer

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Brant has over 18 years of experience with MDHHS. He has served in many roles: departmental analyst, administrative assistant, and contract administrator. During Brant’s career, he has contributed to several of the department’s initiatives, projects, and committees and has provided his support and leadership.
Clinton Wirtz
Human Resources Developer

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Clinton Wirtz trains juvenile justice programs with the OWDT Child Welfare Training Institute. He has eighteen years with MDHHS in the JJ, CPS, and APS fields. Clinton was a CPS supervisor prior to joining OWDT in June 2013.

Pamela Zsolzai
Human Resources Developer

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Pamela Zsolzai has over twenty years of experience in the field of public assistance with MDHHS. During her career with OWDT, Pamela contributed to several projects, such as administrative hearings and PATH redesign and training. She also worked out-of-class as a training manager.