



## Cindy Ahmad

Training Development Manager

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Cindy has 25+ years of experience in training and development from the private and public sector. As the OWDT development manager, she oversees the development and production of training for those working with Michigan's most vulnerable adults, children, and families. In addition, she is a social work field liaison and teaches for Michigan State University School of Social Work.



## Dawn Brown

Departmental Analyst/LMS Administrator

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Dawn has been with MDHHS since 1995. She serves on the Cornerstone Learning Management System (LMS) administration team and assists in managing the MDHHSTraining@michigan.gov help desk. She has assisted and worked on various learning management systems. Dawn has a BA in Family Life Education from Spring Arbor University. She is currently on the OWDT Race Equity Team and assists in various workgroups.



## Shaure Brewer

Child Welfare Trainer

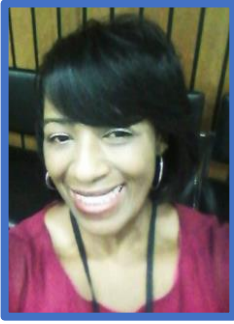
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Shaure has been working with the MDHHS since 2002; he has been with the Training Division since 2008. He has worked with youth since 1996. His experience includes working with male juvenile delinquent populations in residential facilities, as well as working with at-risk runaway youth. Shaure worked as a MDHHS Foster Care Services Specialist from 2002-2008 and has been a Human Resources Developer/Consultant since. He has experience working with families in both rural and urban counties. Prior to joining the State of Michigan, Shaure taught Kindergarten through Twelve in public schools. He currently coordinates and conducts trainings for the OWDT Training Division, as well as facilitates and participates in various other workgroups regarding Child Welfare.

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## **Shulonda Brown**

Child Welfare Trainer

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Shulonda Brown has over 21 years of experience in the Child Welfare System. She is very passionate about assisting and servicing children and families. After graduating from Wilberforce University in 1996, Shulonda worked for Odyssey House Substance Abuse Agency as a Specialist for high risk adolescents, YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter as an Intake Counselor, and Catholic Charities of Genesee County as a Child Welfare Specialist. Shulonda was hired by MDHHS in 1998 as a Social Service Specialist. She worked in Genesee County for 13 years as a Foster Care Worker, Maltreatment Infant and Toddler Court Program (Baby Court) Worker, and Child Welfare Funding Specialist (CWFS). In 2011, Shulonda was selected to work in Lansing on the MiSACWIS project. She remained on the project for five years as a Business Analyst, Help Desk Specialist, and Field Support Analyst/MiSACWIS Trainer. She provided assistance and training with MiSACWIS statewide to private agencies and DHHS offices in the areas of licensing, children's protective services, adoption, foster care, MYOI, and juvenile justice. She joined the CWTI team in 2017 as a Child Welfare Trainer. Shulonda enjoys training and teaching others about empowering children and families to overcome barriers and reach their goals.



## **Tony Calleja**

Facilities Coordinator

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Tony has worked for MDHHS since 1995, serving Wayne County MDHHS administration, field operations, and the director's office before joining OWDT in December 2010. He is currently the training facilities 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. He also does data analysis, internal/external collaboration, and DTMB liaison. 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.

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## **Brenna Cavanaugh**

Family Preservations Trainer

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Brenna is a University of Michigan graduate with a background in psychology and mental health. While obtaining her bachelor's degree, Brenna worked with Genesee Health Systems as a tutor at the psychosocial rehabilitation center in Flint. Brenna then worked two years with the family reunification program at the Judson Center, transitioning later to a position as a post adoption resource center advocate for another year and a half. She also has experience working in children's protective services at the Genesee County MDHHS.



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## **Erica Childs**

Training Delivery Division Manager Secretary

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Erica graduated from Ferris State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She began her career with the SOM in 2014. Before coming to OWDT she worked as a General Office Assistant for DHHS-Children's Services in Ingham County. Currently she is the Secretary registering trainees for Child Welfare Trainings.



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## **Tiana Clemons**

Training Development, Logistics & Delivery Secretary

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Tiana started with the State of Michigan in February of 2019. She initially provided administrative support to the Regional Placement Unit but quickly transitioned to Wayne County North Central District as an administrative liaison for the Foster Parent Licensing Department. Along with initiating the licensing process, she oversaw ICPC referrals and county payment resolution. Tiana looks forward to continuing her service in her new role as Secretary to the Training Development & Logistics Division.

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## Kenisha Coon

Child Welfare Trainer

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Kenisha began working at OWDT in January 2020. She has been in the Child Welfare field since 2013. She began her career by working in residential facilities with teen girls and then as an Adoption Resource Consultant. She then transitioned to working in adoption as an International and Domestic Adoption Specialist before switching over to a MDHHS Adoption, Licensing, and Foster Care Specialist. Kenisha also spent time as the Recruitment and Event Coordinator before transitioning into a role as an Adoption, Foster Care, and at one time a Licensing Program Manager. She has also taught PRIDE classes and CPR/First Aid classes for foster and adoptive parents whom she has worked with. She has a Bachelor and Master's in Psychology from the University of Phoenix and a Post Master's Certification in Teaching Psychology. In 2020, Kenisha was selected to represent Michigan (along with 15 others nationwide) to participate with ADOPTUSKids in a Minority Professional Leadership Development Fellowship. Kenisha is very passionate about the work she does and teaching in the field of child welfare.



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## Rochelle Cooper

New ES Trainer

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Rochelle 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.



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## Michelle Coplin

Child Welfare Trainer

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Michelle 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 MDHHS 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.

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## **Darah Davis**

PRIDE Trainer

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Darah has over 18 years' experience in law enforcement and human services. Darah'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. Darah was instrumental in the development and implementation of Family to Family for the State of Michigan. She is a master trainer/coordinator for PRIDE Foster & Adoptive Parent Trainings.



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## **Carrie Dax Hutchinson**

New ES Trainer

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Carrie joined the OWDT team in August 2019. Her career with the State of Michigan and MDHHS began in November 2009. She worked in the Macomb County Sterling Heights District as an Eligibility Specialist for eight years and held various additional roles such as; MPRI Program Liaison, member of the Community Outreach Team, Affordable Care Act Trainer, Self-Employment Income Project Developer and Trainer, Project Re-Form Trainer for the New 1171 Application, as well as having a specialized CDC caseload. In January 2018, she became a Lead Worker for the Warren District. As a Lead Worker, she mentored and trained teams of probationary employees by providing one-on-one training sessions and case reads, as well as developed and facilitated numerous local office trainings for both new hires and seasoned staff. Carrie is a graduate of the Emerging Leadership Program and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, French, and Secondary Education from the University of Michigan. Prior to working with the State, Carrie taught 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and Applied Technology and worked in online and print marketing for the mortgage and educational fundraising industries.

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## Jessica Dean

Human Resources Developer

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Jessica 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.



## Veronica Eades

Child Welfare Trainer

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Veronica has over 20 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 PSI attendees to move from theory to practice with practical tips that will lead to a fulfilling career serving children and families.



## Chris Fisher

Child Welfare Trainer

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Chris joined the OWDT team in 2017 and provides training to Child Welfare field staff. He graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2005 with a bachelor's 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.

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## **Pam Fitzgerald**

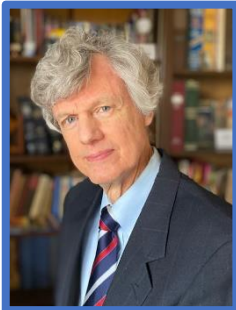
General Office Assistant

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Pam 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 did a WOC 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 OWDT trainings.



## **Mike Firestone**

New ES Trainer

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Mike is a trainer for OWDT, specializing in new ES and long-term care Medicaid trainings. 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.



## **Bill Furby**

Human Resources Developer

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Bill started with the MDHHS 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 policies and procedures and local office staff.

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## **Ann Gaines**

Training Delivery Manager

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Ann 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. Ann 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. She 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.



## **Stacie Gibson**

Director

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Stacie has worked at MDHHS since 1995 and has experience as a Services Specialist, Family Independence Specialist, Public Assistance Trainer, Director of the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity, and Public Assistance Training Manager. She has been the Director of OWDT since 2013. Stacie also has experience as a Sociology Instructor for Michigan State University and Southern New Hampshire University.



## **Robin Grant**

Family Preservation Trainer

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Robin has over 20 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. She 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 of the foster care system. She has served as one of the primary trainers for TDM community representatives and the Parent Partners Program.

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## **Raquelle Harris**

Child Welfare Trainer

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Passionate about connecting with people, Raquelle has serviced at-risk children and their families for almost 20 years. Her child welfare experience includes residential care, Families First, and juvenile delinquency. Prior to joining OWDT as a foster care 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.



## **Robert Harvey**

Child Welfare Trainer

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Robert Harvey holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Madonna University and a BS in Sociology from Kenyon College. Robert comes with several years of experience working for the state and private agencies, as well as corporate America. His experience ranges from the automotive industry as a supervisor, and CPS, Foster Care, Human Trafficking, the statewide Medical/Dentals workgroup, and the MiSACWIS launch team. Robert enjoys empowering new and seasoned workers to complete their jobs to the best of their potential.



## **Margarita Hughes**

(WOC) Child Welfare Trainer

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Margarita graduated with a BA in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. She obtained a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University, where she focused specifically on research and analysis, program operations, public policy, leadership, and diversity. She has worked at MDHHS for over 10 years, with experience in foster care case management, CPS investigations, and foster home licensing. While working in child welfare, Margarita worked to develop court trainings for her peers, participated in the agency's Diversity Committee, acted as the Chair of the Ottawa County Safe Sleep Collaborative, acted as a Neutral Facilitator for Family Team Meetings, and assisted with the continued development and operations of the Ottawa County DHHS Placement Team. She is also the two-time recipient of the Good Government Symbol of Excellence award. Margarita is extremely passionate about child welfare and enjoys training and teaching others about empowering families and working as a team to overcome barriers and reach their full potential.

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## **Tiffany Hughes**

Child Welfare Trainer

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Tiffany began her career with the State of Michigan in January of 2005, of which, all her tenure has been mostly in Oakland County, in Children's Services. She worked as a direct foster care worker and purchase of services monitor for approximately 7 years, before transitioning to a foster care supervisor in 2012. During that time, she supervised a direct foster care staff, in addition to several specialized programs including the Youth in Transition (YIT) program, the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAVFC) program, and the Michigan Youth Opportunity Initiative (MYOI) program. In 2015, she volunteered to transition to the CPS program, and spent approximately 8 months supervising CPS investigators, and the Pathways to Potential Program, before returning to foster care supervision in 2016. She has a passion for training and transitioned to the Office of Workforce Development and Training in January of 2019.



## **Martin Levin**

Human Resources Developer

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Marty has worked in the training department of MDHHS since 1995. He has served as the administrator of the Pathlore Learning Management system (LMS), was involved in its migration to Cornerstone LMS, and is currently a Cornerstone LMS administrator. 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 is also one of the primary organizers and developers of OWDTs Evaluation program.



## **Angelica MacFarlane**

Child Welfare Trainer

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Angelica has been with MDHHS for over 10 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. She 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 an OWDT trainer, specializing in foster care programs.

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## Amy Makowski

Human Resources Developer

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Amy was a Lead Worker in the field when she began her career with OWDT as a New Eligibility Specialist Trainer. Since then, she has been involved in Performance Consultations, creating leadership in-service training curricula and classroom logistics, as well as, co-creating and facilitating the Emerging Leader program. Amy currently works with the Development Team where this position allows her to review, revise, and develop training materials for all areas of MDHHS.



## Sabrenah May

Administrative Manager

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Sabrenah has over 25 years of cross programmatic experience as a departmental manager, foster care/licensing supervisor, permanency resource manager, HR Developer, Departmental Analyst, foster care and CPS specialist, and assistance payments worker.

Sabrenah first began working with OWDT as a trainer in 2008 and returned in 2019 as the Administrative Manager where she manages staff with diverse roles and responsibilities. She has a strong commitment to anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Sabrenah is a member of OWDT's Race Equity team and is also actively involved with statewide groups such as the DEI Culture & Climate action team, Children services administration anti-racism transformation team, and assists with facilitating anti-racism discussions across the state.

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## Latoya McCants

Child Welfare Trainer

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LaToya graduated from Saginaw Valley State University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology. She began her career with the MDHHS as an Eligibility Specialist in Macomb County in February 2010. In November 2012, she began a new journey with MDHHS in Kalamazoo County as a Services Specialist where she quickly became acclimated to the programs supporting older youth, including MYOI, YAVFC, YIT, MET, and ETV. Through a partnership with Kalamazoo DHHS, LaToya worked for the Seita Scholars Program at Western Michigan University as their DHHS Liaison. The Seita Program gave her the opportunity to work with a diverse group of young adults who have the lived experience of foster care, learn more about the programs that support them, and built partnerships with other agencies to support these youth. LaToya joined OWDT as a Human Resource Developer, training Pre-Service Institutes in December 2018.



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## Amalia Mitchell

Human Resources Developer

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Amalia 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.



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## Tammy Novak, GMS, CGMP

Executive Secretary

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Tammy began her career with the State of MI in 1997 with the Department of Corrections. She has since worked for MDOT, MSP (MIOC), Treasury, Child Support, DTMB, and DHHS. She was hired in with OWDT in 2014 and is responsible for assisting the Director of OWDT, along with OWDT staff in a variety of admin duties. As part of her professional development, Tammy currently serves as the President on the board for the Michigan Society of Government Meeting Professionals (MiSGMP) and serves on multiple committees within. She has also served as a Board Director, and First Vice President. Tammy earned the Government Meeting Specialist (GMS) certificate in 2016 and the Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) designation in 2018. She is also a state of Michigan Red Cross blood drive coordinator, serving three locations in the Lansing area.

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## Joe Peterson

Human Resources Developer

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Joe 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.



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## Leticia Pittman

Child Welfare Trainer

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Leticia has her master's degree in social work from Western Michigan University. She has worked with children and families since 2009 including nonprofit work. She began her career with the State of Michigan (SOM) in 2014 as a CPS Services Specialist in Kent County. During that time, she worked tirelessly as an advocate and supporter of families while enforcing policy, safety, wellbeing, and permanency of children and families. Shortly after Leticia started with MDHHS, she was identified as an experienced worker in her office, often mentoring co-workers and being chosen to conduct various trainings and serve on teams to enhance County practices and atmosphere. Leticia excels at working individually but also as part of a team with a strong understanding of policy and procedures. Leticia has excellent written, verbal communication, and listening skills. As a result of her hard work, she was a recipient of the SOM Good Governance Award for Leadership in 2017 among other rewards. She completed the SOM Emerging Leadership Program in 2019. Leticia became a Foster Care Performance Based Funding Specialist and carried this role before becoming a Human Resource Developer with OWDT in 2019. As a result of her experience and positive personality, Leticia now conducts trainings for new hire child welfare workers from Children Protective Services, Foster Care, and Adoption programs. Leticia serves as a liaison between Centralized Intake and OWDT. She is also a Team Lead for CPS Lesson Plan revisions, assisting in development of innovative curriculum for our future leaders. Leticia is a member of OWDT's Race Equity Team and Child Welfare Anti-Racism Transformative Team. She is passionate about being an Antiracist and completing all assignments through a racially equitable lens.

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## **Kimberly Reese**

Training Delivery Division Manager

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Kimberly Reese has been with the Office of Workforce Development and Training since 2015. She began her career as an Eligibility Specialist with Lapeer County and later transferred to Genesee County. She has experience as a CPS Investigator, CP/CP Prevention Specialist, Family to Family Team Decision-Making Facilitator, Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative Coordinator, Child Welfare Trainer with the former Child Welfare Training Institute, Departmental Analyst for the Division of Continuous Quality Improvement, CPS Peer Coach Supervisor, Centralized Intake Supervisor, Training Delivery Manager with the Office of Workforce Development and Training (OWDT), and is now the Training Delivery Division Manager where she oversees trainings for the Pre-Service Institute/Program Specific Transfer Training, Juvenile Justice, PRIDE/GROW and Family Preservation. Kimberly has a BSW from Ferris State University and a MSW from Michigan State University. Her vision is to “build a team so strong that you cannot tell who the boss is.”



## **Trameka Rodgers**

Child Welfare Trainer

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Trameka Rodgers graduated from Saginaw Valley State University with a bachelor's degree in Social Work. Early in her professional career, she trained teenage mothers on how to be effective parents. She has worked for Saginaw County Commission on Aging where she encouraged senior citizens and managed two of their programs including Kinship Care and Caregiver Support. She worked as a Wraparound Coordinator where she facilitated meetings to advocate for families. In 2016, she began working for the SOM as a CPS worker in Saginaw County. Trameka is currently a Child Welfare trainer with OWDT.

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## Laura Schneider

Training Development, Logistics & Delivery Division Manager

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Laura started her career with the MDHHS in 2001 as a child protective services worker in Allegan County. She came to Training 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 then became the Child Welfare Training Institute manager, and now serves as the division manager of Training Development and Logistics for OWDT. Laura's proudest work is in anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion. She is involved in deepening her own analysis of systemic racism and works to educate others about how institutional racism was intentionally woven into all realms of life in the United States. Her lifelong work will be to disrupt and dismantle systems of oppression.

NO PHOTO  
AVAILABLE

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## Maureen Smith

Public Assistant Trainer (WOC)

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Maureen has been with MDHHS since June 2008. She has served in exemplary status in the following capacities under her current role as an Eligibility Specialist at the Macomb County Mount Clemens office: Enhance Site Support Specialist, Hearings Facilitator, Macomb County Juvenile Justice Coordinator, CDC Task Force, BSC Training Facilitator, and FAP Accuracy Focus Group (Team Lead - Podcast Committee).

Also, during her time at the Mount Clemens office, Maureen served in the capacity as (WOC) Assistance Payments Supervisor from (Jan 2017-July 2017) in which she directed activities and aided Eligibility Specialists in rendering quality customer service along with accurate eligibility determinations.

In July 2017, Maureen was nominated and selected to join the Universal Caseload Project (UCL). During this special assignment to UCL she initially served as a Tester creating testing scenarios to test UCL functionality. Maureen later joined the UCL Business Team in which she served as a subject matter expert and provided onsite coaching and support to UCL Geo Groups. Her other duties consisted of: Creating Business Processes or Interim Business Processes, assisting with leading the field in operating successfully within UCL, and supporting Human Centered Design (HCD) goals and objectives.

In September 2018, she was selected to work out of class as a (WOC) Human Resource Developer with OWDT, where she worked collaboratively with OWDT employees to assure successful training components for UCL. She was instrumental in developing training documents such as 'UCL-SSI Termination Job Aid', 'UCL-Working with Related Tasks/Cases Job Aid', and 'UCL Re-index Job Aid'.

Maureen returned to the UCL Project in December of 2018.

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Maureen was provided with the opportunity to work with ESA (Economic Stability Administration) in implementing a feedback forum for employees, under the direction of Department Director Robert Gordon to initiate an “Error Free Workday”.

She rejoined OWDT in January 2021, at a WOC Public Assistant Trainer.



## **Charie Springfield**

Public Assistant 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 who 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 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, and now the manager in OWDT’s training delivery division.

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## **Nichele Tell**

Child Welfare Trainer

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Nichele holds a master's degree in Psychology. She began her journey with the State of Michigan as an Assistant Payment Worker in Wayne County in 2011 and transitioned to a Service Specialist in Genesee County in 2012. She has worked as a Foster Care worker, Children Protective Services worker, and an Ongoing CPS worker in Genesee County. She has been a mentor to new workers and served on numerous local office committees such as IMPACT, MiTeam, Genesee County Emerging Leaders, and New Hire Training.



## **Andrell Thomas**

Delivery Manager

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Andrell Thomas has over 12 years of experience in Human Services. Prior to becoming a Child Welfare Delivery Manager, he was a Child Welfare trainer with OWDT. His training experience includes Foster Care, Children Protective Services, New Supervisors Training Institute, and other general Child Welfare topics. Andrell has several years of experience in Child Welfare, which includes having been a case manager in Foster Care and Children's Protective Services in Jackson County. Prior to MDHHS, he worked at Jackson Cooper Street Correctional Facility as a Substance Abuse Therapist for inmates awaiting parole, and Interim Unit Program Coordinator. He worked at Starr Commonwealth Residential Facility serving delinquent teenagers and teenagers with substance abuse issues, both as a Clinician and Supervisor. Andrell graduated with a B.A. from Michigan State University and M.A. from Spring Arbor University.



## **Jim Townsend**

Departmental Analyst/LMS Administrator

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Jim joined MDHHS and OWDT in 2013. He serves on the Cornerstone Learning Management System (LMS) administration team and assists in managing the MDHHSTraining@michigan.gov help desk. Jim serves as a key point of contact for LMS planning between OWDT, DTMB, our LMS vendor, and numerous current and potential stakeholders. He has served as a co-lead on the OWDT Data, Support, and Logistics team and is routinely involved with the development and delivery of technology learning labs for OWDT staff. 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.

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## **Lisa Trimble**

Child Welfare Trainer

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Lisa has been an employee of the Office of Workforce Development and Training since 2008. Her professional commitment to child welfare has been demonstrated in her casework in Children's Protective Services (CPS), Foster Care, Adoption, and Foster Care Licensing in both rural and urban counties. During Lisa's field work at Genesee County, she was instrumental in developing a specialized foster care unit for children ages 14 and above. She also had the opportunity to become a Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiatives Coordinator (MYOI) for foster care youth in Genesee County. Lisa's responsibilities include delivering trainings to all child welfare new hires and transfer child welfare workers. She also delivered trainings to newly hired CPS supervisors. Frequently, Lisa delivers in-service trainings to external and internal partners regarding child welfare policies and procedures upon their request. Lisa developed several trainings which continue to be a part of the Child Welfare Training curriculum including Child Sexual Abuse and Poverty trainings. Lisa was responsible for training pilot counties with the Concurrent Planning case management tool required by the Adoption and Safe Families Act. She also played a role in the implementation of Strengthening Our Focus on Children and Families: Michigan Teaming, Engagement and Assessment (MiTEAM) case model to Champion counties in Michigan, specifically regarding the Coaching Labs and Fidelity Tool. Lisa provided trainings to CPS supervisors on the Supervisory Control Protocol, (SCP). Most recently, Lisa developed and delivered countywide trainings on Implicit Bias. Lisa participates on the Race Equity Team at OWDT and the CSA-Anti Racism Transformation Team. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Wayne State University and a Master of Arts in Family Studies degree from Spring Arbor University.



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## **Denise Turner**

Payment Secretary

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Denise has been with OWDT (former CWTI) since 2009 under a temporary agreement to audit private agency travel vouchers.

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## Debbie Ulbrich

Administrative Assistant to the Director

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Debbie began her career in child welfare in 1996. She has been with OWDT since 2009, hired to develop and deliver training. While with Office of Professional Development, she facilitated leadership training. As the administrative assistant to the director, Debbie supports strategic planning, facilitates contracts, implements the onboarding and exiting protocols, and provides lean process improvement workshops. Debbie is an active Race Equity Team member promoting institutional change to create an antiracist and equitable workplace culture. She has two master's degrees - one in agency counseling and the other in human resource development.



## Christina Uzarek

Departmental Analyst/LMS Administrator

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Christina has worked with MDHHS since October 2017, in Oakland County, as a Children's Protective Services investigator and a mentor for CPS new hires. She was a member of the CQI CPS Sub-Group, the CPS Outreach Program, and the TDM Steering Committee. Christina has also worked as a prevention specialist with the POSITIVE Prevention pilot program in Oakland County and currently participates in the Emerging Leadership Program. In past positions, she has worked as a software, policy and procedures developer and trainer in the alarm industry. Christina received a Bachelor's in Human Services with a Family & Child Development concentration, a Master of Science in Psychology and completed her certificate in Lean Leadership I. Currently, Christina attends Oakland University and is working towards her Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership and finishing up her Lean Leadership II certificate.



## Janet Waterstradt

Media Production Specialist

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Janet 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.

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## Ramona Webster-Kroning

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 included 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

New ES Trainer

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Alvin 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.



## Clinton Wirtz

Juvenile Justice Trainer

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Clint trains juvenile justice programs with the OWDT Child Welfare Training Institute. He has over 18 years with MDHHS in the JJ, CPS, and APS fields. Clint was a CPS supervisor prior to joining OWDT in June 2013.

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## Jennifer Wozniak

Human Resource Developer

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Jennifer has over seven years with MDHHS. She began her career as a Departmental Technician with the MiSACWIS project and then transferred to Genesee County. Jennifer has over four years of experience as a CPS Investigator and CPS ongoing worker. Jennifer also worked for the MiSACWIS project as a Field Support Analyst and has experience in development using Articulate Storyline and ROBOHelp. Jennifer also comes with other technical skills including developing instructor led trainings, job aids, and student guides.



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## Pamela Zsolzai

Human Resources Developer

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Pam has over 20 years' experience with public assistance at MDHHS, where she has spent the last several years with OWDT as a trainer and developer. In her time at OWDT she has contributed to many projects both large and small. She is known for her strong connection and desire to serve the field. She has worked with a non-profit organization to help revolutionize and simplify the departments assistance application and redetermination forms.

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