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Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families Joins National Partnership for Child Safety

*Partnership facilitates data-sharing across jurisdictions, peer-to-peer learning
and greater integration of the community's voice*

PROVIDENCE, RI – The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families ([DCYF](#)) has joined the National Partnership for Child Safety (NPCS), whose data-sharing and resources support efforts by child-welfare agencies across the country to reduce the number of child fatalities due to maltreatment.

Forty-one state, county and tribal child- and family-serving agencies, representing more than 50% of families involved in the child-welfare system nationally, participate in the NPCS.

“As a member of the National Partnership for Child Safety, we’ll strengthen our review process when these tragedies occur, share our data, participate in peer-to-peer learning and put new focus on integrating our community’s voice in all we do and how we do it,” said **DCYF Director Ashley Deckert, MSW, MA**.

“Each time we lose a child to neglect or abuse, our entire community grieves—and rightly so. Though these tragedies are infrequent in Rhode Island, every loss leaves an indelible mark on families, friends and neighbors. That is why we owe it to those we’ve lost to carefully examine every circumstance, look for national patterns and strengthen our prevention strategies. By adopting NPCS’s safety-science approach—rigorously collecting, analyzing and applying data—we can uncover hidden risk factors and honor these children’s memories by working ever harder to prevent future fatalities.”

“What we are learning from our data is that Child Protective Services cannot do this work alone,” added **Jodi Hill-Lilly, Commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families and Executive Committee Co-Chair of NPCS**. “As child welfare continues to shift to a more front-end, preventive system, we must find better ways to apply a multidisciplinary approach that engages families with resources before harm occurs. That means working across a range of child- and family-serving agencies, such as law enforcement, education and the judiciary.”

NPCS also studies workforce factors, such as emotional exhaustion, stress and workplace connectedness, which can affect team members and their decision-making and lead to workplace turnover. “Professionals in our field are deeply affected by a child fatality,” **Deckert said**. “We want to do all we can to provide a supportive workplace for our DCYF team

members, who are committed to building a system of care where every child grows up in a safe and loving family environment that supports the development of strong, resilient families.”

About the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

At [Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families](#), our mission is to build a system of care where every child grows up in a safe and loving family environment that supports the development of strong, resilient families throughout the state. To fulfill our mission, we believe that family, community and government share responsibility for the safety, protection and well-being of children, emphasizing prevention over intervention through an integrated continuum of care that reflects a partnership between all parties and is culturally relevant. Learn more at [dcyf.ri.gov](#) and read our [2025-2030 strategic plan](#).

About the National Partnership for Child Safety (NPCS)

The National Partnership for Child Safety (NPCS), initially formed in 2018, is a quality improvement collaborative to improve child safety and reduce child maltreatment fatalities through the application of safety science and shared data. Members of the collaborative have a shared goal of strengthening families, promoting innovations and a public health response to reducing and preventing child maltreatment and fatalities. Through support and partnership with Casey Family Programs, members of this collaborative are receiving technical assistance from the Center for Innovation in Population Health at the University of Kentucky. Learn more at [nationalpartnershipchildsafety.org](#)

Contact

Barb Francella
Public Information Officer
Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families
barbara.francella@dcyf.ri.gov