



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

Memo

To: Council on Children and Family Services and OCFS Staff

From: Jihoon Kim, Deputy Secretary, Human Services and Mental Hygiene
Sheila Poole, Commissioner

Date: Monday, August 22, 2022

Re: Appointment of New Executive Director, Council on Children and Families

I am very pleased to announce that Vanessa Threatte has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Council on Children and Families, effective August 24, 2022.

Ms. Threatte brings tremendous experience working with parents, educators, advocates, and strategic partners to strengthen early childhood education. She most recently held the position of Assistant Deputy Chief Operating Officer at the State University of New York, where she was responsible for strengthening the coordination and support of operations across 64 SUNY colleges and university campuses that are committed to high quality education opportunities for every New Yorker. Prior to that, Ms. Threatte served as the Executive Director for Best Practices and Partnerships at the SUNY Charter School Institute where she was also appointed to serve as a member of the NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council. She has also served as the Executive Director of Cradle to Career at SUNY and prior to that was the founding principal of the Brighter Choice Charter School in Albany.

In her new role, Ms. Threatte will be responsible for leading cross-agency collaborations and initiatives with Council-member agencies and other partners at the direction of the Executive Chamber. She will be charged with setting strategic and policy objectives, and implementing the overall mission of the Council. In addition, she will be responsible for the management of the New York State Mentoring Program across the state.

Ms. Threatte holds Masters' degrees in Art Therapy, as well as Literacy and Special Education from the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Albany, respectively. In addition, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from Dartmouth College.

I would also like to thank Elana Marton for serving as the Acting Executive Director and Counsel over these last few months. Under Ms. Marton's leadership, the Council continued its important cross-agency work without missing a beat. Ms. Marton will continue to serve as Counsel and ensure a smooth transition.

Please join us in welcoming Vanessa to her new position!

And please join us in applauding Elana for her dedication to the Council!