



17th Annual
**New Jersey
Youth Firesetter
Intervention
Conference**

For Fire Service, Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Social Services and Educational Professionals

DECEMBER 5-6, 2019

Middlesex County Fire Academy
1001 Fire Academy Drive
Sayreville, NJ 08872

Presented by:





17th Annual

New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Conference Registration & Breakfast

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Welcome Address – Amphitheater

Richard J. Mikutsky

Director

New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

Keynote Address

David J. Brasells

“Where’s the Balance in our Response?”

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Afternoon Classes in Session

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Breakfast

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Morning Classes in Session

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Afternoon Classes in Session



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MISSION STATEMENT

Our Goal is to bring together State and County resources in the common goal of addressing the issue of youth fire setting throughout the state. We also aim to provide existing county juvenile fire prevention programs the support necessary to continue their vital mission and make every effort to aid in the development of programs in the counties where none exist.



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AFTERNOON 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

1 Yippee-Tech Ki-Yay! Free and Easy Tech Tools for YFS and CRR Programs

Instructors: Karla Klas

Are you ready to learn new strategies to make your work (and home!) life more efficient? With the rapid growth in technology over the past decade, there are numerous readily-available tools to assist you in your youth firesetting (YFS) and community risk reduction (CRR) outreach activities. Ms. Klas will share tips on free and easy tech tools she has creatively utilized in her many roles in public education, YFS/CRR program management, event coordination, injury prevention, training, and research. Learn strategies and tools to start “flipping” your YFS and CRR programs to make them more interactive. Come network and share ideas in this fun and energizing session.

2 Children’s System of Care – DCP&P, FSO, and CMO

Instructors: Joseph Goss, Leslie Tate, Daniel Winter

The New Jersey Children’s System of Care (CSOC) serves youth and their families, ages 5-21, with emotional, behavioral health care and/or substance use challenges, physical, developmental, and/or intellectual disabilities. The Children’s System of Care is accessible throughout the entire state.

This course is designed to introduce fire personnel (and others?) to the New Jersey Children’s System of Care. Leslie Tate, Joseph Goss, and Dan Winter will provide insight to the questions such as: What is The New Jersey Children’s System of Care? Who are these system partners? What are the eligibility requirements and who qualifies for these services? How are youth able to access these services?

Ultimately the objective of this course is to demonstrate why it is so vital that in order to run a successful Youth Fire Setter Prevention/Intervention Program, fire personnel and Children’s System of Care partners need to work together.



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3 **Ready, Fire, Aim: ADHD and Youth who Misuse Fire** **Instructor: Dr. Linda Nishi-Strattner**

Young people who misuse fire are five times more likely to have ADHD than the person picked at random off the street. An estimated one in four youth who misuse fire will have this diagnosis. When youngsters with ADHD set fires, we are learning that there are trends in their firesetting behavior, treatment needs, and recidivism. When young people have ADHD, they often experience sleep difficulties, impulsivity, social problems, discipline problems, and learning challenges. This course will present information about ADHD, and it will discuss the overlap between ADHD and youth who misuse fire. Some hands-on approaches to behavioral difficulties, sleep problems, and cyclic firesetting will be presented. At the conclusion of this course, the participants should have a basic familiarity with the diagnosis of ADHD, its impact on fire misuse, and the array of treatment options that help to reduce the risk of continued fire misuse for this population.





17th Annual

New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

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MORNING 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

4

Video 101

Instructor: David Brasells

Everyone has a camera and who hasn't seen a YouTube video on 'how-to-do' whatever? Many want to create a training or community risk reduction video and are not sure where to start. This class will go over the steps you should take before one frame of video is shot to make sure what you have in your head gets on the video everyone gets to watch! Dave Brasells worked as a photojournalist and producer for television news for 22 years prior to starting his career in the fire service. Dave's popular YouTube channel, *Instructor 5 Productions*, several thousand subscribers and his many videos have millions of views. This class will have many visual examples to illustrate the do's and don'ts of creating videos.

5

The Positive and Negative Influences of Social Media on Youth Firesetting

Instructor: Michael McLeieer

Media has a huge influence on today's youth. From television, radio, computers, video games and social networking sites, media has a major impact on all aspects of a teen's life. This presentation will review many of the negative and positive aspects social media has on adolescents today. Participants will be provided with ways to learn how to review local data and design a comprehensive community risk reduction campaign to address and reduce youth firesetting and other negative high risk-taking behavior.



17th Annual

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6 Prosecuting a Youth Firesetter Case

Instructor: Jennifer Moran

Have you ever wondered what happens to a case after the flames are extinguished? That's when the real work begins for fire investigators, law enforcement officers and prosecutors. A successful prosecution of a juvenile arson case begins the moment that a fire is put out. It takes full cooperation between those in the fire service and those in law enforcement to get the job done right.

This presentation is designed to demonstrate just how vital cooperation between agencies is in the prosecution of these types of cases. Through the use of sample cases, we will discuss how important everyone's role, including education and mental health officials, is in order to ensure that justice is done.





17th Annual

New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

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7 Fire Service Storytelling: Coffee Table Legends, News Media Failures, Social Media “Heroes”

Instructor: Jim Aleski

Firefighters have long been known for telling legendary stories around a pot of coffee at the firehouse kitchen table. Outside the station, though, the fire service has historically struggled to find its voice. This class looks at the ways the fire service has traditionally shared information and the struggles and opportunities it faces in a rapidly changing technological and media environment.

8 Mastering the Youth Firesetter Screening Process

Instructors: Joseph Ehrhardt and Helge Nordtveit

The purpose of this course is to walk the Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist, the Youth Firesetter Intervention Program Manager and interested professionals through the screening process with a “soup to nuts” approach to understanding screening requirements, screening instruments and best practice interviewing skills and techniques.

Topics to be discussed shall include:

- USFA and NFA Guidelines for screening youth fire setters
- Current best practice in providing screenings to youth/families
- Thinking outside the box when performing screenings of:
 - ▶ Special Needs youth and families
 - ▶ Delinquent/pathological populations
- Comparison and implementation of approved screening instruments
- Applying screening instruments to real case studies
- Adapting the screening process to real-time fire service responsibilities and responses
 - ▶ Fire Prevention Concerns
 - ▶ Fire Suppression Concerns
- Troubleshooting real problems in Youth Fire Setting Programs around the screening process.



17th Annual

New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

CONFERENCE DIRECTIONS

MIDDLESEX COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY
1001 Fire Academy Drive, Sayreville, NJ 08872
732-727-0008

Via Route 9 / Route 35 Northbound: Come up through South Amboy into Sayreville. Do not go over the bridge. Take the exit on to the Route 9/Route 35 circle. The sign for the exit reads North 35. The ramp is just after a large sign marked Colosseum (sic). At the bottom of the ramp merge right into the circle, then move quickly to the left lane to go around the circle. Bear left going around the circle, passing the Amboy Cinemas. After going under Route 9, merge to the right and take the first right turn-off, on to Chevalier Drive, just past the Sayreville Motor Lodge (Note: Chevalier Drive street sign may be missing, look for signs for Garden State Parkway "South"). After 1/4 mile (just past the Parkway entrance) turn left on to Main Street (large church at corner). After 3/4 mile take the exit for Kennedy Drive. At the bottom of the ramp turn right into the Academy.

Traveling from Perth Amboy on Route 35 Southbound: Take Route 35 south, crossing the Victory Bridge, and passing the back of Amboy Cinemas. Follow the Route 9/Route 35 circle under Route 9. After going under Route 9, merge to the right and take the first right turn-off, on to Chevalier Drive, just past the Sayreville Motor Lodge (Note: Chevalier Drive street sign may be missing, look for signs for Garden State Parkway "South"). After 1/4 mile (just past the Parkway entrance) turn left on to Main Street (large church at corner). After 3/4 mile take the exit for Kennedy Drive. At the bottom of the ramp turn right into the Academy.

Via East Brunswick / South River via Route 535: Route 535 is Cranbury Road in East Brunswick. It becomes Main Street in South River. Travel North on Route 535 through South River and over the Veterans' Memorial Bridge, stay in left lane. At the light after the bridge go straight on to Washington Road. At the next light, (this will be the second traffic light after crossing the bridge) turn left on to Main Street. Proceed to the fourth traffic light (approx. 5 miles) and make a left into the Fire Academy.

Via the Garden State Parkway Northbound: Take Exit 125 (just after the Raritan tolls and before the bridge). At the bottom of the ramp turn left on to Chevalier Drive, then make the first left on to Main Street (large church at corner). After 3/4 mile take the exit for Kennedy Drive. At the bottom of the ramp turn right into the Academy.

Via the Garden State Parkway Southbound: Take Exit 124 (just after the Raritan tolls). At the bottom of the ramp turn right on to Main Street and after a few hundred feet make the first right on to Kennedy Drive. Stay on Kennedy Drive for 3/4 of a mile, through the traffic light, and straight into the Fire Academy.



17th Annual

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Via Route 9 Southbound: Take Route 9 south from Woodbridge over the Raritan River. Take the first exit (marked South Amboy Business Center). At the bottom of the ramp take the first right turn on to Chevalier Drive just past the Sayreville Motor Lodge (Note: Chevalier Drive street sign may be missing, look for signs for Garden State Parkway "South"). After 1/4 mile (just past the Parkway entrance) turn left on to Main Street (large church at corner). After 3/4 mile take the exit for Kennedy Drive. At the bottom of the ramp turn right into the Academy.

From the New Jersey Turnpike North or South: Take Turnpike Exit 11 for the Garden State Parkway (GSP). After the tolls, bear left and on to the Garden State Parkway (GSP) traveling south. From the GSP take Exit 124 (just after the Raritan tolls). At the bottom of the ramp turn right on to Main Street and after a few hundred feet make the first right on to Kennedy Drive. Stay on Kennedy Drive for 3/4 of a mile, through the traffic light, and straight into the Fire Academy.



17th Annual

New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

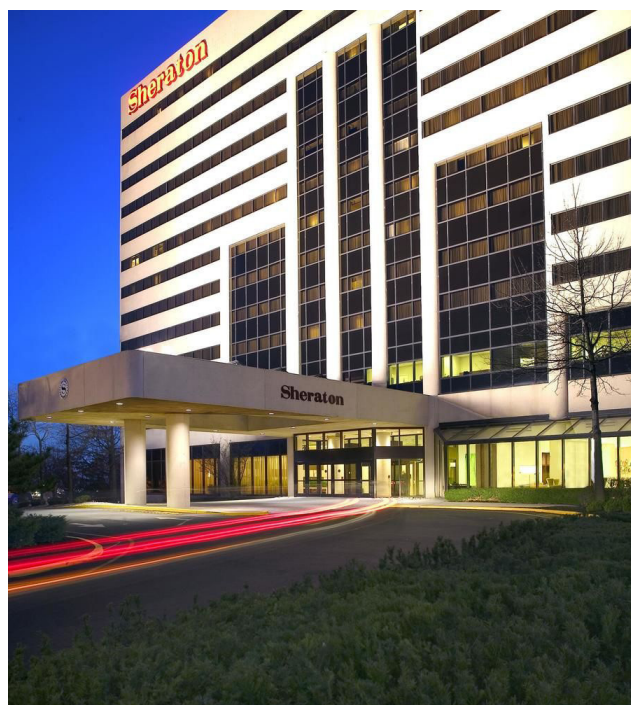
CONFERENCE HOTEL INFORMATION

SHERATON EDISON HOTEL
Raritan Center
125 Raritan Center Parkway
Edison, NJ 08837

Overnight accommodations will be available at the Sheraton Edison Hotel – Raritan Center at a special rate. There will also be a free shuttle provided to and from the Conference each day (please RSVP to the shuttle the day prior). Overnight rooms should be reserved no later than November 12, 2019. All reservations made after this date will be based on availability and at the standard room rate. For reservations call 732-225-8300. Please state that you are attending the New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference to qualify for the rate.

Also, for your convenience, a link has been set up specifically to book rooms for the Conference. That can be found at:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1564517339489&key=GRP&app=resvlink>





17th Annual

New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

BIOGRAPHIES

Jim Aleski

Jim Aleski is a 22-year veteran of the fire service. A career Firefighter/EMT in the Cherry Hill (NJ) Fire Department, Jim is also the Social Media Director for the Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey (PFANJ), the state affiliate of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) labor union.

Prior to becoming a career firefighter, Jim responded as a volunteer while working for over a decade full-time as a media producer. Jim was involved in the production of hundreds of national TV commercials, network branding campaigns, music videos, corporate communication projects and more.

Jim holds a BS in Mass Communications from Emerson College and a MS in Fire and Emergency Management Administration from Oklahoma State University.

Jim is a frequent speaker on such topics as stakeholder and media engagement and the use of social networking tools by emergency services agencies. He has been a guest on the “Firehouse Problems, Kitchen Table Solutions” and “Up Next with Gabriella Mirabella” podcasts and the IAFF’s “Kitchen Table” hosted by Harold Schaitberger. He’s been a speaker at FireXTalk, the Firefighter Safety Seminar at The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas, the New Jersey Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Conference, IFSTA Validation Conference & IFSJLM Research Symposium, among many others.

David J. Brasells

Dave Brasells was graduated in 1987 from Bob Jones University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio and Television Broadcasting and minor in Psychology. Dave had a 22-year career as a television photojournalist and producer and worked at the following TV stations: WLOS Greenville / Spartanburg / Asheville, WYFF Greenville / Spartanburg / Asheville, WJBF Augusta, GA, WTVC Chattanooga, TN, KVOA Tucson, AZ, KOMO Seattle, WA, WSMV Nashville, TN. Dave won several National Press Photographers Association awards and was nominated numerous times for EMMY’s.

While producing an investigative series for WSMV TV in 2000 on Nashville Fire Ems response times, Dave collaborated with the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross to offer mass CPR classes and held two of those classes with the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department (PVVFD). Upon completion of the second CPR class, Dave joined the PVVFD in 2001 and began obtaining State of TN Fire Commission IFSTA certifications.

Dave was hired by Nashville Fire in 2008 and currently serves as engineer on busy Engine 31 in the Madison area of Nashville, Davidson County. Dave is an IFSAC certified Fire Instructor I, National Fire Academy Adjunct Instructor for Community Risk Reduction courses, Fire Officer I, Flashover Instructor & Train-the-Trainer, EMT Advanced, member of NFD’s USAR & Task Force II Team.

Dave believes in the tradition of the fire service to ‘pass it along’ with the belief that training is the key tool in prevention education so EVERYONE goes home!



17th Annual

New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

Dave has focused on High Risk/Low Frequency fire-ground training needs including MAYDAY, Flashover Recognition/Survival, Firefighter Survival, and Firefighter Rescue classes and instruction

Dave is the Executive Producer of the popular YouTube channel Instructor 5 Productions, and is the president of the Middle Tennessee Fraternal Order of Leatherhead Society (F.O.O.L.S.). He may be reached at photog_64@hotmail.com, 615-417-3457

Joseph Ehrhardt

Joe Ehrhardt is a Life Member of the Nottingham Volunteer Fire Company in Mercer County, New Jersey, with over thirty-eight years of volunteer service. He retired from Hamilton Township Fire District #7 as its volunteer Fire and Life Safety Educator in 2017 and formerly coordinated the Township's Youth Fire Setter Prevention and Intervention Program. Joe is also the Past Co-Chair of the Middlesex County FireWatch Program, the Mercer County Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program Advisory Committee and is a member of the N.J. Youth Fire Setter Advisory Council.

In 2010, Joe retired from a thirty-three year career in Juvenile Justice Administration at the Middlesex County Department of Corrections and Youth Services. In 2015, Joe was certified as an independent Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) auditor by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. He performs PREA audits as both an independent auditor and as a contracted auditor for Creative Corrections LLC.

During his Juvenile Justice career, Joe was an adjunct Criminal Justice instructor at both Rutgers University and at Middlesex County College.

In retirement, Joe has been a nine year instructor for the N.J. Division of Fire Safety through Kean University's Fire Safety Training Program. Joe is also a contract instructor for the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, teaching the Youth Fire Setter Prevention and Intervention curriculum.

Joseph Goss

Mr. Goss has served DCP&P in multiple capacities over the past 13 years; in the Adolescent, Permanency, Investigation and SPRU units. Mr. Goss' current title is as an external liaison for the local office.

His responsibilities include the coordination, outreach and relationship maintenance to all County stakeholders. In that role Mr. Goss provides education and training to those stakeholders of the role of DCP&P in the community and how we can all work together to keep children and families safe.

Mr. Goss has coordinated with Mercer County Youth Fire Setter Program, to continue to provide outreach, understanding of the law, processes and requirements of reporting for Emergency Responders in Mercer County.



17th Annual

New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

Karla Klas

Karla Klas, BSN, RN, CCRP manages the University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center's nationally acclaimed community and family-centered injury prevention programs. Her 27-year distinguished career in critical care burn/trauma nursing, trauma program management, research, public education, professional development training, and injury prevention has produced numerous journal publications, textbook chapters and grant awards. She has attained multiple specialty certifications, and leadership appointments to committees devoted to injury control. An award-winning educator, speaker, and author, Karla also mentors at-risk youth, volunteers in survivor support programs, and enjoys all kinds of outdoor adventures with her family.

Lt. Michael McLeieer

Lt. Michael McLeieer has been in the fire service for 25 years. He serves as the director of community risk reduction, is the public information officer (external affairs) and training officer for the Olivet (MI) Fire Department. He also serves as the President for the Michigan State Firemen's Association.

McLeieer has also played a role in education and firefighter safety on a state and national level. For seven years, he served as the Training and Scheduling Coordinator for the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and was in charge of the statewide Youth Fire Intervention program. McLeieer is a Community Risk Reduction expert and frequent instructor at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. He has also presented at the Vision 20/20 Models in Fire Prevention Symposium near Washington D.C., the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, and the National Fire Protection Association's International Conference in Chicago.

Michael is a fire safety expert for several broadcast media network affiliates including WOOD TV 8 and WOTV 4 in Grand Rapids, WLNS TV 6 in Lansing and WKZO AM 590 radio in Kalamazoo. In 2015, he and WOOD TV / WOTV launched the national award-winning fire safety campaign called Operation Save A Life (OSAL) in West Michigan. OSAL provides free smoke alarms with a 10-year long life sealed battery and carbon monoxide alarms to fire departments where they are installed in at-risk homes. He also coordinates the on air and online fire and life safety content using local and regional data to engage viewers to make safer choices with their family. These combined efforts have resulted in a 62 percent reduction in injury and death throughout a 21-county region with proactive safety messaging reaching nearly one million homes.

McLeieer has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to public education and the risk reduction process both in his community and nationally. More than two decades ago, he founded the non-profit charitable organization E.S.C.A.P.E. (Education Showing Children and Adults Procedures for Evacuations), whose mission is to teach children and adults about fire prevention, CPR and first aid. Students who participated in McLeieer's fire safety education program achieved a 98 percent success rate when tested on how to respond correctly to a fire. The importance of his course was demonstrated when a four-year old led his parents from their smoke-filled home to their outside meeting place the night after the child had participated in McLeieer's class.



17th Annual

New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

Michael was the recipient of the 2012 National Firemark Award for Community Service from Liberty Mutual Insurance, the 2016 National Fire Prevention and Education Award from the National Volunteer Fire Council and the 2018 Professional Excellence Award from the 100 Club of Greater Lansing Michigan.

Jennifer Moran

Jennifer Moran is a 1994 graduate of Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, Michigan. After obtaining her Bachelor of Arts degree there, she went on to attend Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan, where she graduated with honors in 1998. Upon graduation from law school, Ms. Moran obtained a judicial clerkship in Mercer County, New Jersey, with the Honorable Thomas P. Kelly, J.S.C. (retired). At the end of her clerkship, she went into private practice for a couple of years, handling criminal cases as well as personal injury and family court matters. In 2001, Ms. Moran accepted a position with the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office where she worked in the Domestic Violence/Special Victims Unit as well as the Trial Unit. After working there for six years, she transferred to the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office where she has been since September of 2007. In her time with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, Ms. Moran has been assigned to the Trial Unit, the Domestic Violence Unit, the Special Victims Unit and the Juvenile Unit. She currently serves as the Chief of the Juvenile Unit, a position she has held since September of 2015. During the course of her time as Chief, Ms. Moran has worked closely with committee members to help design and implement the Mercer County Youth Firesetter Program, a successful screening program to help address youth fire setting behaviors exhibited by the youth in Mercer County.

Dr. Linda Nishi-Strattner

Dr. Nishi-Strattner is a board certified clinical psychologist, licensed in Oregon and Florida, who has practiced in Portland, Oregon area for the past 35 years, providing inpatient and outpatient psychological services including psychotherapy, psychological and neuropsychological evaluations, consultations, program design, research, and teaching. She served as a commissioner for the Oregon Commission for Children and Families from 1995 to 2001 and as a consultant creating programs for close custody youth for the Oregon Youth Authority from 2005 to 2010. She also served on the Oregon State Fire Marshal Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Task Force from 1989 to 1996, helping to design and implement statewide programs to address the problem of juvenile firesetting. She is currently serving as a board member of the Oregon Board of Psychology. Dr. Nishi-Strattner taught as an adjunct professor in the Lewis & Clark College Counseling Graduate program from 1987 to 2002, and she has been an invited speaker both nationally and internationally on topics including ADHD, child abuse, teens and social media, and juvenile firesetting. Dr. Nishi-Strattner has also volunteered as a disaster mental health technician with the American Red Cross, responding to national tragedies including the Oklahoma bombing, the 911 New York terrorist attack, and hurricane and flood relief efforts nationwide.



17th Annual

New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

Helge (Hagar) Nordtveit

Helge Nordtveit has served in the fire service in New Jersey for over forty-five years; both as a volunteer and in the career service. He has served as a volunteer Chief in the 1980's and in 2013, he retired as a career Fire Captain.

Helge is currently the Fire Marshal/Fire Official of Woodbridge Township Fire District #11 in central New Jersey. He is a licensed construction official and a New Jersey Certified Fire Instructor, Level 2. He is an instructor at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

Helge is an instructor for the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety through Kean University and is a contract instructor for the National Fire Academy. Active in youth fire setter intervention for over 29 years, he is the Past Co-Chair of the Middlesex County FireWatch Program and is a member of the New Jersey State Youth Fire Setter Advisory Council.

Leslie Tate

Leslie Tate is an Executive Director for The Mercer County Family Support Organization, a non-profit organization that is part of New Jersey's Division of Children's System of Care. She has devoted 90 percent of her time for the past 11 years providing Support, Education and Advocacy to families of children with Emotional, Behavioral, Mental Health Challenges, including ID/DD and Substance Abuse. All staff members at Mercer County FSO have raised at least one child with challenges, a mandate for employment at Mercer FSO. She has done intensive work with the Juvenile Justice System, Special Education (IEP process) and stamping out Stigma. Her most recent activities include organizing a Girls Circle for 3 of Trenton School District schools and spearheading presentations such as "There is a GUN in my house" for a parent whose children are in the Juvenile Justice system.

Leslie is a dedicated advocate for children's rights and sits on several Boards such as Gateway Community Action of Mercer County and The New Jersey Alliance of the Family Support Organization; which she is the Secretary. Leslie is a respected Stakeholder of Mercer County and has forged several partnerships with agencies like Mobile Response, Capitol County Children's Collaborative and Department of Children Protection and Permanency (DCPP).

Mercer County Family Support Organization under the Leadership of Leslie Tate continues to support Families and is a thriving entity in the New Jersey System of Care.

Leslie's work with families is not limited to the U.S.A she has made several trips to Monrovia Liberia where she has become prominent support for families needing help with basic needs; Shipping food, clothes and educational tools.

Leslie was blessed to raise 8 beautiful children and has 3 grandchildren whom she adores. She believes in the family unit and the Motto: "That It Takes A Village".



17th Annual

New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

Daniel Winter

Mr. Winter has worked for Capitol County Children's Collaborative (CCCC) for almost 12 years. Mr. Winter spent seven years as a Care Manager, providing services directly to the youth and families he worked with. He has been the Community Resource Manager for the past four years.

Mr. Winter helps ensure an organized network of formal and informal resources, services, and supports that can meet the needs, wants and preferences of children and families in their own community. Through outreach, collaboration, and education, Mr. Winter strives to continually increase awareness of CCCC, and how to access these Wraparound services through the NJ Children's System of Care to the greater Mercer County community. He works with various stakeholders to identify the needs of youth and their families, identify available resources and any gaps in these services as well as recruit providers and community resources. Mr. Winter additionally maintains Mercer ResourceNet, a free, web-based tool which provides information on all types of resources in the greater Mercer County area.

He completed his initial Youth Fire Setter Intervention Specialist 1 training in 2010. Mr. Winter coordinates with the Mercer County Youth Fire Setter Program to provide an understanding of the Children's System of Care and the function of CCCC within it; additionally, Mr. Winter acts as a liaison between CCCC and the Mercer County Youth Fire Setter Program.



KEAN