

# Dismantling Racial Inequity

## SESSION 5:

## Presenter Bios



**Trista Deame, MS**, serves as New York State's Race Equity Coordinator. In this capacity, she is responsible for ensuring New York's compliance with the fourth core requirement of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act as it relates to Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED). As part of her work, Ms. Deame provides technical assistance and training to statewide and local partners as it pertains to the federal requirement to ensure that stakeholders are aware of the impact that RED has on local communities. She serves as a member of the Technical Assistance Coordinating Team (TACT) for the State's Partnership for Youth Justice (PYJ), providing technical assistance regarding data, RED, and other various components in the implementation of JDAI in localities. Ms. Deame also sits on the Cross Systems RED Committee. In addition to these statewide capacities, Ms. Deame is also on various taskforces and workgroups lending technical assistance regarding RED as well as subject matter expertise related to research and program implementation in the areas of re-entry, school justice, and cross-over youth.



**Maria Lauria, LMSW**, joined the Nassau County Department of Social Services more than 29 years ago as a foster care caseworker. She has held various positions in Children's Services over the years and has been the director of the program since 2009. While serving on a Disproportionate Minority Representation Steering Committee in 2010, she suggested the idea of Blind Removal Meetings to help reduce racial disproportionality in the population of children entering foster care in Nassau County. Maria was and continues to be inspired to work with children in foster care as her mother was in foster care from the age of two until the age of fourteen.



**Greg Owens, LMSW**, has worked for the NY State Division for Youth/Office for Children and Family Services for more than 30 years. He is currently the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations in the Division of Child Welfare and Community Services where he is responsible for the agency's collaboration with the Governor's Faith Based and Community Development Initiative; provides leadership to the agency's Race Equity and Cultural Competence efforts, Fatherhood program in the Child Welfare Division, and has supervised the agency's Safe and Effective Mentoring Program, Juvenile Justice Family Advocacy and Facility Treatment and Counseling programs, and their youth gang and violence efforts, among others duties. In 2016, he provided Implicit Bias training to the Albany Police Department, and community stakeholders from throughout the city of Albany, and for participants in the annual training forum for the Unified Court Systems. He has provided workshops to mediation programs in Columbia and Dutchess counties. He also is a member of the Campaign for Black Male Achievement: Rumble Young Man Rumble national initiative to work on improving outcomes for Black males along with stakeholders and experts from organizations and programs from throughout the nation.

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**Jessica Pryce, PhD**, currently leads the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, which is located in the FSU College of Social Work. Her foremost responsibility is providing evidence-informed recommendations to Florida's legislative policymakers. She has previously held the positions of Child Protective Investigator with the Department of Children and Families, the Deputy Director of the University at Albany's Education Consortium, where she coordinated child welfare training partnerships throughout New York State. She has maintained a vested interest in the well-being of vulnerable children and families, the sustainability of the child welfare workforce, and effectively addressing racial disproportionality within foster care.