

# AAAC Newsletter

African American Advisory Council • Spring 2017

## 24th Annual African American Advisory Council Institute



### Inside This Issue:

Chairman's Letter • Changing of the Guard  
Retirement of Mike Burns • Kashif Saleem in Memoriam  
Real Talk Events • 2016 AAAC Conference Photos • Award Winners

**George H. Sheldon**

DCFS Director

# From the Chairman

## by Michael Burns

**A**s I reflect on the year ending celebration of 2016, I was delighted to see my colleagues' excitement about the holiday season. I have witnessed staff transporting and sorting toys for the Annual Holiday Party where youth receive toys from sponsors, such as the Connie Peyton Foundation. It is a joy watching staff display through their selfless commitment to put a smile on our youth and foster parent's faces at the



*Michael D. Burns*

event. As we look back over the year we reflect on the activities and accomplishments by the African American Advisory Council (AAAC) with a sharp eye on what lies ahead for the new year of 2017.

The highlights of 2016 began with the Bi-Annual Joint Meeting of DCFS Advisory Councils. This provided an excellent opportunity to fellowship with coworkers of who are outstanding advocates for children and families of the specific population in which they represent. It is a time of sharing, learning and continued development of recommendations to the DCFS Director for overall improvements of the child welfare system.

Each year Council members look forward to the Black History Month celebrations that have been taking place throughout the State for over 20 years. The AAAC recommended these celebrations due to the high number of African American children that were in substitute care during the 1990's. It is a time of showcasing some of the significant cultural activities that are of great value to African American families. The celebrations also provide an opportunity to reinforce the importance of strength and cultural relations, while encouraging families to celebrate accomplishments and special occasions. The AAAC always chooses a Region to attend and support. In 2016 we attended a joint program with the Office of Affirmative Action in Joliet, Illinois.

In continuation of advocacy for services to fathers, Council members served as onsite registration volunteers at Fatherhood Resource Fairs held in Chicago and Joliet. The resource fairs were planned and hosted by J. Michael Carr, Executive Director of Fathers for the Future and Permanency Enhancement Project Action Teams. The purpose of the resource fairs was to provide an array of information to fathers that would enhance their ability to engage, remain intact and or reunify with their families. Fathers are critical to improving permanency for youth in care as well as preventing youth from coming into care.

Additional events took place in 2016, such as the Second Annual Real Talk event for African American males in care. You can read more about this important event in this Newsletter in an article written by the event Committee Chair, Jataun Rollins.

On behalf of the AAAC, I would like to thank everyone that attended our 24th Annual Conference in partnership with Illinois State University (ISU), Northern Illinois University (NIU) Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) and the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). We appreciate your willingness to make personal sacrifices in traveling to ISU. According to feedback from those in attendance, it was a highly successful Institute. Since the theme was "Focusing on Interests, Talents and Skills Along the Pathway to Permanency for African American Youth," former youth in care and NFL football player, Clifford Benson, came from Portland Oregon to serve as Master of Ceremony. Thanks to Clifford for volunteering and sharing how his athletic skills gave him the opportunity to acquire a college education, play professional sports and have a successful career in the business world. We hope that conference participants were inspired by the presenters to continuously look for our youth's interests, skills and talents to help with their personal journey and endeavors.

Many thanks and well wishes went out to the world renowned musician, Kashif Saleem for being our keynote speaker at the conference. Kashif being a youth in the New York child welfare system and his early exposure to music instruments resulted in him becoming an outstanding professional musician. Unfortunately, Kashif passed away less than four months after the conference due to natural cause in his California home. More

## From the Chairman *(continued)*

information can be read within this Newsletter edition.

In closing, I would like for you to join me in welcoming Mrs. Tracy Marshall as the recently elected Chair Person of the African American Advisory Council. Mrs. Marshall has been a longtime member of the AAAC and has served as the Vice Chairperson for the past four years. She has been preparing to take on this responsibility for several years now, and I am certain that she will be a great leader for the organization. I also want to recognize Mr. Keith Smith as the new Vice Chairperson, and would like to thank Mr. Smith and Mrs. Marshall for accepting these important roles. I am very appreciative of the tremendous support I have received from everyone over the many years that I have served as Chairman. The support that I have received from Director Sheldon and each of the previous Directors has been phenomenal. In order to be effective in the role of chairing advisory councils, you must have complete support from your

manager. I can truly say that I have received 100 percent support from my current manager, Mr. Robert Blackwell, and each of my previous managers/supervisors, Mr. Larry Chasey, Mr. Arthur Bishop, Mr. Charles Bowden, Ms. Ruth Singleton, Ms. Alexis Carlisle and Mrs. Moira Baker. It has truly been a great ride and I have enjoyed this opportunity of growth and enhancement. I am looking forward to the new era of “Marshall and Smith” journey.

Peace,



Michael Burns,  
*Chairman Emeritus AAAC*

## Changing of the Guard by James Robinson

In 2017 there will be some major changes to the AAAC. Mike Burns, who has been chair for over 20 years, retired from DCFS in December of 2016 and has assumed the position of Chairman



*Tracy Marshall*

Emeritus. Mike, who took over the Chairmanship after Valerie Davis stepped down, has been replaced by Tracy Marshall. Tracy prior to being elevated to the position of Council Chairman had been serving as the Council's Co-Chair. In addition to her duties as Chair, Tracy was recently promoted to PSA and is the current supervisor for the Division of Regulation and Monitoring unit at 1911 S. Indiana Ave. Tracy has been a council member since 1995 and was serving as the council's Co-Chair before becoming the Chair. Tracy, you have some humongous shoes to fill. Those of us, whom have worked



*Keith Smith*

with Tracy, know that she is up for the challenge.

Joining Tracy, as the new Co-Chair is, Keith Smith. Keith is currently a Child Welfare Specialist working on a placement team in

Northern Region. He currently is working out of the Glen Ellyn Office. Keith has been a member of the council since 2014. Keith's vision for the council is to continue pursuing the issues that are deeply rooted in the African-American community. We the membership of the AAAC, welcome Keith and look forward to working with and supporting him as he continues the great work of the AAAC.

## Retirement of AAAC Council Chairman Mike Burns



*Michael D. Burns*

AAAC Chairman Michael Burns retired from DCFS this past December 2016. Michael Burns became Chairman of the African American Advisory Council in 1996 and served in that role for 20 years. Michael was reluctant to accept the Chairmanship; however, the commitment of Council members to fully support his leadership convinced him to become the AAAC second elected Chairman. Once in this position, Michael became invested in giving his all to build upon the Council achievements. He valued the earlier years of work contributed by executive members, Cretora Barnett, Diane Cottrell, Frances Elbert and Marcia Williams. The aforementioned were vital to many initiatives that were created under his leadership. These individuals, along with the Council's Founding Chair Person, Ms. Valerie Davis, helped to draft position papers presented to and accepted by Directors. One of these papers pertained to recruitment of foster homes for African American children. The Council has advocated throughout Michael's tenure as Chairman that DCFS should have foster home recruitment positions. Director Jess McDonald announced at one of the AAAC's annual conference

that he was committing a million dollars for the Council to submit a community based Initiative proposal. As a result, a pilot foster home recruitment unit (HOTEP) was established for North Lawndale on the west side of Chicago. A collaboration was formed between DCFS, AAAC, Howard University National Center on Permanency and University of Illinois Chicago Jane Addams School of Social Work. Habilitative Systems was later added to the collaborative and unfortunately HOTEP was discontinued after Director McDonald left the Department. Michael continued to make recommendations to each Director that DCFS needed foster home recruitment positions as recruitment should be a full-time job. Director Richard Calica established these positions.

Under Michael's leadership, the Permanency Enhancement Project was established and has been in operation for over 10 years. Partnerships with Metropolitan Family Services, Olive Harvey

College and the AAAC held a one day event of mentoring for African American males along with the same event for African American females over a three year period. Michael has been an advocate for Family Advocacy Centers (FACs) and was instrumental in FACs being created in Champaign, Danville and recently Cairo.

Michael has sought prominent keynote speakers for the AAAC annual conference with Illinois State Senator Barack Obama being the speaker at the first conference under his Chairmanship.

A graduate of Jane Addams School of Social Work, Michael has been featured twice in the "Affirmations" alumni magazine. Mike's leadership and guidance will be missed, and we pray that all of his future endeavors will be successful. DCFS, AAAC, and the families we serve, would like to thank you for your service.

*The AAAC Membership*

## Kashif Saleem in Memoriam



By Michael Burns

Music icon, Kashif Saleem, died on September 25, 2016 just shy of four months after delivering the 24th Annual African American Advisory Council's Conference's keynote speech at Illinois State University Alumni Center. We were saddened by the loss of this iconic figure. The Council had hopes of building a working relationship with Kashif on behalf of youth in care. Kashif had a University in Inglewood, California and Tampa, Florida that originated in Pepperdine University. It is an "integrated education and arts training program for at-risk youth ages 8-18 (Kashif's Bio)." There were several discussions with Kashif to bring his University to Illinois through partnering with Dr. Doris Houston at Illinois State University. There were discussions also held with Dr. Venessa Brown at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. In introducing Kashif to Director Sheldon at the conference on June 3, 2016, the Director and Kashif had a brief conversation about hopes of the University becoming part of IDCFS.

Kashif's life story is an example of the strong resilience that many youth in substitute care have exhibited in overcoming devastating experiences while in foster care. He was born Michael Jones on December 26, 1959 in Harlem, New York. Kashif entered into foster care at the age of four months and never knew his biological family. He was placed in eight foster homes and was abused and neglected in many of those placements. He was removed from his first placement because the foster mother was employed and locked him in a closet during the day while she was at work. The foster parents

in his second placement took him to a department store and left him there to wonder around the store all day. He was eventually approached by a security guard that asked him why he had been in the store all day and Kashif stated that he was waiting for his parents to come and get him. In his last placement, Kashif's foster mother was very rigid, religious and disciplined by corporal punishment. Somehow through these and other traumatic experiences, Kashif resolved in his life to be a happy person with a desire to help others. He did not allow those experiences to define who he was; instead he used them for motivation to succeed in life.

While in the fourth grade, Kashif received a \$3 song flute that impacted the rest of his life. "By the age of 12 he had mastered many musical instruments and was performing in some of New York's finest clubs (Kashif's Bio)." During Kashif's 44 years in the music profession, he achieved greatness as an artist, super producer, songwriter, author, director, documentarian and music icon. From my perspective, the more Kashif received success, the more he wanted to give back and help others. This was especially true with his commitment to advocate for youth in foster care. He had a

vision and a plan to make a global awareness of the plight of youth in foster care. He provided solutions to resolve problems within the child welfare system. He was a proponent of teaching youth in care through the arts and developing a means for them to have sustainable mentorship.

Kashif sent me a link to *Shine on Hollywood Magazine* where he had been awarded the cover. He stated: "This is by far one of the most in-depth interviews I have ever participated in with the exception of UN-Sung." I am going to take the liberty to list a couple of questions and quotes from the magazine's interview:

**Question:** What advice would you give your younger self when starting out? What would his reply have been?

**Answer:** "Walk by Faith, Prosper by Doing, and Remain Humble No Matter the Heights."

**Question:** What can we expect from Kashif in the years to come?

**Answer:** "Expect me to stay close to young people and help them fulfill their life dreams. That will keep me youthful and vibrant. Expect me to continue to light the way."

Kashif was one of those individuals that you find easily to engage with from the onset of meeting him. Recording artist, Melissa Morgan, stated in the "Unsung" interview that "once you become Kashif's friend, you are friends for life." Therefore I asked Kashif if he and I would be friends for life and his response was "Yes". Unfortunately his life ended too soon, the world has lost a great human being. Rest-in-Peace my friend.

## AAAC Power Mentoring Sessions: Mentoring Through Trades



*Chicago firefighters Robeson and Flowers*



*Barbara Bates*



*DJ Allstyle*

The Council garnered the support of several community stakeholders since August 2016 from the Chicago Fire Department Public Education, Barbara Bates Design and DJ Allstyle of Power 92 with essentially “field trips” with the mentors of the day. In total 27 youth received one to one attention in exploration of their career choice, skills and interests. More specifically, careers as a firefighter, fashion and design, communications in the music industry and the barbering trade.

In August 2016, six young men from Daniel J. Nellum and Ayo Therapeutic group home of Ibukun participated in a session with officer Robeson and Flowers who provided the youth with an awesome interactive session that embraced the passion and skills of the youth with a motivational charge, the basics of firefighting and the financial incentives to learn various positions, photo opportunities in a fire engine, talks with actual candidates in the Chicago Fire Academy and lastly, a tour of the set where Chicago Fire is filmed.

Barbara Bates of Barbara Bates Design hosted a power mentoring session in February 2017 for eleven young ladies aged 12 to 21 who traveled as far as Palatine and Assumption, Illinois to her South Loop office. Ms. Bates passionately shared her triumph over being a marginalized teen parent at the age of 15 years old, breast cancer survivor and advocate/activist against excessive prison sentencing legislation. She was very transparent about her successes and the help she garnered along the way including basketball legend Michael Jordan who helped jumpstart her fashion career with his celebrity referrals to selling clothing out of the bank’s rest room on breaks. A Breast Cancer treatment facility has been constructed in her honor for her fund-raising efforts of \$500,000 which include her Walk Where You Live Breast Cancer Walk on Chicago’s west side.

In April 2017, DJ Allstyle coordinated two sessions for youth in care or connected to the department. The first one was a tour of the radio station located

in Hammond, Indiana just over the border at Power 92 where one young man met with all of the radio personalities and had an on-the-spot audition with Maurice who produced Fetty Wap. There was discussion about all the various positions from working the board, dump button, promotional advertising, street hype teams and internship opportunities. DJ Sundance shared her experience as a former youth in care and was very excited to share her journey through her life experiences and the successes she has to date. She advised the youth to stay hungry and never let anybody tell him that he can’t do something even if it’s those closest to him including his parents. The second event DJ Allstyle coordinated was at his barbershop/studio in Alsip, Famous Cut. Nine youth attended and got the opportunity to hear about opportunities in the barbering trade.

# Real Talk Event

## Letter to Community Stakeholders

August 9, 2016

Dear Community Stakeholder,

On behalf of the DCFS African American Advisory Council we would like to thank you for your support of this year's 2nd Annual Real Talk event. "*You Are Not A Real Man Until...*" held on Friday, August 5th, was a success on so many levels as we engaged 72 adolescent youth from across the Chicagoland area in one space, without incident, in efforts to change lives. We had great discussion, wonderful speakers and even the support of two of our local political leaders, State Representative La Shawn K. Ford and Alderman Roderick T. Sawyer of the 6th ward.

Your support of our youth in care is meaningful to the Department and we look forward to future endeavors with you. The donations of food, chips, beverages, gift cards, tote bags, tee shirts, photos, pens and pads helped to ensure that every youth left with something tangible outside of the dialogue they received about manhood and the manner in which they view women.

The Council anticipates that next year will be even more of a success in that we received great feedback and garnered some new relationships for Real Talk with a number of our community partners. Thank you for your various contributions as we continue to try to enhance the quality of life by making connections with our male and highly anticipated event for our female youth in care.

We look forward to partnering with you at future events of this kind, again; thank You for your continued support.

If you would like to reach out to us for some reason please contact [jataun.rollins@illinois.gov](mailto:jataun.rollins@illinois.gov)

Sincerely,

Audrey Sneed-Morton, AA

AAAC Real Talk Planning Committee

## Real Talk Newspaper Article Chicago Crusader



On Tuesday, August 31, 2016, African-American youth in care from two community partners, Daniel K. Nellum Youth Services and AYO Group Home, met with staff from the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) for a day of mentoring at the CFD Public Education building in Chicago. The event was part of the “Real Talk” series made possible through DCFS’ Office of Community Resources and the DCFS African American Advisory Council. “Real Talk” introduces African-American male youth in care to African-American male professionals; providing the opportunity for the youth to learn about various professions and talk about life skills.

“We are grateful to the Chicago Fire Department for taking the time to speak to our young men in care,”

said Jataun Rollins, DCFS Director of Community Resources. “We need more African-American men to speak to our youth and share their personal and professional stories of success. Our youth in care deserve the same opportunities other youth have. Men of color in technical professions are vital participants in demonstrating what opportunities youth can achieve through dedication and hard work. At the end of the day, it doesn’t matter where you come from, what really matters is where you are going, finding your purpose, developing a plan and keeping it in perspective.”

Young men in the care of DCFS care learned what it takes to become a Chicago firefighter at the CFD Public Education building located at 1010 S. Clinton.

Youth witnessed simulated drills that CFD recruits go

through and learned what they have to do to prepare to become a firefighter. The youth also received guidance on how they can move beyond their present circumstances in any field they choose. In addition, DJ Allstyle of Chicago’s Power 92 Radio (92.3 FM) made a guest appearance and spent time with the youth offering some insight on the music industry. – *Chicago Crusader*

For more information about the DCFS “Real Talk” mentoring series or to host a youth group, contact Jataun Rollins, DCFS Director of Community Resources, at 312-919-0289 or [jataun.rollins@illinois.gov](mailto:jataun.rollins@illinois.gov).

*courtesy of*



# Remembering AAAC Conference 2016



## Remembering AAAC Conference 2016



## Remembering Cook County Black History Month Celebration 2017



# Black History Month

National Theme: "The Crisis in Black Education"  
Celebrating the Achievements and Contributions of African Americans

*By Rochelle Crump, Chief of African American Services*



Medical scientist **Dr. Patricia E. Bath, M.D.** developed and tested a model for a laser instrument that was used to remove cataracts. Dr. Bath received a patent for her invention on May 17, 1988, and became the first African American female doctor to receive a patent for a medical invention.



Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. **Nadja Y. West** is the highest-ranking female graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Army's first black surgeon general, and the Army's first black female three-star general.



**Otis Boykins'** most famous invention was a control unit for the pacemaker. He took a special interest in working with resistors and began researching and inventing on his own. He received a patent for a wire precision resistor in 1959. This resistor would later be used in radios and televisions. Two years later, he created a breakthrough device that could withstand extreme changes in temperature and pressure. The device, which was cheaper and more reliable than others on the market, came in great demand by the US military for guided missiles and IBM for computers.



**Dr. Carter C. Woodson, Ph.D.**, is one of the first African Americans to receive a doctorate from Harvard. Woodson dedicated his career to the field of African-American history and lobbied extensively to establish Black History Month as a nationwide institution.



Lt. Cmdr. **Rhonda Fleming-Makell** stepped into American history books as the first African-American woman to retire as a Commissioned officer in the Coast Guard's 214-year history.



Professor **Roland Fryer, Ph.D.** is an American economist and the Henry Lee Professor of Economics at Harvard University. He also maintains offices at the National Bureau of Economic Research and W. E. B. Du Bois Institute. In 2007, at age 30, he became the youngest African-American to ever receive tenure at Harvard.

# Remembering Reginald J. King Memorial Conference Room Dedication



**REGINALD J. KING  
MEMORIAL  
CONFERENCE ROOM**



# Spirit Week Cook Region



## 2016 AAAC Conference Chairman's Award Winners



*Dianne Parker (left) and accepting for James Toole, Vendetta Dennis with Chairman Michael Burns*



*Relunda Washington with Chairman Michael Burns*



*Twana Cosey with Chairman Michael Burns*



*Jataun Rollins with Chairman Michael Burns*



*Audrey Sneed-Morton with Chairman Michael Burns*



*Presenter Verneice Prince (right) with Tracy Marshall*

## 2016 Notable Retirees

**Yvette Johnson**

**Evelyn Little**

**Carolyn Cross-Ross**

**Sam Dorsey**

**Sylvester Rudy Harris**

**Sharon O'Bryant**

**Denice Cox**

**Edwine Reese**

**Janice Horne**

**Mike Burns**

**Millie Donaldson**

**Beverly Easton**

**Deborah Bailey**

**Lisa Lunford**

**Barbara Burnette**

**Ernest Craig**

**Chris Cunningham**

---

### **DCFS OFFICE OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION (OAA) - EEO**

The Office of Affirmative Action is located at  
1911-21 S. Indiana Chicago, IL 60616  
(312) 328-2493

OAA is charged with the overall responsibility of ensuring that the Department complies with EEO civil rights rules and regulations and that the rights of all DCFS employees, applicants, and service providers are protected against unlawful discrimination. Unlawful Areas of Discrimination include the following:

- Race
- Color
- Sex Sexual Orientation
- Sexual Harassment
- Religion
- Age
- National Origin
- Physical or Mental Disability
- Military Discharge (unfavorable)
- Marital Status
- Citizenship Status
- Arrest Record
- Aiding and Abetting
- Coercion
- Veteran's Status

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN SERVICES**

The African-American Services Chief advises the Office of Affirmative Action, Deputy Director, and DCFS on matters regarding service delivery to African-American staff, clients, and provider agencies. The Chief of African-American Services also evaluates DCFS policies and procedures to ensure that they are culturally sensitive and makes recommendations about how to remedy issues which adversely impact the staff and African-American community.

The Chief of African-American Services examines complaints from staff and clients alleging disparities, of services or service delivery to African-American clients and provider agencies. Provides information on career development for African-American staff and potential employees and external resources for foster/adoptive parents through a variety of culturally sensitive programs.

The Chief of African-American Services advocates for African-American children and families involved with DCFS and community agencies which contract with DCFS by participating in the development and implementation of corrective action for "at risk" agencies. The Chief of African-American Services also serves as liaison

and provides technical assistance to the African- American Advisory Council, African American Employment Plan Committee, Transformation and Action Teams and Birth Parents' Steering Committee and the Diversity and Recruitment Committee.

The Chief of African-American Services engages in external community outreach and serves as a resource for community-based groups and other stakeholders, inclusive of examining trainings and workshops on the unique cultural and programmatic needs of African-American staff, children and families; advocates for staff and families provides input and recommendation on informational community forums on DCFS initiatives, procedures, policy changes, and other DCFS programs which focus on children and families. She assists other DCFS Division staff in the recruitment of African-American employees and the development of community forums and culturally sensitive services in conjunction with sharing information regarding the interpretation and application of DCFS rules, procedures and policies relating to EEO and the Departments' Affirmative Action Plan.



## African American Advisory Council Members

### OFFICERS

Tracy Marshall, Chairman  
Keith D. Smith, Vice Chair  
Lori Welcher-Evans, Secretary

### MEMBERS

Robin Albritton  
Bremen Campbell  
Michelle Carter  
Fayette Coleman-Gill  
Diane Cottrell  
Cheryl Dampeer  
Shirley Davis-Barsh  
Millie Donelson  
Carole Freeman  
Veronica Gray-Mattison  
Angela Hassell  
Renee Heard  
Jacqueline Johnson  
Rhonda Laye  
Kilonzo Musau  
James Robinson  
Jataun Rollins  
Audrey Sneed-Morton  
Relunda Washington

### EX-OFFICIO

Jere Moore

### CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

Michael Burns

### AFRICAN AMERICAN SERVICES

Rochelle Crump

## Standing Committees

### MEMBERSHIP

*Chairperson: Diane Cottrell*

The African-American Advisory Council's By-Laws stipulate a membership consisting of a maximum of thirty-one (31) department employees. The Council is a statewide organization. Seventy-two percent of the members are from Cook County and twenty eight percent are from the remaining three regions, this formula reflects the proportion of African Americans within Cook and downstate.

African-American Advisory Council members are, at this point, African American staff that was selected based on their expressed interest and willingness to work for African American issues in the Department. Employees may become members after two years of employment and submitting a brief narrative noting their interests in problems and issues affecting African Americans to the membership chair.

The Membership Committee meets periodically to review applications upon receipt. The committee prepares recommendations for selection by vote of council members at the next regular meeting.

### CONFERENCE

*Chairpersons: Robin Albritton and Tracy Marshall*

This committee plans the annual conference. Committee members develop the theme, workshops and presenters in addition to identifying keynote speakers.

### NEWSLETTER

*Chairperson: Bremen Campbell*

The newsletter is a quarterly publication of articles submitted by Council members or agency staff. Each quarterly edition presents information about how staff can better provide services using new policies and protocols, reflect judicial rulings, and effectively implement new legislation. Our Editorial Board reviews draft articles for professional content and relevancy to current events around the six regions.

Sections of the newsletter include: viewpoint, book review, and resource identification. Those interested can submit articles to chairperson of the newsletter committee:

**Bremen Campbell,**  
15115 Dixie Hwy., Harvey, IL 60426

### LEGISLATIVE

*Chairperson: Jere Moore*

The objective of this committee is to monitor General Assembly Legislation affecting African Americans and child welfare programs. Members also confer with legislators and the Director's Legislative Liaison. The Chair may designate AD HOC committees, as needed which may include staff who are not members of the Advisory Council.

### TRAINING

*Chairperson: James Robinson*

This committee was established to present information regarding the Council to new employees during the Department's foundation training.

### AD HOC COMMITTEES

The AAAC Chair recommends formation of Ad Hoc Committees when key issues are brought to the council's attention.

# “Keeping Our Children First”



## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the African American Advisory Council is to advise and make specific recommendations with solutions to the Director and Bureau Deputies concerning the Department’s provision of services to African American clients, staff and its contractual service providers in the following areas: recruitment, legislation, employment, community relations and development of professional issues.

## INTERESTED IN JOINING AAAC?

**Contact Diane Cottrell, membership chairperson**

*diane.cottrell@illinois.gov*

**708.210.3716**

---



**[www.DCFS.illinois.gov](http://www.DCFS.illinois.gov)**

