

Kathy Wright has been instrumental in providing dedicated and passionate leadership as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Parents' Caucus (NJPC), where she develops programs and supportive services that empower parents, caregivers, and family members raising children with emotional and behavioral health challenges to create systemic change, as well as professionals and providers in the areas of family engagement. Her experience as an advocate, a mental health executive, and an educator has spanned over two decades. She has presented numerous local, state, and national workshops on children's mental health, family involvement and engagement, juvenile justice, and child welfare. Ms. Wright is the developer of NJPC's Parents Empowerment Academy, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Families Uplifted Prevention Initiative, and the New Jersey Youth Justice Initiative and remains dedicated to working with families to improve outcomes for their children, become self sufficient, overcome the discrimination placed on them by society, and work with dignity as collaborators with professionals. She is the writer of *NJPC's Navigating the Juvenile Justice System in NJ: A Family Guide* (the first statewide guide for families), *NJPC's Professional Parent Advocacy Training*, *NJPC's Engaging Parents & Family Members Training*, and *The Incarceration of Children & Youth in New Jersey's Adult Prison System: New Jersey Youth Justice Initiative Data Brief*.

As a cross-system advocate for children and families, Ms. Wright has been very active in multiple systems, including juvenile justice, mental health, and child welfare. In addition to the NJPC, her experience and accomplishments include a 2014 Youth Justice Leadership Fellowship—a prestigious national fellowship program run by the National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) for juvenile justice reform advocates; the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at Georgetown University, where she provided technical assistance services in the Transformation Facilitation (TF) process to state-level children's mental health directors and served as a TF Management Team Member; Adolescent Services & Child Welfare Liaison at SOS, Inc., a 95-bed shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness, where she was instrumental in implementing evidence-based programs for "hard-to-place" adolescents involved in the child welfare systems; Community Coordinator at the Mental Health Association of Morris County; Intern at Greystone Psychiatric Hospital; and Director of Education for Skyland Community Development, Inc., a community project serving the educational and employment needs of the Ramapo Indian population in Upper Passaic County. Ms. Wright has also served as Adjunct Professor at numerous universities throughout the State of New Jersey and has nine years' experience as Director of Marketing for several major corporations. She completed her undergraduate and graduate studies in the areas of psychology and English at Drew University.