



## ***Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF)***

1825 Faulkland Road, Wilmington, DE 19805

[www.kids.delaware.gov](http://www.kids.delaware.gov)

### ***The Honorable Carla Benson-Green***

***Director, Division of Family Services***

***Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families***



The Honorable Carla Benson-Green, a public servant for over 34 years, has dedicated her life to protecting, guiding, and nurturing Delaware's most vulnerable population – our children. She currently serves as the Director of the Division of Family Services (DFS) within the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF) where she leads a staff over 400 employees overseeing the child welfare component of the department which includes: Investigation, Treatment, Adoption, Permanency, Foster Care, Intake/After Hours Statewide Services, and the Office of Child Care Licensing.

Director Benson-Green began her career with the State of Delaware as a front-line investigator within DFS. During her tenure with the agency, she held many positions of increasing responsibility within DFS including supervisor of the Office of Child Care Licensing and as County Administrator over child welfare investigations, treatment, foster care and adoption services in New Castle and Kent Counties. She played an integral role as the agency implemented best practices under the Outcomes Matter Initiative, and served as co-lead in the development and implementation of Team Decision Making (TDM) in consultation with the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

On November 3, 2015, Governor Jack A. Markell nominated her as Cabinet Secretary of Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. Unanimously confirmed by the Delaware State Senate on November 30, 2015, she earned the distinction of becoming DSCYF's first African American Female Cabinet Secretary as well as the first selected from within the department.

During her tenure as Cabinet Secretary, she initiated the creation of the department's case management system, FOCUS, which is designed to integrate child welfare, behavioral health and juvenile justice into one department-wide system. She was also instrumental in developing the FIRST program, a facilitated family team meeting intended to maximize the chances of keeping Delaware's youth within their local communities instead of sending them out of state for services. Director Benson-Green initiated and supported the effort in re-purposing and expanding the population served at Seaford House in an effort to reduce the number of youth served in out of state placements.

Over the years, Director Benson-Green has generously given of her time to provide hope and healing to Delaware's children and families by serving as a member of several community based organizations. These include the City of Dover's Blue Ribbon Panel on Homelessness, the Board of Directors of the Harrington Senior Center, the 21st Center Fund for Delaware's Children, as co-administrator of the John Wesley Community Center, and as a member of Black Administrators in Child Welfare, Inc.

She is the recipient of the Order of the First State, which is the highest award Delaware's Governor may bestow upon a citizen; the Governor's Team Excellence Award; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Religious Leader of the Year; and the Phi Beta Sigma Inc. Entrepreneurship Award.

A native Delawarean, she was reared in Harrington and graduated from Lake Forest High School. From there she went on to earn an undergraduate degree in mental health studies from Morgan State University. Director Benson-Green resides in Kent County with her husband Ernest. They are the parents of two adult children.