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Delaware Children’s Department Division of Family Services Sends Delegation to Child Welfare League of America Conference

Wilmington, DE – Delaware Children’s Department Division of Family Services Director Shirley Roberts recently led a delegation from Delaware to the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) National Conference. The conference, held in early August 2016, was focused entirely on addressing the multiple challenges child welfare officials face when working with children and families who are exposed to or have abused drugs and alcohol.

“Like many states across the nation, Delaware too has experienced an increase in the number of babies who have been born substance-exposed,” said Shirley Roberts, Director of the Division of Family Services (DFS). “While we don’t have all the answers as to why this is happening, we are more committed than ever to addressing the varied needs of this vulnerable population and to working with our system partners, advocates, and families to ensure healthy outcomes for Delaware’s children.”



DFS Director Shirley Roberts (second from the left) and DFS Staff at the Child Welfare League of America National Conference.

Founded in 1920, the CWLA is the nation’s oldest and largest membership-based child welfare organization. The annual national conference is designed to create national awareness through shared knowledge and to promote multidisciplinary collaborative advances in best practices, research, and policy that lead to improving the outcomes and increased well-being for this population of children, youth, and families.

DFS staff attending the conference with Director Roberts included: DFS Deputy Director Trenee Parker, Administrator Sue Murray, Program Manager Linda Shannon, Program Manager Joann Bruch, Family Crisis Therapist Supervisor Michelle Yingling, Family Crisis Therapist Supervisor Trinette Redinger-Ramsey, and Sussex County Assistant Regional Administrator Stacy Northam-Smith.

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The Children’s Department provides services to children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts as well as prevention services targeted toward all youth. For more information, please visit www.kids.delaware.gov.