

CHILDREN'S STUDIES 25 (2200): SPECIAL TOPICS:
CHILDREN, GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY
IN NEW YORK STATE

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES
FALL 2010

NOVEMBER 11, 2010

GUEST SPEAKER: JIM PURCELL

Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA)

Jim Purcell is the CEO of the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA). COFCCA is the principal statewide representative for nearly all the voluntary not-for-profit organizations providing foster care, adoption, and family support services to vulnerable children and families in New York. Its 110-member organizations help more than 500,000 children and their families annually.

COFCCA advocates on behalf of its member agencies seeking reasonable funding and a level policy and regulatory playing field in order to enhance the opportunities of agencies to offer the best possible services to families and children. COFCCA also facilitates communication between the public sector and the not-for-profit agencies and offers training and networking opportunities to member agencies and their staff.

Mr. Purcell previously worked for New York State for many years in children's services. He began his career with the state Division for Youth, and later worked at the Department of Social Services and Council on Children and Families. From 1985-1996 Jim served as the Associate Commissioner for Family and Children's Services at the Department of Social Services. His work focused on child welfare but also included day care, domestic violence, and juvenile justice. He formulated and implemented policies to meet emerging needs including the first foster boarding home programs for HIV positive foster children, a new risk assessment process for child protection, reformed the operations of the State Child Abuse Register, created cross-agency collaborative initiatives to meet complex family needs, and initiated development of outcome based child welfare training.

Mr. Purcell holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters Degree in Political Science from the State University of New York at Albany. He has taught courses at the School of Social Welfare at the Rockefeller College, University of Albany. Mr. Purcell is past president of the National Organization of State Associations for Children and serves as a vice president of the NYC Human Services Council. He also sits on the board of directors of the Child Welfare League of America and Families Together of NYS and he is a member of the NYS Permanent Judicial Commission on Children.