

On June 29, Child Care Connection's Board of Trustees elected a new president. Ross H. Bear was unanimously elected to lead the agency for the 2023 fiscal year. Bear, who joined the board in 2020, served as vice president during fiscal year 2022. He was elected last month to take over for outgoing president Jessica Gravatt. Bear holds a bachelor's in mass media and journalism from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, and a master's in secondary education from Cabrini University in Radnor, Pa. After spending four years in the IT field, Bear spent 12 years in telecommunications management (Apple, Verizon) before going into teaching. He is currently in education in Bridgeton Public Schools, teaching history, finance, and social studies. A New Jersey native, Bear currently resides in Deerfield Twp. Nancy Thomson, executive director, states, "I am honored to welcome Ross Bear as our new board president. His passion, energy, and wide range of expertise will be invaluable to Child Care Connection as we pursue our mission to give every child the best start in life." Other newly elected officers include Janet Parrotta of Yardville, vice president; Deirdre Stoneham of Deerfield Twp., treasurer; and Tamie Miles of Willingboro, as secretary. Other board members include Ayse Cici-Golkatun, Dresher, Pa.; Wil Pettiford, Wyncote, Pa.; and Jeanine Verdel, Hamilton Square. For more information on Child Care Connection, visit www.ccc-nj.org.