

On June 24, 2025, Child Care Connection's Board of Trustees re-elected its president to a fourth term. **Ross H. Bear**, M.Ed., was unanimously elected to lead the agency for the 2026 fiscal year. Bear, who joined the board in 2020, served as vice president during fiscal year 2022. He was elected in 2022 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 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. In addition, **Tamie Miles** of Willingboro was re-elected to the office of treasurer. Newly elected officers include **Jeanine Verdel** of Hamilton Square, who was elected to her first term as vice president (Miles served one term as secretary), and **Jenna Lee** of Mt. Laurel, who was elected to her first term as secretary. Other board members include **Tatiana Dodge**, **Jacqueline Jupin-Manzi**, **Wil Pettiford**, and **Michael Vella**.

Child Care Connection is pleased to welcome back all newly elected/re-elected officers and trustees for the 2026 fiscal year. For more information on Child Care Connection, visit www.ccc-nj.org.