

On June 25, 2024, Child Care Connection's Board of Trustees re-elected its president to a third term. **Ross H. Bear**, M.Ed., was unanimously elected to lead the agency for the 2025 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, **Janet Parrotta** of Yardville was re-elected to the office of vice president. Newly elected officers include **Tamie Miles** of Willingboro, who was elected to her first term as treasurer (Miles served two terms as secretary), and **Jeanine Verdel** of Hamilton Square, who was elected to her first term as secretary. Other board members include **Ayse Cici-Gokaltun**, Dresher, Pa.; **Jenna Lee** of Pine Hill; **Wil Pettiford**, Wyncote, Pa.; **Michael Vella** of New Egypt; and **Deirdre Stoneham** of Deerfield Twp., who served as treasurer for two terms.

Child Care Connection is pleased to welcome back all newly elected/re-elected officers and trustees for the 2025 fiscal year. For more information on Child Care Connection, visit [www.ccc-nj.org](http://www.ccc-nj.org).