

On June 27, Child Care Connection's Board of Trustees re-elected its president to a second term. **Ross H. Bear**, M.Ed., was unanimously elected to lead the agency for the 2024 fiscal year. Bear, who joined the board in 2020, served as vice president during fiscal year 2022. He was elected last year 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. All other board officers were re-elected as well: **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-Gokaltun**, Dresher, Pa.; **Wil Pettiford**, Wyncote, Pa.; and **Jeanine Verdel**, Hamilton Square.

In addition, the board unanimously elected two new members to their first three-year term: **Jenna Lee** of Pine Hill, a personnel recruiter for Kearney & Co. and former CCC staff member, and **Michael Vella** of New Egypt, a retired administrative analyst from the New Jersey Dept. of Human Services.

Child Care Connection is pleased to welcome back all newly elected and current members and re-elected officers for the 2024 fiscal year. For more information on Child Care Connection, visit www.ccc-nj.org.