



F&CS Announces: New Executive Director, Alicia Kenaley

Ithaca, NY, February 22, 2021 – Family & Children's Service of Ithaca's Board of Directors announces Alicia Kenaley as the agency's new Executive Director, effective March 1, 2021.

After conducting a national search, Alicia Kenaley was selected from a competitive pool of candidates. Kenaley succeeds Karen Schachere, F&CS's President & CEO, who is retiring after over thirty years with the agency. The Board would like to thank Karen for her compassionate leadership and dedicated efforts, especially over the past year, that have helped make F&CS a leader in providing high quality mental health services in our community.

Kenaley brings experience as a social worker, a development professional, and most recently, as President & CEO at Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes. She oversaw the merger of that organization into Planned Parenthood of Greater New York. Her experience, combined with the outstanding staff of F&CS, will ensure the agency's continuing reputation as a source for high quality mental health care.

“I could not be more confident in Alicia’s ability to lead Family & Children’s Service into a new and exciting chapter,” said Karen Schachere, retiring President & CEO of F&CS. “I know that the agency will be in excellent hands with her leadership, and that her wide range of skills and experience will serve the agency well as it moves through these challenging times.”

Kenaley has had an outstanding career at Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes, where she served as Vice President of Development and Public Affairs, prior to becoming President & CEO. During the merger of PPSFL, Kenaley took on the role of Chief People Officer, managing the multi-organizational integration into Planned Parenthood of Greater New York. During that process, she was appointed to the role of Transition Team Leader by the Board of Directors of PPGNY, representing the organization to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and other Planned Parenthood affiliates.

“I am honored to have been asked to join Family and Children’s Service’s stellar team,” Kenaley said. “Family and Children’s Service has been an essential provider of mental health care in this community for over 100 years and its services are needed now more than ever. I have deep respect and admiration for the staff, who provide high quality care and who have worked to ensure that mental health care remains accessible to the people of our community despite the challenges presented by COVID. Thanks to Karen’s fine leadership Family & Children’s Service is in a strong position and I am excited to get to work!”

Kenaley holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University, a Master of Social Work from the University of Albany, and a Master of Business Administration from the Cornell University, Johnson School of Management.

Support Mental Health

Family & Children's Service of Ithaca is a private, nonprofit community agency dedicated to supporting, promoting and strengthening the well-being of individuals and families by providing high quality, accessible mental health care and related social services, with a particular sensitivity toward the needs of children. Visit www.fcsith.org for more information.