

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan
Governor

Sam Abed
Secretary

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CONTACT: Eric Solomon
DJS Communications Director
(O) 410-230-3164 (C) 443-492-9781

Betsy Fox Tolentino Heads Community Operations Division in Department's Focus on Diversion, Equity, and Inclusion

Baltimore – DJS Secretary Sam Abed has appointed Betsy Fox Tolentino to serve as Assistant Secretary of Community Operations. This newly-created executive position, which will function as a Deputy Secretary, will oversee Pre-Adjudication Services, Community Supervision, Equity and Inclusion, and the Resource Office.

As DJS continues to focus on diverting youth with misdemeanors from entering the system and reducing the racial disparities of youth of color, a bigger emphasis will be to offer more resources and services to youth in the community. Tolentino's division will now be aligned with the Department's vision and be able to streamline the implementation much easier.

Tolentino brings more than 9 years of experience at the Department serving as Director of Legislation and Policy and Communications and Executive Director of Pre-Adjudication Services and Reform. Most recently, Tolentino served as Assistant Secretary of Strategic Initiatives, assisting the Baltimore City DJS Team in strengthening relationships with system stakeholders, and developing new initiatives to improve outcomes for youth.

"The majority of our youth are served in the community and Betsy will be instrumental in leading this team with her innovative and creative ideas," said Secretary Abed. "Betsy's knowledge of the court system and relationships with system stakeholders will be very valuable moving our agenda forward."

Tolentino's career has focused extensively on criminal and juvenile justice advocacy, and policy development. Tolentino's experience includes representing and advocating for criminal defendants and children in Maryland's foster care and juvenile justice systems before trial courts, the Maryland General Assembly, and other executives, stakeholders and public policymakers.

The Department has made a few other personnel moves, within Tolentino's division, to better represent the work that the agency is doing. Effective immediately, Derek Getic is the Acting Regional Director for the Western Region. Singleton Golden is now working in the Central Region, focusing on cognitive programming, developing community service projects, and working on job readiness programming for youth on supervision. Bernice Walker is the new Family Engagement Director, reporting to the Director of Equity and Inclusion Lisa Garry. Community Supervision Executive Director Scott Beal will also oversee the Baltimore City Region, until the position is filled.

Congratulations to everyone and looking forward to continued success within DJS.

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