

Dr. Darcella P. Sessomes

DSW, MSW, M.Div., LCSW(NJ/PA)

sessomesforcouncil.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

10/2022 to present Chief of Program and Reintegration Services

State of New Jersey, Department of Corrections (NJDOC)

- Oversight of the Division of Programs and Reintegration Services while managing a division budget of 90 million in grant and state funds.
- Expansion of operational growth and secured significant funding for proposed projects.
- Co-creator of the NJDOC critically acclaimed Releasing Trauma and Embracing Faith, trauma recovery, resiliency, and resistant program.
- Rebuilding community trust with the department through active Community Engagement and Reintegration Initiatives (CERI).
- Co-creator of the NJDOC critically acclaimed Releasing Trauma and Embracing Faith, trauma recovery, resiliency, and resistant program.
- *4/2014 to 10/2022 (promoted) Assistant Commissioner, Division of Program and Community*
- *5/2007 to 04/2014 (promoted) Office of Transitional Services*

9/2004 to 05/2007 Assistant Director, Office of Transitional Services

State of New Jersey, Department of Corrections (NJDOC)

- Assist in the planning, development, implementation, organization, coordination, and evaluation of transitional and social work services
- Planning of individual rehabilitative programs, including counseling, training, and related services along with departmental policies
- Daily monitoring of 13 state correctional institutions' social service departments and coordination of training / development for 125+ staff
- Oversight of 2.0 million budget in federal, state, and local grant initiatives including report and grant writing

TEACHING / EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- FA2020 to FA2022** **Kean University, Social of Social Work. MSW Program**
- Forensic Social Work
- SP2016 to SP2022** **Montclair State University, Justice Studies Department**
- JUST 320- Women and Prison
 - JUST 353-Corrections
- FA2014 to SP2017** **University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy, and Practice, MSW program**
- SWRK 603-American Racism, foundation course
 - SWRK 713-Understanding Social Change: Issue of Race and Gender, foundation course.
- FA2012 to SP2017** **Rutgers University, School of Social Work, MSW program**
- SWRK 910-Diversity and oppression, foundation course
- SP2015 to SP2018** **Rutgers University, Camden-Faculty of Arts and Science**
- Criminal Justice 50:202:337-Poor, Minorities, and Justice
 - Criminal Justice 50:202:449-Ethics and Policy of Criminal Justice
- 9/2006 to 8/2011** **TRIO-Talent Search Leadership Program, Instructor**
New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)
- Facilitate Saturday leadership seminars for inner-city high school students.
 - Organize and coordinate speakers for career seminars.
 - Facilitate instruction in public speaking, government, leadership, life skills, and etiquette.

NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

- 1/1999 to 8/2004** **NJ Administrator-Northern New Jersey Region**
New Jersey Association on Correction, Trenton, NJ
- 11/1994 to 1/1999** **Program Director**
Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., Harrisburg, PA

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Doctorate of Clinical Social Work, DSW
Princeton Theological Seminary, M.Div.
Rutgers University, Master of Social Work, MSW; Bachelor of Arts, BA

PUBLICATIONS

Sessomes, Darcella, DSW, **“From Violation to Revelation: Finding Faith in the Depths of Prison Hell”** (2014); Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) Dissertation. Published.

LICENSES &
CERTIFICATIONS

- **New Jersey Licensed Clinical Social Worker**, NJ State Board of Social Work Examiners #44SCO5488300
- **Pennsylvania Licensed Clinical Social Worker**, PA State Board of Social Work Examiners #CW17248
- **New Jersey School Social Worker**, State Board of Examiners, NJ Department of Education #613063
- **Student in Field Instruction (SIFI)**, Rutgers University, School of Continuing Education-Violence Against Women Foundation Certificate

PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS

- Governor's Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence
- Plainfield Police Department, Domestic Violence Response Team
- NJ Department of State, Office of Faith-Based Initiatives, Advisory Committee Member
- 1st Lady Tammy Murphy, Women's Maternal Health Committee Member
- National Association of Black Social Workers
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- Certified American Red Cross Disaster Relief Worker
- Girl Scouts, Hearts of NJ Council
- Correctional Peace Officer Foundation
- Former Local 1262 Member