

Family Service of Rhode Island Announces Board Appointments

For release Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Family Service of Rhode Island has announced that the Honorable Malcolm Farmer, III, has been elected president emeritus of the non-profit's board of directors. Mr. Farmer has served as president of the board since 2002.

He's a partner at Hinckley Allen, and served as staff attorney in the mid-1960s for the Lawyers' Constitutional Defense Committee in Jackson, Mississippi, where he represented civil rights workers and organizations as well as local African-American citizens. Returning to Rhode Island in 1967, he served as executive director of the Governor's Commission on Crime Delinquency and Criminal Administration. He was a member of the Providence City Council from 1979-1991, and was inducted into that city's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Hall of Fame in 2007. In 2015 he received Family Service of Rhode Island's Brighter Futures Award.

He has an LL.B. from Harvard University, and a B.A. from Yale.

"We are honored that Mac has agreed to continue his longtime association with Family Service of Rhode Island by becoming our president emeritus," said Margaret Holland McDuff. "His accomplishments as our board president and in serving Providence and the nation are legendary. He's a true Rhode Island treasure and inspiration."

Family Service of Rhode Island is a statewide non-profit social service and educational organization. More information is available at www.familyserviceri.org.

Family Service of Rhode Island has announced that John C. Simmons, of Providence, has been elected president of the non-profit's board of directors. Mr. Simmons is executive director of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, serving in that position since 2008. He's formerly chief of administration for the City of Providence, chief finance officer for the City of Boston, executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, and deputy general treasurer for the State of Rhode Island. He has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Hartford, and a bachelor's degree from Central Connecticut State University.

"John brings a lifetime of leadership and accomplishment to our board's presidency," said Family Service of Rhode Island CEO Margaret Holland McDuff. "We're fortunate to have his leadership as we build upon our work helping abused, traumatized children, victims of human trafficking and other crimes, military families before, during and after deployment, and many other Rhode Islanders in need."

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Family Service of Rhode Island has announced that Colin P. Kane, of North Kingstown, has been elected to the non-profit's board of directors. Mr. Kane is a founding partner of Peregrine Group LLC and Peregrine Property Management LLC. Prior to Peregrine, he worked for Gilbane Properties and as a naval officer serving aboard the USS KIDD. He is a combat veteran of Operation Desert Storm, a graduate of Harvard Business School (MBA), Georgetown University (MA), and a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis. He's former chairman of the 195 Redevelopment Commission, serves on the board of BankNewport and is the admiral of the Rhode Island Commodores.

"Colin can particularly help guide us in our work with military families as well as with property management plans," said Margaret Holland McDuff, Family Service of Rhode Island CEO, noting that the agency works with military families before, during and after deployment address stress and trauma issues.

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Family Service of Rhode Island has announced that Jeffrey A. Wentzell, of Providence, has been elected to the non-profit's board of directors. Mr. Wentzell is senior risk manager at Fidelity Investments in Smithfield, Rhode Island. In addition to various risk management roles at Fidelity Investments, he served as emergency management director for the Town of Paxton, Massachusetts and on several other municipal and non-profit boards. He has an M.B.A. from Nichols College and a B.S. in business administration from Worcester State College.

"Cyber security is a concern for all, whether you're in the business, government or non-profit sector, and Jeff brings knowledge and experience on such issues to our board," said Margaret Holland McDuff, Family Service of Rhode Island CEO.

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Family Service of Rhode Island has announced that Sybil F. Bailey, of Providence, has been elected to the non-profit's board of directors. Ms. Bailey is director of human resources for the City of Providence, and formerly was director of employee relations for Brown University. She has a BA in Human Services from Simmons College.

"Family Service of Rhode Island is a major employer in the state, providing hundreds of jobs to the local economy," said the agency's CEO Margaret Holland McDuff. "Sybil brings expertise to ensure we provide our employees a supportive, positive work environment and competitive compensation and benefits."

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Family Service of Rhode Island has announced that Clay Pell, of Providence, has been elected to the non-profit's board of directors. Mr. Pell serves in the United State Coast Guard Reserve as a Lieutenant Commander and judge advocate. He formerly served as Director for Strategic Planning at the White House National Security Council and is former Deputy Assistant Secretary of International and Foreign Language Education at the U.S. Department of Education. He has a bachelor's degree in social studies from Harvard and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. He is a former candidate for governor of Rhode Island.

"Lt. Commander Pell brings insights to our work with military families, and in education," said Margaret Holland McDuff, Family Service of Rhode Island CEO. Family Service of Rhode Island helps military families with stress and trauma issues before, during and after deployment, provides a school for children with special needs known as Mount Pleasant Academy, and offers various social services to students and families in the Providence, Central Falls, Exeter/West Greenwich and Westerly public school districts.

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