



Julita Caliwan, M.S.W., OPEN MINDS Senior Associate, has over 25 years experience addressing public policy and systems of care design in the behavioral health, children’s services, and developmental disabilities fields. Prior to her current position, Ms. Caliwan was a Policy and Planning Specialist with the New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities where she was responsible for a variety of system change policy and planning initiatives. These initiatives included coordinating the multi-individual Money Follows the Person federal grant application, the Dual Diagnosis Task Force, and the Governor’s Task Force on Adults with Autism. She was also responsible for developing, coordinating, and managing the Division’s Crisis Response System in conjunction with the Division of Mental Health Services.

Professional Highlights

- Executive with the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Assistant Division Director, Policy, Planning and Quality Improvement, New Jersey Division of Child Behavioral Health Services
- Director, New Jersey’s Children’s System of Care Initiative
- Faculty, SAMHSA National Technical Assistance Center Policy Academy

Ms. Caliwan also served as Assistant Division Director for Policy, Planning and Quality Improvement at the Division of Child Behavioral Health Services, New Jersey Department of Human Services (DCBHS). She was responsible for directing and overseeing the development of the annual plans and planning documents for the DCBHS, the development and revision of all DCBHS related policies and procedures including regulations, and Medicaid State Plan amendments, and all federal, state and/or foundation grant activity. In this position she

established 15 local systems of care with parent-run support organizations, uniform assessment tools, integrated system administration, multiple levels of case management, mobile crisis response and seven new Medicaid services across each of the state’s 21 counties.

Areas of Expertise

- System of care design development and management
- Medicaid policy and regulations management
- Federal, State, and foundation grant management
- Continuous quality improvement and performance management initiative

Ms. Caliwan graduated from Rutgers University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and a Masters Degree in Social Work. She was a

member of the faculty at the 2005 SAMHSA National Technical Assistance Center Policy Academy.