**Stacie Bladen**

Deputy Director for Children’s Services

Ms. Stacie Bladen is currently serving as the Deputy Director of the Children’s Services Administration at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. She has worked for over 20 years in child welfare and began her career as a foster care worker in Michigan. She then worked for the State of Montana as a CPS, foster care, and adoption worker. Stacie worked as an investigator at the Michigan Office of Children’s Ombudsman and as Director of the Office of Family Advocate.

In both roles she responded to citizen complaints and initiated improvements in statewide child welfare policy and practice. She holds a master’s degree in Social Work from Michigan State University, where she was recognized in 2001 with the Future Public Service Leader Award in Social Work. She has also served as a Field Instructor for graduate level social work students and as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). In 2012, Stacie led the effort in Michigan to secure a federal title IV-E waiver, and until March 2014, served as the Project Manager for the waiver initiative, called Protect MiFamily.

In 2014, Stacie was awarded the ACYF Commissioner’s Award for outstanding service in child protection. In her current position, Stacie oversees statewide policy and programs in CPS, foster care, adoption and permanency, federal compliance, and Native American affairs.