**Lisa Guillette**

Lisa Guillette is the Executive Director of Foster Forward, a statewide non-profit organization in Rhode Island supporting foster families and children and youth in state care.  Ms. Guillette has over two decades of professional experience in education and child welfare, and has served in her current role for thirteen years.  During her tenure, Foster Forward (formerly the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association) has grown from being a small grassroots association to a recognized leader in child welfare practice: earning multi-million dollar competitive contracts and grant awards from the State of Rhode Island, the federal government and private funders.  Since 2008, Foster Forward has served as the lead agency for the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative in Rhode Island (known locally as ASPIRE.)

Ms. Guillette served on the Rhode Island Joint Legislative Commission on the Education of Children and Youth in DCYF care and is an appointed representative to the Governor’s Advisory Council on Homelessness.  She is an active member of the United Way of Rhode Island, serving on the Community Advisory Board and chairing the Executive Committee of the Women’s Leadership Council.  Ms. Guillette was honored in 2005 with a United States Congressional *Angels in Adoption* Award, was recognized by the YWCA of Northern Rhode Island in 2007 as a *“Woman of Achievement”* and in 2011 was the recipient of the national Rama Ramanathan Commitment to Service Award from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative.  She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work and a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Providence College.  Ms. Guillette resides in Providence with her husband and three children.

