

Justice from the Start

Exploring racial disparities in access to services for babies and toddlers



Agenda – October 18, 2016



**8:30 AM to 2:30 PM, Ceremonial Courtroom, 10th Floor
Loyola University School of Law**

Objectives for the day:

1. Share promising strategies to overcome poverty's ill effects on infants and toddlers.
2. Build capacity to track and address racial and ethnic disparities to build a just society.
3. Create a shared agenda to expand access to supports for young families.

8:30-8:50 AM – Breakfast and Activities in Courtroom Lobby



Ann Courter, Director
Early Childhood Justice
Sargent Shriver National Center on
Poverty Law

8:50-8:55 AM – Welcome

Ann Courter advocates for policies to improve the life opportunities of young children, with a focus on children ages 0-3. Before coming to the Shriver Center, Ann worked as a consultant on community systems development for early care and education. Ann has analyzed education policy for the Illinois P-20 Council, advocated for fair and transparent state budgets at Voices for Illinois Children, and represented low-income individuals and class plaintiffs at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago.



John Bouman, President
Sargent Shriver National Center on
Poverty Law

8:55-9:00 AM – Introduction of Keynote Speaker

John Bouman was a leader in the design and implementation of positive aspects of Illinois's new welfare law in 1997, and he spearheaded the statewide efforts in Illinois to create both the FamilyCare program, which provides health care insurance for up to 400,000 working poor parents of minor children, and All Kids, the first state plan to extend health coverage to every child. He has helped draft numerous pieces of legislation; published extensively; and served as counsel in numerous federal and state cases, including *Memisovski v. Maram*, which established substantial reforms in children's health care in Illinois.



Olivia Golden, Executive Director
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

9:00-9:45 AM – Keynote Address

An expert in child and family programs at the federal, state, and local levels, Olivia Golden brings a track record of delivering results for low-income children and families in the nonprofit sector and at all levels of government. During the eight years that she served as Commissioner for Children, Youth, and Families and then as Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1993-2001), Ms. Golden was a key player in expanding and improving Head Start and creating Early Head Start, implementing landmark welfare reform, tripling the level of funding for child care, and doubling adoptions from foster care.



Maria Whelan, President and CEO
Illinois Action for Children

9:45-9:50 AM – Introduction of Aisha Ray

Maria Whelan has served as Illinois Action for Children’s President and CEO since 2001. She leads the organization’s mission to support strong families and powerful communities where children matter most, through the advancement of innovative human services programs and responsive public policies that improve conditions for children and families in Illinois. An authority in the early care and education field, Maria possesses over 30 years of experience in human services.



Aisha Ray, Professor Emeritus
Erikson Institute

9:50-10:35 AM – “Getting to Racial Equity in Early Childhood: Can We Get There From Here?”

Aisha Ray is a Professor Emerita of Child Development at Erikson Institute and a Distinguished Fellow in the BUILD Initiative. Beginning as a Head Start teacher, Dr. Ray has taught learners from preschool to graduate school; supported the development of community-based programs serving culturally, racially and linguistically diverse children, families and practitioners; and led professional development efforts for the early childhood workforce serving infants through elementary school learners. Her areas of research include diversity, policy and professional development systems in early childhood; multi-generational Black family child rearing; and the role of fathers in child rearing in low-income Black communities. At BUILD she helps to lead the Equity Leaders Action Network. Recently, Dr. Ray stepped down from the position of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Erikson Institute.

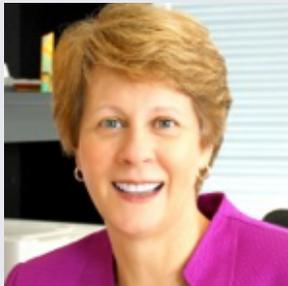
10:40-11:00 AM – Break



Moderator
Diana Rauner, President
The Ounce of Prevention Fund

11:00-12:10 PM – Panel Discussion on Data and Equity

Diana Mendley Rauner is president of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, a public-private partnership that prepares children for success in school and in life. With an operating budget of approximately \$60 million, the Ounce creates and supports research-based early learning programs for at-risk children and their families from before birth to age five; develops, educates, and coaches practitioners to provide more children with high-quality early education; and advocates and educates policymakers, business and civic leaders.



Panelist
Carol Emig, President
Child Trends

Carol Emig has spent her career working at the intersection of public policy, programs, and research related to children and youth. Since 2006, she has been President of Child Trends, an independent, nonpartisan research center. Child Trends improves the lives and prospects of children and youth by conducting high-quality research and applying the resulting knowledge to public policies, programs, and systems.



Panelist
Erin Flaherty Hardy, Fellow, Heller School for Social and Policy Management
Brandeis University

Erin Hardy is the Research Director of the diversitydatakids.org project, which is focused on using data to advance child well-being and racial/ethnic equity. She is a Fellow at Brandeis University, with the Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. She has studied race-, ethnicity-, and income-based achievement gaps in education in the U.S., and is working on the development of nationally comparable indicators related to racial and ethnic equity in child health, education and well-being.



Panelist

Dawn V. Thomas, Associate Director

Early Childhood and Parenting Collaborative

Dr. Dawn Thomas serves as Director of the Early Childhood and Parenting Collaborative. She has extensive experience coordinating state and federal grants, partnering with universities and research centers, and providing training and technical assistance. She has served on state and national workgroups with topics ranging from outcomes for infants and toddlers, service delivery models for early childhood programming, to data. Dr. Thomas has been involved in both qualitative and quantitative research and has coordinated the Innovation Zone Evaluation Project, Hard to Reach Pilot Evaluation, and needs assessment projects for the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development. She has co-authored several book chapters, peer reviewed articles, and technical reports on early care and education services.



Panelist

Jonathan Furr, Executive Director

Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University

Jonathan Furr is actively engaged in various state and national education policy and legislative developments, including helping to coordinate the governance of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System. Since 2009, he has played an active role to obtain funding for the State's longitudinal data system, and to establish the governance frameworks for interagency data initiatives. In particular, Mr. Furr co-led the development of the State's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, and has supported the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development on implementation of data-related projects within the grant. From 2004 to 2006, Mr. Furr served as the General Counsel for the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).



Panelist

Sylvia Puente, Executive Director

Latino Policy Forum

In January 2009, Sylvia Puente began serving as Executive Director of the Latino Policy Forum, the only public policy and advocacy organization in the Chicago metropolitan area working to improve educational outcomes for children, make housing accessible and affordable, promote just immigration reform, and build the influence and leadership of the Latino community. Ms. Puente has a 25-year background in advocacy work and serves as a policy analyst and activist for the Latino community.

12:10-1:45 PM

Rooms 1001, 1002, 1102, 1304, Ceremonial Courtroom lobby

Small group facilitated discussion: How should we use our resources to improve outcomes for infants and their families experiencing poverty? What policies and structures need to be strengthened or changed to advance opportunity from the start?

Lunch will be served in assigned rooms.

1:45-2:30 PM

Ceremonial Courtroom

Working Together: Elements of a Collective Agenda for 0-3 Justice