

Executive Committee



Kristin A. Moore, Senior Scholar and Program Area Director, Youth Development, Child Trends

Dr. Kristin Moore is a social psychologist who studies trends in child and family well-being, positive development, the determinants and consequences of early sexual activity and parenthood, fatherhood, the effects of family structure and social change on children, and the effects of public policies and poverty on children. She is the Chair of the Self-Sufficiency Research Clearinghouse (SSRC) Technical Working Group. Dr. Moore was a founding member of the Task Force on Effective Programs and Research at the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and served as a member of the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development Advisory Council as well as the bipartisan federal Advisory Board on Welfare Indicators. In 1999, Dr. Moore was awarded the Foundation for Child Development's Centennial Award for her achievements on behalf of children. She was designated the 2002 Society for Adolescent Medicine Visiting Scholar and received the 2005 American Sociological Association's Distinguished Contribution Award from the Section on Children and Youth. Dr. Moore was Executive Director and President of Child Trends from 1992 through 2006, when she chose to return to full-time research. Currently, Dr. Moore heads the Youth Development research area, where she is working to expand information on programs that work, implementation approaches that are effective, approaches to evaluation, and share knowledge with practitioners, funders, journalists, and policymakers. Dr. Moore has her PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan.



Jeanette Hercik, Senior Vice President/Line of Business Director, ICF International

Over the past 30 years, Dr. Jeanette Hercik has developed expertise in numerous policy areas, including anti-poverty research, welfare and employment, at-risk children and youth, family preservation and support, child welfare, early child care and education, community development, and the reengineering of federal and state public sector systems. She has provided strategic guidance and oversight on projects totaling up to \$12 million annually. Currently a Senior Vice President at ICF International, Dr. Hercik is an accomplished project manager, researcher, evaluator, writer, and consultant who has worked extensively with federal, state, and local government agencies; universities; private and non-profit entities; and community organizations to strategically plan, manage, evaluate, and improve human service projects and programs. She has spent many years researching, conducting outreach, and synthesizing research in the field through literature reviews, focus groups, and needs assessments, and effectively translating this research to practice for target audiences through briefs, brochures, fact sheets, toolkits, and reports. Dr. Hercik has a PhD with concentrations in Political Science/Public Policy and Developmental Psychology from Michigan State University.



Margaret Simms, Institute Fellow and Director of the Low-Income Working Families Project, The Urban Institute

Dr. Margaret Simms is a Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute and Director of the Institute's Low-Income Working Families project, a research initiative that explores challenges faced by nine million families and their 19 million children. A nationally recognized expert on the economic well-being of African Americans, Dr. Simms spent 21 years with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, one of the nation's premier think tanks dealing with public-policy issues of concern to African Americans and other communities of color, in a number of leadership positions. She began working at the Joint Center in 1986 as Deputy Director of Research, was appointed Vice President for Governance and Economic Analysis in 2005, and served as interim president from May to December 2006. Dr. Simms was a Senior Research Associate at the Urban Institute from 1979 to 1986 and directed the Institute's Minorities and Social Policy Program from 1981 to 1986. She was a faculty member at Atlanta University from 1972 to 1981, teaching first in the School of Business Administration and then serving as Chair of the Economics Department. She also taught at Clark College and the University of California at Santa Cruz.

In 1977 and 1978, she was a Brookings Economic Policy Fellow at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In addition, Dr. Simms has edited many books and monographs, including *Job Creation Prospects and Strategies* (with Wilhelmina Leigh), *Economic Perspectives on Affirmative Action*, and *Slipping Through the Cracks: The Status of Black Women* (with Julianne Malveaux). She was Editor of the *Review of Black Political Economy* from 1983 to 1988 and Board Chair of the Institute for Women's Policy Research from 1993 to 1998. She has been a member of *Black Enterprise's* Board of Economists since 1987 and was President of the National Academy of Social Insurance from 2007 to 2009. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005. Dr. Simms earned a master's degree and PhD in Economics at Stanford University.

TWG Members



Michael Bono, Human Services Administrator II, Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services

Dr. Michael Bono manages research activities for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (LA DPSS). LA DPSS serves more than three million people and is one of the largest public assistance agencies in the nation. Dr. Bono is responsible for the development and oversight of local research projects designed to bring new knowledge to bear on the effectiveness of policies and procedures. He is also the County's liaison for national studies and handles all aspects of research participation, from drafting agreements to data collection and extraction. In addition to conducting research, Dr. Bono plays an active role in strategic plan development and governance at LA DPSS. Prior to entering public service, he conducted research in psychiatry and developmental psychology and published articles on infant development, autism, and schizophrenia. He holds a master's degree and PhD in Human Development and Family Studies from Penn State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Bono currently serves as President of the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics.



Héctor R. Cordero-Guzmán, Professor, Baruch College, City University of New York

Dr. Héctor R. Cordero-Guzmán is a Professor at the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College of the City University of New York (CUNY). He is also a Professor within the Sociology and Urban Education PhD programs at CUNY's Graduate School and University Center. Prior to joining the School of Public Affairs at CUNY, Dr. Cordero-Guzmán was a Program Officer in the Economic Development Unit of the Asset Building and Community Development Program at The Ford Foundation.

Between 2002 and 2007, Dr. Cordero-Guzmán was a Professor and the Chair of the Black and Hispanic Studies Department at Baruch College and previously taught for six years at the Robert J. Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy at the New School for Social Research. Dr. Cordero-Guzmán has served on the Board of Directors of a number of non-profit organizations including ACCION-New York, the largest micro-lending organization in the United States; the Community Service Society of New York (CSS), the oldest and largest anti-poverty group in New York City; the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ), a federally chartered multi-million dollar economic development initiative; St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction, one of the largest and oldest needle exchange programs in New York City; El Barrio Popular Education Program, an adult education program; and the Association for Research of Non Profit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), a professional association. Dr. Cordero-Guzmán received his master's degree and PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago.



Gayle Hamilton, Senior Fellow, MDRC

Ms. Gayle Hamilton has designed, implemented, and directed numerous large-scale evaluations and demonstrations of programs intended to improve the well-being of low-income populations. She currently leads a random assignment evaluation of SaveUSA, a tax-time savings program for low-income individuals; co-leads an implementation evaluation of Project Rise, an education-conditioned internship program for "disconnected" young adults; and advises on a random assignment evaluation of WorkAdvance, a skill-building model that helps low-income adults prepare for, enter, and succeed in quality jobs in high-demand sectors with opportunities for career growth. Ms. Hamilton recently served as Project Director of the Employment Retention and Advancement (ERA) evaluation, a study that

undertook—in 18 sites—random assignment tests of innovative strategies to help low-income workers maintain and advance in their jobs. She also led implementation research efforts for the United Kingdom’s ERA project, the first large-scale randomized social policy experiment undertaken in the UK. Previously, Ms. Hamilton directed the National Evaluation of Welfare-to-Work Strategies, a random assignment study of more than 55,000 adults and 11,000 children in seven sites. She has authored many reports and syntheses and has presented research results at numerous conferences and briefings for program operators, government officials, policy analysts, and members of the press.



Christianne Lind, Program Officer, Northwest Area Foundation

Ms. Christianne Lind is a Program Officer at the Northwest Area Foundation, a regional philanthropy dedicated to reducing poverty and building sustainable prosperity. The Foundation’s region includes eight states: Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, and more than 75 sovereign Tribal Nations that share the same geography. Ms. Lind is responsible for the foundation’s initiatives and grant making to advance policy and system reforms. Before joining the Foundation in 2011, Ms. Lind was a Practice Group Director at The Finance Project, where she served for seven years. During this time, she oversaw an array of research and technical assistance projects on the cost, financing, and sustainability of social services, and coordinated a national funders group focused on income security. She holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.



Levetta Love, Director, Office of Economic Security, Colorado Department of Human Services

Ms. Levetta Love is the Director of the Office of Economic Security with the Colorado Department of Human Services. As Director, she guides the state’s effort to help vulnerable and struggling families become safe and economically stable in partnership with 64 counties and numerous nonprofit organizations. This is accomplished through the implementation of a variety of programs to ensure Coloradans can take steps to improve their quality of life through employment, as well as meet their basic needs in times of hardship through benefits such as food and energy assistance, child support, and financial benefits for aging and disabled adults. Prior to joining the state staff, Ms. Love spent many years in county human services departments managing assistance programs including: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), food assistance, Medicaid, child care, Adult Protective Services, and workforce development. With over 25 years of experience, Ms. Love’s career has included work with domestic violence survivors, cliff effect mitigation, poverty, employment programs, and early childhood development. She has served on many work groups, committees, and boards collaboratively developing policy and providing guidance throughout Colorado and nationally. She received a Bachelor of Science from Illinois State University, but is most proud of the “education through experience” she has received as a front line worker.



Renée Wilson-Simmons, Director, National Center for Children in Poverty

Dr. Renée Wilson-Simmons is the Director of the National Center for Children in Poverty, one of the nation’s leading public policy centers dedicated to promoting the economic security, health, and well-being of America’s low-income families and children. She has more than 20 years of experience working in program development, implementation, and evaluation in child and adolescent health and development and has committed her career to supporting better futures for low-income children and their families.

Previously, Dr. Wilson-Simmons was at the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, MD, a philanthropic organization whose mission is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of vulnerable children and families. She served first as the Senior Associate for Adolescent Health and Development, managing foundation initiatives and related grants and activities; and then as Associate Director of the Evidence-Based Practice Group, which is identifying, developing, and scaling up evidence-based interventions for children and families involved with public human service systems. During her time at the Casey Foundation, she was a participant scholar in the first translational health disparities course conducted by the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health.

Before serving at the Casey Foundation, Dr. Wilson-Simmons was a Senior Scientist at Education Development Center, a global nonprofit organization with responsibility for the development and implementation of a range of projects that address the health

and safety needs of young people living in high-poverty urban areas. She was also Director of the Health Promotion Program for Urban Youth at Boston City Hospital, Principal Investigator of the first Office of Minority Health-funded grant to develop a community-based coalition to prevent homicide in the African American community, and Director of a five-year National Institutes of Health study of the long-term impact of a comprehensive adolescent health program on reductions in multiple-risk behaviors related to violence, substance abuse, and early and unprotected sexual activity among inner-city African American and Hispanic youths.



Don Winstead, Consultant, Don Winstead Consulting, LLC

Mr. Don Winstead is a health and human services consultant in Tallahassee, FL. He has over three decades of state and federal service, most recently as Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). He began his career as a front line caseworker and served in a variety of positions in DCF and its predecessor agency, the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. From late 2001 to early 2005, Mr. Winstead served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this capacity, he was a key advisor on human services policy and was responsible for policy development; research and evaluation related to welfare reform; supports for low-income families; and services for families, children, and youth. In 2009 and 2010, he also served as a Special Advisor to the Governor of Florida for implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Project Staff



Courtney Barthle, Project Manager, ICF International

Ms. Courtney Barthle has provided technical expertise, product development, and field-based technical assistance (TA) methodologies to support Administration for Children and Families projects and initiatives since 2003. Having designed and delivered 100 plus TA initiatives for the Office of Family Assistance across regional, state, local, and Tribal TANF programs, Ms. Barthle has the field-based perspective needed to develop products and curriculum that are focused on addressing the challenges facing low-income families. This field expertise is combined with her current subject matter expertise and knowledge of the research base through her current role as Project Manager of the SSRC. For the SSRC, Ms. Barthle not only oversees an ever-growing library of research around self-sufficiency but also manages the development and dissemination of information, research, and field-based program tools targeted specifically to practitioner, policymaker, researcher, and foundation audiences. Ms. Barthle received a Master of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School at the University of Texas, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Albion College.



Yvette Lamb, Library Task Lead, ICF International

Dr. Yvette Lamb serves as the Research Director for CF's Family Self-Sufficiency group. Dr. Lamb has more than 20 years of experience in evaluation, policy, and practice in community-based interventions, education, TANF, and healthcare delivery. She served as Project Manager on the evaluation of the Communities in Schools project, which focuses on fostering positive youth development; Project Director for the Children's Bureau Systems of Care project designed to improve outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system; and Senior Researcher and technical assistance provider to the Urban Partnerships for Welfare Reform, an initiative intended to improve service delivery to TANF recipients in urban centers. Most recently, Dr. Lamb served as the Director of the Promising Pathways Initiative, which documented the development of evidence informed practice in TANF programming. Prior to joining ICF, she developed her skill set by conducting numerous evaluations of national and international initiatives in health and education and directing and supporting the planning and evaluation processes of community-based partners involved in child health, family support, and early literacy.



Zakia Redd, Products Task Lead, Child Trends

Ms. Zakia Redd is a Senior Research Scientist at Child Trends with more than 13 years of experience studying programs and policies affecting low-income children and families. She manages a Social Innovation Fund evaluation project focusing on improving employment and education outcomes among low-income youth in the National Capital Region. She also works on the team responsible for managing the SSRC. Prior to joining Child Trends in 2009, Ms. Redd was a Senior Research and Evaluation Officer at The Wallace Foundation, where she designed, commissioned, and managed large-scale, multi-site random assignment, quasi-experimental, and implementation studies of community-based initiatives in several cities. During her earlier tenure at Child Trends, Ms. Redd served as the lead analyst on several projects, conducting analyses using the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the National Survey of America's Families, and state-level welfare demonstration databases. She holds a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University.