

*The Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy
and the Urban Institute*

**REDUCING POVERTY AND ECONOMIC DISTRESS
AFTER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT CONFERENCE**

January 15, 2010

Speaker and Author Biographies

Panel III: Children and Families

Lawrence Aber (Presenter)

Professor of Applied Psychology and Public Policy, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University

Lawrence Aber is Distinguished Professor of Applied Psychology and Public Policy at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University, where he also serves as board chair of its Institute of Human Development and Social Change. Dr. Aber earned his Ph.D. from Yale University and an A.B. from Harvard University. He previously taught at Barnard College, Columbia University and at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, where he also directed the National Center for Children in Poverty. He is an internationally recognized expert in child development and social policy and recently has co-edited *Neighborhood Poverty: Context and Consequences for Children* (1997, Russell Sage Foundation), *Assessing the Impact of September 11th 2001 on Children Youth and Parents: Lessons for Applied Developmental Science* (2004, Erlbaum) and *Child Development and Social Policy: Knowledge for Action* (2007, APA Publications).

His basic research examines the influence of poverty and violence, at the family and community levels, on the social, emotional, behavioral, cognitive and academic development of children and youth. Dr. Aber also designs and conducts rigorous evaluations of innovative programs and policies for children, youth and families, such as violence prevention, literacy development, welfare reform and comprehensive services initiatives. He has been a recipient of a William T. Grant Faculty Scholar award as well as a Visiting Scholar award from the Russell Sage Foundation. Dr. Aber testifies frequently before Congress, state legislatures and other deliberative policy forums. The media, public officials, private foundations and leading non-profit organizations also frequently seek his opinion or advice about pressing matters concerning child and family well-being. In 2006, Dr. Aber was appointed by the Mayor of New York City to the Commission for Economic Opportunity, an initiative to help reduce poverty and increase economic opportunity in New York City. In 2007, Dr. Aber served as the Nannerl O. Keohane Distinguished Visiting Professor at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2008 and 2009, he served part-time as Visiting Research Professor in Evidence-based Social Interventions in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford. He is also Chair of the Board of Directors of the Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa; and of the Forum for Youth Investment in Washington, D.C.

Ajay Chaudry (Co-Author)

Director, Labor, Human Services, and Population Center, Urban Institute

Ajay Chaudry directs the Center on Labor, Human Services and Populations at the Urban Institute. The center examines public policies and initiatives affecting the U.S. labor force, children, and immigrants. Dr. Chaudry's research focuses on low-income working families, the employment dynamics of low-wage working mothers, the well-being and development of children from immigrant families, and the early childhood care system for young children. From 2004 to 2006 Dr. Chaudry served as the Deputy Commissioner for Child Care and Head Start at New York City Administration for Children Services, where he oversaw the early childhood development programs serving 150,000 low-income children in the city. He is the author of the book, *Putting Children First: How Low-wage Working Mothers Manage Child Care*, and articles related to child poverty, welfare reform, and the children of immigrant families. He has expertise in using in-depth qualitative research methods and working with low-income working families in urban neighborhoods.

Maria Cancian (Presenter)

Professor of Public Affairs and Social Work, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Maria Cancian is Professor of Public Affairs and Social Work and an affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research considers the relationship between public policies and changes in marriage, fertility and employment, with a focus on the implications of child support policy for the well-being of divorced and never-married families, the employment and income of women who have received welfare, and the impact of married women's growing employment and earnings on marriage patterns and the inter- and intra-household distribution of income. Ongoing research projects consider the implications of multiple partner fertility for family organization and policy, as well as the interactions of the incarceration, child welfare and child support systems.

Professor Cancian has been a Visiting Scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation, a Visiting Fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, and will spend 2010-11 as a W. T. Grant Foundation Distinguished Fellow in residence at the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. She has served as Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty and Vice President of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. She received her doctorate in Economics from the University of Michigan.

Daniel Meyer (Co-Author)

Professor, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Daniel Meyer is the Mary C. Jacoby Distinguished Professor of Social Work and an Affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has an MSW/MBA from Washington University and a PhD in social welfare from University of Wisconsin - Madison. His research and writing focuses on anti-poverty policy, especially welfare and child support policy.

Deborah Reed (Co-Author)

Mathematica Policy Research

Debbie Reed is Director of Research of Mathematica's Oakland, California, office. She is an expert in child poverty and well-being, immigration, income and labor market issues, and racial and ethnic disparities. Prior to joining Mathematica in 2009, Reed was director of research and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). Her recent publications include *Sanctions and Time Limits in California's Welfare Program*, *Poverty in California: Moving Beyond the Federal Measure*, and *Retention of New Teachers in California*. She holds a PhD in Economics from Yale University.

Ruth Friedman (Discussant)

Senior Education Policy Advisor, House Committee on Education and Labor

Ruth Friedman is a Senior Education Policy Advisor with the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Education and Labor and Chairman George Miller (D-CA). She covers policies relating to children and families, including early education, child abuse, juvenile delinquency, and TANF. She has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and an M.A. in Public Policy. Prior to coming to Washington, she worked as a researcher, focusing on resiliency in children and families in contexts of poverty and on prevention and intervention programs. She also previously worked as a child and family therapist in low-income communities.

Wade Horn (Discussant)

Director, Deloitte Consulting LLP

Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., is a director in Deloitte Consulting LLP's Public Sector Practice, focusing on helping state governments provide effective and efficient health and human services that are client-focused and compliant with federal laws, regulations and reporting requirements. Prior to coming to Deloitte, Dr. Horn served from 2001 to 2007 as the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) where he oversaw over 60 federal programs with a total budget of \$47 billion aimed at improving the well-being of children and helping families achieve self-sufficiency, including welfare, child welfare, adoption, child support, Head Start, child care, and refugee resettlement.

From 1994-2001, Dr. Horn was President of the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) whose mission is to improve the well-being of children by increasing the number of children growing up with involved, committed and responsible fathers. From 1989-1993, Dr. Horn was the Commissioner for Children, Youth and Families, and Chief of the Children's Bureau within the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Horn also served as a Presidential appointee to the National Commission on Children from 1990-1993, a member of the National Commission on Childhood Disability from 1994-1995, a member of the U.S. Advisory Board on Welfare Indicators from 1996-1997, and a member of the U.S. Advisory Board on Kinship Care from 1998-1999. Prior to these appointments, Dr. Horn was the Director of Outpatient Psychological Services at the Children's Hospital National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at George Washington University. Dr. Horn also has served as a member of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Head Start Research and Evaluation, an adjunct faculty at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute, and an affiliate scholar with the Hudson Institute.

Dr. Horn has written numerous articles relevant to children and family issues, including a weekly newspaper column entitled *Fatherly Advice*, and is the co-author of several books including *The Better Homes and Gardens New Father Book* (Meredith Books, 1998) and the *Better Homes and Gardens New Teen Book* (Meredith Books, 1999). He is also the lead editor of *The Fatherhood Movement: a Call to Action* (Lexington Books, 1998).

Dr. Horn received his Ph.D. in clinical child psychology from Southern Illinois University in 1981. He lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland, with his wife and two daughters.

Olivia Golden (*Panel Chair*)

Institute Fellow, Urban Institute

Olivia Golden, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute, is an expert in child and family programs at the federal, state, and local levels with a special interest in the way services are delivered on the front lines.

Golden first served as a senior fellow at the Institute from 2004 to early 2007, guiding its Assessing the New Federalism project, which tracked the federal government's transfer of authority for health and social welfare programs to states. She later shepherded the project's transformation into a research unit focusing on low-income working families.

During 2007, she oversaw the management of all state government agencies as Eliot Spitzer's director of state operations in his first year as New York's governor. She returned to the Urban Institute as a senior fellow in January 2008.

From 2001 to 2004, she was director of the Child and Family Services Agency of the District of Columbia, leading the agency out of federal court receivership. From 1993 to 2001, she served in two presidentially appointed positions within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, first as commissioner for children, youth, and families and then as assistant secretary for children and families. In these roles, she was responsible for over 60 programs, including Head Start, Early Head Start, child care, and child abuse and neglect.

She was also director of programs and policy at the Children's Defense Fund (1991–1993), a lecturer in public policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government at (1987–1991), and budget director of Massachusetts's Executive Office of Human Services (1983–1985). Her book, *Poor Children and Welfare Reform* (1992), draws lessons from welfare programs around the country that tried to make a difference to families by serving two generations, both parent and child.

Golden holds a doctorate and a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, where she earned a B.A. in philosophy and government.