

*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 IV: Income Maintenance Programs

Dottie Rosenbaum (Presenter)

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Dorothy Rosenbaum is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Her work focuses primarily on federal and state issues in the Food Stamp Program as well as issues that involve the coordination of food stamps and other state-administered health and income security programs, such as Medicaid, TANF, and child care. In addition, Rosenbaum has expertise on the federal budget and budget process.

Before joining the Center, Rosenbaum was a budget analyst at the Congressional Budget Office for six years. She projected federal spending and provided Congress with cost estimates for a variety of programs including: Food Stamps, Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Child Nutrition, and Elementary and Secondary Education.

LaDonna Pavetti (Co-Author)

Director, Welfare Reform and Income Support, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Dr. LaDonna Pavetti is the Director of the Welfare Reform and Income Support Division at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. In this capacity, she oversees the Center's work analyzing poverty trends and assessing the nation's income support programs, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Before joining the Center in 2009, Dr. Pavetti spent 12 years as a senior researcher at Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., where she directed numerous research projects examining various aspects of TANF implementation and strategies to address the needs of the hard-to-employ. She has also served as a researcher at the Urban Institute, a consultant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on welfare reform issues, and a policy analyst for the District of Columbia's Commission on Social Services. In addition, for several years she was a social worker in Chicago and Washington, DC.

Dr. Pavetti has an A.M. in social work from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in public policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Michael Wiseman (Presenter)

Research Professor of Public Policy and Economics, George Washington Institute of Public Policy: SSI Disability

Michael Wiseman is Research Professor of Public Policy, Public Administration, and Economics in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University. Before coming to Washington he was Professor of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley (18 years) and Professor of Public Policy, Urban and Regional Planning, and Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (10 years). His work has focused on issues related to poverty, public management, and public finance. He is a consultant on evaluation for the Social Security Administration's Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, the Economic Research Service of the US Department of Agriculture, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Department for Work and Pensions in the United Kingdom, and MDRC.

David Hansell (Discussant)

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

David Hansell is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families, within the Department of Health and Human Services. He is currently serving as Acting Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Hansell served from 2007-2009 as Commissioner of the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), the state agency charged with oversight of support programs and economic assistance for low-income New Yorkers. From 2002-2006, Mr. Hansell served as Chief of Staff of the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA). From 1997-2001, he was the Associate Commissioner for HIV Services at the New York City Department of Health, and subsequently served as Associate Commissioner for Planning and Program Implementation.

Prior to his government experience, Mr. Hansell served in a range of positions at Gay Men's Health Crisis, including Director of Legal Services and Deputy Director for Government and Public Affairs. From 2000-2006, he was an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the New York University Wagner School of Public Service. He has also been a consultant on health policy and social services issues to a wide range of governmental and non-profit organizations.

Mr. Hansell is a graduate of Haverford College and Yale Law School. Among other honors, he is a recipient of an Outstanding Public Service Award from the New York County Lawyers' Association, and a State Leadership Award from the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty.

Sheri Elissa Steisel (Discussant)

National Conference of State Legislatures

Sheri Steisel is Federal Affairs Counsel and the Senior Director of the Human Services Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), where she has been on staff since 1988. Ms. Steisel plays a key role in the development of policy and lobbying strategy on state-federal human services issues and she has testified in 48 state and territorial legislatures. Her work concentrates on three major categories: income security & social services, food & nutrition, and immigration. Ms. Steisel is considered an expert on federal welfare law and she staffed NCSL's Task Force on Welfare Reform Reauthorization. Ms. Steisel represents NCSL in the current discussions on immigration reform and is staff director of NCSL's Executive Committee Task Force on Immigration and the States, which drafted a NCSL policy on immigration reform that was adopted unanimously in August 2009. She is the founder of the State and Local Coalition on Immigration and helped develop NCSL's Immigrant Policy Project, where she serves as a Governing Board member. Ms. Steisel previously worked for New York City's Human Resources Administration in the Income Maintenance Division on welfare policy, analyzing policies and creating strategy for the Commissioner of Income Maintenance. Ms. Steisel also was staff to the U.S. House Committee on Post Office & Civil Service, specializing in human resources. Ms. Steisel served as a member of NCSL Advisory Committee on Responsible Fatherhood. Ms.

Steisel serves on the Public Policy Advisory Group for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and has served on the Policy Council for the National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families. She received her Master of Public Policy degree with concentrations in human services policy and press, politics and public opinion from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and received her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

Sheila Zedlewski (Panel Chair)

Director, Income and Benefits Policy Center, Urban Institute

Sheila Zedlewski is the director of the Income and Benefits Policy (IBP) Center at the Urban Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank based in Washington DC. The IBP center houses about 30 researchers that evaluate the effectiveness of private and public systems for generating and distributing income in the United States. Center researchers monitor all components of these systems--including wages, pensions, and government taxes and transfers. Ms. Zedlewski is a specialist in the areas of income security and poverty. She recently completed several studies that use a modern poverty measure to assess the effectiveness of policies to increase work supports and adult training and education. She is currently leading a synthesis of research pertaining to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program in preparation for 2010 reauthorization discussions. Zedlewski has published numerous articles and research papers on work support programs, participation in food stamps and other nutrition assistance programs, trends in poverty, and the changing characteristics of parents on welfare.