**Building Family-Centered Coaching Approaches for Low-Income Families**

Convened by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Mathematica Policy Research

1100 First Street NE

Washington, DC

Monday, March 21 – Tuesday, March 22, 2016

**Attendee Bios**

**Elisabeth Babcock**, *President and CEO*, Crittenton Women’s Union

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Elisabeth Babcock (Beth) is the President and CEO of the Crittenton Women’s Union (CWU). Beth’s role as CEO is to lead CWU in its strategy to be a research and innovations powerhouse, consistently delivering new programmatic and public policy approaches that expedite pathways out of poverty. Beth received her Master’s Degree in City and Regional Planning from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and her Ph.D. in non-profit strategy from Harvard’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

**Anthony Barrows**, *Vice President*, ideas42

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Anthony Barrows is a Vice President at the behavioral economics firm ideas42 where he focuses on domestic poverty, local government, post-secondary education, and civic engagement. Anthony holds a BA in Philosophy and Art from UMass Boston, an MFA in Printmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute, and an MPA from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government where he was a Gleitsman Fellow at the Center for Public Leadership.

**Diane Bellem**, *Vice President, Program*, Sheltering Arms

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**Diane Bellem has more than 32 years of experience in developing and managing direct services for children and families in community-based organizations and in implementing training and technical assistance for frontline staff and supervisors. Ms. Bellem is certified by Temple University as a training facilitator for the Family Development Credential and the FDC Leaders course. She holds a Master’s degree from the State University of West Georgia and a BA from Atlanta Christian College.**

**Lindsey Blanding**, *Program Design Lead*, The Prosperity Agenda

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Lindsey holds a Master of Public Administration from the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington and has over ten years of experience in the non-profit sector. She is responsible for developing and leading The Prosperity Agenda’s user-centered approach to program design, including the collaborative development of the Career & Life Coaching Toolkit.

**Bethany Boland**, *Researcher*, Abt Associates, Inc.

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Bethany Boland is a Senior Analyst in the Social and Economic Policy Division at Abt Associates, a research firm that specializes in impact evaluations of government programs. In this capacity she supports both implementation and evaluation research efforts that examine social welfare and workforce programs. Ms. Boland has an M.P.P. from the Johns Hopkins University.

**Janae Bradford**,*Manager of Family Advancement Services and Partnerships*, CAP Tulsa

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Janae Bradford is the Manager of Family Advancement Services and Partnerships at Tulsa’s Community Action Project (“CAP Tulsa”) - an organization recognized for coupling high-quality preschool programs with complementary services for parents as part of a two-generation approach to breaking the cycle of poverty. Apart from her work at CAP Tulsa, Janae Bradford serves on the Tulsa Workforce Development Board. Ms. Bradford received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma State University.

**Susan Brooks**, *Program Director*, UC Davis: Northern California Training Academy

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Susan Brooks, MSW, is the director of the Northern California Training Academy at the Center for Human Services, UC Davis Extension. She has nearly 30 years of experience in social services, with expertise in substance abuse, child welfare, collaboration, team building, and supervision. She was recently recognized with the 2012 Distinguished Service in Training award from the National Staff Development and Training Association. She was recognized for her leadership in the implementation of innovative child welfare practices in Northern California to ensure better outcomes for children and families. She is the author of several publications, including a contributor to the "Toolkit on Coaching for Child Welfare".

**Rosa Maria Castañ​eda**, *Senior Program Officer and Senior Associate,* Annie E. Casey Foundation

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Rosa Maria Castañeda is a Senior Associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation with a crosscutting portfolio to advance opportunity for low-income families and children. In this role, she provides strategic guidance for the foundation’s investments in two generation strategies, including overseeing and coordinating its grants to support program pilots, build evidence and promote policy and system reform. She also manages a national portfolio of grants and designs and implements initiatives and projects to advance opportunity for immigrants and refugees, and to promote economic success for families in rural America. In addition, she oversees a four-state, nineteen-college initiative to improve retention and graduation for low-income students.

**Samantha Colyn**, *Community Educator*, Boulder County Department of Health and Human Services

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Samantha Colyn, Community Educator with Workforce Boulder County is a (almost) native Coloradan. While at work, she is passionate about facilitating and teaching career and financial workshops that lead to self-discovery and “light bulb moments”. In her opinion, education is the door to empowerment and growth. Working at Workforce Boulder County has allowed Samantha to combine her background and skill set in business and marketing with her (almost completed) Master’s degree in Adult Education & Training.

**Jessica DeJesus**, *Director of Community and Career Services*, Albany Community Action Partnership

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Jessica DeJesus has been employed with Albany Community Action Partnership (ACAP) since 1998 and is currently the Director for Community & Career Services. Jessica has over 20 years working with nonprofits and specializes in community building & program planning. Outside of ACAP, Jessica is also a Family Development Credentialing Instructor with the University of Connecticut, field supervisor for SUNY Albany’s Social Welfare Program as well as 2 other local colleges, the Cultural Development & Customer Services trainer for ACAP and Coordinates the Free Volunteer Income Tax Program. Her passion is in knowing that her day-to-day work impacts the lives of hundreds each year & benefits not only individuals but also the community as a whole.

**Michelle Derr**, *Senior Researcher*,Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

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Michelle Derr is known for her ability to translate research findings effectively to improve public policies and direct practice. She specializes in evaluating employment and training initiatives targeted to public assistance clients, ex-offenders, individuals with disabilities, and other disadvantaged populations. Derr is known among federal and state policymakers and program administrators for her substantive knowledge of promising practices to help disadvantaged job-seekers gain employment. She presents regularly at national conferences, study briefings, and regional technical assistance meetings. She holds a Ph.D. in social work from the University of Utah.

**Diana Dollar**, *Executive Director*, The Prosperity Agenda

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Diana has dedicated her career to making communities stronger through healthy and stable individuals and families. She's an experienced and trusted advocate with a successful track record working collaboratively with state and local representatives to adopt policies and implement programs that bring about meaningful change for the people who need it most.

Diana holds a Masters of Public Administration from the Dan Evans School of Public Affairs at University of Washington, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from San Jose State University, California.

**Christine Doody**,*Training and Development Specialist*, Oregon Department of Human Services

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A Training and Development Specialist, Christine Doody has worked in a variety of settings within the Oregon Department of Human Services. As a trainer for Self-Sufficiency, Christine works to develop and deliver training and coaching that is relevant and related to the system goals and vision. Christine is working collaboratively with multiple staff within DHS as well as related partners to create and implement a sustainable agency culture shift. Christine is passionate about helping people and providing opportunities that support lifelong learning for everyone.

**Dana Emanuel**, *Assistant Director of Workforce Development*, New Moms

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Dana Emanuel currently serves as Assistant Director of Workforce Development at New Moms, where she supervises the agency's workforce services and its social enterprise, Bright Endeavors. Dana previously managed operations and the transitional jobs program at Bright Endeavors, and provided career coaching and support for New Moms' participants. Dana joined New Moms in 2010 after working in marketing for Whole Foods Market and Divine Chocolate. Dana holds a B.A. from Northwestern University.

**Ife Floyd**, *Policy Analyst*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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Ife Floyd joined the CBPP in June 2011 as a Research Associate with the Family Income Support Division. Ife holds a BA in Sociology from Northwestern University and a MPP degree from Georgia State University.

**Libby Foster**, *Coordinator*,Routt to Work

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Libby Foster has a B.A. in Biology and a M.A.T in Secondary Science from Colorado College as well as over 15 years of experience working with youth and non-profit organizations. She has been the coordinator of the previously known Routt County Bridges Initiative, now known as Routt to Work, since 2014.

**Talia Frye**, *Workforce Development Director*, Brighton Center, Inc.

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Talia Frye is the Workforce Development Director for Brighton Center, Inc., a nonprofit whose mission is to create opportunities for individuals and families through family support services, education, employment, and leadership. As Workforce Development Director she leads employment programs that focus on skill training, career coaching, GED attainment, and business services that served over 12,000 individuals in FY15. Talia is a proud alumnus of Northern Kentucky University.

**Sedonia Gentry**, *Case Manager*, Oregon Department of Human Services

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Sedonia has worked as a case manager for the state of Oregon for 6 years. She currently works in an office in Lebanon, Oregon, a rural community about an hour from Salem, the state capitol. Prior to her work as a case manager, she worked as the program manager at the Lebanon Boys and Girls Club.

**Susan Gewiritz**, *Consultant*, S. Gewiritz Consulting, LLC

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Susan Gewirtz is an independent consultant living in the Baltimore area. After 20 years of leading economic opportunity initiatives at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, she is working with foundations and non-profit organizations in areas related to supporting community college students, designing two-generation strategies, and helping communities implement integrated service delivery strategies. She also works with organizations on strategic planning, clarification and articulation of values and mission and staff development. Susan received coach training through the Coach Training Institute.

**Ella Gifford-Hawkins**, *Program Manager*, Larimer County Workforce Center

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In September 1999, Ella Gifford-Hawkins began working at the Larimer County Workforce Center (LCWC) as the Works Team bilingual employment coach, assisting program participants receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). In 2001, Ella was promoted to the Larimer County Works Program Manager. Ella graduated from Colorado State University with a BA in Spanish.

**Sarah Griffen**, *Consultant*

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Ms. Griffen is a national consultant in workforce development, strategic planning and policy to support government, foundations, and organizations in establishing programs, improving systems, and building collaborations that impact low-income populations.  She is currently co-managing the learning community for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s STEPS Two-Generation Initiative.  Ms. Griffen has provided technical assistance and management support to the national Working Families Success Network; for Rhode Island’s Workforce Innovation Fund grant; and for a range of career pathways programs nationally.  Ms. Griffen has national and state policy expertise in workforce, community development, and work supports for the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

**Richard Guare**, *Psychologist*, Center for Learning and Attention Disorders

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Richard Guare, PhD, a neuropsychologist and board-certified behavior analyst, is Director of the Center for Learning and Attention Disorders at Seacoast Mental Health Center. He serves as a consultant to schools and agencies in programs for autism, learning and behavior disorders, and acquired brain injuries. Dr. Guare has presented and published research and clinical work involving attention, executive skills, and neurological disorders.

**Sarah Haight**, *Program Manager, Ascend*, Aspen Institute

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Sarah Haight is the program manager at Ascend at the Aspen Institute. Ascend is a policy program of the Institute and a hub for breakthrough ideas and proven strategies that move parents, especially women, and their children beyond poverty toward educational success and economic security. She earned her Master of Social Work degree from the Silver School of Social Work at New York University and has worked as a therapist in direct-practice clinical settings with low-income women in New York City. She received her bachelor's degree from Barnard College.

**Ann Lyn Hall**, *Executive Director, Student Success*, Central New Mexico Community College

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Ann Lyn Hall developed the Center for Working Families (CWF) program at Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) and oversaw its expansion to seven sites in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As the Executive Director of Student Success, she is leading the institutionalization of this work now called CNM Connect to serve all of CNM’s 30,000 students. Ann Lyn completed her master’s degree in Counseling in 2006 from the University of New Mexico.

**Angela Hall**, *Project Director, STEPS-St. Louis*, Family Workforce Centers of America

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Ms. Angela Hall has worked in the nonprofit sector for over 7 years providing direct services to youth and adults in the St. Louis region. She has worked with TANF, WIA Adult & Dislocated Worker and ex-offender contracts. Additionally, she has provided organizational, administrative, data and financial support. In her current role as STEPS-St. Louis Project Director, she has been instrumental in cultivating existing partnerships as well as creating new partnerships in an effort to integrate two generation strategies in both workforce development and the early care and education fields.

**Crystal Hall**, *Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Governance*,University of Washington

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Crystal Hall joined the Evans School faculty in 2008. While at Princeton University, her primary research focus was on decision making in the context of poverty. In addition to her academic work, Hall has provided guidance to community organizations seeking to implement tools from psychology and behavioral economics into the design and delivery of their programs and services. Hall holds a Ph.D. and MA in Psychology from Princeton University. In addition, she holds a BS from Carnegie Mellon University in both decision science and policy and management

**Jessie Hancox**, *Integrated Case Management Program Coordinator*, Boulder County Department of Health and Human Services

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Jessie Hancox has been working in the Human Services field now for 11 years. In January of 2014, she was provided the opportunity to begin working as the Supervisor for the CO WORKS Case Management team in Boulder County, DHHS. She now supervises a group of 7 case managers and 1 data analyst. And they are one of the many counties in the country, that are spearheading that advocacy that she saw was needed so long ago.

**Crystal Hendricks-Kretzer**, *Program Coordinator*, Jane Addams Resource Corporation

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Crystal Hendricks-Kretzer, BME, MAM, is a program coordinator with Jane Addams Resource Corporation in Chicago, IL. Her focus is on outreach, case management, and coaching clients as they progress through the Careers in Manufacturing Program. Prior to joining JARC’s workforce development team she served as the adult education facilitator for a social service agency, designing and implementing curriculum ranging from math to life skills to digital literacy.

**Misha Hill**, *Research Assistant*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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Misha Hill has served as a Research Assistant with the Family Income Support team at CBPP since November 2015. She is currently completing a Master’s in Public Policy at The George Washington University with a concentration in Health Policy.

**Elizabeth Hodges**,*Women 2 Work Project Manager*, Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region

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As Women 2 Work Project Manager with Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region, Elizabeth Hodges is coordinating the STEPS pilot in Tacoma, WA. Women 2 Work is an employment and training program assisting single mothers of color with children between the ages of birth and eight that takes a two-generation approach to poverty prevention. She earned her MSW and BA from Clark Atlanta University.

**Tom Jaeger**, *Employment Counselor/Motivational Interviewing (MI) Trainer*, Rise, Inc.

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Tom Jaeger is presently using his MI background to provide training and client services in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation with an emphasis on Psychiatric Rehab and Substance Abuse Counselling. As A Member of MINT (Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers), he currently provides both initial and advanced customized 2 day MI training, monthly coaching circles and implementation of Communities of Practice (CoP) for Non-Profits in a multiple disciplines. He has recently added coding and individualized coaching using the new MITI 4.1.

**Chloe Kachscovsky**, *Project Manager*, The Prosperity Agenda

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As Project Manager, Chloe's confident hand guides internal and external stakeholders through the many-layered details so that every aspect of The Prosperity Agenda’s projects are both on track and on time.  For the Career Readiness Project, Chloe coordinated the development of the Career & Life Coaching Toolkit and Training and has overseen its initial implementation. Chloe holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington's Jackson School of International Studies and previously worked with U.S. House Rep. Adam Smith, Amnesty International USA, and GrassrootsLab.

**John Kim**, *Executive Director*, Seattle Jobs Initiative

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John Kim is the Executive Director of Seattle Jobs Initiative, an innovative workforce development agency that works with individuals seeking self-sufficiency through living wage careers, providers in the workforce development domain, as well as the larger social equity and poverty reduction systems. His diverse career includes practicing law with an emphasis on complex transactions and corporate structuring, serving as Vice President of Corporate Affairs for a community hospital, and as Chief Operating Officer of a multistate regional association of community health centers. He also has a long history of community service through non-profit board work. John is a graduate of Dartmouth College and New York University School of Law.

**Lindsay Kohler**, *Coordinator*, Routt to Work

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Lindsay graduated from Michigan State University in 2007 with a B.A. in Psychology. From 2011-2015, Lindsay was the AmeriCorps School-Based Mentoring Program Manager for Partners in Routt County. She is now pursuing her Master’s in Social Work while working as one of the coordinators of Routt to Work.

**Kyle Lee**, *Ingenuity Executive Director, Innovation and Development*, Central New Mexico (CNM) Community College

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Kyle is Executive Director of CNM Ingenuity Inc., a private not-for-profit corporation that was developed to help foster economic development in New Mexico and to forge links between education, business and government. Mr. Lee is the co-founder of Enevor, Inc. an innovative clean-tech company revolutionizing advanced material and biotech processes. Mr. Lee has his MBA from the University of New Mexico and BA in Economics from Stanford University.

**Jaime Lococo**, *Career Coach*, Larimer County Workforce Center

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In September 2011, Jamie Lococo began working for Larimer County Workforce Center as a Works Team employment coach, assisting participants receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Jamie provides intensive case management to participants who have additional barriers to employment such as severe mental health, addiction, and or physical disabilities. Jamie graduated from Colorado State University with a BA in Social Work.

**Brian Marroquin**, *Program Director*, LIFT-DC

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Brian works to strengthen and provide oversight of the daily operations of LIFT’s two offices in the District of Columbia. Brian provides training, supervision, and support for a team of eight Fellows and 60+ volunteers; he builds and fosters relationships with community partners; evaluates program data in order to analyze and improve program delivery and outcomes; and supports national LIFT communications and development efforts. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). He is a graduate of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership and the inaugural TRIALS program at Harvard Law School.

**Tiffany McCormack**, *Social Science Research Analyst*, Administration for Children and Families

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For the last two and a half years, Tiffany has been working as a social science research analyst in the Office of Policy, Research and Evaluation where she is responsible for several projects evaluating innovative approaches to help disadvantaged families achieve self-sufficiency. Prior to her current position, she was co-director of the Harvard Kennedy School Public Service Collaborative. She has a MPP from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Karen Murrell**, *Consultant*

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Karen Murrell is founder and president of Higher Heights Consulting and Training, a privately-held firm located in Silver Spring, MD that works with the financial services industry to develop programs and products that improve the financial well-being of all Americans. As president, Ms. Murrell brings more than 15 years of leadership and hands-on experience in the housing and financial services industry. Her clients include Fortune 500 companies, nonprofit organizations, financial institutions, and private foundations. Previously, Ms. Murrell served as a Senior Research Fellow at the New America Foundation, where she explored policy solutions to improve financial services and financial education..

**Jessica Newsome**, *Director of Training Services*, Jane Addams Resource Corporation

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Jessica Newsome is currently the Director of Training Services at Jane Addams Resource Corporation (JARC). While an undergraduate at Lawrence University in Wisconsin, Jessica studied psychology and worked as direct service staff at a domestic violence shelter. She started working with JARC as an AmeriCorps member shortly after moving to Chicago, and finished her master’s degree in social work at University of Chicago in the spring of 2013. Jessica is excited to work with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the other STEPS pilot participant agencies on the coaching curriculum and continuing to incorporate best practices into her daily work at JARC.

**Martha Oesch**, Oesch Consulting

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Martha Oesch has over 20 years of experience in workforce development and adult basic education. As a consultant, she works with non-profit organizations on the design and implementation of integrated employment and training programs, develops contextualized curriculum, and facilitates capacity building through trainings and peer learning networks.

**LaDonna Pavetti,** *Vice President for Family Income Support*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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Dr. LaDonna Pavetti is the Vice President for Family Income Support Policy 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. 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.

**Susan Pinné**, *Director, Trauma Smart*, Crittenton Children’s Center

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Susan Pinné has been with Trauma Smart since its inception in 2008. Her career has centered on therapy for preschool-aged children who have experienced trauma and coaching for their families and teachers. She served as a therapist in the Trauma Smart Program and has been a manager of the program since 2009.

**Sue Rogan**,*Director of Financial Education*, Maryland CASH Campaign

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Sue R. Rogan, AFC, has more than 20 years of experience in training, communications, and outreach on consumer protection and financial topics. As Director of Financial Education at Maryland CASH Campaign, Ms. Rogan manages the MD CASH financial education and coaching programs. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from University of Maryland Baltimore County. She blogs at [pennywiseconsumer.blogspot.com](http://pennywiseconsumer.blogspot.com/) and tweets for the Maryland CASH Academy [@MDCASHAcademy](http://www.twitter.com/mdcashacademy).

**Tricia Rubacky**, *Vice President for Development*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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Tricia Rubacky joined CBPP as Vice President for Development in January 2016. Prior to joining the Center, she served as Director of Development at Open Society Institute-Baltimore and Development Director for Advocates for Children and Youth (Maryland) and the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations. She has served on the boards of directors of Friends of VISTA, Moveable Feast, and the Homeless Persons Representation Project - Maryland. Tricia earned her B.A. in American Studies and Urban Studies from Douglass College of Rutgers University.

**Regina Salliey**, *Program Associate*, Annie E. Casey Foundation

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Regina Salliey leads the Foundation’s financial coaching work, which focuses on helping families improve their economic well-being. She also helps manage Casey’s efforts to build paths to opportunity — especially postsecondary education — for youth and young adults, ages 16–24, who are not in school or working. She earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Maryland.

**Paula Sammons**, *Program Officer*, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

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Paula Sammons is a program officer on the Family Economic Security team at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. She provides leadership and oversight for foundation efforts that build economic security for vulnerable families through asset development, workforce development, entrepreneurship and two generation strategies. Currently, Sammons leads the Foundation’s two generation portfolio. She holds a B.A. in family life education and a master’s degree in social work.

**Kumni Sobowale, MD,** *Psychiatry Resident*, Yale School of Medicine

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Kunmi Sobowale is passionate about improving the well-being of others by delivering mental health care through novel mediums. He has an interest in better understanding how social determinants of mental health affect thoughts and behavior and strives to leverage this knowledge to create better interventions for mental illness. He has conducted research in the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, Mainland China, and Vietnam. He has an M.D. from the University of Chicago and a BA in neuroscience from Yale University.

**Sophie Safah,** *Vice President, Program and Evaluation,*LIFT, Inc.

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Sophie Sahaf is responsible for leading LIFT’s National Program Team and supporting program design, implementation and evaluation across LIFT’s national network. In this role, she is responsible for identifying innovations to LIFT’s programmatic work and opportunities to refine and improve services offered to our members. Prior to this role, she led learning and evaluation efforts at LIFT, which involved building data collection systems, conducting analysis, and producing lessons for internal and external audiences. Prior to LIFT, Sahaf was a director at the Millennium Challenge Corporation. She has an MA from the Fletcher School at Tufts University, with a concentration in development economics.

**Brandon Stewart**,*Case Manager*, Oregon Department of Human Services

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Brandon Stewart is currently a Case Manager for the State of Oregon. He's worked in social services for the past 8 years. His educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Oregon State University and an Associated Science in Information Technology from Heald College.

**Devin Stubblefield**,*Education Design Lead*, The Prosperity Agenda

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As the Education Design Lead, Devin develops and manages a suite of coaching trainings offered through The Prosperity Agenda’s Coaching College. As the organization’s lead trainer, Devin knows agency environments continuously change, and new tools in the financial empowerment and coaching world are fast developing; he works hard to keep the work done by The Prosperity Agenda relevant to practitioners. Devin has been instrumental in delivering financial coaching training to over 200 organizations and provides technical assistance to agency partners, assisting front line staff to integrate coaching methods into client caseloads.

**Brandi Black Thacker**, *Director of Training, Technical Assistance and Collaboration*, National Center on Parent, Family, and Community, Engagement (NCPFCE)

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Brandi Black Thacker, MA MSW, has served communities as educator, case manager, advocate, director, trainer, technical assistance specialist, and consultant for over 13 years. She began her career in the mental health field, supporting children ages five to twenty-one with serious emotional disturbances. She also has worked as a Head Start Director and provided extensive, ongoing, individualized attention to Head Start grantees in six states. In her current role, she oversees the development of materials and delivery of all NCPFCE training and technical assistance nationwide.

**Megan Troy**, *Research Assistant*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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Megan Troy is a research assistant at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. She is currently finishing her Master’s degree in Public Policy and Administration at Northwestern University while working in DC. Megan has worked at several nonprofit and local government agencies over the last 10 years with a focus on poverty, homelessness, and family outcomes.

**Shelley Waters-Boots**, *Consultant*

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Shelley Waters-Boots brings over 20 years of experience as a writer, researcher and policy expert on issues affecting the lives of low-income children and families. She runs a philanthropic consulting business where she advises a number of leading foundations on investment strategy, research, policy and communications.  In the past, she was a researcher at the Urban Institute and has honed additional skills in senior positions at the New America Foundation and the Children's Defense Fund. She holds a BA from Furman University and a MPA from the Maxwell School in Syracuse, NY.

**Amy Weber**, *STEPS Project Manager*, United Way of Greater Cincinnati

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Amy Weber is the STEPS project manager at United Way of Greater Cincinnati; a 2 generational project funded by WK Kellogg Foundation to connect single moms with a career pathway and support the educational success of children. Amy first joined United Way in 2011 as a relationship manager and advanced into a senior associate role with a focus on financial stability initiatives, community level database systems and continuous learning & improvement strategies.  Amy received her BA from Miami University in Political Science, with a focus on civic learning and community engagement, and holds a JD from Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law.

**Carl Wieder**, *Senior Career Coach*, Larimer County Workforce Center

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Carl Wieder has been a Sr. Career Coach with Larimer County Workforce Center, Works Program for 7 years. Their participants receive TANF grants. Previously, Carl coordinated supportive employment services for people who have disabilities for the Center for Community Participation in the Occupational Therapy Department at Colorado State University for 17 years. Carl has a BA in Psychology and BS in Sociology and completed graduate work in Marriage and Family Therapy. His personal goal is to help as many people as possible improve their lives.