

Youth Homelessness

Developing Data-Driven Priorities

Wednesday, March 25, 2015
The Lyceum, Hartford, CT



Speaker Bios

Jasmine Hayes *United States Interagency Council on Homelessness*

Jasmine Hayes joined USICH in September 2014 as Policy Director where she works across Federal agencies to help shape policies that address homelessness among families, children and youth, as well as increasing access to employment and education. Prior to USICH, Jasmine was with the District of Columbia's Child and Family Services Agency where she served as program administrator for the state-level Office of Planning, Policy and Program Support. In addition to supporting development and implementation of the District's title IV-E waiver, Jasmine was also part of the core team responsible for implementing a system-wide model of trauma-informed practice. Jasmine holds a Master's of Social Work from the University of Toronto.

Beth Holger-Ambrose *The Link*

Beth Holger-Ambrose became the Executive Director for The Link in August 2013. Prior to this, she served as the Homeless Youth Services Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Human Services-Office of Economic Opportunity. The position included administration of federal and state funding streams, public policy and legislative work, research, evaluation, program development and the coordination of services for runaway, homeless and sexually exploited youth in Minnesota. Beth has a B.A. in Political Science and Cultural Anthropology and a M.P.A. with a certificate in Public Policy from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN.

Brian Roccapiore *CT Coalition to End Homelessness*

Brian Roccapiore is the Director of Homeless Management Information Systems and Strategic Analysis at the CT Coalition to End Homelessness. He has worked in the nonprofit workforce development arena for over a decade, improving the direct service work of his programming through the collection and analysis of data. He has overseen design, implementation, and continual improvement processes of statewide client data tracking systems for a variety of workforce development programs. Brian holds four earned college degrees, the most recent of which is a Masters in Sociology from Southern Connecticut State University.

Louis Tallarita *State Department of Education*

Louis Tallarita is an Education Consultant with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). His major responsibilities are as program manager to Connecticut Family Resource Center Program and State Coordinator to the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program. Prior to his employment with the CSDE, Louis also administered programs and services as a program specialist with the Connecticut Department of Social Services for ten years. Louis received his graduate degree in Social Work at the University of Connecticut, with a major concentration in administration and public policy.

Stacey Violante Cote *Center for Children's Advocacy*

Stacey Violante Cote has served as the Director of the Teen Legal Advocacy Project at the Center for Children's Advocacy since 2003. The Project provides legal advocacy to remove barriers that prevent youth from completing high school. Stacey works with teens in the Greater Hartford area and supervises Project attorneys at Bridgeport's Harding High School and at shelters and group homes throughout the state. Stacey is also the Chair of the Reaching Home Homeless Youth Workgroup, a statewide group convened through *Opening Doors-CT*. Stacey graduated from University of Connecticut School of Law in 2001 and University of Connecticut School of Social Work in 2000.

Elizabeth Grim *Partnership for Strong Communities*

Elizabeth Grim is a Policy Analyst for the Reaching Home Campaign at the Partnership for Strong Communities. She is responsible for researching, analyzing, and working with partners to develop policy recommendations for ending homelessness in Connecticut. Elizabeth has also served as the Program Director for Wayfarers' House of Meeting Ground, a shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness. Elizabeth has a Masters in Social Work and a Masters in Public Health from the University of Michigan.