

The Next Frontier: Ending Family Homelessness

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016
The Lyceum, Hartford, CT*



Speaker Bios

Sharon McDonald, *National Alliance to End Homelessness*

Sharon McDonald is the Director for Families and Youth at the National Alliance to End Homelessness where her primary focus is on policy and program strategies to prevent and end family and youth homelessness. Before joining the Alliance in 2001, Sharon was a direct practitioner in a Richmond, Virginia community-based service center for people experiencing homelessness. She has experience providing and supervising the delivery of social work services to families in a service-enriched subsidized housing development for low-income families. Sharon holds an MSW and a Ph.D. in Social Work and Social Policy from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Anne Farrell, *Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago*

Dr. Anne Farrell is the Director of Research at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. She began her career as a frontline worker in a home visiting child welfare program. Her work as a scholar is focused on producing, disseminating, and adopting actionable findings to improve the lives of society's most vulnerable children, youth, and families. Formerly on the faculty of UConn, she co-leads the evaluation of CT's housing and child welfare demonstration. She has conducted research and policy analysis on housing and child welfare, cross-systems collaborations in juvenile justice, and family and community resilience. Dr. Farrell has published numerous scholarly articles, technical reports, books, and book chapters, and leads systems change initiatives in partnership with public agencies, nonprofits, and educational institutions.

Kathryn Parr, *University of Connecticut School of Social Work*

Kathryn Parr is an Assistant Research Professor at the University Of Connecticut School Of Social Work's Research Department. Kathryn has her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Connecticut. Her areas of research focus include the economics of behavioral health and child welfare. Current research projects include federally funded studies of economic evaluations of substance abuse treatment for parents whose family is involved in the child welfare system and families involved in the child welfare system primarily because of housing instability. Kathryn previously worked for the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis performing economic impact and rate of return studies on public investments.

Lisa Tepper Bates, *Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness*

Lisa Tepper Bates is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH). Before joining CCEH, Lisa served as the Executive Director of Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality (MASH), providing emergency shelter and services to families with children in Southeastern Connecticut facing homelessness. During her work in Southeastern Connecticut, she led the development of the Coordinated Access system for families, helping to build a new level of provider collaboration to assist families in housing crisis through a "single front door."

Myra Jones-Taylor, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

Dr. Myra Jones-Taylor is the Commissioner of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood. The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood was established in 2013 to coordinate and improve the various early childhood programs and components in the state to create a cohesive, high quality early childhood system. She and Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman co-chair the Connecticut Early Childhood Council, which currently focuses on applying a two-generation approach to address the complex needs of families with young children experiencing homelessness and unstable housing.

Kate McEvoy, Connecticut Department of Social Services

Kate McEvoy is the Director of the Division of Health Services at the Department of Social Services, and is responsible for administration of medical, behavioral health, pharmacy, dental and transportation benefits for over 750,000 Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. Related, she oversees health policy aspects of Connecticut Medicaid's implementation of the Affordable Care Act, Administrative Services Organization contracts and associated special projects. She is also responsible for oversight of the Connecticut Strategic Rebalancing Plan, including the Money Follows the Person Program, State Balancing Incentive Payments Program, nursing home diversification and workforce initiatives.

Evonne M. Klein, Connecticut Department of Housing

Evonne M. Klein is the first Commissioner of the newly created Connecticut Department of Housing, the lead state agency on housing matters. The department provides a wide array of funding programs and services aimed at ending homelessness, increasing the supply of affordable housing, and creating new homeownership opportunities for Connecticut residents. Under her leadership the department has expanded its development as well as individual and family support programs and dramatically increased the state's investment in affordable housing.

Elizabeth Duryea, Connecticut Department of Children and Families

Elizabeth Duryea is the Chief of Staff of the CT Department of Children and Families. In this role, she oversees interagency collaborations, grant activities and initiatives that assist DCF in improving well-being outcomes for children and families involved with the Department. Prior to joining DCF, Elizabeth worked for the Connecticut Judicial Branch in juvenile court administration since 1997. Throughout her career, Attorney Duryea has been involved with many of Connecticut's juvenile justice and child welfare policy reforms, data enhancement projects and other system improvements that have helped our children and families.

Carla Miklos, Operation Hope of Fairfield, Inc.

Carla Miklos is the Executive Director of Operation Hope (OP). In this role, she has overseen the redesign of the asset management plan for the organization's supportive housing portfolio, has instituted a housing first philosophy and the expansion of opportunities for clients through coordinated community strategies. She has been an advocate for affordable housing, homeless prevention, and economic opportunity for over two decades. She helped develop the homeless prevention loan fund, a microenterprise development initiative, multiple Individual Development Account programs for youth and adults, and other programs designed to provide community residents with education, support services, and asset building opportunities.