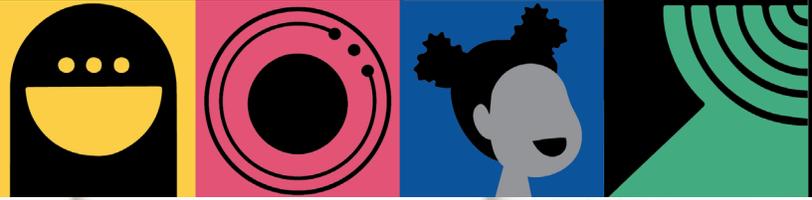


**2023**

**NAACFRC**  
Annual Community-Engaged

**RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

**CO-CREATING RESEARCH TO SUPPORT  
BLACK RESISTANCE AND JOY**



**JUNE 8, 2023**  
Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA



 **MOREHOUSE**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**NAACFRC**  
National African American Child  
and Family Research Center

Meeting Management Partner: Joshua Group, LLC | 1513 East Cleveland Avenue - Bldg. 100B, Suite 202 | Atlanta, GA 30344-6947 · USA  
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# CO-CREATING RESEARCH TO SUPPORT **BLACK RESISTANCE AND JOY**

This conference highlights community-engaged research by community leaders and academicians in the areas of economic/social mobility and early care and education. The presentations highlights strategies that build on the strengths of African American children and families and programs and those that affirm and create positive experiences and outcomes for African American children and families (joy) often in the presence of unjust circumstances (resistance).



This project is supported by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award (Grant #: 90PH0031-01-00) totaling \$1.8 million with 100 percent funded by ACF/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF/HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit the ACF website, Administrative and National Policy Requirements



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# Schedule of Events

## Co-Creating Research to Support Black Resistance and Joy

This conference highlights community-engaged research by community leaders and academicians in the areas of economic/social mobility and early care and education. The presentations highlights strategies that build on the strengths of African American children and families and programs and those that affirm and create positive experiences and outcomes for African American children and families (joy) often in the presence of unjust circumstances (resistance).

### Thursday, June 8th, 2023

**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM REGISTRATION & LIGHT BREAKFAST (NCPC Atrium)**

**9:30 AM – 10:45 AM GENERAL SESSION I & OPENING PANEL (NCPC Auditorium)**

#### The Role of Community-Engaged Research in Advancing Equity in Services for African American Children and Families

In 2021, OPRE issued a brief entitled, Enhancing Rigor, Relevance, and Equity in Research and Evaluation Through Community Engagement, which stated “Community leaders, community members, and researchers increasingly recognize that engaging communities in research and evaluation is critical for implementing effective programs and building trust. Researchers and communities also recognize the value of community-engaged research to improve the rigor and relevance of research and evaluation and better address historical and ongoing systemic inequities. Community-engaged research is more than a project or study; it is a process that requires commitment from researchers and communities to sustain long-term relationships and collaboration.” We will hear from community-engaged researchers and community leaders about the role of research in improving programs and services for African American children and families and ensuring services are equitable through positive outcomes.

#### Objectives:

- Recognize why research matters for advancing equity and improving programs/ services for African American children and families;
- Examine the significance of mistrust in research participation;
- Identify community-engaged research approaches with African American children and families; and,
- Identify outcomes and actions that result from community-engaged research.

**MODERATOR Latrice Rollins, PhD, MSW**

*Morehouse School of Medicine*

- Director, National African American Child & Family Research Center (NAACFRC)
- Assistant Professor, Community Health and Preventive Medicine Department
- Prevention Research Center, Atlanta, GA

**SPEAKER**

**Amanda Coleman, PhD, MA**

*Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)*

*Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*

- Deputy Division Director, Division of Children and Family Development

**PANELIST**

**Rodney Washington, EdD**

*Consulting Plus, LLC*

- Co-Investigator, NAACFRC
- Early Care and Education

**PANELIST**

**Nina Smith, PhD**

*Co-Investigator, NAACFRC*

- Rural Populations

*North Carolina Central University*

- Associate Dean, College of Health Sciences



**PANELIST** Nancy A. Flake Johnson, MBA

*Urban League of Greater Atlanta*  
 · President and CEO

**PANELIST** Danette McLaurin Glass

*Center for Family and Community Wellness, Inc.*  
 · President  
*First TEAM America, LLC*  
 · Chief Operating Officer / Senior Strategist

## CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1

### 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM **BREAKOUT SESSION 1-A (NCPC 207/218 – IN PERSON ONLY)**

#### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Simulator

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic experiences and may have negative long-lasting effects on the health and wellbeing of children through adulthood. ACEs are a reality for many individuals and families. This simulation was developed to provide a glimpse of the effects of early and chronic traumatic experiences such as abuse, neglect, and exposure to violence in homes and communities. The cases are real. The FACETS of ACES™ Simulator is an interactive, immersion experience to inform participants of the complexities of ACEs and how to be more trauma-informed and responsive in our work.

#### Objectives:

- Identify adverse experiences that can impact a child's development and response to stress;
- Identify a range of social and community impacts resulting from ACEs; and,
- Describe adverse childhood experiences through a 'trauma-informed lens'.

**FACILITATOR** Danette McLaurin Glass

*Center for Family and Community Wellness, Inc.*  
 · President  
*First TEAM America, LLC*  
 · Chief Operating Officer / Senior Strategist  
 · Rural Populations  
 · Associate Dean, College of Health Sciences

### 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM **BREAKOUT SESSION 1-B (NCPC Auditorium)**

#### Community-Engaged Research in Early Care & Education

Leaders from across sectors will share how their research and programs with African American children and parents in early care and education.

#### Objectives:

- Assess the landscape of work being done in early care and education with African American children and parents; and,
- Describe best practices and approaches to apply to their own work.

**FACILITATOR** Tandeca King Gordon, EdD

*Morehouse School of Medicine*  
 · Associate Director, NAACFRC  
 · Instructor, Community Health and Preventive Medicine

**PRESENTER** Y. Denise Mayhan, PhD

*Grady Hospital*  
 · Director, Practice Operations  
 · Women & Infant Health Services

**PRESENTER** Ashley A. Strickland, AAS

*Little Ones Learning Center*  
 · Assistant Director

**PRESENTER** Amanda A. Evans

*Hand, Heart + Soul Project*  
 · Early Care and Education (ECE) Program Manager

**PRESENTER** Kim L. Alleyne, EdD

*Brazelton Touchpoints Center*  
 · Director, Community Partnerships



11:00 AM – 12:30 PM **BREAKOUT SESSION 1-C (NCPC 325/340)**

**Community-Engaged Research in Fatherhood**

NAACFRC pilot project program grantees, who are leaders in community-based organizations in diverse sectors, will share their fatherhood research including perspectives of fathers in early care and education and health and human services.

**Objectives:**

- Describe the NAACFRC Pilot Project Program;
- Describe the importance of father engagement in health and human services;
- Describe fathers' perspectives on their needs, strengths, and experiences with health and human services; and,
- Describe best practices and approaches to be father-inclusive in health and human services.

- FACILITATOR** **Cassandra L. Bolar, PhD**  
*Co-Investigator, NAACFRC*  
 • Fatherhood / Family Dynamics  
*University of West Georgia*
- PRESENTER** **Kenneth Braswell**  
*Fathers Incorporated*  
 • CEO
- PRESENTER** **Jeffrey Shears, PhD**  
*Moynihan Institute for Fatherhood Research and Policy*  
 • Co-Chair
- PRESENTER** **Joyce Y. Hall, DrPH, MPH**  
*Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc.*  
 • Chief Program Officer
- PRESENTER** **Bevan K. Baker, FACHE**  
*UWM Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health*  
 • Assistant Clinical Professor  
*Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc.*  
 • Senior Research Advisor
- PRESENTER** **Amanda R. Brown, PhD**  
*Bridgepoint*  
 • Director of Research
- PRESENTER** **Larry (Leo) Davis**  
*Bridgepoint*  
 • Navigator Case Manager  
 • Adjunct Professor (Social Work)
- DISCUSSANT** **John H. Allen, MSW**  
*Office of Family Assistance (OFA), ACF*  
*Healthy Marriage & Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF)*  
*Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*  
 • Family Assistance Program Specialist

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM **LUNCH (NCPC Atrium)**

**CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2**

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM **BREAKOUT SESSION 2-A (NCPC Auditorium)**

**Community-Engaged Research in Economic Mobility and Poverty Alleviation**

Community and academic leaders will share how they address poverty and economic inequities among African-American children and families. Presenters will highlight approaches, research findings, lessons learned, and recommendations.

**Objectives:**

- Assess the landscape of work being done to address economic and social inequities;
- Describe best practices and approaches to apply to their own work.

- FACILITATOR** **Alexander Camardelle, PhD**  
*Co-Investigator, NAACFRC*  
 • TANF/ Economic Mobility  
*Atlanta Wealth Building Initiative*  
 • Vice President Policy and Research



- PRESENTER** **Alexander Camardelle, PhD**  
*Co-Investigator, NAACFRC*  
 · TANF/ Economic Mobility  
*Atlanta Wealth Building Initiative*  
 · Vice President Policy and Research
- PRESENTER** **Renee Peterkin, MPA**  
*The Georgia Resilience and Opportunity (GRO) Fund*  
 · Deputy Director
- PRESENTER** **Simone A. Smith, LMSW, NPM**  
*Clark Atlanta University*  
 · Student, School of Social Work
- PRESENTER** **Aaron Quick, MSW**  
*Clark Atlanta University*  
 · Student, School of Social Work
- PRESENTER** **Desha L. Elliott, MS**  
*Clark Atlanta University*  
 · Student, School of Social Work
- PRESENTER** **Sterling Johnson, MPA**  
*Partnership for Southern Equity*  
 · Director, Just Opportunity Portfolio
- DISCUSSANT** **Gabrielle Newell, MSc**  
*Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)*  
 · Senior Social Science Research Analyst

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

**BREAKOUT SESSION 2-B (NCPC 325/340)**

**NAACFRC 2022-2023 Emerging Scholars Showcase**

NAACFRC Emerging Scholars, who are doctoral and medical students who have been mentored for the past year by NAACFRC co-investigators, will share their research in education, economic mobility, and the health and well-being of African-American children and families.

**Objectives:**

- Describe the NAACFRC Emerging Scholars Program; and,
- Describe research findings in the areas of education, mental health, and justice and human services.

- FACILITATOR** **Robert M. Mayberry, MS, MPH, PhD**  
*Morehouse School of Medicine*  
 · NAACFRC Capacity Building Co-Lead  
 · Professor, Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine
- PRESENTER** **Aaron J. Neal, MS**  
*University of Michigan*  
 · NAACFRC Emerging Scholar  
 · PhD Candidate, Department of Psychology
- PRESENTER** **Breanna N. Chachere, MPH**  
*University of Houston*  
 · NAACFRC Emerging Scholar  
 · Medical Student
- PRESENTER** **Terrance J. Lewis, MEd**  
*Auburn University Auburn University*  
 · NAACFRC Emerging Scholar  
 · Presidential Research Fellow and Graduate Assistant (GA)
- PRESENTER** **Adrienne C. Jones**  
*Duke University*  
 · NAACFRC Emerging Scholar  
 · PhD Candidate, Sanford School of Public Policy
- DISCUSSANT** **Calonie Gray, PhD**  
*Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)*  
*Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*  
*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*  
 · Senior Social Science Research Analyst, Division of Family Strengthening





**3:00 PM – 4:30 PM GENERAL SESSION II & CLOSING PANEL (NCPC Auditorium)**

**Using Data and Research to Advance Equity and Improve Services for African American Children, Families, and Workforce**

Community leaders from diverse sectors will discuss the use of data and research to inform human services and ways to reduce the gaps between current human service practices and goals for better quality services and positive outcomes.

**Objectives:**

- Identify successful strategies to use research to advance equity and improve services to African American children, families, and the workforce; and,
- Discuss current trends in services to African American children and families and workforce issues that need further exploration or data.

**MODERATOR Latrice Rollins, PhD, MSW**

*Morehouse School of Medicine*

- Director, National African American Child & Family Research Center (NAACFRC)
- Assistant Professor, Community Health and Preventive Medicine Department
- Prevention Research Center, Atlanta, GA

**PANELIST Jacqueline (Jacque) Mull**

*Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*

- ACF Region 4 Regional Administrator

**PANELIST Jennifer R. Daniels, PhD, MSW**

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

*Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE)*

*Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*

- National Poverty Fellow

**PANELIST Howard W. Grant, PhD**

*Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority (FACAA)*

- President/CEO

**PANELIST Bisa B. Lewis, EdD**

*Black Child Development Institute (BCDI) – Atlanta*

- President

**PANELIST Feliciano Lewis**

*Georgia Head Start Association Board of Directors*

- Board Member

*Men 4 Men, LLC*

- Founder and CEO

**4:30 PM – 4:45 PM Closing Remarks & Evaluation**

**SPEAKER Megan Reid, PhD**

*Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)*

*Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*

- Senior Social Science Research Analyst

**SPEAKER Latrice Rollins, PhD, MSW**

*Morehouse School of Medicine*

- Director, National African American Child & Family Research Center (NAACFRC)

- Assistant Professor, Community Health and Preventive Medicine Department

- Prevention Research Center, Atlanta, GA





# Leadership



## LATRICE ROLLINS, Ph.D., MSW

*Morehouse School of Medicine*

- Director, National African American Child & Family Research Center (NAACFRC)
- Assistant Professor, Community Health and Preventive Medicine Department
- Prevention Research Center, Atlanta, GA

Dr. Latrice Rollins is the principal investigator and director of the National African American Child and Family Research Center. She is also an Assistant Professor at Morehouse School of Medicine in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine and Prevention Research Center. Dr. Rollins is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leader, whose work is focused on father engagement and father-inclusive practices in health and human services. She is the principal investigator for several community-based participatory research studies focused on father engagement in maternal and child health and violence prevention. She is the editor of the book, *Engaging and Working with African American Fathers: Strategies and Lessons Learned*. She is a social worker who has also worked in federal and state government to improve services to families. Dr. Rollins obtained her bachelor's degree in sociology from Spelman College and master's and doctorate degree in social work from the University of Georgia.



## ALEXANDER CAMARDELLE, Ph.D.

*Co-Investigator, NAACFRC*

- TANF/ Economic Mobility
- Atlanta Wealth Building Initiative*
- Vice President Policy and Research

Dr. Alex Camardelle serves as Co-Investigator for anti-poverty research at the National African American Child and Family Research Center at Morehouse School of Medicine, where he leads research initiatives that explore opportunities to strengthen economic mobility for Black families. Dr. Camardelle is also the Vice President of Policy and Research at the Atlanta Wealth Building Initiative (AWBI), an intermediary that seeks to achieve shared prosperity by building Black wealth. He serves on various local and national boards that seek to improve economic outcomes through policy change. Dr. Camardelle holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Alabama. He is also a graduate of Georgia State University, where he earned his Master's of Public Administration degree in policy analysis and evaluation and Ph.D. in educational policy studies. Alex's scholarship focuses on race, economic development, and political economy. In 2023, Dr. Camardelle was recognized with a resolution from the Georgia legislature for his economic and racial justice advocacy.



## DR. CASSANDRA BOLAR, Ph.D.

*Co-Investigator, NAACFRC*

• Fatherhood / Family Dynamics  
*University of West Georgia*

Dr. Cassandra Bolar has a passion to see families flourish and thrive. For over 15 years, she has been engaged in community-based programming and research efforts that focus on improving outcomes for children and their families. She currently serves as Co-Investigator for Fatherhood / Family Dynamics at the National African American Child and Family Research Center. She received her bachelor's degree in Child and Family Development from the University of Georgia and her master's and doctoral degrees in Human Development and Family Studies from Auburn University. She holds a Certified Family Life Educator credential from the National Council on Family Relations.



## NINA SMITH, Ph.D.

*Co-Investigator, NAACFRC*

• Rural Populations  
*North Carolina Central University*  
• Associate Dean, College of Health Sciences

Dr. Nina Smith serves as a Co-Investigator for the National African American Child and Family Research Center at Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Nina Smith is an Associate Professor at North Carolina Central University. Her area of expertise is in African American Households Rural Families. Dr. Smith holds a B.A. in Psychology at Spelman College. She also graduated from North Carolina Central University with a M.A. in Psychology. At The University of North Carolina she earned her Ph.D in Human Development and Family Studies.



## TANDECA KING GORDON, EDD

*Morehouse School of Medicine*

• Associate Director, NAACFRC  
• Instructor, Community Health and Preventive Medicine

Tandeca King Gordon is the associate director of the National African American Child and Family Research Center at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). She previously served as the Associate Director of the Prevention Research Center at MSM within the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine. Prior to joining MSM, Dr. King Gordon's focus was on elementary education. She began her career as a first-grade teacher in DeKalb County schools, and later in Henry County, where she taught for over 10 years. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Morris Brown College, a Master of Arts in Education with a concentration in curriculum and instruction, and a Doctorate of Education from the University of Georgia.



# Featured Speakers



## AARON NEAL, Ph.D.

*NAACFRC Emerging Scholar*

*University of Michigan*

• PhD Candidate, Department of Psychology

Aaron Neal (He/Him) is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Psychology at the University of Michigan. He has earned a Bachelor's in Biology from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and Masters's in Neuroscience and Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. His current research examines racialized contextual factors and their impact on the mental health, well-being, and development of Black youth. His research has been supported by the Ford Foundation as well as The Institute for Social Research at The University of Michigan. In addition to his research, he serves as a mental health therapist, an instructor at the University of Michigan, and consultant for behavioral health and education out of class time programming initiatives for minoritized youth. Upon completion of his degree in 2024, he aspires to pursue careers in the public service and government sector at the intersections of behavioral health research and policy.

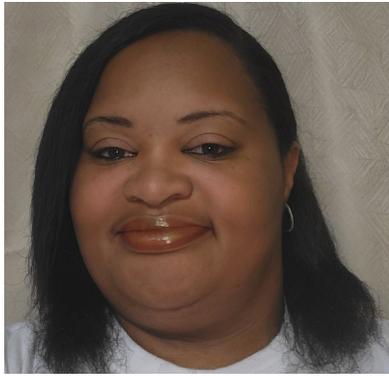


## AARON QUICK, MSW

*Clark Atlanta University*

• Student, School of Social Work

Aaron Quick (He/Him) is a proud alumnus of Central State University, a Historically Black University. He graduated with honors and earned his Bachelor of Social Work degree in just three years. After earning his BSW, Aaron continued his education and went on to earn his Master of Social Work at North Carolina State University. Currently, Aaron is going into his 2nd-year as a Ph.D. student at Clark Atlanta University's Whitney M. Young, Jr., School of Social Work. His research focus centers on the lack of mental health intervention for law enforcement officers and how a lack of mental health intervention is leading to police brutality. His goal post-graduation is to run for local, state, and federal officials in order to continue to advocate for new policies and legislation which will better the community-police relationships across the nation. *Research Interest: Criminal Justice, Policy analysis, Political Science, Mental Health of law enforcement officers*



## ASHLEY A. STRICKLAND, AAS

*Little Ones Learning Center*  
• Assistant Director

Ashley Strickland is the assistant director of Little Ones Learning Center in Forest Park, GA. She has been working at this center for 18 years. She has an associate's degree in early childhood education from Southern Crescent Technical College. She is passionate about working with young children and shaping their young minds so they can discover a different way of learning.



## ADRIENNE JONES

*NAACFRC Emerging Scholar*  
• PhD Candidate, Sanford School of Public Policy

Adrienne is a PhD Candidate in the joint Public Policy and Sociology program at Duke University. Her research interests include social stratification, inequality, and mobility which she examines through the lens of employment, training, and public policy. Of particular interest to her research agenda are the employment and training experiences of Black workers living in the American South. Her dissertation project examines how driver's license suspensions structure opportunities for mobility among participants of Durham Expunction and Restoration Project's (DEAR) Second Chance Driving program.



## AMANDA ROSE BROWN, Ph.D.

*Bridgepoint*  
• Director of Research

Amanda Rose Brown, PhD, currently serves as Research Director with the Ahlquist Center for Policy, Practice & Innovation at Brightpoint in Illinois. Amanda has served on the implementation and evaluation teams of multiple private and federally-funded projects that aim to improve outcomes for families through innovations in the child welfare system, the court/legal system, prevention services and pediatric primary care. In 2021, Amanda secured and co-directed one of five federal grants from the Children's Bureau to support relative and kin connections for children in foster care, promote shared parenting principles and address policy barriers to holistic supports for families in the state of Kansas. Amanda's work supports efforts to increase cross-sector communication and reduce systemic barriers to meeting the needs of all families. Amanda received her PhD in Comparative Human Development from the University of Chicago.



## AMANDA COLEMAN, Ph.D.

*Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)  
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*  
• Deputy Division Director, Division of Children and Family Development

Amanda Coleman is Deputy Division Director of the Division of Child and Family Development (DCFD). Amanda works closely with the Division Director providing strategic leadership and management across DCFD's portfolio of research. She also oversees OPRE's internal efforts to embed equity into our research, evaluation, and data work. Amanda joined OPRE in 2012 and served as a Society for Research in Child Development Fellow, Social Science Research Analyst, and Senior Social Science Research Analyst in OPRE before her current appointment. In these roles, she initiated and led projects on early care and education and early childhood home visiting. In particular, she managed a systematic evidence review of early childhood home visiting models, several descriptive studies of Head Start and Early Head Start, and projects on home-based child care supply and quality and early childhood systems integration. Amanda holds a B.A. from Howard University and a M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



## AMANDA EVANS

*Hand, Heart + Soul Project*  
• Early Care and Education (ECE) Program Manager

Amanda Evans is from New Rochelle, NY. She moved from New York and was raised in various suburban/rural areas of Georgia. She graduated from Georgia Southern University in May 2020 with a bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in outdoor recreation and tourism. While in school, she did an internship with Center for Sustainability. In 2018, she won the Green Eagle Award for her passion and initiatives towards Sustainability. Her primary focuses were university recycling initiatives and garden education in the local public elementary schools. Recycling initiatives included awareness to effectively recycle and reward programs for recycling in dorms and school events (ex: tailgate). Several students and volunteers taught after-school gardening in raised beds on-site as a scheduled program attending to elementary schools within the district. Now, she helps promote Hand, Heart + Soul Project by implementing health and wellness programs and events throughout Clayton County.



## BEVAN K. BAKER, FACHE

*UWM Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health*

- Assistant Clinical Professor
- Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc.*
- Senior Research Advisor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE, is Senior Research Advisor of Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health and a visiting lecturer at Marquette University's Law School. His scholarly work has focused on global health and health systems design, health equity and community-based participatory research. Previously, Baker worked as Chief Operating Officer and Vice President, Research & Analytics at START Treatment & Recovery Centers in Brooklyn, NY. He served four terms as Commissioner of Health for the City of Milwaukee. Mr. Baker graduated from the Medical College of Virginia and Winston-Salem State University. He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and a Diplomate in the American Society of Clinical Pathology.



## BISA BATTEN LEWIS, Ph.D.

*Black Child Development Institute (BCDI) – Atlanta*

- President

Dr. Bisa Batten Lewis is a best-selling author, diversely experienced education authority and renowned public speaker. Her publications include education and parenting articles, college textbooks, children's books and music, nationally recognized early childhood curriculum, and motivational books. With 30 years of experience in education, Dr. Bisa offers realistic methods of implementing high-quality research-based practices for both adults and children. As a public school teacher, lab school director, Head Start manager, college faculty member and dean, she's learned insider challenges firsthand. Professing as a life goal to advocate for children, Dr. Bisa is actively committed to upgrading the quality of education settings around the world. She proudly serves as President of Black Child Development Institute (BCDI)-Atlanta - the local affiliate of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI), helping to cultivate their mission "to improve and advance the quality of life for Black children and their families through education and advocacy".



## BREANNA CHACHERE

*University of Houston*

- NAACFRC Emerging Scholar
- Medical Student

Originally from Alvin, Texas within the greater Houston area, Breanna Chachere is a public health professional and third year medical student at University of Houston's Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine. She graduated from Rice University in 2013, earning a BA in Psychology and a minor in Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities. She also attended the Boston University School of Public Health, graduating in 2018 with an MPH and certificates in Community Health, Maternal & Child Health, and Chronic & Non Communicable Diseases. Breanna is a nontraditional medical student with previous work experience in drop-out prevention in Houston area schools, and project management in Massachusetts, where she coordinated statewide implementation of maternal health quality improvement programs to reduce maternal deaths and make pregnancies safer. Her hobbies and medical/research interests include promoting maternal and adolescent health, advocating for health equity, championing community engagement, and supporting Black and underrepresented youth access to STEM fields; all of which she creates content about on her med school blog and public health podcast.



## CALONIE GRAY, Ph.D.

*Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)*

*Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*

- Senior Social Science Research Analyst, Division of Family Strengthening

Calonie Gray's work focuses on adolescent pregnancy prevention and supporting children and families impacted by parental substance abuse. She has keen interests in quantitative methods, adolescent development, substance abuse, and health equity. Prior to joining OPRE, she worked as a research analyst in the U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education where she provided technical leadership on policy, research, and evaluation initiatives. Prior to her federal service, she worked in private, academic, and government settings--both domestic and abroad--conducting applied research and evaluations targeting public health issues, particularly among populations experiencing physical and social vulnerabilities. Dr. Gray holds a B.A. in Psychology and Spanish from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and both a M.S. in Counseling Psychology and Ph.D. in Life-span Developmental Psychology from Florida International University.



## DANETTE McLAURIN GLASS

*Center for Family and Community Wellness, Inc.*

- President

*First TEAM America, LLC*

- Chief Operating Officer / Senior Strategist

Danette McLaurin Glass, Senior Strategist and Chief Operating Officer for First TEAM America, LLC a regional training, technical assistance, and project management agency, began serving families in crisis as a college student. With over 35 years of community engagement experience, Danette began developing strategies to assist struggling nonprofits (as a labor of love in 1990) with capacity building and strategic partnerships. During the height of a successful hotel investment career, Danette was compelled to leave corporate America and follow her true passion “to serve our region’s most vulnerable youth and families.” Danette has integrated her passion for family wellness, expertise of the collective impact framework and comprehensive development skills; to establish or support dozens of prevention-enrichment programs positively impacting thousands of youths and families in the southeastern United States. She is a fierce advocate for eliminating the disparities in maternal and child health and has developed several innovative products, interventions, and strategies to promote health equity, and prevent infant and maternal mortality, Maternity Care and ACEs (Trauma) Prevention.



## DESHA ELLIOTT

*Clark Atlanta University*

• Student, School of Social Work

Desha Elliott obtained her BA from Northern Kentucky University (NKU) while starting her first tech company. She completed her MS in Management at Strayer University. After graduating from Strayer, she created PB7APP, an education technology app for student athletes and was Editor in Chief for a nationally distributed education and entrepreneurship magazine. She is a PhD Candidate in the Whitney M. Young, Jr., School of Social Work at Clark Atlanta University. She is a founding member of the intramural Professional Doctoral Network (Clark Atlanta University's first doctoral student centered organization), serves as student researcher for The Center for Social Reform, Equity and Innovation and the In Her Hands project and a hackathon advisor of the AUC Data Science Initiative. In her private practice, she pioneered a blueprint for the Black Farmers Equity Initiative. Her areas of focus are economic development, entrepreneurship and technology.



## FELICIANO LEWIS

*Georgia Head Start Association Board of Directors*

• Board Member

*Men 4 Men, LLC*

• Founder and CEO

Feliciano Lewis is the founder and principal owner of Men 4 Men LLC. Since 2019 he has been working with people who feel that they are at a crossroads in life. Prior to starting Men 4 Men LLC, Lewis received his bachelor's degree from Ashford University in Social Sciences and his master's degree in Special Education from the University of West Georgia. In 1992 he began his career as an educator and 28 years later he still has a passion of working with youth as well as adults. Lewis has been privileged to work with people and teams across the country to help them move past their obstacles and fears so that they can uncover their creativity and gifts. By using different facilitation tools and processes, Lewis can guide people to the clarity they need to live more purposeful and abundant lives. He currently resides in Atlanta, GA with his wife, Dr. Kristie Roberts Lewis and two daughters, Brianna and Trinity.



## GABRIELLE C. NEWELL

*Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)*  
 · Senior Social Science Research Analyst

As a career civil servant in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Gabrielle is dedicated to advancing equity through improving program effectiveness and responsiveness. Since 2017, Gabrielle has worked in the research office for ACF known as the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation.

In her role as a project officer she oversees large-scale evaluations of employment and work support programs, and also guides the incorporation of participatory methods into our research and evaluation processes. Since March 2021, Gabrielle has served a part-time special assignment with ACF's Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary, coordinating efforts to advance equity across ACF's 1) workforce, 2) use of data, 3) grants and procurements, and 4) programmatic and policy change. Gabrielle is also a community organizer in her non-federal employee capacity and believes, in the words of Toni Morrison, that we should "dream a little before [we] think" in our efforts to improve ACF programs.



## HOWARD W. GRANT, Ph.D.

*Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority (FACAA)*  
 · President/CEO

Howard W. Grant, Ph.D., is the President/CEO of the Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority (FACAA). FACAA's operating model provides a wide array of services to low-income individuals and families in Atlanta and Fulton County. The organization has helped more than 1 million residents through the administration of social services,

advocacy, and community education. Additionally, Dr. Grant served as the Senior Vice President of Governmental, External Affairs and Human Development with the Atlanta Housing (AH). At AH, he was responsible for collaborating with various levels of the community, including elected officials, and civic leaders to identify and implement strategic partnerships focused on homelessness, affordable housing and support services. His professional and academic specializations are governmental and community affairs, international relations, urban planning and public administration. His emphasis has been ensuring equity in the public planning processes that impact all areas of quality of life.



## JACQUELINE MULL

*Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*  
*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*  
• ACF Region 4 Regional Administrator

Jacqueline “Jacque” Mull serves as the southeast (Region IV) Regional Administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in Atlanta, Georgia. As an regional administrator, Jacque provides leadership, communication and coordination for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) staff in the region and partners with other HHS operating divisions, federal agencies, states, tribes, territories, cities, and communities. Jacque ensures program integration and implements high priority, results-based strategic initiatives to support ACF priorities and state, local, and tribal efforts. She is an avid runner and athlete who shares her love for a balanced lifestyle, is married with two adult daughters who help keep her pulse on how the next generation would like to serve and access our services.



## JEFFREY SHEARS

*Moynihan Institute for Fatherhood Research and Policy*  
• Co-Chair

Jeffrey Shears is the inaugural Co-Chair of the Moynihan Institute for Fatherhood Research and Policy and a Professor in the School of Social Work at UNC Charlotte. Dr. Shears earned his BSW and Masters in Education Administration from North Carolina A&T State University and his PhD in Social Work from the University of Denver. His research interest is men, fathering in low-income communities, and quantitative research methodology. In addition, Dr. Shears has an extensive list of academic publications on fathering featured in national and internationally refereed journals. He is co-author of the acclaimed “What all Dads Should Know” (CreateSpace Publishers, 2011).



## JENNIFER R. DANIELS

*Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison*  
*Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE)*  
*Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*  
• National Poverty Fellow

Jennifer R. Daniels is a 2022–2024 National Poverty Fellow in residence in the Division of Economic Independence (DEI) at the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE). Dr. Daniels completed her Ph.D. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy



in the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware. Her research interests include racial equity, poverty, and the provision and access to social welfare programs. Her dissertation research investigated state-level discretionary decision-making in the administration of SNAP and racial inequity in the receipt of benefits for able-bodied adults without dependents. Dr. Daniels also holds a Master of Social Work degree and is engaged in diversity, equity, and inclusion work for various non-profit organizations. In 2021–2022, Dr. Daniels also worked as an Equity Fellow in the Office of Evaluation Sciences in the U.S. General Services Administration (OES).



## JOYCE Y. HALL, Ph.D.

*Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc.*  
• Chief Program Officer

Dr. Joyce Y. Hall is the Chief Program Officer for the Brooklyn Perinatal Network in Brooklyn, New York. She has her doctorate in public health and over 40 years of experience as a public health practitioner and educator, and provides her expertise to minority community-based organizations. Her areas of expertise and research are health equity, maternal and adolescent health, capacity-building, and workforce development. Dr. Hall is a Health Equity Program Coordinator with the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists, placing undergraduate and graduate students from HBCUs in public health fellowships in governmental and non-governmental organizations. Her current research projects include developing a cardiovascular disease (CVD) curriculum for black college students in HBCUs; and exploring preconception health, birth outcomes, maternal loss and fatherhood in Brooklyn, NY. Her doctoral dissertation was on, “Preconception Protective Factors Associated with Preterm Birth in African American/Black and non-Hispanic White Women in New York City.”



## KENNETH BRASWELL

*Chief Executive Officer*  
• Fathers Incorporated

Kenneth Braswell is the Chief Executive Officer of Fathers Incorporated, a widely recognized national and international nonprofit organization supporting fathers, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers that provides capacity building services to thousands of organizations working to ensure that fathers contribute to the healthy well-being of their children. He brings 30 years of collective work experience managing and leading fatherhood and community programs. Additionally, he serves as the National Director of the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearing House (NRFCH) directing and guiding the strategic activities of the NRFCH.



## KIM ALLEYNE, Ph.D.

*Brazelton Touchpoints Center*

• Director, Community Partnerships

Dr. Kim Alleyne is committed to partnering with communities to build on their strengths. She has over 20 years of experience leading and studying training and community-building initiatives in the early childhood and youth development fields. Kim currently serves as director of community partnerships at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Boston Children's Hospital. She has previously directed federal training and technical assistance projects, funded by the Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care, and has held roles in corporate philanthropy. Kim's interests include family and community engagement, parent voice, maternal and child health, adoption, community leadership development, and stories of community activism. She holds an undergraduate degree in economics from Yale College, a master's degree in city planning from MIT, and a doctorate in education (leadership studies) from Northeastern University. A Boston resident, Kim cherishes her roles as a mother, daughter, godmother, friend, mentor, learner, and community advocate.



## LARRY (LEO) B. DAVIS, MPH, MSW

*Bridgepoint*

- Navigator Case Manager
- Adjunct Professor (Social Work)

The systemic inequities Leo has overcome contribute to his understanding and passion for systemic change in all domains of policy, economic development, and institutional programming. The problems Leo seeks to solve are linked to social justice and an effort to develop programmatic solutions, policy, and refined literature that support the growth and

development of black fathers, families, and children. Leo's research embodies the Culture of Health/ social justice framework(s). Research and lived experience will be leveraged to advance the theoretical model(s) he continues to develop (Davis: Fatherhood Support & Recidivism Reduction Model and the Davis: Adolescent Mental Health & Self-Esteem Improvement Model). Leo is a servant leader of the community and has overcome both the foster care and mass carceral systems. Through adversity, he has become an advocate for truth, service, and justice, qualifying him for the HPRS program.





## MEGAN REID

*Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)  
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*  
• Senior Social Science Research Analyst

Megan Reid (she/her) is a Senior Social Science Research Analyst in the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, where she has worked for eight years. Her work broadly focuses on the circumstances, dynamics, and well-being of families with low-income. She is particularly interested in research that can contribute to understanding and ameliorating the structural inequities that cause poverty. Previously, she was a National Poverty Fellow at the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Project Director at National Development and Research Institutes in New York City. She has a PhD in sociology from the University of Texas at Austin.



## NANCY FLAKE JOHNSON

*Urban League of Greater Atlanta*  
• President and CEO

Nancy Flake Johnson is an advocate, educator, coach, collaborator, strategist, and champion for closing the racial wealth gap, civic engagement, and the advancement of the Black community. She is also an advocate for unity, race relations and equity for all people. Nancy became president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Atlanta in 2008. She has served as Vice President of Programs for the Detroit Urban League, led Howard University's Small Business Development Center, operated an accounting and tax practice serving small businesses and non-profits and began her career as CPA with Arthur Andersen & Co. and Coopers & Lybrand, Big 8 CPA firms. Nancy is a Howard University and DePaul University graduate with degrees in accounting and taxation respectively and has a passion for empowering people, small businesses, and communities. She and her team operate the League's economic advancement programming that focus on empowering youth, adults, families and small business owners through economic mobility and entrepreneurship, and advocating for justice and equitable policies and legislation, public and private sector partnerships.



## RENEE PETERKIN

*The Georgia Resilience and Opportunity (GRO) Fund*  
• Deputy Director

Renee serves as the Deputy Director at the Georgia Resilience & Opportunity Fund. In this role, she plays a crucial part in the development and administration of the In Her Hands Guaranteed Income program. Renee holds a BA in Political Science from Spelman College and her MPA from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs.



## ROBERT M. MAYBERRY, M.S., M.P.H., Ph.D.

*Morehouse School of Medicine*  
• NAACFRC Capacity Building Co-Lead  
• Professor, Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine

Robert M. Mayberry, M.S., M.P.H., Ph.D., a nationally noted scientist, scholar, and an opinion leader in health disparities and health equity research, is Professor and former Vice Chair, Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM), Atlanta, Georgia. He also serves as Director of the MSM Research Design and Biostatistics Core. Dr. Mayberry has served as Director of Health Equity Research, Institute for Health Care Research and Improvement, at Baylor Health Care System (BHCS); Senior Epidemiologist for Minority Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and Assistant Dean, University of South Carolina. Active in local, state, and national health services and public health organizations, has also influenced policy and funding decisions for the CDC, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the National Quality Forum. He also serves as an expert consultant and scientific reviewer for academic, private, and federal organizations and reviewer for peer-review scientific journals. As a teacher and mentor, Dr. Mayberry was awarded the Abraham Lilienfeld Award by the Epidemiology Section of the American Public Health Association for his excellent contributions to the teaching of epidemiology.



## RODNEY WASHINGTON, EdD

*Co-Investigator, NAACFRC*  
• Early Care and Education  
*Consulting Plus, LLC*

Dr. Washington serves as Co-Investigator with the National African American Child and Family Research Center-Early Care and Education. He has a background in criminology and justice services, mental health counseling, and early



childhood education. In his current role as Owner and Lead Researcher for Consulting Plus, LLC, he uses the lived experiences of underrepresented populations to inform community engagement approaches and qualitative research methods. His community first engagement strategies seek to glean insight into underrepresented populations using an equity-driven, participatory research model. Dr. Washington serves as lead on several projects designed to support children and families with a focus on community-defined kindergarten readiness, developmental screenings for children birth to eight, and connecting families to mental health services. He also supports school districts and early learning centers to create population-specific, evidence-based interventions that consider how social determinants impact a child's educational experience.



## SIMONE SMITH

*Clark Atlanta University*

• Student, School of Social Work

Simone Smith is currently pursuing a PhD in Social Work, Policy, Planning, and Administration at The Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work at Clark Atlanta University. She is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) who received her Master of Social Work (MSW) and Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) from The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. She is passionate about social action,

advocacy, and justice in African American communities and has dedicated a great deal of her time in the social service field providing aid to marginalized populations. Recently, Simone started Sexual Trauma and Assault Resources Inc. (S.T.A.R. Inc.), a nonprofit organization seeking to end sexual violence in marginalized populations and empower survivors of sexual trauma and abuse. Currently, her goals are to guide individuals in addressing, healing, and recovering from sexual trauma and dysfunction.



## STERLING JOHNSON

*Partnership for Southern Equity*

• Director, Just Opportunity Portfolio

Sterling currently serves as Director for the Partnership for Southern Equity's (PSE) Just Opportunity Portfolio, where he oversees the administration of PSE's economic justice programs. To date, Sterling has provided guidance at the nexus of economic mobility and racial equity for hundreds of communities nationwide. Prior to joining PSE, he spent nearly 4 years as Director of Public Policy with Griffin & Strong,

P.C. where he led economic disparity research for state and local governments, non-profit organizations, and private businesses. Sterling holds a master's degree in public



administration with a concentration in Planning and Economic Development from Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and his undergraduate degree in Sociology from Furman University. He is also a Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium scholar, member of the Outstanding Atlanta class of 2022, and was recognized as a 2022 Emerging Leader by Bank of America through its Neighborhood Builders program.



## TERRANCE LEWIS

*NAACFRC Emerging Scholar*  
*Auburn University Auburn University*  
• Presidential Research Fellow and Graduate Assistant (GA)

Terrance Lewis taught U.S. Government, geography, and Georgia Studies for four years at the high school and middle school level in Columbus, GA. During his time as a classroom teacher, a few roles in which he served include student council sponsor, robotics coach and wrestling coach. He currently serves as an Auburn University Provost Fellow completing a

PhD in Secondary Education Social Science. Mr. Lewis has given presentations at local, state, and national conferences regarding best practices when teaching controversy within the social studies. His research interests include the pedagogical practices of Black men teachers/ teacher-coaches, teaching with documentary film, and Black History Education. He firmly believes a life serving others is a life well lived, so he takes pleasure in mentoring and molding those who follow in his footsteps.



## Y. DENISE MAYHAN, Ph.D.

*Grady Hospital*  
• Director, Practice Operations  
• Women & Infant Health Services

Y. Denise Mayhan, PhD currently serves as the Director, Practice Operations for the Talk With Me Baby (TWMB) initiative at Grady Health System, Atlanta, GA, US. At Grady, TWMB-trained nurses, certified medical assistants, and providers coach parents and caregivers on how to help their babies and young children build capacity for lifelong learning

and health. Since 2001, she has also been the CEO of Inspired Solutions Enterprises, Inc., a management, education and technology consulting company. Dr. Mayhan earned a BS in Occupational Therapy and PhD in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, and an MA in Occupational Therapy with a specialization in Developmental Disabilities at New York University. Over the course of her career in many areas of clinical and educational practice, Dr. Mayhan has demonstrated a passion for developing impactful programs, creating opportunities for professional growth, and helping to make life better for the people served.



**NAACFRC**  
National African American Child  
and Family Research Center