

PRESENTERS

Connecting the Dots: Using Linked Administrative Data to Improve Public Child Welfare Programs

WELCOME



Ann Person, Mathematica Policy Research

Ann Person, senior researcher and director of the Center for Improving Research Evidence (CIRE) at Mathematica, is an expert in postsecondary education and in the school-to-work transition. She has a decade of experience designing approaches to producing and applying evidence for program improvement, particularly in postsecondary and workforce education. She has worked as a teacher and as an administrator, and from 2009 to 2012, she served as the senior program officer for research and data on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Postsecondary Success strategy. Dr. Person has a Ph.D. in human development and social policy from Northwestern University.

MODERATOR



Matthew Stagner, Mathematica Policy Research

Matthew Stagner directs human services research in Mathematica's Chicago office. He is a nationally known expert on youth development and risk behaviors, child welfare, evaluation design and methods, and on the role of research in policymaking. His work focuses on policies and programs for vulnerable youth, especially for individuals transitioning out of foster care or into employment and postsecondary education. Before joining Mathematica, Dr. Stagner served as executive director of Chapin Hall and as a senior lecturer at the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies, both at the University of Chicago. He also served as director of the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute and as director of the Division of Children and Youth Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Stagner holds a Ph.D. in public policy from the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago, and a master's in public policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

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Maria Cancian, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Maria Cancian is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). In this role, she has responsibility for cross-program coordination of ACF initiatives, including efforts to promote interoperability and program integration. Before her Administration appointment, she held several positions at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, including professor of public affairs and social work, associate dean for social sciences and fiscal initiatives in the College of Letters & Sciences, and an affiliate and former director of the Institute for Research on Poverty. Dr. Cancian's approach is grounded in her academic research and in decades of experience in program evaluation and technical assistance at the federal, state, and local levels. She has engaged in research and evaluation of public policies and of changes in marriage, fertility, employment, and family well-being, with particular attention to the welfare, child support, and child welfare systems. She has also served as a W.T. Grant Foundation distinguished fellow in residence at the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, as a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation, and as a visiting fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. Dr. Cancian received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.



Bryan Lindert, Eckerd Community Alternatives, Hillsborough, Florida

Bryan Lindert is the senior director of quality management at Eckerd Community Alternatives. In this role, he is responsible for the quality of welfare services delivered to more than 6,000 children and youth in the largest, privately operated, child welfare system in the country. In January 2013, Mr. Lindert designed and implemented Eckerd Rapid Safety Feedback, an approach to quality assurance based on business intelligence that helped reverse a pattern of nine child homicides that occurred under a previous lead agency. He is currently working with five states on similar projects in addition to applying predictive analytics to other stubborn child welfare problems, including children being returned to foster care after a previous reunification. Before joining Eckerd, Mr. Lindert worked in system development for the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, where he also served as the child abuse prevention manager. Earlier in his career, he held a variety of positions at the Florida Department of Children and Families from the front line through administration, with a focus on protective investigations and domestic violence.



Jennifer Noyes, Institute for Research on Poverty and University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jennifer L. Noyes is the associate director of programs and management as well as a researcher with the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Her recent research focuses on the following: the integration of services and programs designed to enhance the employment prospects and economic well-being of low-income families and children; the implementation of policies and programs related to welfare, child support, and child welfare; and the collaboration between the research and practitioner communities in order to improve policy and practice. Dr. Noyes currently serves as the project director of the Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration evaluation. She has considerable experience in the administration and evaluation of social programs, having served as a program evaluator in both the legislative and executive branches of the Wisconsin state government, as a senior fellow with the Hudson Institute, and as a senior administrator in Wisconsin's Department of Workforce Development, where she had responsibility for Wisconsin Works (W-2), the state's welfare replacement program. Dr. Noyes received her doctorate in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

