

# PRESENTERS



## Spotlight on Responsible Fatherhood Programs and the Men They Serve

December 7, 2017 • 3:00–5:00 p.m. (ET)

### MODERATOR



**Waldo E. Johnson, Jr.**, University of Chicago

Waldo E. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D., is an associate professor in the School of Social Service Administration and a faculty affiliate in the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago. Dr. Johnson's research focuses on how developmental, physical, and mental health status impact the identification, assumption, and performance of urban black males' current and future roles throughout the lifespan and within a variety of contexts. He serves as a research consultant for the PACT evaluation, providing expert consultation on the development and implementation of the qualitative study to understand the lives and experiences of a subsample of fathers enrolled in PACT. In that role, he has contributed to the development of research protocols, conducted in-person in-depth interviews with participating fathers, and provided input and feedback on reports of findings. Dr. Johnson has an M.S.W. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in social welfare policy from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.

### PRESENTERS



**Seth Chamberlain**, Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Seth Chamberlain is a senior social science research analyst in the Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation (OPRE). He has overseen the Parents and Children Together (PACT) contract since it was awarded in 2011. Chamberlain manages research and evaluation projects on a range of youth, family formation, and family functioning issues, such as adolescent abstinence and pregnancy prevention, healthy marriage, responsible fatherhood, and domestic violence. His portfolio also includes issues related to low-income and at-risk lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations. Chamberlain is also the adolescent development research team leader, and much of his work focuses on healthy adolescent development and successful transition to adulthood. Before joining OPRE, he taught middle school Spanish in Chicago, interned at a program for men convicted of domestic battery, and interned as a clinical social worker at the University of Chicago Hospital. Chamberlain holds a B.A. from Goshen College and an A.M. from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.



**Robin McDonald**, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Robin McDonald is the division director of State and Territory Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Management within the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance (OFA). OFA administers several key programs, including the TANF program and the \$150 million Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) discretionary grant program reauthorized under the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. As division director, Robin oversees the implementation and oversight of the HMRF program and the provision of technical assistance to HMRF grantees, and works with states and territories on state and tribal TANF-related issues. OFA's programs foster economically secure households and communities to promote the well-being and long-term success of children and families. Robin has enjoyed a wide-ranging career in the nonprofit community, as well as in the legislative and executive branches of the federal government. She holds a juris doctor degree from George Mason University School of Law, is a member of the Maryland Bar, and has a bachelor of arts degree in mass communications, speech, and broadcasting from Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana.



**Robin Dion**, Mathematica Policy Research

Robin Dion is a senior fellow at Mathematica. She is a national expert in evaluating programs focused on fatherhood, family strengthening, and at-risk youth. She currently directs the PACT evaluation. PACT's multiple study components focus on program implementation, participant views and experiences, and program impacts. She is also senior advisor for a study of programs receiving other grants in this area in 2015, and was principal investigator for a systematic review of studies reporting on promising program models to strengthen families. After developing the conceptual framework that first brought together relationship skills education with research on poverty and low-income families, she became co-principal investigator of the Building Strong Families project, a demonstration and evaluation of programs to strengthen the relationships of low-income, unmarried couples with children. Before joining Mathematica in 1999, Dion served as a senior research analyst for Child Trends. She is the 2017 recipient of the Ronald B. Mincy Research and Scholarship Award from the International Fatherhood Conference, and belongs to many professional organizations, including the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network and the National Council on Family Relations. She holds an M.A. in social psychology from Arizona State University.



**Pamela Holcomb**, Mathematica Policy Research

Pamela Holcomb conducts research in the areas of family support and workforce development. Her primary area of expertise is implementation research, and she has directed and/or participated in numerous studies examining programs and strategies to improve service delivery for low-income families and workers. As part of the PACT evaluation, she managed the longitudinal qualitative study and served as the senior site liaison for two sites in the impact evaluation. Her past research on noncustodial fathers and responsible fatherhood programs includes conducting the Evaluation of the Partners for Fragile Families; designing the implementation component of the Evaluation of Strengthening Families through the NY Stronger Fathers Initiative; and serving as the co-principal investigator of the 1990 National Survey of Paternity Establishment Practices. She completed Ph.D. coursework at Carnegie-Mellon University, where she also earned an M.S. in applied history and social science.



### **Heather Zaveri, Mathematica Policy Research**

Heather Zaveri studies family support and early childhood programs and policies. Her research interests focus on implementation science and cost analysis for family-strengthening studies designed to improve fatherhood and couples programs, as well as adolescent pregnancy prevention and early childhood interventions for at-risk populations. She also provides evaluation technical assistance on conducting rigorous evaluations. As part of the PACT evaluation, Zaveri is principal investigator for the evaluation's implementation study. Zaveri joined Mathematica in 1999, then served as a Teach For America classroom teacher and corps member in the Washington, DC, public schools before rejoining the company in 2001. She holds an M.P.P. from George Washington University, where she was named a public policy scholar.

## **DISCUSSANTS**

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### **Halbert Sullivan, Fathers' Support Center**

Halbert Sullivan is the founding president and chief executive officer of Fathers' Support Center St. Louis (FSC). Sullivan provides executive leadership, administrative oversight, and marketing and public relations support for FSC, and ensures the integration of projects within the organization. FSC was founded in 1997 and aims to promote fathers' involvement in their children's lives through intensive job training, group therapy, community service, and parenting workshops. Sullivan has been widely recognized for his dedicated service, receiving awards from the NAACP, the Missouri Association for Social Welfare, and the governor of Missouri. Sullivan has served as the primary investigator or co-investigator on several research projects in addition to the PACT evaluation, including Healthy Relationship Skills for Fragile Families and Engaging Fathers in Positive Parenting, Family Formation & Employment Placement. He holds a bachelor's degree from Fontbonne University and an M.S.W. from Washington University in St. Louis.



### **Brad Lambert, Connections to Success**

Brad Lambert is co-founder and chief operations officer of Connections to Success, a Missouri nonprofit organization. Together with his wife, Kathy, he left the corporate world in 1998 with a passion to help underserved families achieve a higher quality of life. Through their leadership, a holistic rehabilitative approach has been developed to provide a structured transition from poverty to economic stability. Thousands of families have benefited from this life transformation model, achieving results including home ownership and career employment with living wages, and having their children finish school, go to college, and break the generational poverty cycle. Lambert's responsibilities include financial oversight, grants management, strategic planning, social enterprises, and business development. Before he started at Connections to Success, Lambert worked over 20 years in the engineering and construction industry, including serving as vice president of business development for an international general contractor. He has a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Illinois.

