



Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Biographies

Michelle Boyd

Michelle Boyd is a Social Science Analyst in the Division of Children and Youth Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation Office (ASPE) at the Department of Health and Human Services. Michelle's work at ASPE focuses on policies and programs that affect youth and young adults (typically defined as young people ages 10 to 24). The topic areas in her portfolio include: bullying, disconnected or opportunity youth, financial literacy and education, and violence prevention. Much of her work involves interagency coordination and collaboration. This includes participation in various interagency workgroups and efforts. One of her primary responsibilities is to help staff the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs and maintain the Working Group's public website (youth.gov). An emerging interest and area of work for Michelle is implementation and evaluation of evidence-based programs and interventions.

Prior to joining ASPE, Michelle was a SRCDC Congressional Policy Fellow on the Democratic staff of the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, specifically with the Health and Human Resources Subcommittees. Prior to her fellowships, she was a researcher at the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development on the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development, a longitudinal assessment of the key characteristics of positive youth development and key ecological assets that promote positive youth development. In addition, she was a researcher at Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service on projects investigating the links between civic engagement and psychosocial well-being among college students and the civic engagement of proven-risk youth. Michelle holds a B.S. in psychology from Howard University and a M.A. and Ph.D. in child development (with a focus on adolescent development) from Tufts University.

Cheri Hoffman

Cheri Hoffman is the Director of the Children and Youth Policy (CYP) Division in the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation Office (ASPE) at the Department of Health and Human Services. The CYP Division develops and reviews policy initiatives focused on the well-being of children and youth, including those in early childhood learning settings, the child welfare system, and youth programs across federal agencies. Previously, Cheri was the Legislative Director for Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-25), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee where she was responsible for the identification and progression of the Congresswoman's legislative agenda and had primary responsibility for health, women's issues, and children and youth issues. Cheri previously served as the American Psychological Association's Congressional Fellow in the Office of Congressman Pete Stark (CA-13),

where she focused on health, mental health, and child welfare issues. She has also led evaluations of SAMHSA systems of care for children's mental health and campus suicide prevention grants, and the Nashville Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative for youth transitioning out of foster care. Cheri has experience working with youth in residential and community-based settings and has learned lessons from brave, inspiring young people around the world.

Cheri has a Ph.D. in Community Research and Action from Vanderbilt University, a Master of Marriage and Family Therapy from Trevecca Nazarene University, and a BS in Child Development from Syracuse University. She completed a NIMH pre-doctoral fellowship in child and adolescent mental health services research, and her dissertation focused on the characteristics, experiences, and strengths of homeless youth in Nashville, Tennessee.

Sarah Oberlander

Sarah Oberlander is a Social Science Analyst in the Division of Children and Youth Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation Office (ASPE) at the Department of Health and Human Services. Sarah joined ASPE as a Society for Research in Policy Fellow from 2009-2011. Prior to joining the federal government, Sarah held a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Medicine examining the link between childhood maltreatment and subsequent initiation of sexual intercourse and adolescent pregnancy. Sarah's graduate work focused on adolescent pregnancy and parenting in multigenerational households after welfare reform. She holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Community-Social Psychology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a B.S. in Psychology from Indiana University.

Sarah's current activities include policy analysis related to youth issues, including teen pregnancy prevention, youth violence prevention, and co-staffing the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs. Sarah is the lead for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review, which is the Department's evidence-based program directory for programs that prevent teen pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and associated sexual risk behaviors. She also works on the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Replication Study, a five-year implementation and impact study of nine grantee sites replicating three evidence-based programs. Much of Sarah's work portfolio includes coordination and collaboration activities related to youth issues across HHS and the federal government.