



2021 National Poverty Research Center Topical Panel

Virtual Human Services Delivery: Initial Findings and Next Steps

March 16, 2021

Speaker Bios



***Katherine Magnuson, Director, Institute for Research on Poverty;
Professor, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin–Madison***

Katherine Magnuson is a Vilas Achievement Professor of Social Work and the Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She was elected into the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare in 2018. Her research focuses on the well-being and development of economically disadvantaged children and their families. She examines how disparities in socioeconomic status affect children’s development and how these effects may be altered by policies and programs, especially early childhood education programs.



Miranda Lynch-Smith, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Miranda Lynch-Smith was appointed the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy in ASPE on March 8, 2021. Prior to joining the Biden Administration, Lynch-Smith was a Policy Fellow at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. At Chapin Hall, Lynch-Smith provided strategic guidance and capacity building to child welfare agencies to enhance their performance and services for families and become more prevention and well-being oriented. Prior to joining Chapin Hall, Lynch-Smith was a career employee at HHS for 20 years. At the Children’s Bureau, she was responsible for leading the Child and Family Service Review process, strengthening states’ focus on outcomes and evidence, and establishing a federal framework for continuous quality improvement systems in child welfare systems. Lynch-Smith also had key responsibilities for developing and analyzing federal and state legislation, regulations and policy related to child welfare and human services programs.



Amanda Benton, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Amanda Benton is a Team Lead/Senior Social Science Analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this role, she serves as the lead ASPE analyst for the human services implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this capacity, she is supporting work on a number of topics, including virtual delivery of human services and understanding the context under which different services, for different populations, in different contexts may be easier or harder to deliver virtually. In addition, Benton is the lead ASPE analyst for work related to increasing the effectiveness of federal training and technical assistance. She also does work on a broad array of other topics of interest to HHS, including employment and economic mobility, social capital, housing instability, family and youth homelessness, human trafficking, domestic violence, place-based initiatives, behavioral economics, and dissemination. She previously served as the Director of Policy Outreach at the National Alliance to End Homelessness.



Joe Raymond, Director, Social Policy and Human Services Programs, ICF

Joe Raymond is the Director of Social Policy and Human Services Programs at ICF where he provides consulting and technical assistance services on a variety of federal and state initiatives in the economic security, workforce development, and child welfare areas. He has over 30 years of experience as a state, local, and non-profit human services executive. In addition to serving as the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services in several counties, he was co-owner of a national consulting organization that focused on board governance, CEO leadership work, and strategic change processes for private and public local and state organizations and communities. Raymond also served as the founding Chief Executive Officer of the Georgia Academy, one the nation's most innovative resources for professional development and technical assistance to public and private sector professionals and organizations.



Uma Ahluwalia, Managing Principal, Health Management Associates

Uma Ahluwalia is managing principal at Health Management Associates (HMA) and a respected healthcare and human services professional with extensive experience leading key growth initiatives in demanding political and legislative environments. Prior to joining HMA, she served as director of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services in Maryland. Ahluwalia's work experience also includes leadership in Child Welfare as the interim director in the Child and Family Services Agency in Washington, DC and assistant secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services in the State of Washington for the Children's Administration.



Tiffney Marley, Vice President for Practice Transformation, National Community Action Partnership

Tiffney Marley is the Vice President for Practice Transformation at the National Community Action Partnership, where she leads training and technical assistance strategies to maximize impact and transform anti-poverty practices of the Community Action Network. This work has many dimensions, including leadership of the National Learning Communities Resource Center (LCRC)—an innovation hub for addressing the causes and conditions of poverty—working with community action agencies to redesign their programmatic strategies, and collaborating with governmental and private stakeholders on special initiatives to transform organizations and systems. Marley has 9 years of Community Action professional experience. Previously, she was the Director of Black Church Studies at Duke University Divinity School, and she has over 17 years of senior-level experience in the academic, faith-based, and nonprofit sectors.



Jeanna Capito, Facilitator, National Alliance for Home Visiting Models

Jeanna Capito is a consultant and facilitator of the National Alliance of Home Visiting Models. The Alliance is made up of chief executives and senior management from nine national home visiting models: Child First, Early Head Start, Family Connects, Healthy Families America, HIPPY, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, ParentChild+ and SafeCare. Capito's work with the Alliance advances the mission of supporting home visiting models in effective, collaborative work on the advancement of evidence-based home visiting on a national scale. Capito also works as a consultant, focusing on birth-to-five programs and nonprofit organizations. She was previously Executive Director of Positive Parenting DuPage.



Maisha Meminger, Manpower Analyst, U.S. Department of Labor

Maisha Meminger has over 20 years of professional experience in the youth development field. Currently, Meminger serves as a Manpower Analyst for the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's Division of Youth Services. She is charged with assisting policy development, program implementation, and grant management concentrating on connecting Opportunity Youth, ages 14-24, to educational and employment opportunities. She provides technical assistance to states, locals and grantees on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and works collaboratively with outside agencies and private sectors to improve service delivery for youth. She also works as an Adjunct Professor in the field of social science and research.



Jennifer Burnszynski, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Jennifer Burnszynski is the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She leads a team of highly skilled and committed analysts who apply research evidence, policy analysis, and critical thinking to increase the effectiveness of human services policies and programs and improve the well-being of the most vulnerable Americans. She provides executive leadership and coordination of HHS's human services policy development, analysis, research, and coordination on poverty and economic mobility, early childhood education, child welfare, fatherhood, family strengthening, positive youth development, and related issues. Previously, she was the first Director of Program Innovation in the HHS Office of Child Support Enforcement and served as the Senior Advisor to the OCSE Commissioner.



Benjamin Sommers, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Benjamin Sommers was appointed the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Policy in ASPE on January 20, 2021. Before joining ASPE, he was the Huntley Quelch Professor of Health Care Economics at the Harvard School of Public Health, and professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and Brigham & Women's Hospital. He is a health economist and primary care physician whose main research interests are health policy for vulnerable populations and the health care safety net. He has received numerous awards including the Health Services Research Impact Award and the Article-of-the-Year Award from Academy Health, and the Outstanding Junior Investigator Award from the Society of General Internal Medicine. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2019. From 2011 to 2016, he served as a senior adviser in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.