

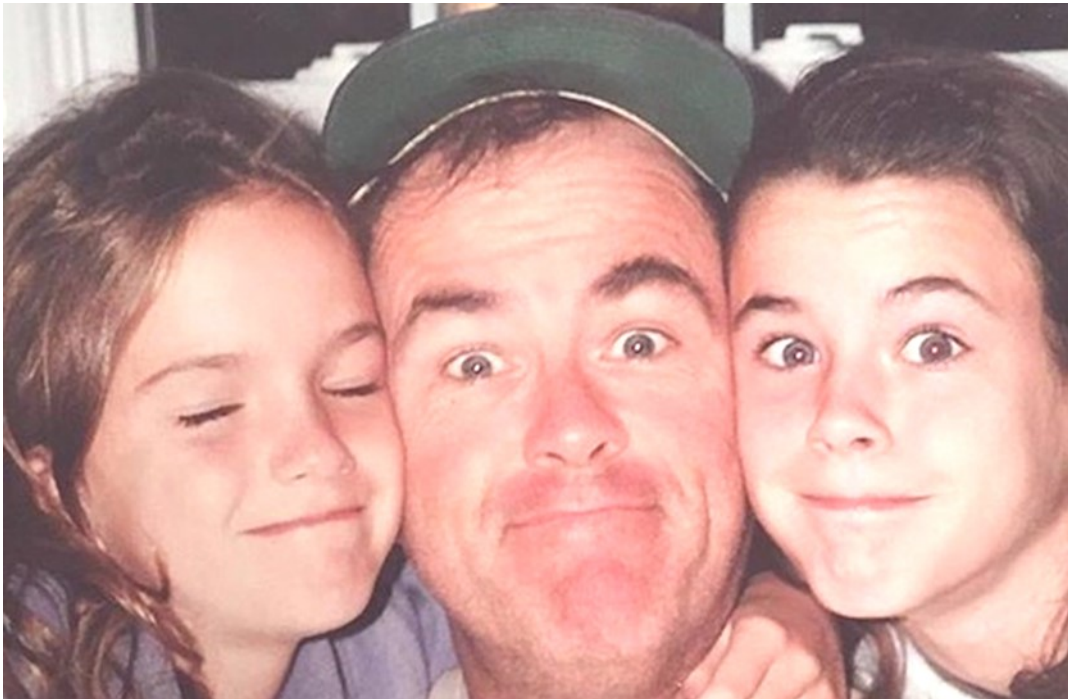


Symposium Organizing Committee

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SOC Convening

“From the Beginning...Early Childhood Development and the Role of Fathers”

September 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2019



“Women will have achieved true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation.”

*Ruth Bader Ginsburg – “My Own Words” – 2016*

The School District of Philadelphia Administrative Building  
440 North Broad Street,  
Auditorium, Second Floor  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130





Symposium Organizing Committee

# Table of Contents

<b>Welcome</b> ...From the Chair of the Symposium Organizing Committee, Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., President, AMACHI, Inc. ....	3
<b>Greetings</b> ...From William R. Hite, Jr., ED.D., Superintendent, The School District of Philadelphia.....	4
<b>Hero of the Year</b> , State Senator Anthony Hardy Williams.....	5
<b>Conference Moderators</b> .....	6
• Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum	
• Allan Shedlin	
<b>Schedule of Events</b> .....	7-10
<b>Day One Featured Speakers</b> .....	11-12
• Dr. Wade F. Horn, Director, Deloitte Consulting LLP’s Public Sector Practice	
• The Honorable Lynn Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children And Families (ACF)	
<b>Leaders of Child Well-Being and Trauma Informed Care</b> .....	13
• Carol Hass Gravagno	
• Dr. Sandra L. Bloom	
• Suzanne J. O’Connor	
<b>Special Guest</b> Dr. Alicia Barbara Harvey-Smith, President/CEO, Pittsburgh Technical College.....	14
<b>Day Two Featured Speaker</b> .....	15
• Dr. Joel N. Myers, Founder, Chairman and CEO of AccuWeather & SOC’s Campaign Champion & Advocate for “ <i>Brighter Futures for Our Children ...Through Greater Father Family Involvement</i> ”	
<b>Expert Panelist Call for Action</b> , Kerry Krieger, Panel Moderator.....	16-20

<b>Reactions to Panel Presentation</b> .....	21
• Chris DeVol, Ambassador for Erasing Family.org	
• Joe Gormley, Servant Leader, Saving FaTherhood.org	
<b>Presenters of New Concepts Worthy of Exploration</b> .....	22-23
• Dr. Carol S. Larach	
• Dr. Jay Cherney	
• William L. McCusker	
<b>Colleagues Moving Us FORWARD</b> .....	24-25
• Dr. Catherine Lobaugh	
• Larry L. Klinger, Jr.	
<b>Partnering for Greater Father Family Involvement</b> .....	26
• Dr. Amy C. Sagen, Chief Operating Officer, NASW-PA	
<b>Listing of SOC Statewide Leadership Council</b> .....	27-29
<b>SOC Purpose Statement</b> .....	30
<b>A Thank You Letter in Honor of Those of You who Care</b> .....	31
• David A. Wyher, Founder & President/CEO Delta Community Supports, Inc. & Co-Chair, Symposium Organizing Committee	
<b>DBHIDS and other Financial Supporters</b> .....	32
♦ <i>Allegheny Intermediate Unit</i>	
♦ <i>AMACHI, Inc</i>	
♦ <i>City of Philadelphia DBHIDS</i>	
♦ <i>Daddy Appleseed Fund</i>	
♦ <i>Dad’s Resource Center</i>	
♦ <i>Delta Community Supports, Inc.</i>	
♦ <i>Dr. Joel N. Myers, Founder, Chairman &amp; CEO of AccuWeather</i>	
♦ <i>Educating Communities for Parenting</i>	
♦ <i>Fatherhood Research &amp; Practice Network (FRPN)</i>	
♦ <i>NASW-PA</i>	
♦ <i>Symposium Organizing Committee (SOC)</i>	
♦ <i>The School District OF Philadelphia, Office OF Early Childhood Education, Pre-K Program</i>	
♦ <i>The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated (THE COMMISION)</i>	
♦ <i>United Way Of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey</i>	

# AMACHI

People of Faith Mentoring Children of Promise



Welcome...

From the Chair of the Symposium Organizing Committee

**Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., President, AMACHI, Inc.**

On behalf of the Symposium Organizing Committee it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Philadelphia, and the Third Annual Statewide Convening of Father, Child and Family Advocates. This year's theme is titled: ***"From the Beginning...Early Childhood Development and the Role for Fathers."***

I am proud to be at the helm of continuing to build a historic bipartisan and bicameral discussion on ***"Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement."*** As we prepare to pass the torch to our Western Pennsylvania Partners, we could not be more pleased.

We are grateful to our legislative leaders in state government, especially State Senator Anthony Hardy Williams and House Speaker Michael Coyne Turzai, as well as others, who have been supportive of us as we have found our way to their offices, meeting with them and or their staff to advocate for a House and Senate Resolution that would recognize, foster and promote the value of a father's contribution to the well-being of his children and family. Governor Wolf has shown his interest and commitment to this subject matter by asking the Pennsylvania Secretary of Human Services to host a group of us to learn how his administration might prove helpful in removing systemic barriers that impede greater father family involvement in the lives of Pennsylvania's children and families, and to report back to him. Our goal is to urge the Governor to issue an Executive Order that directs all state departments and agencies to acknowledge the value of fathers and to be inclusive of fathers in the development and administration of children and family programs. Finally, we appreciate the clear message that Pennsylvania Justice Max Baer provided to us in a 2017 letter that stated "...fathers have the same responsibilities and, importantly, the same rights as mothers." Justice Baer and the Court's Office of Children and Families in the Courts recognizes that "...to ignore fathers and their families is to disregard a large valuable resource for children."

By your attendance here today, you will increase your knowledge of trauma in early childhood development and the role of fathers. Please stop and say hello during the conference, and tell us what you would like to see us doing as we move forward, and what are the activities you are willing to commit too.

***W. Wilson Goode, Sr.***



## *Greetings*

*From William R. Hite, Jr., ED.D.,*

*Superintendent*

*The School District of Philadelphia*

With a focus on equity, innovation and quality, Dr. William R. Hite serves as Superintendent of The School District of Philadelphia, the largest public school system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Since joining the School District in June 2012, Dr. Hite has worked to create a system of great schools in every neighborhood. Under his leadership, the School District has opened new innovative high schools, expanded successful school models, launched in-district turnarounds and redesigned schools in partnership with communities. His overall focus remains on strengthening all elementary and secondary school offerings.

**Joy Diljohn**, Executive Director, Pre-K Program, Office of Early Childhood Education, will introduce Dr. Hite.

# Hero of the Year



**State Senator**  
**Anthony Hardy Williams**  
Prime Sponsor of Senate Bill 47

“Few things in life bring more joy than the opportunity to raise children and witness them become the best versions of themselves. Every parent deserves that reality. Too often, children across Pennsylvania grow up without the benefit of both parents through no fault of their own. In many instances, institutional barriers play a limiting role in what could otherwise be positive and meaningful parent-child relationships. The parent who receives too little attention in conversations about the family structure tends to be the father. If we continue to overlook the vital role all fathers, regardless of social status, play in the development of their children, we will continue to see a decline in the societal structure grounded in love and respect we’ve all come to cherish. Each of us has a responsibility to encourage and, where possible, facilitate healthy family relationships; and, there must be a greater focus on the father’s role in the family. I introduced legislation to create a Commission on Greater Father Family Involvement not to minimize the extraordinary value mothers bring to the family, but to recognize that a child’s development will never be whole until the father is allowed to participate in a complete and authentic way. I’m grateful for your concern and support in this endeavor. Our collective strength can make all the difference.”

*Anthony Hardy Williams*  
State Senator 8<sup>th</sup> District  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## Conference Moderators Day One Moderator

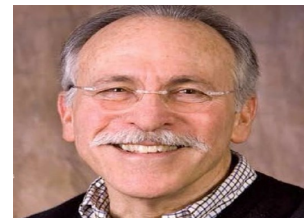
### **Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum**

ParentChild+ Pennsylvania State Director

Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum currently serves as the ParentChild+ Pennsylvania State Director and was hired in 2016 in conjunction with the launch of the GreenLight roll-out of ParentChild+ in Philadelphia. She has been overseeing the Program’s successful start-up and expansion in Philadelphia, as well as supporting sites elsewhere in the state and working on expanding into new Pennsylvania communities. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Services from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Master of Science in Early Childhood Education from the University of Pennsylvania. She also holds a certificates in Early Childhood Mental Health from Widener University, and Non-Profit Executive Leadership Institute (NELI) from Bryn Mawr College. As a program designer, leader and advocate in the fields of early childhood education and homeless services, Mrs. Ofori-Agyekum has dedicated her time and talent to serving underserved communities in both Baltimore, Maryland and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her twenty years of experience as an administrator and advocate includes Vice President of Social Services at the People’s Emergency Center, Program Coordinator for Jumpstart Baltimore and Education Coordinator at Morgan State University Head Start. In addition, she is currently the co-chair of the Children’s Workgroup -Early Childhood Committee, Commissioner for the Strong Families Commission, Inc. and co-chair of the Family Engagement Work Group for the Read by 4<sup>th</sup> Campaign.

## Day Two Moderator

### **Allan Shedlin**



It’s been 25 years since I coined the term ***daddyng*** – the place where fatherhood and nurturing converge. In that time, I’ve conducted more than two dozen “daddyng” focus groups with children and youth (aged 5 to 21) in three countries and nearly 200 interviews with fathers and grandfathers (aged 16 to 104) from 20 countries. The soulful sadness of daddy yearning I heard was too painful to listen to without committing to help minimize it and maximize the joys and rewards when fathers and children are positively involved in each other’s lives. I continue to do whatever I can to encourage father involvement through writing, speaking, and my work with *DADvocacy Consulting Group*, *Daddy Wishes Fund*, and *Daddy Appleseed Fund*. Throughout my 40+ year career as an educator working from the graduate school level UP through nursery school, it was clear that the term “parent involvement,” as used by schools, mainly referred to mothers and neglected half the parent population. That needs to be addressed as research documents that children, fathers, families, and communities are better off when fathers and children are positively involved in each other’s lives.

Being a dad/granddad is more than just who you are, it’s something you do – ***Daddy on!***

Contact me at [allan@DADvocacyConsultingGroup.com](mailto:allan@DADvocacyConsultingGroup.com).





# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SOC Convening

*A Forum where ideas and views can be exchanged*

“From the Beginning... Early Childhood Development and the Role of Fathers”

September 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2019

The School District of Philadelphia Administrative Building

440 North Board Street,

Auditorium, Second Floor

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130

### Day One September 18<sup>th</sup> 2019

#### **8:00 a.m. – Registration & Continental Breakfast, Auditorium Reception Area.**

- **Registration** managed by THE COMMISSION’s Volunteer Leadership Team, **VeRita Amelia Barnette Lynch, Chair.**

#### **9:00 a.m. – Program Begins**

- Welcome **Joy Diljohn**, Executive Director, Pre-K Program, Office of Early Childhood Education.
- Forum Overview will be provided by, **Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum**, Pennsylvania State Director for the ParentChild + Program, & Chair, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Statewide SOC Convening.
- Invocation – **George J. Fleming**, Pastor and Founder, The Father’s Touch Ministry, Outreach specialist/Trainer for Allegheny Family Network & SOC’s Faith-Based Ambassador Coordinator, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- Message from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Savings Programs, **Karen Carr**, Field Representative, sharing information about statewide college and career savings programs.
- The Journey Getting Us Here– **The Honorable W. Wilson Goode, Sr.**, former Mayor, City of Philadelphia and President, AMACHI, Inc.: “*People of Faith Mentoring Children of Promise*” introduced by **David A. Wyher**, Founder, President and CEO, Delta Community Supports, Incorporated.

#### **9:30 a.m. A Thought Leader’s Address**

- Dr. Wade F. Horn, “*The Ebb and Flow of Fatherhood Programming – Presentation and Open Discussion.*” Let’s Continue the Journey for our Children – **Dr. Wade F. Horn, introduced by Darlene Tart-Scott**, Special Initiatives Coordinator, in the Immediate Office of the Regional Administrator – Region III, Administration for Children and Families (ACF). ACF Region III. Is composed of the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

**Part I: Panel Call to Action** for Greater Father Involvement in the Lives of Pennsylvania’s Children and Families – Panel Moderator, **Kerry Krieger**, Executive Director of Delta Family Services, LLC.

- Panelist include:

- \* **George D. Mosee, Jr., Esq.**, Executive Director, Philadelphia Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Network, and former First Deputy District Attorney for the City of Philadelphia;
- \* **Dr. H. Jean Wright**, Director, Behavioral Health & Justice Related Services at DBHIDS;
- \* **Jeff Steiner**, Executive Director, Dads Resource Center;
- \* **David R. Fair**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Turning Points for Children;
- \* **Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum**, Pennsylvania State Director for the ParentChild + Program;
- \* **Dr. Richard Jeffrey Rhodes**, Education Consultant and former Assistant Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia;
- \* **Lance Wright**, Fatherhood Coordinator- Catholic Community Services, Representing the Employment and Training Work Group;
- \* **Angela Melver**, Board Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern Pennsylvania;
- \* **Anita Kellerman Kulick**, President and CEO of Educating Communities for Parenting & Board Chair of the Pennsylvania Parenting Coalition; and
- \* **Dr. William Champagne**, Professor of Sociology and Human Service at Harcum College, and former Men’s Support Services Coordinator, with the Philadelphia Department of Health.

**Part II: Reactions to Panel Presentaion** – THE COMMISSION’S commitment to open communication is to allow all voices to be heard.

- **Chris DeVol**, Ambassador for Erasing Family.Org, “We need to strengthen family bonds after divorce, not #erase them.”
- **Joe Gormley**, Servant Leader, Saving FaTherhood.Org, “Saving Fatherhood is a response to the epidemic of fatherlessness. We address this issue and the ongoing problems we see in the courts, legislatures, churches and the public square.”

### 11:45 a.m. Break & Pickup Box Lunch

**12:00 Noon** – Greetings from the Superintendent of Philadelphia’s School District, **William R. Hite**, Jr., ED.D.

- **Joy Diljohn**, Executive Director, Pre-K Program, Office of Early Childhood Education, will introduce Dr. Hite.

### 1:00 p.m. Keynote Speaker

- **Lynn Johnson**, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), introduced by **Anna Pilato**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for External Affairs at HHS’ Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Follow-Up Discussion with the Assistant Secretary on Strategic Next Steps and Directions will be facilitated by **Dr. Martha Okafor**, Region III Administrator for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

**2:30 p.m. Break****3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. “From the Beginning...Early Childhood Development, Trauma, and the Role for Fathers”**

**Co-Facilitators: Anita Kellerman Kulick, Dr. Catherine Lobaugh and Suzanne J. O’Connor** will present two leaders of Child Well-Being and Trauma Informed Care, who will speak to us about why the discussion of trauma is so important:

- **Carole Haas Gravagno**, is a philanthropist, activist, and lifelong supporter and enthusiast of education, the arts and parenting education. She believes deeply in providing the most vulnerable among us, with the kind of nurturing that can transform lives, communities and society.
- **Dr. Sandra L. Bloom** is a Board-Certified psychiatrist, graduate of Temple University School of Medicine and currently Associate Professor, Health Management and Policy at the Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University.

**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Jazz Reception – Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum, Mistress of Ceremony. Ver’non D. Brown**, Director of Field Operations for The Strong Families Commission, who will introduce **Dr. Alicia Barbara Harvey-Smith**, who will give Reflections.

- Dr. Harvey-Smith is new to Pennsylvania and serves as President/CEO of Pittsburgh Technical College. She is a nationally recognized educator, author, poet, and motivational speaker with thirty years of experience in Higher Education.
- Evening Musical Entertainment will be provided by the “**V. Shayne Frederick Ensemble**.”

**Day Two September 19<sup>th</sup> 2019****8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast, Auditorium Reception Area.****9:00 a.m. – Program Begins**

- Welcome to Day Two: **Dr. Amy C. Sagen**, Chief Operating Officer, Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.
- Invocation – **Pastor Quincy C. Hobbs, Jr.**, Zion Hill Baptist Church of Philadelphia.
- Greetings from **Commissioner David T. Jones**, Commissioner, Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services.

**9:15 a.m.**

- The Connection and the Difference between Fathering and Daddying. **Moderator**, and Founding DADvocate, **Allan Shedlin**. Founder of DADvocacy Consulting Group and Creator, Daddy Wishes Fund and the Daddy Appleseed Fund. Father of four, grandfather of eight.

**9:30 a.m.**

- **Dr. Joel N. Myers**, Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of AccuWeather & Founder and Chairman of the Dads' Resource Center, State College Pennsylvania, introduced by **David A. Wyher**, President and CEO, Delta Community Supports, Inc. Dr. Myers serves as the official Advocate and Champion of Pennsylvania's SOC Campaign "*Brighter Futures for our Children... Through Greater Father Family Involvement.*"

**10:00 a.m.**

- **Dr. Carol S. Larach**, Director of Integrated Care, Community Behavioral Health, Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbilities, City of Philadelphia, introduced by **Nadine Blackwell**, R.N., MS – Low Vision Therapist. Topic of Presentation "Perinatal Depression in Fathers."

**10:45 a.m.**

- **Dr. Jay Cherney**, Founder of Dad Lab: Peer Mentoring for New Fathers, introduced by **William L. McCusker**, Founder and CEO, Fathers & Families, Inc.

**11:30 a.m.**

- **William L. McCusker**, Founder & CEO of Fathers & Families, Inc. **Topic:** Expectations of the Corporate World in Supporting Childhood Development & the Role for Fathers.

**12:15 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

- **Larry L. Klinger**, Co-Chair, Pennsylvania's Fathers, Families & Service Providers Network, Status Up-date.

**12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

- **Wrap-Up and Moving Forward – Next Steps:**  
**Anita Kellerman Kulick, Dr. Catherine Lobaugh, and Suzanne J. O'Connor.**

**1:00 p.m. – Box Lunch to Go**

## Day One Featured Speakers

### *Fatherhood Thought Leader*



**Dr. Wade F. Horn**

Deloitte Consulting LLP's Public Sector Practice

*Wade F. Horn, Ph.D.*, is a director in Deloitte Consulting LLP's Public Sector Practice, focusing on helping state governments provide effective and efficient health and human services that are client-focused and compliant with federal laws, regulations and reporting requirements. Prior to coming to Deloitte, Dr. Horn served from 2001 to 2007 as the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) where he oversaw over 60 federal programs with a combined budget of \$47 billion aimed at improving the well-being of children and helping families achieve self-sufficiency, including welfare, child welfare, adoption, child support, Head Start, child care, and refugee settlement. From 1994-2001, Dr. Horn was President of the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) whose mission is to improve the well-being of children by increasing the number of children growing up with involved, committed and responsible fathers. From 1989-1993, Dr. Horn was the Commissioner for Children, Youth and Families, and Chief of the Children's Bureau within the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Horn also served as a Presidential appointee to the National Commission on Children from 1990-1993, a member of the National Commission on Childhood Disability from 1994-1995, a member of the U.S. Advisory Board on Welfare Indicators from 1996-1997, and a member of the U.S. Advisory Board on Kinship Care from 1998-1999. Prior to these appointments, Dr. Horn was the Director of Outpatient Psychological Services at the Children's Hospital National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at George Washington University. Dr. Horn also has served as a member of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Head Start Research and Evaluation, an adjunct faculty at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute, and an affiliate scholar with the Hudson Institute.

Introduced by: **Darlene Tart-Scott**

A proponent for strengthening families, Darlene is an activist serving as an advisor on several local, regional and national human services advisory boards. She has been a featured speaker, panelist, and facilitator at several venues and acts as a technical assistant to grantees and non-grantees on DHHS federal initiatives. She is actively involved in state and local partnership development and represents her employer at various human services events. A Federal government employee, Darlene is a Special Initiatives Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Prior to her government career, she served as a Human Resource Specialist, Fiscal Manager, and Program Design Manager with a Federal Head Start grantee and has held positions as an accounting manager for non- and for-profit organizations as well as acted as an independent financial consultant. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Drexel University and a Master's Degree in Human Services from Lincoln University; in addition, she completed extensive doctoral work in Educational Leadership at Fielding Graduate University. She is an Adjunct Professor at Lincoln University of PA. Darlene Tart-Scott and her husband reside in the Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pa.



# Key Note Speaker

**Lynn Johnson**, Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Lynn Johnson is the assistant secretary at HHS's Administration for Children and Families. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on August 28, 2018. Before joining the Trump administration, Mrs. Johnson served as the executive director of Jefferson County Human Services in Colorado, overseeing the county's Head Start program, as well as programs on the workforce, career and family services, child welfare, justice services and community assistance. Prior to this position, Mrs. Johnson ran her own consulting firm, which dealt with mental health, high risk youth, developmental disabilities, child welfare and early childhood education. She was the chief of staff to Colorado Lt. Gov. Jane E. Norton in 2003, and from 1999 to 2002 was a policy advisor to Colorado Governor Bill Owens. Before joining the Owens administration, Mrs. Johnson served as a senior specialist with the United States Courts as a probation and parole officer. She was responsible for direct supervision of offenders with mental health problems and offenders convicted of sex offenses.

Mrs. Johnson has a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation from the University of Northern Colorado and a master's degree in social work from Arizona State University. She is a graduate of the Federal Judicial Center National Leadership Development Program and Harvard Executive Education for State and Local Governments. Mrs. Johnson has been happily married for 32 years and is the mother of three adult children.

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Introduced by **Dr. Martha Okafor**, Regional Administrator for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Martha Okafor is the Regional Administrator for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Region 3, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Dr. Okafor provides executive leadership and guides the regional implementation of ACF high priority across the states, tribes, and other stakeholders. She facilitates consensus on agency-wide program priorities, cross-cutting strategies and innovations with other federal agencies to enhance ACF mission of promoting economic and social well-being of children, families, individuals, and communities.

Martha has prior experience working on the African American Healthy Marriage Initiative, administering social-economic services, Child Welfare, SNAP, early care, Medicaid, SCHIP, behavioral health, reentry, homelessness, and public health programs. As a public service professional, Martha has held various senior executive positions within the states of Connecticut and Georgia in Departments of: Human Services - Family and Children Services, Public Health and Social Services. She has a track record of maximizing outcomes, integrating services, and optimizing systems' performance at national, state, city and academia levels. Within academia, Martha published many scientific peer-reviewed articles and received funded research by the National Institutes of Health. Most recently, Dr. Martha Okafor lectured at Yale University.

## Leaders of Child Well-Being and Trauma Informed Care:



**Carole Hass Gravagno**, is a philanthropist, activist, and lifelong supporter and enthusiast of education, the arts and parenting education. She believes deeply in providing the most vulnerable among us with the kind of nurturing that can transform lives, communities and society. Over the years, Carole has generously given her time, expertise and resources to dozens of educational, arts and cultural organizations. She currently serves on the board of Intercultural Journeys, Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia Zoo, Play on, Philly!, and the Stoneleigh Foundation.



**Dr. Sandra L. Bloom** is a Board-Certified psychiatrist, graduate of Temple University School of Medicine and currently Associate Professor, Health Management and Policy at the Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University. From 1980-2001, Dr. Bloom served as Founder and Executive Director of the Sanctuary programs, inpatient psychiatric programs for the treatment of trauma-related emotional disorders and during those years was also President of the Alliance for Creative Development, a multidisciplinary outpatient practice group. Dr. Bloom is recognized nationally and internationally as the founder of the Sanctuary Model. Between 2005 and 2016 over 350 social service, juvenile justice and mental health organizations were trained in the Sanctuary Model. Dr. Bloom is a Past-President of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies and author or co-author of a series of books on trauma-informed care: *Creating Sanctuary: Toward the Evolution of Sane Societies* published in 1997 with a second edition in 2013; *Destroying Sanctuary: The Crisis in Human Delivery Service Systems* published by Oxford University Press in 2010 and *Restoring Sanctuary: A New Operating CTIPP – The Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice* whose goal is to advocate for public policies and programs at the federal, state, local and tribal levels that incorporate up-to-date scientific findings regarding the relationship between trauma across the lifespan and many social and health problems (<http://ctipp.org>). Since 2012, Dr. Bloom has also served as Co-chair for the Philadelphia ACEs Task Force <http://www.philadelphiaaces.org/>. Dr. Bloom's website is [www.sanctuaryweb.com](http://www.sanctuaryweb.com) and her many publications can be downloaded from that site.



**Suzanne J. O'Connor** is the Early Learning & Trauma Lead for Impact at United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey where she provides strategic direction and leads the development and execution of education strategies, including United Way's Regional Trauma-Informed Care Initiative. In her role, she works collectively with diverse stakeholders to help support United Way's mission to help end intergenerational poverty. Prior to that, Suzanne was an elementary and pre-K teacher, parenting educator, and a childcare director. Her training is in Early Childhood and Urban Education, with a certificate in Trauma Studies from Saint Joseph's University. She is a founding board member of the national Campaign for Trauma Informed Policy and Practice.

# Special Guest



**Dr. Alicia Barbara Harvey-Smith**

**President/CEO**

**Pittsburgh Technical College**

Dr. Alicia B. Harvey-Smith is President/CEO of Pittsburgh Technical College. PTC, a private non-profit college located in Oakdale, PA., offers thirty programs within nine schools and maintains one of the nation's highest in-field placement rates at ninety-seven percent. Previously, she served as Executive Vice Chancellor at Lone Star College, in Texas, one of the nation's largest colleges and President/CEO of River Valley Community College in NH. She earned a Ph.D. from University of Maryland-College Park, M.S. from The Johns Hopkins University, and B.S. from Morgan State University, as well as participated (as a presenter and participant) in several of Harvard's Graduate School of Education: Institutes of Higher Education for College/University Presidents. Dr. Harvey-Smith's research is cited in *Redesigning America's Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success*, published by the Harvard University Press, supporting the fundamental redesign of educational practices. Her publications include: *The Seventh Learning College Principle: A Framework for Transformational Change*; *Partnering for Success: How to Build Strong Internal Collaborations in Higher Education* and *Eclectic Insights Part 1: A Composition of Poetry and Essays on Varying Thoughts and Differing Opinions (Volume 1)*. She is committed to the transformational work and vision of The Strong Families Commission and currently serves as the Commission's Inaugural Chair of Education. Dr. Harvey-Smith has been married for thirty-five years to Major Donald Wayne Smith, who is retired from the US Army and US Capitol Police.

**Introduced by Ver'non D. Brown**

**Director of Field Operations**

**The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated**



Mr. Brown is a native of North Carolina, the oldest of four children and a graduate of Atkinson High School. After graduation, Vernon joined the Army's Elite 82nd Airborne Division, where he served for three years completing tours of duty in several countries (Germany, Italy, and South America). He was honorably discharged in 1974 when he relocated to Philadelphia. After working for several years with the U.S. Postal Service, he enrolled at Eastern College (now Eastern University), where he obtained a Bachelor degree in Sociology and Youth Ministry. As a member of Sharon Baptist Church, (1982) he began and headed their first Youth Ministry Program for four years. He graduated and eventually moved on to serve as Youth Minister for several other Philadelphia Churches, while consulting with others as they created youth programs of their own. Mr. Brown was a Philadelphia City Department of Human Services social worker for several years, counseling delinquent teens and ended his social work career in the Foster Care Unit with the Juvenile Justice Center. While working in that unit, he and his wife became foster parents themselves and opened their home to a number of foster children. For the next ten years, he went on to teach sixth grade in the public and charter school system, where he distinguished himself as an excellent educator and mentor to students. His decision to teach came after being approached and recruited by Concerned Black Men of Philadelphia. Currently, Mr. Brown is semi-retired and devotes much of his time to organizing community folk to become activists for social change. He is the father of three children, two boys and a girl, ages 23, 25 & 28; all of who live on their own and are doing well.



## Day Two Featured Speaker



**Dr. Joel N. Myers**

Official Face, Advocate and Champion of SOC's Statewide Campaign

### ***"Brighter Futures for Our Children...Through Greater Father Family Involvement"***

Dr. Joel N. Myers is Founder, Chairman and CEO of AccuWeather and has been recognized as one of the greatest entrepreneurs in American history. A confirmed leader and extraordinary visionary Dr. Myers has successfully led AccuWeather to become the largest and fastest growing global source of weather forecasts and warnings with proven Superior Accuracy. Today, the company reaches nearly 2 billion people worldwide through digital media, as well as through radio, television, newspapers, and the 24/7 AccuWeather Network channel. Dr Myers was appointed to the Committee for Economic Development of the prestigious Conference Board, where he serves on the Education Committee. At Penn State University, he served on the faculty for 17 years and as an influential member of the Board of Trustees for 33 years. Dr. Myers founded the Dads' Resource Center in 2015. Of his many awards, accolades and philanthropic endeavors, Dr. Myers is most proud of his special relationship with his seven children and 10 grandchildren. After a careful national search by The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated (THE COMMISSION) for the correct image to launch SOC's Pennsylvania Campaign, ***"Brighter Futures for Our Children...Through Greater Father Involvement"*** it was recommended that the right choice was within our state geographic boundaries, just north of our state capitol in Centre County, Pennsylvania, the home of Dr. Joel N. Myers. SOC was honored to invite Dr. Myers to become the face, advocate and champion of its campaign for a number of reasons including, his success as an academic scientific leader, corporate builder, and philanthropic giver. However, there was another reason, more specific to our cause. Our research showed that Dr. Myers was personally committed to helping fathers, especially single fathers, by providing knowledge and resources to foster healthy relationships with their children and families. He not only founded, Dads Resource Center, but he funds and chairs the Center with a goal of expanding the organization's impact statewide, and ultimately nationally, which is compatible with the mission and vision of THE COMMISSION, the convener of SOC. We are proud to have Dr. Myers as our ICON, symbolizing brighter futures for our children...through greater father family involvement.

Introduced by **David A. Wyher**, Founder, President & CEO, Delta Community Supports, Inc



Delta Community Supports, Inc. ("Delta") is a non-profit corporation, operating in both Pennsylvania and in New Jersey. Since 1977, Delta has been empowering individuals to live fulfilling lives through a wide-range of community-based services. From its foster care and adoption services to support services for adults with developmental disabilities. Delta helps people to grow and thrive through all stages of life.

# Expert Panelist Call for Action



**Kerry Krieger**

Executive Director of Delta Family Services, LLC.  
Chair, Housing, Supervised Independent Living, and Homelessness Work Group

**Panel Moderator**





### **George D. Mosee, Jr., Esquire**

Executive Director, Philadelphia Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Network  
Chair, Administration of Justice/Public Safety Work Group

After 28 years as a prosecutor, I retired from the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office on December 9, 2016. Among other positions, I was the Deputy DA for Narcotics for seven years and Deputy DA for Juveniles for 13 years. I last served as First Assistant District Attorney.

On January 2, 2017 I was appointed Executive Director of the Philadelphia Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Network (PAAN).

My experience in both arenas has led me to conclude that the best way to effectuate public safety is through prevention. Moreover, the institution best positioned to prevent violence and other forms of criminal conduct in Philadelphia is the family. However, families need to be healthy and whole in order to produce healthy and whole Philadelphians.

Fully engaged mothers and fathers increase the likelihood that families will be healthy and whole. My work in the DA's Office and with PAAN evidences the need to emphasize providing fathers the opportunity to be fully engaged. To that end I am grateful for the work of the Convening to encourage the Juvenile and Criminal Justice systems to develop approaches that facilitate rather than impede the engagement of fathers with their families and children.

### **Dr. H. Jean Wright, II**

Director, Behavioral Health and Justice Related Services at DBHIDS  
Chair, Behavioral Health Work Group



H. Jean Wright II, Psy.D, is a transformational, highly experienced and professionally trained Clinical and Forensic Psychologist with over 20 years of experience in behavioral health and proven success in passionately leading people and managing projects and initiatives in government for the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; in private practice; in academia, as Adjunct Professor for Temple University; and in rehabilitation and correction. As a clinical consultant, facilitator and trainer, Dr. Wright teaches the subtleties of human interaction to successfully embrace and celebrate the variety of personalities in the workforce and community. His extensive research in human behavior and skill in delivering mission-critical results in direct clinical care, supervision and management have contributed to his success in contributing as a subject matter expert for media such as WDAS FM in Philadelphia, where he is a regular contributor on "Headlines" with Frankie Darcell, a weekly radio program; and on cable TV programs such as "A Multitude of Counselors," which is in its third season on faith network, Trinity Broadcast Network (3ABN), providing content on behavioral health and faith. Dr. Wright is a regular contributor to journals, educational newsletters, and faith-based magazines, where his focus is on the connection between psychology, faith and spirituality. For the last ten years Dr. Wright has focused much of his attention on programs supporting the fatherhood movement. Specifically, Dr. Wright supports programs in the department of corrections facilities such as SCI Phoenix. One example: Pennsylvania Fathers and Children Together (PA-FACT), where children of incarcerated parents are transported to SCI Phoenix to connect with their fathers (and often grandfathers) and participate in psychoeducational support groups. Dr. Wright recently completed his book: *Find Strength in Your Struggle: Discover The Miracle in You*, which highlights his concept of "spiritual depression" and how it impacts the spiritual core of people from all walks of life. He conducts interactive and highly charged seminars, workshops and trainings on a variety of topics related to the importance of fathers in childhood development, behavioral health and wellness, population health education and trauma-informed care for a diverse group of clientele throughout the United States, including law enforcement, rehabilitation and correction, academic institutions, Judicial Appointees, faith-based organizations and community service agencies providing behavioral health resources and support to people in recovery.

### **Jeff Steiner**

Executive Director,  
Dad's Resource Center, State College Pennsylvania &  
Co-Chair, Child Support Custody, Services & Enforcement Work Group



"Jeff Steiner, M.Ed., Executive Director of the Dads' Resource Center. Bachelors in Sociology from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Masters in Counseling Education from Penn State. Reality Therapy Certified, by the William Glasser Institute. Fifteen years direct service as a family counselor, fifteen years managing small non-profits that benefit children and families. Member of the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Council, Centre County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force and Bellefonte Area School District Board of Education."

### **David R. Fair**

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Turning Points for Children  
Chair, Dependent & Delinquent Crossover Youth Work Group



David Fair is Deputy CEO of Turning Points for Children in Philadelphia. In a career spanning more than 40 years, he has played a meaningful role in a number of human service areas, including AIDS, homelessness, children's mental health and child welfare. In addition to various governmental and nonprofit roles, he served as Senior Vice President for United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania and currently serves on six nonprofit boards of directors.

Fair has been an advocate for father engagement for the past 20 years. In 2001, as a Deputy Commissioner at the Philadelphia Dept. of Human Services, David led the creation of the DHS Parenting Collaborative, the first time significant public funds were invested in parenting education and support programs aimed at keeping children and youth from formal involvement in child welfare services. The Parenting Collaborative was also the first time there was an investment in father education programs in Philadelphia, many of which remain supported today. Fair also provided initial funding for the Comprehensive Center for Fathers, a program that combined parent education and workforce development services. In recent years, fair has been active in support of the efforts of the Strong Families Commission to advocate for stronger father family engagement in Pennsylvania.

### **Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum**

Director, Pennsylvania's ParentChild + Program  
Chair, Early Childhood Development Work Group



Ms. Ofori-Agyekum serves as the co-chair of the Children's Workgroup-Early Childhood Committee, member of the Intergen Steering Committee and Content Expert for families experiencing homelessness for The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated (THE COMMISSION). More about Ms. Ofori-Agyekum can be found in the front of this booklet.

### **Dr. Richard Jeffrey Rhodes**

Education Consultant

former Assistant Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia.

Chair, Education Work Group



“Jeff” is a husband and a father to two amazing children ages 14 and 9. Though he was born and raised in New York City, thanks to his lovely wife who hails from South Philadelphia, Dr. Rhodes has decided to call Philadelphia his adopted home. An education consultant and former Assistant Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia, he has served for over 20 years managing, leading, coaching, and mentoring educational leaders from teachers to assistant principals to principals in the traditional public, independent, charter and private school settings. His research and advocacy interests are focused on equity in education, the utilization of story-sharing to engage stakeholders and form community, the importance of student voice in the learning process, and what really inspires leaders, and of course, the impact of father involvement on student’s educational attainment. Dr. Rhodes has presented at several conferences including the National Association of Licensed Social Workers and has co-published an article on father involvement and child well-being.

### **Lance Wright**

Fatherhood Coordinator- Catholic Community Services

Representing the Employment and Training Work Group



Mr. Wright’s areas of expertise include Fatherhood Programming, Community Engagement, and Anger management.

*“I’m grateful to have a position where I can balance work and life! Being a father is rewarding and challenging at times. However my commitment to parenting is also my commitment to strengthening families through the lens of fatherhood. My responsibility of engaging and recruitment is essential in bringing awareness [that fathers matter too]! I keep in mind to emphasize that an involved father assists with keeping a family strong.”*

Being a part of the Father Friendly Flagship Agency (3FA) community of learners has allowed my agency to promote our efforts and collaborate with like-minded agencies. We have a long standing goal of improving the outcomes for children which is aligned with greater father family involvement.

## Angela McIver

Chief Executive Officer

Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Co-Chair, Housing, Supervised Independent Living, and Homelessness Work Group



Angela McIver is a national leader and advocate for Fair Housing for all. Angela joined the Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern Pennsylvania in 2007 as Chief Executive Officer. In 2016, Angela was appointed to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Last year (2018), she was elected to the board of the National Fair Housing Alliance. Angela delivers housing commentary on the radio show *Turning Life Corners* on WPPM 106.5 FM. She was featured on KYW News radio, WHYY-FM 90.9, WURD 900 AM, WWDB 96.5 FM, Praise 107.9 FM, PBS News Hour, and Reveal. Angela has over 26 years of experience and specializes in developing institutional and organizational networking, community partnerships, and coalitions affecting adults and youths. Angela produced the two-time award winning independent film, *Life Isn't Fair*, and in 2018, she created and released an independent docuseries entitled, *Memoir of a Home*, a short biography featuring residents and a historical account of their address and community. In 2014, she was the recipient of the Willow Grove Branch of the NAACP Humanitarian Award for Community Service. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science from Pennsylvania State University. She also earned a Master of Social Services and a Master of Law and Social Policy from Bryn Mawr College.

## Anita Kellerman Kulick

President and CEO of Educating Communities for Parenting  
Board Chair of the Pennsylvania Parenting Coalition  
Child, Parent Education/Supportive Services Work Group



In addition to Anita being the President and CEO of Educating Communities for Parenting, Board Chair of the Pennsylvania Parenting Coalition, she is a columnist for *Inquirer.com*, and a member of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* Health Advisory Panel. Ms. Kulick has worked in the field of education and parenting for over 40 years, first as a Philadelphia public school teacher, and for the last 18 years developing and implementing specialized programs and services for highly at-risk children, adolescents, and parents. Ms. Kulick has a B.S. in Education from Pennsylvania State University, an M.A. in Education from Arcadia University, is an IFP Certified Parenting Facilitator, a Certified Trauma-Competent Family Professional, and holds a Certificate from the Drexel University Goodwin College of Professional Studies in Positive Psychology,

## Dr. William Champagne

Professor of Sociology and Human Service  
Chair, Public Health Work Group



Dr. Champagne is a professor of Sociology and Human Service at Harcum College. Formerly with the Philadelphia Health Department, he worked with fathers in implementing strategies to reduce the risks of infant mortality in select zip codes in the Philadelphia inner city.

Dr. Champagne is the founder of **Fathers for Peace**, an organization dedicated to helping fathers work together for a more peaceful and just society. He is also currently working on a documentary film that focuses on the impact of gun violence on pregnant women and the unborn children.

## Reactions to Panel Presentation



**Chris DeVol**

**Ambassador**

**Erasing Family.org**

*“We need to strengthen family bonds after divorce, not #erase them.”*



**Joe Gormley**

**Servant Leader, Saving FaTtherhood. Org**

**Parental Alienation Expert**

*“Saving Fatherhood is a response to the epidemic of fatherlessness. We address this issue and the ongoing problems we see in the courts, legislatures, churches and the public square.”*

THE STRONG FAMILIES  
COMMISSION





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# Presenters of New Concepts Worthy of Exploration

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**Dr. Carol S. Larach**  
**“Perinatal Depression in Fathers”**

Dr. Carol S. Larach is the Director of Integrated Care for Community Behavioral Health (CBH). Dr. Larach received her Doctor and Masters of Public Health in Community Health and Prevention from the Drexel University School of Public Health and a Master’s of Science in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Larach’s work is focused on the integration of physical and behavioral health across health plans. Prior to rejoining CBH, she served as the Director of Program Integration for the Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, where she focused on the inclusion of fathers in the perinatal period. Fathers are usually not the focus of services during this vulnerable period in the life cycle of the family. The majority of services focus on the mother and the infant to the exclusion of fathers. *“My commitment is to ensure services are responsive to needs of fathers during periods of transitions, including their behavioral health needs.”*

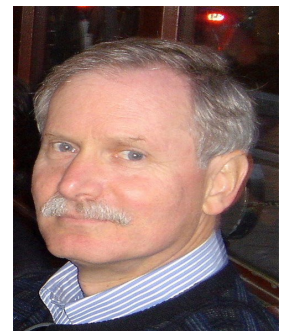
**Dr. Jay Cherney**  
**Dad Lab: Peer Mentoring for New Fathers**

I’m a psychologist with more than 35 years of experience as a clinician, facilitator, speaker and mediator. My deepest purpose is to promote personal development and satisfying relationships through focusing on strengths.

I have delivered keynote speeches and developed training programs on communication, collaboration, team building and resilience. I am also a mediator for the U.S. Postal Service.

Beginning in 2016, I had an opportunity to design and direct DadLab, a peer mentoring community for expectant and new fathers. Becoming a dad is a pivotal life transition, and a time when a man’s anxiety—and his motivation to ask for help—are peaking.

Facilitating fathers in becoming more engaged and effective represents a fundamental shift in my career trajectory—from healing to prevention. Psychotherapy aims to repair old wounds. Yet gathering a community of new fathers to initiate life-long learning in parenting has an even more profound and far-reaching impact: it strengthens bonds of love in new families.





**William L. McCusker**

**Expectations of Corporate America**

Bill is the Founder & CEO of Fathers & Families Inc. [www.fathersfamilies.com](http://www.fathersfamilies.com), a certified New Jersey domestic non-profit corporation whose mission is *to improve the lives of children, mothers, and families – and to help our communities and our country -- by building awareness of the importance of fathers, by helping fathers be better fathers, and by rebuilding the institution of fatherhood over the next 50 years.*

In support of this mission, Fathers & Families:

- Has produced over forty videos (available for free on the Fathers & Families You Tube channel) in which a selection of fathers, some of whom are former professional athletes, gives their wisdom, insights and advice on what good dads do for their kids and families.

- Piloted an outdoor billboard campaign with a simple yet profound message: “Good Fathers Make a Difference” (see website).

- Held a Fathers’ Day celebration of fathers and their families at Cooper River Park in Pennsauken, N.J. (see website and Fathers & Families Instagram for photos and video).

Bill is the author of *Fatherhood: In Pieces*, based on thirty-five, one-on-one interviews he conducted with a diverse set of individual fathers. He blogs, writes, and speaks on the Crisis of Fatherlessness, as well as help other organizations and individuals working in the fatherhood arena. Currently, he is committed to engage the business community regarding its obligation to one of America’s most serious challenges, greater father family involvement.

Bill worked as a consultant and marketing executive with large professional services firms, in Philadelphia and around the world, for over 35 years. He is a husband, the father of two adult daughters, a former U.S. Peace Corps volunteer (Fiji Islands), a graduate of University of Notre Dame and the University of Michigan, and a resident of New Jersey.

## Colleagues Moving Us FORWARD



**Dr. Catherine Lobaugh**

Assistant Executive Director  
Allegheny Intermediate Unit  
Early Childhood Family and Community Services

Dr. Lobaugh is a member of the AIU's Executive Leadership Team and is responsible for the implementation of high-quality, cost-effective, and meaningful early childhood and community programs that serve learners in Allegheny County. Dr. Lobaugh oversees a division that includes the AIU's Head Start, Early Head Start, Pre-K Counts, Alternative Education, Adult Education and Workforce Development, and Family and Community Education Programs. Dr. Lobaugh holds a doctorate in administrative and policy studies, as well as a master's degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her bachelor's degree from Clarion State University. She began her career in education as an elementary classroom teacher and also served as an elementary school principal. She served as the Coordinator of Early Childhood Education and later the Director of Early Childhood Education and Elementary Curriculum and Instruction in the McKeesport Area School District. A dedicated educator, Dr. Lobaugh is a past co-chair of the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts Advisory Committee for Program Development and Implementation. Dr. Lobaugh was named one of the Mon River Fleet 2012 Women of Achievement and was recognized for her efforts with an Educational Leader Award. In addition to her duties in public and community education, Dr. Lobaugh also has served as an adjunct professor at California University of Pennsylvania, and is currently an instructor at the University of Pittsburgh. She was appointed to the Pennsylvania Early Learning Council in 2010.



**Larry L. Klinger, Jr.**

Program Supervisor for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit  
Family & Community Educational Services / Adult Education Programs.

Mr. Klinger is a member of the Early Childhood, Family and Community Services Leadership Team and responsible for the implementation of high-quality, cost-effective, and meaningful early childhood and community programs that serve learners in Allegheny County. He oversees programming that includes the AIU's, Adult Education and Workforce Development, Fatherhood, Family Centers, other Family and Community Education programs.

Mr. Klinger holds a master's degree in Outdoor Education from The University of Akron, as well as a bachelor's degree in education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He began his career in education as an elementary classroom teacher and also served as a middle school teacher and athletic director. He serves as the Past Chairman of the Fathers Collaborative of Western Pennsylvania, Founding member & Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania State Family Center Network, Pennsylvania Department of Education Military Children Education Committee, and the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Fathers, Families and Service Providers Network.

A servant leader, Mr. Klinger is a 22 year veteran of the United State Army. He also serves as a Small Group Facilitator for the All Pro Dads program, Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor and Volunteer Coordinator for several organizations including the PA Hero Walk, FR Families Strong, Serving Other Souls board member and The Wounded Warrior Patrol.

His most amazing accomplishment is that he has been happily married to his wife Karen for 23 years and has three amazing daughters!

# Partnering for Greater Father Family Involvement



Dear SOC Members and Attendees at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Statewide Convening of Father, Child & Family Advocates:

As you celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SOC Convening of Father, Child & Family Advocates, we at the National Association of Social Workers Pennsylvania Chapter (NASW-PA) salute you. NASW-PA is honored to be a part of the charge to increase involvement of fathers within the lives of children, families, and the community. NASW-PA has been an advocate and a partner of the Stoneleigh Foundation Father Integration Project since its inception in 2011.

Highlights of NASW-PA's involvement includes, but is not limited to the following:

- NASW-PA's past executive director testified before the State legislature on behalf of fathers within the Child Welfare System
- NASW-PA has provided continuing education credits for conference attendees (members or not), since October 2012 at its NASW-PA Annual Conference – Workshop Title: [“Present, absent or Anonymous, Fathers. Does it Matter? Who Cares and Why?”](#)
- NASW-PA was instrumental in marketing, advertising, registering, providing continuing education credits, and coordinating the following symposiums
  - 2016 - [Responsible Fatherhood and the Well-being of Children Through the Lens of Social Workers: Constructing Knowledge, Skills, and Resources](#)
  - 2017 - [Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement](#)
  - 2018 - [The Convening: Father, Child and Family Advocates](#)
  - 2019 - [From the Beginning... Early Childhood Development and the Role of Fathers](#)
- NASW-PA has communicated the importance of Fathers to our over 5,000 members through e-blasts and articles in the *Pennsylvanian Social Worker* (NASW-PA quarterly publication)

NASW-PA is excited to be the first and only NASW chapter to be an integral part of this “ground-breaking” National movement. We believe social workers are on the front lines of interacting with families, children, and the community. Therefore, it is imperative that social workers are informed with current knowledge, skills, and best practices for including fathers' in service delivery to children and families

We believe social workers, within Pennsylvania, are proud of their association's continued and steadfast commitment to support greater father family involvement, throughout the Commonwealth, as they should be. It is a great honor to be professionally, and personally, a part of the journey.

**Dr. Amy C. Sagen, LSW, ACSW, MSG**  
**Chief Operating Officer**

# *SOC Leadership Council*

**Executive Committee Members**



**Symposium Organizing Committee**

## **Chair**

**Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.**

President, AMACHI, Inc.

[wgoode@amachmentoring.org](mailto:wgoode@amachmentoring.org)

**Co-Chair of Western Pennsylvania**

**Dr. Catherine Lobaugh**

Assistant Executive Director for Early Childhood,  
Family and Community Services, Allegheny Intermediate Unit

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**Co-Chair of Eastern Pennsylvania**

**David A. Wyher**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Delta Community Supports, Inc.

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**Co-Chair of Central Pennsylvania**

**Dr. Amy C. Sagen, LSW, ACSW, MSG**

Chief Operating Officer

NASW Pennsylvania Chapter

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**SOC's Faith-Based Ambassador Coordinator**

**George J. Fleming**

Pastor and Founder

The Father's Touch Ministry

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**Committee Members**

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>John M. Burwell</b> Chair Fathers Collaborative Council of Western Pennsylvania <a href="mailto:John.Burwell@chp.edu">John.Burwell@chp.edu</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>William J. Clark</b> Co-Founder of Child’s World America <a href="mailto:bclark@cwamerica.org">bclark@cwamerica.org</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Larry L. Klinger, Jr.</b> Program Supervisor for the Family and Community Education Services &amp; Adult Education Programs for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit <a href="mailto:larry.klinger@aiu3.net">larry.klinger@aiu3.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum</b> Pennsylvania State Director for the ParentChild+ Program <a href="mailto:MSingleton@parentchildplus.org">MSingleton@parentchildplus.org</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Doris Acevedo, MSW</b> Family Empowerment Services &amp; Enhanced Parenting Program Manager CONGRESO DE LATINOS UNIDOS, INC <a href="mailto:acevedod@congreso.net">acevedod@congreso.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kirk Berry</b> Director Project D.A.D. People for People, Inc. <a href="mailto:kberry@peopleforpeople.org">kberry@peopleforpeople.org</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Andrew Cheeseboro</b> <a href="mailto:andrewcheeseboro@gmail.com">andrewcheeseboro@gmail.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mark L. Butler, MS</b> Executive Director Family Service of Chester County <a href="mailto:mbutler@familyservice.us">mbutler@familyservice.us</a></p>

<p><b>Dr. Jay K Cherney</b>  Director of DadLab  <a href="mailto:jaycherney@gmail.com">jaycherney@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Michael J. Flott</b>  Founder  I CAN DADS  <a href="mailto:michael@icandads.com">michael@icandads.com</a></p>
<p><b>Anita Kellerman Kulick</b>  President &amp; CEO  Educating Communities for Parenting  <a href="mailto:anita@eeparenting.org">anita@eeparenting.org</a></p>	<p><b>Melvin Hubbard El</b>  Chief of Staff Representative Edward C. Gainey’s District Office  Pennsylvania Legislative Liaison  <a href="mailto:MEl@pahouse.net">MEl@pahouse.net</a></p>
<p><b>Dr. Sonia Molloy</b>  Assistant Professor  Human Development and Family Studies  Health and Human Development  Penn State York  <a href="mailto:Sqm5495@psu.edu">Sqm5495@psu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>William L. McCusker</b>  Chief Executive Officer  Fathers &amp; Families, Inc.  <a href="mailto:mccuskerw2@gmail.com">mccuskerw2@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Dr. Sun W. Moon</b>  Executive Director  Progressions Behavioral Health Services, Inc.  <a href="mailto:SMoon@pbhsi.com">SMoon@pbhsi.com</a></p>	<p><b>Reizdan B. Moore, LLC</b>  Attorney-at-Law  Formerly House Counsel  Pennsylvania House of Representatives  <a href="mailto:Rmoore4410@comcast.net">Rmoore4410@comcast.net</a></p>
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<p><b>Jeffrey Threatt</b>  Founder &amp; Executive Director  Fathers in Action  <a href="mailto:Jthreatt1@gmail.com">Jthreatt1@gmail.com</a></p>	





## Symposium Organizing Committee

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# Purpose Statement

1. **Bring to light something that has been in the dark, far too long, that is the Absence or Non-involvement of too many fathers in the care of their children and families, and to shine a spotlight on the resulting consequences.**
2. **Elevate the discussion, to the state level, of the value of father involvement in the lives of children and families.**
3. **Convene father, child and family advocates across the Pennsylvania willing to promote through their various systems of care greater father family involvement in the lives of children, families, and communities.**
4. **Organize communities throughout the Commonwealth seeking their involvement in the development of a Pennsylvania Fathers, Families and Service Providers Network (PFFSPN), to educate and train Pennsylvanians of the invaluable contributions that fathers can make to the well-being of their children.**
5. **Urge bipartisan support that would promote an increase in the Commonwealth's investment in every child's developmental growth, and the elimination of all systemic barriers that impede a father's desire to contribute more to his child's well-being.**
6. **Identify Commonwealth Policies and Programs that work against greater father family involvement and the contributions that a father can provide to a child that enhances their well-being.**
7. **Support the creation of a fatherhood statewide citizens' oversight policy team to ensure that a fathers' contributions to the well-being of children and youth will be recognized as an added protective factor when considering "What is in the best interest of the child."**
8. **Work with local, state and national government leaders to remove systemic barriers that impede greater father family involvement, thereby demonstrating state and national commitment to both maternal and paternal involvement in the well-being of children.**
9. **Recruit and educate philanthropic, private, public, business, corporate and community stakeholders of the importance of fathers' contribution to the well-being of children and families, and challenge their willingness to become involved in this 21<sup>st</sup> century increasingly important issue.**
10. **Appeal to the National Association of Social Workers, Council on Social Work Education and other local, state and national human service organizations to embrace Fatherhood as a legitimate area of inclusion when preparing professionals to serve the needs of America's children and families.**



## A Thank You Letter in Honor of Those of You Who Care

As a provider of services to children in many different circumstances, we at Delta Family Services see the effects of father involvement or the lack thereof, almost on a daily basis. The research presented by the Symposium Organizing Committee (SOC) during the 2017 Symposium on Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement, followed by work group discussions held in 2018, during and after the second symposium (Convening Father, Child & Family Advocates), as well as the March 2019 Final Report of Recommendations, all indicate that Pennsylvania faces a variety of barriers to greater father family involvement.

As President of Delta, I have seen the positive outcomes for children who have ongoing Involvement with their father, i.e., children live more responsible, productive and successful lives when their father remains engaged with them. Delta is committed to, and count it a privilege to be working with all who have taken up the mission of encouraging greater father family involvement in the lives of children and families, including those of you who have joined us these two days to celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SOC Convening, internally referred to as the “Forum” for where ideas and views can be safely exchanged.

There is a list of those who have been supporters and champions in advancing Fatherhood Initiatives locally in Pennsylvania for nearly 30 years now, however, only since 2012 did this work begin to surface at the State level, as a result of a Senior Fellowship Award from the Stoneleigh Foundation, which supported the grass-roots efforts of Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch, that began a growing constituency of community leaders, professionals, organizations, and subject matter experts, all of whom deserve to be acknowledged for the excellent work in building a movement for positive change.

On behalf of the SOC, I thank all who have added their expertise, passion and perseverance to this cause. Especially deserving of recognition for excellent leadership are my colleagues, Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., and Dr. Catherine Lobaugh. Their inspiration, over the last three years, and wisdom have marshalled a significant effort that has brought us to the threshold of legislative and executive action, the potential of which could have far reaching effects in the lives of countless children and fathers.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant in-kind contributions of individuals and organizations at the national, state or local level, who have contributed much to our efforts thus far.

Among those deserving of praise include U.S government offices, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania branches of state government, professional associations, foundations, churches,, professional experts, voluntary organizations, and a host of individual names, and faces we may never know.

In addition, some have contributed financially to assure that the work continues. In that regard, I would be derelict, not to mention the **City of Philadelphia, Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disability Services for their consistent support for our conferences over the last three years.**

We are especially thankful for the following who have taken on specific challenges to advance our work:

- **Justice Max Baer**, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, reaffirming the rights and responsibilities that both mother and father have in regard to a child’s well-being;
- **State Senator Anthony Hardy Williams; State Senator Patrick M. Browne; State Senator Jay Costa; State Representative Edward C. Gainey; State Representative Harold A. English; Representative Joanna E. McClinton; and Representative Austin A. Davis**, all have given freely, the use of their name, and photo to demonstrate their support statewide for our fatherhood initiative; and
- Of course, our advocate, champion, and the face of our statewide campaign “Brighter Futures for Our Children...Through Great Father Family Involvement.” **Dr. Joel N. Myers**, Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of AccuWeather, & Founder & Chair of the DAD’s Resource Center in State College, Pennsylvania.

By your participation here today, you have joined in a cause that can make a real difference in children’s lives, and will accrue to the benefit of all Pennsylvanians as our children experience better outcomes, and become responsible and productive roles models in our communities.

I thank each of you, including the presenters at this Symposium, as well as those presenters in the past, for the knowledge they brought with them, the inspiration, and the challenge to us to recommit ourselves to this important movement.

David A. Wyher

Founder & President/CEO

Delta Community Supports, Inc.

And

Co-Chair, Symposium Organizing Committee (SOC)



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