

# Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement

*“...fathers have the same responsibilities and, importantly, the same rights as mothers.”*



—JUSTICE MAX BAER  
Pennsylvania Supreme Court

***Greater Father  
Involvement...***

***Brighter Future  
for Children***

FINAL EDITION

# Welcome...

## Greetings from the Chair of the Symposium Executive Planning Committee

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



Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.

**D**r. W. Wilson Goode, Sr. is the President and CEO of Amachi, Incorporated, a nationally acclaimed faith-based program for mentoring children of incarcerated parents; and Chairman and CEO of Self, Incorporated – a nonprofit corporation dedicated to serving more than 600 homeless men and women. He is a Senior Fellow at the Fox School at the University of Pennsylvania. He became the City's first African American Mayor in 1984 and served two terms. Because of his innovative and ground-breaking work, he received two prestigious awards in 2006: the Civic Ventures Purpose Prize, and the Philadelphia Inquirer's Citizen of the Year Award. He is an ordained Baptist Minister since 1999 with more than 63 years of service at the First Baptist Church of Paschall located in southwest Philadelphia.

Dr. Goode has served as an officer in the United States Army. He led ground-breaking work in faith-based housing, assisting churches in building more than 2,000 units for low and moderate income persons. And, he was the first African American member and Chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. He broke racial barriers again with his appointment as Managing Director for the City of Philadelphia. He subsequently spent 7 years as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education in the Clinton Administration. He left that position in 2000 to organize the Amachi program which has now served more than 300,000 children in 50 States.

Dr. Goode is Chairman of the Philadelphia Leadership Foundation. He is a Board Member and Former Chairman of Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region, and the Free Library of Philadelphia. He is also former Chair of Partners for Sacred Places and the Cornerstone Christian Academy. He is a Board Member of America's Promise Alliance, Community In Schools of Philadelphia, and Eastern University. He is Chairman Emeritus of Leadership Foundations, and Emeritus Trustee of Southwest Leadership Academy Charter School.

Dr. Goode has earned degrees from Morgan State University (BA), the University of Pennsylvania (MA), Palmer, Theological Seminary (D. Min.), and fourteen conferred honorary doctorates. He is a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and Kappa Alpha Psi.

Dr. Goode and his wife of 56 years have one son, two daughters and two granddaughters.



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2210 South 71st Street Third Floor, Philadelphia PA 19142 | [www.amachimentoring.org](http://www.amachimentoring.org)

September 27, 2017

Greetings!!

Welcome to the Statewide Symposium on Child Well-being and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement. I am honored to stand before you, not as President and CEO of Amachi, Inc. or as the former Mayor of Philadelphia, but as a grandfather, father, and man of faith who understands that the ever-changing world in which we live today is wreaking havoc on our families. Too many children are growing up without the benefit of two parents in the home; contributing to a host of undesirable outcomes. In Pennsylvania, 914,000 or 36% of the child population are without fathers in the home. As a state and as a nation, we must do better.

Thank you for taking the time to join us in our thorough examination of the critical role of both parents and the impediment to the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children. Our dialogue will begin a more active role to correct government and societal norms that create barriers to the all-important role of the father in the life of his/her child. After our work today, we will produce a comprehensive document with recommendations for consideration to ensure that we have better outcomes for families.

Throughout the course of the symposium, you will have the opportunity to hear from experts and take part in the transformative work undertaken by the Strong Families Commission. You will have the full power and influence of leaders from all spheres as we highlight policies and programs. As well, we will examine the government structures on which we rely for protection of the rights for all citizens. There is nothing of greater significance than the well-being of our children.

The time is now to get this critical work in the forefront and to get this right. We are grateful to have our esteemed elected officials join us for this undertaking along with a multitude of professionals, scholars, leaders, and concerned individuals. Together, we will make a difference and create the "ripple" by which our cities, state and nation will rethink, address and enact policies to positively impact our children, families and most importantly, fathers.

Sincerely,

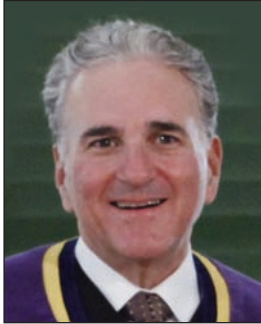


W. Wilson Goode, Sr.  
President and CEO – Amachi, Inc.  
Former Mayor – City of Philadelphia

*"Who knows but what God has brought us through his child..."*

# Letter of Acknowledgement

*Max Baer, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice*



Max Baer

Justice Baer received his B.A degree from the University of Pittsburgh, his J.D. from Duquesne University School of Law, and a Masters of Tax Program from Robert Morris College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His professional experience includes serving as a Deputy Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; a decade of Private law practice; Elected Judgeship of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County; Administrative Judge, Family Division, Allegheny County Court; and Elected Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Justice Baer has served as Chair of the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee of the Supreme Court, Juvenile Court Judges Commission, Ex Officio Representative, Joint State Government Commission on Adoption Law and Services to Children and Youth, and Former Chair of the Pennsylvania Conference of Trial Judges, Family Law Section.

The Justice's awards and honors include: Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Adoption Advocate of the Year, 1997; Federal Department of Health and Human Services, Adoption Excellence Award for Judicial Innovation, 1998; Robert S. Steward Award for Distinguished Service to Pennsylvania Families, 1998; Child Advocacy Award for Legal Contributions Advancing the Welfare of Our Nation's Children, 1999; Judicial Achievement Award for Advancing Pro Bono Activities, 1999; Pennsylvania Bar Association, Child Advocate of the Year, 2000; Homeless Children's Education Fund, Champion of Children's Award, 2003; The J.N.L. Club, Humanitarian Award for Community Involvement, 2003; Pennsylvania's Council of Mediators, Most Valuable Peacemaker, 2004; and the Three Rivers Youth Nellie Award for Civic Leadership, 2005





SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
SUITE 2525, ONE OXFORD CENTRE  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219

MAX BAER  
JUSTICE

August 4, 2017

(412) 467-2220  
FAX (412) 467-2221

Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch, ACSW  
The Strong Families Commission Incorporated  
P.O. Box 13502  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Re: Paternal Involvement with Abused and Neglected Children

Dear Dr. Lynch,

You requested that I write to explain Pennsylvania's current child welfare system, and to endorse the involvement of fathers and their families in the lives of their children.

Ten years ago, we began organizing Pennsylvania into a coherent child welfare community. We created county roundtables of involved individuals in most counties within Pennsylvania, leadership roundtables comprised of representatives from county roundtables of like-sized jurisdictions to allow joint problem-solving and system enhancement, and a state roundtable to ensure that all of Pennsylvania was working together in implementing best practices for our children. This effort was and remains coordinated by the Office of Children and Families in the Courts, lead remarkably by Sandy Moore, MSW. Through these collaborative efforts, we have reduced the number of children in foster care by about 7,000 during these ten years, and have seen a shift from congregate care and foster care to kinship care for those children remaining under state supervision.

As part of these efforts, we have recognized that fathers have the same responsibilities and, importantly, the same rights as mothers. We want them to be involved in parenting their children. Even when fathers are unable to fulfil this responsibility, we look to their families to participate in the raising of their children. We believe that to ignore fathers and their families is to disregard a large valuable resource for children.

I, Ms. Moore, and all involved in the Pennsylvania child welfare community congratulate you and your team for taking steps to enhance the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children. We look forward to working alongside you as we all strive to ensure that every child in Pennsylvania is raised by a competent and loving family member.

Sincerely,

Max Baer

# Message from ...

## Symposium Co-Chair from the East

*David A. Wyher, President/CEO, Delta Community Supports, Inc.*



David A. Wyher

In 1977 founded Delta Community Supports, Inc. a non-profit corporation providing child welfare, services and serving people with developmental disabilities. In New Jersey, Delta Community Supports also serves the intellectually disabled in community support services. The company employs over 750 staff and 200 foster parents. Offices are located in Blue Bell, Glenside, Warminster, and Levittown in Pennsylvania; offices also in Raritan and Mays Landing, New Jersey.

Has served as President of statewide associations and business networks in Pennsylvania, and has served on the board of several non-profit organizations. He is founding member of and served 10 years as the Chairman of the Board of Eagle

Workers Compensation Trust, a Pennsylvania self-insurance corporation. He is also a founding member of Eagle Health Trust, a self-insurance program covering non-profits in PA. Board member of the Keystone Alliance for Performance Excellence, MAAPE, the mid-Atlantic regional Baldrige Award program.

Dave received his BA from Eastern College, and a MA from Villanova University. He and his wife Terri reside in Blue Bell, PA.

## Symposium Roundtable Group Facilitators

- **Administration of Justice/Public Safety** – Chair, Mr. George D. Mosee, Jr., Esquire & Co-Chair, Dr. H. Jean Wright II, Forensic Psychologist
- **Behavioral Health** – Chair, Mr. George Fleming & Co-Chair, Ms. Robin Evans
- **Child Support Custody, Services & Enforcement** – Chair, Ms. Debra Pontisso & Co-Chair, Ms. Jacquelyn Mitchell, JD, LICSW
- **Dependent, Delinquent & Crossover Children and Youth** – Chair, Mr. David R. Fair & Co-Chair, Mr. Jerry Harvey
- **Early Childhood Development** – Chair, Ms. Jeanette Casciato & Co-Chair, Ms. Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum
- **Education** – Chair, Dr. Richard Jeffrey Rhodes & Co-Chair, Ms. Barbara J. Chavous-Pennock, MSW
- **Employment and Training** – Chair, Ms. KayLynn Hamilton & Co-Chair, Mr. Jason Cosley
- **Housing, Supervised Independent Living, and Homelessness** – Chair, Ms. Nicole Anderson & Co-Chair, Ms. Kerry Krieger
- **Parent Education/Supportive Services** – Chair, Ms. Anita Kulick & Co-Chair Mr. John M. Burwell
- **Public Health** – Chair, Ms. Brenda Shelton-Dunston & Co-Chair, Mr. William Champagne





September 27, 2017

Delegates of the Symposium:

It is my privilege to welcome all symposium participants to today's gathering, which is significant for many reasons. Long before agreeing to attend this event, each of you dedicated years of time and effort to improving the wellbeing of families in different parts of the Commonwealth. Many of you have been pioneers in projects to strengthen families through the development of Responsible Fatherhood programs and policies. Thank you for everything you've already contributed to this movement.

Today we're asking you to take another step forward by transcending our geographic and political boundaries to develop a plan that will enhance the positive impact of our work. It is our goal to build a statewide leadership group that will advance child wellbeing through the elimination of policy and program barriers that limit father inclusion. We hope that this work will generate action among policy makers across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and increase positive outcomes for children who can't succeed without the support of both their parents.

Pennsylvania has been slow to address the issue of Responsible Fatherhood at the statewide level. But your presence here today suggests that we have finally reached a point where constructive change is imminent. We know that research has shown a strong link between a father's absence and their child's subsequent economic deprivation, incarceration, addiction, or other devastating life event. This gathering gives us an extraordinary opportunity to turn that knowledge into public policies and system reforms that can radically improve the lives of thousands of children.

I encourage you to use our time together to strengthen your commitment to this movement, which has so much potential to nurture child welfare in every segment of our population. As leaders from many sectors that have an impact on youth across Pennsylvania, I urge you to share your deepest insights and most effective ideas so we can develop policy recommendations that maximize our investment of time and knowledge. We hope you will leave this event inspired by your colleagues and committed to taking future actions that will promote strong, healthy families and safe, happy children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David A. Wyher", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

David A. Wyher  
President and CEO, Delta Community Supports, Inc.  
Symposium Planning Committee Co-Chair

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# Message from...

## Symposium Co-Chair from the West

*Dr. Catherine Lobaugh, Allegheny Intermediate Unit Assistant Executive Director for Early Childhood, Family and Community Services*



**Dr. Catherine Lobaugh**

**D**r. Catherine Lobaugh is the AIU's Assistant Executive Director for Early Childhood, Family and Community Services. She 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 serves as an adjunct professor at California University of Pennsylvania, and is an instructor at the University of Pittsburgh. She was appointed to the Pennsylvania Early Learning Council in 2010 and continues to serve on that council.



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Assistant Executive Director for  
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September 27, 2017

Dear Delegates:

Welcome to the first Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement Symposium. Your presence here today demonstrates your commitment to the importance of fathers' involvement in the lives of their children. During this time together our hope is that we will gain a better understanding of this importance and be able to better support the many components of an initiative of this magnitude. As you look around the room today you will see the faces of those representing the many components that range from policy makers, the judicial system, non-profit agencies, government entities, and the educational system to name a few. Together we have the awesome opportunity and charge to move this forward.

All the best to each of you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be part of one more step in what's best for children. Our joint involvement here today highlights our potential collective impact on father involvement in our children's well-being across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Catherine Lobaugh'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Catherine Lobaugh  
Assistant Executive Director  
Early Childhood, Family and Community Services

We maximize educational opportunities for all learners by responding to the needs of our community with leading-edge, high-quality, cost-effective programs and services.

# Message and Thank You!

*Lynn Fields Harris*

*on behalf of The Strong Families Commission Inc. (THE COMMISSION)*



Lynn Fields Harris

Lynn Fields Harris serves as Executive Director of Center in the Park. Founded in 1968, Center in the Park is a nationally accredited senior community center in Northwest Philadelphia primarily focused on the needs of adults, 55+ and on improving the health and wellbeing of thousands of older adults annually - with programs and services in lifelong learning; creative self-expression; health promotion and evidence-based programs; social services and housing and community connections.

Mrs. Harris is currently Chair of the National Council on Aging (NCOA)/National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) Executive Committee and a member of the National Council on Aging (NCOA) Board of Directors.

Mrs. Harris holds a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and, a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Elementary Education from Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Also, Mrs. Harris was a Professional Associate of Penn State University's Management Development Programs and Services, associated with its Abington Campus.

Active in professional and civic groups, Mrs. Harris is a member of the Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service sorority. She is Immediate Past President of the PA Association of Senior Centers (PASC). She was co-investigator on two National Institute of Mental Health funded research grants, in collaboration with Thomas Jefferson University's Center for Research on Aging and Health (CARAH) and Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing Center for Innovative Care in Aging.

Mrs. Harris is a certified Master Trainer of the Stanford University Chronic Disease, Pain and Diabetes Self-Management Programs and holds a Certificate in Senior Center Management. She was a Delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging and appointed twice by the Governor and confirmed by the PA Senate as a member of the PA Council on Aging, which she chaired. Ms. Harris serves on the Mayor's Commission on Aging and also on the Chestnut Hill Hospital Board of Trustees; the PA Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition Board and is a member of the AMACHI, Inc. Board of Directors; and serves as a Commissioner on The Strong Families Commission, Inc.

A native Philadelphian, Mrs. Harris resides in Montgomery County with her husband, Thomas.

THE STRONG FAMILIES  
COMMISSION



September 27, 2017

Dear Symposium Delegates:

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Members of The Strong Families Commission Incorporated ("THE COMMISSION") Board of Commissioners, welcome and thank you for your participation in our collaborative and historic statewide "Symposium on Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement." Your presence and active participation is appreciated and essential to raising the level of discourse about the importance of father involvement and addressing needed change in relevant public policy and practice.

We are encouraged that you share THE COMMISSION's vision that children and youth across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and around the nation, will benefit from and should grow up with the emotional, social, physical, intellectual, spiritual, and financial support of both of their parents in healthy and supportive environments. The Mission of the Commission is to strengthen families and improve child well-being through the integration of Responsible Fatherhood; to advocate for the elimination of policy and program barriers that affect the successful reunification of children and families, including Fathers; leverage resources to contribute to the well-being of children and families; and, encourage collaboration among the Commonwealth's organizations, and beyond, that are family-focused and inclusive of Fathers.

As we look forward to the outcomes that this symposium will produce, we know that our ongoing work and success relies on your continued engagement. Therefore, we trust that today is just the start and provides the impetus needed as we continue collectively to move policy and practice to the point that our Commonwealth is recognized as a model for other states to follow supporting father involvement, including that of grandfathers and great grandfathers who often are taking care of our children.

Thank you, again, for serving as a delegate and for continuing to support and follow the work of THE COMMISSION. Please contribute to our work and access newsletters and updates at [www.thestrongfamiliescommission.com](http://www.thestrongfamiliescommission.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lynn Fields Harris", is written over a circular blue stamp or seal.

Lynn Fields Harris  
Treasurer, Board of Commissioners

[THESTRONGFAMILIESCOMMISSION.COM](http://THESTRONGFAMILIESCOMMISSION.COM)

**"THE COMMISSION"**

is an advocacy organization working to change policy and practice that supports children, youth and family focused agencies that are inclusive of fathers.



# Symposium Schedule of Events

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • September 27, 2017 • Full Day Program

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

**REGISTRATION, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
AND NETWORKING**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.**

**PROGRAM — WELCOME AND GREETINGS**

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

**9:10 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.**

**PURPOSE OF SYMPOSIUM AND  
INTRODUCTION OF PLENARY SPEAKERS**

**Mr. David A. Wyher**  
Symposium Co-Chair

**9:20 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.**

**PLENARY SPEAKERS**

**Mr. William J. Clark, President**, Child's World America,  
and Publisher of Child World News

**Mr. Bruce Lesley, President**, First Focus  
*"Making Children & Families the Priority"*

**The Honorable Eugene DePasquale**  
Auditor General of Pennsylvania  
*"Fixing Pennsylvania's Broken Child-Welfare System"*

**Dr. Janet Eisenberg Shapiro**  
Dean and Professor of the Graduate School  
of Social Work and Social Research  
*"Fathers Get Stressed Too: How the ACES studies Can  
help us to Support Fathers as parents and caregivers"*

**10:40 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

**BREAK**

**10:45 a.m. – 12:00 Noon –**

**PANEL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

**Moderator – Dr. Catherine Lobaugh**  
Symposium Co-Chair

- **Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania –**  
Ms. Kelly M. Hoffman, Kids Count Director  
at Pennsylvania Partnership for Children.

- **Systemic Impediments to Father Involvement —**  
Dr. David J. Pate Jr., Associate Professor at the University of  
Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare,  
and an Affiliated Associate Professor of the Institute for  
Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
- **Engaging Fathers and Families through the Lens of  
Education —** Ms. Carrie Jasper, Director, Outreach to  
Parents and Families, Office of Communications and  
Outreach, U.S. Department of Education

**12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

**SYMPOSIUM WORKING LUNCH**

**Introduction of Lunch Speaker**

**Mr. Larry L. Klinger, Jr., Chair**  
Fathers Collaborative Council of Western Pennsylvania

**Symposium Remarks**

**Ms. Larissa Bailey**  
Central Region Manager, Office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey

**Lunch Speaker**

**Ms. Christine L. James-Brown**  
CEO, Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

**1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**BREAK**

**1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**SYMPOSIUM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

**3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**AFTERNOON PRELIMINARY REPORTING FROM  
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

**Moderator – Mr. Sulaiman A. Wood, Manager**  
Mayor's Office of Community Engagement  
& Opportunity, City of Philadelphia

**3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**LEGISLATIVE ADDRESS**

**State Senator Anthony Hardy Williams, State Senator  
Patrick M. Browne, Representative Edward C. Gainey,  
and Representative Harold A. English**

**4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**EVALUATION AND ADJOURNMENT**

**Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch, Chair, THE COMMISSION**

# Speakers and Panel Presenters



## Mr. Bruce Lesley

*President, First Focus, Washington, D.C.*

Lesley has more than 25 years of public policy experience at all levels of government and a demonstrated commitment to making children's lives better. He directs all aspects of policy development and internal operations at First Focus. In 12 years on Capitol Hill, Lesley worked on health care, education, human services, and immigration issues in several different capacities. Prior to his work at First Focus, he served as Senior Health Policy Advisor on the Senate Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees for U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman. He also worked for U.S. Senator Bob Graham on the Senate Finance Committee, served as minority Chief of Staff for the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and was a legislative aide in the offices of U.S. Representatives Ronald Coleman and Diana DeGette.



## The Honorable Eugene DePasquale

*Auditor General of Pennsylvania*

Auditor General DePasquale's ongoing work touches the lives of all Pennsylvanians. He is most proud of the work that led to fixing the state's child-abuse hotline, ChildLine, where more than 58,000 calls went unanswered before his audit; reducing the number of untested rape kits in Pennsylvania and across the nation; and recommending improvements in the state's response to the opioid crisis. He continues to fight to protect children from abuse, end the backlog of untested rape kits, make college affordable for the middle class, and ensure seniors have access to the services they need.



## Ms. Janet Eisenberg Shapiro, Ph.D.

*Dean, Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, Bryn Mawr College*

Janet Shapiro, MA, MSW, PhD, is Dean and Professor of Social Work at the Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. Dr. Shapiro's main research interest is in the area of translational research and the application of developmental understanding of children and adolescents to programs and policies designed to support the wellbeing of children, adolescent and their families. Dr. Shapiro's most recent academic work is in the area of the neurobiology of early adversity and its implications for health and mental health across the lifespan, as well as an exploration of parental resilience within refugee families.



## Ms. Kelly M. Hoffman

*Pennsylvania Partnership for Children*

is the KIDS COUNT Director at Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC), which is a strong, effective and trusted voice to improve the health, education and well-being of children and youth in the commonwealth. PPC's goal is simple: to make Pennsylvania one of the top 10 states to be a child and to raise a child. She serves on the national KIDS COUNT Steering Committee and regularly updates the Pennsylvania KIDS COUNT Data Center

## Mr. David J. Pate, Jr., Ph.D.

*Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare*

Pate is an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, and an Affiliated Associate Professor of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Faculty Affiliate of the Institute for Child and Well-Being at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Professor Pate's research projects involve the use of qualitative research methods to examine the relationship of non-custodial fathers of children on welfare and their interaction with their children, the child support enforcement system, and the impact of adverse childhood experiences on the well-being of African American adult males.



## Ms. Carrie Jasper

*Director, Outreach to Parents and Families, U.S. Department of Education*

Ms. Jasper is the writer and editor of two monthly newsletters for families, Family, School and Community Engagement and Touching Base, specifically for military families. To further the Secretary's vision for parents Ms. Jasper with the family engagement team have held parent forums, roundtables, symposiums, and meetings across the country to train, educate, and inform parents. Ms. Jasper along with members of the family engagement team have held listen and learn sessions to hear from parents. To address the issue of dads not being involved in their children's schools, Ms. Jasper with the family engagement team have held father forums and roundtables across the country.



## Mr. Larry L. Klinger, Jr.

*Chair Fathers Collaborative Council of Western Pennsylvania*

Mr. Klingler 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. Mr. Klinger oversees programming that includes the AIU's, Early Head Start, Adult Education and Workforce Development, Fatherhood, Family Centers, other Family and Community Education programs.



## Ms. Christine L. James Brown

*President & CEO, Child Welfare League of America*

Ms. James Brown has served for ten years as President and CEO of CWLA, a membership-based standard setting and advocacy organization.

Ms. James Brown served for four years as President and CEO of United Way International where she was responsible for the efforts of the organization's worldwide network of United Way non-profit member organizations in 45 countries and territories and for ten years she served as President and CEO of United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Throughout her career, Ms. James-Brown has worked tirelessly to help nonprofit health and human service organizations grow and expand their ability to serve children and families through foundation and corporate philanthropy.



# Legislative Sponsors



**State Senator 8th District**  
**Anthony Hardy Williams (D)**  
*Philadelphia*

Senator Williams never dreamed he'd hold elective office growing up. After majoring in economics at Franklin & Marshall College, he planned to use his academic experience to take over the business world.

Hone his skills at a Fortune 500 company, then, strike out on his own. He followed his plan, working as a corporate analyst, next as an executive for PepsiCo, and then launched his own vending company. Then his world exploded — literally. That's when he watched part of his childhood neighborhood engulfed in flames during the 1985 MOVE standoff in Philadelphia. He saw hopelessness creeping into formerly vibrant communities. He watched companies closing and jobs leaving, not just in his corner of the world, but all across PA. Fear rose. Opportunities waned. Something needed to be done. Someone had to address the issues hanging over kitchen tables and the boardroom tables alike. Someone had to have better ideas. At 31, he decided to try and tackle that challenge. In joining the Pennsylvania Legislature — first as state representative for the 191st District in 1988, then as state senator of the 8th District in 1998 — he resolved to make the needs of his constituents known, and has, with solid results.

Senator Williams' approach is simple, he sticks to a straightforward dictate: find the best ideas and implement them — regardless if they originate with a fellow Democrat, a Republican or an Independent. It's a commonsense, yet fearless approach to leadership that resists blind party allegiance or indebtedness to its patrons. It's how he operates in the Pennsylvania State Senate, where he serves as Democratic Whip, State Government (Chair) and a member of the Education, Communications and Technology, Law and Justice, Rules and Executive Nominations, Policy and Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committees.

His sense of advocacy compelled him to join the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, along with a number of community boards. As senator for the 8th District, one of the state's most populous, he connects with and offers solutions for citizens in small towns, suburban enclaves and urban centers, serving people of all economic, ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds with sensibility and compassion. That stems from the moral courage instilled in him by his father, the late Hardy Williams, the pioneering activist and former state senator, and his mother, Carole Williams-Green, a feisty and committed retired public school educator. And it's replenished by the inspiration he finds in his wife, Shari, and their two daughters, Asia and Autumn.

**State Senator 16th District**  
**Patrick M. Browne (R)**  
*Lehigh County*



Senator Browne serves as Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman. The committee, reviews all legislation for its fiscal impact and plays a crucial role in developing the state budget.

Before being elected Chairman, Senator Browne served as Senate Majority Whip for the 2011-12 and 2013-14 Legislative Sessions. Besides serving as Appropriations Committee Chairman, he is also a member of three Senate Committees: Education; Finance; and Health & Human Services, as well as the Senate Majority Policy Committee.

Senator Browne is Co-Chair of the bi-partisan, bi-cameral Early Childhood Education Caucus and the Legislative Arts and Culture Caucus. He is also Co-Chair of the PA Public School Building Construction and Reconstruction Advisory Committee (PlanCon) and had previously Co-Chaired both the Basic Education Funding Commission and the Special Education Funding Commission.

He also serves as a member of the board of the Public School Employees' Retirement System, the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Legislative Audit Advisory Committee.

Senator Browne is the author of numerous state laws ranging from child protection legislation to education initiatives to reforming state government. He drafted key portions of Act 120 of 2010 which fundamentally reformed Pennsylvania's public pension systems and created an independent fiscal office to monitor state spending and the budget process. Senator Browne was instrumental in developing the Pennsylvania Web Accountability and Transparency (Penn WATCH) Act, which expanded the public's access to state spending records by creating and maintaining a searchable, database-driven budget website.

In 2009, Senator Browne crafted the one-of-a-kind, 130-acre Neighborhood Improvement Zone (NIZ) to help revitalize and expand the tax base of the then financially-struggling city of Allentown. To date over \$2 billion of new development investment in Allentown and more than \$3 million in annual school property tax revenues for Allentown School District have been generated through the zone. The NIZ has already served as a model for economic development in other distressed areas — cities, boroughs and townships — throughout the Commonwealth with the creation of the City Revitalization and Improvement Zones (CRIZ) which will afford a similar tax financing program to smaller cities in Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Allentown, Senator Browne attended Allentown Central Catholic High School. He resides in Allentown with his wife, Heather, and son, Alex.



# Legislative Sponsors



**State Representative  
24th Legislative District**

**Edward C. Gainey (D)**  
*Pittsburgh*

State Representative Ed Gainey brings new leadership and a new vision to the neighborhoods that make up the 24th Legislative District.

His legislative priorities are labor issues, working-class families, transportation, education, community development and enhancement.

Before joining the House of Representatives in 2013, he worked as the community development specialist for the city of Pittsburgh, where he implemented several initiatives such as business seminars, the Minority Media Initiative, diversity education for the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, and The 52 Weeks of Peace Initiative.

Gainey is a board member for Divine Intervention Ministries and PROMISE organizations. He has received several community awards and certificates. His most recent award was from The New Pittsburgh Courier for being one of the 50 Men of Excellence in the Pittsburgh region. In 2010, he received the Family Life Empowerment Community Center award from the Northside Church of God and Christ for his accomplishments in community outreach. In 2009, he received the Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Public Service Awards from Champion Enterprise. He also participated in the planning and implementation of the Be A 6th Grade Mentor program, which was designed to mentor 6th graders in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

In 2010, he became the first African-American to serve as chairman of the Pittsburgh City Democratic Committee. He currently serves as Allegheny County Democratic Committeeman in the 12th Ward 10th District.

He received a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Morgan State University in 1994. He played varsity basketball and graduated from Peabody High School in 1988.

Gainey was raised in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh. He is married and has three children. He and his wife attend Cornerstone Baptist Church in the Lincoln Lemington section of Pittsburgh.



**State Representative  
30th Legislative District**

**Harold A. English (R)**  
*Allegheny County*

Representative Hal English brings a wide and varied military, legal, and business background to his third term in the House of

Representatives. Hal enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1981, and was commissioned an officer in 1984. After 30 years of service, he retired from the Marine Corps Reserve with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He has served as a judge advocate, a prosecutor, a defense counsel, an appellate review officer and a legal assistance attorney. He served as commanding officer of a Marine Corps truck company with more than 200 Marines under his command at unit locations in Erie, Connellsville and Ebensburg. He also served as site commander and judge advocate of the Johnstown Aviation Unit while activated in 2003 to 2005.

English has been practicing law since 1987 with license to practice in the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia. He practiced criminal law while serving on active duty in the Marine Corps through 1991. He also gained civil trial experience while working with a Pittsburgh litigation firm from 1991 through 1995. In addition to trial litigation, he handled the firm's estate and probate matters. He established his own law firm, H.A. English & Associates, P.C. in 1998, which is located in Hampton Township. He has been appointed by Judges of the Orphans' Court Division as counsel for incapacitated persons and administrator of estates and guardian of incapacitated persons.

English is assigned to the House Education, Game and Fisheries, Insurance and Judiciary committees.

He is married to the former Sue Killinger of Shaler Township, and they have two sons, Garrett and Jayson.

# Symposium Roundtable Discussion Leaders



**Mr. George D. Mosee, Jr., Esquire**  
*Interim Executive Director, Philadelphia Anti-Drug/ Anti-Violence Network, Philadelphia, PA*

Mr. Mosee was the Deputy District Attorney in charge of the Juvenile Division of the PA District Attorney's Office for thirteen years and has served on many boards and committees, including the

Pennsylvania Juvenile Prosecutors Network and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee.



**Ms. Jacquelyn Mitchell, JD, L.I.C.S.W.**  
*Co-Founding Editor, Journal of Forensic Social Work, Atlanta, Georgia*

Ms. Mitchell is an attorney, forensic social worker, educator, and mediator. She earned her JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and is a member of the bar in Georgia, Pennsylvania, and the

District of Columbia. A licensed social worker in Pennsylvania and the U. S. Virgin Islands, she holds an earned MSW degree from the Atlanta University School of Social Work.



**Dr. H. Jean Wright II, PsyD**  
*Director, Behavioral Health and Justice Related Services at the PA Department of Behavior Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, Philadelphia, PA*

Dr. Wright, a clinical and forensic psychologist, has over 20 years of experience in behavioral health and proven success in leading people and managing

initiatives for the city of Philadelphia. He conducts interactive and highly charged seminars, workshops and trainings on topics related to behavioral health and wellness, public health education and trauma-informed care throughout the U.S.



**Mr. George Fleming**  
*Behavior Health Team Leader, Allegheny Family Network, Homestead, Pennsylvania*

Fleming has worked in the Human Services field for the past 30 years. At an early age, he realized that he had a compassion for the plight of all people and a desire to serve them. His background

includes several decades of executive administration and oversight for alcohol, tobacco and other drug treatment, residential group homes, mental health services, reunification services, homeless shelters, mentorship and prevention services.



**Ms. Robin Evans**  
*National Consultant, Transdisciplinary Children & Youth Mental Health Specialist, Philadelphia, PA*

Ms. Evans worked for over 30 years for the PA Department of Public Health spearheading wellness initiatives. In 2008, after she was diagnosed with cancer, she began treatment with pioneer oncologist,

Edith Mitchell, MD. Acting as her physician and mentor, Dr. Mitchell sparked and helped strengthen Ms. Evan's unflappable advocacy resolve as evidenced by her involvement in a variety of projects wholly focused on education, research and engagement to breast cancer.

**Ms. Debra Pontisso, MPA**  
*Co-Chair, National Responsible Fatherhood Roundtable, Falls Church, Virginia*

During Ms Pontisso's 33-year career with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), she held various positions in the Administration on Aging, Office of Community Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, and as Associate Director of the U.S. Commission on Children and Families.



**Mr. David R. Fair**  
*Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Turning Points for Children, a PHMC affiliate, Philadelphia, PA*

Mr. Fair has held many roles in public and non-profit organizations for over 40 years. He currently serves as Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Turning Points for Children, where he is responsible for oversight of Turning Points' In-home services, foster care and adoption programs, and its Parent Support Services program.



**Mr. Jerry D. Harvey**  
*Fatherhood Engagement Supervisor, Allegheny County Children, Youth & Families, Pittsburgh, PA*

Mr. Harvey is a graduate of Dakota Wesleyan University in South Dakota with a BA in Pre-Engineering and Art, has taught at Carnegie Mellon University, worked at Three Rivers Youth as a day treatment and curfew counselor, and spent 20 years with the Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families. He is currently a Father Engagement Specialist.



**Ms. Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum**  
*Pennsylvania Program Director for the Parent-Child Home Program, Philadelphia, PA*

Malkia's fifteen years of experience as an administrator and advocate includes V.P. of Social Services at the People's Emergency Center, Jumpstart Baltimore Program Coordinator, Project Act Training Consultant for Abilities Network and Education Coordinator for Head Start at Morgan State University. She is the co-chair of the Children's Workgroup-Early Childhood Committee, member of the Interagen Steering Committee and Content Expert for families experiencing homelessness for The Strong Families Commission Incorporated.



**Ms. Jeanette Casciato, MSW/LSW**  
*Supervisor for Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Head Start Programs, Homestead, Pennsylvania*

Ms. Casciato has served in a number of roles as a family therapist, behavior specialist consultant, and family services specialist, though her true passion is working with children and families. In her current role, she oversees the enrollment and implementation of family services for over 2,000 children and families as well as monitoring the data and reporting the outcomes.





**Dr. Richard Jeffrey Rhodes**

*Assistant Superintendent, The School District of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Dr. Rhodes has always wanted to be actively involved in ensuring that all children have the opportunity and the ability, as a result of teaching and learning, to have choices and to make decisions that will positively impact and shape their lives as well as the lives of those whom they come in contact.



**Ms. Barbara J. Chavous-Pennock, MSW**

*Founder & CEO, Somerset Academy Learning Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Barbara’s experience includes human services; educational choice; charter, private, and Christian school development; and, as director of Urban Initiatives for Special Olympics in PA; the implementation of award-winning Unified Sports throughout Philadelphia. She champions team-member empowerment and cross-disciplinary collaboration to enhance academic achievement.



**Mr. Jason Cosley, MSW**

*Director, Workforce Development Impact Services Corporation, Philadelphia, PA*

Jason has successfully developed and managed federal, state, local, and private funded workforce development and career pathway programs in the greater Philadelphia metropolitan area for dislocated workers, vulnerable adults, youth, and persons with criminal backgrounds, many of these programs were nationally recognized for improving long-term sustainable employment outcomes.



**Ms. KayLynn Hamilton**

*Workforce Education Liaison, Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy, Penn State College of Education, University Park, Pennsylvania*

Ms. Hamilton provides leadership and support to adult education agencies and partners throughout Pennsylvania in the implementation of career pathways strategies and workforce development partnerships through the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s WIOA state leadership initiative. KayLynn’s most current work includes the development of strategies to address skilled immigrants through workforce development programs, particularly Title II.



**Ms. Kerry Krieger, MSW**

*Director of Family Services at Delta Community Supports, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Ms. Krieger has worked for Delta Community supports for 16 years serving in several roles; Delta’s Director of Quality Assurance and she also guided the organizational integration of Delta’s Evolv database. Kerry has co-led her agency’s Quality Improvement Project on Improving Services to Fathers. She continues to advocate for the inclusion of fathers in all aspects of the agency’s work.

**Ms. Nicole Anderson**

*Director for Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness, Homestead, Pennsylvania*

Ms. Anderson has 19 years of experience working in the field of homeless services. Nicole received her BS in political science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and her MPA from Pennsylvania State University. Currently, at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, she provides education and technical assistance regarding McKinney-Vento legislation in order to ensure that all children experiencing homelessness have equal access to public education.



Photo unavailable

**Ms. Anita Kulick**

*President / CEO, Educating Communities for Parenting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

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 15 years developing and implementing specialized programs and services for highly at-risk children and parents, including those who are trauma-impacted, adjudicated delinquent, in foster care, or living with their children in homeless and substance recovery residences.



**Mr. John M. Burwell**

*Child Development Specialist, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Braddock, PA*

Mr. Burwell is the Child Development Specialist for the Braddock/Rankin Family Care Connection, Children’s Hospital of UPMC of Pittsburgh and has served as the Facilitator for the Fatherhood Support Program in the Pittsburgh area. Before his work at Family Care Connection, he taught middle school in Baltimore, Maryland, and in the Pittsburgh Public School System.



**Ms. Brenda Shelton-Dunston, MPH**

*Executive Director, Black Women’s Health Alliance, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Brenda is the architect of the flagship initiative “Creating a Legacy of Wellness: Mind, Body and Spirit.” She is known as a “boundary spanner” for facilitating effective partnerships between community, faith-based, health, education, and corporate entities. In addition, she has managed skilled nursing homes, federally qualified community health centers, and city and statewide health programs, and has been instrumental in developing the first Minority Infant Mortality Reduction Program in North Carolina.



**Dr. William Champagne, MHS, Ed.D.**

*Male Support Service Coordinator Philadelphia Dept. of Public Health, Healthy Start, Philadelphia, PA*

In his position with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Dr. Champagne works to educate fathers on a variety of strategies to decrease infant mortality rates in selected Philadelphia zip codes. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Sociology at Harcum College, where he teaches courses on Marriage and Families and Social Problems.





# Symposium Executive Planning Committee

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

*Symposium Planning Committee Chair  
AMACHI, Inc.*

**Dr. Catherine Lobaugh**

*Symposium Planning Committee Co-Chair  
Allegheny Intermediate Unit, a part of the  
Pennsylvania Department of Education*

**Mr. David A. Wyher**

*Symposium Planning Committee Co-Chair  
Delta Community Supports, Inc.*

**Ms. Christine L. James Brown**

*Symposium Planning Committee Member, Child  
Welfare League of America, Inc.*

**Mr. Larry L. Klinger, Jr.**

*Symposium Co-Convener, Fathers Collaborative  
Council of Western Pennsylvania*

**Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch**

*Symposium Convener  
The Strong Families Commission Incorporated  
("THE COMMISSION")*

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## Symposium Adjournment



**Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch,  
ACSW**

*Symposium Convener,  
The Strong Families Commission  
Incorporated ("THE COMMISSION")  
NASW Social Work Pioneer®*

Dr. Lynch, is a forensic macro practice social worker and former Dean of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work at Clark Atlanta University. He has lectured at over a dozen colleges and universities; and authored or co-authored over 26 published manuscripts in professional books and/or scholarly journals.

Lynch has served in senior staff positions in the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of Pennsylvania's State Government, serving Lt. Governor Ernest P. Kline, House Speaker K. Leroy Irvis, and Chief Justice Robert N. C. Nix, Jr., and has experience in private industry, higher education, and non-profit corporations. In July 2016 he was recognized as a Steller Innovator for his pioneering project "The Integration of Responsible Fatherhood within Foster Care Service Delivery and Other Children and Youth Servicing Systems" by Ashoka

Changemakers and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Children's Wellbeing Initiative.

Throughout his career Lynch has been defined as a highly talented professional with a national reputation as a successful and visionary leader with an impressive history of positive and proactive contributions to human and institutional development; champion of forward thinking, with a social conscience for implementing actions that have a positive impact on people, society, government and the systems that serve them; and, creator of programs, policies, initiatives, and entities that impact society by means that improve the status quo and creates a better future for all. An example is the Pennsylvania Department of Aging.

Lynch holds a B.A. degree in Sociology from Morgan State College, a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh, with a concentration in Community Organizing and Planning, an advance Certificate in Social Administration from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work, and a Doctoral Degree in Social Policy and Administration from the School of Social Work, now known as the School of Social Policy and Practice. He graduated from Dunbar High School in Baltimore Maryland.



## Open Letter to Symposium Delegates

On behalf of the Symposium Executive Planning Committee, it is with tremendous pleasure that I welcome you as Delegates to the September 27, 2017 Symposium on Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement. This Symposium has been on the drawing board for a long time. It started as a dream of mine while serving as a Senior Fellow at the Stoneleigh Foundation with a joint appointment as Research Associate at Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. The Senior Fellow's Project was to explore the integration of Responsible Fatherhood within foster care service delivery, and other children and youth servicing systems. The fundamental purpose of the project was to champion the conversation and build an awareness of the value of Responsible Fatherhood programming within children, youth and family-focused service systems to improve well-being outcomes for children in Philadelphia, throughout the Commonwealth, and across the nation.

I, like so many others, believe that too many children across the country, including many in Pennsylvania are without the benefit of both parents in the home, often an absent Father, resulting in negative impacts on child well-being. Indeed, data indicates that these children are more likely to have a tougher time than their peers with two parents in the same household. I propose if we want as a society to reverse the trend of father absence, that our communities across America must take ownership of a clear vision for men within families. Central to this vision includes recognizing the role and value of fathers within the lives of children, as well as providing supportive services for Responsible Fatherhood to thrive.

Thanks to the contributions of: the U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Region III; Allegheny Intermediate Unit, AMACHI, Inc., Bryn Mawr College GSSWSR; Child Welfare League of America, Delta Community Supports, Inc.; Fathers Collaborative Council of Western Pennsylvania, PECO, Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disability Services; Philadelphia Leadership Foundation, PWRT, Stoneleigh Foundation; and the National Association of Social Workers – Pennsylvania Chapter, we are able to come together as a statewide platform to “Advocate for Children, Fathers & Stronger Families.

In that regard, we need each of you to be prepared to spend the day with us hammering out a strategy that gives universal meaning to the phrase “Greater Father Involvement...Brighter Future for Children” all across the Commonwealth.

Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch, ACSW  
NASW Social Work Pioneer® & Commission Chair

The Strong Families Commission, Incorporated P.O. Box 13502 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101



**KATHARINE M. WATSON, MEMBER**  
144th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

ROOM 41 EAST WING  
PO BOX 202144  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2144  
PHONE: (717) 787-5452

**DISTRICT OFFICES:**  
WARRINGTON GREENE  
1432 EASTON ROAD, UNIT 4-I  
WARRINGTON, PA 18976  
PHONE: (215) 343-8090

13 WEST CREAMERY ROAD  
P.O. BOX 166  
HILLTOWN, PA 18927  
PHONE: (215) 453-7888



**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

**COMMITTEES**

CHILDREN & YOUTH, CHAIRMAN  
RULES  
TRANSPORTATION

**CAUCUSES**

ALZHEIMER'S  
DIABETES  
FIREFIGHTERS &  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

August 30, 2017

Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch, ACSW  
NASW Social Work Pioneer  
Chair  
The Strong Families Commission Incorporated  
PO Box 13502  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Dear Dr. Lynch:

Thank you for your letter inviting me to serve as a delegate to the September 27, 2017 Symposium at the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center in Mechanicsburg.

Unfortunately, due to prior commitments I will be unable to attend this event. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives has a voting session scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, as the Chair of the House Children and Youth Committee I will be presiding over a previously scheduled committee meeting on this date.

I will make every effort to stop by the reception and information session on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you again for your kind invitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Watson".

Katharine M. Watson  
144<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

KMW/jld





COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGING

August 31, 2017

Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch, ACSW  
NASW Social Work Pioneer®  
P.O. Box 13502  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

Dear Dr. Rufus:

As follow up to our recent conversation, allow me to again thank you for inviting the Pennsylvania Department of Aging to participate in The Strong Families Commission's "Symposium on Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement." As discussed, I welcome the opportunity to attend the Symposium as a Delegate, but regretfully, I have a prior engagement that will prevent me from doing so. Notwithstanding, in order to ensure that the voice of the aging network is part of the conversation on this important topic, I would be grateful if you would allow a member of my staff to attend the Symposium on my behalf.

To this end, as part of our obligations under the Older Americans Act (OAA), the Department facilitates the National Family Caregiver Support Program, which is supported by Title III-E OAA funds. The Department's Caregiver Support Program Coordinator is Troy Dunston, who I recommend attend the Symposium on my behalf. The synergy between the Family Caregiver Support Program and the reality that so many families are facing as they strive to care for their children in a safe, healthy, supportive environment is palpable. From our current lens, we recognize that a growing number of Pennsylvania's children under the age of 18 are living in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives; and in this environment of limited resources and greater challenges, such as grandparents raising their grandchildren due to the opioid crisis, our capacity to communicate and collaborate effectively is essential. As such, our Department's participation in the Symposium is welcomed, necessary, needed. If you are agreeable to supporting this request, please let us know the next steps needed to have Mr. Dunston provided with the details beyond the save the date information that was shared.

Lastly, as discussed I welcome the opportunity to further our dialogue on this topic as together we strive to serve, support, protect, enable, and empower Pennsylvania's families. In the meantime, be assured of my support and best wishes to you and the members of The Strong Families Commission for a successful Symposium.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teresa Osborne".

Teresa Osborne  
Secretary



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HARRISBURG

Room 308, Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Phone: (717) 772-9041  
Fax: (717) 783-1153

August 14, 2017

Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch ACSW  
NASW Social Work Pioneer ®  
P.O. Box 13502  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Dear Dr. Lynch:

It is with regret that Governor Wolf will be unable to accept your kind invitation to attend the Statewide Symposium on Child Well-Being and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement scheduled for September 27, 2017.

Although the Governor's schedule will not permit an appearance at this time, please do not hesitate to keep this office apprised of your future events.

On behalf of the Governor, I want to thank you for your invitation. Should you have any questions, please call my office at the telephone number listed above.

Sincerely,

Betsy H. Phillips, Director  
Office of Scheduling



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

September 15, 2017

Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch  
The Strong Families Commission  
P.O. Box 13502  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

Dear Dr. Lynch:

Thank you so much for your kind invitation to attend as a delegate to the Symposium on Child Well-Being in Pennsylvania and the Urgent Need for Father Involvement on September 27, 2017 at the Child Welfare Resource Center in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Please know that I truly support your initiative to bring civic action to transform attitudes and behaviors of Pennsylvanians regarding the worth of fathers and their contributions to the well-being of our children, youth and families.

Unfortunately, my schedule does not permit me to attend on September 27<sup>th</sup> due to another previously scheduled engagement. It is my hope that you will have a very successful Symposium.

Again, thank you for your kind invitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles H. Ramsey".

Charles H. Ramsey  
Chairman



PATRICK J. TOOMEY  
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS  
BUDGET

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 27, 2017

Dr. Rufus Sylvester Lynch  
Chair  
The Strong Families Commission Incorporated  
P.O. Box 13502  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Dear Dr. Lynch:

Thank you for inviting me to attend the 2017 Father Involvement Symposium. I am sorry I could not be with you in person; however, I send you greetings from Washington, DC in celebration of this important inaugural event.

There is no question that fathers, especially those who are actively engaged, play a critical role in the lives of their children. Research has shown that their involvement often results in a lifetime of positive impact, including better physical, emotional, behavioral, social, and academic outcomes.

I commend you, The Strong Families Commission, for the great work you are doing to shine a light on the significance of father involvement.

Thank you for your efforts and dedication on this issue. I look forward to hearing more as your work progresses and mission advances.

Best wishes,



Pat Toomey  
U.S. Senator

# Symposium Supporters

- **The Honorable Max Baer**  
*Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court*
- **Mr. Alan M. Blankstein**  
*Founder, Solution Tree and HOPE Foundation,  
Award-winning Author, Failure Is Not an Option TM*
- **Mr. Christopher Brown**  
*President, National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI)*
- **Mr. William J. Clark**  
*President, Child's World America, and Publisher of  
Child World News (CWA)*
- **Dr. Kirk E. Harris**  
*CEO and Co-Designer of Fathers, Families and  
Healthy Communities (FFHC), Chicago, Illinois,  
& Associate Professor in the School of Architecture  
and Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin  
at Milwaukee*
- **Dr. Eugene Herrington**  
*Associate Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Science,  
Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia*
- **Dr. Jeffrey M. Johnson**  
*President & CEO, National Partnership for  
Community Leadership (NPCL)*
- **Mr. David T. Jones**  
*Commissioner, Philadelphia Department of Behavior  
Health & Intellectual disability Services*
- **Mr. Bilal Abdual Qayyum**  
*President, Father's Day Rally Committee, Inc.*
- **Mr. James C. Rodriguez**  
*CEO and President, Fathers & Families Coalition of  
America, Inc.*
- **Ms. Delilah Rumburg**  
*CEO, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape*
- **Dr. Jeffrey K. Shears**  
*a joint appointed Professor in the Social Work Depart-  
ments at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State  
University & UNC Greensboro, where he is also the Di-  
rector of the Joint Masters Social Work Program (JMSW)*
- **Ms. Doris A. Smith**  
*Chair, Philadelphia Civil Service Commission*
- **Mr. Jeremiah J. White, Jr**  
*President & CEO, White and Associates, & Chair,  
Community College of Philadelphia*
- **The Honorable John M. Younge**  
*Trial Judge, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania*

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# Symposium Volunteers

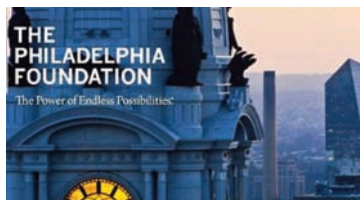
- **Cathy Blackwell**
- **Nadine Blackwell**
- **Ver'non D. Brown**
- **SeKou McLean**
- **Elyse Diane Spearman**
- **Carmina A. Taylor**
- **VeRita Amelia Barnette Lynch**  
*Coordinator of Volunteers*

# Contributors: Financial and/or In-Kind

Administration for  
Children and Families  
Region III



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PRWT



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H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest

*Thank you for your support!*