

Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) Roundtable Meeting

Speaker Biographies

Monica Barczak, Ph.D.

Senior Advisor

Administration for Children and Families

Ms. Barczak is on a 1-year IPA (Intergovernmental Personnel Act) in the Office of Family Assistance and Office of Community Services in the Administration for Children and Families. She works on two-generation efforts to break the cycle of poverty, including the Rural IMPACT Demonstration initiative. She comes to ACF from CAP Tulsa, a community action agency in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which she joined in 2003 in the Public Policy Department. In 2007 she led the development of the Innovation Lab and became Director. Drawing on innovative approaches such as human-centered design and behavioral economics, the Lab cultivates and leads pilot and research projects to test new ways of working with children and families together. Before joining CAP Tulsa, Ms. Barczak worked for the City of Tulsa and taught political science for the University of California and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. She has been a member of the Tulsa Area Workforce Investment Board since 2009. She has a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She earned master's and Ph.D. degrees in political science at the University of California, Davis, where she studied Latin American politics.

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Susan Gewirtz, M.A.

Consultant

S. Gewirtz Consulting, LLC

Ms. Gewirtz is an independent consultant living in the Baltimore area. After 20 years of leading economic opportunity initiatives at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, she is working with foundations and nonprofit organizations in areas related to supporting community college students, designing two-generation strategies, and helping communities implement integrated service delivery strategies. She also works with boards and organizations in strategic planning, clarification and articulation of values and mission, and staff development.

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Alicia Koné, M.P.A.
Owner and President
Koné Consulting, LLC

Ms. Koné, owner and president of Koné Consulting LLC, has 20 years of experience working with health and human services agencies to improve our national public safety net system.

As a consultant, she has worked with health and human services agencies in over half the States in the United States and with several national organizations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), childcare subsidies, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs. She has multiple certifications in management, strategic planning, and facilitation techniques.

Her expertise includes transformational change in customer service delivery through Lean methods of process improvement, SNAP and Medicaid policy and operations, integration of eligibility for health and human services programs, the impact of the Affordable Care Act on SNAP programs, human services IT system design, and organizational readiness and change management.

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Debbi Perkul, M.Ed., M.A.
Senior Workforce Development Professional
University Hospitals, Cleveland, Ohio

Ms. Perkul is the Senior Workforce Development Professional at University Hospitals (UH) in Cleveland, Ohio. At UH, she has built a portfolio of programs and strategies that are impacting the careers and lives of employees by creating pathways and career ladders that help people move on to higher skilled jobs within the health care system and to additional postsecondary education. This initiative is built on close collaboration within UH departments, as well as innovative partnerships with both community-based organizations and community colleges. These programs have received multiple local and national awards, including 2015 Training Magazine Award for Best Training Initiative. University Hospitals was also included in the inaugural class of CareerStat's Frontline Healthcare Champions.

In 2014, Ms. Perkul received the Archer Award for Innovation and was a finalist for the Northeast Ohio Athena Award. Prior to UH, she was the director of a nonprofit workforce development organization that concentrated on women in non-traditional jobs. She came to workforce development from a career as a middle school administrator and educator. Ms. Perkul is a member of Leadership Cleveland class of 2012, is a licensed teacher, and has two master's degrees, one of which is in education.

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