

## **Setting Priorities and Fighting Poverty in Wisconsin**

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## **Abstract**

For more than 100 years, the Wisconsin Idea—the principle that University research should be applied to solve problems and improve all aspects of human life throughout the state—has guided the University’s work, resulting in the application of research and expertise to the development and implementation of social legislation of benefit to the state’s citizens including, for example, unemployment compensation, workers’ compensation, tax reform, and utility regulation. Today, the Wisconsin Idea continues to inform the work of the University of Wisconsin, including the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP). In particular, IRP has a long and established relationship with state government to identify and address issues associated with family well-being and economic security. This relationship has continued to evolve and, over the past several years, has focused specifically on working in a partnership with the State to set priorities and fight poverty within Wisconsin borders. This paper summarizes three aspects of the Wisconsin Idea in action as it relates to poverty in Wisconsin: (1) the planning and initial implementation of a statewide effort sponsored by the governor and facilitated by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to identify long-term strategies for increasing economic security; (2) the identification and provision of key information needed to implement these strategies, including working conferences that draw on national expertise; and (3) the compilation and analysis of information about poverty trends in Wisconsin through the creation of the *Wisconsin Poverty Report* (Smeeding and Isaacs, 2009).

## **Introduction**

The Wisconsin Idea is a “magical expression” for many residents of the state (Stark, 1995). Its modus operandi is that the boundaries of the University of Wisconsin should be the boundaries of the state and that research conducted at the University should be applied to solve problems and improve all aspects of human life.<sup>1</sup> For more than 100 years, the Wisconsin Idea has guided the University’s work, resulting in the application of the University’s expertise to the development and implementation of social legislation of benefit to the state's citizens including, for example, unemployment compensation, workers’ compensation, tax reform, and utility regulation. As noted by Adlai Stevenson in 1952, “...the Wisconsin tradition meant more than a simple belief in the people. It also meant a faith in the application of intelligence and reason to the problems of society. It meant a deep conviction that the role of government was not to stumble along like a drunkard in the dark, but to light its way by the best torches of knowledge and understanding it could find” (Stark, 1995, p.1).

The Wisconsin Idea continues to inform the work of the University of Wisconsin, including the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP). In particular, IRP has a long and established relationship with state government to identify and address issues associated with family well-being and economic security. This relationship has continued to evolve and, over the past several years, has focused specifically on working in a partnership with the State to set priorities and fight poverty within Wisconsin borders. This paper summarizes three aspects of the Wisconsin Idea in action as it relates to poverty in Wisconsin: (1) the planning and initial implementation of a statewide effort sponsored by the Governor Jim Doyle and facilitated by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to identify long-term strategies for increasing

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information about the Wisconsin Idea can be accessed at <http://www.wisconsinidea.wisc.edu/>.

economic security; (2) the identification and provision of key information needed to implement these strategies, including working conferences that draw on national expertise; and (3) the compilation and analysis of information about poverty trends in Wisconsin through the creation of the *Wisconsin Poverty Report* (Smeeding and Isaacs, 2009) and its successors.

The paper's authors have each participated in these three activities. Penner-Hoppe had lead responsibility for managing the initial statewide effort, including the planning and execution of the 2009 governor's summit on "Building Bridges to Family Economic Success" and planning post-summit implementation. Smeeding served on the summit's Core Team of advisors, while Noyes was part of the summit's Planning Work Group. Noyes had the lead responsibility for working with the DCF to identify policy issues critical to its agenda and subsequently organizing and facilitating an IRP working conference on "State Innovations in Policies Supporting Healthy Families." Both Penner-Hoppe and Smeeding participated in the conference. Finally, Smeeding has led the development of the aforementioned first *Wisconsin Poverty Report*, which provides insight into the nature and extent of poverty in Wisconsin by employing information about participation in and take-up of benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The authors have drawn on their own experiences in writing this paper in an effort to outline the ways in which the State of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin have, together, facilitated development not only of a vision for reducing poverty in Wisconsin, but also of a process through which the information necessary to achieve this vision can be shared. Whether or not the vision will be achieved remains to be seen. However, through the continued application of the Wisconsin Idea, the State is in a unique position to link research, policy, and practice in its efforts to address poverty within its borders.

## **Development of a Strategic Agenda to Reduce Poverty**

More than a decade ago, Wisconsin catalyzed a bipartisan national push to “end welfare as we know it” by replacing traditional cash welfare with a system of workforce and family supports. In the intervening years, Wisconsin’s welfare program, known as Wisconsin Works (W-2), saw cash welfare caseloads drop more than 90 percent. Concurrently, there was a related growth in a network of supports designed to support families and their children, including significant financial investments in, for example, Wisconsin Shares, the state’s child care subsidy program, and BadgerCare, the state’s health insurance program. However, concerns about poverty and economic opportunity in the state continued and were further exacerbated by the recession that officially began in December 2007.

The creation of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in 2008, with its mission of promoting the economic and social well-being of Wisconsin’s children and families,<sup>2</sup> provided an opportunity to consider the state’s existing efforts to reduce poverty and enhance economic opportunity. An occasion to jump-start this effort arose shortly after DCF’s creation, when the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices called for proposals for support of state efforts to pursue poverty reduction strategies. Wisconsin subsequently developed, submitted, and received funding for its proposal focused on building a strategic agenda to address children and families in poverty, beginning with a governor’s summit.

The following provides information about Wisconsin’s strategic agenda development. It focuses on the governor’s summit on “Building Bridges to Family Economic Success,” held in May 2009, because the meeting served as the focal point for building a statewide strategic

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<sup>2</sup> Additional information about the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families and its mission can be accessed at <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/default.htm>.

agenda—led by the governor and DCF—designed to connect a number of related and interdependent efforts focused on addressing poverty. However, from the outset, the “Building Bridges” summit was intended to be part of a longer-term process of identifying and eventually implementing key strategies that would move Wisconsin families on a path toward greater economic security.

### Strategic Agenda Development Process

The overall approach to developing a strategic plan has been managed to date by what is known as the Core Team. Wisconsin chose to designate a Core Team, rather than have DCF or the Governor’s Office manage the planning process, in order to ensure the development of a shared agenda for which many different stakeholders throughout Wisconsin could assume responsibility and ownership. In an effort to be inclusive, a wide net was cast that included not only traditional stakeholders such as nonprofits and advocacy groups, but also other state agencies, foundations, Native American tribes, law enforcement agencies, business leaders, political leaders, and individual consumers who have utilized Wisconsin’s human service systems. Although not all of these groups played an equal role in the process, all were invited to the table and provided ample opportunity to join the efforts. (See Appendix A for a complete list of Core Team membership.)

The Core Team spent a significant amount of time debating whether or not Wisconsin’s overall planning effort would be best guided by the establishment of a statewide poverty reduction goal. However, no specific poverty reduction goal was set. Instead, the Core Team chose to focus on assessing the current status of family social and economic well-being, identifying specific actions that could be taken to improve family economic security, prioritizing these strategies, and assigning clear roles in accomplishing these strategies.

It is within this context that the “Building Bridges” summit became the vehicle for “launching” the development of a strategic plan, rather than a one-time awareness raising event. The conceptualization of the summit as the central component of the planning process is reflected in its overall goals, included in Figure 1, as adopted by the Core Team. These goals guided the efforts of the summit’s Planning Work Group, composed of key staff from several different partner agencies, which was charged by the Core Team to develop recommendations regarding the summit’s agenda. (See Appendix B for a complete list of Planning Work Group members.)

**Figure 1**

**Governor’s Summit:  
“Building Bridges to Family Economic Success”**

**Goals Adopted by the Core Team**

- Provide an overview of current family economic challenges throughout Wisconsin.
- Illustrate evidence-based, best practices in improving family economic security.
- Highlight local and state innovations in improving family economic security.
- Create a sense of shared responsibility among key partners by delineating priority strategies and identifying who or what entities share responsibility for addressing areas identified.
- Launch a “Call to Action” to develop a shared vision for a set of Wisconsin priorities to reduce poverty and increase economic opportunity.
- Ensure that the summit was a step in the process toward developing an overall plan that would support family strengthening efforts moving forward, not a one-time event.

The Planning Work Group invested significant time into exploring potential strategies for achieving the Core Team's goals for the summit. Ultimately, the Planning Work Group recommended, and the Core Team adopted, a strategy by which the foundations of a strategic plan would come directly from summit participants through an interactive process designed to capitalize on their knowledge and experience. To ensure that this participation was focused, six key areas were identified: adult education/preparation for employment; birth to grade 12 education; creating work opportunities; family supports; housing; and income, assets, and supports. Each participant would be asked to self-identify the area in which they were most interested and to participate in the work group process related to that topic during the summit.

The resulting summit agenda (included in Appendix C) reflects this commitment to the working group process. While one day of the summit focused on the provision of information about federal, state, and family perspectives about family economic stability; community approaches to addressing poverty; and supported employment, more than eight hours was devoted to the work group process. This work group time followed a "Call to Action" by DCF Secretary Reggie Bicha, who emphasized the importance of the work groups in delineating specific activities by key issue area as the basic building blocks for Wisconsin's overall strategic agenda to reduce poverty.

Ultimately, more than 300 individuals, including elected officials, leaders and staff of nonprofit and for-profit service providers, business representatives, foundation board members, researchers, and community members participated in the summit and in the work group process. This process was facilitated by work group leaders, using a tool developed by the Planning Work Group that focused on the identification of shared outcomes, priority strategies, and critical partners that needed to be engaged to move Wisconsin toward its goals.

At the end of the summit, each working group reported out on the progress it had made toward addressing the following questions in relation to their topic area:

- What do we want to change for children and families?
- What is working well for children and families?
- What are concrete strategies that would advance families toward greater economic security?
- What challenges exist to proposed strategy or policy implementation?
- Who or what entity should take the lead in undertaking proposed policy changes or strategies?

Subsequent to the summit, members of the issue-specific planning groups continued to meet in order to examine further the identified priorities and recommendations. These efforts have been supplemented by the continuing efforts of the Planning Work Group, which worked directly with IRP researchers and faculty affiliates to align recommendations with existing research regarding policy and practice.

#### Current Status

A final “report out” to the Core Team reflecting recommended concrete strategies and policy changes for its review and approval occurred in October 2009. Figure 2 reflects the identified strategies, summarized at a high level, presented to the Core Team for its consideration. The next step in the planning process is the Core Team’s final report, to be presented in December 2009 at the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association’s “Poverty Matters!” summit. This summit is an annual event for statewide community action agencies and other non-profit agencies focused on effective policies and programs for vulnerable families and largely targeting practitioners.

**Figure 2**

**Work Group Priorities  
October 2009**

<p align="center"><b>Job Creation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take full advantage of stimulus job creation efforts, including preparing workers for jobs that will be created.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is a better connection between job seekers with available opportunities.</li> <li>• Support transitional jobs to provide employment experience for individuals with barriers to employment.</li> <li>• Fully utilize incentives available to ensure that jobs are available in higher need areas.</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Adult Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shift paradigm from short-term policy goal of getting a job to a longer-range goal of establishing a career pathway and skill building to compete in job market.</li> <li>• Support the needs of individuals who are under prepared for education and work.</li> <li>• Upgrade skills for incumbent workers by identifying workers that would benefit from training leading to career pathways.</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Building Family Income and Access to Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better utilize and publicize availability of existing resources on financial literacy.</li> <li>• Ensure better access to and utilization of tax and other benefits.</li> <li>• Provide credit and financial education beginning in schools.</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Family Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support home visiting as a key strategy to assist families.</li> <li>• Help families who have a parent reintegrating into the community after incarceration.</li> <li>• Ensure families have access to basic and comprehensive support to access services for multiple challenges.</li> <li>• Support and engage fathers in meaningful ways in a family's life.</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate governmental systems to maximize resources and provide flexibility to those responding to needs.</li> <li>• Prevent evictions and foreclosures while supporting healthy housing.</li> <li>• Increase access to transitional housing for vulnerable populations.</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Birth to Grade 12 Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better prepare children for success through access to affordable, quality child care.</li> <li>• Provide support for students with significant challenges.</li> <li>• Improve high school graduation rates and better prepare students with skills/knowledge that provide options for post-high school opportunities.</li> </ul>

In considering the recommendations provided to it by the work groups, the Core Team is focused on ensuring there is a line of sight between where Wisconsin's families are currently and where the State would like them to be in relation to poverty reduction. The Core Team believes it is critical to continue to ask "So what?" questions in delineating the steps to be taken in order to ensure they lead to measurable outcomes. The challenge faced is ensuring the plan is concrete enough for people to understand and embrace, but not so detailed that it is difficult to achieve or over-prescribed. The plan must also coordinate and compliment regional or local work and be adopted by localities and nonprofits that deliver critical services.

### Ongoing Efforts

While the issuance of the Core Team's final report will represent a key milestone in Wisconsin's efforts to address poverty and enhance economic opportunity, efforts will be ongoing to ensure the plan is not only fully implemented but also coordinated with other related efforts throughout the state. Specific examples of continued activities include:

- sharing the Birth to Grade Twelve Work Group recommendations with the newly created Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council;
- analyzing the relationship between the recommendations of the Job Creation Work Group and the Grow Wisconsin Initiative of the Governor's Office and the State Department of Commerce;
- ensuring that the Adult Education Work Group's recommendations are aligned with the joint initiative of the Department of Workforce Development and the Wisconsin Technical College System, known as RISE, that is focused on building better connections between workers and critical skills leading to expanded employment options and specific skill building;

- connecting the Building Family Income and Access to Support agenda with local non-profits that promote financial literacy and provide tax return preparation services, particularly as they relate to accessing the Earned Income Tax Credit;
- aligning program-specific recommendations with the current work of state departments, such as the home visiting and fatherhood initiatives identified as priorities by the Family Support Work Group that overlap with ongoing and planned initiatives within DCF;
- connecting the recommendations of the Family Support Work Group regarding parents returning from the correctional system to their communities and families with the Department of Corrections' efforts related to prisoner re-entry; and
- building the recommendations of the Housing Work Group into the efforts of the Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Eviction and Homelessness Prevention.

In addition, with a reorganization of DCF in late September 2009, the decision was made to transfer ownership of the strategic plan from the Office of the Secretary to the Division of Family and Economic Security. It will be the division's responsibility to shepherd the plan's implementation in collaboration with the multiple partners who engaged in the planning process. IRP will continue to play a key role, particularly in assisting DCF with identifying the most effective and efficient strategies for implementing the plan.

### **Providing Relevant Information**

The second element of the Wisconsin Idea in relation to addressing poverty in Wisconsin is the provision of relevant information. Throughout the strategic planning process, IRP has played a

critical role in assisting with providing information about the extent to which strategies identified by the work groups are supported by evidence or have been implemented in other jurisdictions. This information has been provided through participation in the Core Group, Planning Group, or specific topical work groups, or through direct consultation with DCF staff. In addition, information related to specific recommendations of the Family Support Work Group was provided to key DCF staff and other partners through an IRP working conference focused on improving the well-being of families, especially vulnerable families. The working conference—“State Innovations in Policies Supporting Healthy Families”—was held in June 2009.

#### Working Conference Goal

The “State Innovations” working conference focused on innovative programs in three specific areas of policy innovation: (1) home visiting programs; (2) alternative response programs; and (3) integrated planning for children and family service delivery. It was designed to ensure valuable lessons about these initiatives are widely disseminated to practitioners, policymakers, and researchers; that scholarship related to policies supporting healthy families is grounded in the reality of current initiatives; and that current and proposed initiatives in these areas are viewed in the larger context of antipoverty policy. The conference focused on the current state of knowledge regarding the efficacy of these programs in promoting healthy families and children’s well-being, as well as their potential replicability. The working conference brought together scholars with an interest in these areas together with practitioners and policymakers involved in planning and implementing related interventions.

It was serendipitous that the working conference planning process anticipated the recommendations of the Family Support Work Group. This was likely due, in large part, to the effort made by conference planners to solicit input from DCF staff and others about the topics

that would be of greatest interest to them as they considered the direction of their future efforts to support families. Regardless, the content and timing of the working conference ultimately provided information relevant to the strategic planning process because each of the initiatives addressed during the working conference had linkages to poverty and its effects on children and families, either in terms of prevention or amelioration.

### Conference Structure

The conference was structured around four sequential sessions. (Appendix D includes the “State Innovations in Policies Supporting Healthy Families” working conference agenda.) The first three sessions focused on the identified topics of interest: home visiting programs, alternative response programs, and integrated planning for children and family service delivery. Each session began with a researcher who discussed the current state of policy and practice in relation to the given topic, including information about the trade-offs inherent in pursuing various programmatic options. A panel of practitioners, who discussed the details of their particular program, followed. The practitioners focused on the choices they have made in relation to, for example, eligibility criteria and financing mechanisms; the challenges they have faced in implementing their program; the role of non-profits, faith-based organization, and community groups in helping deliver services; and any outcome information available to date. An important element of each session was the facilitated discussion among practitioners, policymakers, and researchers designed to promote a common understanding of the innovations taking place in order to promote effective and efficient program implementation and to improve the utility of research for policy and practice. The final session summarized the information presented throughout the day, identified common themes, and put the information provided into the context of antipoverty policy, practice, and related research.

### Additional Efforts

The working conference was successful in facilitating a conversation between researchers and practitioners regarding policy innovations in support of families; it also served to provide valuable information to many individuals associated with the strategic planning process. Given this success, IRP is continuing to work collaboratively with DCF to design additional working conferences that will provide information needed for the successful implementation of the strategic plan. For example, another IRP working conference, designed to promote a better understanding of several different facets of social benefit take-up, will be held in June 2010.

A key focus of the conference will be an understanding of the trade-offs—both policy and practical—that need to occur in order to address differences in take-up rates. The conference will, for example, address the simplification of benefit applications across programs, an action which may lower costs and increase access, but may also impinge upon program fidelity. In addition, in order to promote consideration of how to best coordinate and streamline these programs, the conference sessions will be organized around cross-cutting topics—such as eligibility policies, procedures and time frames, and verification and review requirements—that relate to multiple programs and simplified application procedures. This information should help to inform implementation efforts related to several different work group recommendations and particularly those related to Building Family Income and Access to Support, as reflected in Figure 2.

### **Compilation and Analysis of Poverty Trends**

The third element of the Wisconsin Idea in relation to addressing poverty in Wisconsin is the IRP's compilation and analysis of information regarding poverty trends within the state. As

previously noted, although the Core Team did specifically discuss the possibility of setting a concrete poverty reduction target, it was decided that looking at measurable improvements in family's social and economic well-being would instead be the goal of the strategic planning effort. Therefore, in lieu of a specific poverty reduction target, IRP—as a key participant in the Core Team—proposed and undertook development of the *Wisconsin Poverty Report*. It also began the process of developing a new and more flexible measure of poverty specific to Wisconsin.

### *Wisconsin Poverty Report*

The general aim of the *Wisconsin Poverty Report*<sup>3</sup> was to contribute to Wisconsin's efforts to reduce poverty and enhance economic opportunity by providing the starting point: a description of the nature and extent of poverty in the state. It was intended that, given funding support, subsequent reports would provide information about the extent to which progress against poverty was being made in Wisconsin.

The report included analyses of the level of poverty within the 32 census sampling areas (PUMAS) of Wisconsin for 2007, using the American Community Survey (ACS). It also included information drawn from county by county administrative data on SNAP participation, which allowed for the development of additional information regarding the financial situation of Wisconsin's families in the intervening time period between 2007 and April 2009. The information was presented at the "Building Bridges" summit and included in the information considered by the work groups. An updated report will be presented in December 2009 at the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association's "Poverty Matters!" summit; this is the meeting at which the Core Team's final report will also be presented.

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<sup>3</sup> The report can be accessed at [http://www.irp.wisc.edu/research/WisconsinPoverty/pdfs/First\\_Wisconsin\\_Poverty\\_Report\\_Final-2.pdf](http://www.irp.wisc.edu/research/WisconsinPoverty/pdfs/First_Wisconsin_Poverty_Report_Final-2.pdf).

### Development of an Alternative Poverty Measure

IRP is also working with members of the Core Team and other key partners to determine how to best represent poverty within the state of Wisconsin and then, to employ this revised representation in future reports. Although the first *Wisconsin Poverty Report* used the official poverty measure to assess economic deprivation in Wisconsin, many members of the Core Team, echoing sentiments from around the country, believe that the measure needs to be revised. In particular, they expressed concern that the poverty line needs-standard—in 2008, about \$17,000 for a three-person family and \$22,000 for family of four—which was fully half the middle family's income in 1963, when it was established, is now only 27 percent of that level (Smeeding, 2006). Further, the resource measure in the ACS currently includes only cash income. Direct income and payroll taxes are not subtracted, nor are SNAP benefits or refundable tax credits added to income, including the generous Wisconsin Earned Income Credit.

The poverty measure employed by the United States government is clearly out of sync with reality and with policy priorities for the federal government as well as for the State of Wisconsin. For instance, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 contained about \$175 billion in direct aid to individuals, including \$20 billion in additional SNAP funding; \$40 billion for expanded unemployment insurance benefits; and \$70 billion in refundable tax credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Under the current measure, only the expanded unemployment benefits would be counted as fighting poverty. The rest are outside the bounds of the current poverty measure.

Recognizing the limitations of the official approach to measuring economic deprivation, major public programs for children and other low-income groups across the nation increasingly are setting eligibility criteria at higher levels, including those in Wisconsin. For example,

households that are eligible for SNAP can have a gross monthly income equal to or less than 130 percent of the federal poverty threshold. In addition, the eligibility threshold for Wisconsin Shares, Wisconsin's child care assistance program, is 185 percent of poverty; for BadgerCare (Medicaid and SCHIP) and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the eligibility threshold is 200 percent of the official poverty line.

In crafting a new measure suited to Wisconsin's standard of living and policy priorities, IRP is seeking input from the Core Team and other stakeholders, beginning with their reactions to the poverty measure proposed by the 1995 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel (Citro and Michael, 1995). The NAS proposed measure is based on how much it costs a household to buy a set of necessities defined as food, shelter, clothing, and utilities. The proposed NAS resource measure would include cash income minus taxes paid, along with tax credits received (EITC, refundable tax credits) and in-kind benefits that help a family acquire the necessities defined in the threshold, including food, child care, and housing assistance. The resource measure would subtract income that is not available to meet these basic necessities, such as child support payments, and work expenses like child care and transportation, viewing these expenses as obligatory payments that are required for work and which reduce the amount of income available to help the family purchase the basic necessities considered in the thresholds.

The federal NAS thresholds are about 30 percent above the current ones; this means increasing the three-person line from \$17,000 to about \$22,000 in 2008, and the four-person line from \$22,000 to about \$28,500 nationally. These amounts could be further adjusted to reflect current patterns of expenditure within Wisconsin. Because the cost of renting decent, structurally safe housing with specific numbers of bedrooms varies by metropolitan and nonmetropolitan

areas within Wisconsin, the new threshold will take into consideration differences in housing costs within the state, as well as additional adjustments for family size and composition.

For a better definition of resources, IRP will adjust for state income taxes paid and the effects of the Wisconsin Earned Income Credit, in addition to estimating payments for federal taxes, Social Security, and Medicare payroll taxes, and the federal EITC. Because of the expansiveness of BadgerCare Plus, the decision of whether or not to make additional adjustments for out-of-pocket medical expenses will not be as large as in the federal NAS prototype models being used by the Census Bureau.

This new poverty measure will be suitable for estimating the costs and antipoverty effects of new or proposed legislation that expands noncash benefits or provides tax credits to low-income citizens. It will also allow Wisconsin to assess how much additional poverty occurs from program cutbacks or tax increases. Employed as part of the *Wisconsin Poverty Report*, the measure could enable a fuller understanding of the extent to which Wisconsin is reducing poverty using federal and state antipoverty tools. Finally, through support provided by the federal Department of Health and Human Services as well as the U.S. Census Bureau, it may ultimately serve as a model for other states.

### **Looking to the Future**

Clearly, long-term strategies for increasing economic security, identifying and providing key information needed to implement these strategies, and compiling and analyzing information about poverty trends in Wisconsin were never intended to be the end products of the efforts over the past 18 months. However, whether or not the three activities discussed in this paper ultimately result in a reduction in poverty or an increase in economic security in Wisconsin

remains to be seen. On the one hand, there remain significant challenges to moving the agenda forward; on the other, many opportunities exist.

### Challenges

A key challenge to Wisconsin's success will be whether or not momentum can be sustained. Of particular concern is ensuring that the identified strategies are disseminated and implemented; that progress is tracked over time; that adjustments are made as necessary, based on this progress information; and that progress for families over time is actually achieved. This challenge will be further complicated by the following three factors:

- (1) Change in plan leadership—As previously noted, DCF has officially transitioned responsibility for the strategic plan to the Division of Economic Security, which is responsible for critical programs for building family economic security such as a new Transitional Jobs Initiative, Wisconsin Works (W-2), and the Community Services Block Grant that supports the core funding of Wisconsin Community Action Agencies. This will require individuals with other, existing program responsibilities to incorporate this responsibility into their work while at the same time maintaining collaborative relationships with the other partners who have been involved to date.
- (2) Change in executive leadership—Wisconsin's current governor will not be seeking re-election in 2010, which means the state will have new leadership in the executive branch. This change in leadership, regardless of who is elected, makes the concept of a shared vision and a wholesale buy-in to the Core Team's recommended strategies even more critical.
- (3) Continued economic challenges—Wisconsin continues to face challenges associated with the recession, particularly as related to an increasing demand for benefits coupled with

decreasing public resources. This will require creativity in implementing proposed strategies, given limited funds. .

### Opportunities

There are, however, several opportunities on which Wisconsin can capitalize as it moves forward. These include:

- (1) Empathy—Given that needs are greater throughout Wisconsin, there seems to exist more willingness to devise and implement strategies to serve all and openness to considering other Wisconsinites with fewer resources. Many citizens who have never before struggled have family members, neighbors, or friends that have been affected by the recent economic recession. Capitalizing on the philanthropic and volunteer spirit of those who are able to give or donate resources to assist struggling families is an opportunity.
- (2) Availability of federal funds—There has been a short-term boost through the ARRA in funding available to increase services for low-income families. It is important to understand and take advantage of this opportunity, and help local entities determine how to best sustain initial gains made with the limited-term dollars now available. Careful planning of how to use these resources and strategic investments in improvements to service delivery or infrastructure that can be sustained will be critical.
- (3) Other initiatives—Several complimentary initiatives exist within Wisconsin that can be connected in order to leverage existing resources. Continued efforts to ensure that Wisconsin takes full advantage of what exists already and does not duplicate current efforts will also lead to additional dialog that could yield additional partnership and further embed the recommended strategies.

Finally, Wisconsin has an advantage in terms of moving its agenda forward thanks to the Wisconsin Idea and the continuing relationship between the University of Wisconsin and the State. While the authors agree that success will only be achieved through continued political and social service leadership, we hope that, as it has been in times past, Wisconsin will be up to the challenge.

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **Core Team Members**

Chris Abele, President and CEO, Argosy Foundation

Scott Anderson, Executive Director, Council of Churches

Nancy Armbrust, Vice President, Education & Community Relations, Schreiber Foods

Daniel J. Bader, President, Bader Foundation

Reggie Bicha, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Deborah Blanks, Chief Executive Officer, Social Development Commission

Carol Butson, Policy Advisor, Governor Doyle

John Chisholm, District Attorney, Milwaukee District Attorney's Office

Shelley Cousin, Executive Director, Wisconsin Head Start Association

Linda Davis, Davis Family Foundation

Rosemary Davis, Director, Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services & Chair, Wisconsin County Human Services Association

Charity Eleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

Ed Flynn, Chief of Police, Milwaukee Police Department

Representative Tamara Grigsby, Wisconsin State Assembly

Linda Hall, Executive Director, Wisconsin Association of Family and Children Agencies

Dr. Kerry Jacobson, Superintendent, Osseo/Fairchild School District

Glenn Johnson, Director, Waushara County Department of Human Services

Jennifer Jones, Associate Director, Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund

Julie Kerksick, Administrator, Division of Family and Economic Security, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Mark Kessenich, Director, Planning and Development, Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board

Representative Steve Kestell, Wisconsin State Assembly

Christine Lidbury, Executive Director, Wisconsin Women's Council

Susan Lloyd, Ph.D., Senior Advisor, Zilber Family Foundation

Judi Longdin, Interim Executive Director, Interfaith Council

James Marks, Vice President, Director of Grant Programs, Greater Milwaukee Foundation and

Captain Gregory Moore, Community Services Division, Milwaukee Police Department

Dr. Dan Nerad, Superintendent, Madison Metropolitan School District

Jan Novak, Prevention Coordinator, Waushara County Department of Human Services

Mark O'Connell, Executive Director, Wisconsin Counties Association

Senator Luther Olsen, Wisconsin State Senate

Lisa Patrick, Administrator, Division of Prevention and Service Integration, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

David Riemer, Director of Policy and Planning, Community Advocates

Angela Russell, Executive Assistant, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Richard Schlimm, Executive Director, Wisconsin Community Action Program

Philip Shopodock, Chairman, Forest County Potawatomi Community

Thelma Sias, Vice President of Local Affairs, We Energies

Timothy Smeeding, Director, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Anne Sommers, Executive Director, Brico Fund

Don Sykes, Director, Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board

Senator Lena Taylor, Wisconsin State Senate

Jayne Van Zile, Assistant Tribal Administrator, Forest County Potawatomi Community

Anselmo Villarreal, Executive Director, La Casa De Esperanza

Joe Volk, Executive Director, Community Advocates

Marcus White, Director of Community Partnerships Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Richard Wildermuth, Citizen Representative

Peter Yang, Executive Director, Wausau Hmong Mutual Association

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Planning Work Group**

Jane Penner-Hoppe, Chair, KidsFirst Policy Advisor, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Shelley Cousin, Executive Director, Wisconsin Head Start Association

Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, Legislative Director, Wisconsin Counties Association

Janel Hines, Community Outreach Director, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Jennifer Jones, Associate Director, Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund

Christine Lidbury, Executive Director, Wisconsin Women's Council

Linda McCart, Director, Policy and Research, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Cheryl McIlquham, Director, Policy and Budget, Department of Health Services

Jennifer Noyes, Researcher, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Janice Peters, Director, Bureau of Working Families, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Linda Preysz, Policy Advisor, Division of Employment and Training, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

David Riemer, Director of Policy and Planning, Community Advocates

Richard Schlimm, Executive Director, Wisconsin Community Action Program


Vicki Selkove, Mobilization Strategies Manager, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

Joe Volk, Executive Director, Community Advocates

**Appendix C**

**“Building Bridges to Family Economic Success” Summit**

**Agenda**



Wisconsin Department of Children & Families  
201 East Washington Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
PO Box 8916  
Madison, WI 53708-8916  
[dcf.wisconsin.gov](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov)

## Building Bridges to Family Economic Success

Protecting Children. Strengthening Families. Building Communities

*May 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 • Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

# Thank You to Our Sponsors



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Children's Trust Fund

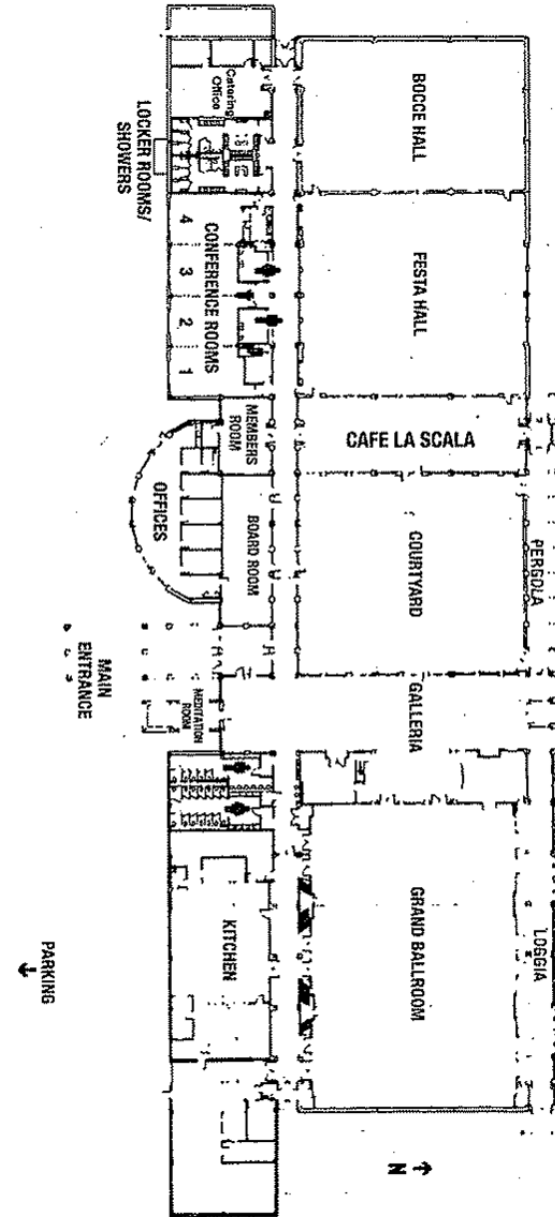


Greater Milwaukee  
Foundation



Because There's No **One Way**  
To End Poverty

# Italian Conference Center Meeting Room Map



## Building Bridges Planning Work Group

Jane Penner-Hoppe, Chair  
KidsFirst Policy Advisor  
Department of Children and Families

Linda McCart  
Director, Policy and Research  
Department of Health Services

Richard Schlimm  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Community Action  
Program

Shelley Cousin  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Head Start Association

Cheryl McIlquham  
Director, Policy and Budget  
Department of Health Services

Vicki Selkove  
Mobilization Strategies Manager  
Wisconsin Council on Children  
and Families

Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf  
Legislative Director  
Wisconsin Counties Association

Jennifer Noyes  
Researcher  
Institute for Research on Poverty

Joe Volk  
Executive Director  
Community Advocates

Janel Hines  
Community Outreach Director  
Department of Children Families

Janice Peters  
Bureau Director, Working Families  
Department of Children and Families

Jennifer Jones  
Associate Director  
Children's Trust Fund

Linda Preysz  
Policy Advisor, Division of Employ-  
ment and Training, Department of  
Workforce Development

Christine Lidbury  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Women's Council

David Riemer  
Director of Policy & Planning  
Community Advocates, Inc.

### **THANK YOU**

*to the many sponsors and supporters  
that made this event possible.*

## Building Bridges Conference Sponsors

**National Governor's Association**

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**Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's Agencies**

**Wisconsin Council of Churches**

**In-kind contributions and other program support were provided by  
the Wisconsin Community Action Program (WISCAP), We Energies  
and the Wisconsin Women's Council.**

**Logo design courtesy of Cricket Design Works.**



**JIM DOYLE**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

May 4, 2009

Greetings!

Welcome to the 2009 Governor's Summit, Building Bridges to Family Economic Success. The current condition of the national economy makes this conversation a critical one for our state. The children and families of Wisconsin need our help now more than ever, and I thank you for making this conference a priority.

Developing solutions to the challenges we face today will require clear focus, creative energy and innovative ideas. As leaders in your communities and our state, you bring an incredible wealth of knowledge and the passion that will move us forward in Wisconsin.

This conference will provide you with critical state and national information that will help you see what is working well and what challenges remain. You will then have the opportunity to work on ideas for long-term strategies on increasing economic security in Wisconsin.

Thank you to Secretary Reggie Bicha, the core leadership team and the planning team for the countless hours and work to frame your ambitious two day agenda. Thanks also to the National Governors Association for this opportunity to help Wisconsin families.

I look forward to hearing the results of this collaborative effort.

Sincerely,

Jim Doyle  
Governor

## Building Bridges Core Team

## Keynote Speakers



### Governor Jim Doyle

As our state's 44<sup>th</sup> chief executive, Governor Jim Doyle works hard to put the kids and families of our state first. He wants this state to be a place where our kids can grow up knowing that their highest ambitions are never out of reach. Governor Doyle is focused on creating opportunity for all of Wisconsin's people. Today, in the face of a national economic crisis, Governor Doyle is committed to protecting what is most important to Wisconsin: quality education, access to basic health care, and our public safety. Governor Doyle continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to working with local and national leaders to invest in a strong future of the state – creating jobs, expanding access to health care, and most importantly, investing in Wisconsin's future: our kids.



### Secretary Reggie Bicha WI Department of Children and Families

On November 27, 2007, Governor Jim Doyle appointed Reggie Bicha as the Secretary of the new Department of Children and Families (DCF). Secretary Bicha has dedicated his career to protecting and improving the lives and well-being of children. He has extensive experience working on child welfare and health issues both at the county and state levels. Secretary Bicha has actively engaged people across the state in designing a new state agency that would refocus, retool and reprioritize services for Wisconsin families. Secretary Bicha is a social worker, administrator, educator and national leader. The father of three children, Mackenzie (11), Christine (10) and Nathaniel (2), he and his wife Becky also served as foster parents. Secretary Bicha recently received the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) 2009 Commissioner's Award for his significant contributions to the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Wisconsin.



### Angela Glover Blackwell PolicyLink

Angela Glover Blackwell is founder and chief executive officer of PolicyLink, a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity. Previously, she was senior vice president at The Rockefeller Foundation. She also founded the Urban Strategies Council, a pioneering community building organization in Oakland, California, and served as a partner with Public Advocates, a nationally renowned public interest law firm. Ms. Glover Blackwell earned a bachelor's degree from Howard University, and a law degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Chris Abele  
President and CEO  
Argosy Foundation

Scott Anderson  
Executive Director  
Council of Churches

Nancy Armbrust  
Vice President, Education and  
Community Relations  
Schreiber Foods

Daniel J. Bader  
President  
Bader Foundation

Reggie Bicha  
Secretary  
Department of Children and Families

Deborah Blanks  
Chief Executive Officer  
Social Development Commission

Coral Butson  
Policy Advisor, Governor Doyle

John Chisholm  
District Attorney  
Milwaukee District Attorney's Office

Shelley Cousin  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Head Start Association

Linda Davis  
Davis Family Foundation

Rosemary Davis  
Director, Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services and Chair, Wisconsin County Human Services Association

Charity Eleson  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

Ed Flynn  
Chief of Police  
Milwaukee Police Department

Representative Tamara Grigsby  
Wisconsin State Assembly

Linda Hall  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Association of Family and Children Agencies

Dr. Kerry Jacobson  
Superintendent  
Osseo/Fairchild School District

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Waushara County Department of Human Services

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Executive Director  
Community Advocates

Marcus White  
Director of Community Partnerships  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Richard Wildermuth  
Citizen Representative

Peter Yang  
Executive Director  
Wausau Hmong Mutual Association



# Call to Action Workshops and Definitions

## Family Supports

Providing families with strong parental support for their children leading to healthy growth and development, with the goal of interrupting the cycle of poverty, including:

- Parental education;
- Engaging fathers in family life;
- Comprehensive home visiting models;
- Family resource centers;
- Informal, networks and supports for families.

## Housing

Making affordable housing more available and supports that move low-income families toward affordable housing, such as:

- Rental assistance;
- Weatherization;
- Eviction prevention programs;
- Support for emergency shelter, counseling and resources;
- Programs that support affordable home ownership opportunities.

## Income, Assets & Supports

- Helping families secure income beyond employment earnings;
- Financial literacy;
- Promotion of savings, such as Individual Development Accounts;
- Programs that help families work and programs for those who are unable to work, such as Earned Income Tax Credit; BadgerCare Plus; Foodshare; Energy Assistance; Unemployment Insurance and Social Security Insurance.

# Keynote Speakers



## Secretary Roberta Gassman WI Department of Workforce Development

In 2003, Governor Jim Doyle appointed Roberta Gassman as the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. She is Wisconsin's longest serving Secretary of the agency, and her accomplishments on behalf of Governor Doyle and his agenda for economic growth include expansion of apprenticeship programs; creating career opportunities for current and future workers; the first minimum wage increase since 1997; Grow Grants that support regional, collaborative efforts in economic and workforce development; strategies to maintain a first-rate workforce, including nationally recognized, universally accepted skill certification of manufacturing workers; and improvements in employment and training services to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. Secretary Gassman also serves on many state and national boards and has been honored with numerous leadership and professional awards.



## Alexie Torres-Fleming Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice

Alexie M. Torres-Fleming is the Founder and Executive Director of Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice (YMPJ), a faith-based organization located in the South Bronx of New York City. YMPJ's mission is to foster peace and justice through youth and community development and organizing. Since its founding in 1994, YMPJ has helped a generation of Bronx youth discover that through advocacy, community organizing, journalism, environmentalism, and the arts, they can assume active roles of leadership in re-imagining and reconstructing the Bronx River and Soundview/Bruckner neighborhoods. Ms. Torres-Fleming's work generates creative use of the urban environment and provides neighborhood leadership to solve common problems. Ms. Torres-Fleming lives in the South Bronx with her husband and two children.



**Monday, May 4, 2009**

## Call to Action Workshops and Definitions

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**8:00 to  
9:00 am**      **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

---

**9:00 to  
10:15 am**      **Welcome  
Governor Jim Doyle**

*Festa Hall*      **Keynote Remarks  
Angela Glover Blackwell  
PolicyLink**

---

**10:15 to  
11:45 am**      **Panel Presentation  
Picture of Family Economic Stability –  
Federal, State, and Family Perspectives**

- Festa Hall*
- Mark Greenberg, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress
  - Sharon Schulz, Executive Director, New Hope Project
  - Timothy Smeeding, Ph.D., Director, University of Wisconsin, Institute for Research on Poverty, and Professor of Public Affairs and Economics, Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs
  - Dennis Winters, Chief Economic Advisor, Department of Workforce Development
  - Moderator: Julie Kerksick, Administrator, Division of Family and Economic Security, Department of Children and Families
- 

**11:45 to  
12:45 pm**      **Lunch**

*Festa Hall*      **Luncheon Speaker  
Secretary Roberta Gassman  
Department of Workforce Development**

*Wisconsin Efforts to Prepare Workers  
for Jobs of Today and Tomorrow*

---

### Adult Education / Preparing for Employment

*Providing improved access to adult education that leads to employment.*

- Earning high school or equivalency degrees;
- Ensuring that education is career focused;
- Tailoring education to high growth occupations;
- “Soft skills” – skills that will assist individuals to maintain work; and
- Once employed, efforts that help to maintain employment and advance individuals on a career ladder, including Workforce Investment Act services, Job Centers, Technical Colleges, and supports tied directly to keeping employment and advancing in the workplace.

### Birth to Grade-12 Education

◇ Birth to five education, includes:

- Quality early care and education settings, Head Start, early Head Start, pre-kindergarten programs, Birth to 3, and supports for quality teachers;
- Early childhood special education;
- Resources that support improved parent access to child care and parent training around early care and education.

◇ K-12 Education, includes:

- Addressing the educational achievement gap;
- Improving high school graduation rates;
- School to work education and youth apprenticeship;
- Applied learning opportunities, such as service learning.

### Creating Work Opportunities

- Creating jobs through entrepreneurial opportunities, micro-lending, small businesses, and DWD middle-skills initiatives;
- Transitional jobs through W-2 program;
- Supported employment;
- Jobs being created as part of the stimulus package – weatherization, transportation, green jobs.



## Call to Action Overview

The Building Bridges Call to Action is shaped by the overall framework that our goal is to move families along a continuum toward greater economic sufficiency and ideally, success. In order to achieve that goal for families, we believe there are critical areas that must be addressed. These are the areas for which you have pre-registered. Summit participants joining us bring a tremendous amount of expertise and energy that we would like to tap to help us begin/launch the process of answering the following key questions.

**The Call to Action Process is the start of our effort to work with our wide range of leaders across Wisconsin to begin to answer the following critical questions:**

- What action areas we need to focus on to improve outcomes for families?
- What programs, policies or efforts are working well in Wisconsin?
- What is missing for families?
- What ideas are there for how we might fill those gaps?
- What entity or entities share responsibility for engaging in the activities that have been identified as necessary to advance families?
- Who is willing to stay involved in this process as a subgroup member beyond this event to further work out the details of your topical area?

**Our planned post summit work will consider the important work you will begin at this summit. We anticipate:**

- The core leadership team will reconvene in June to consider findings from the summit.
- Workgroups will meet over the summer.
- The core leadership team will meet to consider workgroup findings.
- Participating in the Understanding and Overcoming Poverty in Wisconsin Conference (August 6-7, 2009, Wausau, WI).
- WISCAP's 2009 Poverty Matters! Conference (September 16-17, 2009, Appleton, WI) will provide a venue for workgroups and the core team to provide a status report on planning efforts launched at today's summit, and receive feedback about future efforts.
- Feedback from WISCAP and continued oversight from the leadership team will be incorporated into ongoing planning efforts.
- Workgroups will continue to meet with guidance from the core leadership team over the fall and winter.
- Governor Doyle and Wisconsin's core leadership team, in coordination with DCF, will issue a plan that details a set of shared strategies and mechanisms for achieving outcomes that advance Wisconsin families.

Monday, May 4, 2009

---

**12:45 to  
1:45 pm**

### **Panel Presentation Individual and Family Perspectives**

*Grand  
Ballroom*

**Introduction: Senator Lena Taylor**

- Jonathan Boyde, Milwaukee, WI
- Terron Edwards, Program Director, The New Hope Project
- Cetra Reed, Appleton, WI
- Bregetta Wilson, Milwaukee, WI
- Moderator: Richard Schlimm, Executive Director, Wisconsin Community Action Program Association

---

**1:45 pm**      **Break**

---

**2:00 to  
3:00 pm**

### **Panel Presentation Community Approaches to Addressing Poverty**

*Grand  
Ballroom*

**Introduction: Representative Steve Kestell**

- Deborah Blanks, Executive Director, Social Development Commission
- Debra Cronmiller, Executive Director, Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley, Inc. & Co-Chair, Project Promise Coalition of the Fox Cities
- Nicole Harrison, Vice President and Director of Human Development, Founding Member, Waushara County 2020 Coalition
- Moderator: Greta Hanson, Executive Director, Community Action Coalition

---

*Agenda continues on next page.*



## Monday, May 4, 2009

2:00 to  
3:00 pm

**Panel Presentation  
Supported Employment - How Employers  
are Supporting Individuals in Employment**

*Festa Hall*

- Yolanda Adams, President & CEO, and Karen Maki, Admin. Assistant, Urban League of Racine/Kenosha Inc.
- Valerie Cleveland, President, and Elaine Lechy, Office Manager, Anointed Cleaners, LLC
- Randall Edwards, former Transitional Jobs Participant, New Hope Project
- Kenyon Hines, Marquette University Habitat for Humanity & Participant, The New Hope Project
- Robert Timberlake, Marquette University Habitat for Humanity & Faculty, College of Engineering, Marquette University
- Moderator: Jeff Hopton, Transitional Jobs Site Coordinator, The New Hope Project

3:00 pm **Break**

3:15 to  
4:00 pm

**Call to Action  
Secretary Reggie Bicha  
Department of Children  
and Families**

*Festa Hall*

**Steve Holt  
Holt Solutions, Inc.  
Call to Action Facilitator**

4:00 to  
4:45 pm

**Call to Action Breakout Sessions**

*Locations  
will be  
posted.*

- Adult Education and Employment
- Birth to Grade-12 Education
- Family Support
- Housing
- Increasing Family Income, Assets & Supports
- Job Creation

4:45 pm

**Day 1 Wrap-Up**

*Festa Hall*

**Secretary Reggie Bicha  
Department of Children and Families**

## Tuesday, May 5, 2009

8:00 to  
8:30 am

**Continental Breakfast**

8:30 to  
9:00 am

**Call to Order  
Secretary Reggie Bicha  
Department of Children and Families**

*Festa Hall*

**Keynote Remarks  
Alexie Torres-Fleming  
Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice**

*Engaging Diverse Partners in Building Community*

9:00 to  
12:00 pm

**Call to Action Breakout Sessions**

12:00 to  
1:00 pm

**Lunch**

*Grand  
Ballroom*

**Luncheon Speaker  
David Riemer  
Community Advocates Public Policy Institute**

*Packaging Policies to Reduce Poverty*

1:00 to  
2:45 pm

**Call to Action Breakout Sessions**

2:45 pm

**Break**

3:00 to  
3:45 pm

**Plenary Session  
Report out from Call to Action Groups:  
Priority strategies and commitments to lead  
planning beyond summit.**

*Festa Hall*

3:45 to  
4:30 pm

**Summit Closing  
Secretary Reggie Bicha  
Department of Children and Families**

*Festa Hall*



## Appendix D

### “State Innovations in Policies Supporting Healthy Families” Working Conference

#### Agenda

#### Day 1

##### Conference Framework and Goals Overview

Jennifer Noyes, Researcher, Institute for Research on Poverty, UW–Madison

#### Day 2

##### Welcome and Introductions

Lawrence Berger, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, UW–Madison  
 Timothy Smeeding, Director, Institute for Research on Poverty, UW–Madison

##### Introductory Remarks

Reggie Bicha, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

##### Panel Discussion 1: Home Visiting Programs

Facilitator: Katherine Magnuson, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, UW–Madison

Researcher: Eboni Howard, Director, Herr Research Center for Children and Social Policy, Erikson Institute

Practitioners: Jenny Grether, Program Coordinator, Early Childhood Initiative, Dane County, Wisconsin  
 Michelle Neal, R.N., M.S., Nurse Consultant, Nurse-Family Partnership, Colorado Invest in Kids  
 Sheryl Peavey, Director, Early Childhood Initiative, Maine Department of Health and Human Services

##### Panel Discussion 2: Alternative/Community Response

Facilitator: Kristen Shook-Slack, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, UW–Madison

Researcher: L. Anthony Loman, Institute of Applied Research

Practitioners: Chris Compton, Family Safety Program Specialist, Family Safety Program Office, Florida Department of Children and Families  
 Rhonda Reagh, Executive Director, Green County Children Services Board, Ohio  
 Erin Sullivan-Sutton, Director, Division of Child Safety and Permanency, Minnesota Department of Human Services

### **Panel Discussion 3: Integrated Planning**

Facilitator: Jennifer Noyes, Researcher, Institute for Research on Poverty, UW–Madison  
Researcher: Jane Gilbert Mauldon, Associate Professor, Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley  
Practitioners: Tana Ebbole, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Florida  
Danna Fabella, Linkages Project Director, Children and Families Policy Institute of California  
Angie Logan, Executive Policy Specialist, Office of Policy Development, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

### **Panel Discussion 4: Implications for Policy, Practice, and Research**

Facilitator: Lawrence Berger, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, UW–Madison  
Rapporteurs: Susan Golonka, Director, Human Services Program, Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association  
Dianne Jenkins, Strategic Initiatives Advisor, Office of Performance and Quality Assurance, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families  
Matthew Stagner, Executive Director, Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago

### **Closing Comments**

Lawrence Berger, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, UW–Madison  
Jennifer Noyes, Researcher, Institute for Research on Poverty, UW–Madison