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New Orleans, LA

Sustainability Working Meeting for SS/HS 06' Grantees

Presenter Biographies

Joan Dodge, Ph.D., (202-687-5054, dodgej@georgetown.edu) is a Senior Policy Associate at the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at Georgetown University's Center for Child and Human Development. Dr. Dodge (Joan) has had the responsibility over the last 9 years for implementing a series of national Policy Academies for selected states, tribes, and territories that were interested in designing a major child mental health policy initiative. The purpose of these Academies is to create policies that sustain jurisdictions' system of care efforts for children & youth and their families. Last year, she assisted in the development of a Tribal Policy Summit to address youth suicide within Indian Country, focusing specifically on prevention, intervention, and healing. Currently, Joan is working with a number of partners in developing a National Policy Academy on systems of care for youth and young adults with mental health needs who are transitioning into adulthood. This National Policy Academy will be held in early December 2008.

In addition to her role in fostering policy development, Dr. Dodge (Joan) has been working on an efforts that address human service delivery leadership and workforce issues within the public sector. She assisted with the recently re-designed and implemented Georgetown University's Leadership Academy in Santa Fe, NM that focused on key leadership skills and conceptual framework needed to improve outcomes for children and their families. Also, Joan is providing staff support and guidance to the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) Children's Workgroup on Leadership and Workforce. This workgroup of the Children's Directors of the public mental health authority in states provides leadership to colleagues in issues related to human service workforce development. Leadership and workforce development has emerged as a crisis in children' mental health field and is now being addressed more strategically at the national, state, and community levels.

Before coming to the National Technical Assistance Center, Joan worked at the community level first with a child welfare agency, For Love of Children (FLOC), in the District of Columbia, and then for a local suburban county in Maryland to develop and implement interagency programs for children and youth with multiple needs as well as infants and toddlers with developmental delays. Her discipline and educational background is in Special Education for children with emotional and behavior problems at both an undergraduate and graduate level.

John Brothers, M.B.A, M.P.A., (718-768-0778, john@cuidiuconsulting.com) has nearly twenty years experience in the public sector ranging from homelessness and poverty to child welfare and youth development. He is a highly sought after non-profit consultant who has raised millions of dollars in grants and private donations for non-profit organizations throughout his career. John has been teaching non-profit management on the University level for over 5 years at such highly acclaimed schools as New York University and George Mason University. John gravitated toward non-profit work as a result of his experiences growing up in poverty and homelessness as a child in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is driven by the desire to assist the types of organizations that enabled him to overcome the disadvantages of poverty.

John's consulting career developed from the numerous requests he received to share his experience and expertise in the field of non-profit management and organizational development. John began JEB Consulting in 1997 (now Cuidiu Consulting); an endeavor aimed at assisting national and local non-profits, and federal, state, and local government agencies with program and organizational development. One such effort included a contract with the DC Public School system to develop and organize an office aimed at reaching the educational needs of homeless children and youth. Some of John's current clients include the Office on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, the Children's Aid Society, and the Posse Foundation. John is also the Director of Executive Leadership at the Support Center for Nonprofit Management.

John most recently led Project Reach Youth (PRY), a community-based organization committed to helping low-income youth, adults, and families learn and grow in a creative and supportive environment. Established in 1968, PRY continues to be a valuable resource for young people and their families throughout the borough of Brooklyn. John led the organization through a successful strategic alliance with a long-time Brooklyn partner.

Prior to his work at PRY, John was the Chief Operating Officer for a national non-profit organization building the capacity of non-profit and faith-based organizations around the United States. John oversaw the day-to-day operations and facilitated several million dollars in grants and contracts under its umbrella.

In addition to this work, John was responsible for leading the efforts of one of the oldest organizations in Northern Virginia dedicated to homelessness and poverty. He oversaw the development of several homeless shelters, a legal aid and case management unit, a community wealth venture, and several other programs and initiatives aimed at alleviating poverty in one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. Under John's leadership, the organization's budget increased by over 300% while receiving national honors for the delivery of services to homeless children and families.

John served as the National Director of States and Communities with America's Promise, a youth development organization started by former Secretary of State Colin Powell. He was responsible for helping shape youth efforts in several hundred neighborhoods, cities, and states across the United States.

John worked for the City of New York in developing child protection policies and programs for the Administration for Children Services and worked with the substance abuse initiative for the Rikers Island Correctional Facility. In Brooklyn's Red Hook public housing community, John helped to start an effort aimed at helping low-income children and families with employment and educational opportunities. John started his career as a successful community and political organizer, having led several efforts in Minneapolis and throughout the Midwest and the South.

Scott W. Formica, Evaluation Specialist, (781-270-6613, sformica@ssre.org) is a research associate at Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc. and has extensive experience in designing, administering, and managing multiple research projects. Mr. Formica is responsible for designing and conducting evaluations of all Center activities and tracking Center services through a computerized database system. As a member of the evaluation team, he also provides training and technical assistance in the areas of assessment and evaluation. Recent projects include evaluation of the Massachusetts Collaborative for Action, Leadership, and Learning, a CSAP state incentive grant for substance abuse prevention; the Providence Safe Communities Partnership, a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration partnership; CASPAR Student Assistance Program, a CSAP Community-Initiated Prevention Intervention project; and the National Training and Technical Assistance Center for Middle School Drug Prevention and School Safety Coordinators, a national technical assistance center funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Wayne Harding, PhD, Team Leader, (781-273-4206, wharding@ssre.org) was a founder of and serves as director of projects for Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc., a research firm located in Burlington, Massachusetts. Dr. Harding has worked with Education Development Center, Inc. as an outside evaluator for the last nine years, with primary responsibility in evaluating three large national technical assistance centers. Through his research design and results, HHD has refined the process of operating and continuously improving its six national technical assistance resource centers. Dr. Harding has more than 30 years of experience conducting both basic and applied research. He has been a principal or co-principal investigator on grants and/or contracts from local agencies, state agencies, foundations, and federal agencies. Dr. Harding has authored or co-authored more than 100 research reports and made more than 150 presentations about his work at national and regional conferences, colleges, community meetings, and in other settings. He holds academic positions as a lecturer on psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and The Cambridge Hospital, and as a faculty member of the Zinberg Center for Addiction Studies, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts. He received an AB in sociology from Brandeis University, an EdM in education and social policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a PhD in alcohol and social policy research from Florence Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare, Brandeis University.