

Agenda

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2008

University of New Orleans Lindy C. Boggs International Conference Center

2045 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA.

A CALL TO END ADULT HYPOCRISY, NEGLECT, ABANDONMENT OF CHILDREN AMERICA'S CRADLE TO PRISON PIPELINE

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| 11:30 am – 1:00 pm | Registration |
| 1:00 pm – 1:15 pm | Welcome and Opening Remarks
Mary Joseph – Executive Director, Louisiana Children's Defense Fund |
| 1:15 pm – 1:20 pm | Introduction of Speaker
Tracie L. Washington, Esq. – Managing Director, Louisiana Justice Institute |
| 1:20 pm – 1:40 pm | Afternoon Keynote
Speaker: Natacha Blain, J.D., Ph.D. – Director, Children's Defense Fund
National "American's Cradle to Prison Pipeline" Initiative |

The National Crisis and the Cost of Neglect

America is failing its most vulnerable because it does not provide a level playing field for all children and does not protect all young lives equally. Poor children and children of color, in particular, are in the pipeline to prison before taking a single step or uttering a word. Many youth in juvenile detention facilities have never been on the track to college or a successful life. "They were not derailed from the right track; they never got on it," according to the groundbreaking study by Children's Defense Fund.

Dr. Blain will discuss this CDF study and the lack of commitment by our society, misplaced priorities and squandered resources. This session will explore the Children's Defense Fund's

recommendations for dismantling the cradle to prison pipeline, including full funding of Head Start, making sure that all children can read by the fourth grade, ensuring health insurance for all pregnant women, eradicating child poverty by 2015, eliminating hunger and providing jobs with a living wage. These and other recommendations are estimated to cost around \$75 billion, with \$55 billion to eradicate child poverty. The price that America must pay in lost productivity due to its 13 million impoverished children - \$500 billion - should give all of us sticker shock. America cannot afford the cost of allowing these children to suffer.

1:40 pm – 2:00 pm

A Word from Our Youth – *Part I*

Youth Beating the Odds

We know that with real, substantive, and targeted attention and assistance, our youth can become successful, regardless of challenges, setbacks, or obstacles they face in today's society. Each year, CDF national and state offices select and recognize four or five high school seniors for their heroic achievements while triumphing over immense challenges. Each honoree receives a cash scholarship and a new laptop computer. Since 1990, CDF has recognized and encouraged approximately 570 *Beat the Odds* honorees to become leaders and professionals in a variety of fields, as well as advocates for children and champions of social justice. Kendall Simon, a college freshman at Southern University in Baton Rouge, is one of our *Louisiana Beating the Odds* scholarship recipients. His inspirational story is of triumph.

Video: Kendall Simon – Children’s Defense Fund Beat the Odds Scholarship Recipient

Visual Performance – A Journey through the Pipeline

“A Journey through the Pipeline” is an artistic performance against the Cradle to Prison pipeline that combines visual art and movement. Our children have developed their own, unique way of expressing their anger and disappointment with America’s neglect, and this performance illustrates their journey of standing up and speaking out against poverty, the suffering, the anger, but ultimately finding hope.

Presenters: Students from James Singleton Charter School under the direction of Dennis Bagneris, Learning Advocate, Children’s Defense Fund New Orleans Early Education Initiative

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Listening to Our Children

Moderator: Sedrick A. Muhammd, Founder/President of Models for Success, LLC

We understand discipline in our schools and classrooms is a critical component of student learning. Educators have to balance effective discipline tools with draconian policies. Unfortunately, policies once meant to rid schools of guns have expanded, causing many schools to become feeders into the juvenile justice system, with devastating consequences for students, particularly students of color. As a result, students of color are now hurled into juvenile and criminal courts for non-violent acts of misconduct. Furthermore, the research demonstrates that the role of law enforcement has significantly changed: Police have become increasingly responsible for mundane school discipline.

In this session, we will explore how educators, youth organizers, citizens and lawyers can mobilize their communities for positive change, and improve the likelihood of eliminating the unnecessary criminalization of youth. Two factors, unfortunately, intersect with the criminalization of youth—race and poverty. In Louisiana 2 in 7 children are poor. Eliminating poverty and unchecked racism is a must.

3:00 – 3:30 Answer the Call – Paying a Heavy Toll: Race and Poverty Creating the Pipeline Express

Panel Discussion: Response to Listening to Our Children

Moderator: Tracie L. Washington, Esq.

Discussants:

- Dr. Kelvin Adams, Chief of Staff, Recovery School District and Superintendent-elect, St. Louis, Missouri School District
- Avis Brock, Co-Founder – Families and Friends of Louisiana Incarcerated Children
- Jennifer L. Glick, MPH, Director of Programs – Institute for Women and Ethnic Studies
- Ellen Tuzzolo, Youth Advocate – Juvenile Justice Project Louisiana
- Eden Heilman, Esq. – Southern Poverty Law Center Education Fellow
- Sergeant Timothy Morris, Supervisor of Juvenile Division – New Orleans Police Department
- Dr. Toya Barnes –Teamer – Vice-President, Dillard University
- Marie Sandovic – Fourth World Movement

Children from the New Orleans Public Schools will be in attendance.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Youth Leaders Answer the Call

Young leaders of Louisiana want to tackle problems facing their community, insuring our existing social and civic organizations afford them opportunities for hands-on involvement.

In this session, our emerging leaders will tell us what is fueling the Cradle to Prison Pipeline and how they plan to close the funnel to erase economic and achievement gaps that exist among citizens in our community, particularly our youth. We will acknowledge this emerging leadership, their fluency with technology, and how this vehicle can be used to create the messages and synergy around changing the existing paradigms.

Moderator: Sedrick Muhammd and Rev. Kanika McGee, Director of CDF's Youth Leadership Network

Discussants:

- Briton Lofton
- Ryan Haynie
- Dennis Bagneris, Jr.
- Saia Smith
- John Nyugen
- Kharee Wahid

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Wrap-up

Dr. Calvin Mackie – Co-founder of Channel ZerO

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Reception

Recognition of the Louisiana Juvenile Justice Project

University of New Orleans Lindy Boggs Center, Second Floor

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008

**DISMANTLING AMERICA'S CRADLE TO PRISON PIPELINE –
A CALL FOR CIVIC WILL, COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, AND SUSTAINED QUALITY
INVESTMENTS**

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am Registration and Breakfast
- 9:00 am – 9:05 am Welcome and Order of the Day
Mary Joseph – Executive Director, Louisiana Children's Defense Fund
- 9:05 am – 9:15 am Greetings
Sen. Lydia Jackson (D- Shreveport) – Chair, Louisiana Senate Select Committee
on Women and Children
Councilman James Carter, New Orleans City Council
Pat Evans – Director of International Project for Non-Profit Leadership,
University of New Orleans
- 9:15 am – 9:45 am Morning Keynote: Disproportionality in Minority Confinement
Dr. Michael Lindsey, President – Nestor Consultants, Inc.
- 9:45 pm – 10:45 pm Perspectives on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

**Promising Approaches and Solutions for Stopping the Criminalization of Children at
Increasingly Younger Ages and Investing in Prevention and Early Intervention.**

The Problem: A Black boy born in 2001 has a 1 in 3 chance, a Latino boy a 1 in 6 chance and a White boy a 1 in 17 chance of going to prison in his lifetime. In 2003, almost 15,000 girls were incarcerated—1 in every 7 juveniles in residential placement.

Why It Matters: States spend about three times as much money per prisoner as per public school pupil. Unless we focus our efforts on early intervention and prevention, rather than punishment, we are robbing thousands of youth each year of their futures and our country of vital human resources.

What Must Be Done: We must reduce detention and incarceration by increasing investment in prevention and early intervention strategies, such as access to quality early childhood development and education services and to the health and mental health care children need for healthy development.

Moderator: Judge Calvin Johnson (Retired); Executive Director, Metropolitan Human Services District

Discussants:

- Rev. Torin Sanders, Pastor – Second Baptist Church and President of Orleans Parish School Board
- Illona Picou – Director of Recovery, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court System
- Rep. Cedric Richmond (D – New Orleans) – Chair, House Judiciary Committee
- Marlin Gusman – Criminal Sheriff, Orleans Parish
- Marlyn McCants, Chief of Staff – Office of Youth Development
- Dana Kaplan, Executive Director – Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana
- Derwyn Buton – Director, Regional Juvenile Services

10:45 am – 11:45 am Perspectives on Mental and Physical Health

Promising Approaches and Solutions for Ensuring Every Child and Pregnant Woman Access to Affordable, Seamless, Comprehensive Health and Mental Health Coverage and Services.

The Problem: Today, nearly 9 million children are uninsured. Considerably more than 500,000 pregnant women are uninsured and lack timely access to essential health services.

Why It Matters: People who are uninsured live sicker and die sooner. The United States is the wealthiest nation in the world, yet children’s health status in our country as measured by selected indicators is among the worst in the industrialized world.

What Must Be Done: We must ensure every child and pregnant woman has access to affordable, seamless, comprehensive health and mental health coverage and services.

Moderator: Dr. Denese Shervington

Discussants:

- Wyatt Hines – Administrative Supervisor, Covenant House – New Orleans
- Dr. Kevin Stephens – Medical Director, City of New Orleans
- Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham – Medical Director, Office of Addictive Disorders in the LA Department of Health and Hospitals
- Sarah Hoffpauir, LCSW – Louisiana Public Health Institute

- Carmen Weisner, LCSW – Executive Director – National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana Office
- Malcolm Armstrong—Learning Advocate Children’s Defense Fund, Louisiana

11:45 am – 12:15 pm Lunch

12:15 pm – 12:45 pm EDUCATION! EDUCATION! EDUCATION!

Dr. John H. Jackson, President – Schott Foundation

12:45 pm – 1:05 pm Comprehensive Community Services: Harlem Children’s Zone

Rasuli Lewis, Program Director

1:05 pm – 2:05 pm **Community Support, Role Models and Mentors – Positive Alternatives**

Moderator: Adrian Todd - Associate Director/Programs, Kingsley House

Discussant:

- Dellona Davis - Executive Director of CASA
- Ron McClain – Executive Director of Family Services
- Charlotte Parent – Executive Director, Healthy Start
- Kyshun Webster – Executive Director, Gulf Coast Action Network
- Shacara Lewis – Executive Director, Every Child Matters - Louisiana
- Malcolm Myers – Chairman, Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund
- Almetra Franklin – President, Region 6 Community Action Agencies Association
- Glenda Harris – Regional Coordinator, CDF Katrina Leadership Corps

2:05 pm – 3:05 pm Focusing on Early Childhood Development and Education

Promising Approaches and Solutions for Providing High Quality Early Childhood Development Programs for All.

The Problem: Today, only 3 percent of eligible infants and young children (0-3) are enrolled in Early Head Start and only about half to two-thirds of children eligible for Head Start are enrolled. Quality childcare and preschool programs are crucial to level the playing field and ensure every child entering school is ready to learn.

Why It Matters: Studies reveal that those enrolled in high quality early childhood education programs are subsequently more likely to complete higher levels of education, have higher earnings, be in better health and be in stable relationships, and are less likely to commit a crime or be incarcerated.

What Must Be Done: We must make early childhood development programs accessible to every child by ensuring such programs are affordable, available and of high quality.

Moderator: Thelma French – Special Assistant/Secretary Orleans Parish School Board

Discussants:

- Cindy Bishop—President, LA Child Care Association
- Rep. Joe Salter – Speaker Emeritus, Louisiana House of Representatives; Community Affairs Representative Louisiana Department of Education
- Judy Watts – President/CEO, Agenda for Children
- Todd Battiste – Vice President, Community Impact Division, United Way GNO
- Darryl Kilbert – Superintendent, Orleans Parish School Board
- Cindy Nyugen—Community Advocate; Executive Director VIET
- Judy Horsey—Lead Site Coordinator, CDF-LA Early Education Support Initiative

3:05 pm –3:30 pm Answering the Call: Political and Community Leadership
Facilitator: Sen. Lydia Jackson

Discussants:

- Elected officials, volunteers, community leaders, youth and parents from various cities/towns in Louisiana

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Dismantling America' Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Marian Wright Edelman – President, Children's Defense Fund

4:00 pm –4:15 pm Closing and Charge for Action
Call for Commitment, Mary Joseph

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm Reception and Book Signing

Children's Defense Fund – Louisiana

Staff

Mary Joseph, Executive Director

Dana Jones, Special Assistant

Katrina Citizens Leadership Corp

Glenda Harris, Coordinator

Yolanda Seals, Georgia Coordinator

Layla Fitzgerald, Mississippi Coordinator

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Special Consultants

Dr. Valerie Francis, Music Instructor

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