



Little Rock Grantee & Community Roundtable

May 29th and 30th, 2013

Biographies

Kenneth Braswell is the Executive Director of Fathers Incorporated and Director of the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFCH). Fathers Incorporated is a not-for-profit organization that serves as a leader in the promotion of Responsible Fatherhood and Mentoring. Since 2004, the agency's main focus has been on the development of support and services for fathers. The NRFCH is a widely recognized national and international resource for fathers, practitioners, researchers and policymakers. Its components include: www.fatherhood.gov; media campaigns; products; the national fatherhood hotline; and, President Obama's Responsible Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative.

From 2006-2011, Mr. Braswell was the Director of the New York State (NYS) Fatherhood Initiative (www.dads.ny.gov) where he managed over \$11 million in programs, a \$1 million comprehensive evaluation, and the NYS Noncustodial Earned Income Tax Credit. He has received numerous awards and recognitions since he began his community service in 1990, including EBONY magazine's MANifest Honors for Black Male Achievement Award in partnership with The Campaign for Black Male Achievement (Open Society Foundations). As a national motivational speaker, presenter and trainer, Mr. Braswell addresses both youth and adults, motivating them to be hopeful about life. He also authored *When The Tear Won't Fall*, and a workbook, *Gentle Warriors*. Born and raised in Brooklyn, Mr. Braswell is the father of four beautiful children; uncle, grandfather; and husband to beautiful wife, Tracy.

Gina Chandler enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1990-1992, serving as a supply specialist. Her duties included receiving all local purchase merchandise; training incoming personnel; and, handling sensitive mission-essential material. After Ms. Chandler's service in the military, she worked for various organizations, performing customer service and case management. Since 2008, Ms. Chandler has served veterans as a state veterans service officer for the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs. In 2010, she coordinated Arkansas' first Women Veterans' Summit and held another in 2012. She is an accredited service officer for 11 service organizations and her duties include assisting veterans and their families with VA claims and appeals. Ms. Chandler is also responsible for following up on veterans claims; responding to Congressional inquiries; serving as the Arkansas state women veterans coordinator; preparing and trying cases before the Board of Veterans Appeals; and, providing annual training for county service officers. Ms. Chandler is active in the National Association of State Women Veterans Coordinators, currently serving as the Secretary for the organization. She was also appointed to the Women's Advisory Committee by VA Secretary Eric Shinseki in September 2012 to serve a two year term.

Jackie Dedman, Ed.S., is the Collaboration Director for the Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office. Ms. Dedman is a native of Arkansas and has an array of experience and an extensive background in early childhood education, special education, and administration on the secondary, elementary, and early childhood levels. Ms. Dedman graduated from Arkansas State University (ASU)

with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary/Special Education and a Master's Degree in Elementary Administration. She also graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) with a graduate degree in Educational Leadership (Ed.S.). In addition, Ms. Dedman is certified in early childhood education and has many years of experience in consulting, training, technical assistance, and working with early childhood programs (Early Head Start/Head Start/Public Schools) in several states.

Pamela Draper is the Head Start/Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS) Program Director and Fiscal Officer for the Cleveland County School District. Ms. Draper has been with Head Start since 1995 and a former Head Start child. She obtained a Master of Education from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Arkansas Tech University. Ms. Draper is currently the president of Arkansas Head Start Association and an alternate on the Region VI Head Start Association Board.

Angela Duran is the Director of the Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. She also runs her own consulting firm, Duran and Associates, where she works with nonprofits and government agencies to develop strategic plans, conduct evaluation and policy research, and manage projects. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Tulsa and has a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University. Ms. Duran was named the Arkansas Business' Nonprofit Executive of the Year in 2007.

Elma Z. Goodwin is a Management and Program Analyst in the Office of the Regional Administrator, in the Administration for Children & Families in Dallas, Texas. She serves as the lead for the ASSETS Initiative, Healthy Marriage, Fatherhood and Positive Youth Development (PYD) Initiatives for Region VI which covers Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Texas. The region provides guidance and technical assistance for cross-cutting programs such as Healthy Marriage, Fatherhood, PYD, Homelessness, Disaster Recovery and Emergency Preparedness. Prior to her current assignment, she spent over twenty years in the private sector in leadership positions working for the largest telecommunications provider. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Management from Dallas Baptist University. She is married, the mother of a son and daughter, and Yah Yah to a handsome and adorable grandson.

Leon R. McCowan is the Regional Administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Region VI and serves as the ACF Assistant Secretary's representative for ACF, HHS, Region VI. He provides executive leadership, direction, and coordination for achieving ACF's national goals, priorities, and special initiatives; advocates for and advances the priorities of the HHS Secretary and ACF Assistant Secretary; and, facilitates Administration initiatives to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families, special populations, and distressed communities. He also manages and coordinates cross-cutting initiatives such as Healthy Marriage, Fatherhood, and Faith-based Programs. He is married to Curtistene McCowan; they have two married sons and three granddaughters.

Patrick J. Patterson, MSW, MPH is Senior Manager at ICF International, a global firm (based in Fairfax, Virginia) that partners with government and commercial clients to deliver professional services and technology solutions in the energy, environment, and infrastructure; health, social programs, and consumer/financial; and public safety and defense markets. As Senior Manager at ICF, Patrick manages the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC), the federally funded clearinghouse for the Responsible Fatherhood field nationally. Mr. Patterson also has management responsibilities for the provision of training and technical assistance to Federal Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood grantees, States, and programs nationally. In his role as ICF Senior Manager, Mr. Patterson also plays a key role as liaison and collaborator with Federal and State government partners, on Capitol Hill, private foundations, and internationally to help shape and advance the research, policy and practice agendas for the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood fields. For over a decade,

he has been a requested Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage expert to provide keynotes, lectures, workshops, and trainings throughout the U.S., and internationally in the Bahamas, Jamaica, Mexico, and Mongolia. Mr. Patterson earned his Bachelor of Social Work degree from Benedict College (Columbia, South Carolina) and Master's degrees in Social Work and Public Health from the University of South Carolina.

Marjorie McColl Petty, J.D., M.S., serves as the Regional Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Region VI. As Regional Director, Ms. Petty serves as DHHS Secretary Sebelius' representative responsible for guiding and coordinating DHHS policies. Ms. Petty facilitates communication regarding DHHS initiatives as they relate to State, local, and tribal governments. Her region includes the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, as well as 68 Federally-recognized tribes.

Ms. Petty's health care experience and public service include both the public and private sectors. Ms. Petty has most recently served as Director of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection for the Kansas Corporation Commission, beginning in 2003. She was chair of the Board of Directors of the Delta Dental of Kansas, a position she held since August 2008, and served on the company's board of directors since 2001. From 2006-2008, she was president of the Board of Directors of the Delta Dental Foundation, where she reviewed and granted \$2.9 million for oral health projects for Kansans. Previously, she served as a subcontractor for two regional offices of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a public policy manager and was on staff of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Ms. Petty has also served as a State Senator in Kansas, and a member of the Topeka City Council. She received a J.D. from Washburn University School of Law and a Master's in Education/ Counseling from the University of Kansas. She is a graduate of Texas Christian University.

Carol Rangel is the Project Director for the Pulaski County Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program at the Division of Children and Family Services. Ms. Rangel's background includes: facilitating parenting classes with inmates at six correctional facilities in Arkansas with the Centers for Youth and Families parenting in prison program; working at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock for 16 years as the site coordinator for the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development study of early child care and youth development; serving as the youth specialist with New Futures with Little Rock Youth; and, working at the Stepping Stone Emergency Shelter. Ms. Rangel's 25 years of working in child welfare and with children and their families in Arkansas from all walks of life feels more like a calling than a career. Her goal now is to bring awareness, provide support, and work to develop more interventions for children and families living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

Tonya Russell became Director of the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education at the Arkansas Department of Human Services in June 2004. The Arkansas Department of Human Services- Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education is responsible for administering the following programs: child care licensing, federal child care block grant, Special Nutrition programs from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Arkansas Better Chance (state pre-k) program as well as providing training and technical assistance opportunities to early childhood professionals to support quality in early childhood education. From 2001-2004, Ms. Russell served as Head Start Director for the Community Action Program for Central Arkansas and the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences campus. Prior to that, she served as the first Head Start Collaboration Director for Arkansas. Ms. Russell has also served as a coordinator for a local Even Start Family Literacy project and the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters at Child Development, Inc. She received a Bachelor's degree from Arkansas Tech University and has two daughters.