

USING DATA TO INFORM POLICY DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

ABSTRACT:

This plenary session seeks to illustrate how the wealth of institutional data already available to community-based organizations can be identified and used for policy development and sustainability. The session will be both informative and instructive with the presentation of a useful template from experienced professors at Boston College's Lynch School of Education engaged in child and youth research, policy development, and advocacy. Participants will hear how the City Connects program uses data for application and policy development, and Project Hope will share how they used data for tracking evictions and changing city policy. The goal of this session is to inform about ways organizations can use their own information and data, or data from mutual organizational understandings (MOU) with partners for 1) self-evaluation and improvement, 2) sustainability through funding, and 3) advocacy for policy change.



REBEKAH LEVINE COLEY

Rebekah Levine Coley is a Professor of Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology at Boston College. Coley's research seeks to delineate the key family, school, and community processes which transmit economic and social inequality to children's development from infancy through adolescence. She uses longitudinal, multi-method, and evaluation methodologies to inform social and educational practice and policy at the local, state, and federal level.

Professor Coley's research has been published in dozens of leading journals and edited volumes, and has received funding from the National Institutes of Health, the Australian Research Council, and numerous private foundations. She holds leadership positions in the Society for Research in Child Development, the Society for Research on Adolescence, the Child Care and Early Education Policy Research Consortium, and the University-based Child and Family Policy Consortium. Her research excellence has been recognized through receipt of a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award and a Social Policy Award from the Society for Research in Adolescence.



LAURA O'DWYER

Laura O'Dwyer is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. She teaches courses in applied data analysis, quantitative research methods, survey construction, and experimental design. O'Dwyer's research focuses on examining the impact of technology-based interventions on student and teacher outcomes, and on international comparative studies in education. She has conducted several studies that employ randomized experimental designs to examine educational interventions including the effects of online professional development on teaching practices and learning outcomes.



KRISTIN HAAS

Kristin Haas is the Data & Policy Coordinator at Project Hope, where she oversees data collection and analysis and coordinates advocacy efforts for the organization. Prior to joining Project Hope, Kristin worked as a Stabilization Case Manager at the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, providing supportive services to homeless families as they transitioned out of emergency shelter. Kristin holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Middlebury College and a Master's degree in Urban Policy & Planning from Tufts University. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Community Action Agency of Somerville since 2014.