

2009 Audio Cast Series

Part 1: Providing a Safe Haven to Expectant Families and Infants, Toddlers and Their Families in Your Program

Objectives

During this audio cast, panelists will:

1. Share the federal definition of homelessness;
2. Identify causes of homelessness;
3. Identify health and developmental concerns for young children that can result from homelessness;
4. Offer programmatic strategies to support expectant families and young children and families experiencing homelessness.

Introduction

Content Level: Basic

The materials below were developed for the audio cast that originally aired on March 25, 2009. Use this information to supplement your learning and to evaluate the experience.

To make the most of this training experience:

- **Read the Faculty Biographies and the Applying the Information handouts before the audio cast begins.** These handouts are designed to help you prepare for the program and consider how the information faculty share can be applied where you are.
- **Schedule some time for reflection after the audio cast.** An individual staff member can use the **Applying the Information** handout to practice new skills. However, discussing information as a team is the best way to get a collective sense of what is in place at your program and how team members can enhance their services to grandparents.
- **Use the handouts to discuss** new information and to plan for the future.



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Moderator

Amanda Perez



Senior Training Specialist
Early Head Start National Resource Center

Faculty

Kiersten Beigel



Family and Community Partnerships Specialist
Office of Head Start
Administration for Children and Families



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Kiersten Beigel is a Family and Community Partnership Specialist with the Office of Head Start. She began working with HHS in the Administration for Children, Youth and Families in 2003 as a Presidential Management Fellow. There she worked in a management office that oversaw operations for four Bureaus which managed Child Welfare, Head Start, Child Care, Family Violence, Abstinence Education, Mentoring Children of Prisoners, and Homeless and Runaway Youth programs. Prior to her work in the federal government, Kiersten has worked with children of all ages and their families in medical, child welfare, non profit and educational settings providing mental health services, parent support services as well as conducting casework and program development activities in various capacities. Kiersten holds a Masters in Social Work and a certificate in Urban Leadership from Simmons College in Boston and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Syracuse University.



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Faculty (cont'd.)

Marlene Aranda-Gillman



**Early Head Start Program Director
Children's Aid Society
New York, NY**

For over a decade, Marlene Aranda-Gillman has been working with families and young children in New York City. She had experience with Early Head Start as a home visitor, prenatal specialist and assistant director before becoming the Program Director at Children's Aid in 2004. There, Marlene's program provides home-based services to many families living in crowded and/or substandard housing. Marlene is a licensed clinical social worker and a certified doula.

Kim Cosgrove



**Senior Clinical Social Worker,
Kennedy Krieger Institute's Child and Family Support Program/Director,
PACT's Therapeutic Nursery**

Kim Cosgrove works with very young children experiencing homelessness and their families as Director of PACT's Therapeutic Nursery in Baltimore, MD. The nursery serves families living in a city homeless shelter with at least one child from birth to 3 years of age. The nursery represents a partnership between the Kennedy Krieger Institute, Martin Luther King Early Head Start, and the University of Maryland. Licensed as a clinical social worker, Kim has provided home-based family therapy for the past 15 years.



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Faculty (cont'd.)

Mia Mackey



**Center Director, Arlington Early Head Start
Northern Virginia Family Services
Arlington, VA**

When Mia Mackey came to Arlington Early Head Start as the Center Director, she worked from her experience with families experiencing homelessness in Washington, DC to build relationships with shelters in her program's community. Now, the program welcomes families being served in those shelters as well as other families struggling with housing in the expensive area the program serves. Mia has a Master's degree in Sociology and is working on her PhD in Urban Sociology and Social Inequality from Howard University.

