



After-School in Illinois

A Planning Committee comprised of IGPA faculty members Rachel Gordon and Elizabeth Powers as well as Peter Mulhall, Director of IGPA's Center for Prevention Research and Development; Jennifer Becker Mouhcine, Director of the Illinois After-School Partnership which is co-chaired by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education and coordinated by the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention; and Robert M. Goerge, Research Fellow at Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, planned the briefing and prepared this overview of *After School in Illinois*.



School's Out: After-School Programs and Policies that Work

Planning Committee Member, Contact Information and Bio

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Biography:

Rachel A. Gordon is an Associate Professor of sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a faculty member of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA). Gordon's primary research areas are: (1) welfare and employment policies, with particular emphasis on early care and education, (2) measuring and modeling the contexts of families' lives, and (3) the application of longitudinal research methods to study of children and families. She has published a number of papers regarding the stability of child care use and maternal employment, the association between community context and child well being, the causes and consequences of grandmother co-residential support for young mothers, the relationships between youth gang participation and delinquency, and the evaluation of social programs.

Gordon currently directs two programs at IGPA: the Illinois Family Impact Seminars, a series of briefings for state legislators on family policy issues, and NEW Leadership Illinois, a week-long residential summer institute for college women designed to increase women's representation in all elements of public life, including elected office. She is beginning her second term on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Marriage and the Family and recently completed her third term as co-chair of the Committee on Research, Policy and Public Information of the Society for Research on Adolescence. She has received research funding from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Labor and funding for policy activities from the MacArthur Foundation and the Foundation for Child Development. Gordon holds a B.S. in psychology from Pennsylvania State University, an MPP and PhD in public policy from the University of Chicago, and received pre-doctoral training in demography and a post-doctoral training in work-family research at the NORC Research Centers.



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Biography:

Elizabeth Powers has been a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 1996. She has organized and participated in numerous events for Illinois policymakers. Her special area of expertise is the analysis of social policies, including social security, welfare, and public health insurance. She is interested in policy design, the impact of these policies on families, and their financing. Elizabeth recently directed a major comprehensive study on the state of Illinois' reimbursement system for community providers of mental health and developmental disability services pursuant to a mandate of the Illinois General Assembly (the report can be found at https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/epowers/www/index_files/Final_Report.htm).

Prior to joining the University of Illinois, Elizabeth was an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and a junior staff economist with President George H.W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers. Elizabeth holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. in Economics from Vassar College. She is the author of numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and has served on the editorial boards of *Economic Development Quarterly* and *National Tax Journal*. Elizabeth has received fellowships and awards for her scholarship from the University of Pennsylvania, Vassar College, the Brookings Institution, and the University of Illinois. She has been an investigator on numerous grants and has been the Principal Investigator on over 10 large (\$25,000 or more) grants.



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Biography:

Peter Mulhall is the Director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs' Center for Prevention Research and Development at the University of Illinois. He has held that position since 1997 and has been with CPRD since 1991. Dr. Mulhall has a master's degree in health studies from Indiana University and a doctorate in community health from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has extensive experience in the fields of health education and prevention, and has worked on a number of federal, state and local projects related to the evaluation of programs and interventions that target academic failure, substance abuse, and related problem behaviors.



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Biography:

Jennifer Becker Mouhcine is the Illinois After-school Partnership Director at the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention and directs the activities of the Partnership as it works to create a state-wide infrastructure that builds, supports and sustains high quality out-of-school time programs for Illinois' children and youth. She facilitates various working groups of the Partnership, which are addressing policy, funding, quality and capacity building issues for out-of-school-time programs. In this role, Jennifer has studied the landscape for after-school supply and demand in the state, surveyed the workforce to understand its demographics and professional development needs, developed tools for programs to increase their understanding of youth outcomes and evaluation practices, and has facilitated a state agency team working in coordination to improve after-school programs in Illinois.

In addition, Jennifer has over 12 years of experience in program development and management, coalition building, and strategic planning. With a background in workforce development, she has provided employment counseling to young adults, managed an employment and training center, and worked on community and citywide organizing efforts in Chicago to effect change in employment opportunities. She facilitated a community process that led to the creation of an intermediary organization, where she staffed a network of employment and training providers. Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University.



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Biography:

Robert M. Goerge is a Chapin Hall Research Fellow with over 20 years of research focused on improving the available information on children and families, particularly those who require specialized services related to abuse/neglect, disability, poverty, or mental illness. He developed Chapin Hall's pioneering Integrated Database on Children's Services in Illinois, which links the administrative data from multiple service agencies to provide a comprehensive picture of children's use of publicly provided or financed service programs. Currently, Dr. Goerge is focusing on understanding the effects of out-of-school programs on youth, and on how the provision of services to children and their well-being are affected by neighborhood conditions. He recently published a report (with Robert Chaskin) entitled, "What High School Students in The Chicago Public Schools Do in their Out-of-School Time: 2003-2005."