

Doris Duke Fellowships

for the Promotion of Child Well-Being

Seeking innovations to prevent child abuse and neglect

The use of policy and practice mentors is one of the more unique aspects of the Doris Duke Fellowship. Each fellow has a mentor to help frame their research with an eye toward maximizing policy and practice relevance. As a group, the policy mentors have invaluable expertise to offer the fellows as they get ready for a career influencing how the field thinks about child well-being and the prevention of maltreatment. This edition of the newsletter highlights four of these mentors and the relationships they have established with fellows.

Featured Policy Mentors

Rhian Evans Allvin

National Association for the Education of Young Children

Mentor to [Jennifer Mortensen](#), Cohort Three Fellow

Rhian Evans Allvin has served as the Executive Director for the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#) (NAEYC) in Washington DC since August 2013. As a policy mentor, Rhian is assisting Jennifer in framing the theoretical rationale and results of her empirical dissertation analyses. Jennifer's dissertation considers the role of center-based child care teachers in promoting the social and emotional development of infants and toddlers facing risk at home and the potential role of child care centers as a source of support for families. Additionally, Rhian and Jennifer are working together on developing a policy brief for NAEYC that focuses on the importance of teacher-child relationships in infant and toddler child care. Before joining NAEYC, Rhian was a leader in promoting [Arizona's First Things First](#), a citizen's ballot initiative that sets aside tax money to create a state agency whose purpose is to ensure that a pathway to school readiness exists for all Arizona children ages birth to five years old.



Sarah Cook

*Mentor to [Jalika Street](#), Cohort Three Fellow
and [Erin Marsh](#), Cohort Four Fellow*

Sarah Cook, PhD has been a faculty member in the [Department of Psychology at Georgia State University](#) since 1997 and also serves as the Associate Dean of the [Honor's College](#). Dr. Cook has been an integral part of Jalika's fellowship experience, ensuring that Jalika's dissertation, which explored the connection between childhood maltreatment and other forms of domestic violence in underserved African American families, included a section that focused on specific policy and practice recommendations. Dr. Cook has also been integral in connecting Jalika with policy makers who might benefit from her research.



Similarly, Erin has benefited greatly from collaborating with Dr. Cook and receiving advice on how to frame her research on the treatment of youth sex trafficking victims to more directly inform law enforcement practices. Dr. Cook is a nationally recognized expert on violence against women and also draws from her background as a community psychologist, a child protection social worker, and a consultant to local and state level advocacy organizations. Dr. Cook stresses the importance of combining research with public policy and has experience working with various funding organizations such as the [National Institute of Justice](#), [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and the [National Institute of Health](#).

David Rubin

PolicyLab at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Mentor to [Meredith Matone](#), Cohort Four Fellow

David Rubin is founding co-director of [PolicyLab at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia \(CHOP\)](#) and a professor of pediatrics at the [Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania](#). Dr. Rubin and Meredith meet weekly to discuss the progress of her dissertation research on the role of maternal health in the cycle of maltreatment for young mothers involved with the child welfare system. Specifically, they discuss relationship building with local, state, and federal stakeholders; Dr. Rubin helps to facilitate those relationships. They also have worked together to refine research questions and analytic plans to best position her research for policy impact. This year, Dr. Rubin was named a [presidential appointee to the federal Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities](#). In addition to serving on the Commission, Dr. Rubin is an active pediatric primary care clinician, an educator, and an investigator with a diverse portfolio of research targeted towards health systems improvement for high-risk children and adolescents.



Melissa Lim Brodowski

Office on Child Abuse and Neglect at the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families

Mentor to [Carlo Panlilio](#), Cohort Three Fellow and [Leah Bartley](#), Cohort Four Fellow

Melissa Lim Brodowski is a senior child welfare program specialist at the [Office on Child Abuse and Neglect at the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families](#). Dr. Brodowski has been instrumental in providing Carlo with resources such as information on cross-system collaboration initiatives between child welfare and early childhood education, an introduction to the [Network of Infant and Toddler Researchers \(NITR\)](#), and invitations to practice-related meetings at the ACF. These resources help link Carlo with relevant policies and current research in the field in order to deepen his understanding of the policy dissemination process. They also further integrate policy considerations into his research on the developmental trajectories of emotion regulation and language in a sample of maltreated preschool-aged children. During a Doris Duke Fellowship webinar in April, Dr. Brodowski and Carlo are scheduled to present Carlo's research findings and explain how the findings could be used to improve collaboration between local schools and child welfare departments.



Dr. Brodowski and Leah are in the early stages of planning a publication related to intersection of policy, implementation, and research in child maltreatment prevention. Leah's research focuses on the effective use of implementation strategies to change organizational capacity in order for children and families to benefit. At OCAN, Dr. Brodowski oversees grant programs, technical assistance, and research and evaluation activities related to early childhood, prevention, and child welfare services. She is currently on a temporary detail assignment with the [Office of the Surgeon General at the Department of Health of Human Services](#) and is supporting the implementation of the [National Prevention Strategy](#). She has over 22 years of experience working in the field of child welfare and human services.

Cohort Five Application Period Now Open

The application period for the Doris Duke Fellowships, Cohort Five is now open. You can find application instructions and materials on our [website](#).

An **informational webinar** was held on October 14, 2014. Fellowship staff addressed common questions about applying for the Doris Duke Fellowships. To view the webinar, click [here](#).

Applications will be accepted through December 15, 2014.

If you would like additional information or have questions, please email ddfellowship@chapinhall.org.

Important Dates

Fellowship Midyear Meeting

- March 25-27, 2015
- University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

- Attendance is expected of all current fellows; Cohort One and Two fellows are also invited to attend

Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference

- January 14-18, 2015
- New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, LA
- Register [here](#)

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