

# Courtney L. Harrison, M.P.A.

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## SUMMARY

I am a dedicated professional committed to improving the lives of children and families through thoughtful, innovative, policy and service delivery solutions. I partner with my clients to effectively move and share information, with the intent of informing policy and practice. My background is in welfare policy, human services program implementation, and dissemination. I have 15 years of experience working with non-profits, research organizations, and government agencies as a consultant and project manager. My professional focus is on family strengthening, child welfare, positive youth development, and self-sufficiency with an emphasis on evidence-based policies and programs. I believe firmly in prevention and building from what we know.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### CLH Strategies & Solutions

2011 – Present

Owner/Independent Human Services Policy, Program, and Dissemination Consultant

Current and recent projects include:

#### **National Home Visiting Resource Center, James Bell Associates (2016 – Present)**

Dissemination consultant providing support on web content, organization of annual yearbook, and state profiles to summarize home visiting data and trends. The project is funded by the Heising-Simons and the Robert Wood Johnson foundations.

#### **MotherWise, University of Denver (2015 – Present)**

Sustainability consultant responsible for supporting the development, dissemination, and sustainability of a relationship education program for expectant women. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA).

#### **Healthy Relationships and Marriage Project, Center for Relationship Education, (2015 – Present)**

Performance measurement lead responsible for oversight of data collection procedures and analyzing data to support continuous program quality improvement. This project is funded by the HHS, ACF, OFA.

#### **Permanency Innovations Initiative, Westat (2012 - Present)**

Dissemination strategist tasked with developing and facilitating a dissemination plan, and convening a cross-site dissemination committee to move program, evaluation, and implementation information about long-term foster care and permanency outcomes to the child welfare field. The project is funded by HHS' Children's Bureau and Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE).

#### **Tribal Evaluation Institute, James Bell Associates (2016)**

Provide consultation on the project's dissemination plan and web site to enhance how lessons learned and evaluation tools are shared with grantees and other stakeholders. The project is funded by HHS, ACF, OPRE.

#### **Rural Impact Project, Annie E. Casey Foundation (2016)**

Responsible for the development of a dissemination plan, video, and written materials to tell the story of the first year of two-generation programs designed to reduce poverty in rural communities.

#### **Quality Improvement Center on Adoption and Guardianship, Spaulding (2016)**

Provide training and technical assistance on dissemination planning and activities to leadership team and sites; facilitate the development of a comprehensive plan for the Center; and provide dissemination tools. The project is funded by HHS, ACF, Children's Bureau.

**Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation (MIHOPE) and MIHOPE-Strong Start, MDRC (2012 – Present)**

Communications lead and site recruitment team member for a federally funded, large-scale evaluation; the project will inform the national debate about home visiting policies and practices and their effect on the well-being of at-risk families and children. The projects are funded by HHS.

**Cross-Site Evaluation of Implementation and National Resource Centers, James Bell Associates (2014 – 2015)**

Dissemination consultant responsible for creating a dissemination plan and supporting the development and review of materials summarizing key findings of an evaluation of a network of training and technical assistance centers. The project is funded by HHS, ACF, Children's Bureau.

**Curriculum Content Assessment and Review, IMPAQ International (2013 – 2014)**

Consultant on dissemination strategies to distill content and share curriculum reviews. Summaries will be shared on-line and targeted to program administrators. The project is funded through OPRE.

**Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas (2014)**

Program sustainability consultant for a marriage and relationship education program. Conducted interviews with key staff and drafted sustainability plan with recommendations on program operations following the federal grant period.

**ACE Mentor Program of Mentor Denver (2013)**

Strategic planning consultant and grant writer for a program that connects underrepresented high school age youth to professionals in the Architecture-Construction-Engineering (ACE) fields, with a focus on education and career attainment.

**Public Awareness Campaign Promoting the Value of Marriage and Relationship Stability, The Bawmann Group (2012 – 2013)**

Subject-matter expert and consultant on the development of a statewide media campaign in association with a federal grant to deliver relationship education services to low-income families.

**Research Dissemination Project, Public Strategies, Inc. (2011 – 2013)**

Consultation on research and strategies to assess access to and utilization of human services research conducted by the OPRE and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

**Public Strategies, Denver, CO**

**2004 – 2011**

**Director of Policy and Program Development**

- Directed dissemination research and framework project for OPRE
- Worked with national researchers to plan and design an intervention program to strengthen families
- Wrote policy briefs, tip sheets and how-to guides for social services practitioners on how to integrate services within child welfare, TANF, workforce, judiciary, youth, and education systems
- Oversaw product development for the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center (NHMRC) addressing a variety of topics focused on relationship education curricula, and couple, youth and parent services through resources for policymakers, administrators, and practitioners
- Provided technical assistance (TA) to state agencies and nonprofit organizations on program development, strategic planning, coalition building, program operations, and integration of relationship education services into existing programs
- Oversaw the Annie E. Casey Foundation Youth Intermediary Project on behalf of It's My Community Initiative; project included site selection, training, TA and reporting on promising practices
- Managed, as a subcontractor, the HHS, ACF, Office of Family Assistance (OFA) Technical Assistance contract for healthy marriage grantees to deliver group-based and one-on-one TA
- Served as team consultant for the federal Building Strong Families research and demonstration project and as a site lead for the Supporting Healthy Marriage research and demonstration project
- Directed project to develop and disseminate practitioner resources focused on building healthy relationships to Hispanic service providers through federal contract; this included hosting events, consulting with researchers, writing products and developing curriculum modules

- Managed technical assistance to the Texas Strengthening Families Initiative that included capacity building assistance to program developers and community-based service providers as well as oversight of the Research Advisory Group
- Led grant writing teams and was the lead author on proposals that brought in more than \$20 million in federal, state, and private grant funds over a five year period
- Directed Public Strategies' Denver office and oversaw a team of writers and TA providers to meet client needs

**National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Denver, CO**

**2000 – 2004**

**Policy Specialist**

- Researched state welfare reform policies and initiatives related to low-income families
- Wrote policy briefs on job retention, the experiences of former welfare recipients, marriage initiatives, fatherhood, faith-based initiatives and other welfare-related issues
- Co-developed a policy brief series distributed to +1,000 state legislators and policy groups
- Responded to information requests from state legislators, state agency staff and legislative staff related to employment (welfare to work), education programs for welfare recipients, TANF reauthorization goals, TANF caseloads, faith-based initiatives, marriage initiatives and Earned Income Tax Credit policies
- Presented summaries of innovative programs and welfare policy trends to policymakers at NCSL meetings as well as to legislative committees and at federally-sponsored conferences
- Reviewed state budget bills to identify policy changes and summarize the findings

**Deloitte & Touche, LLP, Parsippany, NJ**

**1998 – 2000**

**Senior Consultant**

- Reviewed organization structures and process flows for public sector clients
- Analyzed markets and performed feasibility studies for local economic development initiatives in Bridgeport, CT and Detroit, MI
- Reviewed the organizational structures of the New York City Board of Education to determine the efficiency of separating management functions by operations and curriculum
- Conducted a program evaluation for the New York City Housing Authority anti-drug youth programs

**EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

**Master of Public Affairs, Policy Analysis**

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

**B.S. Public Affairs**

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Member, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

**CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS**

Implementation Science Workshop

IRB Education Course passing IRB Human Subjects Test

Leiden University, Netherlands, Certificate of Completion, Public Administration

L'Ecole Nationale Administration, Paris, France, Advanced Seminar

**PUBLICATIONS**

[\*OPRE Value-Added Dissemination Framework\*](#), OPRE, 2013

[\*Human Services Research Dissemination, What Works?\*](#) OPRE, 2013

Marriage and Relationship Education (MRE) Program Development and Management Manual, NHMRC, 2012

[\*School of Thought: Youth Relationship Education\*](#), Office of Family Assistance, 2011

[\*Supporting Healthy Marriage Toolkit: Resources for Program Operators from the Supporting Healthy Marriage\*](#)

[Demonstration and Evaluation](#), MDRC, 2011

*Relationships Matter: Partnering to Prevent Unplanned Pregnancy*, NHMRC, 2010

*Strengthening Resources and Supports for National Guard Couples and Families Proceedings Summary*, NHMRC and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2010

*Delivering Relationship Education to College Students*, NHMRC How-to Guide, 2010

*Relationships Matter: Strengthening Vulnerable Youth Proceedings Summary* (contributor), NHMRC, 2009

*Healthy Marriage and Relationship Programs: Promising Practices in Serving Low-Income and Culturally Diverse Populations*, (contributor) NHMRC, 2008

Co-authored State Poverty Policies Newsletters, Volumes 1–6, 2003

*Job Retention and Advancement Strategies*, NCSL Policy Brief, 2003

Co-authored “Welfare and Wedding Vows” article, State Legislatures Magazine, 2003

*Faith-based Initiatives*, NCSL, Policy Brief, 2002

“Helping Welfare Recipients Keep Jobs,” NCSL Legisbrief, 2002

*Employment Experiences of Former Welfare Recipients*, NCSL Policy Brief, 2002

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

[National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect](#), 2016

OPRE Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency, 2016

National Conference of State Legislatures, 2015

OPRE Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference, 2014

Kansas Family Strengthening Summit, 2011

Colorado Coalition for Girls Annual Conference Workshop, 2010

APPAM Research Conference Workshop, 2010

OFA Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Technical Assistance Conference Workshop, 2007, 2008

ACF Regional Conference, 2004

National Conference of State Legislatures Welfare Reform Task Force, 2003

#### **RELEVANT VOLUNTEER WORK**

ACE Mentor Program of Denver, Board of Directors (2015 - 2016)

Denver Athletic Club, Board of Directors (2012 – 2015)

Work Support Strategies (Colorado Department of Human Services), Messaging and Outreach Co-Chair (2013)

Colorado Fatherhood Council, Research and Legislative Outreach Workgroup Chair (2012)