



Tenth Annual Urban Child Symposium

Restorative Practices and the Urban Child: Rethinking School Discipline

April 4, 2018 | 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff
Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC)
University of Baltimore School of Law
in partnership with
Open Society Institute - Baltimore

*Moot Court Room, John and Frances Angelos Law Center
1401 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201*

Lunch Will Be Provided

For questions please contact:

Michele Hong

mhongpolansky@ubalt.edu

410-837-5288

ub
SAYRA AND NEIL
MEYERHOFF CENTER
FOR FAMILIES,
CHILDREN AND
THE COURTS

 **OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-BALTIMORE**
AUDACIOUS THINKING FOR LASTING CHANGE

Schools around the country have relied heavily on the use of out of school suspensions and expulsions to correct student behaviors - which might range from failing to wear a required school uniform to fighting with another student. Considerable national research points to the adverse short and long-term consequences of these practices. Students who experience these “zero tolerance” disciplinary practices in school can become marginalized, resulting in chronic absence, academic failure, and school dropout. Many research studies also have demonstrated disturbing disparities in the application of these punishments, particularly among students of color and students with disabilities. School districts nationwide are exploring practices that build positive school communities and return to common sense approaches to disciplining school children.

In partnership with the Open Society Institute-Baltimore, the Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts will devote its tenth annual Urban Child Symposium to an examination of alternatives to harsh school discipline practices. Education, justice, and policy experts will focus on restorative practices and restorative justice as powerful vehicles to build appropriate relationships between adults and students to ameliorate the effects of overly punitive discipline. Our morning panelists will discuss some of the problems that have led to chronic absenteeism, school disengagement, drop out, and the school to prison pipeline and will introduce the audience to restorative practices. In the afternoon the audience will interact with an engaging panel of experts to explore the progress toward making Baltimore Public City Schools a restorative practices district.

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ronald Weich, Dean, University of Baltimore School of Law
Barbara Babb, Associate Professor of Law and Director, Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts

9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Keynote Address

United States Representative John Sarbanes, Maryland's 3rd District

10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Panel One: The Problem: Disciplinary Practices in Schools

Schools have relied routinely on traditional punitive disciplinary practices, such as zero tolerance policies, in an attempt to control student behavior and create a safe school environment. Panelists will look at the effectiveness of these practices and discuss whether they meet the developmental needs of youth and achieve their intended goals.

Panelists:

Monique Dixon, Deputy Director of Policy, NAACP Legal Defense Fund
Steve Korr, Lead Team Member, Akoben L.L.C.
Frank Kros, President, The Upside Down Organization
Heather Warnken, Visiting Fellow, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs

Moderator:

Gloria Danziger, Senior Fellow, Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts

12 noon – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch (*Lunch will be provided*)

1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Restorative Practices Speaker/Facilitator

Graciella Drew, Restorative Practices Trainer and Consultant

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Panel Two: The Solution: Restorative Practices and Restorative Justice

Panelists will discuss the integration of restorative practices and restorative justice into schools and the implications for student success. Participants will explain how restorative practices are implemented to build community, repair relationships, and strengthen school engagement.

Panelists:

Akil Hamm, Police Chief, Baltimore City Public Schools
Rhonda Richetta, Principal, City Springs Elementary/Middle School
Baltimore City Public School Student(s) (TBD)

Moderator:

Karen E. Webber, Director, Education and Youth Development Program, Open Society Institute-Baltimore

3:15p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Barbara Babb