

Meeting the Needs of Survivors in Poverty

February 18, 2020

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

DoubleTree by Hilton Grand Rapids - Airport – Grand Rapids, MI

Merkeb Yohannes, Lisa Winchell-Caldwell, Phillip Barnhart

Description:

Economic justice must be a part of our work! Survivors in poverty face additional barriers to accessing services and becoming, and staying safe. This training will discuss the intersection of poverty with domestic and sexual violence and provide foundational methods for remaining strengths-based and trauma-informed when working with survivors experiencing deep economic need.

Objectives:

1. *Participants will gain or refresh knowledge on intersectionality of survivors of violence and poverty.*
2. *Participants will understand the complex barriers to systems for survivors in deep economic need.*
3. *Participants will learn strategies to create effective holistic interventions for survivors in poverty including advocacy for economic justice.*

Audience:

This training is designed to be applicable to multiple levels of skill and experience for advocates engaged with survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Participants will be encouraged to engage in open and honest discussion with a mind toward survivor-centered and trauma-informed policies, intersectionality, positive change, and future-oriented thinking.

Schedule and Agenda:

8:30 am – 9:00 am Registration

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Training

Morning: Economic Justice

- Systems, economic need, and economic justice
- DV/SV/HT and economic justice impacts
- Intersectionality and privilege

Lunch Break

- On your own
- 75 minutes

Afternoon: Best Practices and Practical Application

- Violence and economic stability
- Cost of violence
- Systems change and collaborative solutions

FACULTY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



MERKEB YOHANNES joined MCEDSV in 2017 and is a **Senior Program Director**. She joins MCEDSV after nearly 10 years of working in advocacy and program management at a non-profit organization serving those with disabilities. Prior to that she lived in Atlanta, Georgia primarily working in social services amongst Immigrant and Refugee families and was an active member of various social justice community groups. Merkeb has vast experience working in developing countries with international non-profit organizations, local governments and faith-based organizations in areas of woman and girl empowerment, grant management, HIV/AIDS prevention and intervention, media material development for public health issues, and workforce training and development. As a Lansing resident, she continues to volunteer in her community with local agencies that advocate and support survivors as well as with the Refugee community.



LISA WINCHELL-CALDWELL is the **Deputy Director** at MCEDSV. She brings experience in violence prevention, domestic and sexual violence survivor services, housing and homelessness, public policy, grant writing and project management, economic justice, and engaging and developing youth leadership. Ms. Winchell-Caldwell has led several national demonstration projects on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence during her almost twelve years at MCEDSV and has implemented prevention and intervention services for survivors for two decades. Of particular note she has worked

closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on researching and implementing primary prevention best practices for almost ten years. She has worked on prevention projects from pre-K to elder mentoring groups and been a part of implementation teams focused on everything from a single daycare to coordination of statewide efforts. She has been fortunate during her time in the field to be a part of various prevention collaboratives including adolescent health/school-based health centers, maternal and child health, school districts, neighborhood centers, law enforcement, college campuses, youth-serving non-profits, sports teams, and other diverse partners.



PHILLIP BARNHART is an **Events & Program Manager** at MCEDSV. He joined MCEDSV having spent four years in his home community of Flint as it struggled through its water crisis. He served one year as an AmeriCorps VISTA, developing programs and community partnerships in Flint elementary schools, and then as a program manager at the United Way of Genesee County where he directed the Flint Recovery Corps, a service corps designed to connect residents effected by the water crisis with support resources. He continues to serve as a board member, administrator, program manager, and

instructor with the Flint Public Art Project, which he helped to found in 2011. FPAP seeks to connect Flint with the global conversation around reactivating blighted spaces through public art, and focuses on navigating trauma through the arts. In addition to his work at MCEDSV, he is currently a Lecturer II at the University of Michigan-Flint where he teaches Cultural Studies and American Philosophy in the Graduate School.

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