July 2023 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA HOPE, OPPORTUNITY, PERSEVERANCE AND EMPOWERMENT (HOPE) ADVISORY WORKGROUP

Identifying and Empowering Children Impacted by COVID-19 Loss

Wednesday, July 12th, 2023 at 8:30 am – 3:30pm

University of California Los Angeles
Room 1531 Pritzker Hall

502 Portola Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Department of Psychology
https://map.ucla.edu/?f=16

Meeting Information and Materials:
*Public Participation Call-in Number: 1 (213) 338 - 8477 US (Los Angeles)
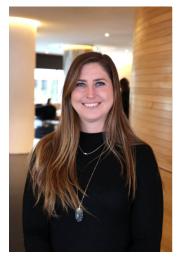**Meeting ID: 923 8098 6349**
https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/hope/meeting/index.asp

<u>**Speakers and Presenters**</u>

<u>**Agenda Item 2**</u>

Summary: Welcome and Introductory Comments

Presenter:

Kathryn "Kasey" O'Connor is the first executive director of the newly created California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program. The HOPE program is a pioneering plan aimed at closing the wealth gap for some of California's most vulnerable residents, children who have lost their parents/legal guardians to COVID-19 and children that have been in the foster care system for 18 months or longer, while exploring potential expansion to all children born into low-income circumstances in the future. As executive director, O'Connor serves under the HOPE Governing Board, chaired by Treasurer Ma.

O'Connor also oversees the work of the the HOPE advisory workgroup, which includes representatives from state and local agencies, foster youth, community stakeholders with knowledge in poverty alleviation, youth development and asset building, as well as tribal leaders and tribal service providers, among other groups, to work in coordination with the board on program design and outreach, including the process for program enrollment and continuous measurement of outcomes of the HOPE trust accounts.

O'Connor has been the Legislative Director for Treasurer Ma since she took office in January 2019. Before her time at the Treasurer's Office, O'Connor was the Legislative Director for then Board of Equalization Chair Fiona Ma, where she worked on revenue and taxation issues with an expertise in cannabis tax policy. Before that, she was the Government Affairs Communications Manager for the California Society of Certified Public Accountants, where she worked on policy and regulations for the CPA profession, the California business community, and taxpayers. O'Connor also has a strong policy background in such issue areas as veterans' affairs, healthcare, the public employees retirement system, and environmental safety. She worked in the California State Assembly, including work with Assemblyman Ted Lieu, Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva and then Assembly Speaker pro Tempore Fiona Ma.

O'Connor received her bachelor's degree from University of California, Davis.

Agenda Item 3

Summary: Overview of the goals of agenda for the day

Presenter:

Andrea Luquetta leads Pa'Lante Collaborative Strategies, a consultancy service for organizations and leaders who are building the economic and political power of historically exploited communities. She has been contracted by the State Treasurer's Office to support the creation of the HOPE for Children program, under the direction of executive director Kasey O'Connor and by working with the HOPE Governing Board and Advisory Working Group.

Other clients she has supported include SaverLife, Asset Funders Network (California Guaranteed Income Community of Practice), Liberation in a Generation, California Low Income Consumer Coalition, Lift to Rise, and the Legal Aid Association of California. She also previously led the California Asset Building Coalition.

She is a graduate of UCLA School of Law where she completed both the Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy and the Critical Race Studies Program. Now a U.S. citizen, Andrea and her family were previously undocumented immigrants from Colombia who were granted legal residency through the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986. She is a brown-skinned queer Latine mom who lives in Berkeley, California with daughter Lucia.

Agenda Item 4

Summary: The California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance and Empowerment (HOPE) Advisory Workgroup will hear an overview about the existing eligibility requirements for the HOPE for Children Trust Accounts.

Presenters:

Kathryn "Kasey" O'Connor is the first executive director of the newly created California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program. The HOPE program is a pioneering plan aimed at closing the wealth gap for some of California's most vulnerable residents, children who have lost their parents/legal guardians to COVID-19 and children that have been in the foster care system for 18 months or longer, while exploring potential expansion to all children born into low-income circumstances in the future. As executive director, O'Connor serves under the [HOPE Governing Board](#), chaired by Treasurer Ma.

Dr. Darrick Hamilton, Ph.D is the Henry Cohen Professor of Economics and Urban Policy, and the founding director of the Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy at The New School. Considered one of the nation's foremost scholars, economists and public intellectuals, Hamilton's accomplishments include recently being profiled in the New York Times, Mother Jones magazine and the Wall Street Journal and being featured in Politico Magazine's 2017 50 Ideas Shaping American Politics and the People Behind Them issue. Also, he is a member of the Marguerite Casey Foundation in partnership with the Group Health Foundation's inaugural class of Freedom Scholars.

Hamilton has been involved in crafting policy proposals, such as Baby Bonds and a Federal Job Guarantee, which have garnered a great deal of media attention and served as inspirations for legislative proposals at the federal, state and local levels. He has served as a member of the economic committee of the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force; he has testified before several senate and house committees, including the Joint Economic Committee on the nation's potential policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic-induced health and economic crises; he was a surrogate and advisor for the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign; and he has advised numerous other leading Members of Congress, as well as various 2020 presidential candidates.

Agenda Item 5

Summary: The California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance and Empowerment (HOPE) Advisory Workgroup will discuss data sources for identification of eligible California children who lost parents or primary caregivers due to COVID-19.

Questions for Consideration:

a. Available opportunities to work with the CA Department of Vital Records to identify COVID-19 deaths and cross reference birth records of the identified decedent to identify children.
b. Available opportunities to utilize the CA Department of Vital Records to identify zip codes of excessive death and reach out to local funeral homes, community agencies, churches, and

religious organizations for help with identifying children/families based on those with high/excessive mortality who may have lost a caregiver. This would include working with the Mayor's to check on neighborhood civic groups who know their areas and key informants, or congregate living facilities to determine if next of kin data are available.

c. Available opportunities to utilize hospitalization records to determine in hospital deaths with COVID-19 as the primary diagnosis next of kin notification.

d. Available opportunities to determine if 911 calls for transport that were labeled as COVID-19 related have any information that they are allowed to share.

e. Available opportunities to partner with FEMA and determine if data can be shared of those who filed for funeral reimbursements.

f. There were in CA occupation associated excess COVID-19 deaths. Utilizing research studies that identified those occupations and the codes used to process those deaths reach out to the unions associated with those occupations to identify next of kin.

    a. "Sectors with the highest relative and per-capita excess mortality were food/agriculture (39% relative excess; 75 excess deaths per 100,000), transportation/logistics (31%; 91 per 100,000), manufacturing (24%; 61 per 100,000), and facilities (23%; 83 per 100,000). Across racial and ethnic groups, Latino working-age Californians experienced the highest relative excess mortality (37%) with the highest excess mortality among Latino workers in food and agriculture (59%; 97 per 100,000). Black working-age Californians had the highest per-capita excess mortality (110 per 100,000), with relative excess mortality highest among transportation/logistics workers (36%). Asian working-age Californians had lower excess mortality overall, but notable relative excess mortality among health/emergency workers (37%), while White Californians had high. per-capita excess deaths among facilities workers (70 per 100,000)." (Chen et al. 2021). https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0252454

g. Available opportunities to access the State of California Medi-Cal records to identify survivors?

h. Available opportunities to contact the Social Security Administration and determine if data can be shared on children who received survivorship benefits due to parental loss from COVID-19.

Presenters:

Vickie Mays, Ph.D, MSPH, is the Director of the BRITE Center and a Professor in the Department of Psychology in the College of Letters and Sciences, as well as a Professor in the Department of Health Services. She teaches courses on the health status and health behaviors of racial and ethnic minority groups; research ethics in biomedical and behavioral research in racial/ethnic minority populations; research methods in minority research; as well as courses on the social determinants of mental disorders and psychopathology. She holds a PhD in clinical psychology and an MSPH in health services, with postdoctoral training in psychiatric epidemiology, survey research as it applies to ethnic minorities (University of Michigan) and health policy (RAND).

Professor Mays' research primarily focuses on the mental and physical health disparities affecting racial and ethnic minority populations. This work ranges from looking at barriers to education and services to understanding racial-based immunological differences that may contribute to health outcome disparities. Her research also includes looking at the role of perceived and actual discrimination on mental and physical health outcomes, particularly as these factors impact downstream disease outcomes.

Dr. Mays has provided testimony to a number of congressional committees on her HIV, mental health and health disparities research findings. She recently completed a term as the chair of the Subcommittee on Populations of the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics. In that position she helped develop a report on the role of data collection in reducing health disparities associated with race, ethnicity and primary language. She has received a number of awards including one for her lifetime research on women and HIV from AMFAR, a Women and Leadership Award from the American Psychological Association and several Distinguished Contributions to Research awards.

Dana Moore, MPH, CPH, Deputy Director of the Center for Health Statistics and Informatics at the California Department of Public Health. Moore has been serving as Acting Deputy Director since 2021, as State Registrar since 2021 and Assistant Deputy Director of Data Operations since 2019. Moore held multiple positions at the California Department of Public Health from 2010 to 2019, including Assistant Deputy Director for the Office of Health Equity, Tribal Liaison, Health Systems Strategist for the Fusion Center for Strategic Development and External Relations, and Emergency Planning Analyst for the Emergency Preparedness Office. She was Senior Health Program Planner at the San Francisco Department of Public Health from 2008 to 2010 and Health Program Supervisor for the Yolo County Health Department from 2004 to 2008. Moore earned a Master of Public Health degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mark Handcock, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Statistics, UCLA. Mark is a statistician whose research involves methodological development, and is based largely on motivation from questions in the social sciences, social epidemiology and environmetrics. His recent work is on statistical models for social networks, network inference, the development of statistical methodology for the collection and analysis of social network data, surveying of hard-to-reach populations, spatial processes and demography.

Dan Treglia, Ph.D, MPP, Associate Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania and Associate Faculty Director of Penn's Program for Effective Public Administration and Leadership Ethics. Dan has dedicated his career to addressing homelessness and other social problems through collaborative and innovative research that engages governments, nonprofits, and people with lived experience.

Over the last 15 years, Dan has led efforts to quantify, understand, and address homelessness, housing instability, and income insufficiency through a career spanning governments, nonprofits, and academia. During the pandemic, he has played an outsized role in addressing COVID-19's impact on highly vulnerable populations and the systems that serve them. His co-authored report at the pandemic's outset projected the potential impact on people experiencing homelessness and spurred billions of dollars in federal relief. His subsequent work to assess both the changing scope of homelessness and the new burdens facing social service systems during COVID-19 have guided local and federal policy and practice. In addition, Dan's work has documented the intersecting challenges of utility insecurity and income insufficiency facing particularly vulnerable households, and his op-ed in The Hill, written in the wake of Texas's blackouts, highlighted the need to invest in the workforce responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure as the pandemic wanes.

In addition to his appointment at Penn, Dan is a Senior Research Fellow with United for ALICE, a United Way of Northern New Jersey program documenting income insufficiency, and he is a Visiting Scholar with the People's Emergency Center, a nonprofit shelter provider in Philadelphia. Dan has a Ph.D. in Social Welfare from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School.

Evan White, JD, MPP,
Evan was born and bred in California, and believes it is the most beautiful place on Earth. He co-founded the California Policy Lab because he believes that government can and should be the strongest force for good in society. Evan's ardent curiosity led him to train in the unwieldy trifecta of researcher, lawyer, and IT professional. He uses all three tools as Executive Director of CPL's Berkeley site, where he enjoys analyzing and solving complex problems, in organizations, policy, and society. He has authored and co-authored CPL publications focused on migration patterns in California during the pandemic, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the social safety net, and guides for linking administrative data.

Prior to CPL, Evan advised Richard Cordray, the first Director of the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, on a broad portfolio ranging from fintech to debt collection to financial empowerment. Before that, Evan fought against race and disability discrimination during the foreclosure crisis as Director of Fair Housing for Northern California's largest fair-housing nonprofit.

Evan holds a joint degree in Law and Public Policy (JD/MPP) from UC Berkeley, during which he clerked for the California Supreme Court, the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and the White House Office of Management and Budget. He holds a BA in Political Science and Africana Studies from Vassar College. He is happiest when buried in a novel or deep in the Sierra Nevada backcountry – ideally both.

Beth Pathak, Ph.D., is the Epidemiology Program Director at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the founder, president, and chair of the board of WIISE. Dr. Pathak is a population health scientist who has spent 30 years conducting research on geographic, socioeconomic, racial/ethnic, and gender disparities in public health. She is a passionate advocate for methodologically rigorous scholarship which seeks to uncover the power relations that perpetuate socioeconomic and health inequalities. Currently she is Director of the COVKID Project, which has been tracking and reporting COVID-19 cases in children in teens since early 2020.

Dr. Pathak has published numerous scientific papers and seven monographs, including *Parent and Child Post-Traumatic Stress After Hurricane Charley: The CHEER Study*, and *Heart Healthy and Stroke Free: A Social Environment Handbook*. Dr. Pathak worked for several years in state government in North Carolina, and served on the faculties of West Virginia University and the University of South Florida. She is a past member of the United Faculty of Florida (affiliated with the National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers.) Immediately prior to founding WIISE, Dr. Pathak completed a two-year visiting fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (National Center for Health Statistics). Dr. Pathak earned her B.A. with honors from Wesleyan University with a double major in biology and environmental science and her M.S.P.H. and Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Beth has lived and worked in Florida, New York, Connecticut, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Maryland.

Agenda Item 6

Summary: The California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance and Empowerment (HOPE) Advisory Workgroup will discuss a portal for reducing burden of proof of eligibility and verification of COVID-19 loss.

Questions for Consideration:

a. Can a portal for reducing burden of proof of eligibility and verification of COVID-19 loss be developed?
b. Can each of the agencies receive a blanket request/release for information?
c. Can agencies deposit information in a portal that belongs to the State of CA?
d. Can the portal contain the request/release needed for each agency if separate requests are needed?
e. Can the portal serve as a one-stop application portal? Who is allowed to serve as a proxy, have access etc.?

f. Available opportunities to partner with members of the public to share names of those who they think would qualify and then CA uses its databases to identify ways to reach the individual to invite them to apply.

g. Available opportunities to partner with organizations that support COVID-19 community-based outreach and other children's organizations such as the Marked by COVID, COVID Collaborative, Black Women for Wellness, CHIRLA, Comunidades Indigenas en Liderazgo (CIELO), Garment Worker Center, Mourning Sun Children's Foundation, TODEC Legal Center, Legal Services for Prisoner's with Children, Generations United, Juvenile Law Center, COVID Survivors for Change, School House Connection, etc.

Presenters:

Kristin Urquiza, MPA is the nation's top disaster equity advocate, with expertise in race, economic, environmental, and health policy. An experienced grassroots organizer, Urquiza co-founded Marked By COVID and catalyzed the nation's foremost community-led Covid justice movement days after the death of her father, Mark Urquiza, to Covid in June 2020. By uplifting impacted voices, Urquiza improved the nation's Covid response and advanced legislation for a just recovery, recognition, and pandemic prevention. Over the last 20 years, she has transformed global power dynamics to put power back in the hands of people at former Congressman Henry Waxman's Mighty Earth, Angela Glover Blackwell's PolicyLink, California's leading environmental justice organization Communities for a Better Environment, and U.S. PIRG. Urquiza holds a B.A. from Yale University and an MPA from U.C. Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, and is the recipient of the Arizona Public Health Association's 2021 Community Partner Award and the Goldman School's inaugural Alumni Award for Social Justice Impact.

Cheryl A. Branch, MS, Executive Director, Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches (LAM). Cheryl spent years designing local solutions and collaborating with technology leaders on the forefront of innovation, better health, wellness, and grassroots leadership training. Cheryl's subject expertise includes developing big data systems, nonprofit management & program development, business development & formation, intermediary operations, and financial modeling. She is an expert in public policy formation, government relations, asset-based community development, community participatory research. Cheryl has experience in revenue management, social enterprise planning & implementation, cause marketing, pricing, performance tracking, data management, exits, and mergers, and public/private business partnerships.

Sevly "Silverlee" Snguon, Ph.D Student, Epidemiology and Epidemiology Chair Fellow, Department of Epidemiology Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health. Sevly is also the founder and co-chair of both the California Guaranteed Income Community of Practice and the Guaranteed Income & Health Consortium at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Sevly is a queer, trans-nonbinary child of immigrant refugees who survived genocide in Cambodia. Sevly's firsthand experiences surviving structural violence drive their scholarship and activism to create a better society, especially for minoritized populations. Sevly hopes to abolish poverty to ensure everyone has their basic needs met.

Sevly's research aims to elucidate how guaranteed income can improve health outcomes by centering equity, dignity, and autonomy of historically minoritized populations. Guaranteed income is a promising public health intervention that can interrupt the health consequences facilitated by structural violence (e.g., structural racism, sexism, transphobia). Sevly wants to embed a Culture of Health in this movement in hopes of cementing guaranteed income as policy. Poverty is a policy choice that decision-makers can change.

Agenda Item 7

Summary: The California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance and Empowerment (HOPE) Advisory Workgroup will discuss methods for estimating past and annual numbers of California children who lost parents or primary caregivers due to COVID-19.

Questions for Consideration:

1. Identify methods for estimating past and annual numbers of CA Children Who Lost Parents Due to COVID-19

Presenters:

Beth Pathak, Ph.D., is the Epidemiology Program Director at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the founder, president, and chair of the board of WIISE. Dr. Pathak is a population health scientist who has spent 30 years conducting research on geographic, socioeconomic, racial/ethnic, and gender disparities in public health. She is a passionate advocate for methodologically rigorous scholarship which seeks to uncover the power relations that perpetuate socioeconomic and health inequalities. Currently she is Director of the COVKID Project, which has been tracking and reporting COVID-19 cases in children in teens since early 2020.

Emily Smith-Greenaway, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Spatial Sciences at the University of Southern California. Smith-Greenaway studies how social inequalities at the family and community level influence individual well-being. She is particularly interested in exploring how literacy skills influence an individual's own health and that of their children. She has utilized both primary and secondary data to demonstrate a link between literacy and health, and has drawn from multiple disciplines to highlight the increasing need to incorporate literacy into demographic research. Thus far, her multinational research has focused primarily on sub-Saharan Africa.

Her research has been funded through both a predoctoral training grant and a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD), research grants from the Penn State Africana Research Center and the Penn State Department of Sociology, a dissertation grant from the Penn State College of the Liberal Arts, and a dissertation fellowship from the American Association of University Women.

She is a member of the Population Association of America, the American Sociological Association, the Union for African Population Studies, and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

Special thanks to:

Yesenia Jimenez, **MPP candidate at UCLA**. Yesenia is a Senior Policy Associate at GRACE – End Child Poverty in California. She is a passionate advocate dedicated to abolishing poverty and building equitable systems. Yesenia is a former Legislative Assistant for Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr. (AD-59) and former Senate fellow for Senator Holly J. Mitchell (SD-30).

Yesenia has worked with a number of advocacy groups including the Western Center on Law & Poverty, the Center for Law and Social policy, the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, and the International Maya League where she has elevated the intersections of racial injustice and poverty, criminal justice, and indigenous rights. Through her work in research and advocacy, Yesenia has been able to influence local, state, and federal policy and has been invited to provide her personal testimony at the state and congressional level. She has gained national recognition for her advocacy on college student hunger and work against school lunch shaming policies.

Originally from South Central Los Angeles, Yesenia moved into the Ramona Garden Housing Projects in Boyle Heights where her pursuit for social, racial, and economic justice grew. Yesenia graduated from Pasadena City College and later graduated from the University of California, Davis where she gained two bachelor's degrees in Political Science – Public Service and

Communication. Through the California Senate Fellowship, she completed a Public Policy and Government certificate from Sacramento State University.

She is an alumni of two prestigious fellowships, the California Senate Fellowship Program and the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship. Yesenia identifies as Guatemalan-American and is a descendant of the Maya Q'anjob'al.

Connie Chan is the legislative analyst at the California State Treasurer's Executive Office. Chan has served in the Legislative Department since 2020 and was involved in the legislative process of Assembly Bill 156 (Chapter 569, Statues of 2022) which established the California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program.

She has prior legislative experience in the United States House of Representatives and the House of Lords of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy at University of California, Riverside. Chan is currently pursuing a Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA) at California State University, Sacramento.