



## 2014 NJCLD Symposium Speaker Bios

### **Zakia Redd, M.P.P.**

Zakia Redd is a Senior Research Scientist at Child Trends. She earned a Master's in Public Policy (M.P.P.) from Georgetown University and has more than 12 years of experience studying how programs and policies affect the outcomes of low-income children and families. At Child Trends and in her previous position as a senior research and evaluation officer at The Wallace Foundation, she has played a leading role in designing, conducting, and managing implementation, outcome, and impact evaluations of community-wide initiatives, out-of-school time programs, and youth risk prevention programs. She also has considerable experience conducting and synthesizing research in the areas of welfare and poverty, educational achievement and attainment, early childhood development, and adolescent health risk behaviors. For more information see: <http://www.childtrends.org/>.

### **Alyssa Sanders, M.A., LCSW-C**

For almost six years, Alyssa Sanders has been the Partner Representative for the Linkages to Learning Program, a collaboration between the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Public Schools and local public and nonprofit organizations. This program provides integrated school-based mental health, social, educational support and health services to at-risk children and families in high poverty schools. She is a licensed clinical social worker with interest areas including women's issues, domestic violence issues and social welfare policy. In the past, she had a private practice where she focused on adolescent issues, self-esteem, eating disorders, self-injury, anxiety and depression. She was an Adjunct Professor at George Mason University's Graduate School of Education and Counseling. Ms. Sanders is also a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin where she received a Graduate degree in Government with a specialization in feminist theory. For more information see: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/linkages](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/linkages).

### **Janae Robinson-Casey**

Janae Robinson-Casey is a partnership manager with Montgomery County Public School's Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships (OCEP). Janae obtained a bachelor's degree from Hampton University in Hampton, VA, and soon after she transitioned into education while living in Oakland, CA. She has been with MCPS for 9 years and in OCEP for nearly 7 years. Some of her responsibilities include: coordinating the Neediest Kids Program for MCPS; leading project committees for system initiatives; planning and consulting with schools and organizations to build partnerships for student achievement; and supporting existing partnerships that increase student's well-being. Janae resides in Silver Spring, MD with her husband of 17 years and their three teenaged sons.