

Building Community Power into Decisionmaking: Community Engaged Methods in Research, Policy, and Practice

Speaker Biographies

Elsa Falkenburger is a senior research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where she is part of the Neighborhoods and Youth Development initiative. Her portfolio includes being project manager for the Housing Opportunity and Services Together demonstration and the Promoting Adolescent Sexual Health and Safety project—follow-on research to the Moving to Opportunity demonstration. Falkenburger has also worked with the DC Promise Neighborhoods Initiative since its launch in 2010, assisting with the needs assessment and process study. She has experience working on place-based initiatives, community-based participatory research, performance measurement, formative evaluations, and other qualitative research methods. Before joining Urban, Falkenburger advocated for best practices in youth gang prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation in the United States and Latin America. During graduate school, she worked at the KDK-Harman Foundation, helping grantees develop logic models and performance indicators for evaluating and improving educational programs for low-income youth. Falkenburger has a master's degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

Reverend Gary B. Hill is executive director and founder of Exodus Treatment Center Inc. Hill serves as a commissioner for the District of Columbia deputy mayor of education, advising on how to make government better or more focused on strategies to improve education for DC residents. As a coordinating entity for the Office of Out of School Time Grants and Youth Outcomes for three consecutive years, he has partnered with smaller nonprofits as a mentor and to strengthen and build their capacities. He is an adviser to the Seventh District Metropolitan Police Department commander, the DC Housing Authority executive office, and other community stakeholders. Hill graduated from DC public schools and earned an executive certificate in nonprofit management and a bachelor's degree in biblical studies from Georgetown University.

Kimberlyn Leary is a senior vice president, managing research and program development across the Urban Institute. She comes to Urban from Harvard University, where she is an associate professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School, an associate professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and a lecturer in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. For four years, she directed the Enabling Change program for the Doctor of Public Health program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Leary also served as executive director of policy outreach and of the Center of Excellence in Women's Mental Health at McLean Hospital. Before that, she was chief psychologist at the Cambridge Health Alliance for nearly 12 years. Leary served as an adviser to the White House

during the Obama administration. As a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation health policy fellow, she helped launch the Advancing Equity initiative for the Obama White House Council on Women and Girls. She was also an adviser to the health division at the Office of Management and Budget and senior policy adviser to the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Currently, Leary writes, consults, and teaches on adaptive leadership, leading teams, cross-boundary collaboration, negotiation, and conflict transformation. She has also completed advanced training as a clinical psychoanalyst at the Michigan Psychoanalytic Association. She also serves on the board of trustees at Amherst College, the Austen Riggs Center, and the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute and serves as an adviser to Pivotal Ventures and the Upswing Fund. Additionally, she serves as a judge for the MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change competition and Lever for Change's competition for the Lone Star Prize. She holds a master's degree from the Harvard Kennedy School and a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Michigan.

Aisha Nyandoro is on a mission to holistically and compassionately support families as they work to exit poverty. As the founding chief executive officer of Springboard To Opportunities, she uses a “radically resident-driven” approach to end generational poverty. In addition, Nyandoro launched the very first guaranteed-income program for single Black mothers in US history, the Magnolia Mother's Trust. She has more than two decades of experience developing, implementing, and evaluating programs aimed at improving the quality of life for those with limited resources. She has worked as an academic, evaluator, philanthropist, and nonprofit executive. Nyandoro has received multiple honors, including recognition as a fellow of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Network and Ascend at the Aspen Institute. She is a TEDx speaker, and her work has been featured in both print and news media outlets, including the *Washington Post*, *Amanpour & Company*, *Essence* magazine, *NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt*, CNN, MSNBC, *Fast Company*, and *The Nation*. The varied recognitions for her work distinguish her as a trailblazer in the larger national conversation about economic and racial inequity. Nyandoro holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Tennessee State University, a master's degree in community psychology and urban affairs, and a doctoral degree in ecological community psychology from Michigan State University.