

CAMPE Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Advancing Contextual Analysis and Methods of Participant Engagement
April 2024

Introduction

The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) launched the Advancing Contextual Analysis and Methods of Participant Engagement in OPRE (CAMPE) project to assist OPRE in better understanding, incorporating, and advancing equitable research practices. In September 2021, OPRE awarded a contract to the Urban Institute (Urban) to execute the project.

CAMPE is directly engaging people with lived experience by convening a Community Advisory Board (CAB). The term “CAB” is commonly used in research and evaluation practice and does not refer to a Federal Advisory Committee; OPRE will not seek consensus advice from the CAB, but rather will seek a variety of perspectives to inform the project.

The CAB is made up of thirteen members who have experience participating in and working with Administration for Children and Families (ACF) programs. They represent diverse geographies, experiences, and identities (Table 1). The CAB is not intended to be a representative sample of the populations that participate in ACF programs but is instead designed to bring lived experience as an additional, highly relevant form of expertise that is often missing or undervalued in our workplaces, projects, and products.

The CAB is providing input on an OPRE editorial style guide; a learning agenda on the topic of welfare and family self-sufficiency; language and procedures used to obtain informed consent in OPRE research studies; and guidance for survey development.

Table 1. CAB Member Geographies, Experiences, and Identities

Location [^]	
Northeast (MA, MD)	2
Southeast (GA, MS)	2
Midwest (IL, SD)	3
Southwest (NM, TX, NV)	4
West (CA, AK)	2
[^] One CAB member was originally located in Baltimore, MD, and relocated during the CAB engagement to Atlanta, GA.	
Lived expertise and experience with ACF programs*	
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	5
Employment and job training	4
Child welfare	4
Child support system	4
Head Start	3
Domestic violence	1
Foster care	1
Human trafficking	1
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	1
Refugee resettlement	2
Homelessness	1
Unhoused young people	2
Home visiting	2

Professional expertise with ACF programs*	
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	2
Employment and job training	2
Child welfare	1
Child support system	2
Domestic violence	1
Foster care	1
Human trafficking	1
Refugee resettlement	1
Chosen pronouns*	
She/her	8
He/his	4
They/them	1

Other demographics:*

- 3 Native Americans
- At least 1 person with a disability
- At least 2 people with an immigrant perspective
- At least 1 person who was justice involved

*Note: Information about CAB members' experiences and identities reflects what was collected as of September 2023. Urban will continue learning about CAB members' experiences and identities over time through trust building and discussion.

CAB Member Biographies

Caroline Ano

My name is Caroline Ano (she/her). I am a first-generation Guatemalan American, based in Southern California. I am a social worker by trade and calling, with more than 17 years of child welfare experience in family reunification, foster care, resource family approval licensing, parent and community engagement, and education. I have a bachelor of arts (BA) in psychology from Biola University and a master of social work (MSW) from California State University, Fullerton.



I joined the CAB because I am passionate about serving my community and implementing best practices to help improve lives.

I have lived expertise in the following areas: child welfare, foster care, services for young people and families experiencing homelessness, and domestic violence support services.

Adella Bass

My name is Adella Bass (she/her). I am based in Chicago, Illinois. I am a community activist in the Far South Side of Chicago. Specifically, I am a health equity organizer for the Altgeld Gardens nonprofit People for Community Recovery. I have worked with and for the community for 20 years, and I am also a member of the Chicago Housing Coalition.



I chose to join the CAB because I wanted to make a difference. I do a lot of community work, and I want to make sure that I have my hands in all different parts of the pot in terms of bettering services for the community.

I have lived expertise in the following areas: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), financial help paying for child care, help paying for utilities, and employment and job training.

Christina Cislak

My name is Christina Cislak (she/her). I am currently based in Massachusetts, where I am completing an associate degree in liberal arts. I also graduated as a valedictorian of my High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) class. I previously worked as a parent voice at the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance. I chose to join the CAB because I appreciate the transparency of this kind of work. I am also legally blind, and I think it is important to share my experiences and



perspectives as someone living with a disability. I like the mission of being in the CAB, and I enjoy being a part of things that instill changes for others' betterment.

I have lived expertise in the following areas: TANF, child care services and funding, and services for young people and families experiencing homelessness.

Jerry Corley

My name is Jerry Corley (he/his). I am an American whose lineage is from the Mohawk and Shinnecock tribes of Long Island, New York, but I was born and raised in Queens. I am a student of theology and Semitic languages. I am a world traveler, though find my home in Atlanta, Georgia. I am a paralegal who has worked in the municipal, state, and federal court systems for 20 years researching and writing in both criminal and civil litigation. I felt it crucial to get involved in the CAB to improve ACF programs and make positive changes.

I have lived expertise in the following areas: TANF, child support, and employment and job training.



Daniela Fernandez

My name is Daniela Fernandez (she/her). I am first generation Mexican American located in Southern Nevada. I am currently pursuing a degree in criminal justice with a minor in psychology. In the past, I worked for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), a nonprofit organization assisting women, infants, and children from throughout mothers' pregnancy until their child's fifth birthday. I helped clients receive education and support to meet their nutritional needs. As a peer counselor, I was available 24-7 for any concerns or needs. I currently work with the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services for the State of Nevada as a caseworker assisting in providing families with SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid. I chose to join the CAB in hopes to create a true impact in how services are provided to our participants and ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout.

I became the head of my household at 19 years old. Having been so young, I struggled a lot in obtaining the assistance I needed in my most vulnerable time due to lack of education on how these programs worked and what was available to me. Now as a caseworker, I make sure to take my time and educate all my clients so they can receive the most help possible.

I have lived expertise in the following areas: home visiting, employment and job training, energy assistance, domestic violence support services, Head Start, child support, WIC, SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid.



Parthenia Fields

My name is Parthenia Fields (she/her), and I am a firm believer in the concept of lifelong learning. Much of my career has been dedicated to educating and building relationships with children and families in the Jackson, Mississippi, metropolitan area, while gaining knowledge and wisdom to share with the world through that work. For more than 10 years I have worked specifically with families who live at least 200 percent below the poverty level to provide varied education experiences and connection to services in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.



As a member of the CAB, my aim is to reframe the narrative around people in poverty such that it is person-centered and to reshape systems so they are effective and lead to the holistic success of all participants. Foremost, I am a mother of one dynamic son diagnosed with autism, who ensures I maintain my mental dexterity and remain rooted in peace, love, and joy.

I have lived expertise in the following areas: child support, assistance with child care, and SNAP.

Juanita Fite

My name is Juanita Joi Fite (she/her). I am based in Chicago, Illinois. My background is in music, and I used to be a background vocalist for several major artists and groups. I also worked as an executive assistant to the director of St. Leonard's Ministries, where I learned how to work with executive board members and prepare all documents for the meetings. I'm also the proud grandmother of three lovely granddaughters, who I raised since they were children.

Being a part of the CAB has been an illuminating and heart-opening experience for me. I joined the CAB because I am a lifelong learner, and I have loved learning from the many viewpoints of the different CAB members who live throughout the country. I also enjoy being able to contribute my perspectives as an older member in the community. In addition to being a member of the CAB, I volunteer with the local housing community to help neighborhood children walk safely to and from school.

I have lived expertise in the following areas: TANF, child care services and support, employment and job training, and help paying for utilities.

Jessica Hollandsworth

My name is Jessica Hollandsworth (she/her), I live in Anchorage, Alaska, and I identify as Native American. I joined the CAMPE CAB because I wanted to do work that benefits families and the community, and I wanted an opportunity to learn and grow.

I have lived expertise in the following areas: TANF, SNAP, child care subsidies, low-income housing, utility assistance, and employment and job training.



Gerri LeBeau

My name is Gerri LeBeau (she/her). I am of the Two Kettle Band from the Cheyenne River reservation in north central South Dakota. I am living in Box Elder, South Dakota. I work at the Black Hills Community Loan Fund, an Indigenous Certified Community Development Financial Institution in Rapid City. I received my bachelor's degree from Black Hills State University. I joined the CAB because I want to make a positive impact in the research process.

I have lived expertise in the following areas: TANF, financial help paying for childcare, child support recipient, employment and job training, and services for Native Americans.



Bandak Lul

My name is Bandak “Dak” Lul (he/him). I am a former refugee from South Sudan. I am based in Austin, Texas. I am a training and outreach specialist in the Human Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime Division at the Office of the Attorney General (AG) of Texas. Before working in the AG’s office, I served as a research project manager at the Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research and as a support faculty member at Arizona State University. In addition, I volunteer and actively advocate and speak with members of US Congress and in the community on issues that affect refugees and migrants. I joined the CAB to give firsthand insights about the communities I work with. I received my master’s and bachelor’s degrees from Arizona State University.

I have lived expertise in the following areas: refugee resettlement and TANF.



Joey Martin

My name is Joseph B. Martin (he/they), and I am a Native American from the Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico. I come from one of the oldest continuously inhabited communities in North America. I currently work for the Pueblo of Acoma Utility Authority, but my passion and experience are in education. I have more than 14 years working in the field of education and will be finishing my master's degree from the University of New Mexico this spring. I joined the CAB because I am passionate about supporting our diverse communities and working to be an advocate for children and families.



I have lived expertise in the following areas: TANF, Head Start, employment and job training, and services for Native Americans.

Awn Sian Mung (Mungsan)

I am Awn Sian Mung (he/him). “Mungsan” is my nickname. I am a member of one of the Indigenous peoples and founding members of the Union of Myanmar. I work as a quality assurance coordinator at a nonprofit resettlement agency in the Rocky Mountains, serving refugees, asylees, and parolees. In this role, I review and monitor clients’ casefiles to support staff. I have more than 10 years’ experience working with the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and the Office of Refugee Resettlement on programs like the Reception and Placement Program and Refugee Support Services. I joined the CAB because I am passionate about community engagement in research and in the refugee resettlement process.



I have lived expertise in the following areas: family welfare, home visiting, employment and job training, immigration services, refugee resettlement, and casefile monitoring.

Dillon Silva

My name is Dillon Silva (he/him), and I am based in Atlanta, Georgia. I have my GED and have had training and classes in computer technology. I chose to join the CAB because I have a lot of experience with ACF programs and felt like I would be a good fit with a lot to contribute to the project. I also wanted to learn more about the research process because it is something I am very interested in. Outside of working in computer technology, I could see myself working in research. Growing up, I have been on Medicaid, and I have been through youth programs, which include counseling and therapy. As I’ve gotten older, I have been on SNAP and Medicaid insurance, and I have experience not being able to afford health insurance and struggling with buying food since living on my own.



I have lived expertise in the following areas: SNAP, Medicaid, and employment and job training.

April 2024
OPRE Report 2024-091

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Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Contract Number: 47QRAA18D003Z

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SUGGESTED CITATION: Ano, Caroline, Adella Bass, Christina Cislak, Jerry Corley, Daniela Fernandez, Parthenia Fields, Juanita Fite, Jessica Hollandsworth, Gerri LeBeau, Bandak Lul, Joey Martin, Awn Sian Mung, Dillon Silva (2024). *CAMPE Community Advisory Board*, OPRE Report 2024-091, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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