

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:15 Check-in – Norton Center, Birmingham-Southern College; coffee, donuts

8:45 Welcome in the Great Hall

9:00 Keynote: A Picture of Poverty – Dr. Cynthia M. (Mil) Duncan, *University of New Hampshire, author of Worlds Apart, and former Ford Foundation program director.* Duncan's 350 interviews with the rural poor revealed a failure of democracy. How can Alabama – and the nation – build pathways out of poverty?

9:45 Workshop Session I

A. The Medicaid funding crisis – Dr. Marsha Raulerson, *Brenton, chairs Ala. Academy of Pediatrics; Mary Weidler, ACPP.* Each year legislators face a funding shortfall in health care for children and the elderly.

B. Jubilee Amendment to unlock state transit funding in 2005 – Jocelyn Cash, *Montgomery Transportation Coalition; Butch Ferrell, bus rider organizer, Birmingham; Stan Johnson, ACPP.* December marks the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Yet public transportation still gets no state funding.

C. What “No Child Left Behind” means for small schools – Robin Lambert, *rural education consultant, Harlan, Ky.* Lambert draws on her long experience with rural Alabama schools and communities to outline the impact of NCLB on small schools.

D. Make your letter to the editor more effective – Eddie Lard, *The Birmingham News; Jim Earnhardt, The Montgomery Advertiser.* Veteran editors offer tips for crafting a strong message.

E. Tax reform 101 – Jim Carnes and Kimble Forrister, *ACPP.* A quick look at a new handbook on Alabama's tax system ... and what's next for tax reform.

F. Legislative advocacy 101 – Ron Gilbert and Presdelane Harris, *ACPP.* How does the Legislature work, and at what points can we make a difference?

G. Making the case for advocacy as a justice ministry – Jim Evans, *columnist and pastor, First Baptist Church, Auburn.* What can we say to people who say faith and politics don't mix?

H. Social justice and the environment – Mark

Johnston, Camp McDowell; David Ludder, Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation (LEAF), Tallahassee. Why are hazardous waste dumps in poor areas? Environmental justice groups are challenging the pattern.

10:45 Break

11:00 Workshop Session II

I. The impact of federal budget cuts on Alabama's budget – Iris Lav, *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, D.C.; Mary Weidler, ACPP.* Federal tax cuts and unfunded mandates put a squeeze on the states.

J. Forty years on: legacies of the War on Poverty in Alabama – Gayle Cunningham and Theodore Debro, *Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity (JCCEO); Michael Tubbs, Community Action Association of Alabama.* From Head Start to LIHEAP, Community Action Programs have offered a hand up in dozens of Alabama communities.

K. Tapping the groundswell for constitutional reform – Mark Berte, *Greater Birmingham Ministries.* Alabama's 1901 Constitution tilts the political playing field against the interests of the poor, but people are waking up and getting mobilized.

L. Glimmers of hope in Alabama public opinion – Dr. Gerald Johnson, *Capital Survey Research Center.* Johnson's polling on tax reform and education reveals trends and openings for public engagement.

M. Legislative advocacy 101 – Repeat workshop F.

N. Challenges facing low-income Latino Alabamians – Grace Comontofski, *immigrant rights advocate, Moulton; Javier Morales, Project Aprende, Oneonta; Juan M. Vargas, community activist, Gadsden.* Low-wage jobs attract thousands of Latino/Hispanic workers to Alabama every year – and keep them on the margins.

O. What can one person do? 20 action steps – Kimble Forrister and Stan Johnson, *ACPP.* People ask where they can start addressing the systemic causes of poverty. Two longtime organizers share ideas.

P. Corporate taxes and incentives – free ride or fair share? – Matt Gardner, *Institute for Tax and Economic Policy, Washington, D.C.* Corporate income tax revenue has fallen, and it's not always because business is bad.

12:00 Lunch in Great Hall Room A

12:30 Lunch panel: The policy landscape – Iris Lav, *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Dr. Gerald Johnson, Capital Survey Research Center; Jim Evans, columnist and pastor.* Poor people don't fare well in Congress nor in Alabama public discourse. How can we change the conversation?

1:15 Break

1:30 Workshop Session III

Q. Engaging student activists – Lucy Jones, *IMPACT.* Members of Generation Y volunteer in record numbers. IMPACT is a new venture to steer this energy toward the structural causes of poverty.

R. Predatory lending, slumlords and the homeless – Lawton Higgs, *Church of the Reconciler, Birmingham; Ron Gilbert, ACPP; Dan Williams, Homeless Coalition of the Gulf Coast.* With no legal protections from loan sharks and slumlords, Alabama's homeless face practical hurdles.

S. What emerging issues in child development mean for Alabama child care – Sophia Bracy Harris, *Federation of Child Care Centers of Alabama; Margie Curry, Childcare Resources, Birmingham; Gayle Cunningham, JCCEO.* Birth-to-five brain development is critical, but Alabama's strategies fall short.

T. Building toward a moratorium on the death penalty – Staff attorney, Equal Justice Initiative; Esther Brown, *Project Hope.* When it comes to capital punishment in Alabama, race and income too often tip the scales of justice.

U. Medicaid funding crisis – Repeat workshop A.

V. Corporate tax incentives – Repeat P.

W. Advocacy as a justice ministry – Repeat G.

X. What can one person do? – Repeat O.

2:30 Closing plenary

Speaker: Dr. Johnny Green, *Center for Diversity and Race Relations, Auburn University*

3:00 Adjourn

REGISTRATION DEADLINE Friday, Feb. 4

Use this form to register now!

Registration will not be allowed at the door.

Cost: \$50; students \$15 (registration fee includes lunch and resource notebook) Some scholarships available. Special rate for groups of 5 or more. Call Arise for details – (800) 832-9060.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

*Make checks payable to **ACPP**. Be sure to enclose a separate registration form for each person attending.*

Circle your workshop choices so we can make room assignments. Circle one letter per session.

Session 1 (9:45) A B C D E F G H

Session 2 (11:00) I J K L M N O P

Session 3 (1:30) Q R S T U V W X

_____ I need a vegetarian meal.

Mail this form with a check to “ACPP” for your registration fee before February 4 to:

ACPP
P. O. Box 1188
Montgomery, AL 36101

STUDENT TRACK

Students are invited to special plenary sessions, as well as the full slate of conference workshop choices.

8:45 Welcome – Norton Theater

9:00 Keynote: Lucy Jones, IMPACT, Birmingham

9:45 Workshop Session I (See listing inside)

11:00 Workshop Session II (See listing inside)

12:00 Lunch – Great Hall Room B

12:45 Speaker – Dr. Mil Duncan, author of *Worlds Apart*, in Norton Theater

1:30 Workshop Session III (See listing inside)

2:30 Closing plenary – Great Hall Room A


3:00 Adjourn

SOCIAL WORK CONTACT HOURS

*This conference has been approved for **5 continuing education contact hours** by the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners.*

Arise Citizens’ Policy Project
P. O. Box 1188
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(800) 832-9060
www.arisecitizens.org

Poverty & Policy
Birmingham-Southern

Tues., Feb. 15, 2005

Putting democracy to work to address the causes of poverty in Alabama ► A statewide conference presented by Arise Citizens’ Policy Project and the BSC chapter of Alabama Arise