

All welcome to a Baldy Center Working Group on Children, Families, and the Law

Luncheon Presentation

Thursday, February 26, 2009

12:30 – 2:00 pm 509 O’Brian Hall

(RSVP for lunch available from 12:00 to Anita Mazurek, amazurek@buffalo.edu or 645-2102)



Introduction by: **Robert R Keefe**, UB Social Work

Viewing Poverty through Different Lenses:



The Impact of Poverty and Race on Health

Sandra Lane

Chair, Health and Wellness; Professor, Social Work and Anthropology, Syracuse University; Research Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, SUNY Upstate Medical University

Commentator: **Raquaiiah Yearby**, UB Law

Infant mortality is too often addressed as if it were an isolated problem, rather than part of a systemic and repeating pattern of embedded racism and structural violence. The clearing of whole neighborhoods during urban renewal, coupled with the collapse of industry, brought unintended consequences. Dilapidated rental housing, abandoned houses, and empty lots provide the conditions for lead poisoning, gonorrhea, and illicit drug use. Inadequate education, unemployment, and racially biased arrest and sentencing underpin the epidemic of African American male incarceration. Inmate fathers cannot provide financial support and only limited emotional support during collect calls from jail or prison. Supermarkets fled the inner city, where corner stores sell cigarettes, malt liquor, lottery tickets, and drug paraphernalia in place of healthy food. Health disparities are not solely due to individual-level risks, but are instead part of life patterns resulting from systemic discrimination increasing risk over a lifetime.

Dr. Sandra Lane is chair of the Department of Health and Wellness, College of Human Ecology; Professor, Center NY Master of Public Health program (a joint MPH of Syracuse University and SUNY Upstate Medical University); Professor of Social Work, and Professor of Anthropology at Syracuse University. She is also Research Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY. Dr. Lane has a PhD in Medical Anthropology (UC San Francisco/Berkeley), MPH Epidemiology, and an MA Anthropology.