



Virginia
Commission on Youth

Virginia Family Impact Seminars

September 9, 2008

Amy M. Atkinson



Background: Family Impact Seminars

- Originally designed to inform federal policymaking in the 1970s, the seminar model was adapted for use with state policymakers.
- Implemented initially in Wisconsin in 1993, state-level seminars have proven effective in taking research findings from university labs to the legislature in 25 sites across the country.
- Located at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the National Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars provides policymakers and professionals with nonpartisan, solution-oriented research and a family impact perspective on many complex issues.



Background: Family Impact Seminars

- Non-partisan, non-ideological objective seminar series;
- Family focus brought to state policy making;
- Implications that public issues, policies or programs have for families analyzed; and
- Topics change from year-to-year.



Background: Family Impact Seminars

- Goal of the Seminars:
 - To bring state legislators the expertise of nationally recognized professionals who have special knowledge, through research or practice, of an issue that legislators have determined to be a topic of particular, current interest to the public.



Background: Family Impact Seminars

- Which states are conducting Seminars?
 - Family Impact Seminars are currently being conducted or planned in:

Alabama, Arizona, California, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin.



Background: Family Impact Seminars

- What issues have been covered?
 - Child Abuse/Family and Youth Violence (18)
 - Child Care and Early Education (8)
 - Families and Schools (10)
 - Family Health Issues (29)
 - Family Poverty and Economic Security (21)
 - Family Service Issues (5)
 - Strengthening Families/Parenting (19)
 - Teen Pregnancy (9)



Background: Family Impact Seminars

- Virginia joined the network in Fall 2007.
- Virginia's Family Impact Seminars are housed in Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) - Center for Public Policy.
 - VCU faculty members include:
 - Dr. Ann Nichols-Casebolt, Office of the Vice President for Research and Professor in the School of Social Work;
 - Dr. Janet Hutchinson, Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs; and
 - Dr. Mary Secret, School of Social Work.



Background: Family Impact Seminars

- VCU has partnered with the Virginia Commission on Youth for the inaugural seminar.
- Also supporting the seminar is:
 - VCU School of Education Center for School-Community Collaboration.
- All members of the General Assembly are invited to attend.



Virginia Commission on Youth

Advisory Board Members

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- **William C. Mims**, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Commonwealth of Virginia
- **Anne G. "Panny" Rhodes**, Community member
- **Michelle Schmitt**, Director, The Center for School-Community Collaboration, School of Education, Virginia Commonwealth University
- **Marilyn B. Tavenner**, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia



Fall 2008 Panel Experts

- The Honorable Frank Somerville,
Culpeper/Orange Juvenile & Domestic
Relations Judge
- James Kemple, Ed.D., Director of K-12
Education Policy Area, MDRC
- John Tyler, Ph.D., Professor of Economics,
Brown University



Seminar Agenda

- Scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 2008.
- Seminar begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Features four 20 to 25 minute presentations supplemented with a briefing report.
- During the seminars, 30 minutes is allowed for discussion.
- Afterwards, legislators will have the opportunity for further discussion with seminar speakers over lunch.



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<http://familyimpactseminars.org/>

Commission on Youth

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