

## Restorative Practices and the Urban Child: Rethinking School Discipline

*Tenth Annual Urban Child Symposium*

**April 4, 2018**  
**8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Schools around the country have relied heavily on out-of-school suspensions and expulsions to correct behaviors ranging from uniform violations to fighting. National research reveals that students experiencing “zero tolerance” policies can become marginalized, resulting in chronic absence, academic failure and school dropout. Disturbing disparities also exist in the application of these punishments, particularly among students of color and students with disabilities. Schools nationwide are exploring common-sense approaches to discipline that build positive communities.

In partnership with Open Society Institute-Baltimore, the Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts devotes its tenth annual Urban Child Symposium to examining alternatives to harsh school discipline practices. Education, justice and policy experts will focus on restorative practices and restorative justice as powerful vehicles to strengthen relationships between adults and students. Panelists will discuss chronic absenteeism, school disengagement, drop out and the school-to-prison pipeline. They will introduce the concept of restorative practices and efforts to make Baltimore City Public Schools a restorative practices district.

**ub** SAYRA AND NEIL MEYERHOFF CENTER  
FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND THE COURTS

### About CFCC

[law.ubalt.edu/CFCC](http://law.ubalt.edu/CFCC)

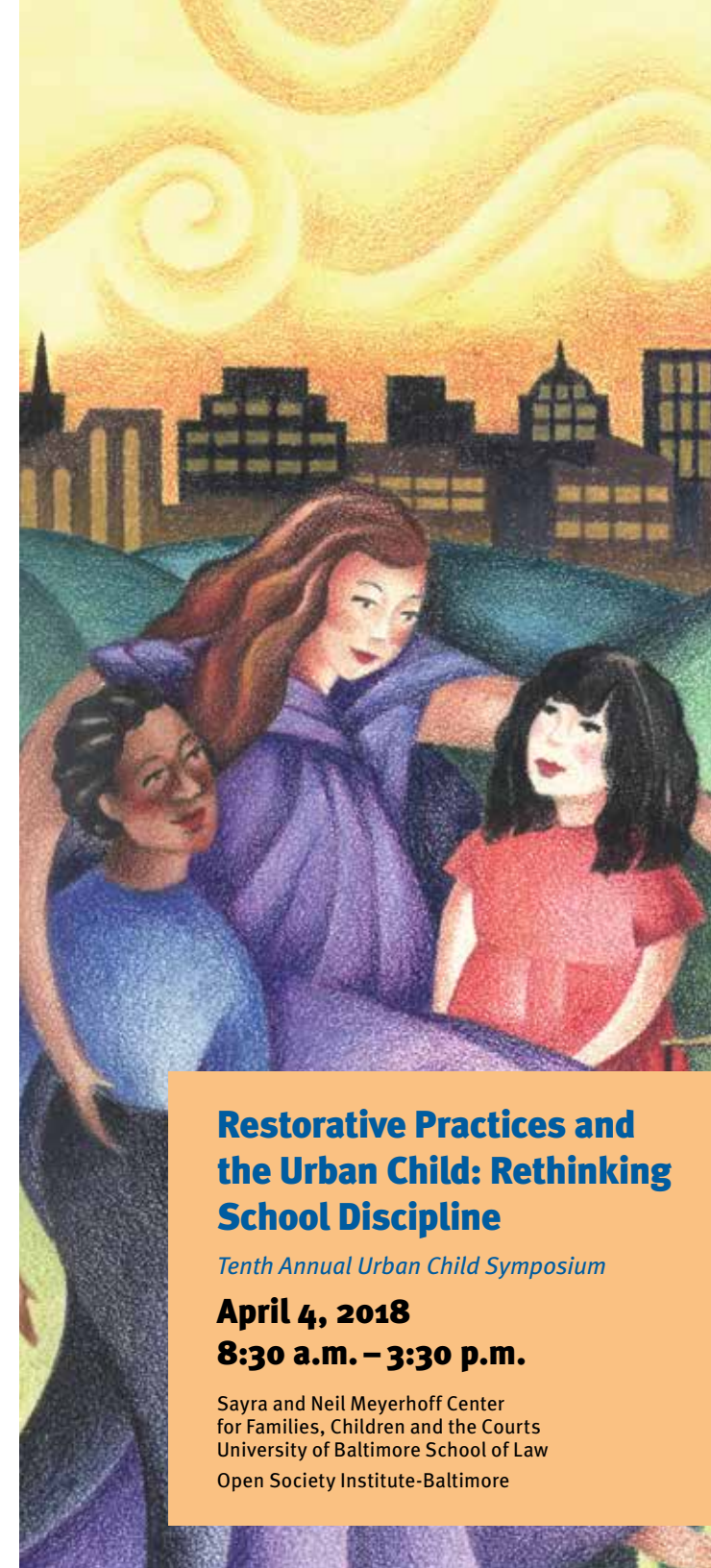
The Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC) promotes policies and practices that unite families, communities and the justice system to improve the lives of children and families and the health of communities. CFCC advocates the use of therapeutic jurisprudence, the understanding that the legal system has an effect on behavior, emotions and mental health.



### About OSI-Baltimore

[osibaltimore.org](http://osibaltimore.org)

Open Society Institute-Baltimore is a public charity and the sole field office of the Open Society Foundations' U.S. Programs. We focus on the root causes of three intertwined problems in our city and state: drug addiction, an over-reliance on incarceration and obstacles that impede youth in succeeding inside and out of the classroom. We believe that discussion and debate are critical to making positive, lasting changes.



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for Families, Children and the Courts  
University of Baltimore School of Law  
Open Society Institute-Baltimore

# Schedule

## 8:30 – 9 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

### 9 – 9:15 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Ronald Weich**, Dean, University of Baltimore  
School of Law

**Barbara Babb**, Associate Professor of Law and Director,  
Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children  
and the Courts

### 9:15 – 10 a.m. Keynote Address

**John Sarbanes**, United States Representative,  
Maryland's 3rd District

### 10 a.m. – 12 noon

#### ***Panel One: The Problem—Disciplinary Practices in Schools***

Schools have relied routinely on traditional punitive disciplinary practices, such as zero tolerance policies, in an attempt to control student behavior and create a safe school environment. Panelists will look at the effectiveness of these practices and will discuss whether they meet the developmental needs of youth and achieve their intended goals.

Panelists:

**Monique Dixon**, Deputy Director of Policy, NAACP Legal  
Defense Fund

**Steve Korr**, Lead Team Member, Akoben LLC

**Frank Kros**, President, The Upside Down Organization

**Heather Warnken**, Visiting Fellow, U.S. Department of  
Justice, Office of Justice Programs

Moderator:

**Gloria Danziger**, Senior Fellow, Sayra and Neil  
Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts

## 12 noon – 1:15 p.m. Lunch (*lunch will be provided*)

### 1:15 – 2:00 p.m. Restorative Practices Speaker/Facilitator

**Graciella Drew**, Restorative Practices Trainer and  
Consultant

### 2 – 3:15 p.m.

#### ***Panel Two: The Solution—Restorative Practices and Restorative Justice***

Panelists will discuss the integration of restorative practices and restorative justice into schools and the implications for student success. Participants will explain how restorative practices are implemented to build community, repair relationships and strengthen school engagement.

Panelists:

**Akil Hamm**, Police Chief, Baltimore City Public Schools

**Rhonda Richetta**, Principal, City Springs Elementary/  
Middle School

**Baltimore City Public School Student(s)**

Moderator:

**Karen E. Webber**, Director, Education and Youth  
Development Program, Open Society Institute-Baltimore

### 3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Closing Remarks, Collection of Evaluations and Thanks

**Barbara Babb**

## GET SOCIAL

Share your Urban Child Symposium experience with your networks, and promote a restorative practices approach to school discipline.

#CFCC  
#OSIBaltimore  
#urbanchildsymposium  
#schooldiscipline  
#restorativepractices  
#restorativejustice  
#reformschooldiscipline