

Khatib Waheed

Khatib Waheed is a Senior Fellow, at the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), in Washington, DC. He joined the staff in October 2003 to head up the CSSP's involvement with the Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare, which is a new effort to raise national awareness about the disproportionate number of African American and other children of color that are in foster care and to identify and promote better child welfare policies, programs and services that will help reduce the number of unnecessary placements into foster care; improve upon the services once they are placed and ensure that they have a better quality of life after they leave.

Prior to his work at CSSP, Khatib was a Senior Associate at the Aspen Institute Roundtable on Comprehensive Community Initiatives, where he helped to further develop “frameworks” or approaches for defining, analyzing and explaining how the combined effects of structural racism, poverty, inadequate community resources and family behavior work to perpetuate long term disadvantage for African American and other children, families and communities of color. The framework has since been published and distributed nationally, and is currently being tested in communities. During this same period he also served as the Special Assistant to the Director, Missouri Department of Social Services, where he established and led a multi-agency coalition to reduce youth violence, drug trafficking and teen pregnancy in the St. Louis area called the Regional Response Coalition (RRC).

In 1989, Khatib started the Walbridge Caring Communities Program in Walnut Park, and expanded it to twenty schools in St. Louis over the next seven years, where it received state-wide, national and international renown as an innovative approach to providing mental health, educational, health and social services and programs to families whose children were at-risk of failing in school and being placed in foster care or juvenile detention. The Caring Communities Program model has been studied and written about in numerous publications and books and has been replicated both nationally and internationally.

He has received numerous awards for his service to children, families and communities and holds a M. Ed. from the University of Missouri – St. Louis and a B.A. in History and Political Science from Webster University, with a Missouri Secondary Education Teaching Certificate in Social Studies. Khatib participated in policy briefings at the White House during the Clinton Administration and testified during several National Governor’s Association Conferences about the needs of children and families. He is also a past participant in the International Initiative for Children, Youth and Families, which allowed him to visit both the Netherlands and Israel to network with policy makers, field experts and researchers representing fifteen countries about developing policy aimed at strengthening families and neighborhoods.