

## Good Shepherd Services Program Evaluation Advisory Committee

The Program Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) advises the Executive Team and Department of Program Evaluation and Planning (PEP) on agency-wide evaluation strategies as well as third party evaluation projects. It is comprised of external experts in applied research and evaluation approaches and methodologies.

### **Timothy Ross, Ph.D. (Chair)**

Dr. Timothy Ross has two decades of experience researching, evaluating, and advising on services designed to improve outcomes for children, youth, families and communities. Prior to founding Action Research Partners ([www.actionresearchpartners.com](http://www.actionresearchpartners.com)) where he currently serves as managing partner, Dr. Ross directed the child welfare program at Child Trends and served as the Vera Institute's Research Director. In addition to his work at Action Research, Dr. Ross is the first Vera Affiliate Scholar, teaches research methods at the New York University Silver School of Social Work and serves on several advisory and review boards. He is a graduate of Williams College and received his doctorate in government and politics from the University of Maryland at College Park.

### **Molly Armstrong, Esq. (Member)**

Molly Armstrong is currently a partner at Public Catalyst. Molly has spent most of her career working with the public sector staff responsible for delivering services in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to re-think and re-design how they do their work to achieve better outcomes for children and families. Molly began her career as a caseworker with adolescent girls. She spent eight years at the Vera Institute of Justice in New York focused on reform work with child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In 2004, she received the Kathryn McDonald Award for Excellence in Service to the Family Court from the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. . Molly has her B.A. from Yale; a law degree from New York University; and an LLM from Georgetown.

### **Elise Cappella, Ph.D. (Member)**

Elise Cappella is Associate Professor of Applied Psychology at New York University's Steinhardt School. Her scholarship focuses on understanding and enhancing school and afterschool environments as a means toward academic achievement and social-emotional development among children and youth in urban poor communities. Dr. Cappella has studied school transitions as times of risk and opportunity, and peers and teachers as critical resources for student development. With grants from the Institute of Education Sciences, National Institute of Mental Health, and Spencer Foundation, among other funders, Cappella has conducted collaborative and rigorous research to study and support schools in implementing practices that increase the likelihood that more students – across the diversity of strength and need – will succeed. Cappella received her bachelor's degree in History from Yale University and her doctorate in Clinical and Community Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley.

### **Gary Walker, Esq. (Past Chair)**

Gary Walker served as president of Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) from 1995-2006. A former Wall Street attorney, Mr. Walker began his social policy work in the 1970s at the Vera Institute of Justice, where he set up Pioneer Diversified Services, Inc., a New York City-based business that hired only ex-offenders and recovering substance abusers. The success and lessons from that business led to the creation of the National Supported Work Demonstration, one of the earliest attempts to make work a key element of our nation's welfare and social service policies. Walker managed this and other major

national research demonstrations as Sr. Vice President of the Manpower Demonstration Research Corp. (MDRC). Walker is a past trustee and chair of the W. T. Grant Foundation and past trustee of the William Penn Foundation. He is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Kansas and Yale Law School, where he was an editor of *The Yale Law Journal*.