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# Evidence-Based Health Policy Project

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## The Other Half of Health: An Introduction to Social Determinants Part I: Family and Social Support

### *Speaker Biographies*

**Lawrence Berger, MSW, PhD**

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*Director, UW–Madison Institute for Research on Poverty*

*Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor & PhD Program Chair, UW–Madison School of Social Work*

Lawrence (Lonnie) Berger is the Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty, and Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor and PhD Program Chair at the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His research focuses on the ways that economic resources, sociodemographic characteristics, and public policies affect parental behaviors as well as child and family wellbeing. He is engaged in studies in three main areas: (a) determinants of child maltreatment, and out-of-home placement for children; (b) associations among socioeconomic factors (family structure and composition, economic resources, household debt), parenting behaviors, and children's care, development, and wellbeing; and (c) the influence of public policies on parental behaviors and child and family wellbeing. To address these topics, he uses a variety of statistical techniques to analyze data from a range of large-scale datasets. His work aims to inform public policy to improve its capacity to assist families in accessing resources, improving family functioning and wellbeing, and ensuring that children can grow and develop in the best possible environments.

**Gina Green-Harris, MBA**

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*Director, Center for Community Engagement and Health Partnerships, UWSMPH*

*Director, Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute Regional Milwaukee Office, UWSMPH*

*Director, Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families, UWSMPH*

Gina Green-Harris serves as Director of the newly-created Center for Community Engagement and Health Partnerships in Milwaukee, which works to advance research in the African American community in a culturally-inclusive manner. She is also the Director the Milwaukee Regional Office of the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute (WAI) at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. In this capacity, she oversees the Health Equity Pillar of the Institute and guides the capacity of the WAI Milwaukee office to recruit African Americans into research using culturally-tailored methods. Since joining the Institute, the program has more than doubled the number of African Americans enrolled in the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention. Ms. Green-Harris was also instrumental in a collaboration between the University and Milwaukee Health Services Inc., a federally qualified health center, to establish a minority-specific memory clinic in Milwaukee, a national model for other health centers. Ms. Green-Harris is also the Director of the Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF), a community-driven initiative to develop and implement strategies to reduce disparities in birth outcomes for African Americans in Wisconsin. Prior to this appointment, she served as the Director of the Regional Program Office for LIHF, overseeing and managing the office regional program staff.