The Clark-Fox Policy Institute, housed in the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis, was launched in April 2017 with the mission to advance social and economic justice by working collaboratively to connect evidence-based policy solutions to public awareness, practitioner training and policy decision-making. Capitalizing on the scientific research of Brown School faculty, the institute amplifies the impact of scholarship through the rapid translation of empirical findings into evidence-informed policy for dissemination to policymakers, community organizations, advocates, as well as elected and public officials.

The institute prioritizes children, youth and the adults who care for them through a policy focus that promotes child well-being and healthy youth development and addresses systemic inequity to ensure that all children, and the people who care for them, have the opportunity to thrive.
Dear Friends,

Policy is one of the most powerful tools in the pursuit of social change. The 2017 launch of the Maxine Clark and Bob Fox Policy Institute, directed by Associate Dean Gary Parker, is a reflection of our policy commitment. It provides a hub for translating and disseminating the evidence-based policy solutions coming from our expert faculty and 15 research centers to the public, practitioners and policy makers.

The institute is focusing on child well-being, healthy youth development and addressing systemic inequity to ensure that all children and the people who care for them have the opportunity to thrive. We have seen the Institute take great strides in achieving this mission, from influencing state health policy in partnership with the Center for Health and Economic Policy to educating legislators on Capitol Hill about the impact of human trafficking on children and families.

Additionally, the Institute has made policy education a top priority. I was moved by the testimony of our scholars during the induction ceremony of the Institute’s first cohort of Graduate Policy Scholars. This dedicated and diverse group of students were immersed in skills-based trainings, experiences and networking above and beyond the already rigorous curriculum of their graduate studies. This support from the Institute will help them become the next generation of highly effective policy practitioners committed to social justice and racial equity.

I want to extend a special thank you to Maxine Clark and Bob Fox, former dean of the Brown School Eddie Lawlor, and the Institute’s Advisory Committee for their work developing the mission and vision of the Institute. I also want to thank Sue Stepleton for her formative work at the genesis of the institute.

I am grateful for all of the support the Institute has received from our faculty, campus partners, community members and students in its first year of operation. I look forward to the continued achievements of the Institute, pushing forward significant positive social change through the development and implementation of evidence-based policy.

Sincerely,

Mary M. McKay

Mary McKernan McKay, PhD
Neirdorff Family and Centene Corporation Dean
Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis
Dear Friends,

It is an incredible privilege to serve as the inaugural director of the Clark-Fox Policy Institute, and I am so proud of all that we have accomplished in our first year. Much of our success is due directly to the incredibly talented researchers at the Brown School. We are building on the intellectual capital of our social work and public health scholars and acting as an engine of translation, converting their research into accessible, informative and effective products that serve as policy tools in the hands of informed citizens, lawmakers, scholars and civic leaders.

Additionally, we are exceptionally grateful to our community partners, organizations and policy makers who have so willingly collaborated with us to disseminate our evidence-based policy recommendations. It is only with their guidance and support that we are able to inform policy that results in sustainable, positive outcomes for children and families.

The Clark-Fox Policy Institute is also dedicated to providing exceptional training in policy practice that prepares students, scholars, citizens and policy makers for distinguished service and leadership. Our goal is to provide the supports, skills and knowledge needed for current and future policy practitioners to be highly effective agents of positive social change.

Using policy, we can and must deconstruct structural barriers that are negatively affecting the lives of children, youth and the adults who care for them. The Clark-Fox Policy Institute works tirelessly toward the development and implementation of evidence-informed policies that advance social and economic justice and racial equity.

I want to thank Maxine Clark and Bob Fox for their generosity, as well as their vision and commitment to Washington University and the Brown School. The Clark-Fox name is synonymous with social and economic justice, and the institute strives to live up to its name.

I need to thank Dean McKay, Jacque Martinez Pullen, Sarah Moreland-Russell, Linde Parcels and the countless students who worked tirelessly to lift the Institute off the ground. And a very special thank you goes to Atia Thurman, who has been an incredible thought partner and collaborator. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work by her side.

The Clark-Fox Policy Institute is just getting started. Over the course of our second year, we will be building capacity, extending our outreach and developing a strong system for the development and implementation of evidence-based policy.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Gary Parker
Associate Dean for External Affairs
Director, Clark-Fox Policy Institute
Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis
Evidence-Based Policy

The Clark-Fox Policy Institute is committed to promoting evidence-based policy locally and globally. In order to be effective and sustainable, policy must be grounded in empirical research. The Clark-Fox Policy Institute serves as an engine of translation, moving research findings into evidence-based policies.
In its first year, the Institute has released six policy briefs and ten policy alerts capitalizing on the groundbreaking research of Brown School social work and public health scholars. These briefs were shared with policy makers and legislators to provide critical information needed to make informed decisions regarding policies and laws affecting children and families.

EITC Brief

The Institute’s first publication, “Credit Where It’s Due,” is based on research and data collected at the Brown School’s Center for Social Development. The policy brief detailed the far-reaching impact a state-level Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) would have on Missouri’s working families. The EITC is a refundable federal tax credit that supports working families nationwide. The brief provided policy-makers with research demonstrating the positive economic effects the federal EITC has had on low-income families, including lifting 3.3 million children out of poverty across the country. The Institute continues to collaborate with legislators and policy makers to provide the empirical data needed to make informed policy decisions.
The Institute is developing a three-part series of policy briefs focused on child well-being commissioned by the Deaconess Foundation. The first in the series, “Bouncing Between Homes,” is based on research conducted by Brown School Assistant Professor Molly W. Metzger, Brown School Associate Professor Patrick J. Fowler, and University of Missouri St. Louis Professor Todd Swanstrom. The brief examines how poverty-impacted families, and particularly communities of color, are more likely to face the constant, disruptive patterns of hypermobility, i.e., frequently changing residences. This repeated moving from home to home presents serious health and educational risks for the children experiencing it.

Part two of the child well-being series examines how the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) plays a critical role in reducing the harmful effects of food insecurity and lifting children and families out of poverty. A study by Mary McKay, dean of the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis, found that SNAP participation played a significant role in promoting better academic outcomes for children experiencing nutritional deprivation, particularly in lowering the risk of repeating a grade.

Part three of our series is currently under development.

Children’s Mental Health in Uganda: 3-Part Policy Brief

At the request of the Parliament of Uganda, the Clark-Fox Policy Institute, International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD) and the Strengthening Mental Health and Research Training (SMART) Africa Center, in partnership with ChildFund Uganda, issued a three-part policy brief detailing evidence-based policies that address child and adolescent mental health in Sub-Saharan Africa. Three key policy areas were identified: (1) prevention and early intervention; (2) workforce training; and (3) asset-based economic development aimed at addressing poverty. Fred Ssewamala, founding director of ICHAD, co-director of the
SMART Africa Center, and William E. Gordon Distinguished Professor, delivered the briefs to Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga and Parliament Health Committee Chairperson Dr. Michael Bukenya, which were used to help shape pending federal legislation.

**Pulse on Policy**

Pulse on Policy is the Institute’s rapid response to pressing policy issues. The alerts are sent to thousands of policy makers, legislators, researchers, service providers and community leaders. The aim of the Pulse on Policy alerts is to connect empirical research to topical policy discussions. Brown School faculty and staff that have offered their expertise to these publications include Associate Professor Sheretta Butler-Barnes, PhD; Associate Professor of Practice Lorien Carter, MSW; Professor Timothy McBride, PhD; Dean Mary M. McKay, PhD; Associate Dean Gary Parker, MSW; and Associate Professor Jason Purnell, PhD.


In order to maximize the impact of evidence-based policy, the Clark-Fox Policy Institute convenes policy makers, researchers, community members and service providers to raise awareness of proposed policy changes and their impact on children and families. These events increase knowledge of pressing policy issues and allow for the distribution of evidence-based recommendations to stakeholders and policy makers seeking innovative policy solutions.
Transforming Healthcare in Missouri: Ideas for Innovation and Investment

In October 2017, the Clark-Fox Policy Institute collaborated with the Center for Health Economics & Policy at the Institute for Public Health (CHEP) to produce Transforming Healthcare in Missouri: Ideas for Innovation and Investment to generate ideas for improving healthcare in Missouri. One of the key recommendations offered to officials was to reinstate coverage for therapy services for Missouri Medicaid beneficiaries to improve the health of Missourians and to help combat the opioid epidemic.

In 2005, Missouri drastically cut Medicaid expenditures, including access to physical and occupational therapy. Prior to the cuts, patients were routinely referred for physical or occupational therapy post–joint replacement surgery in order to keep the joint mobile. After 2005, Medicaid patients could no longer receive such therapy. As detailed at the October event by Paul Taylor, CEO of Ozark Community Hospital Health System, when patients do not receive physical therapy after joint replacement surgery, the joint inevitably becomes immobile, which leaves the patient in pain. Without the availability of physical therapy, the primary mechanism for treating this chronic pain has become narcotic medication, which frequently leads to narcotic dependence and is contributing to Missouri’s opioid crisis. Accordingly, Taylor suggested that reinstituting Medicaid reimbursement for physical and occupational therapy is a practical, effective way to mitigate narcotic dependence amongst patients with chronic pain.
Following the October event, discussions continued between Brown School Professor Timothy McBride, director of CHEP, and Missouri Medicaid leadership regarding reinstating coverage of therapy services for Medicaid patients. Then in January former Governor Greitens announced the 2019 budget, which included: “The Missouri Department of Social Services’ Medicaid Program is seeking federal approval to add alternative pain management options for individuals with a pain diagnosis. The alternative pain management options include physical therapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic services, massage and acupuncture. It is estimated that offering alternative treatments will result in cost savings while improving health outcomes.”

Human Trafficking and the Impact on Children and Families: A Congressional Briefing

The Clark-Fox Policy Institute and the Human Trafficking Collaborative Network (HTCN) led a delegation of Missouri researchers, advocates, representatives from law enforcement, service providers and survivors to Capitol Hill to bring attention to the dehumanizing industry of human trafficking. After welcoming remarks from Congresswoman Ann Wagner (R-Mo.) and Congressman Lacy Clay (D-Mo.) the panel highlighted research and practice that can inform policy and laws aimed at assisting survivors and their families. Panelists included Brian Froelke, MD, assistant professor of emergency medicine at the School of Medicine; Andrea Nichols, an HTCN co-founder, lecturer at the Brown School and professor at St. Louis Community College-Forest Park; and Kathleen Thimsen, an HTCN co-founder and assistant professor at the Goldfarb School of Nursing.

The briefing was a powerful platform for elevating a growing body of evidence, as well as connecting additional stakeholders and change agents, to address human trafficking. Collectively, these efforts have helped inform policies to reduce human trafficking and protect the vulnerable populations it impacts.
Misguided and Misdiagnosed: Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System

On any given day in the United States, between 300,000 and 400,000 people with mental illnesses are incarcerated in jails and prisons. All too often people with untreated mental health disorders find themselves involved in the criminal justice system and subject to misguided policies and services that further compound the challenges they face.

Pete Earley, journalist, Pulitzer Prize finalist and author of Crazy: A Father’s Search Through America’s Mental Health Madness, is all too familiar with these challenges. As the keynote speaker for this event, Earley discussed his son’s battle with bipolar disorder and how the criminal justice system deals with the mentally ill through incarceration, not treatment. Following Earley, a panel, moderated by Sean Joe, associate dean for faculty and research and the Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development, explored policy changes for improved access to and treatment of mental health illnesses, particularly in the context of the criminal justice system. Featured panelists included: Susan W. McGraugh, professor at Saint Louis University School of Law; David M. Montani, psychiatrist at Clayton Behavioral; and Karl Wilson, former CEO of Crider Health Center. The event was co-sponsored by Provident, Inc., and Saint Louis University School of Law.
Commitment to Equity

The Clark-Fox Policy Institute is dedicated to elevating policy solutions that promote racial equity. In order to promote discourse on policy as a structural solution to racism and oppression, the Institute has hosted a number of leading policy makers to share their experiences in advancing social change.
The Clark-Fox Policy Institute and the Incarnate Word Foundation co-hosted two events focused on racial equity and collaborative change. The first was an evening with Julian Castro, former U.S. secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the Obama administration. Castro discussed his vision for urban development using an equity lens in order to prevent poverty-impacted neighborhoods from continually being underserved.

The second event featured Nicole Hudson, former deputy mayor for Racial Equity and Priority Initiatives for the City of St. Louis. She spoke to the opportunities and challenges facing municipal governments striving to address racial inequities through local laws and regulations. Hudson has considerable expertise in this area through her work with the City of St. Louis, as well as the Ferguson Commission and Forward Through Ferguson. Hudson shared insights from her experiences and discussed why St. Louis is uniquely positioned to be a national leader in advancing racial equity. Hudson now serves as assistant vice-chancellor for the Academy of Diversity and Inclusion at Washington University in St. Louis.

Additionally, the Clark-Fox Policy Institute hosted a conversation about health and racial equity with Louis Wade Sullivan, MD, former U.S. secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Sullivan is the founding dean of Morehouse School of Medicine and has devoted his career to advancing public health and medicine, reducing inequities in the medical field and bridging ideological divides. Following his career in public service, Dr. Sullivan established The Sullivan Alliance, which recognizes the importance and value of achieving racial and ethnic diversity in the health professions. Dr. Sullivan’s talk explored how government, researchers, communities and other stakeholders can work together to close systemic health gaps and support individuals and communities. During his time in St. Louis, he served as a facilitator for the Institute’s Leadership Luncheon and participated in radical listening activities with youth and child well-being advocates.
The Clark-Fox Policy Institute offers several courses and trainings to students, faculty and community members throughout the year. The goal is to provide the skills and knowledge needed to be effective policy practitioners committed to health, economic and social justice, and racial equity. Training topics include effective policy analysis, legislative advocacy and community organizing.
Leadership Luncheon

On the eve of the one-year anniversary of its launch, the Clark-Fox Policy Institute convened a group of stakeholders invested in the well-being of children and the adults who care for them. Regional leaders from a range of sectors engaged in radical listening with youth and with each other. Radical listening is characterized by listening openly and patiently, seeking to understand and not to respond, and ensuring that participants feel heard, valued, understood and validated. It is a process that is inclusive of all voices and helps unearth truths that need to be heard. Our esteemed guest facilitators included Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, former U.S. secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services; Dr. Jordan J. Cohen, president emeritus of Association of American Medical Colleges; and William J. Kaufmann, former executive vice president of the National Urban Coalition.

Campaign Crash Course

The institute partnered with Forward Through Ferguson and Focus St. Louis to produce Campaign Crash Course. This intensive two-day course offered participants opportunities to gain practical skills needed to engage in all aspects of campaigning. Led by Jeff Smith, PhD, professor, author and former Missouri state senator, the course drew on readings, case studies and Dr. Smith’s campaign experience. The course served as a practical blueprint for anyone seeking elected office, managing a campaign or otherwise hoping to influence a community.

Graduate Policy Scholars

This year, the Clark-Fox Policy Institute launched the Graduate Policy Scholars program. Brown School students who are accepted into the program are offered a rigorous and immersive experience that allows them to develop the skills and competencies needed to be a skilled policy practitioner. The first cohort of students were granted access to intimate meetings with policy makers such as Jolie Justus, Kansas City councilwoman; Charita Castro, program coordinator for Child, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking of the Department of Labor; Jason Green, former associate counsel to President Barack Obama; Nicole Hudson, former deputy mayor for Racial Equity and Priority Initiatives for the City of St. Louis; Jeff Smith, former Missouri state senator and head of Community Engagement & Policy at Concordance Academy; and Peter Jacob, Brown School alum who is running for Congress.
By the Numbers

Graduate Policy Scholars: 29
Events: 24
Trainings: 18
Pulse on Policy: 10
Policy Briefs: 6
Clark-Fox Policy Institute Team

Gary Parker, Director and Associate Dean for External Affairs
Mary M. McKay, Neidorff Family and Centene Corporation Dean of the Brown School
Atia Thurman, Manager of Brown School Initiatives
Sarah Moreland-Russell, Senior Scholar, Assistant Professor of Practice, and American Public Health Association Government Fellow
Jacque Martinez Pullen, Chief of Staff, Assistant Dean of the Brown School
Lara Markovitz, Pre-Doctoral Fellow
Elisabeth Ward, Practicum Student
Sarah True, Practicum Student
Linde Parcels, Student Staff
Emily Caplan, Masters Research Fellow
Kaitlyn Sprague, Masters Research Fellow
Jonathan Rieck, Practicum Student
Shawna Fitz, Practicum Student
Jessica Oliphant, Intern
Kate Polokonis, Student Staff

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Maxine Clark, CEO, Clark-Fox Family Foundation; Chair, Build-A-Bear Foundation; Founder, Build-A-Bear Workshop
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Timothy McBride, Professor, Brown School; Co-Director, Center for Health Economics and Policy at the Institute for Public Health
Mary McKay, Neidorff Family and Centene Corporation Dean, Brown School
Sandra Moore, Retired CEO, Urban Strategies; formerly the CEO of Missouri Family Investment Trusts
Teri Murray, Dean, Saint Louis University School of Nursing
Nancy Parker-Tice, Nonprofit Advisor
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Jeff Smith, Vice President of Community Engagement and Policy, the Concordance Institute; former Missouri State Senator
Sue Stepleton, Retired Chair, Policy Specialization at the Brown School
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Clint Zweifel, COO of Wealth Management, Northern Trust; formerly the Missouri State Treasurer

Special thanks to: Maren Mellem and Jessica Oliphant

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Established by the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis, the Maxine Clark and Bob Fox Policy Institute is a nonpartisan center for public policy analysis and engagement.

OUR VISION
The Clark-Fox Policy Institute envisions a more just and equitable world in which policy solutions are effective, impactful and innovative.

OUR MISSION
The Clark-Fox Policy Institute advances social and economic justice by working collaboratively to connect evidence-based policy solutions to public awareness, practitioner training and policy decision-making.

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