

Preconvention Institute—Thursday, November 2, 2017—9:00am-12:00pm

**Presenter: Angela Gaddis**

**Title: “Where Did the Money Go?” An Experiential Exercise on Poverty**

**Abstract:** As Christians, we are called to minister to those less fortunate and as social workers we are educated to be sensitive to the needs of the poor; however, we often remain distant from the complexity of poverty. This experiential exercise increases the sensitivity of the social worker to the culture of poverty. The participant will experience the oppressive attitudes and belief systems often encountered in macro systems by this population, while also gaining insight into how this impacts the emotional and mental state of the individual living in poverty. This will be achieved as each participant takes on the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget and attempts to navigate through the system of healthcare, schools, banks, social services, etc.

**Outline:** Topics to be addressed and timeline within the presentation.

30 minutes: Assigning roles to participants and explaining the exercise guidelines.

60 minutes: Participants participate in experiential exercise.

45 minutes: Small Group discussions regarding identification of barriers, emotions from the experience, solutions

45 minutes: Large group summarizing and presentation of findings

**Learning Objectives:** *As a result of this presentation participants will be able to:*

- Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to identify cultural barriers which people in poverty encounter on a daily basis.
- Participants will identify policy(ies) which reinforce these barriers.
- Participants will propose possible solutions/interventions to address these barriers.

**Primary Audience:** Social workers and related professionals; social work students; human services professionals; clergy

**Content Level:** Basic/Intermediate

**Number of Continuing Education Contact Hours:** 3.0

**Bio Information:** Dr. Gaddis is Chair of the Social Work Program at Belhaven University. Her areas of practice include work with military members and their families, mental health and issues related to grief. Research includes kinship care in Mississippi, human

trafficking in Mississippi and enhancing students understanding of poverty. She has presented at numerous workshops on these topics.

### References:

Farrer, L.; Marinetti, C.; Cavaco, Y.K.; Costongs, C. Advocacy for Health Equity: A Synthesis Review. *The Milbank Quarterly: A Multidisciplinary Journal of Population Health and Health Policy*. June 2015, Vol 93(2), p392-437. DOI: 10.1111/1468-0009.12112 PMID: PMC4462882. Firmin, Michael W.; Tse, Luke M.; Johnson, Courtney; Vorobyov, Yelena; McKeon, Jacklyn. Religious Impact of a Poverty Immersion Experience on College Students. *Christian Higher Education*. Mar/Apr2015, Vol. 13 Issue 2, p130-144. 15p. DOI: 10.1080/15363759.2014.872494.

Knecht, T., & Martinez, L. (2012). Engaging the reluctant? Service learning, interpersonal conflict, and attitudes toward homeless individuals. *Political Science & Politics*, 45 , 106–111.

Rank, Mark R.; Hirschl, Thomas A. The Likelihood of experiencing relative poverty over the life course. *PLoS ONE*. 7/22/2015, Vol. 10 Issue 7, p1-11. 11p. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0133513.

Wendland, Aaron J. "What do we Owe Each Other ?" *The Opinion Pages, Opinionator, The Stone, New York Times* January 18, 2016 3:45 am  
<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/01/18/what-do-we-owe-each-other/?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>