

CHILDREN'S STUDIES 25 (2200): SPECIAL TOPICS:
CHILDREN, GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY
IN NEW YORK STATE

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES
FALL 2010

OCTOBER 7, 2010

GUEST SPEAKER: MIKE ARSHAM

**Executive Director, Child Welfare Organizing Project, Representing families involved in
the foster care and juvenile justice systems**

Michael Arsham is an MSW social worker and a life-long New Yorker with over 30 years of child welfare experience. He has been a child care worker, case worker, program director, policy analyst, and advocate. He served Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families (now known as the Harlem Children's Zone) for thirteen years, staffing, developing, and directing Preventive Service programs in Central Harlem, [Manhattan Valley](#), and Hell's Kitchen.

Mr. Arsham became Director of Social Service Policy for the New York State Council of Family and Child-Caring Agencies (COFCCA) in 1994. He represented Preventive Service providers throughout the city and state, and played a key role in organizing workers and clients to avert massive proposed budget cuts to these services in 1994 and '95. He was hired to direct CWOP in November 1998. Through CWOP, for the first time, parents effected by the public child welfare system are asserting a united, respected, and influential voice in New York City child welfare policy and practice.