

Tamarie Willis, Ph.D.

Tamarie Willis is a Federal Executive Branch Policy Fellow in the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Prior to becoming a fellow at SRCD, she worked at the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice managing all federal and state grants related to reentry initiatives. There, she managed reentry programs in nine prisons and three jails in the state of Michigan for individuals with co-occurring substance use and mental illness who were returning to the community and their families. Her research examines the interface of the criminal legal system and child welfare public policies, specifically the impact of child welfare policy on incarcerated parents and the clinical, educational, and behavioral outcomes for their children in state care. Regarding the child welfare system, her research examined how to maximize the success of resource parents, identifying some essential skills and competencies to promote permanency, and foster youth transition to adulthood. Her criminal legal research spans police interactions with individuals with mental illness and substance use disorder, law enforcement training on crisis intervention, and use of force. Tamarie holds a Ph.D. in Social Work with minors in Criminal Justice and Statistics from Wayne State University.