Dean Barth's Monthly WYPR Broadcasts Focus on Well-Being of Families and Children

Dean Richard Barth of the University of Maryland School of Social Work (SSW) has a monthly broadcast on Baltimore's WYPR-FM that focuses on families and children, and the challenges they face.

In his most recent commentary, on March 24, he discussed community schools, which function through partnerships between schools and community resources. The model provides a coordinator to ensure that students, families and teachers are receiving the supports they need, such as reading partners for students and parenting classes for families. The SSW is a partner in eight community schools; Baltimore has about 50 “and needs at least as many more,” Dean Barth said in his address.

In his opening commentary in September, in honor of Grandparents Day, he spoke of lifting the burden of grandparents who are raising their children’s children. In October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, he focused on the need for a more varied response to family violence, one that doesn’t automatically rely on law enforcement intervention. He spoke in January on the Promise Heights Initiative and its efforts to provide a continuum of educational solutions for families to help reduce the traumatic effects of violence on children – SSW was awarded a Promise Heights Initiative planning grant in 2012, and Barth is a principal developer of the initiative in West Baltimore. In February, he talked about the Financial Social Work Initiative, a SSW program that partners with community agencies to help families gain financial stability

Dean Barth is scheduled to deliver future commentaries on April 28, June 2, July 7, and August 4. His past commentaries are available online in the WYPR commentaries archive. In addition to his role with the Promise Heights Initiative, Dean Barth serves on the board of the United Way of Central Maryland, on the Governor’s Family Violence Council, on the Steering Committee for B’More for Healthy Babies, and on the board of the Furman L. Templeton Preparatory Academy, which is a Promise Heights partner school. Among numerous honors and awards, Dean Barth was the 2010 winner of the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Society for Social Work and Research, and last January, he was named to the inaugural class of SSWR fellows.