

# Applied Economics (APEC)

## Student Seminar

### *FALL 2023 SERIES PRESENTS:*

*CAITLYN KEO*

*JOB MARKET CANDIDATE*

### *Reforming Child Protection Services: The Effect of Differential Response on Subsequent Maltreatment for Reported Children*



#### **Time:**

Wed. Dec. 13th, 2-3PM CT

#### **Place:**

119 Ruttan Hall

#### **Zoom Option:**

<https://umn.zoom.us/j/98749918936>

#### **Details:**

<https://apecseminar.github.io/>

#### *ABSTRACT:*

Traditionally, all child protection services (CPS) reports are investigated to formally determine whether the alleged child maltreatment can be confirmed. This conventional investigative response (IR) to all reports has been met with pertinent concerns that CPS involvement in the form of an investigation can be adversarial for children and families, particularly for those at the intersection of poverty and suspected child maltreatment. Therefore, more than 25 states have adopted differential response (DR) systems. In a DR, “dual track,” system, the agency reserves the IR pathway for reports in which the child appears to be at imminent risk of subsequent maltreatment. For low to moderate risk reports, the agency uses an alternative response (AR) pathway. Rather than focusing on determining whether maltreatment occurred, an AR intends to meet the needs of families through a “family assessment.” Using child maltreatment data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System for 2004 to 2019, and the staggered adoption of DR reforms over time, I assess how the new step in decision making— whether to place the reported child on the AR pathway or the IR pathway— affects subsequent child maltreatment for reported children, as proxied by re-reporting, and re-reporting with substantiation.