Sponsoring Organization Representatives

Tom Morris, MPA  
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy  
Health Resources and Services Administration

Tom Morris is HRSA’s Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy. In that role, he oversees the programmatic and policy activities of the Office of Rural Health (FORHP).

Mr. Morris coordinates FORHP’s analysis and response to policy issues, especially the impact of Medicare and Medicaid regulations on the rural health workforce and service delivery. As office director, he is responsible for 37 grant programs that focus on building rural health care capacity at the state and community level.

Mr. Morris came to the federal government in 1996 as a Presidential Management Intern at HRSA, which led to details on a Federal Intra-Agency Telemedicine Committee, in the U.S. Senate, and at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Morris joined FORHP full time in 1998 and has worked in several capacities there, including his prior positions as deputy director, and as policy coordinator and grants project officer.

Prior to joining the government, Mr. Morris was a reporter and editor covering health care and other issues at two daily newspapers in North Carolina.

Mr. Morris received his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master’s in public administration with a concentration in community health from East Carolina University.

Alan Morgan, MPA  
National Rural Health Association

Alan Morgan joined NRHA staff in 2001. Recognized as among the top 100 most influential people in healthcare by Modern Healthcare Magazine, he has more than 27 years of experience in health policy development at the state and federal level.

He previously worked for U.S. Congressman Dick Nichols and former Kansas Gov. Mike Hayden. Alan’s experience also includes tenures with the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and the Heart Rhythm Society, where he established a D.C.-based government affairs office. Prior to joining NRHA, he served as a federal lobbyist for VHA Inc.


Morgan has also served as a contributing author for the publications "Policy & Politics in Nursing and Health Care" and "Rural Populations and Health".
Alan earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Kansas and a master’s degree in public administration from George Mason University.

**Faith Mitchell, PhD**
**Grantmakers In Health**

Faith Mitchell is the President and CEO of Grantmakers In Health (GIH), where she was previously Vice President for Program and Strategy. Prior to joining GIH, Dr. Mitchell was Senior Program Officer at the Institute of Medicine (IOM) where she was responsible for the health disparities portfolio. Dr. Mitchell spent 12 years at the National Academies, both at the IOM and as a Center Director in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Education. She has also held leadership positions at the U.S. Department of State, The San Francisco Foundation, and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Throughout her career, Dr. Mitchell has worked on the application of social science to domestic and international public policy, health policy, and programs. She is a frequent writer on health-related topics and most recently published the articles “New Directions For Foundations In Health Equity,” with Patricia Doykos and Kristina Gray-Akpa, *Innovations in Health Equity and Health Philanthropy*, and *Enabling Effective Health Philanthropy*. Dr. Mitchell holds a doctorate in medical anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Diane M. Hall, PhD, MSEd**
**Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy**
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Diane Hall currently serves as Senior Policy Analyst and Lead Health Scientist in the Policy Research, Analysis, and Development Office (PRADO) in CDC’s Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy (OADPS). In this role, she supervises a team conducting policy analyses, translating science for policy use, and increasing CDC policy analytic capacity. Dr. Hall also coordinates CDC’s rural health working group and serves as the agency’s point of contact for rural work.

Dr. Hall came to CDC in 2007 as a behavioral scientist in NCIPC’s Division of Violence Prevention (DVP). While in DVP she worked on projects focused on prevention of intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, sexual violence, youth violence, and child abuse. She led a program evaluation and translation team and served as project lead on several translation products on *Veto Violence*.

Prior to coming to CDC, Dr. Hall held a faculty appointment at the University of Pennsylvania, where she coordinated a master’s program in psychology. She taught courses in psychology of women, psychological theories, community psychology, adolescent development, and psychology practice.

Dr. Hall completed her PhD in school, community, and child clinical psychology and MSEd in psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. Her clinical and research interests focused on teen dating violence, child sexual abuse, and multicultural issues.
Thursday, May 30th

Session 1: Surgeon General’s Health and Prosperity Initiative

Ursula E. Bauer, PhD, MPH
Office of the Surgeon General
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Ursula E. Bauer, PhD, MPH, is a senior advisor to the U.S. Surgeon General for community health and economic prosperity (CHEP). In that role, she implements partnership strategies to advance multi-sectoral investment in community health to improve individual, community, business and economic prosperity. Prior to joining the Surgeon General’s Office in 2018, she directed the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDHP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In that role, she set the strategic direction for the Center’s coordinated approach to preventing chronic diseases and promoting health across the life span and in key settings, with a focus on the behaviors that put our health most at risk. Prior to joining CDC in 2010, Dr. Bauer held various leadership positions in state health departments in Louisiana, Florida and New York. Dr. Bauer holds a PhD in Epidemiology from Yale University, an MPH in Family Health from Columbia University, and a Master’s degree in Political Science from Rutgers University.

Session 2: Rural Health and Housing – Unconventional Partnerships

Brian Myers
Empire Health Foundation

As Vice President of Programs, Brian leads the design and implementation of the Foundation’s grantmaking portfolios. He began his work at EHF in 2010 as the Foundation was forming its initial strategies as well as its culture of accountability and impact while remaining compassionate, collaborative and equitable. In prior roles he directed the Foundation’s Healthy Aging Program, which is aimed at supporting seniors to remain healthy and independent in their homes or communities of choice as well as the design and implementation of the Foundation’s Capacity Building Program, helping bring over $245 million of outside funding to Eastern Washington and catalyzing partnerships to address social determinants of health. He is constantly inspired to work with regional, state, national and tribal partners to address social determinants of health, improve quality and outcomes while keeping a lens on sustainability, reducing disparities, and ensuring that communities are better through long-term relationships with the Foundation.

Brian currently serves as a board member for Spokane Tribal Network, Potlatch Fund, Grantmakers in Aging, and Spokane Teachers Credit Union. Prior to moving to Spokane, he worked in San Francisco with a nonprofit social enterprise. Brian is also an avid ultra-marathon runner, often competing in mountain trail races of 100 miles and longer.

Pam Tietz
Spokane Housing Authority

Pam Tietz has more than 30 years of experience of leading rural and metropolitan affordable housing agencies. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Spokane Housing Authority, where she leads an agency providing affordable housing in Spokane County and operating one of the largest rental assistance programs in
the country, spanning six counties in Eastern Washington, and two programs statewide. Pam’s previous leadership positions were at Peninsula Housing Authority, Bremerton Housing Authority, and Alaska State Housing Finance Corporation.

Pam also serves as the Chair of Spokane County Continuum of Care for the Homeless, and as a member on the boards of the Spokane Low-Income Housing Consortium, Better Health Together, Priority Spokane, Invest Health Spokane, and the Zone Project. She has served previous terms for many boards, agencies, and task forces, including as President for the Association of Washington Housing Authorities, and Washington State Housing Finance Commission.

Pam holds certifications as an Affordable Housing Development Finance Professional, Public Housing Manager, and Housing Quality Standards Inspector.

**Eileen Fitzgerald, MPA**  
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future

Eileen Fitzgerald is the President and CEO of Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF). In her role as President and CEO, Ms. Fitzgerald works to identify, develop and advocate for key strategic issues of concern to SAHF and its members, create a level playing field for effective, mission oriented nonprofit businesses and amplify SAHF’s impact to create more sustainable properties and communities and improve the lives of residents.

Ms. Fitzgerald has over 25 years of experience in housing and community development. Prior to joining SAHF in 2014, Ms. Fitzgerald served as CEO and COO of NeighborWorks America. During her tenure, NeighborWorks became a leader in responding to foreclosures, initiating the highly successful National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program and partnering to create the National Community Stabilization Trust. She oversaw more than $1.5 billion in grants and emphasized the importance of a balanced housing policy, substantially growing the rental housing portfolio of the NeighborWorks’ organizations.

Previously, Ms. Fitzgerald served at the Fannie Mae Foundation, as the Acting Executive Director and Vice President of Program Operations at the McAuley Institute, and as the Chief Investment Officer for Single Family at the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust. She also served at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Housing Service as the Associate and Acting Administrator.

Ms. Fitzgerald is a graduate of Fordham University in New York and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

**Session 3: Foundations Spotlight**

**Tressie White**  
Montana Healthcare Foundation

As a program director, Tressie leads the Foundation’s work in the American Indian Health focus area and initiatives as well as the Perinatal Behavioral Health Initiative.

Tressie White is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and a descendant of the Rocky Boy Chippewa Cree Tribe. Prior to assuming duties as at the foundation, she served as the Helena Indian Alliance Executive Director where she implemented a wide range of clinical and behavioral health services to the
community. She has also served as the Helena Indian Alliance Assistant Executive Director and Clinical Manager, and the Wakina Sky Multicultural After School Program Director.

Tressie is passionate about the delivery of health care services to Montana’s American Indian population and is dedicated to improving health outcomes and reducing disparities. She has extensive experience developing and managing the outreach strategy for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and HELP Act enrollment services, and she has collaborated closely with relevant providers and agencies within Indian Country to ensure quality health care programs and services are available to all American Indians.

Betsy Sikma, MTS
Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce

Betsy is a Spartanburg, SC boomerang. With more than 15 years of leadership experience, she returned to her hometown in 2017 to join the team at the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Prior to her time at the Chamber, Betsy worked in the Community Development Financial industry serving most recently as Vice President, Strategic Development and Marketing and Innovation Chair for Accion in Chicago, a member of the Accion US Network. In 2014, Betsy was an Emerging Leader in the CDFI Industry’s CitiLeadership Fellowship. She is a 2018 graduate of the Furman University Women’s Leadership Institute. She is an Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives Education and Talent 2018/2019 Fellow. Betsy is a member of the board of trustees at WeVote USA, a member of the GlobalBike board of directors, a member of the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra Board, a member of the Women’s Rights and Empowerment Network board and finance committee. Betsy holds a BA at Furman University, an MTS from Vanderbilt University, and a certificate in non-profit Finance at Kellogg School of Management. She enjoys hiking, singing loudly while driving, sporadic reading, living room dance parties, and photography.

Session 4: National Rural Philanthropy Initiatives and Resources

Katrina E. Badger, MPH, MSW
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Katrina Badger is a program officer with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focusing on efforts to create the community conditions that enable equitable social and economic opportunity for everyone, with a particular focus on low income people and people of color. Katrina has a particular focus on policy, practice and financing solutions that lead to these outcomes in rural places, small towns and small cities. Her prior experience includes with Grant Thornton filling contract positions with the Defense Health Agency; serving in the New Orleans Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Engagement; leading programming at REACH NOLA, a local non-profit in New Orleans; and multiple roles in direct care and service provision in health care-related settings. Katrina earned her MPH and MSW at Tulane University after completing a Fulbright Fellowship in Thailand and a BA at Howard University.

Allen Smart, MPH, MA
PhilanthropywoRx

Allen Smart is a national spokesperson and advocate for improving rural philanthropic practice under his group –PhilanthropywoRx. In addition, he recently completed a role as the Project Director for a national rural philanthropic project partially supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and based at Campbell
Allen is the former Interim President, Vice President of Programs and Director of the Health Care Division at the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. Prior to coming to the Trust in 2006, Allen was the Vice President of Programs at the Rapides Foundation, a healthcare conversion funder, in Alexandria, Louisiana. He has also served as Director of Community Development for a Midwestern Catholic Hospital System and as Grants Administrator for the City of Santa Monica, California.

Allen received his Master of Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago, his Master of Arts in Telecommunication Arts from the University of Michigan and his Bachelors in Arts in Philosophy from Macalester College.

As part of his personal and professional interest in philanthropy, Allen regularly writes for sites such as The Daily Yonder, Inside Philanthropy, Grantcraft and Exponent Philanthropy, as well as presenting to national and regional organizations like Grantmakers in Health, Southeastern Council of Foundations, National Rural Assembly and the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. He is a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Rural Resource Hub at The University of North Dakota; the Culture of Health Prize Selection Committee for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Board of Directors for Healthy Communities by Design and the Board of the North Carolina Healthcare Association Foundation.

Session 5: Early Rural Lessons Learned from the Opioid Epidemic

Karen A. Scott, MD, MPH
Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts

Dr. Karen Scott is an accomplished healthcare leader, with a wide-ranging academic background and experience across the broad spectrum of healthcare as a physician, public health official, national philanthropic leader, hospital executive, professor and senior Health and Human Services (HHS) leader. A central focus throughout her career has been improving healthcare delivery and outcomes, especially for more vulnerable populations.

Dr. Scott currently serves as a principal at Health Management Associates, a national healthcare consulting firm focused on improving publicly funded healthcare through technical assistance, resources, decision support and expertise. Previously, she served as a senior HHS leader in the Obama Administration, where she fostered collaboration within and outside HHS to further national public health goals. Dr. Scott’s hospital administration and teaching experience has focused on delivery system quality improvement and patient safety. In addition, she spent nearly a decade at the Commonwealth Fund, a national healthcare foundation, working on improving healthcare access and quality for underserved populations.

Kim Tieman, MSW
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

Kim Barber Tieman is the Health and Human Service Program Director for the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. Kim has a Master’s Degree in Social Work and is a Licensed Social Worker in West Virginia. She has a background in community development, program development and management, grant writing, grants management, and training.
Kim served as an adjunct faculty member for the West Virginia University School of Social Work Masters of Social Work Program Charleston campus for 18 years, where she taught classes in non-profit management, finance, and social welfare policy. She has more than 30 years of experience working in nonprofit, state government and school settings.

Kim is an active community volunteer. She serves on the boards of the West Virginia Oral Health Coalition (Chair), The Appalachian Funders Network health workgroup, West Virginia VOAD (Vice-Chair), Philanthropy West Virginia Mission Advancement, the Kanawha Council on Philanthropy, The West Virginia Governor’s Substance Use Disorder Policy Task Force, and Workforce West Virginia. Kim is co-chair of the West Virginia Early Childhood Council’s Health Committee. She is the Past-President of the National Association of Social Workers – West Virginia Chapter.

Betty-Ann Bryce, JD  
**Public Health Education and Treatment Unit**  
**Office of National Drug Control Policy**

Betty-Ann Bryce is currently detailed to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to serve as Special Advisor/Rural Lead in the Public Health Education and Treatment Unit. She joined ONDCP from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) where she served as a senior policy advisor in the Rural Development Agency. Prior to joining the U.S. government she served as the Administrator for the Rural and Regional Unit at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), for several years, in Paris, France. In this capacity, she assessed regional and rural government policies in different countries, and contributed to several OECD Publications including: Regions and Cities: Where Policies and People Meet (2014), Linking Renewable Energy to Rural Development (2012), and the Rural Policy Reviews of the Netherlands (2008), Finland (2008) and Scotland, UK (2008). She coordinated and co-authored Innovation and Modernising the Rural Economy (2013), Rural-Urban Partnerships: An Integrated Approach to Economic Development (2013), the Rural Review of England, UK (2011), Strategies to improve Rural Service Delivery (2010), and the Rural Policy Review of Italy (2009). In addition to a Juris Doctorate, she holds a Masters in Economic and Territorial Development from the L’Institut d’Etudes Politique (IEP) de Paris (Sciences-Po) in France, and a Masters in Economic and Political Development from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) in the United States.

Nisha Patel, MA, CHES  
**Federal Office of Rural Health Policy**  
**Health Resources and Services Administration**

Nisha has been with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) for 15 years. She became the Associate Director and Senior Advisor in 2016, where she provides oversight to a wide range of activities including advising Office leadership on the fiscal, legislative, operational, and management activities. She has been leading the opioid efforts for the FORHP over the past two years and has helped to develop and implement a number of rural opioid specific programs that provide resources directly to rural communities. Before that, she was the Community-Based Division Director for 7 years, providing oversight to the division that provides support directly to rural communities. Nisha received her Bachelor’s degree in Health Administration from the University of Central Florida and a Master’s in Health Education and Promotion from the University of Alabama.
Friday, May 31st

Session 6: Engagements in Rural Health with Federal Partners

Stephanie Bertaina, MS  
Office of Community Revitalization  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  

Stephanie Bertaina is a Senior Policy Analyst with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Community Revitalization, where she works with rural communities and small towns to build vibrant, healthy, sustainable neighborhoods and downtowns. Ms. Bertaina manages the Healthy Places for Healthy People program, which helps community leaders partner with health care facilities to create walkable, healthy, and economically vibrant places that improve people’s health and well-being. Stephanie has also managed Local Foods, Local Places, a multi-federal agency initiative that has helped nearly 100 cities and towns leverage the power of local food to support local economies and thriving downtowns. Ms. Bertaina received an M.S. in Environmental Policy and Planning from the University of Michigan and Bachelor degrees from Westmont College.

Chitra Kumar, MCP  
Office of Community Revitalization  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  

Chitra Kumar is the Director of the Federal and State Division of US EPA’s Office of Community Revitalization, managing a team dedicated to supporting locally led, community-driven strategies and visions for community revitalization. In that role, she has created partnerships with federal, state and local organizations to develop environmental strategies for land use and infrastructure, building and community design, and equitable development and community wealth-building, particularly in distressed small towns and urban neighborhoods. Over her 16-year career at EPA, she has developed expertise in public policy and planning, and provided grants and technical assistance directly to states and localities to improve quality of life, community resilience to disasters and economic shifts, and improve water, land and air quality. Chitra also spent 2013-2014 at the White House Council on Environmental Quality as the Deputy Associate Director for Water, where she contributed to high-profile water-related federal policies, including implementation strategies for clean water, water infrastructure finance, green infrastructure, and freshwater climate change resilience. Chitra holds a Master in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts from Boston University.

Betty-Ann Bryce, JD  
Public Health Education and Treatment Unit, Office of National Drug Control Policy & Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture  

See “Session 5: Early Rural Lessons Learned from the Opioid Epidemic” section for bio.

Diane M. Hall, PhD, MSED  
Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  

See “Sponsoring Organization Representatives” section for bio.
Brian Henson (Invited)
Delta Regional Authority

Anne M. Herron, MS (Invited)
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Cara V. James, PhD
Office of Minority Health
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Cara James is the Director of the Office of Minority Health at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Prior to joining the Office of Minority Health at CMS, Dr. James was the Director of the Disparities Policy Project and the Director of the Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, where she was responsible for addressing a broad array of health and access to care issues for racial and ethnic minorities and other underserved populations, including the potential impact of the Affordable Care Act, analyses of state-level disparities in health and access to care, and disparities in access to care among individuals living in health professional shortage areas. Prior to joining the staff at Kaiser, she worked at Harvard University and The Picker Institute.

Dr. James has served as a member of the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities and several other IOM committees including the Committee on Leading Health Indicators for Healthy People 2020. She has published several peer-reviewed articles and other publications, and was a co-author for one of the background chapters for the IOM Report Unequal Treatment. Cara received her Ph.D. in Health Policy and her A.B. in Psychology from Harvard University.

Darci L Graves, MPH, MA, MA
Office of Minority Health
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Darci L. Graves serves as Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Minority Health at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. In this role, she assists in the coordination and implementation of priority office-wide programs, policies, and products. In addition, she provides subject matter expertise in areas such as culturally and linguistically appropriate services, cancer, health disparities, and health equity.

Ms. Graves holds graduate degrees in Communications, Religion and Sociology, and Public Policy and has nearly 20 years of professional and academic experience in the fields of cultural and linguistic competence and health education. Darci began her career as a faculty member at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine, where she aided in the development, implementation, and management of diversity, spirituality, communications, and geriatrics curricula. Since then she has continued to write and work in the area of cultural and linguistic competency as it relates to topics including public safety, disaster preparedness and response, language access, and domestic violence.
Dawn Morales  
National Institutes of Mental Health  
National Institutes of Health  

Tom Klobucar, PhD (Invited)  
Office of Rural Health  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  

Michael G. Kurilla, MD, PhD  
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences  
National Institutes of Health  

Michael Kurilla is the director of the Division of Clinical Innovation at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). In this capacity, he oversees the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program, which supports innovative solutions to advance the efficiency, quality and impact of translational science, with the ultimate goal of getting more treatments to more patients more quickly. Prior to joining NCATS, Kurilla served as the director of the Office of Biodefense Research Resources and Translational Research within the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), where he focused on translational efforts toward infectious disease product development, including vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, with emphasis on biodefense and emerging infectious disease threats. Prior to joining NIAID in 2003, Kurilla was an associate director for infectious diseases at Wyeth. He also worked in antimicrobials at DuPont and on clinical microbiology and molecular pathology at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center.

Kurilla received his M.D. and his Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from Duke University. He was a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard Medical School and completed a residency in pathology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He received a B.S. in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology.

Tony Punturieri, MD, PhD  
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute  
National Institutes of Health  

Antonello (Tony) Punturieri, MD, PhD, is a Health Science Administrator in the Division of Lung Diseases (DLD)/NHLBI/NIH. Tony participates in the development of programs that aim at the pathophysiological understanding, prevention, and design of therapeutic avenues for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). In this capacity, Tony administers a varied portfolio of grants, covering basic research to clinical research networks and contracts in the area of COPD and environment.

Eric Stockton  
Appalachian Regional Commission  

Eric Stockton is the Health Program Manager for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a federal-state partnership that works for sustainable community and economic development in Appalachia. ARC’s health programs include documentation of the Region’s health disparities and their economic impacts; strategic grant making for government agencies and non-profit organizations; and the deployment of multi-sector public health partnerships that support Appalachia’s economic growth and stability. Mr. Stockton’s activities include
management of a large grant portfolio; implementation of long-term regional interventions in diabetes, substance abuse, and cancer; and engagement with the Appalachian Health Policy Advisory Council.

Mr. Stockton received a BA in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987. His background includes extensive work in leadership and capacity building for small communities, environmental infrastructure, and partnership initiatives in public health. He has been with ARC since 1996 and lives with his family in Washington, DC.

P. Benjamin Smith, MBA, MA (Invited)
Indian Health Service
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Sallie J. Weaver, PhD, MHS
National Cancer Institute
National Institutes of Health

Sallie J. Weaver, PhD, MHS is an Industrial-Organizational Psychologist and program director in the Health Systems and Interventions Research Branch (HSIRB) of the Healthcare Delivery Research Program at the National Cancer Institute. She is working with the NCI Healthcare Teams Initiative that aims to improve the outcomes and experiences of people facing cancer through research examining teaming in cancer care and translation of evidence-based team performance interventions into practice.

Dr. Weaver’s interests and research focus on organizational factors that influence team performance, and interventions designed to optimize patient safety, care quality, and coordination. She concentrates specifically on safety climate, team and multi-team system performance, and leadership. She has extensive experience in both survey and quasi-experimental research methods, applying them to examine team and organizational performance outcomes and implementation strategies in acute and primary care settings both in the U.S. and internationally. Prior to joining NCI in October 2016, Sallie was an Associate Professor in Dept. of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, with appointments in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Cary School of Business, and School of Nursing. She was also core faculty in the Johns Hopkins Medicine Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality.

Dr. Weaver earned her MS and PhD in Psychology from the University of Central Florida and her post-doctoral MHS in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Michael Warren, MD, MPH, FAAP
Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Health Resources and Services Administration

Dr. Michael Warren became Associate Administrator of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration, on October 15, 2018. MCHB’s mission is to improve the health of America’s mothers, children and families. Its Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program provides health care and public health services for an estimated 56 million people, including pregnant women, infants, children, including children with special health care needs,
and their families in the United States: 86% of all pregnant women, 99% of infants, and 55% of children nationwide benefitted from a Title V-supported service.

Dr. Warren manages MCHB’s $1.33 billion budget, providing vision and direction to ensure programs are planned and carried out effectively to achieve results. Dr. Warren’s impressive career in public health clearly demonstrates his passion and commitment to improving maternal and child health outcomes.

Before assuming his current role as MCHB’s Associate Administrator, Dr. Warren served as the Deputy Commissioner for Population Health at the Tennessee Department of Health. In this role, he made improvements in maternal and child health across the state in the areas of safe sleep policies, breast feeding rates, decreased early elective deliveries, newborn screening transit times, electronic systems for WIC and vital records registration, and establishing the first-ever real-time public health surveillance system for neonatal abstinence syndrome.

As a board-certified pediatrician, Dr. Warren previously served as the Tennessee Department of Health’s Deputy Commissioner for Family Health and Wellness and as the Director of Maternal and Child Health. Prior to joining the Department of Health, he served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Vanderbilt and as Medical Director in the Governor’s Office of Children’s Care Coordination.

Dr. Warren graduated Summa Cum Laude with Honors in Psychology from Wake Forest University and earned his medical degree from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, where he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He completed his pediatrics residency, Chief Residency, and fellowship in Academic General Pediatrics at Vanderbilt, where he also obtained a Master’s in Public Health. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Warren has served as President for the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP), the national professional organization for maternal and child health professionals. He was also appointed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (SACIM).

Laura Kavanagh, MPP
Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Health Resources and Services Administration

Laura Kavanagh, MPP, is the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration. MCHB’s mission is to improve the health of America’s mothers, children, and families. Its Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program provides health care and public health services for an estimated 56 million people, including pregnant women, infants, children, including children with special health care needs, and their families in the United States: 86% of all pregnant women, 99% of infants, and 55% of children nationwide benefitted from a Title V-supported service.

Kavanagh has served as the Deputy Associate Administrator since April 2015, with a focus on improving the transparency, accountability, and evidence base of MCHB’s programs and initiatives. Her 30-year career in government and academia demonstrates a clear commitment to improving maternal and child health, with emphases on teaching, mentoring the next generation of MCH professionals, and advancing a diverse array of programs for underserved communities.
Before recently re-assuming her current role as MCHB’s Deputy Associate Administrator, Kavanagh served as the Acting Associate Administrator of MCHB from October 2017 through October 2018, where she oversaw MCHB’s $1.33 billion budget, providing strategic vision and ensuring that programs were designed and implemented to achieve sustainable results. Previously, Kavanagh also held multiple leadership positions across the bureau. She led the MCHB Division of MCH Workforce Development; the MCHB Division of Research, Training and Education; and the MCHB Autism Initiative, a cross-division program that included research and training.

Prior to her tenure at MCHB, Kavanagh conducted health policy research at Georgetown University’s National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health for 14 years and taught in the graduate public policy program. Research areas include evaluation of the national MCH training program, development of MCH performance measures, effectiveness of outreach strategies for access to children’s health services, and evaluation of the Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children program.

Recognitions include the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics Dale Richmond/Justin Coleman Lectureship Award, the National Public Health Leadership Institute fellowship, and the American Public Health Association’s Maternal and Child Health Young Professional Award. Kavanagh earned a Master of Public Policy degree with an emphasis on health policy analysis from Georgetown University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Virginia. She enjoys spending time with her husband and two adult children.

Session 7: 2020 Aligned Funding Initiative

Tom Morris, MPA
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
Health Resources and Services Administration

See “Sponsoring Organization Representatives” section for bio.

Kathryn Umali, MPH
Community-Based Division, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
Health Resources and Services Administration

Session 8: Sustainable Investments and the Role of CDFIs

Donna Fabiani, MPA
Opportunity Finance Network

Donna joined OFN in 2007 and leads OFN’s Peer Learning and Research lines of business. Donna organizes the annual OFN Conference, the premier training event in the CDFI industry, and the annual OFN Small Business Finance Forum. Donna leads OFN’s data collection and research activities, and is responsible for producing OFN’s signature annual publication Opportunity Finance Institutions Side by Side as well as a variety of research reports. Before joining OFN, Donna spent eight years with the CDFI Fund managing research, leading the development of the CDFI Fund’s data collection initiative, and underwriting CDFIs. Prior to her role with the CDFI Fund, Donna started and managed FINCA USA, a microenterprise CDFI. Donna holds a B.A. from Colby College.
and a Master in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Jennifer Giovannitti, AICP, CEcD
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

Jen Giovannitti is the President and a Trustee of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, a private family foundation founded in 1944, which serves southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Ms. Giovannitti led strategic programs and community-based initiatives for seven years at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, most notably in community investment, human capital, regional collaboration, and capital access. She emphasized the role of data-driven decision-making in regional projects. She formed the West Virginia Loan Fund Collaborative in 2012 to better understand the impact of small business lending in underserved communities. She has authored a variety of reports, publications, and opinion essays, and has applied her expertise broadly in rural development strategies.

Ms. Giovannitti lived West Virginia for 11 years, first serving as the director of the Elkins rail yard redevelopment project, then serving as chief executive of the Randolph County Economic Development Authority and West Virginia Wood Technology Center. The successful redevelopment of the Elkins (WV) Rail Yard preserved historic structures, reconstructed a historic bridge, and added tourism infrastructure and public amenities. The project was a model for rural communities redeveloping brownfield sites. In her role leading the county’s economic development agency, she was committed to advancing workforce development and supporting the many businesses and local manufacturing operations in the region.

Ms. Giovannitti describes herself as “passionate about community development, innovation and the power of people.” She is a member of the steering committees for West Virginia Forward, a statewide initiative to advance the state’s economy, and the Appalachian Funders Network. Throughout her career she has held leadership positions at the local, state, and regional level with nonprofits, universities, state trade associations, and government planning bodies. Early in her career, she also worked with municipalities in western Pennsylvania in positions with the engineering firms of Mackin Engineering Company and Herbert, Rowland, and Grubic, Inc.

Ms. Giovannitti obtained her MA in Community and Regional Planning from the University of British Columbia, and her BA in Planning and Urban Studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 1993. She was an international research fellow in 1995-1996 through the University of British Columbia Centre for Human Settlements, where she led a research project in Vietnam designed around the role of women in the household economy and poverty alleviation in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Her research was later published through the Asian Urban Research Network. She lives in Pittsburgh with her husband and three children.