

Virtual Meeting | Thursday, June 4, 2020  
Speaker Biographies

**Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

**Tom Morris, MPA**

*Associate Administrator*

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy



Tom Morris serves as the Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In that role, Tom oversees the work of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, which is charged with advising the HHS Secretary on rural health issues. Over the course of his Federal career, Tom has testified on rural health issues before the House and Senate. He has past work experience in the U.S. Senate as well as various policy and program positions within HRSA and HHS. A 1996 Presidential Management Intern, Tom came to government after a career as a newspaper reporter and editor. In 2012, Tom was the recipient of the HHS Distinguished Service Award and in 2015 he

was awarded a Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service. He has an undergraduate 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. He also earned a Certificate in Public Leadership from the Brookings Institution in 2008.

**Alan Morgan, MPA**

*Chief Executive Officer*

National Rural Health Association



Alan Morgan serves as Chief Executive Officer for the National Rural Health Association. He has more than 22 years of experience in health policy development at the state and federal level. He served as staff for former US Congressman Dick Nichols and former Kansas Governor Mike Hayden. Additionally, his experience includes tenures with the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and with the Heart Rhythm Society where he established a Washington, DC based government affairs office. Prior to joining NRHA, he served as a federal lobbyist for VHA Inc. Mr. Morgan's health policy articles have been published in: *The Journal of Rural Health*, *The Journal of Cardiovascular Management*, *The Journal of Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology*, *Cardiac Electrophysiology Review*, and in *Laboratory Medicine*. He also served as a co-author for the 6th edition of "Policy & Politics

in Nursing and Health Care." He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from University of Kansas, and a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University. In 2011, he was selected by readers of *Modern Healthcare Magazine* as being among the top 100 most influential people in healthcare.

**Cara James, PhD** (Tentative)  
*President and CEO*  
Grantmakers In Health



Cara James is the president and CEO of Grantmakers in Health (GIH), a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to helping foundations and corporate giving programs improve the health of all people. Dr. James is a nationally recognized expert and thought leader in health equity and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations. In her new role, she will lead GIH's national network comprised of roughly 230 foundations and corporate giving programs, representing 38 states and the District of Columbia. In her previous role as Director of the Office of Minority Health at CMS, she provided leadership to advance U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and CMS goals related to improving minority health and eliminating health disparities. Under her guidance, CMS developed its first CMS Equity Plan to Improve Quality in Medicare, its first Rural Health Strategy. Prior to

joining CMS, Dr. James served as Director of the Disparities Policy Project and Director of the Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Dr. James is a past member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's (NASEM) (formerly the Institute of Medicine or IOM) Health and Medicine Division's Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities.

**Diane M. Hall, Ph.D., MEd.**  
*Senior Scientist for Policy and Strategy, Rural Coordinator*  
Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Dr. Diane Hall is a senior scientist for policy and strategy in the Policy Research, Analysis, and Development Office (PRADO) in CDC's Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy (OADPS). She leads the office's work on translating science for policy use, policy research and analyses, and developing policy-relevant trainings. Diane also serves as CDC's coordinator and point of contact for rural health work. Diane led the development of the office's policy portal, POLARIS (Policy Analysis and Research Information System). Previously, Diane held several positions in CDC's Division of Violence Prevention, where she worked on research related to the prevention of teen dating violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and youth violence. She also served as lead of several translation products on Veto Violence. Diane earned her B.A. in Psychology from Hollins College and earned her MEd in psychological services and her PhD in school, community, and child clinical psychology from the University of Pennsylvania.

## Rural Health and Policy

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### **Mitchell Krebs**

*Director, Rural Healthcare Program*  
Helmsley Charitable Trust



Mitchell Krebs is the Program Director of Helmsley’s Rural Healthcare Program which seeks to improve access to and quality of care in the upper Midwest. Prior to joining Helmsley, Mitchell was principal for Herd Wisdom LLC, a public affairs and advocacy firm he founded. He also served as Assistant Vice President of Media and Community Relations at Avera McKennan Hospital; as Press Secretary for South Dakota Governor, Mike Rounds; and as Public Policy Director at POET. Before shifting careers to public service and advocacy, Mitchell had a fifteen-year career as a broadcast journalist, holding posts as reporter, lead anchor and news director for network television affiliated stations. He continues his love of writing today. As a staunch advocate for community service, Mitchell has spent countless hours volunteering for numerous causes, organizations and church groups. When he’s not working, Mitchell also enjoys

playing saxophone with several area rock bands as well as spending time at his “hobby ranch” in rural South Dakota where he lives with his wife, Shantel.

### **Alan Weil**

*Editor-in-Chief*  
Health Affairs



Alan Weil became the Editor-in-Chief of Health Affairs on June 1, 2014. A multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the serious exploration of domestic and international health policy and system change, Health Affairs is the nation's leading journal at the intersection of health, health care, and policy. For the previous decade he was the executive director of the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), an independent, non-partisan, non-profit research and policy organization. Previously, he directed the Urban Institute's Assessing the New Federalism project, one of the largest privately funded social policy research projects ever undertaken in the United States; held a cabinet position as executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing; and was assistant general counsel in the Massachusetts Department of Medical Security. Mr. Weil is a frequent speaker on national and state health

policy, Medicaid, federalism, and implementation of the Affordable Care Act. He is the co-editor of two books, publishes regularly in peer-reviewed journals, has testified before Congress more than half-a-dozen times, and is called upon by major media outlets for his knowledge and analysis. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and served for six years on the NAM (and its predecessor, the Institute of Medicine) Board on Health Care Services. In 2016 the U.S. Comptroller General appointed Weil to a three-year term on the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC). He is a Trustee of the Consumer Health Foundation in Washington, DC. He is the director of the Aspen Institute's Health Strategy Group. He served for twelve years on the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, and for ten years on the Board of Directors of the Essential Hospitals Institute (and its predecessor, the National Public Health & Hospitals

Institute). He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley, a master's degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**Marilyn Serafini** – Moderator  
*Director, Health Project*  
Bipartisan Policy Center



Marilyn Werber Serafini is the director of the health policy project at the Bipartisan Policy Center. She is also an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to joining BPC, Serafini held the position of executive director for the nonprofit organization Heart Valve Voice US, which advocates on behalf of patients with heart valve disease. Prior to that, Serafini was president and co-CEO for the Alliance for Health Policy, a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping policy makers understand the foundations of health policy, the roots of the nation's health care issues, and the trade-offs posed by proposals for change. Serafini was an award-winning journalist for more than 20 years, writing in-depth articles about health care, welfare, international trade, taxes and budget policy in Washington for various news outlets. She was the Robin Toner Distinguished Fellow and senior correspondent at Kaiser Health News, the health care and welfare correspondent for *National Journal*, and a senior reporter for *CongressDaily* (now *National Journal Daily*). She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and a Master of Arts degree in journalism and public affairs from American University.

## **Rural Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities for Funders**

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**Diane M. Hall, Ph.D., MEd.**  
*Senior Scientist for Policy and Strategy, Rural Coordinator*  
Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Dr. Diane Hall is a senior scientist for policy and strategy in the Policy Research, Analysis, and Development Office (PRADO) in CDC's Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy (OADPS). She leads the office's work on translating science for policy use, policy research and analyses, and developing policy-relevant trainings. Diane also serves as CDC's coordinator and point of contact for rural health work. Diane led the development of the office's policy portal, POLARIS (Policy Analysis and Research Information System). Previously, Diane held several positions in CDC's Division of Violence Prevention, where she worked on research related to the prevention of teen dating violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and youth violence. She also served as lead of several translation products on Veto Violence. Diane earned her B.A. in Psychology from Hollins College and earned her MEd in psychological services and her PhD in school, community, and child clinical psychology from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Judy Monroe, MD**  
*President and CEO*  
CDC Foundation



Dr. Judith Monroe, president and CEO of the CDC Foundation, has dedicated her career to protecting people and saving lives. She joined the CDC Foundation in February 2016 as president and CEO, following her role as a deputy director of CDC and director of CDC's Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support. In her work at the CDC Foundation, Dr. Monroe advances priority programs that improve the health of people around the world and prepare other nations to better prevent, detect and respond to dangerous health threats, including the current COVID-19 pandemic. During her tenure as the state health commissioner for Indiana she served as president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials through the H1N1 pandemic. Dr. Monroe currently serves on the board of directors for the Center for Global Health Innovation and for the Georgia Global Health Alliance, and is a member of the Milken Institute's Public Health

Advisory Board. Additionally, she serves as a member of the World Health Organization Foundation's Advisory group, as well as many national advisory committees and boards.

**Brian Myers**  
*Chief Strategy Officer*  
Interim VP of Impact  
Dogwood Health Trust



Brian Myers 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 \$260 million in outside funding to Eastern Washington and catalyzing partnerships to address social determinants of health. He is constantly working 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. Mr. Myers currently serves as a board member for the Spokane Teachers Credit Union, Spokane Tribal Network, Potlatch Fund and Grantmakers in Aging.

**Aaron Wernham, MD, MS**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
Montana Healthcare Foundation



Dr. Aaron Wernham is a family physician and chief executive officer of the Montana Healthcare Foundation, where brings experience in both public health and medical practice to the job of providing strategic direction for the Foundation. In this position, he works with the MHCF Board of Trustees to develop and implement the Foundation’s strategic priorities, programming, and partnerships. Over more than a decade in clinical practice, Aaron worked in underserved communities in urban California and rural Alaska, where he also served as a policy advisor for Alaska Native tribes. In his work on health policy at the national level, Aaron developed and led the Health Impact Project, a major national initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; he has served on several National Academy of Sciences committees, and authored a number of peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and public health reports. Aaron received

his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco.