



# 11th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities

*National Dialogue for Building Healthy Communities*

LOEWS PHILADELPHIA HOTEL

MAY 16-19, 2018

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Hashtag #NCHD18



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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

**GREETINGS:**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to Philadelphia for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual National Conference on Health Disparities.

There is no greater responsibility than ensuring the well-being of our fellow citizens; however, this mission cannot be achieved by government alone. This conference allows for professionals from many different backgrounds to come together to address major public health issues and health disparities that affect our nation. From climate change and human trafficking to gun violence and the opioid crisis, this conference will help those dedicated individuals who are here today close gaps in care and combat health issues that citizens struggle with every day. It is my hope that this conference's example of passion and innovation will inspire others, and I am certain that those in attendance will continue to make a difference for years to come.

As Governor, and on behalf of all citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am delighted to welcome everyone to the National Conference on Health Disparities. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.



*Tom Wolf*  
TOM WOLF  
Governor  
May 16, 2018



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

May 16, 2018

Dr. David Rivers, Chair  
National Conference on Health Disparities  
Associate Professor, Director,  
Public Information and Community Outreach  
Medical University of South Carolina  
171 Ashley Avenue  
Suite 305  
Charleston, SC 29425

Dear Dr. Rivers:

On behalf of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District of Pennsylvania, it is with great privilege that I welcome the National Conference on Health Disparities (NCHD) to the city of Philadelphia!

For 11 years, your organization continues to present the most current information on the social and environmental determinants of health, income, educational attainment, access to healthcare, housing and air and water quality. Topics such as sex trafficking, gun violence, the opioid epidemic and the impacts of climate change on health are essential discussions our communities need to have in order to gain a stronger understanding of the importance of environmental stressors, which often prevent communities from flourishing.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Health Disparities, seeks to have a “national dialogue for building healthy communities”, I can think of no place more appropriate than the city of brotherly love and sisterly affection to host such an important and necessary discussion. We are grateful to have your conference in the city of Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress





# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
215 City Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 686-2181  
FAX (215) 686-2180

JAMES F. KENNEY  
Mayor

May 16, 2018.

Dear Friends,

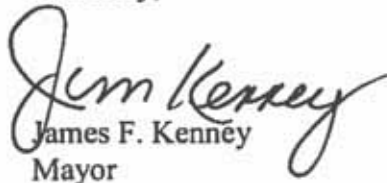
As Mayor of Philadelphia, I am pleased to welcome you to our city for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Health Disparities (NCHD).

This year's conference will provide a platform to have an open dialogue on important issues affecting not only the City of Philadelphia, but communities nationwide. NCHD attendees will receive up-to-date information and learn about possible strategies to address issues such as income disparities, healthcare, housing and the opioid epidemic—an issue that has greatly impacted our city. In order to address the health issues greatly affecting our most vulnerable populations, we must have discussions and work together to make our city, our country and the world a better place for all.

I commend each and every one of you for your commitment to this important work. Please accept my best wishes for a successful conference. During your stay, I hope you will take the opportunity to enjoy the historical and cultural attractions that make Philadelphia such a desirable place to visit.

On behalf of the City of Philadelphia, we look forward to hosting you.

Sincerely,

  
James F. Kenney  
Mayor



Paul A. Tufano  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

200 Stevens Drive  
Philadelphia, PA 19113-1570  
215-937-8400

May 17, 2018

Dear Attendee:

Welcome to Philadelphia, the headquarters of AmeriHealth Caritas. We're excited to be your host during the 11th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities.

Our roots in Philadelphia are deep. Our mission was shaped by our work helping the city's vulnerable populations get care — work that takes a lot of heart and a strong sense of mission. It makes us distinct in the health care space, and gives us a well-informed perspective on the disparities that exist when it comes to accessing quality health care.

At this time, no one person or organization holds the answer to our country's health inequities. But the conference is designed for us to collectively address the issues that persist in health care and inspire us to approach them in novel ways, drawing on our diverse backgrounds, experiences and points of view.

We have many of members of our team at the conference and I encourage you to meet them at our booth. And if you're interested in joining our ranks, make it a point to learn about the opportunities that we have to offer. We look forward to your engagement.

Sincerely,

PAUL A. TUFANO

1901 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1480



May 17, 2018

## Welcome!

It is an honor to host the **11th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities** (NCHD) in our hometown.

As you will see during your visit, Philadelphia marries unparalleled historical relevance to modern culture and ideas.

However, this is also a city where health inequity keeps too many citizens from living the productive, healthy lives they deserve. So we are grateful that the NCHD's community of experts and passionate advocates are here, and we look forward seeing the innovative ideas that come out of this conference.

The mission of **Independence Blue Cross** is to enhance the health and well-being of the people and communities we serve. We do that by helping 2.5 million people in this region access care. And we partner with grassroots leaders through the Independence Blue Cross Foundation to lead solutions for a healthy community, including more than 40 non-profit, private health centers in medically underserved areas in southeastern Pennsylvania.

We are proud to sponsor NCHD in 2018, and we welcome you to Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel J. Hilferty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "D" and "H".

Daniel J. Hilferty  
President and CEO



Office of the President  
Colcock Hall  
179 Ashley Avenue  
MSC 001  
Charleston, SC 29425-0010  
Office 843 792 2211  
muscd.edu

March 27, 2018

Dear Friends:

It is my great pleasure to join in welcoming you to the eleventh annual Conference on Health Disparities. It has been an honor and privilege for the Medical University of South Carolina to demonstrate our commitment to build healthier communities through our co-sponsorship of this conference over the last decade. We are enthusiastic to partner in sponsoring this year's event, once again, as we recognize the importance of changing what's possible through community engagement, diverse dialogue and partnerships.

Even in the healthiest communities, age-old disparities persist and take a toll on the quality of life and economic resources. This conference will focus on policies, research interventions, and programs that address prevention, social determinants, and personal responsibility in reducing health disparities and promoting health equity. Conference presenters and participants will discuss solutions, review "programs that work," and recommend policies to strengthen and enhance the current health care system through diverse, multi-disciplinary partnerships and perspectives.

Similar to previous years, the 2018 conference offers participants the chance to interact in a variety of settings, including a student forum with poster presentations, panel sessions on specific topics, keynote and luncheon speakers, and more relaxed social activities.

We are pleased that you have chosen to join us at this year's conference and look forward to the three rewarding days of participation. Thank you for coming and for sharing your expertise and excitement with us.

Have a great conference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Cole MD", written in a cursive style.

David J. Cole, M.D. FACS  
President, Medical University of South Carolina



April 2, 2018

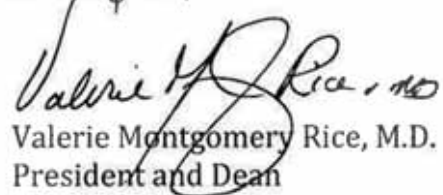
Dear Attendees,

Your presence at the Eleventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities is invaluable. We know that each of us must answer the call to go forth and serve in a way that ultimately creates parity in health in this country and beyond. The list of crippling health disparities that affect communities of color is extensive and well-known. After decades of research, that fact is clear. Today, therefore, is the time for bold action and consensus that brings together scientists, clinicians, lawmakers, philanthropists, clergy, and more to find solutions to this critical issue.

So, your charge during this conference is to listen, learn, share, collaborate and then, ultimately, act. You are among colleagues and friends who have committed much of their professional lives to this cause. I challenge you to get to know a new participant of this conference to mentor and help understand the critical intersection of science, patient care and health policy. It is within that intersection where we will begin to find the answers to health equity.

On behalf of the extraordinary faculty, students, staff and alumni of Morehouse School of Medicine, I welcome you to this conference, and I thank all those who have worked tirelessly to host it. It is my hope that each of you receives precisely what you need from the conference to propel you to act.

Best regards,



Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D.  
President and Dean

720 Westview Drive SW  
Atlanta, GA 30310-1495

Telephone: 404-752-1740  
Fax: 404-756-8974  
[www.msm.edu](http://www.msm.edu)

April 18, 2018

Welcome to Philadelphia!

It's an exciting and historical city, and in fact a city at the crossroads of how we as a nation tackle health disparities.

It's an honor for our city to host the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National Health Disparities Conference, and I'm honored that Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health are part of your deliberations.

Philadelphia hosts an impressive collection of universities and hospitals, all doing great work. And yet, our city remains one of the worst in terms of the gap in longevity between zip codes. We know it. We have many dedicated individuals working on it. But we haven't solved it. Our city's history is written on this nation's earliest buildings, and it's written on its closed factories and its neighborhoods caught in deep poverty.

To me, this means our impressive institutions cannot yet be called "great." We will be "great" when anyone's health is more dependent on their genetic code than on their zip code.

And so we welcome you to Philadelphia. Enjoy the city. Enjoy collaborating with people who care as you do about equity in health.

I look forward to talking with you.



Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA  
President and CEO  
Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health



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Stephanie F. Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D.  
Interim Chancellor

May 16, 2018

Dear Attendees of the 11th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities,

As interim chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), it is my pleasure to bring you greetings on behalf of our institution.

UAMS is Arkansas' only comprehensive academic health sciences center. As such, its role is to provide leadership in building healthy communities statewide. Our university is among Arkansas' largest public employers with faculty and staff working on the main campus in Little Rock, a regional campus in Fayetteville and centers across the state. UAMS educates the majority of physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals in Arkansas.

We serve a mostly rural state that consistently ranks among the worst in the nation in many health indicators and faces large health disparities — especially for chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity and cancer. We confront these challenges through many clinical, academic and research activities.

In our College of Public Health, the Center for Health Disparities develops and implements strategies to improve access to prevention and care. Its work includes projects to increase the number of under-represented minority students in the health sciences, to foster community partnerships that can target issues like helping pregnant women who are homeless or housing insecure, and seeking to reduce tobacco smoke exposure among children and caregivers living in the Arkansas Delta.

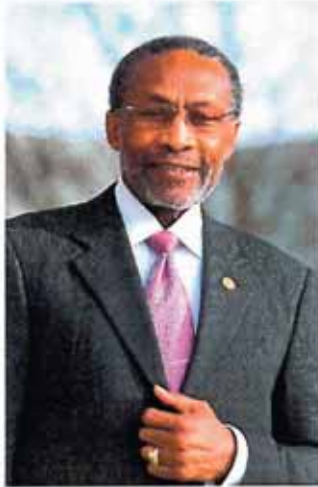
Our Office of Interprofessional Education understands the importance of graduating health professionals versed in multi-disciplinary care and the social determinants of health. In our student-led 12th Street Health and Wellness Center in Little Rock, students provide preventative care and health screenings to the uninsured and those in need. At the North Street Clinic on our Fayetteville campus, students focus on helping the region's large Marshallese-Pacific Islander population — a population that experiences a disproportionately high incidence of diabetes. Thus, Fayetteville is home to our interprofessional Center for Pacific Islander Health. Community engagement, education and clinical programs targeting health disparities can be found in our Center for Distance Health, Center for Diversity Affairs, and UAMS Regional Programs.

The roots of health disparities in our state and nation are complex. It will take commitment, collaborations, and clever solutions to affect real and lasting change. We believe it is possible and that gatherings such as this lead the way. UAMS is proud to be a part of this conference and we thank you for your partnership as we work together to improve health and health care.

Sincerely,

Stephanie F. Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D.  
Interim Chancellor  
Senior Vice Chancellor & Provost





May 16, 2018

Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Health Disparities. Allen University is honored to once again participate as a host institution and sponsor for this valuable and informative event.

A warm thank you to the sponsors and presenters who have seized this opportunity to participate in this *National Dialogue for Building Healthy Communities*. This year's theme highlights the importance of networking to gain a greater understanding of how various determinants and challenges impact human health and access to health care; but it also denotes opportunities to champion and make strides for better health care in the communities.

We wish you all the best for a successful conference, and trust that you will find it enjoyable and most enriching.

Sincerely,

Ernest McNealey, Ph.D.  
President & CEO



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## *Letter from the Chairman*



### **Dr. David E. Rivers, Chair**

*Professor and Public Information  
and Community Outreach Director  
Academic Affairs Faculty  
Medical University of South Carolina*

### **Welcome to Philadelphia for the 11th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities (NCHD).**

Over the next four days, we will hear innovative thoughts, perspectives and strategies on one of America's foremost health issues. Health disparities -- the difference in health status and outcomes based on race and economic standing -- impact all Americans. Disparities affect healthcare costs, workplace productivity, local and national economies, educational attainment and overall quality of life. Moreover, differences in the incidence and outcomes of disease based solely on societal metrics should not be acceptable in a nation that takes pride in the equal opportunity it offers to all of its citizens.

With so much at stake, we must reduce and eliminate disparities.

Toward this end, we have identified core principles for action. First among these, as originally expressed by U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn in 2003, is that, "We must recognize the unique relationship between the quality of our environment, the health of our citizens and the economic well-being of our nation. We must find ways to reconcile decreasing resources with increasing demand. Moreover, we must do these things with equal regard for all citizens, regardless of race and economic status."

In short, healthy communities build on the relationship between human health, environmental quality, Environmental Justice and economic development. We will not have healthy people in the absence of healthy communities.

With this in mind, and guided by current events and the lessons of previous conferences, the NCHD Advisory Board identified topics, moderators, panelists and speakers for this year's conference. The resulting Agenda advances ongoing, "big picture" topics from previous conference while recognizing and addressing current events.





Among topics drawn from recent headlines are: gun violence as a major public health issue, the opioid crisis in America, and the wide-ranging impacts of climate change and catastrophic weather events on communities nationwide.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 115 Americans die each day from opioid overdoses. The death rate from opioid overdose is soaring (five times higher in 2016 than in 1999). At the same time, the CDC published data reporting 38,658 gun deaths nationwide in 2016. In recent months, the mass-shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, and the shooting death of Stephon Clark in Sacramento, CA, illustrate the issues at hand, while prompting massive public demonstrations and calls for action.

Meanwhile, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that, in 2017, the United States experienced 16 weather events with damages exceeding \$1 billion apiece. The cumulative impact of weather events exceeded \$300 billion, a new annual record. More importantly, hundreds of Americans lost their lives in hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires, and many are still suffering in those areas of Puerto Rico where power has not yet been restored. Indeed, our nation's most vulnerable communities and populations are least able to recover from catastrophic weather events.

While current events drive elements of the Agenda, the broader context of previous conferences remains. Conference planners and participants have identified three overriding themes in health disparities. These are: 1) The role played by the social determinants of health, including poverty, race, environmental quality, housing, educational attainment and public safety; 2) Personal responsibility, including each person's choices pertaining to individual and community health; and 3) Prevention, addressed by proactive programs that improve individual and community health while decreasing the cost in lives and dollars of developing and sustaining healthy communities.

As always, creating, presenting, reporting on and maintaining an ongoing program, such as the National Conference on Health Disparities, is a year-round effort that requires both the visible and behind-the-scenes efforts many people. I would be remiss if I did not recognize our program's Sponsors and Supporters, Moderators and Presenters, Keynote and Luncheon Speakers, and Advisory Board – all of whom recognize the relevance and impact of their efforts.

I encourage you to take the lessons learned here home and, once there, assume a greater role in efforts to reduce health disparities at the local, state and national levels.





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at a Time.

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## ***2018 NCHD Exhibitors***

**PLEASE TAKE TIME TO VISIT OUR EXHIBITOR ALLEY.**

**AmeriHealth Caritas**

**Allen University**

**Black Women's Health Alliance**

**California State University ~ Monterey Bay**

**Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids**

**Drexel University**

**Jefferson Health/Thomas Jefferson University**

**National Center for Integrated Behavioral Health**

**National Library of Medicine (NLM)**

**National Urban Fellows**

**NLM-Novak Birch**

**Sayre Health Center**

**University of Pennsylvania (Penn Med)**

# Thank You





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## ELEVENTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

# *Advisory Board*

### **Dr. David E. Rivers, NCHD Chairman**

Professor and Public Information and Community Outreach  
Director  
Academic Affairs Faculty  
Medical University of South Carolina

### **Dr. Latecia M. Abraham-Hilaire**

Assistant Professor, Public Information and Community  
Outreach  
Academic Affairs Faculty  
Medical University of South Carolina

### **Dr. Kent D.W. Bream**

Harnwell College House, Guatemala Health Initiative, Latin  
America Global Health Program, Center for Global Health  
Center for Public Health Initiatives, Family Medicine and  
Community Health  
University of Pennsylvania  
National Center for Integrated Behavioral Health

### **Dr. Shari Chavez**

Co-Chair of Kaiser Permanente, Riverside  
Assistant Chief of Service, Department of Pediatrics  
Kaiser Permanente - One Riverside

### **Dr. Donna Christensen**

Former Delegate, U.S. Congress, U.S. Virgin Islands

### **Ms. Karen Dale**

Market President/CEO  
AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia

### **Mr. Glenn Ellis**

Health & Wellness Educator & Writer  
Strategies for Well-Being, LLC

### **Dr. Marvella Ford**

Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences  
Associate Director and SmartState Endowed Chair, Cancer  
Disparities, Hollings Cancer Center  
MUSC, Public Health Sciences

### **Ms. Monique Hill**

Assistant Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty  
Program Manager, Hands on Health-SC  
Medical University of South Carolina

### **Dr. Kisha B. Holden**

Interim Director, Satcher Health Leadership Institute  
Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral  
Sciences  
Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine  
Morehouse School of Medicine

### **Dr. Janis Faye Hutchinson**

Professor, Department of Anthropology  
University of Houston, College of Liberal Arts/Social Sciences

### **Dr. Loretta Sweet Jemmott**

VP-Health and Health Equity  
Professor, College of Nursing and Health Equity  
Drexel University

### **Mr. Lloyd Moore, Esquire**

President and CEO, The Moore Companies  
National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc.

### **Mrs. Margie Morse**

Former President, Energy Solutions Federal

### **Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis**

Founding Dean, College of Health Sciences and Human  
Services  
California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)

### **Dr. Sabra C. Slaughter**

Special Advisor to the President; Associate Professor, Family  
Medicine  
Principal Investigator, Southeastern Virtual Institute for  
Health Equity & Wellness (SE VIEW)  
Medical University of South Carolina

### **Dr. Billy Thomas**

Vice-Chancellor of Diversity  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

### **Mr. Derrick Watchman**

President and Owner  
Sagebrush Hill Group, LLC

### **Ms. Audrey J. Whetsell, MA, CPHIT**

Chief Executive Officer  
Resource Partners, LLC





# Agenda

## PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

General Conference Registration

2nd Floor

8:30 - 9:00 am

Student Registration and Continental Breakfast

2nd Floor

9:00 am-3:00 pm

*Undergraduate and Graduate Student Forum:*

*Training The Next Generation of Leaders*

Commonwealth Ballrooms

Co-Chairs:

**Dr. Marvella E. Ford**, Associate Director and Smart State Endowed Chair, Cancer Disparities, Hollings Cancer Center Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston, SC

**Dr. LaVerne Ragster**, Retired Professor and President Emerita, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

**Mr. Jonathan Green**, Renowned Artist, Charleston, SC

## DAY ONE: THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018

7:00 - 8:00 am .....Continental Breakfast

General Conference Registration

2nd Floor

7:30 am-4:30 pm

8:00 - 9:00 am

Opening Remarks:

Conference Facilitator

**Ms. Carolyn Sawyer**, Communications Strategist, Tom Sawyer Company

**Dr. David E. Rivers**, Chairman, National Conference on Health Disparities; Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty; Director, Public Information and Community Outreach, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

HOST REMARKS

**Dr. Loren K. Robinson**, Deputy Secretary for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Philadelphia, PA

**Michael DiBerardinis** Managing Director, City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

**Dr. Sabra C. Slaughter**, Senior Advisor to the President, Office of the President, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

**Dr. Andrea Gelzer**, Senior Vice President and Corporate Chief Medical Officer, AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies, Philadelphia, PA

**Reverend Dr. Lorina Marshall-Blake**, MGA, President, Independence Foundation Philadelphia, PA

**Mr. Joseph B. Hill**, Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, Enterprise Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement, Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health, Philadelphia, PA

**Ms. Melinda Downing**, Environmental Justice Program Manager, Legacy Management, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC

**Dr. Chyke Doubeni**, Associate Professor and Chair, Family Medicine And Community Health; Program Director, National Center for Integrated Behavioral Health (NCIBH), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

**Dr. Billy Thomas**, Vice Chancellor of Diversity and Inclusion, Center for Diversity Affairs; Professor, Department of Pediatrics; Associate Professor, College of Public Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences(UAMS), Little Rock, AR





**Dr. Oluwole Ariyo**, Associate Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology; Director of Research and Chair, Institutional Review Board (IRB), Allen University, Columbia, SC

**Mr. Miguel A. Garcia, Jr.**, President and CEO, National Urban Fellows, New York, NY

**9:00 - 9:30 am ..... KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Mr. Paul Tufano**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies, Philadelphia, PA

**9:30 - 9:45 am ..... BREAK**

**9:45 - 11:15 am**

**PANEL ONE DISCUSSION and QA**

***How Addressing the Social Determinants of Health – Such as Poverty, Environmental Stressors, Income, Educational Attainment, Housing, Tobacco, Water and Air Quality and Others – Will Reduce Health Disparities***

**Moderator:**

**Dr. David E. Rivers**, Chairman, National Conference on Health Disparities; Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty; Director, Public Information and Community Outreach, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

**Panelists:**

**Ms. Karen Dale**, Market President/CEO, AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia, Washington, DC

**Mr. Matthew L. Myers**, President, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Washington, DC

**Dr. Brian Rahmer**, Vice President of Health and Housing, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., Washington, DC

**Mr. Derrick Watchman**, President, Sagebrush Hill Group, LLC, Window Rock, AZ

**11:15 - 11:45 pm ..... BREAK**

**11:45 am - 1:30 pm ..... LUNCHEON**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Mr. John F. White, Jr.**, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Consortium, Philadelphia, PA

**1:45 - 3:15 pm**

**PANEL TWO DISCUSSION and QA**

***The Opioid Crisis: What's Going On, and Where Do We Go From Here?***

**Moderator: Dr. Raynard Washington**, Chief Epidemiologist, Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA

**Panelists:**

**Dr. Edwin C. Chapman**, Private Practice, Internist, Addiction Medicine, Washington, DC

**Mr. Jose Benitez**, Executive Director, Prevention Point, Philadelphia, PA

**Dr. Kelly Barth**, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; Director of the Combined Internal Medicine and Psychiatry Residency Training Program, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston, SC

**U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency Representative**

**3:15 - 5:00 pm**

**PANEL THREE DISCUSSION and QA**

***Human Trafficking as a Public Health Issue: Health Challenges and the Role of Health Care Providers***

**Moderator: Ms. Lisa Williams**, Founder and CEO Circle of Friends and The Living Water Programs, Atlanta, GA

**Panelists:**

**Dr. Sharon Cooper**, CEO of Developmental and Forensic Pediatrics, PA, Fayetteville, NC

**Ms. Christine Stark**, Author and Educator, Minneapolis, MN

**Ms. Monica Modi Khant**, Attorney, Program Director, GAIN, Atlanta, GA

**Dr. Ellyn Jo Waller**, First Lady, Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA

**7:00 pm**

**OPENING RECEPTION**

**Down Town Club, 600 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA**  
**Sponsored by AmeriHealth Caritas**

**Shuttles will start transporting at 6:15 pm on a continuous loop.**



# Agenda *continued*

## REMARKS

**Dr. David E. Rivers**, *Chairman, National Conference on Health Disparities; Professor, Academic Affairs Faculty; Director, Public Information and Community Outreach, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC*

**Ms. Joanne McFall**, *Market President, Keystone First, Philadelphia, PA*

## DAY TWO: FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2018

**7:30 - 8:15 am .....Continental Breakfast**

**7:30 am-4:30 pm**

**General Conference Registration  
2nd Floor**

**8:15 - 8:30 am ..... Opening Remarks**

## Conference Facilitator

**Ms. Carolyn Sawyer**, *Communications Strategist, Tom Sawyer Company*

**Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis**, *Founding Dean, College of Health Sciences and Human Services, California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB); Founding Director, NCLR/CSULB Center for Latino Community Health, Evaluation and Leadership Training, Seaside, CA*

**Ms. Tanya Thompson**, *Chair of the Board of Directors, Dr. Bernett L. Johnson, Jr Sayre Health Center, Philadelphia, PA*

**8:30 - 9:00 am ..... Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Mr. Daniel J. Hilferty**, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Independence Blue Cross, Philadelphia, PA*

**9:00 -10:15 am**

## PANEL FOUR DISCUSSION and OA

***Climate Change/Catastrophic Weather Events: The Impact on Our Aging and Crumbling Infrastructure, Human Health, Environment and the Economy***

## Moderator:

**The Honorable Shirley C. Franklin**, *Barbara Jordan Visiting Professor, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas; CEO and Chair of the Board, Purpose Built Communities; Former Mayor of Atlanta, Austin, TX*

## Panelists:

**Dr. LaVerne Ragster**, *Retired Professor and President Emerita, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI*

**The Honorable Rodney Ellis**, *Commissioner, Harris County, Precinct One, Houston, TX*

**Ms. Verdenia Baker**, *County Administrator, Palm Beach County, Royal Palm Beach, FL*

**Dr. Tom Ellison**, *Medical Services Director and Principal Investigator, PROJECT H.E.L.P. USA, Birmingham, AL*

**10:15 - 10:30 am ..... BREAK**

**10:30 - 11:00 am**

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Dr. Steve Klasko**, *President and CEO, Jefferson University and Jefferson Health, Philadelphia, PA*

**11:00 am - 12:15 pm**

## PANEL FIVE DISCUSSION and OA

***Translational Research and the Development of Public Policy in Reducing Health Disparities***

## Moderator

**Mr. Glenn Ellis**, *Strategies for Well-Being, LLC, Philadelphia, PA*

## Panelists:

**Dr. Jennifer Friday**, *President and Principal Researcher, The Friday Consulting Group, Atlanta, GA*

**Dr. Marvella E. Ford**, *Associate Director and SmartState Endowed Chair, Cancer Disparities, Hollings Cancer Center Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston, SC*





**Dr. Georgia Dunston**, *Professor Emerita, HU 2017 and Founding Director, National Human Genome Center, Howard University; Founder, President, and CEO, Whole Genome Science Foundation, Inc., Washington, DC*

**Dr. LeShawndra N. Price**, *Chief, Health Inequities and Global Health Branch, Center for Translation Research and Implementation Science, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Bethesda, MD*

**12:15 - 2:15 pm ..... LUNCHEON**

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Dr. Leana S. Wen**, *Health Commissioner, Baltimore City, Baltimore, MD*

#### **Student Research Forum Award Presentation**

**Dr. Marvella E. Ford**, *Associate Director and SmartState Endowed Chair, Cancer Disparities, Hollings Cancer Center Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston, SC*

**Dr. LaVerne Ragster**, *Retired Professor and President Emerita, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI*

**2:15 - 2:30 PM ..... BREAK**

**2:30 - 3:45 pm**

#### **PANEL SIX DISCUSSION and OA**

***Behavioral Health as a Major Public Health Issue: Eliminating Stigma Through Faith, Education and Science***

#### **Moderator:**

**Ms. Audrey J. Whetsell**, *CEO, Resource Partners, LLC and MHDG Management Services, Charleston, SC*

**Dr. Carolyn J. Greene**, *Division of Health Services Research, Department of Psychiatry, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), Little Rock, AR*

**Dr. Paige A. Green**, *Chief, Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch, Behavioral Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute, Rockville, MD*

**Dr. Heather Klusaritz**, *Associate Director, Center for Community & Population Health, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Perelman School of Medicine; Senior Fellow, Center for Public Health Initiatives, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA*

**Dr. Khaalida T. Forbes**, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Metamorphosis Enterprises, Baltimore, MD*

**3:45 - 4:00 pm ..... BREAK**

**4:00 pm.....Opening Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

**The Honorable Cedric Richmond**, *U.S. House of Representatives, Louisiana-2nd District; Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus*

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**The Honorable James E. Clyburn**, *Assistant Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, South Carolina-6th District*

**5:00 pm**

#### **Roundtable Discussion with Congressional Leaders:**

***Their Individual and Collective Roles in Reducing Health Disparities***

#### **Moderator:**

**Ms. Mia R. Keeys**, *Health Policy Advisor, Office of Congresswoman Robin L. Kelly*

#### **Congressional Roundtable Members:**

**The Honorable James E. Clyburn**, *Assistant Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, South Carolina- 6th District*

**The Honorable Cedric Richmond**, *Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), U.S. House of Representatives, Louisiana-2nd District*

**The Honorable Robin Kelly**, *Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust; U.S. House of Representatives, Illinois- 2nd District*





# Agenda *continued*

**The Honorable Dwight Evans, U.S. House of Representatives, Pennsylvania-2nd District**

**The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester, U.S. House of Representatives, Delaware-At-Large District**

## DAY THREE: SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018

**7:30 - 8:30 am ..... Breakfast Buffet**

**8:00 - 10:00 am ..... Registration**

### Conference Facilitator

**Ms. Carolyn Sawyer, Communications Strategist, Tom Sawyer Company**

**8:30 am ..... Opening Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

**The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, Former Congresswoman, United States Virgin Island, St. Croix, USVI**

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Dr. Dwayne Proctor, Senior Advisor to the President, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, NJ**

**9:15 - 11:00 am**

### PANEL SEVEN DISCUSSION and QA

***Building Healthy Communities: Identification of Successful Community-Based Programs, with a Keen Focus on Prevention and Personal Responsibility.***

### Moderator

**Dr. Sabra C. Slaughter, Senior Advisor to the President, Office of the President, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC**

### Panelists:

**Dr. Kent Bream, Associate Director, Predoctoral Education in Family Medicine; Assistant Professor of Clinical Family Medicine and Community Health; Clinical Medical Director of the Dr. Bennett L. Johnson, Jr. Sayre Health Center, Philadelphia, PA**

**Ms. Jo Pauling-Jones, Executive Director, Healthy Learners, Columbia, SC**

**Dr. Loretta Sweet Jemmott, Vice President of Health and Health Equity; Professor, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA**

**Mr. Aryn Andharia, Regional Vice President, Oak Street Health, Philadelphia, PA**

**Dr. Roberta Troy, Founding Director of the Health Disparities Institute for Research and Education, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL**

**11:00 am - 12:30 pm**

### PANEL EIGHT DISCUSSION and QA

***Gun Violence as a Major Public Health Issue in the United States***

### Moderator:

**Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney, Associate Professor of History Emeritus, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX**

### Panelists:

**Dr. Bryant Marks, Chief Equity Officer & Lead Trainer, National Training Institute on Race and Equity (NTIRE); Psychology Professor, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA**

**Mr. Andy Pelosi, The National Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus, Croton Falls, NY**

**Dr. Drew Harris, Assistant Professor, Thomas Jefferson University College of Population Health (JCPH); Director of the Scholarly Inquiry-Health Policy, Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Philadelphia, PA**

**The Honorable Kenyatta Johnson, Philadelphia City Council, District 2, Philadelphia, PA**

## CLOSING REMARKS





## CREATING HEALTHY CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITIES


takes commitment, compassion, and collaboration with the people living in them, from the neighborhoods of West Philadelphia to the farmlands of Lancaster County. Penn Medicine physicians, nurses, staff, and medical and graduate students, with our like-minded community partners, step up to help tackle disparities with humility and perseverance — outside hospital walls in schools, homes, clinics, parks, and churches — in our shared community, developing care models that can inform health systems nationally.

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end the day we  
become silent about  
things that matter.”

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# Congressional Biographies

## James E. (Jim) Clyburn



James E. (Jim) Clyburn is the Assistant Democratic Leader, the third-ranking Democrat, in the United States House of Representatives.

When Jim Clyburn came to Congress in 1993, he was elected co-president of his freshman class and quickly rose through leadership ranks. He was elected Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1998 and Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus in 2002. Three years later he was unanimously elected Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, and when Democrats regained the House majority in 2006, Congressman Clyburn was elevated by his colleagues to House Majority Whip.

As a national leader he has championed rural and economic development. Many of his initiatives have become law. His 10-20-30 federal funding formula was inserted into four sections of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The formula directs 10 percent of appropriated funds to communities where 20 percent or more of the population have lived at or below the poverty level for the past 30 years. Clyburn's article on the program was published in the Harvard Journal on Legislation. This year, the Republican Speaker of the House has supported the formula's inclusion in several accounts of the House Appropriations bills.

In 2011, Jim received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for his legislation that established the Rural Energy Savings Program. That program allows electric cooperatives to make low-interest loans to their members to retrofit and weatherize their homes. These loans are then repaid through their monthly utility bills.

Clyburn is a passionate supporter of historic preservation and restoration programs. His initiatives have restored scores of historic buildings and sites on the campuses of historically black colleges and universities. His legislation created the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor and the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. He authored legislation that elevated the Congaree National Monument to a National Park, and he proposed model legislation for President Obama's proclamation which established the Reconstruction Era National Monument in South Carolina's Low-Country.

Jim Clyburn began his professional career as a public school teacher in Charleston, South Carolina. Before being elected to Congress he directed two community development programs, served on the staff of a South Carolina Governor, and ran a state agency under four South Carolina Governors – two Democrats and two Republicans. His memoir, *Blessed Experiences: Genuinely Southern, Proudly Black*, was published by the University of South Carolina Press in 2015. It

has been described as a primer that should be read by every student interested in pursuing a career in public service.

His humble beginnings in Sumter, South Carolina as the eldest son of an activist, fundamentalist minister and an independent, civic minded beautician grounded Congressman Clyburn securely in family, faith and public service. He was elected president of his NAACP youth chapter at 12 years old, he helped organize many civil rights marches and demonstrations as a student leader at South Carolina State College, and he even met his wife Emily in jail following a student demonstration.

Jim and Emily England Clyburn have been married since June 1961. They are the parents of three daughters; Mignon, Jennifer Reed, and Angela Hannibal; two sons-in-law, Walter Reed and Cecil Hannibal; and four grandchildren, Walter A Clyburn Reed, Sydney Alexis Reed, Layla Joann Clyburn Hannibal, and Carter James Clyburn Hannibal.

## The Honorable Dwight Evans



Congressman Dwight Evans has dedicated his life to the cause of urban renewal, working tirelessly to provide economic and educational opportunity to those who too often live in the shadows, the poor and underserved.

The Congressman's commitment has resulted in the rebirth of once-blighted neighborhoods along Philadelphia's Ogontz Avenue, in West Oak Lane, an area that now serves as a magnet for working families.

One of five children, Congressman Evans grew up in North Philadelphia and today lives just minutes from his alma mater, Germantown High School. He is a graduate of the Community College of Philadelphia and LaSalle University. One of his first jobs out of college was as a teacher in the School District of Philadelphia, shortly thereafter he became a job developer for the Urban League of Philadelphia.

In 1980, at the age of 26, Congressman Evans was first elected State Representative from the 203rd Legislative District. Far from being a "go-along-get-along" legislator, over the course of 36 years in the Pennsylvania Legislature, he earned a reputation as a pragmatic leader who knows how to put public policy above politics.

Congressman Evans made history in 1990 by becoming the first African-American Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, a position he held for two decades. In that role, he was instrumental in helping Philadelphia and communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania receive funding for economic development, job training, education, infrastructure and the arts.





A champion for teachers and innovation in education, Congressman Evans helped start the West Oak Lane Charter School, a unionized school, which has helped teach thousands of kids from grades K-8.

One of Congressman Evans' proudest achievements has been his work to combat hunger and increase access to quality foods in underserved communities. During his time in the PA State Legislature, the Congressman created the Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative, which links public and private funds to expand and build grocery stores in food deserts across our state. Through the initiative the Congressman brought nearly 100 grocery stores to underserved areas across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that previously had very limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and created more than 5,000 jobs.

The Fresh Food Financing Initiative was widely recognized as one of the top public policy initiatives in the country. The Obama administration championed Congressman Evans' approach and used the Pennsylvania initiative as a model for the nation, replicating it in several other states across the country, including California, New York, New Jersey, Louisiana, and Illinois.

In 2013, Congressman Evans released his political biography titled, "Making Ideas Matter: My Life as a Policy Entrepreneur," written with Pulitzer Prize-winning author William Eckenberger, and published by the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government.

Over the course of his career in public service, Congressman Evans has lectured around the country on his signature public policy initiatives. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including an honorary doctorate from Lincoln University.

### *The Honorable Robin Kelly*



Congresswoman Robin Kelly has dedicated her career to public service as an advocate for Illinois families. Since being elected to serve the 2nd Congressional District in 2013, she has worked to expand economic opportunity, community wellness, and public safety across the state, championing numerous initiatives to generate job growth, reduce health disparities, and end gun violence.

Congresswoman Kelly is a Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (the main investigative body of the House), and serves as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Information Technology, where she has focused her efforts on improving cyber-security, strengthening IT-infrastructure, and encouraging new and emerging technologies. Kelly also serves on the

Oversight Committee's Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules.

As the senior Illinois representative on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Congresswoman has laid out a forward-thinking foreign policy vision for the United States and has been an outspoken proponent of diplomacy, international human rights and the need for clear and thoughtful American leadership abroad.

A staunch champion of common sense gun reforms and responsible community policing, Representative Kelly is a Co-Chair of the Congressional Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce, was tapped to sit on the House Task Force on Community-Police Relations, and is the author of The 2014 Kelly Report on Gun Violence in America, the first-ever Congressional analysis of the nation's gun violence epidemic that offers a blueprint for ending the crisis.

Committed to improving the health and wellness of vulnerable communities across the country, the Congresswoman serves as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, and Co-Chairs the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls. She also Co-Chairs the House Democratic Budget Group and Congressional Diversifying Technology Caucus.

Prior to her election to Congress, Kelly was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, served as Chief Administrative Officer of Cook County (the second largest county in the United States) and was Chief of Staff to Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias - becoming the first African American woman to serve as Chief of Staff to an elected constitutional statewide officeholder.

The daughter of a small business owner and postal worker, Congresswoman Kelly moved to Illinois after high school to attend Bradley University in Peoria, where she earned her B.A. in psychology and an M.A. in counseling. She later received a Ph.D. in political science from Northern Illinois University. She lives in Matteson with her husband, Dr. Nathaniel Horn, and has two adult children, Kelly and Ryan.





# Congressional Biographies

## *The Honorable Cedric Richmond*



Congressman Cedric Richmond represents Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. Cedric currently serves on the House Committee on Homeland Security and the House Committee on the Judiciary. Outside of Committee service, he is an active member and Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and a member of the New Democrat Coalition.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Cedric works to ensure New Orleans and surrounding communities are adequately prepared for any emergency through oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA). He also works to ensure the security of the nation's critical infrastructure, borders, and ports.

As a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, the second oldest standing committee in Congress, Cedric works with committee members to exercise oversight responsibility for the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Cedric is a strong believer in the value of mentorship in his hometown. He is a graduate of Benjamin Franklin High School, earned his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA, and his Juris Doctorate from the Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans. Cedric is also a graduate of the Harvard University Executive Education Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

## *The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester*



Lisa began her professional career as a problem-solver and an advocate. A caseworker for then-Congressman Tom Carper, Lisa helped people during challenging times with their Social Security benefits, disability insurance claims, IRS disputes and housing needs. She served in the cabinets of two Delaware governors as the first female African-American Secretary of Labor and the first African-American Deputy Secretary of Health and Social Services and State Personnel Director.

As Secretary of Labor, Lisa managed 500 employees and an \$87 million budget; she focused on connecting employers to resources and jobseekers – particularly those on welfare or leaving Delaware prisons. As State Personnel Director, Lisa was commissioned to investigate the Delaware State Police for racial and sexual discrimination. Working with local and national experts in policing and civil rights, the 2001 Blunt-Bradley Report served as a roadmap to improve the internal and external relations of the State Police.

She also served as the CEO of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League – an action-oriented, public policy research think-tank focused on the inclusion of people of color.

Lisa grew up in Wilmington, graduated from Padua Academy, and worked her first job at the McDonald's on Market Street. She majored in International Relations as an undergraduate at Fairleigh Dickinson University and later earned a Master's in Urban Affairs and Public Policy from the University of Delaware. Lisa believes our national security requires a strong understanding of the rest of the world. She has helped women enter the workforce in the Middle East, provided vaccines to children in Africa, and co-authored a book while living in China with her late husband Charles. Her book, *THRIVE: 34 Women, 18 Countries, One Goal*, profiles women who reinvented themselves while living in a foreign country.

Lisa is the proud mother of Alyssa, age 29, and Alex, age 31, both of whom graduated from Delaware's public schools. Education and college affordability are important to her.

Lisa once again made history in 2016 when she was elected to Congress. She was the first woman and the first person of color to represent The First State in such a role. She serves on the House Committee on Education and Workforce as well as the House Committee on Agriculture.





# Biographies

## *Oluwole Ariyo, Ph.D.*



Dr. Oluwole Ariyo, an Associate Professor of Biology (Tenured) joined Allen University in 2006 and served as Chair, Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences between 2009 and 2011. Prior to that, he was the Biology Coordinator for two years (2007 – 2009). He was also the Chair, Allen University Curriculum committee for 8 years (2009-2017). Oluwole Ariyo is currently the Director of Research and the Lead person for Institutional Review Board (IRB). His current research focuses on the expression patterns of microRNAs under different stress conditions and developmental stages in rice, corn and wheat. Dr. Ariyo has mentored over 200 undergraduate students in research. One of his research presentations with a student on Nitrogen Oxide concentrations within the United States was recognized and requested to be presented as a Workshop/Training session at the National Environmental Justice Conference (NEJC), which was held in Washington DC, March 2016. Subsequently, he has directed two more workshops on water and soil pollution at NEJC in 2017 and 2018, respectively. Dr. Ariyo has been a Principal Investigator on many grants. Therefore, he has a wealth of experience when it comes to grant writing. He is also a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI). Dr. Ariyo loves to sing and play guitar. He believes strongly that integrating research and hands-on activities into teaching is a pragmatic approach to ensure significant students learning outcomes and skills acquisition.

## *Verdenia C. Baker, MPA*



As County Administrator, Verdenia, a Certified Financial Manager, is responsible for administration of the policies of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. She manages the daily operation of county government, which includes more than 6,300 employees and a budget of \$4.4 billion. Palm Beach County is one of the few counties in the nation with AAA General Obligation Bond ratings from all three rating agencies and most recently received AAA Revenue Bond rating from S&P. Verdenia serves a county population of more than 1.4 million residents.

Verdenia began her career with Palm Beach County in 1987 as a Budget Analyst; she then was promoted to Impact Fee Coordinator and eventually became the division director of the County's Financial Management Department. Her experience as a financial manager was a prelude to her promotion to Assistant County Administrator and one

year later to Deputy County Administrator for approximately fifteen years and then selected as the County Administrator in September 2015. In November of 2016, Verdenia led a successful one-cent infrastructure surtax initiative for Palm Beach County that included partnerships with the School District and the League of Cities.

Verdenia collaborates daily with representatives of other jurisdictions, developers, private industry, civic and community organizations on issues of interest pertaining to county business. She represents the county on regional initiatives involving private and public sector entities on special projects.

Fiduciary responsibilities remain on the top of her agenda as she reviews and approves departmental and agency budgets before passing them to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

Verdenia holds a Master of Science Degree in Public Administration, Bachelor of Science Degree in Rehabilitative Services, both from Florida State University. She has affiliation with several professional and community organizations.

## *Kelly Barth, Ph.D.*



Kelly Barth is an Associate Professor at Medical University of South Carolina. Board-certified in Internal Medicine, Psychiatry and Addiction Psychiatry, she is the Medical Director of MUSC's Pain Rehabilitation Program and Division of Behavioral Medicine. Her clinical, teaching and research interests involve optimizing the management and safety of patients on opioid pain medications. She has an NIH career development award evaluating methods of opioid discontinuation for patients with chronic pain and directs a state-wide educational initiative to improve access to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in SC.





# Biographies

## *Jose A. Benitez, MSW*



Jose currently serves as the Executive Director of Prevention Point Philadelphia, a nonprofit public health organization providing syringe exchange services, HIV testing and counseling, case management, food and housing to some of Philadelphia's most venerable populations.

Jose has a long history of working in Philadelphia with underserved populations providing varied social and administrative services to both active drug users as well as those seeking treatment. He serves as Principal Investigator on a number of research projects in partnerships with various Universities'.

He also is an adjunct faculty member at Temple University's School of Public Health and a founding board member of Gay and Lesbian Latino AIDS Education Initiative. He was appointed to the Board of Health for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health by the Mayor where he served for 8 years.

Jose was President of the board of directors for the Filadelfia Latin American Film Festival.

He currently serves on the Mayor's Task force for Opioid Overdose Prevention. Jose has worked in the HIV community as a provider and advocate for the past twenty years.

Jose received his undergraduate degree in social work from SUNY College at Brockport where he was co-chair of the Student Social Work Association. He received his Masters of Social Work from Temple University in Philadelphia.

## *Kent Bream, M.D.*



Dr. Bream is a professor, family physician, and community medicine leader in Philadelphia and internationally. He works in collaborative research, educational programs, and clinical projects both locally in Philadelphia and globally with particular attention to underserved communities. He is

known for productive and trusting professional relationships with the political, organizational, and social leaders building bridges between academia and communities. His approach focuses on the interprofessional solutions and respect for dual autonomies in improving health and reducing disparities. He founded the Dr. Bennett L. Sayre Health Center, an FQHC in West Philadelphia (2005) after

developing the interdisciplinary United Community Clinics in East Parkside in Philadelphia (1998). He has demonstrated executive and network leadership experience in working with Medical Assistance payers (MAAC), working with the FQHC primary care associations of Pennsylvania (PACHC) and Philadelphia (HFP) and serving on the governing board of the Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

Currently he leads the Community of Practice for Integrated Behavioral Health in the National Center for Integrated Behavioral Health (NCIBH) which is based in the Department for Family Medicine and Community Health at Penn. In his clinical leadership he has focused on non-communicable diseases, especially diabetes, with great respect for the role of personal agency in changing outcomes. Finally, his educational leadership has had a significant impact directly with students as well as through publication, forming future leaders of health fields including public health, anthropology, nursing, medicine, and dentistry. Outside of Philadelphia he can be found applying community health principles with Guatemalan university faculty to serve indigenous Maya populations.

## *Edwin C. Chapman, Sr., M.D.*



Edwin C. Chapman, Sr., M.D. has practiced in Washington, DC for 40 years specializing in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. He currently as an adjunct assistant professor in the Howard University Department of Behavioral Health and Psychiatry and maintains an active

practice in the community investigating the complex mix of addiction, undertreated mental illness, infectious diseases (AIDS & hepatitis C), criminal behavior, and chronic diseases in which patients have 20-25 year shorter life expectancies. Using an innovative "virtual office telemedicine design," he is addressing the needs of opioid addicted index patients and their entire families recognizing the impact of addiction as a "social determinant of health" and a factor leading to "toxic stress" in both family and community-wide settings. He continues that work, augmented by empirical observations, with the Howard University National Human Genome Center and Howard University School of Pharmacy currently investigating the genetic and epigenetic factors impacting the metabolism of buprenorphine. In 2016 those initial efforts resulted in changes in dosing parameters and prior authorization recommendations for many Medicaid patients in the District of Columbia.

Dr. Chapman is a founding member and secretary of the board of directors of the Leadership Council for Healthy Communities (an inter





faith 501 c3 with 30+ Metro DC institutions) and chief medical officer of the Medical Home Development Group, LLC where he is bringing a multispecialty primary care group into underserved communities and faith institutions (ACA's "Accountable Health Community") using both onsite care and virtual care thru televideo consultation for social work, nutritional consulting, pharmaceutical reconciliation, as well as psychiatry and primary care.

Dr. Chapman received his B.S. in 1969 and M.D. in 1973 from Howard University College of Medicine. He completed internship and residency in internal medicine as well as fellowship in cardiology from historic Freedmen's and Howard University Hospitals. He is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM, 1979) and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM grandfathered to ABAM, 2009). He has been recognized in January 2017 as a Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. He maintains active memberships in the National Medical Association (NMA) and Medico Chirurgical Society of Washington, DC (MED CHI of DC). In 2008 Dr. Chapman was featured in the National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Month DVD entitled "Medication-Assisted Therapies: Providing a Whole-Patient Approach to Treatment" sponsored and produced by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In the past year Dr. Chapman has been featured in the Washington Post, Addiction Professional Magazine, HIT Consultant.com, and Behavioral Healthcare Magazine. He was recognized by the National Medical Association as their 2016 "Practitioner of the Year."

### ***The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D.***



The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D., retired from the U.S House of Representatives in 2015 after served nine terms as the Delegate from the U.S. Virgin Islands. She is the first female physician to serve as a member in the history of the U.S Congress. In the 111th, 112th and 113th

Congress, Delegate Christensen served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Among other subcommittee assignments, she served on the Subcommittee on Health during healthcare reform. She also served on Committee on Homeland Security and Committee on Natural Resources -- Chair of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Wildlife, Oceans and Fisheries -- and the Committee on Small Business.

Congresswoman Christensen chaired the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust for 16 years. She is a Graduate of the George

Washington School of Medicine and completed her residency in family medicine at Howard University Medical Center -- then Freedman's Hospital. She began her medical career in the Virgin Islands in 1975 as an emergency room physician and became a board certified family physician in 1977. After serving in several administrative positions and before going to Congress, she served as Commissioner of Health. She maintained a private practice in family medicine from 1975 until her election to Congress in 1996.

As a registered member of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands, she served as Democratic National Committeewoman from 1984 to 1994.

Delegate Christensen is the recipient of numerous awards. She is the recipient of honorary degrees from St. Georges Medical School in Grenada, Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA, the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC, and the University of the Virgin Islands, as well as recognitions from Howard University School of Medicine and the George Washington University. Dr. Christensen has been a member and officer of the National Medical Association, and has served on many other organizations, boards and commissions.

She is a member of the Moravian Church and is the mother of two daughters and four grandchildren.

### ***Sharon W. Cooper, MD FAAP***



Dr. Sharon Cooper is a Developmental and Forensic Pediatrician who cares for children and select adults with different abilities as well as those who have been victims of maltreatment. Dr. Cooper retired from the United States Army with the rank of Colonel and holds adjunct faculty positions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences at Bethesda, Maryland. She has provided numerous lectures to medical, nursing, mental health, judicial, social science and investigative agencies, including the National Judicial College, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Australian Federal Police, and INTERPOL. Her primary areas of expertise include all areas of child maltreatment, child torture and child sexual exploitation.

Dr. Cooper has published numerous chapters on the subject of child sexual exploitation and is the lead editor of one of the most comprehensive texts in the U.S., on this subject. She works with victims and families of children who have been the prey of all types of





## Biographies

online and offline exploitation. She is a Board member and consultant to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and has taught several thousand special victim unit and vice investigators for over a decade, on the victim vulnerability, health impact and the diverse forms of exploitation in sex trafficking.

Dr. Cooper has served as an expert witness in several hundred cases of child maltreatment and numerous cases within the past several years on behalf of sex trafficking victims. Dr. Cooper served as a Task Force Member for the U.S. Attorney General on Defending Childhood, Children Exposed to Violence, was an invited speaker to the White House Summit on The United State of Women and recently presented at the World Congress on Child Dignity in the Digital World, sponsored by the Vatican. She has provided testimony before the U.S. Congress, the Italian Senate, the Russian Parliament (Duma), and the Ottawa House of Commons on child sexual exploitation.

In 2011, Dr. Cooper was selected by Newsweek magazine as one of the 150 women who shake the world. She continues to serve on an International Working Group on the victim impact for survivors of child sexual abuse imagery, sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. She recently produced the first American documentary entitled *Not Just Pictures*, which provides insight into the ongoing extraordinary impact of the victimization of children whose abusive images are in cyberspace.

### ***Karen M. Dale, R.N., M.S.N.***



Karen M. Dale is the Market President for AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia, a mission-based Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MMCO) in Washington, DC. She is ushering in the next generation of managed care with innovative solutions for the critical challenges faced by the members served by the MMCO. Opportunities for people to experience health and wellness are enhanced by addressing the social, economic, and environmental conditions that are drivers of poor health outcomes and harmful health disparities with comprehensive and tailored solutions.

Ms. Dale is a highly skilled, visionary leader who has dedicated her entire career to helping others and ensuring equal health opportunities for populations at risk. Having held multiple positions of leadership during the past three decades, she has worked with a broad group of stakeholders to address policies, and other key factors that impact the production of health. She considers it a privilege to utilize her expertise

in program development, significant knowledge of health care finance and delivery systems to make a difference in the lives of so many.

Ms. Dale has guided the execution of unique approaches to managing the complex needs of persons with multiple health risks. These efforts include the use of telemedicine to aid in the management of chronic diseases, peer to peer outreach using community health workers, and the roll-out of a human-centered design member engagement approach. In addition, her philosophy that all persons deserve access to the right care, without barriers, starting where they are, has led to several collaborative relationships with providers, community partners, philanthropists and businesses to implement evidence-based, population health strategies.

Ms. Dale holds a Master of Science Degree in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing from The Catholic University, Washington, DC, a Bachelors of Science Degree in Nursing from George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, and was a member of the Leadership Greater Washington Class of 2003. She serves as a Board Member for both Volunteers of America National Services and, the Volunteers of America National Board. In 2016, she was the recipient of the Washington Business Journal Minority Business Leader Award and, in 2017 the Women Who Mean Business Award.

### ***Chyke A. Doubeni, M.D., FRCS, MPH***



Dr. Chyke A. Doubeni is Chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He is board-certified in both family medicine and general preventive medicine/public health. Dr. Doubeni is an academic leader whose work focuses on eliminating disparities in premature death in populations from disadvantaged backgrounds, a body of work that is at the intersection of public health, primary care, and value-based care.

Dr. Doubeni is internationally recognized for high impact publications that have informed research, guidelines, clinical decision making, and national efforts to increase screening uptake. He is PI in the Population-Based Research Optimizing Screening through Personalized Regimens consortium and an NIH-funded Cancer Clinical Epidemiology Training Program (T32).

Dr. Doubeni is a member of the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), an independent volunteer panel of national experts that makes evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive





services to promote the health of all Americans; was the first family physician to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE); and a second-term chair of the NIH Cancer, Heart, and Sleep Epidemiology Study Section Panel B (CHSB). He is a senior scholar in the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB), a senior fellow at both the Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics and the Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI), and an Aresty Scholar from the inaugural cohort of the Wharton/Deloitte Physician Leadership Academy.

As part of his longstanding work on community health and access to care and workforce development, he currently leads the National Center for Integrated Behavioral in Primary Care (NCIBH) at Penn, funded by the DHHS Health Resources and Services Administration. The NCIBH serves as a national thought leader in bridging the divide between training and care delivery by addressing the insufficiency of primary care practitioners adequately equipped to lead new care delivery models.

### *Melinda Downing*



Melinda Downing currently serves as the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Justice Program Manager. She carries out her duties in the Office of Legacy Management (LM). Prior to transferring to LM, Ms. Downing carried out her duties in the Office of Intergovernmental and Public

Accountability within the Office of Environmental Management at DOE Headquarters in Washington, DC. During this tenure, she served as the Director of the Office of Environmental Management's Center for Environmental Management Information.

Ms. Downing also represents the Department as a member of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (also known as the EJIWG). She has managed and conducted Public Participation and Environmental Justice and tribal training at DOE Headquarters and Field offices across the nation.

Ms. Downing began her assignment in the Office of Environmental Management within DOE in October 1989, as the Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management's Program Review Coordinator and Executive Assistant. Prior to joining the Office Environmental Management, she was on the staff of the Secretary of Energy's Office serving as the Administrative Specialist for the Secretary's Chief of Staff.

Ms. Downing has 40 years of Federal Service in various agencies. She has served on many committees, was Employee of the Year in 1990 and served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Energy Child Care Development Center. She has received numerous Awards of Excellence for her work in Public Participation; efforts to provide small towns with computers,

technology training and technical assistance; Certificate of Award from the U.S. House of Representatives and Congressional Black Caucus for outstanding support of the National Environmental Policy Commission; National Conference of Black Mayors Award; The National Campaign for Tolerance Honor for leading the way toward a more just America; Black Youth Leadership Development Institute Appreciation; Excerpts from students of the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation/U.S. Department of Energy Mentorship for Environmental Scholars.

### *W. Marvin Dulaney, Ph.D.*



Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney is Associate Professor of History Emeritus, former Interim Director of the Center for African American Studies, and the former Chair of the Department of History at the University of Texas, Arlington. He is a graduate of Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History, magna cum laude. He earned his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in American and African-American history at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

In addition to teaching at UTA for eighteen years, he has taught at Central State University, Ohio State University, and St. Olaf College in Minnesota. From 1994 to 2008, he served as Executive Director of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture and Director of the African American Studies Program at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina.

He is the editor of the following books, journals and essays: Charleston's Avery Center: From Education and Civil Rights to Preserving the African-American Experience (2006); Born to Serve: A History of the Woman's Baptist Educational Missionary Convention of South Carolina (2006); The Avery Review; and co-editor of the Texas African-American History Journal and the book, Essays on the American Civil Rights Movement. His first monograph, *Black Police in America* (1996), was published by Indiana University Press. Currently, he is completing a social and political history of African





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Americans in Dallas, Texas, a book that will be published by Texas A & M University Press.

His most recent publications are: "Julia Scott Reed: Presenting the Truth about African Americans in Dallas" in *Texas Women: Their Histories, Their Lives*, Stephanie Cole, Rebecca Sharpless and Elizabeth Hayes Turner, Editors (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2015), pp. 389-409; "The Troubled History of American Policing," *The Crime Report*, May 19, 2015, <http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/cjn/2015-05-the-troubled-origins-of-american-policing>; and "Juanita Craft: Another Unsung Heroine of the Civil Rights Movement," *Legacies* 29 (Fall 2017):38-45.

He serves on the board of directors of the Texas State Historical Association and the editorial board of *Legacies: A History Journal* for Dallas and North Central Texas. He has won numerous awards for his community service, activism, and scholarship.

## Georgia M. Dunston, Ph.D.



Dr. Georgia M. Dunston is Professor Emerita and former chair of the Department of Microbiology, Howard University College of Medicine; founding director of the National Human Genome Center (NHGC) at Howard University (HU), and former Director of Molecular

Genetics in the NHGC. Dr. Dunston received the BS degree in Biology from Norfolk State University; MS degree in Biology from Tuskegee University, and PhD degree in Human Genetics from the University of Michigan. She did post-doctoral work in Tumor Immunology at the NIH

in the Laboratory of Immunodiagnosis, National Cancer Institute. She was founder and director of the Human Immunogenetics Laboratory at HU and has published extensively on genetic variation in human major histocompatibility complex antigen system and other common markers of disease susceptibility in African Americans. She served on the National Advisory Council for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; the Genetic Basis of Disease Review Committee for the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and the National Academy of Sciences Review Committee on Human Genome Diversity Project. Her research on human genome variation in disease susceptibility and health disparities has been the vanguard of efforts at Howard University to build national and international research collaborations focusing on the genetics of diseases common

in African Americans and other African Diaspora populations. Under Dr. Dunston's leadership, the NHGC was instrumental in bringing multicultural perspectives and resources to an understanding of knowledge gained from the Human Genome Project and research on human genome variation. She currently co-leads a biophysics research and interdisciplinary development group (BRIDG) formed in the NHGC 2nd decade that is exploring functional aspects of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), common variation and population genetics from first principles of thermodynamics and statistical physics (i.e., "genodynamics"). Her passion is building community-academic research partnerships that connect the African Diaspora to the global genome revolution in knowledge on human identity in precision medicine and population health. Her research agenda for 'NexGen Genomics' addresses the power of genome variation and population diversity for probing the biology of health disparities in achieving the U.S. Public Health Service goals of "Healthy People 2020".

Update: Dr. Georgia M. Dunston retired from Howard University last year (2017). Now as Professor Emerita she continues to collaborate with HU colleagues, investigators, and collaborators in advancing the research mission of the NHGC. The major focus of her time and attention now as founder, president, and CEO of Whole Genome Science (WGS) Foundation, Inc., is involved in establishing partnership with Howard University in building collaborative 'community-academic research education (CARE)' empowered partnerships to advance the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) of the human genome, as an institutional initiative.

## Glenn Ellis, Sr., MPH, CHCE



Glenn Ellis, S., is a medical ethicist, researcher, lecturer and president of Strategies for Well-Being, LLC., a consultancy that specializes in health education, equity, disparities, advocacy, policy and communication. Ellis is passionately focused on the ethical protection of rights for patients—especially

African Americans and other historically marginalized populations—in medical care and clinical research. Ellis' dedication to health equity for marginalized and disenfranchised populations has earned him the respect and recognition of public health experts, physicians, academics and scientists across the globe.

Ellis has authored and co-authored papers in the *American Journal of Public Health*, *American Journal of Academic Medicine*, the *Journal of Philosophy and Ethics* and the *Journal of Healthcare, Science and*





the Humanities. He is also the author of *Which Doctor?* (2006) and *Information in the Best Medicine* (2012).

In addition to a weekly syndicated health column, he also hosts a weekly public health program on Philadelphia's WURD-AM, contributes to a weekly health and medical segment on Philadelphia's WDAS-FM, and, is the regular contributor to Los Angeles's KJLH-FM. Ellis reported from AIDS 2008 Mexico City, AIDS 2010 Vienna and AIDS 2012 Washington, and, reported from Havana on the Cuban health system for Heart & Soul.

Ellis has presented at scientific, academic and health conferences across the United States, as well as Belgium, Cuba, Germany, Italy, Kenya, the Netherlands, South Africa, Ukraine and more. Ellis was a guest lecturer at the IV International Symposium on Bioethics in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, where his abstract was published under the auspices of the esteemed European Science Foundation and in the *Journal of Philosophy and Ethics*. He presents Grand Rounds Lectures in medical schools and symposiums on "Inclusion and Retention in Clinical Trials". He also serves on several institutional review boards and ethic committees at Mercy Health Systems, Thomas Jefferson Health Systems, and, Drexel University Medicine in Philadelphia.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, his undergraduate studies were in a Pre-Med core curriculum at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Certified Health Care Ethicist (CHCE) from St. Joseph's University, and received his Master of Public Health (MPH) at the University of Liverpool.

### *The Honorable Rodney Ellis, J.D.*



Commissioner Rodney Ellis was born and raised in Houston's Sunnyside neighborhood and attended the Texas public school system from grade school through law school. Although he is an attorney, his passion is public service.

On Nov. 8, 2016, he was elected Harris County Commissioner for Precinct One, which serves approximately 1.1 million people. Previously, he represented a Houston district in the Texas Senate for more than 25 years, earning widespread praise as a leader on economic development, education, civil rights, budget issues, responsible environmental policy, tax cuts for the middle class, criminal justice, and workforce development.

Commissioner Ellis believes the role of government is to ensure that all people have the opportunity and ability to build a better future

for themselves. As Harris County Commissioner, he is dedicated to providing quality and accessible services and programs that will enhance the lives of people in Precinct One and fighting for reforms that will benefit all Harris County residents.

During his career in public service, Commissioner Ellis has worked hard to ensure that children have equal access to a quality education, regardless of where they reside. He also has spearheaded legislation to provide employees with a safe workplace, access to affordable health care and a living wage. In criminal justice, he has fought for reforms that guarantee equal treatment for everyone under the law. It's his cardinal belief that guilt and innocence must never be dependent on one's income, gender, race or ethnicity.

Before joining the Texas Senate in 1990, Commissioner Ellis served three terms on the Houston City Council and as chief of staff to the late U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland. He holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University, a master's degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Commissioner Ellis also studied at Xavier University in New Orleans and the London School of Economics.

Commissioner Ellis is married to Licia Green-Ellis and has four children.

### *Tom Ellison, Ph.D.*



Dr. Ellison is the Co-Founder of Health Education Linkage Programs Inc. (PROJECT H.E.L.P. USA) a Non Governmental Community Based Health Organization, a member of the United Nations Humanitarian and Medical Relief and Rescue Team, that also provides Community Based Health

Centers in indigent areas of the world, Best Practices with divisions of DHHS, NHI, and CDC as well as Community Based Research. H.E.L.P.'s Mission is to Improve the Quality of Life in our Lifetime by Decreasing Disparities, Morbidity, Mortality, Unintentional Injuries and Negative Behaviors while Increasing Access, Knowledge, Sensitivity, and Services. PROJECT H.E.L.P. USA also Sponsors the Project HELP Medical Reserve Corps a Division of Department of Health and Human Services ASPR Division and Homeland Security.

Dr. Ellison was educated in Birmingham, Alabama at Parker High, Lawson State and Daniel Payne Colleges prior to his Medical Education at UAB School of Medicine/SCAH, and The Latin American School of Medicine. He also holds Doctorates from Trinity





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University in Community Health, and Health Services. Dr. Ellison is a consultant to many organizations and entities including Morehouse School of Medicine, CDC, Congressional Black Caucus, FEMA, Alabama Legislature, OWH, American Cancer Society where he serves as the ACT Congressional Lead in the State Legislature and Washington DC, the NBA, WNBA, Tyler Perry Productions and during the Obama Administration. He is currently the Alabama State Director for Doctors For America whose Mission is Affordable and Quality Health Care for all and the 19th U.S. Surgeon Generals Priorities and Opiates Committee. He is the 2017 Awardee of the 9/11 Medical Response Award for Ground Zero in New York and the 2018 Martin Luther King 50th Anniversary Dream Keeper Award in Medicine.

He is a member of the International Society of Hypertension in Blacks, National Black Leadership Initiative of Cancer, American Heart Association Affiliate Faculty, Association of Black Cardiologist, Commissioner of Health, and Youth Training of the Black Belt Action Committee, President the Birmingham Healthy Start Board, President Alabama Health Institute, Chair of the Youth Council and Executive Board Member of WIA, Chair State of Alabama National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer, Governor's Task Force on Diabetes, Governors Task Force on Hypertension, Alabama Department of Public Health Diabetes and Physical Activity Committee, Alabama State Board of Education HIV Education Committee, and Obesity and Children Committee, and Board Member of 21st Century Youth Leadership Movement.

He also served his Country at Ground Zero at the Command Center and conducted Triage with members of Project H.E.L.P's MAART Division, and was among the first to perform Triage and provide Medical Treatment during Katrina. His unit served at his direction in nine sites and continues to provide care during disasters. Currently he has committed to a 2 year response for the Puerto Rico and U. S. Virgin Islands Medical Assistant Team.

### *Khaalida T. Forbes, D.D., MS.D., MSW*



Dr. Khaalida T. Forbes, a native of New York, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Virginia State University, both a Masters degree in Clinical Social Work as well as a Masters of Divinity degree from Howard University, and an earned Doctorate of Ministry degree in Prophetic Preaching for the 21st Century from United Theological Seminary. Dr. Forbes' dissertation work was entitled "Prophetic Preaching That Encourages The Emotional Health of Leadership."

Dr. Forbes, known as "The CHANGE Architect", is a multi state licensed clinical therapist. She is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Metamorphosis Enterprises. This enterprise, established in 2010, seeks to offer opportunities for transformation in the areas of mental, emotional, relational, and spiritual health. Using the tools of therapy, empowerment sessions, leadership development, and customized consulting, the belief is that ones emotional health can be strengthened. As a result, change occurs in the lives of individuals, families, communities, & organizations across the Globe.

Dr. Forbes has held many leadership roles in various ministry contexts, as well as leading in organizations geared toward emotional health awareness and youth advocacy with an emphasis on reconciliation of families from various ethnic backgrounds. Her endeavors have taken her around the world (Italy, Egypt, Israel) and she trains quarterly throughout the year to ensure that she is on the cutting edge of what is occurring in the mental health, and faith fields, across the country.

It is not often that you come across a therapist & leader that can weave the clinical, practical, and spiritual in a way that the well adjusted as well as the acutely traumatized client can identify with. Dr. Forbes does this with equal parts finesse and innate ability. She strives to empower people to believe that thru competent and compassionate therapy, along with the power of the Holy Spirit, they can be healed, restored, and see significant lasting changes in their lives. Dr. Forbes is supported in both life and ministry by her husband Pastor Chris Forbes.





## ***Marvella Ford, Ph.D***



Dr. Ford is a tenured Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), where she is also the Associate Director of Population Sciences and Cancer Disparities at the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI)-

designated Hollings Cancer Center. She completed her undergraduate training at Cornell University and she completed her graduate and postdoctoral fellowship training at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Ford has led several federally funded cancer disparities-focused research grants, including an NIH/NCI P20 grant, in collaboration with Dr. Judith Salley from South Carolina State University (SCSU). Most recently, in September 2017, Dr. Ford and Dr. Salley were awarded a \$12.5M grant from the NIH/NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. The title of the grant is "South Carolina Cancer Disparities Research Center (SC CADRE)." The overarching goals of the SC CADRE are to increase SCSU's capacity to conduct transdisciplinary cancer research, to evaluate the relationship between obesity and disparities in breast and prostate cancer, and to further strengthen and extend a longitudinal research education pipeline that will catalyze a new diverse generation of biomedical researchers focused on cancer disparities.

Additionally, Dr. Ford is a multiple principal investigator, with Dr. Chanita Hughes-Halbert and Dr. Carolyn Britten, on an NIH/NCI-funded Minority Based Community Oncology Research Program to increase the participation of diverse participants in cancer research. Dr. Ford is also a multiple principal investigator, with Dr. Nestor Esnaola, of an NIH/National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities grant titled "Improving Resection Rates among African Americans with NSCLC." The purpose of the study is to evaluate a strategy to improve rates of receipt of surgery among African Americans with early-stage lung cancer.

Dr. Ford has led several federally funded cancer research training programs in collaboration with three historically black colleges/universities (HBCUs) in South Carolina: Claflin University, South Carolina State University, and Voorhees College, as well as the University of South Carolina. The programs have been funded by the NIH/NCI and by the Department of Defense.

Dr. Ford is the author/co-author of 88 published scientific papers, several of which include HBCU undergraduates as co-authors. She is the co-editor of a 2017 *Advances in Cancer Research* volume titled

"Cancer Disparities." She has also published nine book chapters. She is a newly-ordained Deacon at the Charity Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston, SC, where the Reverend Nelson B. Rivers, III is the pastor. Her motto in life is "To God Be the Glory!"

## ***The Honorable Shirley C. Franklin***



Shirley C. Franklin was elected the first African American woman mayor of a major southern city in 2002 and served two-terms until 2010. The mayor is term limited in Atlanta. Upon leaving office, she was appointed to the William and Camille Cosby Endowed Chair at Spelman College and served until

June 2011. She also served as the Barbara Jordan Visiting Professor in Ethics and Political Values at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin for three years. She currently serves as the Executive Board Chairman of Purpose Built Communities, a national holistic community revitalization organization as well as President of Clarke-Franklin and Associates, Inc.

During her eight years as mayor, the city experienced unprecedented growth and afforded Franklin the opportunity to partner and collaborate with many local and regional leaders in addressing urban policy challenges, which included urban planning, economic development and infrastructure. She is best known for advocating for and tackling major government operations and ethics reform, launching the Atlanta Beltline, planning and executing over \$5 billion in airport and water infrastructure improvement, leading the acquisition of the Morehouse College Collection of Martin Luther King Jr. Papers, launching the Regional Commission on Homelessness and developing successful business and public sector partnerships and alliances. Aside from her role as a public official, her community service spans over 40 years in Atlanta and includes her active participation in the arts, homelessness and higher education.

She serves as the Chair of the Board of the National Center of Civil and Human Rights. Additionally, Franklin serves on the Board of Directors of Mueller Water Products, Purpose Built Schools Atlanta and The Voleker Alliance.

Franklin is a frequent speaker and subject matter expert on leadership, public policy and community engagement after serving over three decades as an executive in government and business.





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## Jennifer C. Friday, Ph.D.



Jennifer Friday is President and Principal Researcher of The Friday Consulting Group, LLC, a woman and minority owned research and management consulting firm located in the Atlanta Metropolitan area. Dr. Friday has worked in the health field for more than 30 years, in both the mental health and the public health arena. For thirteen years Dr. Friday worked in various capacities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including, Health Education Specialist, Technical Assistance Specialist and Behavioral Scientist. Her efforts at the CDC focused on working with state, local, and international health departments, as well as community based, and national organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate education and prevention programs.

During her tenure at the CDC Dr. Friday was on-loan to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington DC to work on health policy issues. Dr. Friday's work at the Joint Center focused on health disparities and other health related issues including HIV/AIDS, environmental health, managed care and the future of African-American physicians. Dr. Friday served as the evaluation consultant for the MUSC SE-VIEW project to develop educational and outreach programs and conduct community-based research on health disparities. She has demonstrated a substantial record of accomplishment of supporting data collection activities, performing surveys, problem identification and compiling survey protocols. She has authored, published and presented book chapters, journal articles, final reports, presentations, results, and recommendations for review.

Dr. Friday currently serves on the psychology faculty at Georgia Gwinnett College. She is active in many professional and civic organizations including the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA). She is a past President of SEPA, the first African-American to serve in that capacity. She was a member of the congressionally appointed National Environmental Policy Commission. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Dr. Friday serves on the boards of the Rosalynn Carter Institute and the Episcopal Media Center, and is an Emeritus Trustee of her alma-mater, Millikin University. Dr. Friday received a Bachelor's degree in biology from Millikin University, and both the masters and doctoral degrees in psychology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She was recently awarded the Honorary Doctor of Science from Millikin University and the Rotary Cares Award from District 6900 of Rotary International.

## Miguel Garcia



From his days as a National Urban Fellow in Philadelphia, Miguel's professional journey has come full circle, leading him back in 2007 to the institution which provided him with a leadership edge. Throughout his career he has held a variety of management and staff roles in the corporate, government, and nonprofit sectors. His focus in the diverse areas of public policy, grant-making, school-to-work transition, leadership development, and education has enabled him to engage others in the social justice arena to effect reforms.

Garcia has served on several Boards of Directors in both New York City and State and was an elected Community School Board member in the Bronx. In addition to receiving a National Urban Fellowship, he was honored with an Institute for Educational Leadership Fellowship. However, it was as Program Director at the Primerica Foundation, that he had a glimpse into the national socio-economic demands and ethnic diversity of America by being on the front lines of philanthropy.

In 1990 he founded New Directions in Community Revitalization and in 1994 Health Opportunities High School in the South Bronx as a way to make strides in the public education arena. His responsibilities included managing academic and operational excellence initiatives, supervising faculty and support services, fostering educational and community relationships for at-risk youth. He was Head Dean and Dean of Crisis Intervention for Special Education at DeWitt Clinton HS and then Academic Coordinator for an Entrepreneurship Honors program.

Before becoming President & CEO of National Urban Fellows, Inc. in 2013, Miguel served as Director of Programs leading the NUF signature MPA program which has a rich history of producing significant impact in the public service leadership arena. The mentorship model employed by NUF has produced remarkable results and opportunities for 90% of these Fellows, many who have been the first in their families to obtain a graduate degree. Mr. Garcia is responsible for the overall vision, leadership and management of the organization.

Miguel is the proud father of Miguel III and Bianca, currently graduate students in New York City and Atlanta. A charismatic individual and a consummate role model, he also derives immense pride in creating and maintaining on-going business relationships that support the most vulnerable communities at the local level.





### ***Andrea Gelzer, M.D., M.S., FACP***



Andrea Gelzer, MD, MS, FACP, is the senior vice president and corporate chief medical officer for AmeriHealth Caritas. She is responsible for setting and overseeing the organization's overall population health management, informatics, quality and provider network contracting strategies, as

well as clinical policy development and data analytics oversight for all AmeriHealth Caritas' health plans and ancillary businesses. Previously, Dr. Gelzer served as the chief medical officer for Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan. She also served multiple roles, including senior vice president of clinical public affairs at CIGNA Corporation, and for 16 years worked in private practice in Internal Medicine.

Dr. Gelzer serves on several national committees including the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Committee on Performance Measurement, Health Care Payment and Learning Network (LAN) Guiding Committee, and the National Quality Forum (NQF) Coordinating Committee for the Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Project. She also serves as the Board of Directors Chair of HealthShare Exchange, Board member for the Association of Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) and is the past-chair of the Chief Medical Officer Leadership Council at America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP).

Dr. Gelzer earned her undergraduate degree from Tufts University and her doctor of medicine from St. George's University. She also received a master's degree in preventive medicine/administrative medicine at the University of Wisconsin Madison. She is a board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and by the American Board of Preventive Medicine in clinical informatics.

### ***Jonathan Green***



Jonathan Green is a nationally acclaimed and awarded professional artist who graduated from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1982. His thirty-eight-year track record of creating art and extensive inclusions in museum collections and exhibitions throughout many countries has led to his being considered by numerous art critics and

reviewers as one of our nation's outstanding American artists and highly recognized visual master for capturing the positive aspects of American and African American southern culture, history, and traditions.

His high level of social interest and cultural commitments, and exhibitions have brought him international recognition through his travels and collections throughout North America, Europe, Central and South America, Caribbean, Africa, and Japan. It is Green's mastery of color and skillful use of the human figure in rural and urban environments, which allows him to preserve and share with the viewer a deep sense of community, and how the life challenges of work, love, and belonging are met.

Since 1982 Jonathan Green has received four honorary doctoral degrees from prestigious universities and numerous awards for his art, social, civic, academic, and cultural contributions. In 2017 he was appointed by Mayor John Tecklenburg with the title of Ambassador for the Arts for the City of Charleston, South Carolina.

Mr. Green's art and talents have been incorporated into productions of ballet, modern dance, music, opera, theatre, literature, film, fashion clothing, and video documentaries throughout the United States. Currently Jonathan Green resides and paints in his studio located in downtown Charleston, South Carolina

### ***Paige Green, Ph.D., MPH, F.A.B.M.R.***



Dr. Paige A. Green is chief of the Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch in the Behavioral Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Dr. Green has cultivated a biobehavioral research portfolio that

focuses on elucidating biological mechanisms of psychosocial effects on health and disease. Dr. Green received her undergraduate degree in Psychology and her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. Her doctoral training included an emphasis on behavioral medicine and psychophysiology within the context of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Green completed her clinical psychology internship, with specialization in health psychology, at the Brown University Clinical Psychology Internship Consortium and postdoctoral fellowships at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and the Howard University Cancer Center. In 2005, she received a Master of Public Health degree from Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. She is an elected fellow of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, a member and past leader of the American Psychosomatic Society, and program chair of the NCI Network on Biobehavioral Pathways in Cancer.





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Dr. Green is a 2010 graduate of the NCI Senior Executive Enrichment & Development Leadership Program. She has received National Institutes of Health (NIH) Awards of Merit for outstanding coordination, leadership and dedication to the NIH Genes, Environment and Health Initiative (2012) and for exceptional leadership of research advances in basic behavioral science at the NCI and NIH (2013). Dr. Green received the 2015 NIH Director's Award for exemplary performance while demonstrating significant leadership, skill, and ability in serving as a mentor, and she received the 2015 NCI Knowledge Management Program Exceptional Mentor Award. In 2015 Dr. Green was selected as one of five other federal servants to receive the 2015 Meritorious Research Service Commendation from the American Psychological Association Board of Scientific Affairs in recognition of her outstanding contributions to psychological science at the NCI.

### *Drew Harris, DPM, MPH*



Dr. Drew Harris is an Assistant Professor at the Thomas Jefferson University College of Population Health (JCPH) and Director of the Scholarly Inquiry-Health Policy track at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College. A researcher, author and presenter in the fast-growing discipline of population health, he led JCPH's effort to create the nation's first Masters in Population Health for practicing health professionals and a new graduate program called Population Health Intelligence for clinical leaders challenged with turning health data into insight and action and was director of the Health Policy and Population Health programs.

At JCPH, he developed and teaches the core course, Essentials of Population Health, as well as the Health Policy: Analysis and Advocacy; Population Health Management Applications; and Population Health and Health Policy capstone seminar courses. He also developed and led JCPH's week-long CE Population Health Academy.

Dr. Harris presents regularly on population health and health policy to regional and national audiences and is a featured speaker in the American College Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Cluster program. He is an active health advocate, publishing frequently in the Philadelphia Inquirer, Wall Street Journal and other publications on topical health policy issues.

### *Daniel J. Hilferty, MPA*



Daniel J. Hilferty is president and chief executive officer of Independence Blue Cross, one of the nation's leading health insurers. Since Mr. Hilferty became CEO in 2010, the number of people the company and its affiliates serve has tripled to nearly 8.5 million in 23 states and Washington, D.C., including 2.5 million in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hilferty's vision is to lead the transformation of health care in America, seeking innovative technologies and new models of care that will increase the quality and lower the cost of care. He led the creation of the Independence Blue Cross Center for Health Care Innovation and launched Tandigm Health, a unique joint venture that arms primary care physicians with the tools and data needed to better manage chronic conditions and deliver more personalized care. He has built business collaborations with world-renowned institutions such as the University of Pennsylvania to conduct cutting-edge research and partnered with Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans and other leaders in health care to purchase dynamic health care companies, including AmeriHealth Caritas, one of the country's largest Medicaid managed care companies.

Mr. Hilferty is a sought-after speaker on leadership, transforming health care, and the role of technology and big data. Mr. Hilferty has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, and in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and other national media. He is among a select group of nonpartisan health care leaders called upon by government leaders for advice on implementing health care reform.

Mr. Hilferty is the immediate past chairman of the board of directors of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, and he serves on the executive committee of America's Health Insurance Plans. In addition, Mr. Hilferty is a member of the boards of directors for BCS Financial, an innovation partner for Blue companies; Aqua America, where he is also the lead independent director; Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia; and FS Investment Corporation III. In 2015, he served as co-chair on the executive leadership cabinet of the World Meeting of Families which brought Pope Francis to Philadelphia.

Mr. Hilferty earned his undergraduate degree from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and then served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps running a community center in Portland, Oregon. After earning a master's degree in public administration from American University, he returned to the Philadelphia area





where he lives with his wife, Joan. The couple has five children: Coeli, Maris, Dan, John, and Matt.

### ***Joseph B. Hill, MA, CDM***



Joseph B. Hill is Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer for Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health System in Philadelphia, Pa. In this role, he is responsible for leading the Enterprise Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement.

Prior to joining Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health System in 2015, Joseph served as Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer for Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee where he developed a diversity and inclusion program that became an integral part of the health system's values, strategy and operational initiatives. Under his leadership, Froedtert's diversity and inclusion team was nationally recognized for supplier diversity and health care equality.

From 2007 to 2010, Joseph was the Managing Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the American Cancer Society's national home office in Atlanta, Ga., where he provided strategic direction, management and support for diversity and inclusion initiatives. He was also the American Cancer Society's National Director of Diversity and External partnerships with responsibility for working with all 17 divisions on diversity and inclusion strategies. In addition, he served as the senior leader in the development and implementation of business relationships with key diverse community organizations and leaders. Prior to the American Cancer Society, Joseph applied his skills at the corporate headquarters of Cingular Wireless, which became AT&T Mobility, where he served as Senior Diversity Manager.

Joseph earned a B.A. from Virginia Union University, an M.A. from Howard University and a Certificate in Diversity Management in Health Care (CDM) from Georgetown University and the Institute for Diversity in Health Management.

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Joseph is a frequent speaker at national forums where he shares his insights and experience on the importance of diversity and strategic partnerships in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. Joseph serves on a number of boards including the Board of Trustees at Virginia Union University, Intelligere a portfolio company of Generation Growth Capital and the National Football Players Father's Association. Joseph and his wife Ericka resides in Philadelphia, PA and Atlanta, GA.

### ***Loretta Sweet Jemmott, Ph.D., R.N. FAAN***



Dr. Loretta Sweet Jemmott is the Vice President of Drexel University focusing on Health and Health Equity. She is also a Professor in Drexel's College of Nursing and Health Professions. She is one of the nation's foremost researchers in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention, having the most consistent track record of evidenced-based HIV risk-reduction interventions with over \$150 million in federal funding. Aimed at increasing safer sex behaviors, these studies have not only demonstrated remarkable success in reducing HIV/STD risk associated behaviors, but have also reduced the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases.

Dr. Jemmott leads Drexel University's community/civic engagement initiative, "We Here Because We Care: Building Healthy Communities Together," which is designed to partner with the community to identify health and wellness concerns within the 10 West Philadelphia Promise Zone communities and develop health and wellness programs to improve health outcomes by implementing community-driven, sustainable programs based on the community's voices. She also created Drexel's Community Wellness HUB, which is a place-based, community-driven, health promotion partnership between Drexel University and the residents of Mantua and Powelton Village. The HUB looks to HEAL the community through preventative care, UNITE the community around better health, and BRIDGE the community to health services and programming. The HUB offers free health and wellness programming and disease prevention education, which includes screening, counseling, referral services, and treatment to the uninsured.

Dr. Jemmott is an outstanding translational researcher, who has had global impact. She has partnered with community-based organizations, including churches, clinics, barbershops, and schools and transformed her NIH funded evidenced-based research outcomes for use in real world settings. To date, nine of her evidenced-based HIV/STD and pregnancy prevention curricula have been designated by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Adolescent Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for national and international dissemination. To date, over 45 states across the country (including Alaska, the Virgin Islands and Hawaii) are incorporating one of her nine curricula in their schools, clinics, churches, or community-based agency programs.

Dr. Jemmott's research has changed public policy as it relates to the use of theory-driven, culturally appropriate, evidenced-based HIV/STD risk reduction interventions in community and clinical settings.





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She has presented her research to the U.S. and has received numerous prestigious awards, including the U.S. Congressional Merit Award, the American Academy of Nursing, and election to membership in the Institute of Medicine, an honor accorded to very few nurses.

Prior to coming to Drexel University, she spent 20 years as a Professor at the University of Pennsylvania in the School of Nursing. She graduated from Hampton University in 1978 with a BSN in Nursing, the University of Pennsylvania with her MSN in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing in 1982, and a Ph.D. in Education in 1987.

### *The Honorable Kenyatta Johnson, M.S.*



A man with a mission to serve, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson represents the 2nd District, which covers parts of Center City, South and Southwest Philadelphia and also includes the stadium area, Philadelphia International Airport, and the Navy Yard as well as the Eastwick, Grays

Ferry, Hawthorne, and Point Breeze neighborhoods. The youngest member of City Council, Johnson arrived on the political scene in 1998 determined to end gun violence through Peace Not Guns, an organization he founded after the murder of his cousin – to prevent violence through education and the creation of programs that would give youth an alternative to the streets. That activism led to a successful run for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, where he served as State Representative for the 186th Legislative District from 2009 until 2012 when he took the oath of office for City Council. Councilman Johnson introduced a resolution in September 2017 declaring gun violence a public health crisis in Philadelphia.

Councilman Johnson chairs the Committees on Legislative Oversight, Transportation and Public Utilities as well as co-chairs the Special Committee on Gun Violence Prevention and Committees on Public Safety, and Appropriations. He also serves on the following committees: Rules; Streets and Services; Licenses and Inspections; Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs; Commerce and Economic Development; Children and Youth; and Fiscal Stability and Intergovernmental Cooperation. Councilman Johnson is a member of the Airport Advisory Board and Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation's (PIDC) Executive Committee.

A lifelong resident of Point Breeze, Councilman Johnson is a product of the School District of Philadelphia. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Mansfield University and a Masters Degree in Government Administration from the Fels Institute of Government at

the University of Pennsylvania. He also completed the Governing for Non Profit Excellence Certificate Program at the Harvard School of Business. A senate staffer for six years prior to running for the House of Representatives, Councilman Johnson is a former volunteer for AmeriCorps, the national service organization that allows citizens to serve their communities. He was also a founding staff member of City Year; the non-profit AmeriCorps organization whose primary goal is to build advocacy through service.

Councilman Johnson, currently serving his second term, is committed to improving education, affordable housing, business development, public safety, job training and access to employment for his constituents in the 2nd District.

### *Mia R. Keeys, M.A.*



Mia R. Keeys serves as the Health Policy Advisor to Congresswoman Robin Kelly (D-IL), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. Mia is originally from Philadelphia, PA, but also calls Jakarta, Indonesia and Johannesburg, South Africa “home.” Through her efforts promoting health

equity nationwide and internationally, Mia works with her colleagues developing health, economic, and education policies and programs that illuminate and address critical issues of historically underserved populations. Mia bases her health equity philosophy on understanding “upstream” issues—access, affordability, and socially determining factors—which affect communities’ abilities to make healthy choices across their lives. Mia especially frames her research and work around youth of color and their ability to manifest their life vision, a philosophy which she illustrates in her 2015 TEDx talk, “A Racial Imagination Quotient.”

The National Minority Quality Forum recognizes Mia as a 40 Under 40 Leader in Minority Health. The National Academy of Medicine features Mia’s work in their national project and exhibit, “Visualizing Health Equity.” Previously, Mia has been a Kaiser Family Foundation Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholar; a Fellow for the City of Philadelphia in the Deputy Mayor’s Office for Health and Opportunity; an HIV/AIDS researcher in South Africa; and a U.S. Fulbright Fellow to Indonesia, where she lived and worked in various health administrative and research capacities for three years, while simultaneously learning the national language, Bahasa Indonesian. She





has also held summer associate appointments with the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health.

Mia holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Psychology from Cheyney University, and a Master of Arts degree in Medical Sociology from Vanderbilt University, where she was also a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow through Meharry Medical College. Mia is also a creative non-fiction writer, with training from the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

### ***Monica Modi Khant, J.D.***



Monica Modi Khant is the Executive Director for the Georgia Asylum & Immigration Network (GAIN) in Atlanta, GA. As Executive Director, Ms. Modi Khant oversees, supervises, trains and mentors pro bono attorneys who represent immigrant victims of violence and asylum seekers. Ms. Modi Khant also oversees fundraising initiatives, outreach efforts and community relations in addition to her legal duties. She offers a unique perspective as an advocate for immigrant rights in the Southeast.

Ms. Modi Khant received her BA from Rutgers University in 1995 and her J.D. from New England School of Law in 1998. Upon graduation, she was the Detention Attorney at the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) where she represented detained asylum seekers. In 2000, Ms. Modi Khant continued practicing immigration law with private immigration firms in Boston, MA.

In 2005, Ms. Modi Khant was appointed as the Director of Legal Services at the International Institute of Boston (IIB). With this position, Ms. Modi Khant worked extensively with victims of abuse and trafficking. She has also trained lawyers, law enforcement and judges on how to work with immigrant victims of violence. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of Raksha, a Georgia-based nonprofit organization for the South Asian community. She is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta Class of 2015 and has served as Pro Bono Liaison of the Atlanta chapter of the America Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). Ms. Modi Khant is also an Adjunct Professor at Georgia State University and teaches Human Trafficking & Modern Day Slavery.

She is married to Sanjay, a physician with Emory Healthcare and has three children.

### ***Stephen K. Klasko, M.D., MBA***



Dr. Stephen K. Klasko is a transformative leader and advocate for a revolution in our systems of healthcare and higher education.

As President and CEO of Philadelphia-based Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health since 2013, he has steered one of the nation's fastest growing academic health institutions based on his vision of re-imagining health care and higher education. His 2017 merger of Thomas Jefferson University with Philadelphia University creates a pre-eminent professional university that includes top-20 programs in fashion and design, coupled with the first design thinking curriculum in a medical school, and with the nation's leading research on empathy.

His track record of success at creating and implementing programs that are shaping the future of health care earned him a place on Modern Healthcare's list of the "100 Most Influential People in Healthcare" and "Most Influential Physician Executives" in 2017. That same year, his entrepreneurial leadership and success at recruiting helped Thomas Jefferson University Hospital achieve a #16 ranking – and elite Honor Roll status – on U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals list.

Dr. Klasko is a nationally recognized advocate for healthcare transformation, having served as dean of two medical colleges, and leader of three academic health centers before becoming President and CEO at Jefferson. He is author of 1999's *The Phantom Stethoscope*, 2016's *We Can Fix Healthcare in America*, and editor in chief of the journal "Healthcare Transformation." His new book is 2018's *Bless This Mess: A Picture Story of Healthcare in America*.

Under his leadership, Jefferson Health has grown from a three hospitals to 14 with annual revenues that grew from \$1.8 billion to more than \$5 billion, annualized. The new Jefferson focuses on managing the health of populations in southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. Jefferson has the largest faculty based tele-health network in the country, the NCI-designated Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, and an outpatient footprint that is among the most technologically advanced in the region.

This rapid growth led in 2017 to GE Healthcare signing with Jefferson Health the largest risk-shared partnership in the U.S., aimed at saving more than \$500 million over eight years.

Jefferson has 2018 annualized post-merger revenues of \$5.1 billion, more than 30,000 employees, 7,800 students, 6,600 physicians/practitioners and 4,400 faculty.





# Biographies

## *Heather Klusaritz, PhD, MSW*



Dr. Heather Klusaritz is the Associate Director of the Center for Community and Population Health in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Klusaritz is also the Director of Community Engagement for UPenn's Center for Public Health Initiatives, core faculty in the MPH program, and a Lecturer at the School of Social Policy and Practice. Dr. Klusaritz is trained clinically as a medical social worker and been engaged in care delivery at University of Pennsylvania Health System for over 15 years. Dr. Klusaritz's research focus is at the intersection between healthcare and policy, specifically access to health care for marginalized populations and the design of health systems to eliminate disparities in health access and outcomes.

Dr. Klusaritz has significant teaching experience with MSW, MPH, and medical students as well as resident physician trainees in the areas of health disparities, social determinants of health inequities, health policy, and social welfare policy. Dr. Klusaritz works collaboratively with multiple community partners throughout West Philadelphia to improve the health of underserved communities and is the co-founder of a program that connects patients to critical social welfare benefits, helps navigate health system access, and engages in medical-legal advocacy.

## *Bryant T. Marks, Sr., Ph.D.*



Dr. Bryant T. Marks, Sr. is a minister, researcher, trainer, and award-winning educator. His personal and professional mission is to develop the knowledge, wisdom, and skills of others that will allow them to reach their full potential and live their lives with purpose and passion. Dr. Marks

is the Founder and Chief Training Officer of the National Training Institute on Race and Equity and he is a professor in the Department of Psychology at Morehouse College. He served on President Obama's Board of Advisors with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans and as senior advisor with the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Dr. Marks was a contributor/trainer with the Obama Administration's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) and 21st Century Policing programs. Dr. Marks has provided implicit bias training to over 2,000 Police Chiefs and executives via a series of briefings at the White House in

2016, and several thousand patrol officers in local police departments including the entire Los Angeles Police Department. He has also provided training related to diversity and implicit bias to individuals in education (K-12 and higher education), corporations, philanthropy, non-profits, local and federal government, and several other sectors. He serves on several national boards and is a highly sought after speaker and trainer. He holds a B.A. in psychology and a minor in economics from Morehouse College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Michigan. Dr. Marks conducts research and professional development in the areas of diversity and implicit bias, Black male psychology and development, the academic achievement of minority college students, innovations in STEM education, and personal passion and productivity. Dr. Marks is married to Kimberly Marks and father to Kim, Zion-Trinity, and Bryant II.

## *Rev. Lorina Marshall-Blake, MGA, FAAN*



Lorina Marshall-Blake serves as the president of the Independence Blue Cross Foundation, where she leads the Foundation's strategic, programmatic, and operational efforts to fulfill its mission of leading sustainable solutions to improving the health and wellness of our neighborhoods that can be replicated on a national scale. This includes

overseeing grant-making work for the \$65 million Foundation.

Outside of work, Ms. Marshall-Blake is devoted to her church and community. She serves as an associate minister at the Vine Memorial Baptist Church in Philadelphia. In addition, she is affiliated with more than 30 professional and civic organizations, including the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the United Negro College Fund, and is the past president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She also serves on 25 nonprofit boards and committees of local, state, and national organizations including Albright College, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association — Corporate Responsibility Committee, Pennsylvania Conference for Women, the Urban Affairs Coalition, and the Urban League of Philadelphia.

In 2016, Ms. Marshall-Blake was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing as an honorary fellow and received an appointment to the National Advisory Council on Nursing Education and Practice in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Marshall-Blake graduated from Antioch College with a bachelor of arts degree in human services and holds a master of arts degree in government administration from the University of Pennsylvania. She





also received an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Albright College. She is pursuing her master of divinity degree from Palmer Theological Seminary

### ***Joanne McFall, MBA***



Joanne McFall, Market President for Keystone First, Pennsylvania's largest Medicaid managed care organization, is responsible for providing day-to-day leadership, stakeholder engagement, and strategic focus to ensure improved population health for the health plan's more than 430,000 members.

Ms. McFall brings to the role more than 20 years of experience in health care operations, strategic planning, medical cost containment, information technology and financial oversight. Prior to her role as Market President, Ms. McFall was Vice President and Chief of Staff at AmeriHealth Caritas, serving as a liaison between the corporate Chief Operating Officer and all direct reporting departments and corporate functions. In this role, she was also responsible for all corporate project management and new business implementations in support of the organization's growth strategy. Previously, Ms. McFall was Associate Vice President at AmeriHealth Caritas with responsibility for high-level oversight of operational functions and process improvement/cost containment opportunities.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Delaware and her MBA in Health and Medical Services Administration from Widener University.

### ***Matthew L. Myers, J.D.***



Matthew L. Myers is President of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is a leading force in the fight to reduce tobacco use and its deadly toll in the United States and around the world. In 1996, Mr. Myers helped to found the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

In the United States and around the globe, the Campaign advocates at all levels of government for policies that reduce tobacco use and save lives, and supports governments and non-governmental organizations in promoting and implementing these policies. The Campaign is a partner in the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use, which focuses on low- and middle-income countries where more than 80 percent of tobacco-related deaths will occur in the coming decades.

Over the last 25 years, Mr. Myers has participated in virtually every major US tobacco-related legislative effort, including the efforts that revised the warning labels on cigarettes in 1984, eliminated tobacco subsidies, required warning labels on smokeless tobacco and banned smokeless tobacco from advertising on TV and radio in 1986, the ban on smoking on airplanes, multiple tax increases, the lawsuits brought by the US States against the tobacco industry and the legislation that granted the US Food and Drug Administration broad authority over tobacco products. Internationally, Mr. Myers and the Campaign worked on the development of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the first global public health treaty and are now working in countries across the globe for the implementation of the policies called for by the treaty.

In 1999, Mr. Myers was appointed to serve on the first tobacco advisory committee to the Director General of the World Health Organization. In 2000, he was named by President Clinton to co-chair a Presidential Commission to develop a proposal to both address the economic problems being experienced by tobacco farmers and at the same time promote the public health through a reduction in tobacco use. In 2011 he was selected to serve on the Civil Society Task Force to advise the President of the General Assembly of the UN in conjunction with the UN High Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases.

In 1989, Mr. Myers received the prestigious Surgeon General's Medallion from Dr. C. Everett Koop for contributions to the public health. In 2004, the Harvard School of Public Health bestowed its highest award, the Julius B. Richmond award, on Mr. Myers for his work. In 2006, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids received the Luther Terry Award for its leadership on global tobacco control. In 2007, the American Cancer Society honored Mr. Myers with its highest award, The Medal of Honor.

Mr. Myers is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. He began his tobacco control work in 1980 when he joined the Federal Trade Commission and was responsible for the agency's tobacco-related activity. From 1981 to 1996 he was a partner in the law firm of Asbill, Junkin and Myers. From 1982 to 1996, he also represented the Coalition on Smoking OR Health, an organization comprised of the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, and the American Heart Association.





# Biographies

## *Jo Pauling-Jones, M.Ed.*



Jo Pauling-Jones has served as Executive Director for Healthy Learners since 2006. In this role, she is directly responsible for ensuring thousands of children who are in need and without resources in South Carolina have quality access to health care.

She provides overall management and leadership, serves as the key liaison to the Healthy Learners Board of Trustees and plans for the future growth for Healthy Learners, which is a statewide organization with regional centers in the Midlands, Greenwood, Allendale, Georgetown and Dillon.

Prior to Healthy Learners, Ms. Pauling-Jones served as a senior program officer for the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. There, she oversaw a \$1.3 million statewide grants program and directed the development and implementation of education programs for grantees. Ms. Pauling-Jones holds both her bachelor of science in physical education and a master of education degree from Winthrop University.

Ms. Pauling-Jones attends Rehoboth Baptist Church in Columbia, SC, is a member of the Sisters of Charity Health System Mission and Values Committee and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is a graduate of the Southeastern Council of Foundations Inaugural Hull Leadership Program (2000) and a graduate of Leadership Columbia. She has received numerous honors, including the HOPE Worldwide South Carolina Gail D. Chisholm Community Advocate Award, the Coach Dawn Staley Community Service Honor and the Palmetto Center for Women TWIN (Tribute to Women in Industry) Award.

## *Andy Pelosi, M.S.*



Andy is the co-founder and executive director of The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus - founded in 2008. With over 22 years of grassroots advocacy experience, including 20 years working as a gun violence prevention advocate. He previously served for six years as the first executive director

of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV) and its c3 affiliate New Yorkers Against Gun Violence Educational Fund. Andy earned a B.A. from Manhattanville College (Dept. Honors- Political Science), Purchase, NY and a M.S. in Non-Profit Management from the Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy, NY, NY.

## *LeShawndra Price, Ph.D.*



Dr. Price is the Chief of the Health Inequities and Global Health Branch within the Center for Translation Research and Implementation Science (CTRIS) at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institutes of Health (NIH). In this position, she supports and fosters

a program of innovative research pertaining to health inequities, domestically and globally, including identifying gaps and needs, as well as research opportunities to address them. She also leads the strategic development of "T4" translation research and implementation science in the global arena. Immediately prior to joining NHLBI, Dr. Price served as Deputy Director for Research and Chief of the Research Scientist Development program in the Office for Research on Disparities and Global Mental Health at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). She also served as Project Scientist for a multi-million-dollar initiative involving eight distinct clinical trials designed to improve treatments and expand access to mental health care in more than 20 low- and middle-income countries, including Brazil, Peru, Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Ethiopia, India, and Pakistan. She also served as one of the NIH's coordinators of the Mental Health Across the Lifespan Initiative, a collaboration between the NIH and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, incorporated to raise awareness about mental health conditions affecting women and their families, including bullying, postpartum depression, and successful aging later in life.

Dr. Price brings a wealth of experience to her work at the NHLBI, as she also has held positions at the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Carolina Power and Light Energy & Environmental Center, Burroughs-Wellcome (now Glaxo Smith Kline), Research and Evaluation Associates, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, George Washington University, and North Carolina Central University. Her leadership, service, and advocacy has been recognized through awards from the NIH Office of the Director, NIMH Director, NIDA Director, American Psychological Association, and the Family Research Consortium. Dr. Price's academic background includes a B.A. in Psychology from Wake Forest University, as well as a M.A. and Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.





### *Dwayne Proctor, Ph.D.*



Dwayne Proctor, senior adviser to the President and director, believes that the Foundation's vision for building a Culture of Health presents a unique opportunity to achieve health equity by advancing and promoting innovative systems changes related to the social determinants of health.

Proctor came to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in 2002 as a senior communications and program officer, providing strategic guidance and resources for several child health and risk-prevention initiatives like the Nurse-Family Partnership, Free to Grow, Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol-Free, Partnership for a Drug-Free America and the National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy. In 2005, Proctor was tapped to lead RWJF's national strategies to reverse the rise in childhood obesity rates. In this role, he worked with his colleagues to: (1) promote effective changes to public policies and industry practices; (2) test and demonstrate innovative community and school-based environmental changes; and (3) use both "grassroots" and "treetops" advocacy approaches to educate leaders on their roles in preventing childhood obesity. Proctor is known for his strategic collaborations, having worked on several cross-sector initiatives (e.g., Partnership for a Healthier America, the evaluation of the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation, ChildObesity 180) and national programs that focused on decreasing childhood obesity disparities gaps (e.g., Healthy Schools Program; Salud America!; Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities; Communities Creating Healthy Environments; National Policy and Legal Action Network; and Voices for Healthy Kids). In 2014, as multiple municipalities and states were reporting signs of progress in reversing the childhood obesity epidemic, Proctor was reassigned to direct RWJF's work to eliminate health disparities.

Before coming to the Foundation, Proctor was an assistant professor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine where he taught courses on health communication and marketing to multicultural populations. During his Fulbright Fellowship in Senegal, West Africa, his research team investigated how HIV/AIDS prevention messages raised awareness of AIDS as a national health problem. Proctor received his doctoral, master's and bachelor's degrees in marketing and communication science from the University of Connecticut. He is the former chairman of the board of directors for the Association of Black Foundation Executives and currently is the chairman of the board of trustees for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

### *LaVerne Ragster, Ph.D.*



LaVerne Ragster, born and raised in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, is a retired Professor of Marine Biology and President Emerita of the University of the Virgin Islands. She has conducted research and training in the areas of algal physiology and natural resource management, presented and published

in the areas of plant physiology, natural resource management and training, and obtained training and practical experience in institutional and leadership development over a 37-year span.

Her educational career included completion of a number of leadership development certificates in recent years and a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry (University of Miami) in 1973, a M.S. in Biology (San Diego State University, algal physiology concentration) in 1975 and a Ph.D. in Biology (University of California, San Diego, plant biochemistry concentration) in 1980.

Dr. Ragster's service experience includes national participation on the National Environmental Policy Commission of the Congressional Black Caucus Brain Trust on Environmental Justice, Commissions and programs of the American Council on Education and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), and membership on the Review Panel for the 4th National Climate Assessment, the National Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, and the US Integrated Ocean Observing Systems Advisory Committee. She has worked in the Eastern Caribbean with the United Nations Environmental Program, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, and the Caribbean Conservation Association on projects that helped to establish protected areas on the land and sea in a number of island states in the Caribbean. Recently, Dr. Ragster served as chair of the board of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), a regional NGO facilitating linkages between conservation, resource management and livelihoods in the Caribbean. She has served locally on boards of Island Resources Foundation, VI Waste Management Authority, VI Public Television System, and the Rotary Club of St. Thomas II. Community service also extends to the University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant Program Stakeholder Committee, the representative of the Foundation for Development Planning Inc. (FDPI) representative on the USVI Climate Change Council, and the VI Law Enforcement Planning Commission State Advisory Group. This year leadership activities have been extended to service as co-chair on the Yale-Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center Consortium Governing Board and co-chair of the Planning Committee for the Student Forum of the National Conference on Health Disparities organized by the Medical School of South Carolina. Dr. Ragster has been recognized and





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honored by Virgin Islands organizations, (US) national organizations, higher education institutions, and the President of the U.S. for her teaching, work in conservation, leadership, and community service.

At the present time, Dr. Ragster continues to serve the University of the Virgin Islands through an assignment with the UVI Caribbean Exploratory (NIMHD) Research Center, focusing her scholarly efforts on climate change adaptation in the Caribbean, especially in the area of public health.

## *Brian Rahmer, Ph.D.*



Dr. Brian Rahmer's professional priorities include the social determinants of health and the socio-political forces that shape health outcomes. For more than thirteen years, Brian has engaged partners across a diverse array of communities in order to better understand and respond to health inequalities.

Dr. Rahmer places an advocacy emphasis on civic engagement for healthy public policy. A proven leader in strategic community engagement, Dr. Rahmer has experience in system dynamics modeling, community health promotion programming and implementation, community organizing and advocacy, policy and network analysis, fifth-generation evaluation and participatory action research. His current work exists at the intersection of inclusive community development, place-based capacity building, and leveraging the changing economics of population health improvement for sustainable whole-systems transformation. This interdisciplinary, intersectional work is oriented by a deliberative community-guided collective impact strategy rooted in justice, equity, and solidarity.

## *Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis, M.S., Ph.D.*



Britt Rios-Ellis, Ph.D., is the founding Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Services (CHSHS) at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Since her arrival in fall of 2014, she has reconfigured CHSHS to include a Department of Nursing and a Department of Social Work.

Dr. Rios-Ellis is currently working to develop a Master of Science Physician Assistant Program, a Master of Public Administration, a Master of Public Health, a Master of Nursing, and other needed programs. She launched a Diversity Celebration Speaker Series during National Hispanic Heritage Month, National AIDS Day, National African American History Month, and National Minority

Health Month. Equity in health and human services and student success are at the forefront of her administration.

For the previous 20 years, Dr. Rios-Ellis served as a professor at California State University Long Beach (CSULB) and the founding director of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR)/CSULB Center for Latino Community Health, Evaluation, and Leadership Training and the Centro Salud es Cultura located in downtown Long Beach. At CSULB Dr. Rios-Ellis spearheaded over 50 million dollars in funded student- and community-strengthening research projects and served as the Principal Investigator (PI) on grants to transform CSULB into a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). Under her leadership, the Center created grant programs focusing on Latino populations that are based in the community and university employing the use of promotores (community health workers) and student peer mentors. The Center also serves as evaluator for all promotores-based projects for the Institute of Hispanic Health at NCLR, and provides culturally relevant and contextually driven qualitative and quantitative expertise in community-based research design and evaluation to regional and national organizations focusing on Latino health and educational issues.

Dr. Rios-Ellis has served as the PI and Co-PI on numerous federally funded initiatives, including the USDA-funded project Transdisciplinary Graduate Education and Training to Prevent Latino Childhood Obesity, *Sanos y Fuertes/Healthy and Strong*, which aimed to enhance graduate student preparedness to envision, design, implement and evaluate health-related, community-based participatory research. She was Co-PI on the Hispanic Health Opportunities Learning Alliance (HHOLA) funded by the National Institutes of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), which sought to rectify the lack of Latino scholars in the biomedical fields. She managed the student core for the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI-NIMHD) project and was a Co-PI on the NIMHD-funded BUILD Planning Grant and the BUILD grant, which creates a pipeline to the doctorate for underrepresented minorities in biomedical and behavioral research. The BUILD initiative employs the Latino Student Cultural Capital Model, which Dr. Rios-Ellis developed and fused into programming to undergird all HSI efforts, thus fueling the success of underrepresented minority students at CSULB.

She has authored numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts on contextually and culturally relevant strategies for Latino-focused HIV/AIDS prevention, maternal child health, obesity prevention, and enhancement of educational opportunities. Her honors include awards for teaching and community service, Woman of the Year from the National Hispanic Business Women's Association and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Sol Award from the LA County Office of AIDS





Policy and Programs. She served as a member of the CDC/HRSA National Advisory Committee on HIV/STD Prevention and Treatment (CHAC), as well as the SAMHSA Women's Health Advisory Commission. She was also elected to serve on the President's Advisory Commission for HIV/AIDS/CHAC Disclosure Work Group. In 2014, she served as a delegate for the U.S. State Department's People-to-People Initiative in Beijing and for the NIH Office of AIDS Research Hispanic Advisory Group at the International AIDS Conference in Rome, Vienna, Vancouver and Melbourne.

Dr. Rios-Ellis has played several leading roles in health equity-related event planning and is a member of the committee for the National Health Disparities Conference. She served as the Co-Scientific Director for the 2014 International Symposium on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and spearheaded the Latino Health Equity conference from 2009-2013. She collaborated with the Fundación Haciendas del Mundo Maya in conducting health-related needs assessments of remote Maya communities in the Yucatán. She has been a consultant for Mothers to Mothers in Cape Town, South Africa, HRSA, the Pan American Health Organization, NCLR, YMCA, the U.S. Department of State, the NIH Office of AIDS Research, and other national and international organizations. Dr. Rios-Ellis has appeared on regional and national Spanish and English-language television and radio for Telemundo, Univision, CNN, and ABC World News Tonight. In 2013, Dr. Rios-Ellis was awarded the highest honor at CSULB, that of Outstanding Professor.

### ***David E. Rivers, DHL***



David E. Rivers, DHL, serves as Professor and Director of the Public Information and Community Outreach at the Medical University of South Carolina. He has served the University in a number of capacities since January 1995.

During the past forty years, he has held senior-level positions in the City of Atlanta government, the Atlanta Regional Commission, Georgia State University, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Energy and the District of Columbia Government.

Dr. Rivers received his Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Affairs from Georgia State University and his Master of Arts degree in Political Science/Public Administration from Georgia State University, where he has completed course work for the Ph.D. in Political Science. He is also a graduate of the National Urban Fellows Program in Public Administration from Yale University. He is a graduate of the

Riley Institute Diversity Leadership Program at Furman University and received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Allen University. In addition, Dr. Rivers served three years in the U.S. Army.

Dr. Rivers serves as Board Chairman of the National Urban Fellows in New York, NY. He also serves as Chairman of the James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation. He is also President of the Jonathan Green Foundation. Dr. Rivers is Vice Chairman of the Sea Island Comprehensive Health Care Corporation. He is a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, American Water Works Association, Water Environment Federation, and the 100 Black Men of Charleston, SC. Dr. Rivers is a Board Member of the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston, SC; My Brothers Keeper, Charleston, SC; National Council of La Raza ~ California State University Center for Latino Community Health in Monterey Bay, California; Allen University Board of Trustees in Columbia, SC; the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's 21st Century Council Executive Committee; Advisory Board Member of Charleston First Reliance Bank; and the Trident Urban League. He has also served as a Board Member of the Community Foundation and the Charleston Regional Development Alliance. In addition, he was elected citywide to serve as a Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Charleston in 2003 and was re-elected in September of 2009 and 2015 unopposed, where he serves as Vice Chairman.

### ***Loren Robinson, M.D., MSHP***



Dr. Loren Robinson is the Deputy Secretary for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Her focus is on preventive health and wellness programs geared toward improving the well-being of all Pennsylvanians. In this position, Dr. Robinson

focuses on many aspects of health including reducing childhood obesity, teen health, lead poisoning prevention, maternal child health, HIV, Hepatitis C and health equity. Prior to joining the Pennsylvania Department of Health, she completed the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program at the University of Pennsylvania where she also served as a fellow in the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics and the Penn Institute for Urban Research. Most recently, Dr. Robinson was selected for the prestigious Presidential Leadership Scholars program, a national program that brings together leaders from across non-profit, military, public, and private sector fields to learn leadership lessons first-hand from four past presidencies.





# Biographies

Dr. Robinson received her medical degree from Duke University and completed the Internal Medicine and Pediatrics residency program at UNC Chapel Hill in North Carolina. As both a practicing internist and pediatrician, she cares for patients of all ages. Dr. Robinson's research focuses on interventions to improve social determinants of health and provide sustainable improvements in health outcomes.

Dr. Robinson has also been named to the National Minority Quality Forum's 40 under 40 Leaders in Minority Health, received the National Medical Association's Rising Star Award and was elected to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Dr. Robinson was also selected for LinkedIn's "Next Wave: Game Changers 35 years old and younger in Healthcare." In May 2017, she was named to Essence magazine's inaugural #Woke100 list. Dr. Robinson was named a Top Physician under 40 by the Pennsylvania Medical Society in 2017. Dr. Robinson has received more than 30 awards, including the being inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, University of North Carolina chapter; the UNC School of Medicine Henry C. Fordham Teaching Award; National Medical Association's Top 40 Under 40 award.

Originally from Buffalo, NY, Dr. Robinson attended Spelman College in Atlanta, GA where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in French. Dr. Robinson was recently selected to join the Board of Trustees of Spelman College as the College's youngest ever Alumna Trustee. Dr. Robinson is a member of several professional organizations, including the National Medical Association, the College of the Physicians of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Medical Society and the National Physicians Alliance. She serves on the boards of The Food Trust, Project HOME, and the Multicultural Leadership Committee of the American Heart Association, Great Rivers Affiliate and the Philadelphia Medical Reserve Corps. Dr. Robinson resides in Philadelphia and enjoys traveling, cooking, mentoring, and running to stay fit in the City of Brotherly Love.

## Carolyn Sawyer



Carolyn possesses the right blend of authoritativeness and professionalism to master the role of facilitating, moderating or "theme weaving" a wide variety of events.

Her command of the audience comes from her three decades of experience in the communications industry and earning top awards for her talent. She began her speaking career as a broadcast journalist covering such historic events as U.S. Presidential Inaugurations, the Million Man March, Wall Street's Black

Monday, the wrath of Mother Nature, and more.

For Clients, the benefits of a "skilled" versus "scripted" facilitator are clear: Relevant information is captured by the audience through recaps and appropriate transitions. Client increases potential to influence behavioral change. The event's mission, goals and outcome furthered enhanced.

Carolyn Sawyer understands the nuances of the audience, the moods, the emotions no matter how diverse the population. She has worked in small cities and towns; as well as with national audiences messaging to millions. As a highly sought after strategist, she has transformed her talent into enhancing public outreach, education and engagement in the areas of Healthcare, Environmental Justice, Racial and Economic Equity, and Education.

The partial Client list includes some of the Nation's significant gatherings: 50th Anniversary Celebration of Brown v. Board of Education, US Department of Education; America Healing, 2013 Annual Meeting, W. K. Kellogg Foundation; National Health Disparities Conference, Medical University of South Carolina; National Environmental Justice Conference, US Department of Energy; National League of Cities Leadership Summit; National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, University of South Carolina; US Department of Veteran's Affairs, Secretary's Nationwide Town Halls; Legends of AKF Foundation; Diversity for Alliance Healthcare Summit

Keeping the lines of Communications clear, concise--and on time, while dynamically moving through the event or agenda is Carolyn Sawyer's expertise. For more information, call 540-479-2238 or email [kathy@tomsawyercompanies.com](mailto:kathy@tomsawyercompanies.com).

## Sabra Slaughter, Ph.D.



Sabra Slaughter, Ph.D. (Community Liaison) is Senior Advisor to the Medical University of South Carolina's President, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, and the Principal Investigator for Southeastern Virtual Institute for Health Equity and Wellness (SE VIEW) at MUSC. Prior to his current

appointment, Dr. Slaughter served as the Executive Director for the South

Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (S.C. AHEC) from 1996-2000. Dr. Slaughter's research and community interests include improvement in the quality and access to health care in South





Carolina, the elimination of health disparities in South Carolina, and the achievement of population parity in South Carolina's health professions workforce. He is well respected

and tightly connected to the African American community within Charleston. Dr. Slaughter facilitates the operation of the Community Advisory Board and promotes ongoing engagement with the African American community to ensure services are culturally competent and well received.

### ***Christine Stark, MSW***



Christine Stark is an award-winning writer, visual artist, and speaker of European, Anishinaabe & Cherokee ancestry. Her first novel, *Nickels: A Tale of Dissociation*, was a Lambda Literary Finalist. Her essays, poems, and creative non-fiction have appeared in numerous publications, including *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*; *The WIP*; *Florida Review*; *The Chalk Circle*: Intercultural Prize Winning Essays; *When We Become Weavers: Queer Female Poets on the Midwest Experience*; *Hawk and Handsaw: The Journal of Creative Sustainability*; and many others. Her poem, "Momma's Song", was recorded by Fred Ho and the Afro Asian Music Ensemble as a double manga CD. She is also a co-editor of *Not for Sale: Feminists Resisting Prostitution and Pornography* and a co-author of «Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota». In 2012 she was named a "Changemaker" by the Women's Press. Currently, she is completing her second novel, *Carnival Lights* and researching a book on the prostitution and trafficking of Native women in the Upper Midwest. She has taught at universities and colleges and was a program director at Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center. She is completing an MSW at the University of Minnesota at Duluth. For more information: [www.christinestark.com](http://www.christinestark.com)

### ***Billy R. Thomas, M.D., M.P.H.***



Dr. Billy R. Thomas is the Vice Chancellor of Diversity and Inclusion at the Center for Diversity Affairs at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Dr. Thomas is also professor in the Department of Pediatrics and associate professor at the College of Public Health at UAMS. Dr. Thomas is board-certified in pediatrics and neonatal-perinatal medicine. He graduated from Arkansas State University and received

his MD degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. In 1986 he completed a fellowship in perinatal/neonatal medicine at Case Western Reserve and joined the faculty as an attending neonatologist at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas. In 2004 he received a Master's in Public Health from the Tulane School of Public Health.

His articles appear in journals ranging from the *Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry* to *Academic Medicine*. He has more than a decade of experience promoting and advancing diversity, inclusiveness, equity, and cultural competency at UAMS and throughout the state.

### ***Roberta M. Troy, Ph.D.***



Dr. Roberta M. Troy currently serves as the Interim Head of the Department of Biology at Tuskegee University and the Founding Director of the Tuskegee University Health Disparities Institute for Research and Education (HDIRE). Additionally, she serves as a member of the Tuskegee University SACS/COC Leadership team and Director of the SACS/COC-required Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Dr. Troy's training in the biological/biomedical sciences began at Tuskegee, where she received both the Bachelor of Science and the Master of Science degrees in biology. She was awarded the Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Florida, where she was a McKnight Pre-Doctoral Fellow. Subsequently, she continued her training at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, where she was a postdoctoral fellow in molecular virology. Prior to her current appointments, Dr. Troy served in several administrative positions at Tuskegee University, such as Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Studies, Director of the SACS/COC Quality Enhancement Plan, and Chair of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Troy has been actively engaged in cancer research over the past 17 years, with a focus on examining the chemo-preventive and chemotherapeutic effects of natural products on breast and cervical cancer cells in African American women. Additionally, through funding from NIH/RCMI, she has conducted research on the use of animal models to study the mechanisms of invasion and metastasis in cancer progression, looking specifically at the role of specific enzymes (matrix metallo-proteinases) involved in the process. Most recently, she has received over \$5 million in grant funding from NIH to serve as principal investigator of an NCI U54 Cancer Partnership grant with Morehouse School of Medicine and University of Alabama at Birmingham Comprehensive Cancer Center. In addition to serving as administrator in this initiative, she





## Biographies

has oversight of the Tuskegee Research Education Core. Through the establishment of the Health Disparities Institute, Dr. Troy has increased community-university partnerships, facilitated faculty research in health disparities, extended training in health disparities to middle and high school students, and promoted new health policies such as establishing enrollment procedures for community residents in health insurance as part of the Affordable Care Act.

### *Paul A. Tufano, J.D.*



Paul A. Tufano is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies, one of the nation's leading Medicaid managed care organizations, which is headquartered in Philadelphia and provides products and services in 16 states and the District of Columbia. The

company's mission is to help those most in need receive care, stay well and build healthy communities. During his tenure as CEO, the company has successfully launched entirely new markets, implemented new lines of business in existing markets, and experienced significant growth. He is also Executive Vice President of Independence Blue Cross, a full-service health insurance corporation also headquartered in Philadelphia where he previously served as General Counsel.

Prior to joining Independence Blue Cross and ultimately AmeriHealth Caritas, Mr. Tufano served as General Counsel of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Tufano and a staff of over 500 attorneys represented Governor Tom Ridge, and the Executive Branch in litigation, transactions, and regulatory, legislative and criminal justice matters. He was a member of the Governor's Cabinet and the Governor's Senior Staff.

Mr. Tufano is the immediate past Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Villanova University and the immediate past Chairman of the Board of the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts. He is a board member of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey.

Mr. Tufano is a graduate of Villanova University, where he earned both his bachelor's degree and law degree.

### *Raynard Washington, Ph.D., MPH*



Raynard Washington, PhD, MPH, is the Chief Epidemiologist at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. In this role, Dr. Washington is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data that provides actionable information on the health status of Philadelphia

residents. Dr. Washington coordinates and provides guidance to epidemiologic activities across department divisions and works internally and externally to enhance existing and establish new health surveillance systems. He also leads the Community Health Assessment and other strategic initiatives. Dr. Washington earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Pittsburgh.

### *Derrick Watchman, MBA*



Derrick Watchman is President and Owner of Sagebrush Hill Group LLC, a gaming, banking, finance, and economic development advisory, acquisition and development company. Derrick is a member of the Navajo Nation and was raised on the Navajo reservation. He is the former Chief

Executive Officer for the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, the gaming operator for the Navajo Nation casinos. While at Navajo Gaming he was also the Chief Financial Officer. Prior, he was Vice President and Senior Relationship Manager at JP Morgan Chase Bank's Native American Banking Group. He provided tribal financial and banking services, including structuring tribal credit transactions and treasury services. Previously, he worked for Wells Fargo Bank managing Native American banking and financing. Mr. Watchman was Chief Operating Officer and General Manager of the Navajo Nation's Diné Power Authority where he developed Navajo energy projects. He also held the Navajo Tax Commission Director post. Mr. Watchman served as the Department of Energy's Tribal Affairs Director. Mr. Watchman also worked with Prudential Capital Corporation as a private placement banker. Among several directorships, he is a member of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development board of directors and a director for Native American Bank. Mr. Watchman holds a MBA from the University of California and a bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona.





### *Ellyn Jo Waller, Ed.D.*



Ellyn Jo is a native of Queens, New York and the partner in marriage and ministry of our Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller. They are the proud parents of two beautiful adult daughters, Elynn Morgan and Eryka Lynn.

As a servant of Jesus Christ, she is ardently devoted to advocacy. She is the Servant Leader of the women's ministry at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, "Sisters in Christ" which seeks to develop and strengthen the spiritual lives of women through monthly Bible studies, annual retreats, quarterly fellowship events and various outreach opportunities.

Ellyn Jo is engaged in civic and humanitarian efforts; she is not your ordinary First Lady. She has devoted herself to charitable works and champions the fight against human trafficking, domestically and internationally.

Her fight against human trafficking began in 2005 through research about the issue for the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention. She became a member of the Philadelphia Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition in 2009. In 2011, Dr. Waller led the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church family in establishing an anti-human trafficking ministry, "She's My Sister," which focuses on advocacy, awareness and outreach. She is a supporter of rescue and restoration efforts of Cape Town, South Africa and Padova, Italy. She also serves as the National Chair of the Human Trafficking Awareness Subcommittee of the Links, Incorporated. In addition to the aforementioned, Dr. Waller presents Human Trafficking Awareness workshops upon request.

Ellyn Jo's passion for advocating on behalf of women was exercised by the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention which addresses women's issues around the world as a member of it's initial Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. She also serves on the Salvation Army's New Day Programs Development Committee which raises funds for the anti-human trafficking programs.

During her doctoral program in Curriculum, Instruction and Technology in Education with a focus in Literacy Education and following, Dr. Waller was privileged to teach Literacy Methods courses in the College of Education at Temple University.

Ellyn Jo's continued commitment to education is witnessed by her service as a Board Member of The City School and the Marian Anderson Award, as well as an Advisory Chair of the United Negro College Fund's Delaware Valley Women of Faith for Education Afternoon Tea. Dr. Waller is the President of Community College of Philadelphia's Foundation.

### *Leana Wen, M.D.*



As Baltimore City's Commissioner of Health, Dr. Leana Wen leads the oldest, continuously-operating health department in the U.S., founded in 1793, with 1,000 employees committed to improving well-being and combatting disparities.

Facing an unprecedented number of people dying from opioid overdose, Dr. Wen issued a blanket prescription for the opioid antidote, naloxone, to all 620,000 residents of Baltimore. Since 2015, this program has saved over 1,700 lives. Dr. Wen has testified in front of the U.S. Senate and House on Baltimore's efforts to combat the opioid epidemic, and has spoken on panels with President Obama and President Clinton about treating addiction as a public health crisis.

Under her direction, the Baltimore City Health Department leads the country in health innovations, including: B'More for Healthy Babies, a collective impact strategy resulting in a 38% reduction in infant mortality in just 7 years; Vision for Baltimore, an initiative to provide glasses to every child who needs them; Safe Streets, a program to engage returning citizens and hospitals in treating gun violence as a contagious disease; and Healthy Baltimore 2020, a blueprint for health and well-being that enlists all sectors to achieve the ambitious goal of cutting disparities in half in 10 years.

Dr. Wen is a board-certified emergency physician who received her medical training at Washington University School of Medicine and her completed residency at Brigham & Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital. She was a Rhodes Scholar, a Clinical Fellow at Harvard, a consultant with the World Health Organization, and, until her appointment in Baltimore, a professor and Director of Patient-Centered Care Research at George Washington University.

She is the author of the book, *When Doctors Don't Listen*; a TED speaker; and is regularly featured on NPR, CNN, New York Times, Washington Post, and USA Today. The Daily Record named her as one of the 100 most influential Marylanders and Modern Healthcare called her one of the country's 50 most influential physician-executives. In 2016, Dr. Wen was honored to be the recipient of the American Public Health Association's highest award for local public health work, the Milton and Ruth Roemer Award. In 2017, she was named one of Governing's Public Officials of the Year.





# Biographies

## Audrey Whetsell, MA, CPHIT, PCMH-CCE



Audrey Whetsell is co-founder of Resource Partners, LLC and Managing Partner of Medical Home Development Group, LLC. Audrey is a seasoned healthcare services executive with more than twenty-five years of progressive health care services experience directly tied to technology.

Resource Partners, LLC was one of several healthcare organizations listed in the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC) PCMH Resource Guide, Putting Theory into Practice. Resource Partners, LLC is currently working with several independent and hospital based physician practices facilitating the electronic health record and PCMH adoption and recognition processes.

Medical Home Development Group offers a variety of services to meet medical practice's business and management needs. We understand the complexities of operating and managing large physician groups and have achieved great success with ensuring that its clients are profitable.

Audrey is an Executive Member of the PCPCC. She also served on NCQA's PCMH 2014 Standards Committee and is a certified NCQA PCMH Content Expert.

In 2013 Audrey launched The Medi, a 501 (c3) nonprofit. The Medi is a virtual support center dedicated to helping social service organizations develop a culture of collaboration through education and use of technology. The goal of the CRC is to connect the community to social services, using technology to exchange social service information. This exchange is not only efficient but more importantly is safer, timelier, effective, equitable, and person-centered.

Audrey is also involved with several electronic information exchanges, ACOs, MSOs and IPAs at the state and local levels. Audrey holds her Bachelors and Masters Degrees from the University of South Carolina. She has received awards for outstanding leadership and volunteerservices and serves as an advocate for all consumers of healthcare.

## John F. White, Jr.



John F. White, Jr.'s public career of decisive action and genuine caring began at a very young age and continues today with fervent dedication, benefitting thousands of people from all walks of life.

Early on, he made a commitment to human rights-driven social change and improving the lives of fellow Philadelphians. Those efforts expanded rapidly to include helping people throughout Pennsylvania, the Tri-State Region and the nation.

As a former Pennsylvania state representative, Philadelphia city councilman, Secretary of Welfare for the State of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia's federal housing chief, John has an extraordinary record of leadership in both the legislative and executive branches of government, managing thousands of people and budgets in the billions of dollars. From his early work to stop gang warfare, groundbreaking prison reform, to his peacemaker roles from Wall Street to the Democratic National Committee; John White, Jr. has consistently taken on tough assignments. In every instance, he brought about major improvements through his advocacy, innovative solutions, trademark diplomacy and compassion.

John's dedication to the City of Philadelphia and its most vulnerable citizens is ongoing. His lifelong commitment to helping those around him continues with his spirited efforts improving the health and well-being of his community. He is the president and CEO of The Consortium, an award winning behavioral health provider, serving over fifteen thousand people every year, at five locations in West and Southwest Philadelphia. The Consortium provides an array of behavioral health and disabilities programs including: Addiction Services, Behavioral Health Services for Children, Adults and Families and Intellectual Disabilities Support Services, to people across the Delaware Valley region.

## Lisa C. Williams



Lisa Williams is an international heroine in her innovative efforts to counter child sex trafficking.

It was not enough for Ms. Williams to find her own freedom from a life of trauma and sexual exploitation. She answered the call to go back and free countless others like herself. It has been said as it pertains to child sex trafficking, Ms. Williams is a latter-day Harriet Tubman.





Ms. Williams founded Circle of Friends; Celebrating Life, Inc. in 1999 to educate, equip and empower women to live their best life, free of violence, as they served other women and girls. From those beginnings, in 2005 Living Water for Women was founded; in 2007 Living Water for Girls and the Living Water Learning Resource Center. Each program was opened as a beacon of hope. Over the years, Ms. Williams helped to spare the lives of over 200 children, including 14 boys and countless young women.

Williams knew the war she was fighting required more than simply raising funds and addressing surface issues. She used every resource she had to build programs that would address systemic issues and ultimately change lives. Through these intensive programs, Lisa developed what the Federal Bureau of Investigation calls "one of the most comprehensive, rehabilitative programs for child victims of sex trafficking in the country."

A sought-after speaker, Ms. Williams has been called on to share her message on national and international platforms. Keynote addresses include thought leadership and experience on trafficking and sexual exploitation, self-care for women leaders, community collaboration, transformation and hope. Among those highlights: in 2013 Williams spoke at the United Nations 57th Commission on the Status of Women on the topic: The Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls. Invited back March 13, 2015, Lisa spoke at the United Nations 59th Commission on the Status of Women on the topic: Unfinished Business from the Beijing Platform for Action. Lisa had the distinct honor to speak at the White House on the topic: Eradicating Modern Day Slavery.

In 2015, the award-winning 2015 CNN Special Report, *Children for Sale: The Fight to End Human Trafficking* featured Circle of Friends and the Living Water for Girls program. Through this documentary, Lisa and the young ladies from the Living Water for Girls and Learning Resource Center programs spoke to people across the world about the perils of America's domestic human trafficking epidemic, survivorship and their hope for a better tomorrow.

On January 11, 2015, Williams established and galvanized the IAM Rachel movement; a collaborative of 400 lawmakers, colleges, survivor voices, houses of worship, community leaders, volunteers and Rachel herself to fight for Safe Harbor/Rachel's Law Act to become law.

On May 5, 2015, Safe Harbor/Rachel's Law Act was signed into law by Governor Deal; and the constitutional amendment, Senate Resolution 7, to secure the funding for the essential services required to heal broken bodies, minds and spirits, overwhelmingly passed with more than 83%- 3,000,000 Georgians voting "YES" on November 8, 2016. On January 1, 2017, Rachel's Law became law.

Rachel's Law is the first safe harbor law in America named in honor of

a sex trafficking survivor. Rachel a proud graduate of the Living Water Learning Resource Center, is that survivor.

Lisa mentored and equipped Rachel as she stepped onto the world stage to become a powerful, authentic voice against the trafficking and exploitation of children and young women.

Ms. Williams understands the need to pave the way for survivors to have successful tomorrows by offering access and opportunities to post-secondary education and mentorship. With that understanding she established the newly announced Circle of Friends Impact Scholarship, to facilitate that goal.

Lisa's focus has expanded further by opening access to protective and preventative education for those who work within the healthcare and education arena through cross- functional collaboration and community training, development and mentoring.

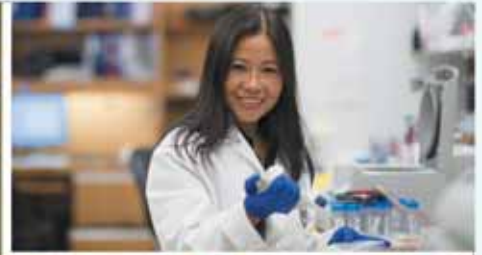
Ms. Williams the author of the best-selling book, *Beautiful Layers: Stories from Those Who Survived the Life of Prostitution & Child Sexual Exploitation*. Lisa honorably served our country as a former United States Commissioned Military Officer (Petroleum Surveillance Engineer), she is an Auburn Seminary Sojourner Truth Leadership Circle Fellow-Graduate and a proud member of the 2014 class of Leadership Atlanta.

Lisa is wife to her best friend of 30 life-affirming years and mother of biological and adopted children. She thanks God continuously for "this good life" as she works to pursue a better quality of life for those who call our nation home.

A few past honors and awards include: In 2014, the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, on behalf President Obama; In 2015, the first-ever L'Oréal Paris Impact Award, presented by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg; In 2015, the YWCA Woman of Achievement Award; The Porsche Driving Force Award; The Ford Motor Company Ford Freedom Unsung Award; a L'Oréal Paris – 2010 Woman of Worth Honoree; Two (2) Proclamations from the City of Atlanta; and a Proclamation from the City of Charleston, SC. Ms. Williams was featured as one of 50 influential women over 50 in Good Housekeeping magazine in the September 2017 issue, as chosen by Good Housekeeping, Woman's Day and L'Oréal Paris.

Lisa was nominated in 2014 and 2015 by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and in 2016 by both the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of State for the U.S. Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Person. She counts this acknowledgment as a true recognition for survivors - American girls and young women - who call our community home and whom she humbly serves.





# Changing What's Possible

MUSC seeks diverse, talented students, faculty and workforce. As the largest non-federal employer in Charleston, the Medical University of South Carolina recognizes the value and importance of embracing diversity and inclusion.

- It is who we should be as an institution. We are creating an environment where all individuals – students, faculty, staff, patients and visitors – truly believe they are in the right place, and they belong here.
- It is how we build upon who we are and what we can achieve together. MUSC aspires to change the future through innovation in all of our domains – education, research and patient care.
- It affects the bottom line. It is about being our most productive and effective. People who feel valued are empowered to contribute and to be at their best.

Discover challenging opportunities in education, research and clinical care at MUSC.

For careers, please visit [muscd.edu/careers](https://muscd.edu/careers).

Future students, please visit [muscd.edu/admissions](https://muscd.edu/admissions).



Changing What's Possible

INDEPENDENCE BLUE CROSS

SALUTES

## **The National Conference on Health Disparities**

Independence Blue Cross is proud to sponsor the 11th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities, and salutes the organizers and attendees for their commitment to building healthier communities.

Independence Blue Cross shares this commitment. We embrace a bold, innovative vision to change for the better the lives and health of people in our region and across the nation.



**80** YEARS OF SERVICE

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## AmeriHealth Caritas is proud to support the 11th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities and its mission to reduce health disparities.

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For more than 35 years, we've made it our mission to address social barriers to health equity by helping our members access quality health care. In collaboration with health care providers, advocates, and civic leaders, we have created programs that are leading the way in publicly funded managed care. Our efforts have earned us the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Multicultural Healthcare Distinction.

At every step of the way, we make it a point to keep care at the heart of our work — just as we have for the past three decades. We look forward to meeting you at our exhibit booth.



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