



2024 Ohio Health Policy Summit

October 3, 2024

Fawcett Event Center

Speaker biographical summaries

Plenary session

Healing Our Rifts: A Vision for Health Justice

Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc, Sternberg Family Professor of Leadership, City College of New York; Chair, Common Health Coalition; Primary Care Physician, Bellevue Hospital

Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc is the inaugural Sternberg Family Professor of Leadership at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, part of the City College of New York.

Previously, Dr. Chokshi served as the 43rd Commissioner at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, one of the leading health agencies in the world. He led the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including its historic campaign to vaccinate over 6 million New Yorkers, saving tens of thousands of lives. Dr. Chokshi architected testing and treatment strategies, navigated school and economic reopenings, and served as principal public spokesperson. Under his tenure, the Health Department's budget grew to its highest-ever level, reflecting investment in signature initiatives such as the Public Health Corps, Pandemic Response Institute, and New Family Home Visiting program. He also launched the nation's first publicly-authorized overdose prevention centers, and—as Chair of the NYC Board of Health—promulgated a landmark resolution on racism as a public health crisis.

Dr. Chokshi has practiced at Bellevue Hospital since 2014 and is also Clinical Professor of Population Health at the NYU School of Medicine, Senior Scholar at the CUNY School of Public Health, and Senior Fellow at The New School's Institute on Race, Power, and Political Economy. Dr. Chokshi has written on medicine and public health in the New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, the Lancet, Health Affairs, Science, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Atlantic, Harvard Business Review, and Scientific American. Currently, Dr. Chokshi is on the nonprofit boards of Community Solutions and Rock Health; is an independent board member at Yuvo Health; and is an advisor to Accompany Health, Sanarai, and the Brown School of Public Health.

He trained in internal medicine at Brigham & Women's Hospital, where he received the Dunne Award for Compassionate Care, and was a clinical fellow at Harvard Medical School. During his training, he did clinical work in Guatemala, Peru, Botswana, Ghana, and India. He received his M.D. with Alpha Omega Alpha distinction from Penn, where he was a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellow and was elected by his peers to win the Joel Gordon Miller Prize. He also earned an MSc in global public health as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and graduated summa cum laude from Duke.



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Breakout session

Youth mental health: Partnering with schools to drive improvement

Dayton Children's Hospital

Sue Fralick, LPCC-S, ICDC-CS, Director of The Center for Emotional Wellbeing, Dayton Children's Hospital

Sue Fralick is the Director of The Center for Emotional Wellbeing at Dayton Children's Hospital focusing on prevention. These services include the school-based programs: Student Resiliency Coordinators, Early Intervention School Based Therapists, Youth and Family Resource Connectors, Mental Health Resource Connection, HealthySteps Zero to Three Child Development Specialists, On Our Sleeves, and Mental Health First Aid. Sue brings over 46 years of experience in the behavioral health field to her work at Dayton Children's. She values supervision, quality interventions and documentation, active communication and team/community collaboration, and staff development and training. The Center focuses on the whole child and family within their environment, relationship building, screenings for social determinants of health needs, suicide screening, trauma and adverse childhood experiences associated health conditions, substance use screenings, and resource and service connections - all with a prevention focus.

Elizabeth Charlton, LISW-S, Manager, School Based Services, Center for Emotional Wellbeing, Dayton Children's Hospital

Manager for School Based Services within the Center for Emotional Wellbeing at Dayton Children's Hospital for the past 4+ years and assisted in developing the Student Resiliency Coordinator position and program that has been spread throughout Montgomery County schools. Libby is a passionate, energetic behavioral health professional with over 15 years of practice in the social work field, including behavioral health therapy and case management, hospital social work, and experience with Veterans and special populations. Libby has worked in both direct clinical practice as well as program development and coordination throughout her career and enjoys impacting the lives of youth and families the most.

Nationwide Children's Hospital

Jennifer L. Hughes, PhD, MPH, Psychologist & Clinical Scholar, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Jennifer Hughes, PhD, is a Psychologist and Clinical Scholar in Behavioral Health at Nationwide Children's Hospital and an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, College of Medicine, and the Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, College



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of Public Health, at The Ohio State University. She was previously an Associate Professor in Psychiatry at the UT Southwestern Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care, where she served as a faculty lead for the Texas Youth Depression and Suicide Research Network, an initiative of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium.

Dr. Hughes received her Ph.D. from UT Southwestern Medical Center and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. Dr. Hughes is a co-developer of two evidence-based treatments, one for relapse prevention of depression in children and adolescents and one utilizing family-based CBT for suicidal youth and their parents.

Most recently, Dr. Hughes's work has focused on the dissemination and implementation of a school-based mental health promotion and suicide prevention program called Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM). She is an international trainer for YAM, working with the intervention developers to disseminate this program in the United States (Texas and Montana), Australia, and India. Dr. Hughes is a past Chair (2017-2018) of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) Child and Adolescent Depression Special Interest Group (SIG) and has served as the Newsletter Editor (2017-2021) and as the APA Convention Program Chair (2013-2015) for the American Psychological Association (APA) Division 53, Society for Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology.

John Ackerman, PhD, Suicide Prevention Clinical Manager; Clinical Psychologist, Center for Suicide Prevention and Research, Big Lots Behavioral Health Services, Nationwide Children's Hospital

John Ackerman, PhD, is a child clinical psychologist and Clinical Manager of the Center for Suicide Prevention and Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH. His team trains schools, healthcare agencies, and youth-serving organizations throughout Ohio in evidence-based suicide prevention, intervention and postvention best practices.

Dr. Ackerman has a research interest in the treatment of mood disorders, risk factors for youth suicide, as well as digital health applications for suicide prevention. He has published on the influence of media on youth suicide and has developed guidelines for media professionals engaging with this topic. He recently co-edited an open-access book on youth suicide prevention best practices and policy implications.

Glenn Thomas, PhD, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Glenn Thomas, PhD, is a clinical psychologist and Director in Behavioral Health at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH). During his nineteen years at NCH, he has been responsible for a broad range of programs, including assessment services situated in child protective services and



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juvenile court, intervention programs such as Multisystemic Therapy and the Early Childhood Mental Health Program, Crisis Services, and School-Based Behavioral Health services. More recently, he has been responsible for a significant expansion of mental health and suicide prevention efforts including the PAX Good Behavior Game, the Signs of Suicide model through the Center for Suicide Prevention and Research, and the Zero Suicide initiative within NCH Behavioral Health. He has published in the area of suicide prevention.

Breakout session

LGBTQ+ health and wellness across the life course

Age-Friendly Innovation Center, OSU

Christine Happel, MSW, LSW, Assistant Director, Age-Friendly Innovation Center, OSU

Christine Happel (they/them), MSW, LSW is the Assistant Director of the Age-Friendly Innovation Center and Age-Friendly Columbus and Franklin County. Prior to completing the MSW program at The Ohio State University College of Social Work, Christine lived in a rural co-housing community for young adults with developmental disabilities, where they cared for the land and community members alike. This lived experience of collective care and reciprocity influenced their previous role as founding Director of Village in the Ville and The Greater Columbus Network of Villages. Alongside older adults, Christine co-created numerous transportation, emergency response, intergenerational, and volunteer initiatives that offered opportunities for older adults to age interdependently in community.

Christine joined the Age-Friendly Innovation Center team in 2022. In this role Christine has kindled their passion for working with LGBTQ+ older adults, through research, education, and community engagement. Their efforts to impact the livability of our communities are woven together by the importance of relationships and connection, as a more age-friendly world is also one that accounts for the profound impact of isolation and loneliness. We all deserve rest and relaxation, Christine finds this through gardening, cycling, collecting many hobbies, taking naps, and loving their cats.

In addition to his academic and research roles, Al has actively contributed to the community through his involvement with AmeriCorps VISTA. His service includes co-investigating an IRB-approved LGBTQIA2+ aging project in Columbus, OH, and serving as an administrator for the Urban Aging Residents Coalition (UARC), a grassroots organization focused on supporting aging populations. He is also an advanced volunteer tax preparer with the United Way Tax Time community tax initiative, demonstrating his commitment to financial empowerment and support.



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Kent State University

Andrew Snyder, BSN, MPH, PhD(c), Outreach Program Director, Kent State University College of Public Health

Mr. Andrew M. Snyder, BSN, MPH, PhD(c) is a public health professional with extensive experience in health policy and management. As a doctoral graduate assistant and Director of Program Outreach at the College of Public Health at Kent State University, Mr. Snyder has demonstrated his commitment to the 10 essential public health services.

Mr. Snyder's research focuses on improving the health and wellness of the LGBTQ+ community. He has raised significant funds for conducting the Greater Akron LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment and expanded his community-based participatory research to the Greater Cleveland area. As part of his commitment to improving health outcomes for the LGBTQ+ community, Mr. Snyder also led the development of a graduate certificate in LGBTQ+ Public Health, aimed at educating front-line healthcare workers on how to best meet the needs of their LGBTQ+ clients. He has secured significant grant funding through the Ohio Department of Health to develop and evaluate a mobile application to address identified barriers in the management of HIV care coordination for LGBTQ+ residents in Summit and Portage counties.

In addition to his research, Mr. Snyder has held leadership roles at the College of Nursing and Community AIDS Network Akron Pride Initiative (CANAPI). At the College of Nursing, he was responsible for evaluating programmatic outcomes, participating in strategic planning, recruitment, and program development for the RN-to-BSN program across all 8 Kent State campuses. At CANAPI, he developed and maintained organizational policies and secured significant grant funding to improve access to community resources for LGBTQ+ residents.

Andrew Snyder is an active member of several professional organizations, including the American Public Health Association, Ohio Public Health Association, Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, and Summit Coalition for Community Health Improvements. He is also a member of Delta Omega Epsilon Gamma and Kent State University's LGBTQ+ Center Action Team. With his extensive experience and dedication to improving public health outcomes, Mr. Snyder is a valuable asset to any public health team.

Ty Stimpert, BSBA, Graduate Assistant for Kent State University College of Public Health

Ty Stimpert has been working in cancer prevention and preventative health access for over 7 years. His focus on health equity in the LGBTQ+ population is where his passion lies. Ty's approach emphasizes the need to address LGBTQ+ specific barriers, to provide culturally appropriate care, and to advocate for policymakers to invest in initiatives designed to address inequalities in health care. His goal is to ensure healthcare access to diverse communities all around the Greater Cleveland area. Ty graduated from John Carroll University with a bachelor's



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degree in international business with language and culture and is currently pursuing his master's in public health at Kent State University.

Equitas Health Institute

Stella Sheke, MPH, CHES®, Research and Evaluation Associate, Equitas Health

Stella Sheke is a Public Health Specialist with a Master's in Public Health from Ohio University. She is currently a Research and Evaluation Associate for Equitas Health, where she plays a key role in the planning, promotion, execution, and implementation of research and evaluation projects that actively engage minority populations.

Breakout session

Community Partnerships with Hospital Systems

Community Shelter Board

Steven Skovensky, MSNA, Chief Programs Officer, Community Shelter Board

As Chief Programs Officer, Steven Skovensky has overall strategic and operational responsibility for all program areas, including prevention, street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing. He is part of the senior management team that drives strategy for the organization and represents Community Shelter Board on a local, regional, and national basis.

Steve has extensive experience in the field of homelessness. He holds a deep and unwavering commitment to housing as the solution to homelessness, and has a long track record of demonstrating collaborative and productive relationships to best achieve that vision.

Steve was with YMCA of Central Ohio from 2016 – 2020 where he most recently held the position of Executive Director of Supportive Housing, managing operational aspects of their permanent supportive housing portfolio. Prior to that he held the position of Senior Director of Operations, providing leadership at Van Buren Center, the largest homeless shelter in Columbus and Franklin County. Steve held a leadership role on the Maryhaven Outreach Team as the Program Coordinator, at Faith Mission as the Supportive Services Manager, and at Southeast as the Project Liaison Case Manager. He also worked in Chicago with individuals with HIV/AIDS, inpatient mental health patients, and at emergency shelters for single adults experiencing homelessness.

Before coming to Columbus, Steve worked for Lakefront SRO – now Mercy Housing Lakefront – an innovator in permanent supportive housing and blended management. He was a partner in the Aids Foundation of Chicago's Hospital to Housing program and study, and was named as a Harm Reduction Champion by Heartland Health Outreach in Chicago.



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OhioHealth

Joshua Raines, MSW-LISW, Manager-Care Management, North Central Hub, Ohio Health

Joshua Raines is an Independently Licensed Social Worker in the State of Ohio with more than 15 years of experience in providing innovative healthcare services and “housing-first” focused permanent supportive housing throughout Ohio and Illinois.

He currently serves as Manager of Care Management at OhioHealth's largest care site, Riverside Methodist Hospital- a 1,059 bed specialty teaching hospital in Central Ohio. There, Josh leads a dedicated team of clinical and non-clinical associates who provide comprehensive care coordination and discharge planning services for patients across the continuum of care. In his role, he has been instrumental in the successful launch of a collaborative medical respite program between OhioHealth and Lutheran Social Services in 2019, an evidence-based comprehensive complex length of stay program, and the establishment of regular cross-sector engagement with multiple-community-focused organizations.

Before coming to OhioHealth, Josh served as a Clinical Team Leader for National Church Residences Permanent Supportive Housing program, which provided on-site supportive services to more than 1,000 formerly homeless and disabled tenants throughout the state of Ohio and as a board member for the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless until 2021. He remains a committed advocate for whole-person healthcare services, which acknowledge and intervene in the many ways in which social drivers influence access to and delivery of healthcare services to patients in our community.

The Health Collaborative

Lauren Bartoszek, PhD, Director, Community Health, The Health Collaborative

Dr. Lauren Bartoszek serves as the Director of Community Health at The Health Collaborative (THC). With a deep focus on health equity, ensuring a fair and just community for all to thrive, Dr. Bartoszek is committed to strengthening partnerships and building relationships to address regional health improvement in the Greater Cincinnati region. She coordinates and convenes multi-sector, multi-stakeholder strategic partnerships, to drive action on collaborative projects centered on reducing health disparities. She facilitates a Regional Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan, collaborates in the production and launch of Mama Certified, an equity centered certification program for hospitals to create safe and joyful births for Black moms, and is supporting cross-sector initiatives to connect medical care to social care, focusing on bringing together hospital leaders with community experts to create shared visions for transforming care coordination in our region.

Professionally, Dr. Bartoszek serves as the Board Chair for CenterPoint Health, participates on the Steering Committee for Xavier University's Center for Population Health, and the Advisory



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Committee for the Regional Behavioral Health Workforce Coalition. With a background in academia as an Assistant Professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, she has published over 14 articles in peer reviewed journals, most recently in Pediatrics with colleagues at CCHMC, and has presented at national conferences. She holds a PhD in Health Education and is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist, recognized by the National Center for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC).

Ericson Imarenezor, MHA, Senior Specialist, Community Health, The Health Collaborative

Ericson currently serves as the Senior Specialist in Community Health at The Health Collaborative, Ericson has been instrumental in engaging community and government stakeholders to provide crucial COVID-19 testing to vulnerable populations. He has also played a vital role in orchestrating the Community Health Needs Assessment for 40 hospitals across 26 counties in the Greater Cincinnati region, ensuring the mitigation of disparities and inequities while meeting federal requirements. Ericson has contributed to initiatives such as the Accountable Health Communities model, the Regional Behavioral Health coalition, and the maternal and infant equity pilot program, Mama Certified. Prior to his role at The Health Collaborative, Ericson served as an Administrative Services Coordinator at CareStar, where he oversaw various aspects of operations, including revenue cycle, human resources, data analysis, clinical care, and marketing. He holds a Master of Health Services Administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a Bachelor of Science in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Cradle Cincinnati

Lauren Everett, MPH, MCHES, Associate Director, Cradle Cincinnati

Lauren Everett is the Associate Director for Cradle Cincinnati. In this role, she develops strategies, processes, and tools to ensure effective implementation of Cradle Cincinnati programs. Lauren also oversees systems-change strategies such as quality improvement efforts within healthcare systems (Cradle Cincinnati Learning Collaborative), Mama Certified and the Cradle Cincinnati Policy Committee, cultivating partnerships with key stakeholders across sectors. She oversaw Cradle Cincinnati's 5-year strategic planning process and continues to lead its implementation within the organization and across the collective impact coalition. Lauren has worked in public health for 10+ years working in nonprofit, local and federal government. Lauren received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Spelman College and a Master of Public Health from Emory University.



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Breakout session

State of Ohio Adversity and Resilience Studies: Preliminary results and policy implications

State of Ohio Adversity & Resilience Study (SOAR) Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Health

Anthony King, PhD, The Anne K. "Nancy" Jeffrey Endowed Professor for Mental Health Equity and Resilience, Ohio State University

Dr. Anthony King is a neuroscientist and licensed psychologist/psychotherapist who is committed to clinical and translational research aimed at elucidating the social, psychological, neural, physiological and genomic factors and processes underlying risk and resilience for mental health, and the relationships of social-emotional and mental health to physical health.

He researches the neural and physiological mechanisms underlying effective psychotherapies, and is dedicated to developing improved, neuroscience-based treatments for trauma- and stress-related disorders such as PTSD and depression.

He is also dedicated to clinical and translational research and service with underserved and health-disparity populations, including better understanding of early-life trauma and social and environmental stressors, including poverty, social marginalization, indignity, and injustice, and approaches to building resilience and growth.

Hyoshin Kim, PhD, Clinical Associate Professor, Ohio State University

Hyoshin Kim, PhD, is Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Informatics and a member of the Center for Biostatistics at the Ohio State University. Dr. Kim is a quantitative health-social-behavioral policy researcher and data scientist with over 25 years of extensive experience developing and conducting multidisciplinary research projects in the field of public health using biobehavioral, clinical, and population level applications.

Dr. Kim's research interests focus on (a) formulating multidisciplinary research questions related to public health and human health behaviors in multiple environmental context; (b) deciding on what data, measures, designs, and analytics methods to employ to provide solutions to those questions; and (c) providing comprehensive resources via data coordinating centers for scientific advance by combining research content, structure, and standards.



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Breakout session

Actionable and tailored approaches to address social determinants of health by leveraging community relationships and partnerships with local organizations

Hamilton County Public Health

Mary Ellen Knaebel, MPH, MCHES, Director of Health Promotion and Education, Hamilton County Public Health

Mary Ellen Knaebel is the Director of Health Promotion and Education at Hamilton County Public Health where she works to create a culture of health, safety, and vitality throughout Hamilton County. She provides leadership for the agency's WeTHRIVE! initiative that brings together public health, residents, community administration, and partners to create environments where all residents can thrive. The work within the division of Health Promotion and Education focuses on policy, systems, and environmental change strategies to make changes that will last for generations to come. Mary Ellen works with her team to ensure the work of the division of Health Promotion and Education is addressing the social determinants of health and the unique needs of each community within Hamilton County. She has over 10 years of experience managing local, state, and federal grants addressing various health concerns and disparities within Hamilton County. Mary Ellen has a B.S. in Biology from Elon University, a MPH from The Ohio State University and is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES).

Catherine Lusky, MPH, CHES, Senior Population Health Specialist, Hamilton County Public Health

Catherine Lusky received her Master's of Public Health from The University of Cincinnati. She helps to lead both the WeTHRIVE! initiative as well as tobacco prevention and cessation work at Hamilton County Public Health. Catherine is passionate about elevating community voices to create sustainable change.

Alex Gonzales, MPH, Senior Population Health Specialist, Hamilton County Public Health

Alexandra Gonzales (Alex) is a Senior Population Health Specialist at Hamilton County Public Health where she helps lead the WeTHRIVE! Initiative and manages the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Grant. She has worked alongside residents from across Hamilton County to prioritize their concerns and enact change on a local level, often partnering residents with other organizations working in the area to get the work done. Alex holds a BA in Biology from Kenyon College and a MPH from The Ohio State University.



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Lessons learned from implementation of a pediatric Medicaid innovation model aimed at improved health outcomes and cost savings in rural and Appalachian Ohio

Nationwide Children's Hospital

David Ciccone, Project Manager, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Dave has been involved in community and health improvement work for most of his career. In his current role with the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, he serves as project manager in the Center for Child Health Equity and Outcomes Research. In this role, he manages the day-to-day operations of the Ohio Integrated Care for Kids project. Prior to this work, he's held leadership roles in nonprofit management and philanthropy at several central Ohio organizations. Dave has served on local, state, and national committees and work groups involving healthy food financing, health policy, and collaboration between the education and health sectors.

Erin Donnelly, MPH, BSN, RN, Clinical Systems Coordinator, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Erin is a registered nurse with a passion for public health. As the Clinical Systems Coordinator for Ohio InCK at Nationwide Children's Hospital, she leads the team of Service Integration Coordinators and helps develop and advance the Care Coordination aspect of the project. This includes working with both hospital and community-based partners to establish a well-rounded model. Erin has spent the majority of her nursing career working in hospital-based pediatric behavioral health and nursing leadership, and she completed her Master of Public Health in 2022.

Rose Hardy, PhD, MPH, Data Scientist II, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Rose is a health services researcher and data scientist at Nationwide Children's Hospital. She focuses on pediatric specialty care with an emphasis on the delivery in rural communities and how social determinants of health impact that care. She uses large administrative databases to understand population health, healthcare policies, and systems of care. As a whole, her work seeks to ensure that all communities receive the quality care they deserve, provided by systems that address their specific needs and acknowledge their strengths and wishes.



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Ohio Department of Medicaid

Mylynda Drake, MPH, Alternative Payment Model Administrator, Ohio Department of Medicaid

Mylynda has been with the State of Ohio for almost 25 years working on different facets of public health, including environmental health, health data analytics, and population health. Her current role is Section Chief of Maternal, Child and Family Wellness in the Office of Strategic Initiatives at the Ohio Department of Medicaid, where she oversees family-focused population health programs including Comprehensive Primary Care and Comprehensive Primary Care for Kids, Comprehensive Maternal Care, Maternal Infant Support, and Medicaid School Program. Her focus is working with state and local partners on improving health outcomes and experience of care for parents and children with Medicaid coverage.

Licking Heights Local School District

Mitch Tom, Director of Pupil Services, Licking Heights Local School District

Mitch is the Director of Pupil Services from Licking Heights Local Schools. He is in his 17th year of educational services at Licking Heights and has served the district in multiple capacities. As an Intervention Specialist, Mitch worked with students with severe social, emotional and behavioral disabilities. He transitioned to administration 9 year ago, first as the Assistant Director of Pupil Services where he primarily oversaw Special Education services for grades 5-12 and English Language Learners. For the past 5 years Mitch has served as the Director for Pupil Services, overseeing programs such as English Language Learners, Health Services, Social Work, Counselling, McKinney Vento, Foster Care, Attendance, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Social & Emotional Learning (SEL), Title IX, and Section 504 disabilities. A little over two years ago Mitch led an effort to facilitate the implementation of a school-based health clinic at Licking Heights Local Schools, and the district now has an established relationship with both Licking Memorial Health Systems and the National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP), offering both general healthcare for students, staff and the community and mental health counseling and therapy for students. Furthermore, Mitch has served on the Our Futures educational committee of Licking County for the past 9 years, which seeks to improve student educational outcomes through behavioral health and social and emotional support.

Plenary Session

Structural Drivers of Health

Sheri Johnson, PhD, Director, Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps; Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin Madison School of Medicine and Public Health

Sheri Johnson is currently Director of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, Principal Investigator of the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, and Professor (CHS) of



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Population Health Sciences. She is also an affiliated member of the University of Wisconsin Institute for Diversity Science. Dr. Johnson is a member of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine's Roundtable on Population Health Improvement, and a member of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board.

Dr. Johnson has dedicated her career to partnering with children, families, community organizations and systems to advance health and well-being. Awed by the resilience of individuals and communities, she is motivated to remove unfair obstacles and conditions that create and perpetuate health inequities. She completed undergraduate studies at Brown University; earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Boston University and served as a Clinical Fellow in Psychology at Harvard Medical School. She was previously Director of Behavioral Health at Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., a federally qualified health center and served as the Administrator and State Health Officer for the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. Immediately prior to joining the University of Wisconsin, she was Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin Center for Advancement of Underserved Children.

Workshop

Using evaluation to move toward equity

Health Policy Institute of Ohio

Carrie Almasi, MPA, Director of Assessment and Planning, HPIO

Carrie Almasi is the Director of Assessment and Planning at the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. Almasi oversees HPIO's Assessment and Planning stream of work, which includes needs assessments and strategic plans produced for decision makers at the state and local level. She leads projects on issues such as health equity, population health, healthcare spending and the social drivers of health, and has expertise in policy areas including child and family health, health disparities and inequities, older adult health and COVID-19.

Prior to joining HPIO in 2020, Carrie was Assistant Vice President of Community Impact at United Way of Central Ohio. She also previously led central Ohio's free tax preparation coalition and served two terms as an AmeriCorps member.

Carrie holds a master of public administration from Ohio State University and a bachelor of arts in international studies from Miami University.

Jacob Santiago, MSW, Policy and Evaluation Specialist, HPIO

Jacob Santiago is the Policy and Evaluation Specialist at the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, managing work related to policy and program evaluation and leading HPIO's internal evaluation efforts. Santiago analyzes key health policy issues, including health equity, mental



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health and substance use, ACEs, maternal and infant health, and the social drivers of health, with a focus on housing and the physical environment. He also manages HPIO's legislative outreach.

Since joining HPIO in 2020, Santiago has assisted with and helped lead projects such as the Healthy Beginnings at Home evaluation, the Addiction Evidence Project, the Ohio ACEs Impact Project and contracted work with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Santiago holds a Master of Social Work, with a concentration in community and social justice, from the Ohio State University; and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Wright State University.

Cleveland Department of Public Health

Lita-Marie Wills, MPH, Commissioner of Health Equity and Social Justice, Cleveland Department of Public Health

Lita Wills is an experienced leader in the public health, non-profit and education sectors. As Commissioner of Health Equity and Social Justice, Lita oversees MomsFirst, the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the Office of HIV/STI. She has more than 20 years of experience in community health, education and prevention. A Cleveland native, she began her professional career at The Free Clinic of Greater Cleveland, leading HIV Prevention and the 2nd largest HIV Testing Program in the state of Ohio at the time. From there she served as the RSB Supervisor for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, implementing ground-breaking K-12 comprehensive prevention education.

Lita continued her career in the Mahoning Valley at The Rich Center for Autism at Youngstown State University as the Associate Director of Development. There she was able to implement outreach programs sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control to improve early Autism interventions for African American and Latino Communities. She later served as the Executive Director of the Mahoning Valley College Access Program, increasing post-secondary attainment for students in the districts of Warren and Youngstown, Ohio. She served as the Director of Community Impact at The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley guiding community investments to more than 40 partner organizations, leading COVID-19 Emergency Response Funding, and creating internal and external Diversity Equity and Inclusion policies.

Lita earned a Bachelor of Arts from Cleveland State University and a Master of Public Health from Kent State University as part of the Consortium of Eastern Northeast Ohio MPH programs. She was also a fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Ladder to Leadership Program for emerging community health leaders.



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Putting data and evidence tools to work: What will it take for Ohio's people and places to thrive?

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

Marjory Givens, PhD, MSPH, Associate Director, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

Marjory Givens is the Associate Director of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI), Co-Director of the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program, and Assistant Professor (CHS) of Population Health Sciences. For nearly two decades, Marjory has worked to make health and equity routine considerations in shaping the places where we live, learn, work, and play. Marjory has conducted public health research in laboratory and community-based settings, ranging from investigations using biomedical models to health impact assessments and evaluation of community interventions.

Marjory received her doctorate in biomedical sciences from the University of California, San Diego, and a master's degree in environmental/occupational health and epidemiology from Emory University. She completed postdoctoral training as a Health Disparities Research Scholar and was a Population Health Service Fellow, both while at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Sheri Johnson, PhD, Director, Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps; Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin Madison School of Medicine and Public Health

Sheri Johnson is currently Director of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, Principal Investigator of the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, and Professor (CHS) of Population Health Sciences. She is also an affiliated member of the University of Wisconsin Institute for Diversity Science. Dr. Johnson is a member of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine's Roundtable on Population Health Improvement, and a member of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board.

Dr. Johnson has dedicated her career to partnering with children, families, community organizations and systems to advance health and well-being. Awed by the resilience of individuals and communities, she is motivated to remove unfair obstacles and conditions that create and perpetuate health inequities. She completed undergraduate studies at Brown University; earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Boston University and served as a Clinical Fellow in Psychology at Harvard Medical School. She was previously Director of Behavioral Health at Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., a federally qualified health center and served as the Administrator and State Health Officer for the Wisconsin Division of Public Health.



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Immediately prior to joining the University of Wisconsin, she was Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin Center for Advancement of Underserved Children.

Workshop

Community voice to action steps: Gaining deep understanding from lived experience

Cohear

Eli Meiners, Director, Client Success & Operations, Cohear

Eli Meiners is the Director of Client Success and Operations at Cohear, a community engagement and strategy company. Eli Meiners brings almost two decades of project management experience to his work at Cohear. His experience ranges from overseeing a small restaurant group to museum administration and architectural project management. He considers himself a lifelong learner and is happiest when he is working in support of projects that improve our communities. When he isn't working, his time is spent with his friends and family traveling, hiking, kayaking, and generally playing outside.

Monique Gilliam, Director, Organizing, Cohear

Monique Gilliam has a long history of equity, inclusion, and community work in Cincinnati, Ohio. She currently works as the Organizing Director for Cohear, a community engagement and strategy company. In October 2018, Monique was featured in the book *Extra(Ordinary) Women: Ten Inspirational Stories* by the KiCam Project. She has also been a keynote speaker on topics such as poverty, homelessness, family stability, and suicide awareness for various prominent organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area, including the United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Bethany House, Moms Hope, Ohio First Financial, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Cincinnati Chapter.

Ross Meyer, MPA, Vice President, Strategy, Interact for Health

Ross Meyer helps lead the implementation of Interact for Health's strategic plan in support of our mission. Specifically, Ross leads our work focused on improving mental health and well-being across our region.

For more than 20 years, Ross has worked to improve the lives of people in Greater Cincinnati. Most recently, Ross helped lead the Connect Our Students initiative to provide free home broadband access to all Cincinnati Public Schools students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Previously, he served as the Interim President and CEO of United Way of Greater Cincinnati, leading the agency through a critical period of significant change. Ross also served as Senior



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Vice President and Chief Impact Officer of United Way, overseeing efforts to reduce poverty and improve education, income, and health for 330,000 people. He previously served as Executive Director of Partners for a Competitive Workforce – a cross-sector partnership of 150 organizations that helped thousands of people develop skills for in-demand careers.

Meyer earned a Bachelor of Philosophy in interdisciplinary studies from Miami University, and a Master of Public Administration from New York University. He currently serves on boards and advisory boards for the Cincinnati Preschool Promise, Strategies to End Homelessness, the Deaconess Foundation, the GreenLight Fund, Salvation Army and Rosemary's Babies. A native Cincinnati, Ross lives in Clifton with his wife and their three sons.

Plenary

Partnering to improve health, well-being and economic vitality in Ohio

Panelists:

Jim Tassie, Director of Managed Care, Ohio Department of Medicaid

Jim Tassie has led the design, development and implementation of the Ohio Department of Medicaid's Next Generation managed care program since 2019. He is currently ODM's Director of Managed Care and oversees the Department's Office of Managed Care and Project Management Office. Jim leads the work of 70 employees, nine managed care entities, and several consulting and systems vendors to fulfill the vision of ODM's Next Generation program.

Jim has had a 30-year career in State service, with previous experience in the Ohio Attorney's General's Office and as Deputy Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor. He has long been interested in organizational change and leadership and played an extensive role in establishing the Ohio Department of Medicaid in 2013. Jim has held several senior positions at ODM, including Chief Legal Counsel, Chief Policy Officer, and Assistant Director.

Jim received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Cornell University and his law degree from The Ohio State University College of Law. He recently became certified in Organizational Change Management and looks forward to continuing his own learning and development through future educational pursuits.

LeeAnne Cornyn, JD, Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services



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Throughout her career, LeeAnne Cornyn has worked tirelessly on behalf of Ohio's most vulnerable populations — children and those living with mental illness and substance use disorder.

She was appointed by Governor Mike DeWine in December 2023 to serve as Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).

Prior to her appointment, Cornyn served as Governor DeWine's Deputy Chief of Staff where her responsibilities included oversight of the health, mental health, human services, education, and children's issues policy portfolio. Cornyn also served as the Director of Cabinet Affairs, where she acted as a liaison between the Governor and his 26 state agency directors.

She originally joined the DeWine-Husted Administration as the first Director of Children's Initiatives where she focused on coordinating efforts between agencies to improve outcomes in maternal and child health, early childhood education, and foster care. She was instrumental in the creation of OhioRISE, which is a DeWine-Husted Administration initiative to keep kids with severe mental health issues in the state and ensure that they receive coordinated care services under Medicaid.

Cornyn began working on behalf of Governor DeWine when he was Ohio Attorney General. At the Attorney General's office, she served as an Assistant Attorney General as well as the Director of Children's Initiatives.

Also, an educator, Cornyn taught 8th grade science in Los Angeles as a Teach for America corps member. She is a graduate of Miami University and holds a law degree from Ohio State University.

Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA, Director, Ohio Department of Health

Bruce T. Vanderhoff, M.D., MBA, was appointed director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) in August 2021. Dr. Vanderhoff joined the agency after being named chief medical officer in November 2020 and is a key leader in planning, managing, and executing Ohio's COVID-19 response, including its wide-reaching vaccination program. Dr. Vanderhoff also leads the effort to transform the landscape of public health in Ohio through programs and policies that strive to erase inequities, elevate the importance of social determinants, and improve healthcare access and outcomes.

Before joining ODH, Dr. Vanderhoff had amassed years of experience leading large teams in successfully dealing with important healthcare issues in Ohio. He served more than a decade as a senior vice president and chief medical officer at OhioHealth, where he prepared the healthcare system to manage the threat of Ebola and H1N1. He also addressed pressing healthcare issues affecting Ohio from rural Appalachia to metropolitan Columbus.



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His service has made him a nationally recognized physician leader with an impressive track record of managing large-scale healthcare initiatives, addressing disparities, and improving population health.

Dr. Vanderhoff holds a doctorate in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Business Administration from Franklin University. He completed a residency in family medicine at York Hospital in York, Pennsylvania.

Kara Wentz, MEd, Director, Ohio Department of Children and Youth

Kara Wentz has spent her career advocating for children. In August, 2023, Governor Mike DeWine nominated her to be the director of the Department of Children and Youth.

She has served as the Director of the Governor's Children's Initiative since January 2023, and was previously the Chief Operating Officer for Future Ready Columbus.

With more than 20 years in dedicated state service, Wentz has extensive experience in serving the most vulnerable children and families in Ohio. She used data as an accountability tool for systemic change during her time as the Assistant Director of Health and Human Services at the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and led several large-scale system and policy changes as Deputy Director at the Office of Family Assistance.

Wentz holds a Master's in Education and Allied Professions from the University of Dayton and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from The Ohio State University.

Plenary

Partnering to improve health, well-being and economic vitality in Ohio: A Call to Action

Angela Dawson, MS, MRC, LPC, Executive Director, Ohio Commission on Minority Health

Angela Dawson currently serves as the Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health (OCMH). The OCMH was the nation's first state office of minority health in response to the disparity in health status between Ohio's minority and non-minority populations. It funds projects



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which are innovative, culturally sensitive, and specific in their approach toward reduction of the incidence and severity of those diseases or conditions which are responsible for excess morbidity and mortality in minority populations.

Prior to joining OCMH, Dawson was appointed director of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services by Governor Ted Strickland. She also served as the executive director of Project Linden, Inc., a private non-profit outpatient alcohol and other drug treatment and prevention services center in Franklin County for twenty years.

Dawson received her Bachelor's Degree in rehabilitation education, a Master's Degree in counseling and guidance, and second Master's Degree in rehabilitation counseling from Wright State University.