



2025 Ohio Health Policy Summit

October 9, 2025

Columbus, OH

Speaker biographical summaries

Plenary session (9 am keynote)

An ethical framework for decision-making in a time of scarce resources

Michael Gillette, PhD, Founder, Bioethical Services of Virginia, Inc.

Dr. Michael Gillette is an ethics expert. He contracts with healthcare organizations and other agencies to provide ethics case consultations and policy work.

Dr. Gillette graduated magna cum laude from Brandeis University, with majors in philosophy and classical Greek, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He earned his master's and Ph.D. in philosophy at Brown University. He has taught at colleges and universities, published articles in the field of clinical ethics and has received several teaching awards. He was elected three times to the City Council in Lynchburg, Virginia, and served two terms as Mayor of the City.

Breakout session-10 am (children and youth)

Improving mental health for Ohio children with higher levels of need

(Moderator) Tia Marcel Moretti, Interim Director, Ohio Department of Behavioral Health

Tia Marcel Moretti is currently the Interim Director of the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health. She held the position of the Chief Advisor and also served as Deputy Director of the Office of Family & Community Resiliency for the Department. Most recently she was the Founder and CEO of the Ohio Institute for SUD Excellence; a non-profit trade organization focused on quality outcomes in addiction treatment. Formerly the AVP of Behavioral Health Integration for CareSource, Tia is a licensed social worker and Ohio certified prevention consultant who has worked in the community-based mental health and addiction space for 25 years.

Prior to joining CareSource, she worked for the Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine as a Deputy Director of Recovery Ohio, coordinating the \$20 million investment in K-12 prevention education, managing mental health grants in all state departments, and tracking more than \$200 million allocated for mental health and addiction services. As the Director of Substance Use and Social Services Policy for the Ohio Attorney General's Office, she worked with organizations to identify solutions around the opioid crisis, co-authored the Drug Use Prevention Resource Guide and implemented the first police-led youth drop-in center. A recipient of the Columbus Public Health Spirit of Public Health Award, Tia developed a highly credentialed alcohol and drug prevention team in Ohio.



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while developing and managing the Columbus Comprehensive Harm Reduction Program. Tia was named the CEO of Kids CareAlliance in the CareSource bid for a specialty Medicaid Plan to serve multi-system youth. Also, Tia is a mother of four children. And because she is a survivor of multi-system involvement and homelessness, she is incredibly passionate about systems coordination and resiliency.

Tia Cokes, Mental Health Administrator, Ohio Department of Behavioral Health

Tia Cokes is a dedicated public servant with nearly 20 years of experience in state government, specializing in programming that supports the health and well-being of underserved populations across the lifespan. She holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology, with a minor in African American Studies, from the Ohio State University and a master's degree in Community Counseling, with a concentration in working with at-risk youth, from the University of Akron.

Currently, Tia serves as the Statewide Program Administrator for Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) at the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health. In this role, she is leading the statewide expansion efforts of MRSS, carrying out the DeWine-Tressel Administration's vision of all Ohio's youth and families having access to high-quality, rapid mobile crisis response services.

Tia's professional career continues to be driven by a commitment to improving systems of care, empowering and elevating underserved populations, fostering resilience in Ohio's communities and her overall passion to help Ohioans live well and thrive through every stage of life.

Monica Kagey, Director of Outreach and Engagement, Aetna OhioRISE

Monica Kagey currently serves as the Director of External Affairs for Aetna OhioRISE, where she leads strategic growth initiatives, stakeholder engagement, and outreach efforts to increase awareness and enrollment in the OhioRISE program. In this role, she builds strong partnerships with priority communities and key stakeholders to support the program's mission of transforming behavioral health care for youth with complex needs.

Prior to joining Aetna, Monica held several influential leadership and public service roles across Ohio's governmental and behavioral health sectors. Her previous positions included, Director, Overdose Reversal Sciences Division at Indivior; Senior Vice President of Operations at Lighthouse Behavioral Health Solutions; Specialized Dockets Manager, with the Supreme Court of Ohio; and Program Director with the Franklin County Family Drug Court.

She began her career at Franklin County Children Services, where she served in various capacities across the legal, recruitment and direct service departments. Monica earned her Bachelor of Social Work, graduating summa cum laude from Ohio Dominican University. She is a Licensed Social Worker in the State of Ohio and a Certified Court Manager. She also holds an MBA with a focus on nonprofit and government management from Franklin University.



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Mark Mecum, CEO, Ohio Children's Alliance

Mark Mecum is a child advocate and nonprofit leader who specializes in the development of innovative strategies to improve systems of care. Mr. Mecum is the CEO of the Ohio Children's Alliance, a role he has held for the past 13 years. At the Ohio Children's Alliance, he has led the transformation of the organization into new markets, driven stronger governance, expanded partnerships and achieved bolder impact.

He earned a BA and MA in Political Science from Ohio University and a certificate in executive business management from the Ohio State University Fisher College of Business. He also holds a certificate in Lean Six Sigma.

Mr. Mecum is married to his wife, Allison, of 16 years, and is the father of two children ages 5 and 12. He is a resident of Westerville, Ohio.

Breakout session-10 am (working-age adults)

System-Spanning Solutions: The Power of Integrated Deflection Partnerships to Improve Health and Community Safety

Kelly Firesheets, PsyD, VP of Strategy and Partnerships, Cordata Healthcare Innovations, LLC

Dr. Kelly Firesheets is the Vice President for Strategy and Partnerships for Cordata Community. She leads the Cordata Community suite of services which includes software, coaching and technical support that improves public health interventions for the opioid crisis. An evaluator by training, Kelly has spent the past decade supporting community-facing, data-informed solutions to the opioid crisis.

Prior to joining Cordata, Kelly was a senior project director with BrightView Health, an addiction treatment provider based in Ohio. Kelly holds a Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in Clinical Psychology with a certificate in organizational concepts and management from Xavier University.

Dawn Schwartz, Community Overdose Action Project Manager, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County

Dawn Schwartz serves as Project Manager for the Community Overdose Action Team (COAT) at Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County. COAT, a collective impact community coalition dedicated to reducing overdose deaths and substance misuse in Montgomery County, Ohio, fosters cross-sector collaboration, innovative strategies, and community-driven solutions. Dawn



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works closely with Public Health's Outreach Team to ensure deflection is practiced in an efficient and meaningful way.

Before transitioning to Public Health, Ms. Schwartz built a distinguished 25-year career in criminal justice. Beginning as a police officer, she then transitioned to the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court Probation Department, where she spent two decades helping individuals whose lives were impacted by substance use disorders, trauma and mental health challenges. During this time, Dawn helped lead a complete overhaul of how the court addressed treatment, including bringing on-site assessments into the department, implementing a robust quality assurance process to ensure ethical and effective treatment referrals, and working closely with jail treatment staff to prioritize diversion into appropriate care over incarceration. These efforts created faster more effective pathways to recovery for countless individuals.

Since her transition to her current role with Public Health, Dawn has become a fierce advocate for the utilization of data outcomes to drive the work that COAT and the Public Health's Recovery Outreach Peer Team does in the community. Understanding that evidence-based work has the most impact in community outreach in any capacity, she works tirelessly to expand on current work being done with these teams, as well as to create new initiatives to address gaps in service in Montgomery County.

With a passion for compassionate, evidence-based solutions, she continues to champion innovative and data driven approaches to addiction, trauma, and mental health care.

Breakout session-10 am (older adults)

Exploring Innovative Partnerships that Support Health and Independence

(Moderator) Kiana Trabue, MPH, President, HealthPath Foundation of Ohio & Public Health Fund of Ohio

Kiana R. Trabue is a public health professional with over 20 years of experience, having held various executive level positions in the nonprofit and public health sector in Greater Cincinnati. Much of what has shaped Kiana's leadership and passion for community is her family and overall life experiences growing up in the Village of Woodlawn.

Kiana currently serves as President of the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio and the Public Health Fund of Ohio, grantmaking organizations dedicated to improving the health of Ohio's communities. In this role Kiana oversees strategic planning, public relations, fiscal management and revenue generation through intermediary opportunities.



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Marisa Sheldon, Director, Age-Friendly Innovation Center

Marisa Sheldon, MSW, LISW-S, is the Director of the Age-Friendly Innovation Center and Age-Friendly Columbus and Franklin County.

After completing her undergrad and graduate program at the Ohio State University College of Social Work, Marisa started her career with a focus on clinical services to older adults and caregivers at a local hospice and the Alzheimer's Association.

She joined the Age-Friendly Columbus and Franklin County team as the Assistant Director in 2018. She is dedicated to ensuring the voice of older adult's ground community change to build more livable communities for all people.

Beth Kowalczyk, JD, CEO, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Beth Kowalczyk is the Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Beth brings to this role a wealth of knowledge and experience, having dedicated 11 years of exemplary service to o4a in various capacities, including Chief Policy Officer and Chief Operating Officer.

Prior to her tenure at o4a, Beth served with distinction at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services as the Bureau Chief of Policy Initiatives in the Office of Family Assistance. Her commitment to public service and advocacy was also evident during her tenure at the Ohio State Legal Services Association in Columbus, OH, where she served as Senior Statewide Attorney.

A proud alumna of Kent State University and New York University Law School, Beth's educational background complements her extensive professional experience, positioning her as a dynamic leader poised to make a lasting impact on the aging and disability network.

Jennifer Carlson, State Director, AARP Ohio

Jennifer Carlson is a seasoned leader with over three decades of experience in federal and state government and education. She is the state director for AARP in Ohio. In her role, Carlson oversees AARP Ohio's advocacy, communications and community outreach work to 1.5 million members across the state. She leads a dedicated team of staff and volunteers committed to improving the lives of older Ohioans.

A graduate of the Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in business, Carlson serves on multiple nonprofit boards. She resides in Blacklick, Ohio, with her husband and mother, and has two adult children.



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Driving impact through policy and practice: Strengthening Ohio's school-based health care infrastructure

Rachael Schilling, PhD, Program Manager, Ohio School-Based Health Alliance

Rachael Schilling serves as the Program Manager for the Ohio Alliance, managing Ohio Alliance collaboratives, programming and data collection and evaluation efforts. She also supports the Ohio Alliance's communication channels, including the organization's social media accounts and newsletter. Rachael comes from an academic background, where she gained experience in quantitative and qualitative research, data management and data visualization.

Through her work in graduate school, she developed an interest in community well-being and health equity, especially among youth. Rachael holds both a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice and a Master of Science in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati, as well as a PhD in criminology from the University of Delaware.

Katherine Bissett, BSN, RN, Director of School-Based Health Care Initiatives, Ohio School-Based Health Alliance

Katherine serves as the Ohio Alliance's Director of School-Based Health Care Initiatives, providing leadership and oversight to the organization's capacity building, technical assistance and outreach programming. Katherine brings extensive experience to the Ohio Alliance, spending the last decade of her career developing equity focused school-based health programs in Maryland and Ohio.

Her prior roles include working with MetroHealth System's School Health Program, Johns Hopkins University Rales Health Center, and most recently serving as an independent school-based health care consultant with the Ohio Alliance. Katherine is also currently an instructor at the Case Western Reserve University School of Nursing. Katherine is a graduate of the University of Richmond and the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.



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From Concept to Counsel: How Limited Representation Became a Part of Hamilton County's Eviction Mitigation Ecosystem

Nick Zingarelli, JD, Chief Attorney and Executive Director, Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Help Center

Nick Zingarelli (they/them) is the Director and Chief Attorney of the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Help Center. The Help Center is a partnership between the Clerk's Office and the University of Cincinnati College of Law that provides information and limited legal advice to unrepresented people throughout Hamilton County. Nick previously founded and successfully operated their own law practice that was focused on helping people with bankruptcy issues and other debt-related problems throughout Ohio and Kentucky. Nick is a 2001 graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Arts & Sciences and a 2005 graduate of the Salmon P Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University. They have been happily married to their wife Rebecca since 2005. Rebecca and Nick are the proud parents of their daughter Gabby.

Shannon Price, JD, Staff Attorney, Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Help Center and Visiting Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati College of Law

Shannon Price is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Her scholarship focuses on access to justice barriers in civil courts. Professor Price is also a co-founder of the Same-Day Eviction Defense Pilot at the Hamilton County Municipal Clerk of Courts Help Center. Since that program was launched in September 2024, Professor Price has personally represented more than 450 families facing eviction.

Breakout session-11 am (older adults)

Assessment to Action: Policy Innovations to Support Older Ohioans

Jacob Santiago, MSW, Senior Policy Analyst, HPIO

Jacob Santiago is a Senior Policy Analyst 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 health and substance use, ACEs, maternal and infant health, and the social drivers of health, with a focus on housing and the physical environment.



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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.

Julia Wiedemann, MSc., Planning & Operations Manager, Ohio Department of Aging

Julia Wiedemann, MSc. is the Planning and Operations Manager at the Ohio Department of Aging, where she leads the development and implementation of Ohio's State Plan on Aging. She brings expertise in public health preparedness, program evaluation and cross-sector coordination, with prior experience at the Ohio Department of Health managing statewide emergency response and medical countermeasure planning. She holds a Master's in Global Health from the University of Glasgow.

Ann Conn, CPA, MBA, President and CEO, The McGregor Foundation

Ann Conn serves as President and Chief Executive Officer for the McGregor Foundation with more than 25 years of experience working in the Senior Living Industry. She provides leadership to McGregor whose mission is to serve seniors through both direct service provision and philanthropic support. McGregor provides rehabilitation, nursing, housing and end of life services in traditional settings as well as working to keep seniors as independent as possible in the community through its Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

Ann received her BS in Business Administration from Youngstown State University and her executive MBA from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She started her career in public accounting, moving to consulting and then to senior living. Ann currently serves on the Board Directors for the Leading Age Ohio, Evergreen Cooperative Board, and serves as the Chair of the Ohio PACE Association.

Plenary session (1 pm)

Implications of the federal spending bill on health policy in Ohio

Adam Searing, JD, MPH, Associate Professor at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Children and Families

Adam Searing is an Associate Professor at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Children and Families where he focuses on Medicaid and other health coverage programs.

Before joining the Center, Mr. Searing served seventeen years as Director of the Health Access Coalition for the North Carolina Justice Center. In addition, Mr. Searing taught public policy courses as an adjunct faculty at both the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health and the Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy.

Searing is a licensed attorney with degrees in both law and public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



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Jennifer Tolbert, MPH, MSW, Director of State Health Policy and Data, Deputy Director Program on Medicaid & Uninsured, KFF

Jennifer Tolbert is the deputy director on Medicaid and the Uninsured and the director of State Health Policy and Data for KFF. She directs research and policy analysis on Medicaid eligibility and enrollment policies, as well as access to and the affordability of coverage for low-income populations, including people who are uninsured. In addition, Tolbert manages State Health Facts, a source for state-level data on over 800 key health topics.

Prior to joining KFF, Tolbert served as the assistant vice president for policy at America's Essential Hospitals. Before that, she worked in the office of the assistant secretary for planning and evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Tolbert holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, and a Master of Public Health and a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan.

Workshops (2 pm)

Connecting the Dots: FCPHs Internal and External Methods for Sharing Health Literate Data

Shalomel Achi, MPH, Epidemiologist, Franklin County Public Health

Shalomel Achi is a public health professional with expertise in data analysis, epidemiology and health surveillance systems. With experience at Franklin County Public Health, she has designed survey instruments, automated reporting systems, and developed dashboards that translate complex data into actionable insights for diverse stakeholders. Shalomel is committed to advancing evidence-based solutions that improve community health outcomes.

Logan Legg, MPH, Franklin County Public Health

Logan Legg is an epidemiologist at Franklin County Public Health, working on the Overdose Data to Action Team. Logan has been in the public health field for four years with experience in harm reduction and infectious disease. Currently, Logan's work focuses on overdose surveillance, and she currently leads Franklin County Public Health's surveillance efforts focused on linkage to and retention in care.

Logan holds a Master of Public health, with a concentration in epidemiology from the Ohio State University and a Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion and Health Education from Arizona State University.



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Policy in Practice: How to Turn Data and Stories into Legislative Impact

Dominique Johnson, Policy Associate Maternal and Child Health, Groundwork Ohio

Dominique Johnson is a passionate advocate for maternal and child health with a focus on addressing disparities in underserved communities. As a board member of Queens Village, a minority women-led organization, Dominique has been at the forefront of efforts to reduce infant mortality rates in African American communities.

With experience in grant evaluation for The Women's Fund of Central Ohio, Dominique has a proven ability to assess and support impactful programs that drive equity and community well-being.

Dominique is dedicated to leveraging her leadership skills and personal passion to create lasting impact in maternal and child health, ensuring that every family has the resources and support they need to thrive.

Lynanne Gutierrez, President & CEO, Groundwork Ohio

Lynanne Gutierrez is Groundwork Ohio's President & CEO, leading the organization's statewide mission to advance early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five and lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids, families, and communities. As a visionary leader and dedicated child advocate, Lynanne guides the strategic direction of Groundwork Ohio by expanding state and national partnerships, developing coalitions, driving advocacy efforts and ensuring effective implementation of research and data-driven strategies to benefit young children and families.

For more than seven years, Lynanne has expanded the organization's Statehouse footprint, relationships and its reputation across the state. Before becoming a licensed attorney, she served as a Senior Legislative Aide in the Ohio Senate. A distinguished alumna of the Ohio State University and Capital Law School, Lynanne is also a 2023 graduate of the prestigious Leadership Ohio program. Lynanne shares life with her husband and their three young children.

Caitlin Feldman, Senior Director of Policy, Groundwork Ohio

Caitlin Feldman serves as Senior Director of Policy with Groundwork Ohio, where she leads the organization's strategic advancement of policy priorities in maternal and young child health and early childhood trauma prevention. During her tenure, she has led the expansion of Groundwork's influence in health and mental health policy advocacy for Ohio's youngest children and families, deepened the organization's leadership in infant and early childhood mental health policy and worked to steward the Safe Babies program to support families with young children facing entry into the child welfare system.

With experience spanning clinical practice, program management and policy advocacy, Caitlin excels in translating the needs of individuals, families and communities into responsive policy solutions. She earned her bachelor's degree in music therapy from Ohio University and her



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master's degree in social work from Cleveland State University. Caitlin is a licensed social worker and music therapist and serves on the board of Cultivate, supporting local leadership in the Milo-Grogan neighborhood of Columbus.

Using Human-Centered Design to Co-Create Community-Driven Solutions

M. Ella Lewie, MSW, LSW, Senior Evaluation and Policy Analyst, HOPES, the Ohio State University College of Public Health

Ms. Lewie (she/her) serves as the Senior Evaluation and Policy Analyst at the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Evaluation Studies (HOPES). Since 2022, she has brought expertise in social science research, public policy analysis, project design, qualitative data collection and community engagement and advocacy to the team. On a variety of public health topics (e.g., health literacy, community violence, healthy eating and improving outcomes in the social determinants of health), she has managed and co-created evaluation and policy projects employing mixed methods centered around community voice and partner collaboration.

Prior to joining the Center, Ella worked as a policy fellow for The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio where she co-developed and co-authored a two-year study that evaluated Ohio drug courts. Ella also has prior experience working in health care, serving as a trauma-informed hospital advocate for victims of sexual violence in Central Ohio hospitals.

Anne Trinh, MPH, Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, HOPES, the Ohio State University College of Public Health

Anne Trinh serves as director of programs and strategic initiatives for the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Evaluation Studies (HOPES). Previously, she was the center's evaluator and community engagement specialist.

Before joining the College of Public Health, Anne served as maternal and child health epidemiologist and program manager at Columbus Public Health. From 2008 to 2010, Anne lived on a reservation and worked with tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan as a chronic disease epidemiologist at the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center.

In addition to her official activities, Anne brings her professional capacity to Harm Reduction Ohio (for which she is chair of the board) and the Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition (for which she is chair of the data and research action team).

Katie Kenney, MEM, BME, Researcher, HOPES, the Ohio State University College of Public Health

Katie Kenney serves as a researcher for the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Evaluation Studies (HOPES). She is a biomedical engineer and is currently pursuing a master's in engineering



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management at the Ohio State University. For the past 12 years, Kenney has worked at Nationwide Children's Hospital focusing on infant physiology and pathophysiology and outcomes, with an extensive research record.

Introduction to Cost-Benefit Analysis

Rob Moore, MPP, Principal, Scioto Analysis

Rob Moore is the principal for Scioto Analysis. Rob has worked as an analyst in the public and nonprofit sectors and has analyzed diverse issue areas such as economic development, environment, education and public health. His specialty is applied microeconomic analysis of public policies and the trade-offs between efficiency and equity outcomes in economic development and social safety net programs. He maintains memberships with the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, the Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis, and the Ohio Performance Evaluators' Group, the latter of which he serves as a board member and policy chair. He also serves as Vice President for Gross National Happiness USA, a national grassroots organization promoting multidimensional measurement of well-being in society.

Before becoming an analyst, Rob was a community organizer in Omaha, Nebraska. He holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of California Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Denison University.

Jacob Strang, Research Assistant, Scioto Analysis

Jacob Strang is a research assistant at Scioto Analysis. He is pursuing a double major in Economics and Political Science at the Ohio State University with a minor in Computer Science, and he plans to graduate in Spring 2026. Jacob is interested in the intersection of economics, policymaking and data, and he is passionate about using research and analysis to make data driven policy decisions.

Jacob previously completed a policy analysis internship with Scioto Analysis, co-authoring a cost-benefit analysis about wildlife crossings, and he is currently interning with the Ohio Performance Team, working to make state government programs more cost-effective and efficient.

Plenary session (3:45 pm)

Tackling Your Community's Wicked Problem: An Adaptable Framework That Works

Jill Miller, MBA, President and CEO, Bethesda Inc. and the bi3 Fund

Jill Miller is President and CEO of Bethesda Inc., co-sponsor of TriHealth and creator of the bi3 Fund. Through Jill's leadership, the bi3 Fund, one of Ohio's leading health grantmakers, has



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awarded more than \$105 million in grants to fuel health equity and innovation. Jill is proud that nearly 220 babies are alive today due to the collaborative efforts bi3 helped fund to reduce infant mortality in Hamilton County. She is passionate about leading the way to a day when every person has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

Throughout her two-decade career, Jill has worked in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. She is a board member of Philanthropy Ohio and Bethesda Foundation, serves on multiple TriHealth Steering Committees advancing health equity and care delivery, was a member of the Hamilton County Commission on Women & Girls, and is the former chair of the Greater Cincinnati Funders Collaborative.

Jill holds a Business Economics degree from Ohio's Miami University and an MBA from Xavier University.

Meredith Smith, PhD, Executive Director, Cradle Cincinnati

Dr. Meredith Smith, Executive Director of Cradle Cincinnati and Assistant Field Professor at the University of Cincinnati Medical School, is the founding director of Queens Village and a former professor of Black Studies and Women and Gender Studies.

Dr. Smith applies her passion for Black Studies and Women & Gender Studies beyond the classroom in efforts to build stronger, more equitable relationships to benefit the greater community. Meredith received her Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati in Educational Studies and was formerly the Director of Women's and Black Studies at Northern Kentucky University. As Executive Director of Cradle Cincinnati, she seeks to bring together partners, community and medical professionals to co-create sustainable solutions that increase equity, lift Black women's leadership and lower infant mortality and disparities across Cincinnati.

Dr. Smith's dedication to service goes beyond her professional roles. She is a valued member of several boards, including the National Board of Directors for Public Allies and the Advisory Council for Greenlight Fund – Cincinnati.