

OFFICE OF PRIMARY CARE AND RURAL HEALTH

The First Annual New Jersey Rural Health Conference

November 10, 2022 | Rutgers University Cook Campus

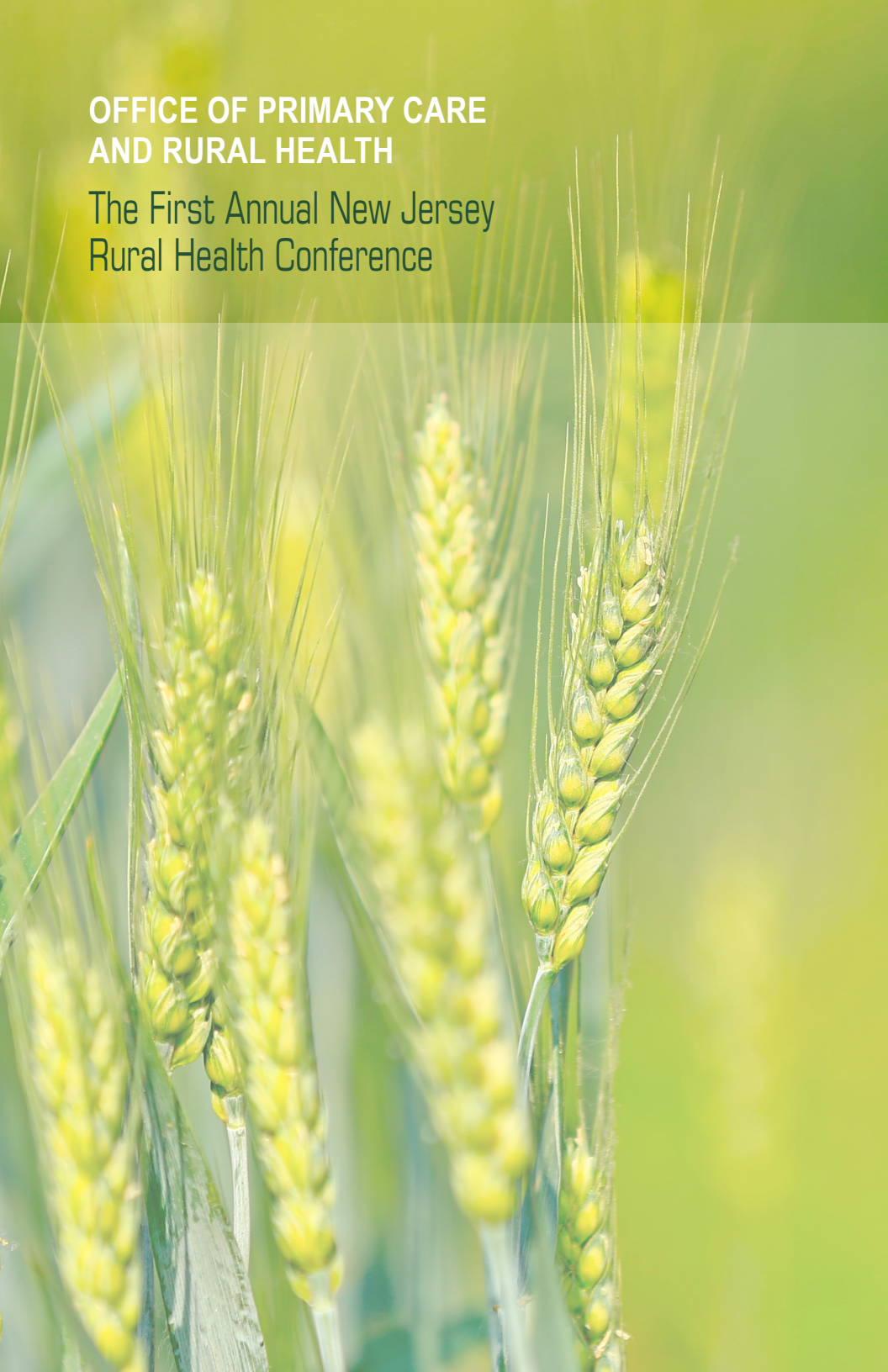


DRIVING CHANGE: Going the Extra Mile.



COMMUNITY
HEALTH
CENTERS



A close-up photograph of several green wheat stalks with developing grain heads, set against a blurred green background. The stalks are in sharp focus, showing the texture of the awns and the emerging grains.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY CARE AND RURAL HEALTH

The First Annual New Jersey Rural Health Conference

DRIVING CHANGE: Going the Extra Mile.

Dear Health Advocates,

Welcome to the First Annual New Jersey Rural Health Conference.

New Jersey is the Garden State and home to more than 9,000 farms covering nearly 720,000 acres of farmland. Nationally, New Jersey is one of the top 10 producers of a variety of fruits and vegetables.

Food and agriculture are New Jersey's third largest industry bringing in billions of dollars in revenue to the state. The commercial fishing industry adds another \$133 million to the value of agriculture in New Jersey.

This thriving industry has created exponential growth for rural communities in New Jersey. Yet, these growing communities include vulnerable populations and create greater health care challenges for the uninsured, underinsured, undocumented or medically underserved patients in hard-to-reach areas.

The Office of Rural Health at the New Jersey Department of Health is dedicated to ensuring the health and well-being of rural communities so that they can thrive.

The theme of this year's conference is ***"Advancing Care and Health Equity in Rural Communities."*** Our workshops and learning opportunities reflect our dedication to building healthy rural communities and improving health through leadership and innovation.

By educating and training future leaders, addressing the social determinants of health, and creating and maintaining policies, programs, and services that serve the public good, we are working toward the Department of Health's mission to *ensure all New Jerseyans live long, healthy lives and meet their fullest potential.*

Enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith M. Persichilli". The script is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J".

Judith M. Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Health

AGENDA

8:00 - 9:10 AM

Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:10 - 9:35 AM

WELCOME REMARKS

Multipurpose
Room

Judith M. Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA,
Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health
Deborah Hartel, MSW, ACSW, Deputy Commissioner,
Integrated Health Services, New Jersey Department of Health

9:35 - 10:15 AM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Multipurpose
Room

**Rural Health Innovations: Promoting Best Practices
and Policies to Uplift Communities**

**Tammy Norville, CEO, National Organization
of State Offices of Rural Health**

10:15 - 11:20 AM

**Recruitment and Retention of Healthcare Workforce:
New Strategies for New Demands**

Multipurpose
Room

Moderator: Nashon Hornsby, JD, LLM,
*Assistant Commissioner, Division of Community Health
Services, New Jersey Department of Health*
Cathleen Bennett, President and CEO, New Jersey Hospital Association
Edna Cadmus, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, FAAN,
Executive Director, New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing
Linda J. Schwimmer, JD, President and CEO,
New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
Michael Shimmens, CPRP, Executive Director, 3RNET
**David Socolow, Executive Director, New Jersey
Higher Education Student Assistance Authority**
Joseph Tetteh, MBA, Project Manager,
*NJ Industry Partnerships, Northern Region New Jersey
Department of Labor and Workforce Development*

11:20 - 11:30 PM

BREAK

11:30 AM -
12:15 PM

George H. Cook

**Rural Disparities in Tobacco Use, Lung, Prostate,
and Colorectal Cancer Rates**

Moderator: Loletha Johnson, RN, MS, Program Manager,
*New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection Program
(NJCEED), New Jersey Department of Health*
**Heather Jordan, MPH, CPH, MCHES, Research Program
Manager, Center for Tobacco Studies, Rutgers University**
Danny Markabawi, MD, MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper
Donald Noblett, NCTTP, Grants Manager, Inspira Health

11:30 AM -
12:15 PM

Multipurpose
Room

**Understanding Drivers of Health Disparities
in Treating Chronic Disease**

Moderator: Juliet Jones, BSW, MBA, Program Manager,
*Diabetes and Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention,
New Jersey Department of Health*

Ginine Cilenti, Executive Director,
Diabetes Foundation

**Ankur Patel, MD, MBA, FAAFP, Consulting Chief
Medical Officer, Tabula Rasa Health Care, Thais Health**

Tanya Pagán Raggio-Ashley, MD MPH FAAP,
Senior Medical Officer/Physician HRSA

11:30 AM -
12:15 PM

Room 202

**The Health Effects of COVID-19 and its Impact
on Our Communities**

Moderator: Amanda Medina Forrester, MA, MPH,
*Executive Director, Office of Minority and Multicultural
Health, New Jersey Department of Health*

Margaret Fisher, MD, FAAP, Acting Deputy Commissioner,
Public Health Services, New Jersey Department of Health

Linda Flake, CEO, Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers

**Damon Koslow, MA, BS, Program Manager, Office of Primary
Care and Rural Health, New Jersey Department of Health**

**Jamey Lister, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Rutgers
School of Social Work**

12:15 - 1:15 PM

LUNCH BREAK

1:15 - 2:10 PM

Multipurpose
Room

**Working Together to Improve Health Outcomes
Among Women and Children**

Moderator: Cindy Barter, MD, MPH, IBCLC, CTTS, FAAFP,
*Faculty at Hunterdon Family Medicine Residency Program,
Hunterdon Health*

**Lisa Asare, MPH, Deputy Commissioner, Division
of Mental Health and Addiction Services, New Jersey
Department of Human Services**

**Carolyn E. DeBoer, MS, Chief Strategy Officer, Partnership
for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey**

**Barbara Ostfeld, Ph.D., Program Director, SIDS Center of
New Jersey, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**

**Roxanne Sutocky, Director of Community Engagement,
The Women's Centers**

2:10 - 2:20 PM

BREAK

2:20 - 3:20 PM
George H. Cook

Innovations in Oral Health

Moderator: Darwin Hayes, DDS, MHA, FAGD, State Dental Director, *New Jersey Department of Health*
Jean-Claude Dungasi, DMD, MBA, MPH, Chief Dental Officer, *CompleteCare Health Network*
Sam Wakim, DMD, MPH, Chief Dental Officer, *Zufall Health Center*
David Williams, Ph.D. MPH, CEO, *QualDent*

2:20 - 3:20 PM
Room 202

Improving Access to Mental Health

Moderator: Thomas Bane, LMSW, Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator, *Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, New York*
Geoffrey Boyce, Chief Executive Officer, *Array Behavioral Care*
Ivette Guillermo-McGahee, ACS, LPC, Founder and Executive Director, *Allies in Caring, Inc.*
Tawanda L. Hubbard, DSW, LCSW, MSW, Social Work Educator, and Practitioner Associate Professor of Professional Practice at *Rutgers University School of Social Work*
Ronald Roebuck, MS, Assistant Regional Coordinator, *Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, New Jersey Department of Human Services*

2:20 - 3:20 PM
Multipurpose Room

Integrating Social Determinants of Health into the Healthcare Conversation

Moderator: Omolola Taiwo, Ph.D., MPA, Executive Director, *Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, New Jersey Department of Health*
Mark Dinglasan, MBA, Director, *New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate*
Herb Conaway, MD, Assemblyman, *7th Legislative District, New Jersey*
Madjiguene Fall, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, *TESOL, Kean University*
Chris T. Pernell, MD, MPH, FACPM, *American College of Preventive Medicine, Regent-at-Large*
Joseph Rivera, Manager of Broadband Access, *New Jersey Board of Public Utilities*

3:20 - 3:30 PM
Multipurpose Room

Closing Remarks

Marisol Meyer, MBA, Rural Health Project Officer, *New Jersey Department of Health*
Joseph F. Vitale, Senator, *19th Legislative District, New Jersey*

3:30 PM

Adjourn





MEET THE SPEAKERS

Lisa Asare, MPH

Deputy Commissioner, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, New Jersey Department of Human Services

Lisa Asare is the Deputy Commissioner of Health Services, overseeing the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services that administers NJ FamilyCare and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Ms. Asare leads the Department's work on First Lady Murphy's Nurture NJ maternal health initiative. Ms. Asare also supports the Catastrophic Illness in Children's Relief Fund. She serves as the President-Elect on the Board of Directors of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP), where she also serves as Chair of the Health Equity Committee. She received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Toronto and a master's degree in Public Health from the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, formerly the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Rutgers School of Public Health and the President's Award from the NJ Public Health Association.



Thomas Bane, LMSW

Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, New York

Thomas Bane, LMSW, is trained as a social worker and qualitative researcher. He is currently serving as the Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator and is based out of the New York office of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In this role, Mr. Bane convenes stakeholders around health care policies and programs. He is passionate about ensuring that community voices, including rural perspectives, are heard by his agency. Mr. Bane's research focuses on climate change and people's well-being.



Cindy Barter, MD, MPH, IBCLC, CTTS, FAAFP

Faculty at Hunterdon Family Medicine Residency Program, Hunterdon Health

Dr. Cindy Barter graduated from the University of Kansas Medical School and completed her residency training at DeWitt Army Community Hospital, Ft. Belvoir, VA. Since coming to Hunterdon, Dr. Barter has taken on several roles that speak to her passion for taking care of the community and maternity care. She is Chair of the Partnership for Health, an organization that is a collaboration of over 70 different community organizations working to improve the health of the residents of Hunterdon County. She is the Co-Chair of the Latino Access Committee. She enjoys learning new languages, traveling, and running with her dogs.



Cathleen Bennett

President and CEO, New Jersey Hospital Association



Cathleen Bennett took the helm on November 9, 2017, as president and CEO of the New Jersey Hospital Association, a nonprofit trade association representing New Jersey's hospitals, health systems, and other health care providers that provide leadership on quality and patient safety, education and advocacy in both Washington, D.C. and in Trenton. Ms. Bennett began her career in the private sector, with 20 years of experience as an executive, providing consulting, strategy, and management services to federal and state health and human services agencies. She joined the New Jersey State Department of Health as Director of Policy and Strategic Planning and Chief Information Officer in August 2010, where she directed strategic public health and health care delivery initiatives including health care quality assessment, health statistics and informatics, population health and health equity, regional health planning, and health information technology. As Commissioner of Health, she established her top priority by creating an Office of Population Health to promote stronger collaboration among hospitals, local health departments, and health care providers. Ms. Bennett holds a Master's of Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania, a Juris Doctorate from The Dickinson School of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts from Villanova University.

Geoffrey Boyce, MBA

Chief Executive Officer, Array Behavioral Care



Geoffrey Boyce is the CEO of Array Behavioral Care (formerly InSight + Regroup), the leading telepsychiatry service provider in the United States with a mission to transform access to quality behavioral health care. Mr. Boyce is a leader in telemedicine advocacy, education, and reform initiatives. He serves as a national voice promoting telemedicine and telepsychiatry and regularly interacts with state and local health care regulators and administrators. In 2017, he received the Industry Leader Award from the American Telemedicine Association (ATA). Mr. Boyce is an active participant in several ATA Special Interest Groups and workgroups including the Telemental Health SIG, the Interstate SIG, the controlled substances prescribing and telehealth workgroup, and the proposed workgroup on the expatriate telemedicine providers. He also serves on the Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC) advisory board of directors. In 2018, he was appointed to the New Jersey Telehealth Review Commission. He holds an MBA from Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia with a focus on entrepreneurship and business planning.

Edna Cadmus, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, FAAN

Executive Director, New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing



Dr. Edna Cadmus currently serves as the Executive Director for the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing and as a Clinical Professor at Rutgers University School of Nursing. Since 2010, she has served as a co-lead for the New Jersey Action Coalition, which is one of 51 national coalitions focused on implementing the Future of Nursing reports from the National Academy of Medicine. Prior to July 2010, she served as the Senior Vice President for Patient Care Services at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center. She is the former president of the Organization of Nurse Executives of New Jersey and past Commissioner of the ANCC Pathway to Excellence Program. Dr. Cadmus received her BSN from William Paterson University, a master's degree in nursing education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and her Doctorate from Adelphi University. Dr. Cadmus is a Wharton fellow and a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

Ginine Cilenti

Executive Director, Diabetes Foundation



Ginine Cilenti is a seasoned nonprofit executive working in the fields of health care and education over the last 25 years. During this time, she has raised millions of dollars and mobilized hundreds of volunteers to ensure equitable services are accessible to all. Most recently, over the past six years, Ms. Cilenti has been the Executive Director at the Diabetes Foundation, Inc., strategically working toward building the agency's programmatic, marketing and funding model to offer diabetes care resources and education to everyone in New Jersey who needs it, regardless of insurance status. In 2021, Ms. Cilenti was named one of NJBiz's Next Generation of Leaders.

Herb Conaway, MD

Assemblyman, 7th Legislative District, New Jersey



The Honorable Herb Conaway, M.D., has been serving New Jersey's 7th Legislative District as its assemblyman for 25 years. Assemblyman Conaway is a leader in the Democratic majority, Chairman of the Health Committee, member of the Budget Committee, and member of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee. He is the only member of the New Jersey State Legislature with both a medical and law degree. He specializes in internal medicine and serves as Director of the Burlington County Health Department. He earned

The First Annual New Jersey Rural Health Conference

his bachelor's degree in politics from Princeton University, his medical degree at Jefferson Medical College, and his law degree from Rutgers Law School, Camden. Conaway also served as a U.S. Air Force Captain in the Medical Corps at McGuire Air Force Base, as a general medical officer, and as an assistant director of the primary care clinic for the base. In addition to playing a leading role in most of the major health legislation signed into law during his 15-year tenure as health chair, he sponsored New Jersey's school funding formula, increased fiscal accountability within school districts, added technology to core curriculum standards, and modernized nutritional standards in public schools. He has also sponsored successful legislation advancing environmental protection, property tax relief, veterans services, and public safety.

Carolyn E. DeBoer, MS

Chief Strategy Officer, Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey

Carolyn E. DeBoer is the Chief Strategy Officer at the Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey, the northernmost of NJ's three Maternal and Child Health Consortia. At the Partnership, Ms. DeBoer manages the teams that analyze perinatal data, conduct needs assessments, and support external grant writing functions. She also manages the Partnership's COVID-19 response programs, which include the New Jersey Department of Health and HRSA-funded Community Health Workers serving urban, suburban, and rural areas in eight counties. Ms. DeBoer has a master's degree in

biology from Montclair State University and an extensive research background, having published on a variety of ecology and evolution topics as well as the effectiveness of public health curricula in areas of adolescent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use prevention, and sexuality education. Prior to her work at the Partnership, Ms. DeBoer was with the Scripps Research Institute, University of California- San Diego, and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

Mark Dinglasan, MBA

Director, New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate

Mark Dinglasan, MBA, currently serves as the director of New Jersey's Office of the Food Security Advocate. Under the leadership of Governor Murphy and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, this office is the first of its kind in the nation and has the duty to: coordinate outreach for food security programs, including developing new initiatives and outreach campaigns and identifying best practices, research, and strategies to increase enrollment and outcomes in the State's food security programs and initiatives. Prior to this role, Mr. Dinglasan was the executive director of CUMAC,

the largest anti-hunger organization in Passaic County. Mr. Dinglasan was the Executive Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Cook County in Illinois before coming to CUMAC. Prior to joining CASA, he led the national corporate development and fundraising at Just the Beginning (JTB) – A Pipeline Organization. The foundation was founded in Illinois by the Honorable Ann Claire Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. With more than 19 years of experience in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors, Mr. Dinglasan has led teams in the areas of organizational development and strategy, fundraising and partnership cultivation, trauma-informed program design, and community engagement. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Monmouth University and received his MBA from DePaul University's Kellstadt Graduate School of Business.

Jean-Claude Dungasi, DMD, MBA, MPH

Chief Dental Officer, CompleteCare Health Network

Dr. Jean-Claude Dungasi currently serves as the Chief Dental Officer at CompleteCare Health Network since 2015. Following graduation from the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivieres in Canada with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Biology, Dr. Dungasi graduated in 2004 as Dental Medicine Doctor (DMD) at the University of Montreal in Canada. In 2005, Dr. Dungasi completed a general practice residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University and the Montefiore Medical Center in The Bronx, New York. He also completed a second-year general practice residency (chief resident) at St. Barnabas Hospital in The Bronx in 2006. Dr. Dungasi completed his MBA in Health Care Management at Western Governors University (Utah) in 2017 and a Master's in Public Health at American Public University (West Virginia) in 2022. Dr. Dungasi is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Health Sciences at Liberty University (Virginia). He is an active member of the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA).

Madjiguene Fall, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, TESOL, Kean University

Dr. Madji Fall is an Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Teaching in TESOL at Kean University. She is a Teacher Educator and Language and Literacy Educator whose work is grounded in anti-racist and anti-linguicism philosophies aimed at improving minoritized communities' educational, economic, and health conditions. She advocates for policies and practices that celebrate the identities of othered groups and creates spaces for increased resilience and opportunity. Dr. Fall's research sits at the intersection of race, language, identity, and power. It mainly takes place in the U.S. and abroad in transnational and other contexts characterized by linguistic and cultural diversity.



Margaret Fisher, MD, FAAP

*Acting Deputy Commissioner, Public Health Services,
New Jersey Department of Health*



Dr. Margaret Fisher received her undergraduate education at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA, and her medical degree from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine. She completed her Pediatric Residency and Fellowship Training in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia. Prior to joining the New Jersey Department of Health, she served as the Chair of Pediatrics at the Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical School. She joined the Department of Health as a Special Advisor to the

Commissioner of Health in October 2020. She continues at Monmouth Medical Center as the Medical Director of Clinical and Academic Excellence and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Dr. Fisher represented the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in the development of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for smallpox, anthrax, botulism, and Zika virus. She has had over 40 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, numerous invited articles, book chapters, audiotapes, and one book. Dr. Fisher has received awards for teaching, community service, and service to the AAP. She has been involved in global health through the Gavi Vaccine Alliance, the Brighton Collaboration, the International Pediatric Association, the CDC, and the AAP.

Linda Flake, MBA

President/CEO, Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers



Linda Flake is the President/Chief Executive Officer of Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers, a federally qualified health center, and has led the agency since May 1992. Under Ms. Flake's leadership, the health center substantially expanded its reach into vulnerable communities and now provides a cadre of services including adult, pediatric, and women's health care, dentistry, behavioral health, and podiatry, which are supported by translation, transportation, case management, and outreach at eight delivery service sites and two mobile vans in Atlantic, Burlington, and Salem counties.

Ms. Flake has an unwavering commitment to improving health outcomes and reducing disparities in disadvantaged communities and has been an executive working with minority and low-wealth populations for over 40 years. Ms. Flake has served on the board of the

National Association of Community Health Centers, is a past President of the board of the New Jersey Primary Care Association (NJPCA), and also served as an officer for the NJPCA for 20 years.

Ms. Flake has received the Atlantic City Business and Professional Women's Award; the Servicios Latinos Award for Removal of Barriers in Health Care; the U.S. Public Health Service, Region II, Award for community service, and many more. Ms. Flake is a graduate of Hampton University; she received her MBA from Temple University. She is an alumna member of the Atlantic City Chapter of The Links, Inc.; President of the Oglatha Terry Flake Gibson Scholarship; and is a member of CCU Baptist Church in Sicklerville, NJ. She loves art, music, dancing, reading, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Ivette Guillermo-McGahee, ACS, LPC

Founder and Executive Director, Allies in Caring, Inc.

Ivette Guillermo-McGahee is the founder and CEO of Allies in Caring (AIC), a NJ nonprofit offering a continuum of behavioral health services in rural areas, which include in-home and telehealth treatment for families experiencing a crisis, respite services, and outpatient services for individuals diagnosed with a behavioral health disorder. Additionally, its new "Con-Vivir Wellness Hub" offers promotion, skill-building programs that enhance the ability of immigrants and individuals with disabilities to withstand challenges and prevention, interventions for children and parents exposed to traumatic experiences, and other risks associated with the onset of behavioral health disorders. AIC's team includes deaf professionals who are fluent in ASL and have an in-depth understanding of deaf-related issues and their experiences.



Additionally, Mrs. Guillermo-McGahee serves as a consultant in developing the capacity to provide equal access to health resources in NJ. In her role as a consultant, she served as a member of the design team working to establish the NJ Public Health Institute to assist with pandemic recovery efforts, public health infrastructure, and the state's health and racial equity capacity needs. She also served on the design team for the Elevating Equity-Gathering Ground, a project seeking to decrease inequities in the nonprofit sector and build alternatives. In 2021, she was appointed to the Jenga Council, a RWJ Foundation advisory council to promote health equity in NJ. Mrs. Guillermo-McGahee is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She is also an Approved Clinical Supervisor. Her professional training includes a Master's in Mental Health Counseling from Gallaudet University, D.C. Her post-graduate training includes: Multicultural Therapy, Systems Centered Therapy, Trauma Focus – CBT, and Mindfulness-Based Interventions. Additionally, she studies and practices Theory U and Social Presenting Theater.

Deborah Hartel, MSW, ACSW

*Deputy Commissioner, Integrated Health Services,
New Jersey Department of Health*



Deborah L. Hartel is the Deputy Commissioner of the Integrated Health Services Branch of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). The branch is comprised of the state psychiatric hospitals under the Division of Behavioral Health Services, the Division of Community Health Services, and the Office of Long-Term Care Resiliency. Before coming to NJDOH, Ms. Hartel served as the Administrative Director of Behavioral Health Services at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey for 22 years and previously was the Vice President of Mental Health Services at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, NJ.

With 44 years of experience in the mental health field, she has provided leadership and overseen a broad range of in-patient and ambulatory services as a hospital-based provider. Ms. Hartel has been a leading advocate on behalf of people with mental illness and substance use disorders throughout her career. Ms. Hartel graduated from Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Social Work and received a Master's degree in Social Work from the Fordham University School of Social Services at Lincoln Center, New York.

Darwin Hayes, DDS, MHA, FAGD

State Dental Director, New Jersey Department of Health



Dr. Darwin Hayes serves as the State Dental Director for New Jersey. Dr. Hayes is responsible for oral health programming related to preventive dentistry, dental education, and oral hygiene. He oversees the development and implementation of the state oral health plan, convenes with community, organizational and intra-agency stakeholders, and develops programs and policies designed to coordinate and improve residents' access to oral health services.

Dr. Hayes serves as the Department of Health Commissioner's designee to the NJ State Board of Dentistry at the Department of Community Affairs; the state's lead representative in the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors; and the official liaison with the NJ State Dental Association and Rutgers School of Dental Medicine. Prior to his appointment in NJ, Dr. Hayes served nearly seven years as the Lead Co-Director of the General Practice Residency Program at BronxCare Health System (formerly Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center) in the Bronx, NY. Dr. Hayes served four years of active-duty service in the Air Force as an Advanced Clinical Dentist. He held the role of Lead Dentist in a corporate dentistry entity and owner/founder of his practice, the

Center for Smile Dentistry in Burbank, CA. Dr. Hayes is a CODA Site Visitor and Success Program Speaker with the ADA. He served as Co-Chair of the New Dentist Conference Committee within the National Dental Association (NDA). He is an active member of the American Dental Association, the New Jersey Dental Association. He was awarded Fellow status with the Academy of General Dentistry in 2003. He is a proud graduate of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and the general practice residency program at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital. In 2014, he received his Certificate in Dental Education from the University of the Pacific's Benerd School of Education and Dugoni School of Dentistry. In 2017, he completed the two-year Executive Masters Program in Healthcare Administration from George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health.

Nashon Hornsby, JD, LLM

*Assistant Commissioner, Division of Community Health Services,
New Jersey Department of Health*

Nashon Hornsby is a first-generation college graduate. A native of Neptune Township, New Jersey, he earned an associate's degree in Political Science, Magna Cum Laude, from Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ, and a bachelor's degree in Business Management, Cum Laude from Morehouse College. Following graduation from Morehouse, he returned to his home state and attended Seton Hall University Law School, where he earned a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree and Legal Letter Masters (LL.M.) in Health Law. Licensed to practice in the State of New Jersey, Nashon has served the State of New Jersey for approximately 20 years.



Nashon began his public service tenure as a Senior Policy Advisor to former Health Commissioner Dr. Clifton R. Lacy. He then assumed the role of Procedural Safeguards Coordinator for the New Jersey Early Intervention System, where he coordinated dispute resolution efforts for the complainants. He was later hired by former Governor Jon S. Corzine as a Senior Policy Advisor on issues related to health, education, urban affairs and engagement of faith- and community-based organizations. Following this role, Mr. Hornsby assumed the post of Chief of Operations of the Department of Health, Division of Family Health Services, where he supported the Division's Assistant Commissioner and oversaw operational efficiencies and performance management. In his current post as Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Community Health Services (CHS), he oversees the Community Health and Wellness (chronic disease control and prevention services) Unit, the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, and Oral Health Services.

Tawanda L. Hubbard, DSW, LCSW, MSW

Social Work Educator and Practitioner, Associate Professor of Professional Practice at Rutgers University School of Social Work

Dr. Hubbard is an Associate Professor of Professional Practice at Rutgers University School of Social Work and recipient of the school's 2022 Outstanding Professor in Clinical Specialization Award. She is also recipient of the 2021 National Teaching Leadership Award in Higher Education by JV Educational Consultants. She has her clinical license and over 19 years of experience in child welfare, advocacy, case management, and clinical practice. Dr. Hubbard is a trained family therapist with a small private practice and consulting firm. She is a consultant trainer providing workshops, keynotes, and webinars connected to her scholarship interests. Dr. Hubbard is also a past president of the National Association of Social Workers, NJ Chapter, alumna of the Council on Social Work Education Doctoral Minority Fellowship Program, and an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She also serves on a variety of councils, advisory boards, and coalitions, and belongs to associations focused on social work, family relations, and child and adolescent development. She is currently pursuing her second doctorate in Family Science and Human Development at Montclair State University and was awarded a Family Process Institute New Writers Program Fellowship in May 2022.



Loletha C. Johnson, MSN, RN

Program Manager, New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection Program (NJCEED), New Jersey Department of Health

Loletha Johnson is a Public Health Practitioner with the New Jersey Department of Health, Division of Community Health Services, and oversees the NJ Cancer Education and Early Detection (NJCEED) Program, and Office of Cancer Control and Prevention (OCCP). She has an eclectic array of experience working with priority populations to address the most salient health outcomes and health disparities across the Life Course. Her forward thinking has led to innovative interventions to reduce mortality and morbidity in at-risk populations across multiple disease states. She has been instrumental in data-driven environmental, systems, and policy initiatives that impact access to health services by addressing social determinants of health barriers to care with multisectoral collaboration. As both a collaborator and program administrator, Loletha has the unique ability to manage multiple teams with as much care and precision as she empowers and cultivates future public health leaders.



Loletha received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from The College of New Jersey, a Master of Science in Nursing (Advance Community Health Nurse Leadership) from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and is currently enrolled in Johns Hopkins University-Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Juliet Jones, BSW, MBA

Program Manager, Diabetes and Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, New Jersey Department of Health

Juliet Jones currently serves as the Program Manager for the Community Health Services Division. She is a dedicated professional overseeing the Diabetes and Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention program. Prior to her work at the Department of Health, Ms. Jones spent close to two decades as a social worker helping families navigate challenging issues.



Heather Jordan, MPH, CPH, MCHES

Research Program Manager, Center for Tobacco Studies, Rutgers University

Heather Jordan, MPH, CPH, MCHES, is a Research Program Manager and Health Educator at the Rutgers Center for Tobacco Studies. Ms. Jordan is a lung cancer screening and tobacco cessation health educator for ScreenNJ. She holds a master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health from The George Washington University. Ms. Jordan is Certified in Public Health (CPH), a Master Health Education Specialist (MCHES), and is trained as a Tobacco Treatment Specialist through the Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program.



Damon Koslow, MA, BS

Program Manager, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, New Jersey Department of Health

Damon Koslow currently serves as the Manager for the NJ Department of Health, Office of Primary Care, and Rural Health. In his role, he oversees New Jersey's Uncompensated Care Fund, the J-1 Visa Waiver Program, multiple COVID-19 federal grants, and grant deliverables for multiple state grants. Previously, Mr. Koslow served as the former Acting Deputy State Registrar for the Office of Vital Statistics and was responsible for the Outreach Program, the Data Issuance Unit, and drafted new policies and regulations.



Jamey Lister, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor at Rutgers School of Social Work



Dr. Jamey Lister is an assistant professor at Rutgers University's School of Social Work. His research on addictions aims to develop treatment recommendations, identify strategies to improve treatment barriers, and utilize research methods that promote health equity for marginalized groups. His studies focus on opioid use disorder and gambling disorder, while also considering comorbid mental health disorders and infectious diseases. Dr. Lister's research targets solutions for underserved rural and urban communities and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations. Some of the research Dr. Lister has led has been published in *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, *The Journal of Rural Health*, the

Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, and *Rural and Remote Health*. He directs multiple externally funded projects that examine rural health and leads a rural health special interest group for the field of social work. Dr. Lister has advocated for policy changes on behalf of New Jersey's rural areas to the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and the United States Department of Agriculture while building relationships with leadership at the National Rural Health Association, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and NJ Office of Rural Health. He regularly provides rural health recommendations in dissemination and new media outlets. Dr. Lister received his Ph.D. from Rutgers University and his MSW from the University of Michigan.

Amanda Medina-Forrester, MA, MPH

Executive Director, Office of Minority and Multicultural Health, New Jersey Department of Health



As executive director of the department's Office of Minority and Multicultural Health, Ms. Medina-Forrester is charged with ensuring health equity policies, practices, and programs are implemented to reduce and eliminate health disparities among diverse and marginalized populations. She also leads the specific population team for the COVID-19 vaccine plan. Ms. Medina-Forrester developed COVID-19 testing and mitigation strategies for migrant and seasonal farm workers, establishing vaccine implementation committees comprised of community members with access to critical populations, enhancing communication

plans to access specific populations, as well as the engagement and activation of key stakeholders, community organizers, and tribal leaders. Ms. Medina-Forrester received her M.A. in experimental psychology from the University of Texas-El Paso in 2001 where she studied social and cognitive stressors on the cardiovascular system and received her M.P.H. with a concentration in community health from the University of North Texas in 2003.

Danny Markabawi, MD

MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper

Dr. Danny Markabawi is a hematologist and medical oncologist at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. Dr. Markabawi's main focus is on the treatment of breast cancer and prostate cancer. He has recently joined the MD Anderson team after concluding his fellowship training at the Ochsner Clinic Foundation in New Orleans.



Marisol Meyer, MBA

Rural Health Project Officer, New Jersey Department of Health, Officer of Primary Care and Rural Health

Marisol Meyer joined the New Jersey Department of Health in March 2018, where she has held several positions, currently serving as the Rural Health Project Officer for the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Community Health Division. She is committed to improving rural health and fostering access to health care services, resources and information through collaboration among partners and community stakeholders. Prior to joining the Department of Health, Ms. Meyer worked for the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, State Approving Agency, where she held several positions, approving educational programs for military personnel and serving as a liaison for educational institutions in New Jersey and nationwide. Ms. Meyer is a dynamic, enthusiastic team player who enjoys community engagement and collaborating with community partners. Ms. Meyer graduated Magna Cum Laude from California Coast University (CCU) with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology before receiving her MBA from CCU.



Donald Noblett, NCTTP

Cancer Grants Manager, Inspira Health

Donald Noblett is a Cancer Grants Manager at Inspira Health, a non-profit healthcare organization located in Southern New Jersey. Mr. Noblett currently oversees five grant-funded programs focused on reducing the prevalence of cancers and chronic diseases among Cumberland, Salem, and Gloucester County residents. Mr. Noblett is passionate about removing barriers to care for vulnerable populations. He is currently working towards a master's degree in Public Health from Liberty University and holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Rowan University. Mr. Noblett is a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist, with a National Certificate in Tobacco Treatment Practice from NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals.



Tammy Norville, CEO

National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health



Ms. Tammy Norville, CEO of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH), served rural safety-net providers for almost 15 years while at the North Carolina Office of Rural Health and has been immersed in rural community capacity building for years. She served as NOSORH Technical Assistance Director for more than four and a half years before transitioning into the CEO role in June 2022. With more than 25 years in the health care arena, she has a keen understanding of the interdependence of health, health care systems, and the economy as well as being a Knowledge Broker specializing in

how to operationalize that knowledge to make positive impacts in rural communities. Ms. Norville holds Certified Professional Coder – Instructor (CPC-I), Certified Professional Coder (CPC), Registered Medical Coder (RMC), Registered Medical Biller (RMB), and Registered Medical Manager (RMM) certifications.

Barbara Ostfeld, Ph.D.

Program Director, SIDS Center of New Jersey, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School



Dr. Barbara M. Ostfeld is a professor of pediatrics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Program Director of the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Center of New Jersey, which she helped establish in 1987 to serve the missions of bereavement support, research, and public health education. Dr. Ostfeld served on the Expert Leadership Group of the National Action Partnership to Promote Safe Sleep, and her research contributed to the policies of the American Academy of Pediatrics to reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related infant deaths. For her work on SIDS, she

was recently named a Champion for Children by the American Academy of Pediatrics-NJ Chapter. She is a member of the SIDS Autopsy Protocol Committee, Office of the NJ State Medical Examiner, and served on the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Investigation Subcommittee of the NJ Child Fatality Review Board. As a member of the Division of Neonatology, she also served until recently as program director of High-Risk Infant Follow-up where her research addressed outcomes of premature birth. Her activities on behalf of health equity include service on the NJ Perinatal Quality Collaborative Health Disparities Work Group. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of New York University, received her Master's and Doctoral degrees in Developmental Psychology from Rutgers University, and postdoctoral training from Children's Psychiatric Center.

Ankur Patel, MD, MBA, FAAFP

Consulting Chief Medical Officer, Tabula Rasa Health Care, Thais Health



Dr. Ankur Patel is a geriatrician, author, chief medical officer, pharmacist, speaker, and podcast host for Keep UP With PACE. He has more than 12 years of experience in caring for the elderly in multiple settings. His expertise lies in innovative approaches to advancing quality of life and decreasing the cost of care. He has won numerous awards and has spoken at various national conferences, universities, community gatherings, and corporate events. He is always eager to touch more lives and share his knowledge with millions of people to impact them for their good, and his insights can now be found in his book "Age Is Just A Number" for everyone to benefit from. With immense gratitude, he believes that now it is his turn to pay it forward.

Chris T. Pernell, MD, MPH, FACPM

American College of Preventive Medicine, Regent-at-Large



Dr. Chris T. Pernell is a dynamic physician leader and social change agent. In her public health practice, she focuses on health justice, community-based advocacy, and population-wide health promotion and disease prevention. Previously, she worked at University Hospital in Newark, New Jersey as the first Chief Strategic Integration and Health Equity Officer. She oversaw a portfolio that included Population Health, Strategic Planning, Community Affairs, and the Human Experience. Her office was responsible for launching health equity strategy development and integrating diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism initiatives across all system operations. Prior to joining University Hospital, she led the 1199SEIU/League Labor Management Initiatives (LMI) Workplace and Community Health Program. Working with 1199SEIU leaders and frontline workers, the nation's largest health care union, and executive partners across NYC health care institutions, her efforts centered on workplace health strategies, worker empowerment, health equity, and health system transformation. Dr. Pernell is a charismatic and leading voice in preventive medicine and public health. Recently, ROI-NJ named her a ROI Influencer in their 2022 Women in the Business roster.

Dr. Pernell graduated cum laude from Princeton University before attending Duke University School of Medicine. She received her Master of Public Health from the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health and completed the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health General Preventive Medicine Residency. Dr. Pernell is a fellow and Regent-at-Large for the American College of Preventive Medicine. She holds an appointment as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. Previously, she taught as an adjunct associate professor at the NYU College of Global Public Health. She labors as a faith leader in a groundbreaking assembly, BET HaSHEM YHWH Worldwide Ministries.

Judith M. Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA

Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health



Commissioner Judith Persichilli began serving as Acting Commissioner of Health on August 5, 2019. She was confirmed by the State Senate on January 9, 2020. She has been alongside Governor Murphy leading the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with the response to this once-in-a-century health emergency, the Department of Health under her leadership works to protect and improve the health of New Jersey residents. The Department's priorities include reducing health disparities, improving maternal health, addressing the overdose epidemic and increasing access to health care. Prior to leading the department, Ms. Persichilli served as the Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of University Hospital in Newark. Ms. Persichilli was president emerita of CHE Trinity Health, the

health ministry formed in May 2013 by the consolidation of Catholic Health East and Trinity Health of Livonia, MI. She previously served as the interim president and CEO of CHE Trinity Health. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Persichilli was President and CEO of Catholic Health East. Ms. Persichilli received her nursing diploma from the St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing summa cum laude from Rutgers University, and a Master of Arts in Administration summa cum laude from Rider University. She also received an honorary Doctor of Health degree from Georgian Court University in 2009. In May 2011, Ms. Persichilli received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT.

Tanya Pagán Raggio-Ashley, MD, MPH, FAAP

Senior Medical Officer/Physician, Health Resource Service Administration (HRSA)



Dr. Tanya Pagán Raggio-Ashley is a Senior Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resource Service Administration, Region 2 Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs. She has dedicated her life to addressing health disparities and creating health equity including the mentoring of students interested in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM). During the past two years, she has worked extensively on mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic at work as well as with faith-based and community-based organizations.

Dr. Pagán Raggio-Ashley is board certified in pediatrics and preventive medicine. She received her bachelor's and medical degrees from Rutgers University, completed her pediatric residency at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center, and a cardiovascular epidemiology fellowship including a Master's in Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. She has taken courses at the New York Theological Seminary and the Seminario Teológico de Puerto Rico. Dr. Pagán Raggio-Ashley volunteers her time addressing the needs of women who are incarcerated and in reentry, works on creating equity for persons residing in Puerto Rico, COVID-19 efforts, health disparities, and the Minority Organ Tissue and Transplantation Education Program. Dr. Pagán Raggio-Ashley is also a minister.

Joseph Rivera

Manager of Broadband Access, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities



Joseph Rivera leads the NJ Board of Public Utilities' efforts to ensure that NJ achieves Digital Equity and connectivity across the state. Born, raised, and educated in the City of Trenton, he is formally the City of Trenton's first Chief Technology Officer. Mr. Rivera has over 20 years of experience in IT, marketing, and content creation as well as community engagement. Mr. Rivera has served on the Digital Government Summit Advisory Board since 2018 and holds certifications in Supervisory Training Empowering Performance (NJSTEP), FEMA Cybersecurity Awareness & Remediation, and DELL Client & Enterprise Foundations. He is currently pursuing a degree in Business Management Administration with a focus on Information Technology.

Ronald Roebuck, MS

Assistant Regional Coordinator, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, New Jersey Department of Human Services



Ronald Roebuck is an Assistant Regional Coordinator in the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). He assists in the oversight of contracted mental health services in the nine counties that make up the Southern Region of New Jersey. He helps in the coordination and development of policies for program service delivery and budgetary functions within the region. Mr. Roebuck also serves as a liaison between the DMHAS and community stakeholders within the mental health system. Mr. Roebuck has over 20 years of experience partnering with consumers, families, service providers, and other stakeholders with the collective goal of delivering wellness and recovery for individuals managing a mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring disorder.

Linda Schwimmer, JD

President and CEO, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute



As President and CEO of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, Ms. Schwimmer drives policies that advance health care safety, access, and affordability. Ms. Schwimmer sits on the board of the Leapfrog Group, a national patient safety advocacy group. She served on the board and various committees of the National Quality Forum (NQF). She was also the co-chair for Governor Phil Murphy's transition team on health. Before joining the Quality Institute, Ms. Schwimmer worked in various sectors including Director of Strategic Relations & External Affairs at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Director of Legislation and Policy for the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance, and counsel positions with the New Jersey Senate Majority Office. For over a decade, she was a bankruptcy and commercial lawyer in private practice. Linda received a B.A. with honors from the University of California, Berkeley, and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

Michael Shimmens, CPRP

Executive Director, 3RNET



Mike Shimmens is the Executive Director for 3RNET, the nation's most trusted resource for health professionals seeking careers in rural and underserved communities. Mr. Shimmens has led 3RNET since 2012. He has over 25 years of experience in the recruitment of health care professionals. Prior to leading 3RNET, Mr. Shimmens worked for six years at the Missouri Primary Care Association as Director of Recruitment and Workforce Development. He has been a member of the Association for Advancing Physician and Provider Recruitment (AAPPR) since 1997 and maintains their certification as Certified Physician/Provider Recruitment Professional (CPRP). Mr. Shimmens has a bachelor's degree from Missouri State University and a master's degree from Western Illinois University.

Missouri State University and a master's degree from Western Illinois University.

David J. Socolow

Executive Director, New Jersey Higher Education

Student Assistance Authority



David Socolow was appointed Executive Director of the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) by Governor Murphy in February 2018.

Throughout his career in federal and state government and in the private sector, he has worked to advance the success of students and working families. Immediately prior to joining HESAA, Mr. Socolow was the director of the Center for Postsecondary and Economic Success at CLASP, a national non-profit policy advocacy organization, where he led initiatives to help low-income individuals

attain the credentials they need to secure high-quality jobs by

developing comprehensive career pathways and improving access and affordability of postsecondary education and workforce training. He served as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development from 2006-2010 and previously served as director of New Jersey's Unemployment Insurance Division and as senior advisor to the deputy secretary in the U.S. Department of Labor. He also worked as vice president for corporate affairs at the New Jersey headquarters of Pinnacle Foods, Inc., and chief of staff for former Congressman Robert E. Andrews. Mr. Socolow earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard University and his master's degree in public administration from Rutgers University.

Roxanne Sutocky

Director of Community Engagement, The Women's Centers

Roxanne Sutocky (she/her) serves as Director of Community Engagement for The Women's Centers, a group of independent abortion providers located in CT, GA, PA, and here in New Jersey at Cherry Hill Women's Center. For the last decade, Ms. Sutocky has supported people seeking abortions and facilitated educational, political, and volunteer opportunities for community members. In her role with The Women's Centers, Ms. Sutocky seeks to break down misinformation and stigma surrounding abortion care and envisions a future where everyone can get reproductive health care when it is needed. Cherry Hill Women's Center (CHWC) has served as a trusted community source for compassionate and dignified abortion care in Camden County for over 40 years. CHWC is an accredited member of the Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association, the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities, the National Abortion Federation, and a member of the Abortion Care Network. When individuals visit Cherry Hill Women's Center, they will find a warm, friendly, and inviting space that allows the freedom to make thoughtful pregnancy decisions surrounded by staff who respect their choices.



Omolola Taiwo, Ph.D., MPA

Executive Director, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Division of Community Health Services, New Jersey Department of Health

Dr. Lola Taiwo is a health equity practitioner and scholar who serves as the Executive Director of the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (OPCRH) at the New Jersey Department of Health. She currently leads this office in assessing statewide health needs, addressing rural health issues, and ensuring vulnerable communities have equitable access to skilled health care providers and health care services. Through federal and state funds, Dr. Taiwo works with Federally Qualified Health Centers, state agencies, and community/faith-based organizations (CBO/FBO) to devise and implement initiatives that address health inequities and social determinants of health. Prior to joining NJDOH, Dr. Taiwo worked domestically and internationally for over 15 years in areas including health policy analysis, HIV prevention and harm reduction, immigrant health, sexual violence prevention, and community health worker initiatives. Additionally, Dr. Taiwo has taught and lectured several courses including Minority Health, Women's Health, and Research Methods. Dr. Taiwo holds a Ph.D. in Community and Behavioral Health from the University of Maryland, an MPA in Health Policy and Management from New York University, and a BS in Public Health from Temple University.



Joseph Tetteh, MBA

*Project Manager, Industry Sector Specialist, New Jersey
Industry Partnerships- Northern Region, New Jersey
Department of Labor and Workforce Development*

Joseph Tetteh serves as the Program Manager for the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Industry Partnerships for the State's Northern region. In this role, he manages the Health Care and Manufacturing Partnerships where he works with industry leaders and community partners to identify business priorities and satisfy industry needs. Mr. Tetteh has over six years of experience working to support public-private partnerships in various workforce development projects.

Prior to his appointment as the Program Manager of the Industry Partnership, Mr. Tetteh was the Director of the Life Sciences Talent Development Center and the Director of the Technology Talent Network where he contributed to New Jersey's economic growth by working directly with businesses to develop partnerships and leverage opportunities. Through this work, Mr. Tetteh strived to cultivate a pipeline of talent for businesses and contributed to building a highly skilled workforce through the development of educational, occupational, and job training initiatives. He holds an MBA from the Centenary College of Louisiana and a master's degree in Library and Information Science from Louisiana State University.

Senator Joseph F. Vitale

*Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator,
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, New York*

Senator Joseph F. Vitale, a Democrat from Middlesex County, was sworn into the New Jersey State Senate in 1998 to represent the 19th Legislative District. Senator Vitale is the Chairman of the Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee and Vice Chairman of the Transportation Committee.

His legislative efforts over the years have springboarded Senator Vitale into being one of the most respected voices on health care in the state of New Jersey. Senator Vitale has been instrumental in passing laws that have improved safety at health care facilities, empowered victims of childhood sex abuse, protected victims of domestic violence, prevented nurses from forced overtime, and addressed the medical malpractice liability insurance crisis. He sponsored the laws that forbid discrimination based on gender identity and created the crime of bias intimidation. He resides in Woodbridge with his wife, Robin, daughters Alexandra and Isabella, and their favorite dog, Rosie.

Sam Wakim, DMD, MPH

Chief Dental Officer, Zufall Health Center

Under the leadership of Chief Dental Officer Dr. Sam Wakim, Zufall Health has tripled dental service capacity and more than quadrupled the number of Zufall patients receiving dental care. Joining the organization in 2009, he has had a long career in public health dedicated to making quality services and education accessible to the underserved. At Zufall, he is responsible for the general administration of the Dental Department as well as community health and education initiatives. Collaborating with the medical staff, he was instrumental in integrating oral health as a critical part of the overall wellness plan for adult and pediatric patients. His Mobile Dental and School-based Programs bring services and education to elementary schools, nonprofit agencies, farms, and other outlying locations where access to care is difficult. Further, his outreach efforts support events like Give Kids A Smile Day, National Rural Health Day, Make A Difference Day, and other activities that serve special populations like veterans and the homeless. He is a graduate of UMDNJ and earned a master's degree in Dental Public Health from UMDNJ – School of Public Health.

David Williams, Ph.D., MPH

CEO, QualDent

Dr. David Williams leads QualDent, an oral health risk management company that specializes in the management of oral/systemic health care. An experienced population health management professional, Dr. Williams has supported several public and private health care systems throughout the US and internationally in Dubai, Azerbaijan, Nigeria, St. Vincent, and Mauritania. He has served as a health care consultant to the White House, U.S. Congress, Social Security Administration, Health Resource and Service Administration, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, several state Medicaid authorities, insurance companies, and all types of dental provider organizations.

Prior to QualDent, Dr. Williams served as the chief executive officer of OraCare Dental Health Plan and regional vice president of United Dental Care Insurance Company. Among his many accomplishments, he developed the AmeriHealth Insurance Companies, which continues today to serve millions of members in several states. As an experienced population health management professional, he has worked for Independence Blue Cross, Pennsylvania Blue Shield, and several national and international consulting firms, developing and managing medical and dental programs that cover the lives of millions of people.





CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

Rural Health Innovations: Promoting Best Practices and Policies to Uplift Communities

- Grow knowledge of rural health equity best practices and eliminate disparities in treatment, access, and outcomes
- Understand strategies that strengthen policies, systems, and environmental changes that uplift rural health

Recruitment and Retention of Healthcare Workforce: New Strategies for New Demands

- Learn how to improve health outcomes by enhancing the training, skills, and performance of public health professionals
- Advance knowledge in the health care workforce industry and the economy at large that's driving technological advances, competitive market forces, and demand for new skill sets
- Improve knowledge of new resources and the best recruitment and retention practices

Rural Disparities in Tobacco Use, Prostate, and Colorectal Cancer Rates

- Understand the significance of preventing tobacco use and upstream tactics to reduce the use of tobacco products
- Learn how to promote risk-reduction strategies and healthy lifestyle choices for communities at risk for lung, prostate, and colorectal cancer
- Learn how to improve the quality of life of cancer patients in a defined population through the systematic implementation of evidence-based interventions for prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and available treatment

Understanding Drivers of Health Disparities in Treating Chronic Disease

- Improve knowledge of the underlying determinants of cardiovascular disease and ways to advance disease management interventions in collaboration with health professionals
- Understand the importance of diabetes self-management in order to support informed decision-making, self-care behaviors, and active collaboration with health professionals to improve clinical outcomes and quality of life.
- Advance knowledge of chronic disease management and approaches to driving high-quality outcomes among rural populations
- Learn how to work with health care systems and social services agencies to increase knowledge of their referral processes for chronic disease prevention programs

The Health Effects of COVID-19 and its Impact on Our Communities

- Learn key facts about long COVID-19 conditions and their impact on rural communities
- Improve vaccine confidence and learn how to use data to promote public health knowledge and best practices
- Improve knowledge of available COVID-19 resources for people who live and work in New Jersey

Working Together to Improve Health Outcomes Among Women and Children

- Understand health care professionals' collaboration with communities to reduce maternal and infant mortality and to ensure equitable care among women and children of all races and ethnicities
- Learn new strategies for advancing women's health literacy through community health programs and population health initiatives
- Improve knowledge of ongoing efforts on maternal and infant health legislation and other programs and policies to advance the health of women and children

Innovations in Oral Health

- Improve knowledge of oral health and learn how to prevent dental diseases
- Gain strategies to foster oral health promotion targeting underserved populations
- Learn how to engage in HPV education and how to take advantage of other vital information about oral health
- Learn new oral health trends from health care professionals

Improving Access to Mental Health

- Learn how to improve mental health through prevention by understanding stigma reduction and breaking barriers to promote help-seeking behaviors
- Recognize mental health as a major role in people's ability to maintain good physical health and stay abreast of new treatment and best recovery practices
- Understand how to navigate mental health support and available resources

Integrating Social Determinants of Health into the Healthcare Conversation

- Expand your understanding and knowledge about social determinants of health affecting rural communities
- Create awareness of social and physical environments that promote good health and well-being for all residents
- Learn best practices to promote social and economic opportunities to advance underserved communities
- Engage in community collaboration to promote safety in schools, neighborhoods, rural settings, and beyond

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Zufall Health Center

Continuing Dental Education (CDE) credits are approved through Zufall Health Center. One hour CDE credit per course.

CME

HRET is accredited by the Medical Society of New Jersey to provide continuing medical education for physicians. AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

CNE

New Jersey State Nurses Association Accreditation Statement. HRET-NJ is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the New Jersey State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Provisional Provider Number P-131-3/2022.

NJ Public Health CE and CHES/ MCHES Credits

Rutgers-SPH has been approved by the New Jersey Department of Health as a provider of NJ Public Health Continuing Education Contact Hours (CEs).

Thank you

to our Planning Committee Members and Family Health Initiatives (FHI) for their contribution to the NJ Rural Health Conference planning. This was only possible through their commitment of time and effort, which is especially notable given their normal responsibilities. The New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is grateful for the collective efforts in planning the conference.

NJ RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

New Jersey Department of Health

Chair: Marisol Meyer,
Rural Health Project Officer

E. Rosie Driscoll, Deputy Director of
Policy and Legislative Services

Sharon Falcey, Technical Support Specialist

Nashon Hornsby, Assistant Commissioner

Damon Koslow, Program Manager

Loletha Johnson, Program Manager

Juliet Jones, Program Manager

Jonathan Sitko, Program Manager

Ranjita Suresh, Student Intern

Dr. Omolola Taiwo, Executive Director

Claudi Trani-Melgar,
Communications Manager

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, New York

Thomas Bane, Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), New York

Dr. Tanya Pagan Raggio, Senior Medical Officer/Physician

Thrive Public Affairs

Suzanne Ghee, Event Planner

Zufall Health Center

Michelle Blanchfield, Director of Outreach and Special Populations

Shade Cronan, Foundation Director

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The First Annual New Jersey Rural Health Conference

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DRIVING CHANGE: Going the Extra Mile.

