

2021 NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING



Community, Resilience, and Hope:
Achieving Healthy NC 2030
Behavioral Health Goals

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting



If you are registered for the conference, you will receive an email on 10/15 with the link for Whova (our virtual platform).

AGENDA

2021 NCIOM ANNUAL MEETING

COMMUNITY, RESILIENCE, AND HOPE: ACHIEVING HEALTHY NC 2030 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GOALS

OCTOBER 20, 2021
9:00AM - 1:00PM

Opening Sessions

9:00 - 9:15 AM
**WELCOME & NCIOM
UPDATE**

David Sousa, JD, MBA
Chair, Board of Directors
North Carolina Institute of Medicine
Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel
Curi

Carrie Rosario, DrPH, MPH, CHES
Incoming Chair, Board of Directors
North Carolina Institute of Medicine
Associate Professor, Department of Public Health
Education
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Kathleen Colville, MSW, MSPH
President and CEO
North Carolina Institute of Medicine

9:15 - 9:25 AM
HEALTHY NC 2030

Betsey Tilson, MD, MPH
State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer
North Carolina Department of Health and Human
Services

9:25 - 10:25 AM
PLENARY SESSION 1
**DISRUPTING SINGLE STORIES,
BROADENING THE APERTURE,
AND EMBRACING THE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
SOCIOEXPOSOME AMONG
BLACK MALES**

Wizdom Powell, PhD, MPH
Director
Health Disparities Institute
Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry
University of Connecticut

If you are registered, you will receive an email with the Zoom password for all sessions and the email address to contact in case you experience difficulty accessing the sessions.

AGENDA

2021 NCIOM ANNUAL MEETING

In Whova, select one breakout panel

10:25 -11:20 AM BREAKOUT PANELS

Introduction: Kathryn Dail, PhD, RN

Director, Community Health
Assessment and Healthy NC 2030

PREVENTING OVERDOSE
DEATHS: WHAT'S WORKING
AND WHAT NEEDS TO
CHANGE

Moderator: Carrie Rosario, DrPH, MPH, CHES

Panelists: Nabarun Dasgupta, PhD, MPH
Marcus Plescia, MD, MPH
Jamie Carter MD, MPH

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
SERVICES: BUILDING ACCESS
THROUGH COMMUNITY

Moderator: April Bragg, PhD

Panelists: Gabriela Livas Stein, PhD
Deepa Avula, MPH
Cherene Caraco, CPSS, QMHP, QDDP, CESP

WE KNOW WHAT WORKS:
REDUCING TOBACCO USE IN
ALL FORMS

Moderator: Sally Herndon, MPH

Panelists: Kurt Ribisl, PhD
Michael Scott, CHES
James Davis, MD

REDUCING ALCOHOL-
RELATED HARM TO
INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND
COMMUNITIES

Moderator: Mike Yow, LCAS

Panelists: Kurtis Taylor
Mina Cook, CPS
Elinor Landess, MA

THE RESOURCES TO KEEP
GOING: IMPROVING MENTAL
HEALTH ACCESS AND
TREATMENT TO PREVENT
SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM

Moderator: Victor Armstrong, MSW

Panelists: Lisa DeCiantis, MA, LCMHC
Ames Simmons, JD
Jason Nieuwsma, PhD

AGENDA

2021 NCIOM ANNUAL MEETING

11:20 – 11:30 AM
BREAK

After the break, please join us for our closing sessions

11:30 – 11:50 AM
PLENARY SESSION 2
TRAUMA-INFORMED
SYSTEMS: CHIEF JUSTICE'S
TASK FORCE ON ACES-
INFORMED COURTS

LaToya B. Powell, JD
Deputy General Counsel
North Carolina Department of Public Safety

via pre-recorded presentation:

Paul Newby, JD
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of North Carolina

Benjamin R. David, JD
District Attorney
New Hanover and Pender Counties

Andrew T. Heath, JD, L.L.M.
Director
North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts

11:50 AM – 12:55 PM
FROM ADVERSITY TO
RESILIENCE: ADVERSE
CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES IN
NORTH CAROLINA

Moderator: Paul Lanier, MSW, PhD

Panelists: LaToya Powell, JD
Sharon Hirsch
Jessie Kohler, MEd

12:55 – 1:00 PM
WRAP UP

Kathleen Colville, MSW, MSPH
President and CEO
North Carolina Institute of Medicine

THE NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE WISHES TO THANK OUR CONTRIBUTORS

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation
- The Duke Endowment
- State of North Carolina
- Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

ANCHOR ORGANIZATIONS

NCIOM anchor organizations make substantial contributions over multiple years to support the mission of the NCIOM.

- Atrium Health
- Campbell University
- Cone Health Foundation
- Duke Health
- Novant Health
- United Healthcare Community and State
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- UNC Health
- Vidant Health
- Wake Forest University Health Sciences
- The Winer Family Foundation

CONTRIBUTORS

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

2021 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

The Winer Family Foundation
Curi

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING 2021



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



AMES SIMMONS, JD

*Policy Director
National Center for Transgender Equality*

Ames Simmons is a queer white trans man serving as Policy Director at National Center for Transgender Equality. He provides vision and direction for NCTE's policy strategies and approach, including federal and state advocacy to achieve NCTE's mission of empathy, opportunity, and justice for transgender people. His work is grounded in community-based anti-racism, anti-violence, and anti-poverty efforts.

His previous roles include policy director at Equality North Carolina, and assistant general counsel at a healthcare company assisting uninsured patients with Medicaid. Ames attended Agnes Scott College in Decatur, GA, graduating with a BA in Political Science and Spanish, and Emory University Law School, where he earned a JD degree. Ames holds a senior lecturing fellowship at Duke University School of Law.



APRIL BRAGG, PHD

*Senior Impact Officer
Dogwood Health Trust*

As Senior Impact Officer at Dogwood Health Trust, Dr. April Bragg oversees the organization's grantmaking focused on addressing behavioral health and substance misuse challenges across the Western North Carolina region. Dr. Bragg received her BS in Biology from Emory and Henry College, earned a PhD in Cell Biology from Vanderbilt University, and completed postdoctoral training in physiology and biophysics at the University of Washington in Seattle. She transitioned from the university research setting to pursue work in strategic program development, operational business growth, and public and private sector fundraising in nonprofit health care. While in these roles she successfully secured over \$21 million in federal, state, and private funding for various local, regional, and national nonprofit health care programs focused on bringing evidence-based health care to vulnerable and marginalized populations. In her time at Dogwood Health Trust she has overseen the administration of more than \$8 million in grant awards to various organizations involved in behavioral health and substance misuse prevention and treatment services, including harm reduction programs and innovative prevention programs for youth. In her free time, April enjoys reading, writing, and entertaining her two cats, as well as running and hiking in the beautiful mountains around Asheville.



CARRIE ROSARIO, DRPH, MPH, CHES

*Incoming Chair, Board of Directors, North Carolina Institute of Medicine
Associate Professor, Department of Public Health Education, University of North Carolina at Greensboro*

Carrie Rosario is a practitioner-scholar-teacher who is deeply committed to improving the health of North Carolinians and preparing future public health practitioners. Dr. Rosario is an associate professor in the Department of Public Health Education at UNC Greensboro, with seven years of executive leadership, including as former Associate Department Chair and Director of Undergraduate Study. She received her DrPH from the Loma Linda University School of Public Health and her MPH from UNC Greensboro. Her research focuses on advancing place-based public health and health equity, with an emphasis on tobacco control. Dr. Rosario served as a member of the Healthy North Carolina 2030 Task Force and as co-lead of its Health Behaviors workgroup. She is also a member of the Community Advisory Board for the UNCG Center for Housing and Community Studies, the State Health Improvement Plan Community Council, and the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) Board of Directors.

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING 2021



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



CHERENE CARACO, CPSS, QMHP, QDDP, CESP

*CEO and Chief Global Strategist
Recovery Mental Health Consultant
PROMISE Resource Network Inc*

Over the past 28 years, Cherene has been described as an innovator, disruptor, agitator, and activator for her work nationally and internationally to reform pathology-based and oppressive systems, practices and policies. For her work in establishing trauma informed alternatives to traditional mental health treatment, Cherene has been named as the 2021 "Innovator of the Year" by the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in Washington, DC. The Bazelon Center is well known for protecting human rights and advancing civil rights of people with psychiatric disabilities through the passage of American with Disabilities Act (1990) and the Olmstead Settlement (1999). Their efforts to advance equity continues through cutting edge litigation, progressive federal mental health legislation, research and innovative practice change.

Cherene came by her passion honestly as a 13 year-old girl whose behavior was labeled as mental illness, rather than understood as trauma. This was the first of eight mental health diagnoses and it would take many years for Cherene to heal and find her voice. After working over a decade in conventional mental health systems, Cherene began using her voice to ignite social justice related change that is rooted in trauma healing, peer-to-peer support and establishing effective alternatives centered on the wisdom of those directly impacted by labels of mental illness.

In 2006, Cherene founded the Charlotte based non-profit, Promise Resource Network (PRN), that operates 16 open access initiatives that are led and staffed by a team of 85 people that are psychiatric, suicide attempt, trauma, substance use, incarceration and homelessness survivors. In 2019, PRN started Peer Voice NC as a statewide movement of people directly impacted by mental health issues to organize and mobilize around legislative and practice change. This legislative session, they introduced 4 bills with bi-partisan support that are aimed at reducing the use of mental health related confinement, establishing open access peer-run alternatives to psychiatric commitment, and introducing non-police community response alternatives with people experiencing mental health, poverty related, and/or substance use challenges.

Since COVID, PRN launched a 24/7 peer run warm line and a peer operated respite, Retreat@ The Plaza, where people experiencing mental health crises and/or thoughts of suicide can stay free for up to 10 days in a healing, unlocked, house staffed by suicide attempt and psychiatric survivors. This serves as the community's first peer-run alternative to emergency department, congregate in-patient, and involuntary commitments. With Cherene's leadership, in 2021 PRN has been ranked as the 2nd Best Non-Profit in the Country to Work For, following 3 consecutive years ranked in the top 10 by the Non-Profit Times.



DAVID SOUSA, JD

*Chair, Board of Directors, North Carolina Institute of Medicine
Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel, Curi*

David Sousa is the Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel for Curi, a mutual holding company taking care of physicians in medicine, business, and life. Now in his twenty-sixth year at Curi, he has overseen its Claims, Risk Management, Information Technology, Communications, Marketing, Regulatory and Corporate Affairs, and Human Resources functions. Prior to joining Curi, he practiced law in Raleigh for fifteen years, representing physicians in the defense of malpractice claims throughout North Carolina, and also handling professional negligence, product liability, and general liability defense work.

He holds a law degree from Wake Forest University, and his MBA and BA are from the University of Kentucky. Over his tenure with Curi he has spoken to more than 10,000 health care providers throughout both the Southeastern and mid-Atlantic U.S. on a myriad of topics pertaining to health care liability and health care regulatory and compliance matters. He has testified before legislative bodies and committees about, and has written on, health care liability reform issues. He heads a statewide coalition in NC to preserve the state's October 2011 and May 2021 medical liability reform laws.

He is a Permanent Member of the U.S. Court of Appeals Judicial Conference for the Fourth Circuit, and is admitted to practice before that court, the U.S. Supreme Court, and all NC state courts.

He is the Board Chair of the NC Institute of Medicine, President and Chair of the NC Chamber Legal Institute, serves on Boards at both UNC and Wake Forest University, and regularly serves on task forces of the NC Medical Society and the NC Medical Board.

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING 2021



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



DEEPA AVULA, MPH

*Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Director
North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services*

Deepa Avula joined the NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services in May 2021 as Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Director after serving as Chief of Staff and CFO at SAMHSA. During her 20-year federal career, Deepa provided national leadership on policy, data, budget, and operations issues related to all aspects of behavioral health. Most recently, she was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the \$10B federal agency comprising 500 staff. Deepa also led the national response related to COVID-19 and behavioral health implications including the establishment of the Provider Relief Fund providing thousands of providers across the country funding to remain sustainable during the pandemic. Deepa was responsible for all aspects of formulation and full execution of SAMHSA's budget and worked to ensure the agency's strategic plan was implemented successfully. During her tenure at SAMHSA, she served in varying capacities in the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment including serving as the developer of the agency's real-time data entry and reporting system used to measure performance and improve quality of behavioral health services nationwide. Deepa holds a master's degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from George Washington University.



ELINOR LANDESS, MA

*Director
Chapel Hill Campus & Community Coalition to Reduce the Negative Impacts of High-Risk Drinking*

Elinor Landess is the Director of the Chapel Hill Campus & Community Coalition to Reduce the Negative Impacts of High-Risk Drinking. In her role, she guides the strategy and implementation of public health interventions designed to make the Chapel Hill environment safer for all. With a background in higher education and community non-profits, Elinor brings a community organizing approach to her work, inviting everyone to the table to be a part of jointly designed solutions. Elinor has a BA from Davidson College and an MA in Higher Education from Michigan State University. Outside of work, Elinor is the Chair of the Board of Equality North Carolina, the nation's oldest statewide LGBTQ advocacy organization. A North Carolina native, Elinor was born and raised in the Charlotte area but now calls Durham home, where she lives with her wife and the best dog in the world.



ELIZABETH CUERVO TILSON, MD, MPH

*State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Member, Board of Directors, North Carolina Institute of Medicine*

Elizabeth Tilson serves North Carolina as the State Health Director and the Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Health and Human Services. In this role, she promotes public health and prevention activities, as well as providing guidance and oversight on a variety of cross-departmental issues including the opioid epidemic, early childhood, Medicaid transformation, and healthy opportunities. Most recently, her work has largely focused on fighting the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Dr. Tilson received her BA in Biology from Dartmouth College, earned her MD at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and an MPH from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. She completed a pediatric residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital and a general preventive medicine/public health residency at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill and is board certified in both fields.

Prior roles include serving as the Medical Director of Community Care of Wake and Johnston Counties, Chief Network Medical Director for Community Care of North Carolina, Assistant Consulting Professor and Cancer Control Specialist with Duke University Medical Center, and a Clinical Pediatric Fellow at UNC - Chapel Hill. She practiced primary care pediatrics for 26 years, primarily at her local health department - the Wake County Human Services Child Health Clinic. She has been active and has served in leadership roles in many local, state, and national pediatric, public health, and preventive medicine organizations.

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING 2021



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



GABRIELA LIVAS STEIN, PHD

*Professor
Psychology Department
University of North Carolina at Greensboro*

Gabriela Livas Stein, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist and Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dr. Stein's program of research identifies individual risk and protective processes for Latinx and other minoritized youth when facing cultural stressors (e.g., discrimination, acculturative stress), and seeks to improve mental health treatment access for Latinx families. Her research has been funded by NIDA, NIMH, and PCORI. She is currently the Vice President of Programming for the Society of Research on Adolescence. Clinically, she specializes in the provision of therapeutic services to Latinx families, and provides training to providers working with Latinx communities.



JAMES DAVIS, MD

*Medical Director, Duke Center for Smoking Cessation
Director, Duke Smoking Cessation Program
Co-Director, Duke-UNC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Credentialing Program*

Dr. James Davis is an Associate Professor and Physician of Internal Medicine at Duke University. He is Medical Director of the Duke Center for Smoking Cessation, Director of the Duke Smoking Cessation Program, and Co-Director of the Duke-UNC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program. Dr. Davis developed and assessed the evidence-based intervention Mindfulness Training for Smokers.



JAMIE CARTER, MD, MPH

*Primary Care and Addiction Medicine Physician
Lincoln Community Health Center*

Dr. Carter is a primary care and addiction medicine physician at Lincoln Community Health Center in Durham, North Carolina and an adjunct professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences at Duke University. She completed her residency in internal medicine and her primary care addiction medicine fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco. Her interests include integration of addiction treatment into the primary care setting and low barrier access to medication for opioid use disorder. Her previous work includes performing an evaluation of a novel low barrier buprenorphine treatment program for patients experiencing chronic homelessness in San Francisco. She is currently leading efforts to implement and evaluate a low barrier medication for opioid use disorder program at Lincoln Community Health Center.



JASON NIEUWSMA, PHD

*Associate Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Duke University*

Dr. Jason Nieuwsma is a clinical psychologist who is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University Medical Center and who serves as the Associate Director for VA Integrative Mental Health. He has helped lead multiple large-scale projects aimed at more effectively integrating chaplaincy and mental health care services across nationwide healthcare systems. Dr. Nieuwsma has authored over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles & book chapters, serves on the editorial board for the APA journal Spirituality in Clinical Practice, is Associate Editor for the Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy, and is a co-editor & author on the books ACT for Clergy and Pastoral Counselors and Addressing Moral Injury in Clinical Practice.

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING 2021



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



JESSE KOHLER, MD

*Executive Director
Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy & Practice*

Jesse Kohler is Executive Director of the Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy & Practice (CTIPP). Jesse is a passionate advocate and leader in the trauma-informed space who works on systems change to provide comprehensive support for individuals, families, and communities so that, someday, all people have the opportunity and support necessary to reach their full potential.

Jesse's first job out of Oberlin College was working for a nonprofit organization, 12+, which partnered with the School District of Philadelphia, and Jesse spent a year at Hill-Freedman World Academy, during which he enrolled in a master's program in Educational Leadership. While pursuing his master's degree, Jesse interned with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General in the Office of Public Engagement to help develop the Pennsylvania Trauma-Informed Care Network. After graduating with his master's, Jesse became the Director of Development for North Light Community Center. In addition to development activities for the organization, Jesse helped to create and fund three programs/initiatives.

While working for North Light, Jesse became a member of the National Trauma Campaign core team and went through an 18-month training program at Lakeside Global Institute and received trauma-competent professional certification. At the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, Jesse got a new job as an associate at Council for a Strong America on the Fight Crime: Invest in Kids team and serving as the Florida state lead. Jesse continued serving in his volunteer roles for CTIPP and the National Trauma Campaign during this time and joined the steering committee of the Child Trauma and ACEs Policy (CTAP) working group. Jesse Kohler considers himself a passionate advocate who believes that trauma-informed, resilience-focused, and healing-centered policies and practices would improve society drastically.



KATHLEEN COLVILLE, MSW, MSPH

*President and CEO
North Carolina Institute of Medicine*

Kathy Colville is the president and CEO of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine. The NCIOM is an independent agency chartered by the NC General Assembly that works collaboratively with stakeholders from across the state to identify and build consensus around actionable solutions to the health challenges facing North Carolina. Until December 2020, she led Cone Health's (Greensboro, NC) Department of Healthy Communities, working to connect clinical services and community assets to promote equity and access to the healthcare and living conditions that foster long and healthy lives. Kathy holds a bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature from Brown University and masters degrees in Social Work and Public Health from UNC Chapel Hill. She is a PhD candidate in Public Administration at NC State University and a fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program.



KATHY DAIL, PHD, RN

*Director, Community Health Assessment and Healthy NC 2030
Senior Clinical Analyst, LHD-HSA
Division of Public Health
State Center for Health Statistics
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services*

Kathryn Garner Dail is a registered nurse practicing in North Carolina since 1981 and prior to that in the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1970 - 1980. She earned a PhD in nursing from East Carolina University in 2015.

Her career spans four decades including nursing education and practice in many diverse settings: emergency, cardiovascular, home health, psychiatric and substance use disorder, but mostly in public health. In public health she has focused on systems development within occupational health nursing, school health nursing, child care health consultation, communicable disease surveillance and investigation, integration of electronic health record data for reporting, and most recently on population health.

In her capacity as the Director of Community Health Assessment and Improvement at the State Center for Health Statistics, Division of Public Health, she uses results-based accountability to visualize the work of public health, health care systems, and their partners to "Do the right things, and do them well."

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING 2021



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



KURT RIBISL, PHD

*Jo Anne Earp Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Health Behavior
Gillings School of Global Public Health
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Kurt M. Ribisl is Jo Anne Earp Distinguished Professor and Chair in the Department of Health Behavior at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also the Program Leader for Cancer Prevention and Control at UNC's Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Ribisl's primary research interest is population-level efforts to reduce tobacco use, with a particular emphasis on regulating the sales and marketing of tobacco products at retail outlets. He has researched tobacco product marketing, pricing, promotions, and youth access, as well as how to regulate e-cigarettes and vaping products at the local, state, and federal level. Dr. Ribisl is a multi-principal investigator (with Drs. Lisa Henriksen and Doug Luke) of the NCI-funded grant "Advancing Science and Practice in the Retail Environment" (P01CA225597), which will build the scientific evidence-base for effective tobacco control retail policies and enhance policy implementation in communities, to reduce the public health burden of tobacco use, as well as help eliminate tobacco-related disparities. In addition, Dr. Ribisl is a multi-principal investigator (with Dr. Melissa Troester) of the NCI-funded Cancer Control Education Program (T32 CA057726), which trains pre- and postdoctoral fellows for careers as independent investigators in interdisciplinary and collaborative cancer prevention and control research. He was the principal investigator of the \$19.4M Center for Regulatory Research in Tobacco Communication funded by the NIH Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science (TCORS) program (RFA-DA-13-003).

He received his doctorate in community psychology from Michigan State University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cardiovascular disease prevention and epidemiology at the Stanford Prevention Research Center, Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Ribisl is the author of over 200 scientific articles, and his research has been published in journals such as the American Journal of Public Health, Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), American Journal of Preventive Medicine, and Tobacco Control. He is the co-founder of Counter Tobacco, a point-of-sale resource (www.countertobacc.org), and of the nonprofit Counter Tools (www.countertools.org), which focuses on advancing place-based public health. From 2012-2016, he was a member of the congressionally mandated Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee (TPSAC) for the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products. He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the journal Tobacco Control.



KURTIS TAYLOR

*Executive Director
Alcohol Drug Council of North Carolina*

Kurtis Taylor is a person in long-term recovery. For him, this means that he has not used alcohol or any other substance since December 23rd, 2002. Mr. Taylor obtained his bachelor's degree in social work from Shaw University in May of 2019.

For many years, Kurtis has been a voice for citizens seeking long-term recovery from substance use disorders. He was an appointed member of Governor Pat McCrory's Task Force on Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder. He has served multiple terms as Chairperson for the NC Substance Use Disorder Federation and as a member of the NC Departmental Waiver Advisory Committee (DWAC). He is also a member of the board of directors for i2i Center for Integrative Health and a board member for the Emerald School of Excellence - the first Recovery High School in North Carolina.

Presently, Mr. Taylor serves as the executive director of the Alcohol Drug Council of NC (ADCNC), where he is committed to making their information & referral hotline, perinatal services, National Guard screening & brief intervention program, and prevention services the best in the country. Under his leadership, the Council respects and embraces all pathways to recovery. He is committed to the elimination of stigma attached to the subject of recovery. Mr. Taylor is an extremely vocal advocate for all citizens faced with the challenges that accompany substance use disorders, and he is proud to serve at ADCNC.

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING 2021



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



LATOYA B. POWELL, JD

*Deputy General Counsel
North Carolina Department of Public Safety*

LaToya Powell is Deputy General Counsel at the NC Department of Public Safety where she primarily provides in-house legal counsel to the Juvenile Justice Section. Prior to joining DPS, she served as Assistant Legal Counsel in the Office of General Counsel at the NC Administrative Office of the Courts where she advised judicial officials and their staff primarily on juvenile delinquency matters. She is also former Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government at the UNC School of Government where her research and teaching focused on juvenile justice issues. Prior to becoming a law professor, Powell was an Assistant Attorney General in the Appellate Section of the NC Department of Justice and a juvenile prosecutor in the Johnston County District Attorney's Office. She is an active member of the North Carolina Bar Association and is a current co-chair of the Minorities in the Profession Committee and former chair of the Juvenile Justice and Children's Rights Section, which named Powell as the 2020 "Children's Champion." In May 2021, Chief Justice Paul Newby appointed Powell to the Chief Justice's Task Force on ACEs-Informed Courts, which will develop resources and strategies to help judicial officials recognize and address the impact of adverse childhood experiences. Powell is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Campbell University School of Law. She is a graduate of NC State University and UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law and is admitted to the NC State Bar and US Supreme Court Bar. She lives in Cary with her husband and son and enjoys running marathons as a hobby.



LISA DECIANTIS, MA, LCMHC

*Adult Mental Health Service Program Consultant
Community Mental Health Section of North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and
Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS)
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services*

Lisa DeCiantis, LCMHC, is an Adult Mental Health Service Program Consultant, in the Community Mental Health Section of North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS). She is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor whose work focuses on crisis services in North Carolina such as MCM, Facility Based Crisis, Behavioral Health Urgent care and she is currently co-leading the 9-8-8 Planning Grant Implementation for North Carolina.



MARCUS PLESCIA, MD, MPH

*Chief Medical Officer
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials*

Dr. Marcus Plescia is the Chief Medical Officer for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). He provides medical leadership and expertise across the agency and oversees ASTHO's portfolio of chronic disease prevention and control programs. During the COVID-19 epidemic he has served as ASHTO's principal spokesperson and primary liaison to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing the public health agencies of the United States, U.S. territories, and District of Columbia, as well as the more than 100,000 public health professionals these agencies employ.

Dr. Plescia has served in public health leadership roles at the local, state, and federal level in North Carolina and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In these roles he has led successful efforts to enact systemic public health interventions including expanded cancer screening coverage, prescription drug and disease reporting requirements, revised clinical guidelines, and state and local tobacco policy. He has been prominent in nationwide efforts to transform public health practice to a more population-based, strategic framework, and led the implementation of the CDC's national colorectal cancer screening program based on this approach.

Dr. Plescia received his MD, MPH, and BS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He trained in Family Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, NY. He is Board Certified in Family Medicine and has practiced in a variety of settings serving homeless, urban poor and rural underserved populations. He has published extensively in the public health and family medicine literature.

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING 2021



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



MICHAEL SCOTT, CHES

*Senior Program Manager
Center for Black Health & Equity*

Michael Scott, CHES, was hired at The Center for Black Health & Equity in October 2015. He currently serves as Senior Program Manager overseeing Tobacco and Cancer prevention and education programming. He has 18 years of public health experience on the national, state, and local levels. His work has focused on disease prevention in the areas of HIV, diabetes, cancer, and tobacco use prevention. Prior to his position at The Center, he served as a Health Education Specialist at both the Durham County Department of Public Health and Duke University Medical Center. Mr. Scott holds a BS in Health Education from North Carolina Central University and is a Certified Health Education Specialist.



MIKE YOW, LCAS

*President & CEO
Fellowship Hall*

Mike began his career in substance use disorder treatment in 1988 at the Crawford Center in Greensboro, NC. In 1992 he moved to Green Point, Inc. in High Point, NC where he helped facilitate a daytime IOP program. In 1993 Mike joined Fellowship Hall here in Greensboro as a primary counselor. He was named the Asst. Clinical director in 2001. In 2011 he helped plan and implement the Extended Treatment Program at Fellowship Hall. Mike was appointed the Interim President/CEO of Fellowship Hall in April of 2016 and moved full time to that position in November 2016.

He has a degree in Religion and Psychology from Greensboro College where he was inducted into Psi Chi and was the winner of the Excellence in Religious Thought award. He holds a master's degree in Liberal Studies from UNCG. Mike also holds a graduate certificate in nonprofit management from UNCG. He is a graduate of Leadership Greensboro as well as the Executive Directors Academy sponsored by the Guilford County Nonprofit Consortium in conjunction with the Center for Creative Leadership. Mike was first certified as a counselor by the NCASPPB in 1993 and licensed in 1998. He maintains an active license. He served as an evaluator for the NCASPPB for 10 yrs. Mike has also been a presenter at NCAARF & NCFADS, as well as other forums.



MINA COOK, CPS

*Project Coordinator
North Carolina Preventing Underage Drinking Initiative (NCPUDI)
University of North Carolina at Greensboro*

Mina has 25 years of experience in the field of public health promotion and substance abuse prevention. Starting out as a direct service provider implementing evidence-based programs, she quickly learned that a comprehensive approach, including environmental management strategies, was necessary in order to improve her effectiveness and reach.

As the Project Coordinator for NCPUDI, Mina provides coaching and mentoring to Community Collaboratives across the state that are funded to implement environmental strategies to prevent underage and excessive alcohol use. In her work with the communities, she often guides local leaders through the challenges they face as they navigate how to effectively address multiple issues, without losing focus on the issue of alcohol.

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING 2021



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



NABARUN DASGUPTA, PHD, MPH

*Senior Scientist
Injury Prevention Research Center Innovation Fellow
Gillings School of Global Public Health
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Dr. Nabarun Dasgupta is a scientist at the University of North Carolina, who has studied prescription opioids and heroin for two decades. Blending epidemiology, harm reduction, analytical chemistry, and informatics, his work is equal parts research and community service. His portfolio can be seen at the Opioid Data Lab (OpioidData.org).



PAUL LANIER, MSW, PHD

*Wallace Kuralt Distinguished Associate Professor, School of Social Work
Associate Director, Jordan Institute for Families
Research Fellow at the Sheps Center for Health Services Research
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Paul Lanier, MSW, PhD is The Wallace Kuralt Distinguished Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the associate director of the Jordan Institute for Families and a research fellow at the Sheps Center for Health Services research. Dr. Lanier received his doctoral degree from the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis and was a fellow with the national Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being. His research focuses on developing, evaluating, and scaling-up evidence-based prevention programs in child welfare, mental health, and early childhood systems. He has conducted studies with parenting support models such as Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), the Triple P Positive Parenting Program, Circle of Parents, and several maternal and child health home visiting models. In addition to his focus on intervention research, Dr. Lanier also uses linked, multi-sector administrative data for policy analysis to improve child well-being. He is also a board member of the North Carolina Infant Mental Health Association.



SALLY HERNDON, MPH

*Branch Head, Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch
Chronic Disease and Injury Section, Division of Public Health
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services*

Sally Herndon, MPH, has been a leader in NC public health's efforts in tobacco prevention and control since 1991. Responsibilities include management of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch and coordination of evidence-based tobacco prevention and control in North Carolina. Sally was the Program Manager for NC's Project ASSIST, the National Cancer Institute's American Stop Smoking Intervention Study in partnership with the American Cancer Society, 1991-1999. She helped build support for the 2010 law that makes all NC restaurants and bars smoke-free and worked with state and local partners to successfully implement this law. Sally is Past Chair of the national Tobacco Control Network, 2011-2013. She worked in health promotion/disease prevention in Maine (1980-1986). Her education and training include a BA in Psychology and Physiology from UNC Chapel Hill and an MPH from the Department of Health Behavior School of Public Health, University of North Carolina with a focus on policy and program planning. She was a Fellow, NC State University's Natural Resources Leadership Institute: Resolving Conflict through Leadership in 1997; and a Fellow in the Advocacy Institute Leadership Program, 1999. She was the recipient of the Ronald H. Levine Public Health Award in 2019. Her ongoing work involves working with state, regional, and local partners to 1) reduce tobacco use by young people; 2) eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke; 3) help promote evidence-based tobacco treatment and help all tobacco users quit; and 3) eliminate tobacco-attributable health disparities. She is part of the leadership team of the Duke-UNC Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist Program, which is nationally accredited. Sally serves on the Food and Drug Administration's Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee as the government representative, 2018-2022.

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING 2021



SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



SHARON HIRSCH

*President & CEO
Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina*

Sharon Hirsch serves as president and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina, where she leads a staff that focuses on making prevention a priority for NC and building capacity statewide to prevent child abuse. She has more than 30 years' experience in nonprofit and government agency management, public relations, advocacy, and child well-being. In her role, she has secured more than \$1 million in new investments in PCANC, serves on the Leadership Team for the Think Babies NC Alliance, and is Chair-elect for the Child Care Services Association. PCANC is a partner in NCIOM's Essentials for Childhood Initiative, focusing on family-friendly workplace policies and economic supports for families.



VICTOR ARMSTRONG, MSW

*Chief Health Equity Officer
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services*

Victor Armstrong serves as North Carolina DHHS Chief Health Equity Officer, with responsibility for leading the overarching strategy and operational goals to promote health equity, diversity, and inclusion across all the agency's health and human services. He is responsible for developing, implementing, facilitating, and embedding health equity strategic initiatives into every aspect of DHHS' programs, services, actions, outcomes, and internal employee culture; as well as overseeing the Office of Health Equity, Office of Rural Health, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Victor joined NC DHHS as Director of the NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, Substance Abuse Services in March of 2020, with responsibility and oversight of the public community-based mental health, intellectual and other developmental disabilities, substance use, and traumatic brain injury system in North Carolina. Prior to accepting this role, Victor spent six years as Vice President of Behavioral Health with Atrium Health. Based in Charlotte, NC Victor had responsibility for operations of Atrium's largest behavioral health hospital, Behavioral Health Charlotte. Victor has over 30 years of experience in human services, primarily dedicated to building and strengthening community resources to serve individuals living with mental illness. He is a nationally recognized speaker on issues regarding health equity and access to healthcare, particularly as it relates to individuals living with mental health challenges.

Victor currently serves on the board of directors for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) of NC. He is also former board chair of NAMI NC, and a member of National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Victor is a former member of the board of directors of National Council for Behavioral Health, i2i Center for Integrative Health, and RI International.

Victor's awards and recognitions include Mental Health America's 2021 H. Keith Brunner, Jr. Award for "Outstanding Mental Health Leadership", 2019 Black Mental Health Symposium -Mental Health Advocate of the Year, 2019 Atrium Health Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion Award, 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award from East Carolina University School of Social Work, Pride Magazine 2018 "Best of the Best", and i2i Center for Integrative Health 2018 Innovation Award for "Whole Person Care", 2012 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) NC, Mental Health Professional of the Year.

Victor graduated, Magna Cum Laude, from North Carolina Central University with a bachelor's degree in Business Management and received a MSW from East Carolina University. He is the husband of Dr. Charletta Armstrong and the father of 3 sons, Carter, Alonzo, and Victor Jr.



WIZDOM POWELL, PHD, MPH

*Director of the Health Disparities Institute
Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Connecticut*

Dr. Powell is the Director of The University of Connecticut Health Disparities Institute and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at UConn Health. She served as the 2020 President of the American Psychological Association, Society for the Study of Men and Masculinities (Division 51) Men and Masculinities, and is an honorary professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. Her local, national, and international health research investigates the interplay between stress (e.g., race related), social constructions of masculinity, and Black male health disparities. In 2011-2012, she was appointed by President Obama to serve as a White House Fellow to Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta. In addition to being a White House Fellow, she is an American Psychological Association (APA) Minority, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Kaiser Permanente Burch Leadership, Institute of African American Research, and Ford Foundation Fellow. Dr. Powell was awarded a 2017 academic writing residency at the Bellagio Center from the Rockefeller Foundation.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US

ENGAGE IN THE DISCUSSION

Throughout the conference, follow along and share on Twitter using #ResilientNC

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://www.facebook.com/ncinstituteofmedicine>



<https://twitter.com/NCIOM>

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the NCIOM. Your generosity supports our mission to develop constructive public policy solutions on complex issues affecting the health and well-being of all North Carolinians <https://nciom.org/about-us/support-us/>