



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Promoting the Mental Health and Well-being of Children and Youth: Solutions for a Brighter Future

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

McKimmon Center | Raleigh, NC

8:00 – 9:00 Registration and Networking Breakfast

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome & NCIOM Update

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

Kathy earned a bachelor's degree in comparative literature from Brown University and masters degrees in social work and public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She earned her PhD in public administration at North Carolina State University, where her research was focused on the policy process and the Medicaid program. She serves on the UNC Greensboro Public Health Education Advisory Board and serves as a board member for Impact Alamance, AuthoraCare Collective, Guilford Community Care Network, and the United Way of North Carolina. Dr. Colville most recently led the Healthy Communities department at Cone Health, one of North Carolina's largest health networks, in Greensboro. In her role as director, she led teams that improved access to health care for the most vulnerable members of the Guilford, Forsyth, Rockingham, Alamance, Randolph, Caswell, and surrounding communities. Dr. Colville previously worked in public health and hospital emergency preparedness, serving on the front lines during several major disasters, including Hurricane Wilma in 2005 and the H1N1 flu pandemic in 2009-2010.

Carrie Rosario, DrPH, MPH, CHES - Chair of the Board of Directors, North Carolina Institute of Medicine and Associate Professor, 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. She serves as the Chair of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) Board of Directors. 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 and the State Health Improvement Plan Community Council.

9:15 – 9:55 Keynote: ***Protecting Children's Mental Health & Restoring Our Future***
Sandy Chung, MD, FAAP, 2023 President of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

In this session, Dr. Chung will discuss the importance of children's mental health to their overall well-being, and highlight key innovations in the provision of children's mental health care.



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Pediatrician Dr. Sandy Chung has held over 30 state and national leadership positions, including AAP Virginia Chapter President and Founder and Medical Director of the Virginia Mental Health Access Program. She is the CEO of Trusted Doctors, a pediatric practice of over 180 clinicians in Virginia, DC, and Maryland and serves as Medical Director of Informatics at Children's National Hospital's Pediatric Health Network. Her passionate advocacy for child health and pediatricians has delivered major advancements in healthcare equity, mental health, EHR burden reduction, appropriate payment, physician well-being, and optimal child health policies.

She is the recipient of multiple awards including the March of Dimes Lifetime Heroine Award recognizing a lifetime of community volunteerism, the Clarence A. Holland Award for providing outstanding contributions to the community and demonstrating leadership in the field of political advocacy, and the Virginia Chapter Child Advocate Award for standing up for the rights, values, and recognition of Virginia's children.

As an avid educator of the next generation of pediatricians, her publications include articles on telemedicine, virtual learning, and health information technology. Dr. Chung received her medical degree from the University of Virginia and completed her pediatric residency at the Inova L.J. Murphy Children's Hospital. She has appeared in numerous media outlets including the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *NPR*, *Washington Business Journal*, *Virginia Business Magazine*, *Contemporary Pediatrics*, and *AAP News*. Dr. Chung is the proud mother of four amazing children who teach her something new every day.

10:00 – 11:00 Plenary Panel: ***Early Detection and Intervention to Improve Youth Mental Health Outcomes***

In this session, panelists will discuss the importance of prevention, early intervention, and multi-sector strategies when addressing children's mental health care needs, as well as strategies to reduce stigma around mental health care. Panelists will also highlight key community examples from North Carolina and the role of philanthropy in promoting community supports and services that enhance children's and families' mental health.

Moderator: **David Reese, MBA**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Health Leadership and Innovation

David Reese has served as the President and CEO of the Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation since August 2022. He joined FHLI from the Durham Children's Initiative, where he served as President & CEO for 12 years. Throughout his career, David's work has focused on addressing SDoH within communities, creating opportunities for marginalized families, and developing opportunities for children to succeed. David holds a Master of Business Administration degree. He hails from the Bronx, NY, and lives in Durham with his wife, Iris, and their three children.

Panelists:



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Jai Kumar, MPH, Deputy Director, CaroNova and Executive Director of Innovation, North Carolina Health Care Association

Jai Kumar is the Deputy Director of CaroNova, a health innovation incubator that focuses on care transformation, policy reform, and systems change, and also serves as the Executive Director of Innovation for the North Carolina Healthcare Association. In these roles, Mr. Kumar leads the programmatic planning and design of all new CaroNova initiatives and supports cross-departmental planning for the NCHA on core areas of focus including Workforce, Rural Health, Behavioral Health, and Equity. Previously, he led the development of the NCHA's opioid strategy, working with public and private partners to develop best practice protocols to address the opioid crisis in health systems throughout North Carolina. Before joining NCHA, Mr. Kumar served as a senior director with the YMCA of the Triangle, leading the association in youth development and inclusive programming initiatives. Mr. Kumar has his Master's in Public in Health Policy and Management from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor's in Biological Sciences from the North Carolina State University.

Lylan Wingfield, LCMHC, LCAS, Chief Program Officer, Kellin Foundation

Lylan Wingfield is a NC Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor and Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist. She received her Masters in Community Counseling from University of North Carolina - Greensboro. She has over 15 years of experience in community mental health across the continuum of care. She specializes in working with adolescents and adults facing co-occurring mental health and substance use challenges with specific focus on trauma. Currently, she serves as the Chief Program Officer at the Kellin Foundation in Greensboro. She provides clinical supervision in addition to community outreach and education focused on building trauma informed agencies, systems, and communities.

Meka Sales, MS, CHES, Director of Special Initiatives, The Duke Endowment

Meka Sales serves as Director of Special Initiatives at The Duke Endowment, a private foundation located in Charlotte, NC. Her strategic oversight aids the development of community-based initiatives that remove barriers so that children and families can thrive and enjoy health and well-being. Ms. Sales joined the Endowment in 2007 as a health care program officer where she assisted in the development of the Endowment's first advancing prevention and health equity portfolio. In her current role, Ms. Sales directs the Endowment's multi-year place-based early childhood improvement initiative in Guilford County. In 2018, Sales was appointed by N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper to serve on the state's Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Yun Boylston, MD, MBA, FAAP, Pediatric Clinical Advisor, American Medical Association Behavioral Health Immersion program and Primary Care Physician, Burlington/Mebane Pediatrics

Dr. Yun L. Boylston, MD MBA, FAAP is a primary care physician at Burlington/ Mebane Pediatrics. She leads her practice's care transformation team, which oversees behavioral health integration. She is passionate about delivering whole-person care. Dr. Boylston is the pediatric clinical advisor for the American Medical Association's (AMA) Behavioral Health Immersion program and is a contributor on the AMA publication, 'Accelerating and Enhancing Behavioral Health Integration Through Digitally Enabled Care' (2022). A leader across healthcare's continuum of care, Dr. Boylston is a trustee for Cone Health and serves as the board chair of Carolina Complete Health, a physician-led Centene company.



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

- 11:00 – 11:15 Break
- 11:15 – 12:15 Morning breakout sessions - Innovations and policy solutions for improving children and youth mental health

Access to Preventive and Supportive Resources for Chronic Mental Illness in Children and Adolescents

In this session, panelists will discuss resources to prevent and treat chronic mental illness, including opportunities in integrated care and supportive resources for underserved communities. Panelists will also discuss what is necessary for effective treatment, including access to prescription medications, culturally competent care, and community-based strategies.

Moderator: Lisa Tyndall, PhD, LMFT, Associate Director, Center of Excellence for Integrated Care, Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation

Lisa Tyndall, PhD, LMFT joined the Center of Excellence for Integrated Care (COE) as an integration specialist in June 2016. In her role, Dr. Tyndall provides technical assistance for integrated care program development to a variety of medical practice settings as well as a training focus on the integrated care workforce. Her responsibilities include shadowing and one-on-one consultation, offerings of trainings, webinars, regular phone consultation and provision of resources and reference materials. Prior to joining COE, Dr. Tyndall spent six years working as the family therapy clinic director for East Carolina University. A licensed marriage and family therapist, she has over ten years of experience serving in various research, instructor and clinical positions related to both marriage and family therapy and integrated care in North Carolina. Dr. Tyndall holds a master's degree in marriage and family therapy and a doctorate in medical family therapy, both from East Carolina University and her undergraduate degree in interpersonal and family communication from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Gary Maslow, MD, MPH – Professor, Duke University School of Medicine and Founder, North Carolina Psychiatry Access Line (NC-PAL)

Gary Maslow, MD is an Assistant Professor, Medical Director of the Duke Integrated Pediatric Mental Health Clinical Practice Unit, and Co-Chief of Duke's Division of Child and Family Mental Health & Developmental Neuroscience. Dr. Maslow is also the director of the North Carolina Psychiatry Access Line (NC-PAL: Pediatrics). In his free time, he enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his family.

Kehnesha Mitchell, MHA, Practice Support: Education Specialist, Atrium Health

Kehnesha Mitchell joined the Area Health and Education Center (AHEC) as a Practice Support Coach. AHEC's mission is to provide educational support, with a focus on primary care, to underserved rural communities. Kehnesha's role involves supporting two crucial programs: Tailored Care Management (TCM) and Collaborative Care Management (CoCM)-which integrates physical and behavioral health services in primary care settings. With 14 years of experience in healthcare administration, her expertise covers managed care, regulatory compliance, accreditation, organizational leadership, and project management. Kehnesha holds a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from Temple University and a master's degree in Health Administration from Saint Joseph's University. Kehnesha enjoys exercising, spending time with her family, and serving as a board member for various youth and intellectual disability nonprofit programs.



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Megan Rose, PharmD, Deputy Director and Network Pharmacist, Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear (CCLCF)

Megan Rose, PharmD, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy in 2001. Dr. Rose completed her primary care residency at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in 2002 during which time she was awarded the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Cardiology PRN Young Investigator Award. She continued at New Hanover Regional Medical Center and became one of the first Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners in Southeastern North Carolina. Dr. Rose joined CCLCF in 2007, establishing the CCLCF Pharmacy Program and assisting in the development of the medication reconciliation and review processes used state-wide. In October 2016, Dr. Rose transitioned from Director of Pharmacy Services to Director of Clinical Program Integration, overseeing CCLCF's Behavioral Health and Quality Improvement Departments in addition to pharmacy. In March 2018, Dr. Rose was named the Deputy Director/Network Pharmacist for CCLCF continuing to support CCLCF and community efforts around Care Management and transforming Population Health. In 2018, she was also recognized as a WILMA Woman To Watch Finalist in the Healthcare category for her work around the impact of opioids in southeastern North Carolina.

Rachel Siegel, LCSW, Bilingual Outpatient Therapist & LAYA Clinical Lead, El Futuro

Rachel Siegel (she/her/ella) works as a Bilingual Outpatient Therapist and the Clinical Lead for the Latine Adolescents & Young Adults Program (LAYA) at El Futuro in Durham, NC. Rachel has worked with El Futuro, a community mental health clinic for the Latine community, since 2019, specializing in culturally sensitive clinical interventions with Latine children and teens. She has a Masters in Social Work from Appalachian State University and 10 years of experience working with youth. Through her work as a clinician, Rachel is dedicated to fostering a safe space for her young clients to explore, heal, and flourish.

Investing in Child and Family Supports to Foster Resilience

In this session, panelists will discuss the ways that poverty and family economic instability impacts children's mental health and well-being, and the potential policy levers to improve resilience. Panelists will discuss the inequitable impact of economic instability on families of color, the importance of focusing on supports for whole families, and current changes to North Carolina's child welfare system.

Moderator: **Melissa Clepper-Faith MD, MPH**, Policy Director, Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

Dr. Melissa Clepper-Faith is the Policy Director at Prevent Child Abuse NC (PCANC), where she is responsible for strategic planning and management of PCANC's Policy Team. Clepper-Faith has an extensive background in child and family well-being as a pediatrician; she has served as Translational Research Program and Policy Coordinator at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG) at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill on policy, trauma research, equity and legislative issues. Clepper-Faith has multiple publications relating to child and teen health and well-being topics, including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Racial Equity, Parenting, and Adolescent Self-Compassion and Mental Health.

Karen McLeod, President and CEO, Benchmarks NC



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Karen McLeod, MSW, has served as the President/CEO for Benchmarks, a statewide non-profit association, since June 2006. In this role, she provides strategic leadership in the representation of provider agencies that deliver MH/DD/SA, child welfare and juvenile justice programs to children, adults and families across North Carolina. She engages state legislators and state/federal agencies to secure funding and legislation that supports providers in improving behavioral healthcare and quality of life outcomes for the people they serve. Karen moves forward policy/practice issues to proactively promote association positions with key state government decision makers, legislators and community advocacy groups. Prior to this position, Mrs. McLeod was the Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Service, a non-profit association that represents the 100 county DSS agencies. She also served as Director of the Office of Victim Services for the NC Department of Correction. Karen has also worked in the field of mediation, hospice and provided family intervention services for high-risk children.

Sebrina Cooke-Davis, PhD, Executive Director Prevention & Education Programs, Children's Home Society

Dr. Cooke-Davis has over 20 years of experience working with children and families, in settings such as substance abuse treatment facilities, hospitals, schools and community based organizations. Sebrina worked 5 years in the field of substance abuse prevention and treatment and is a certified substance abuse prevention consultant for NC. Years of experience in working with children and families, she has a passion for young people, in particularly young women where she has worked with over 2000 adolescent mothers who she began working with in 2003. She has served as a certified birth doula (Dona International) since 2006. Since 2009 she has supervised a team of parent educators and in 2021 transitioned into the role of Director of Parent Education Services. Since September 2023 she has served in the capacity of Executive Director. Always through the lens of preventive services, her work has focused on serving diverse populations with a common goal of increasing competence and confidence in parents and caregivers. Sebrina is trained in many parent education curriculum models and has multiple levels of credentials in the field. Sebrina is a graduate of East Carolina University and holds a Masters degree in Adult Education and doctorate in Educational Psychology.

Susan G. Osborne, Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being, NCDHHS

Susan was appointed to the role of Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being at NC DHHS in June 2023. Susan provides senior leadership for Social Services, Early Childhood Education, Child and Family Well-Being, Aging and Adult Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Services for the Blind, NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Determination Services and Office of Economic Opportunity. In her first role as the Assistant Secretary for Human Services at NC DHHS she provided oversight for the Division of Social Services and the Division of Aging and Adult Services. Prior to joining DHHS in 2019, she worked for the Alamance County Department of Social Services for more than 28 years in many social work roles and serving as the agency's Director for more than 18 years.

Susan's career has been focused on creative problem solving and innovation, with those being served always at the center. Susan believes that strong collaboration and partnerships are critical in the work to improve the well-being of our citizens and has committed her energy and available resources to improving outcomes for North Carolinians. Susan is a graduate of North Carolina State University and the UNC School of Government Municipal County Administration Program.



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Invitation-only session for members and staff of NCGA: Investing and Expanding Access for Mental Health with Dr. Sandy Chung

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Caring for NC Youth at Risk of Suicide

In this session, panelists will discuss drivers of suicide risk among North Carolina's youth and community-level strategies to provide support for children most at risk. Panelists will also discuss key challenges to providing effective care for youth at risk of suicide, including accurate data collection, stigma, and needed resources for prevention, as well as potential policy solutions to reduce youth suicide.

Moderator: **Kella Hatcher, JD**, Executive Director of the Child Fatality Task Force

Kella Hatcher, JD, is currently the Executive Director of the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force, a study commission that makes policy recommendations on child health and safety to the governor and legislature. Kella's background is in juvenile law and her previous roles include authoring juvenile law manuals for the UNC School of Government, serving as associate counsel for North Carolina's Guardian ad Litem Program, and working as an assistant district attorney. Kella currently serves on multiple state-level advisory groups and she has served in various volunteer leadership roles for organizations serving the needs of children. She received her law degree from UNC Chapel Hill and her undergraduate degree from Purdue University.

Alberto Valido, BS, Research Assistant, Applied Developmental Sciences and Special Education, UNC

Alberto Valido obtained a B.S. degree in Psychology from the University of Florida and is currently a Ph.D. student in Applied Developmental Science at the School of Education at the University of North Carolina



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

at Chapel Hill. Alberto's research is focused on the mental health and well-being of LGBTQ youth of color and protective factors that can buffer against the adverse effects of discrimination and bias-based victimization. His research examines the role of societal-level factors such as systemic inequality, racism, heterosexism, and cissexism and ways to combine individual, state- and policy-level data using integrative data analysis. Alberto also leads the evaluation of the suicide prevention program Sources of Strength in 11 high schools and is an active collaborator with the UNC Suicide Prevention Institute.

Jane Ann Miller, MPH, Comprehensive Suicide Prevention (CSP) Program Manager, NCDHHS

Jane Ann Miller has a Master of Public Health degree in community mental health administration, a BS in psychology, and fourteen years of experience in community mental health programs in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. She joined the state's Division of Public Health's Injury and Violence Prevention Branch in 2000 and currently serves as the Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program Manager for the state's CDC grant.

John Paul Jameson, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychology, Appalachian State University

Dr. JP Jameson is a Professor of Psychology at Appalachian State University and a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in North Carolina. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 2009, completed a predoctoral internship at the Salem VA Medical Center, and completed a post-doctoral residency at the Baylor College of Medicine and Michael DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas. His research and clinical interests focus on the prediction and prevention of suicide through means safety interventions. Dr. Jameson is a master trainer in Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM), a suicide prevention protocol aimed at reducing access to the most lethal suicide methods for at-risk individuals. More recently, he joined CALM America as the chief operating officer. Additionally, he is involved in numerous community-based research projects, both locally and regionally. He also directs the Assessment, Support, and Counseling (ASC) Center, a school-based mental health program operating in area school systems that provide mental health services for K-12 students free of charge.

Michael Welker, MPA, ncIMPACT Initiative Community Engagement Director

Michael Welker serves as the community engagement director for the ncIMPACT Initiative at the UNC School of Government. In this role, he manages partnerships with civic leaders, policymakers, and researchers at UNC-Chapel Hill and across the state. Previously, he worked in policy research with the NC Office of the Governor, NC General Assembly, and NC Partnership for Children. He has also consulted for a variety of government agencies, philanthropies, and institutions of higher education across the U.S. He earned his B.A. in history and Masters of Public Administration from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Substance Use and Misuse Among Children and Youth

In this session, panelists will discuss key data and statistics on substance use and misuse, drivers of change in rates of use across different substances, and key challenges to preventing substance use among children and youth in the state. Panelists will also discuss challenges to accessing supportive treatment options and building effective prevention strategies.

Moderator: **Saarah Waleed, MS, LCMHC, NCC**, Assistant Director of Policy and Programs, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Saarah Waleed joined Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services in 2020 and currently serves in the role of Assistant Director of Policy and Programs. In this role, Saarah is responsible for clinical programs and policies for DMHDDSUS across the state of North Carolina. Saarah has more than 25 years of leadership experience in behavioral health services, which include, program development, behavioral health strategic planning and integrated care models. In her previous roles, Saarah has led implementation of person-centered, trauma informed, whole-person integrated services and supports. Her clinical work includes serving children, adults and families impacted by substance use disorders, trauma, poverty, and criminal justice involvement. Saarah is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Clinician and holds a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling.

Debra Mack, MSN, RN-BC, Director, Behavioral Health Center, Guilford County

Debra Mack is the Director of Behavioral Health for Guilford County. She oversees the county's behavioral health partnerships and is a long-time leader in the Behavioral Health arena. Debra has 20-plus years of experience working with the child/adolescent and adult mental health population in the areas of substance misuse disorders, community mental wellness, and the chronically mentally ill.

Zorana Roldan Romo, MBA, CSAC, CSAPC, Chief Prevention and Diversity Officer, Anuvia

Zorana Roldan, Chief Prevention & Diversity Officer has been a dedicated member of Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center for 24 years. She was born in the Bronx, New York and is proud of her Puerto Rican Heritage. Her bicultural skills (English/Spanish) have helped her become an Anuvia ambassador to the Hispanic community. She received bachelor's degree from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico and an MBA (Master of Business Administration) from The University of Phoenix in Charlotte NC. Her academic development is complemented by industry-specific professional certifications like Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS), and Certified Substance Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC). In her free time, Zorana enjoys working on home projects, practicing yoga and dancing, competing in triathlons, and spending quality time with her family.

Mary Ferreri, BS Founder and Executive Director of Emerald School of Excellence

Mary Ferreri is the Executive Director of the Emerald School of Excellence, the Carolinas 1st Recovery High School. Mary has been an educator for over 19 years with her first 11 teaching and coaching in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. Her genuine passion for helping students thrive and become lifelong learners has led her down this path to help students in recovery from substance use and mental health struggles. She is personally in recovery from an eating disorder, depression, and self-harm. She has lived experience, is a sibling of someone who has been in and out of recovery and understands the impact that this all has on a family system.

12:15 – 1:15 Lunch and networking

1:15 – 1:30 Break

1:30 – 2:30 Afternoon breakout session focused on opportunities for intervention, support, & connection

School-Based Mental Health Supports

In this session, panelists will discuss the current state of mental health services within school settings. The discussion will include the role of schools and school systems in



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

providing mental health services, challenges and opportunities in developing a strong school-based mental health workforce, and data development to inform this work.

Moderator: Ellen Essick, PhD, Section Chief, Specialized Instructional Support and NC Healthy Schools

Ellen Essick is Section Chief of Specialized Instructional Support and Healthy Schools at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. She has more than twenty years of experience working with school districts and communities on health and wellness initiatives, including those that focus on health outcomes of vulnerable and marginalized groups. She holds a PhD in Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations and more than ten years of progressive leadership at the state and national levels providing strategic guidance and cross-sector collaboration to align strategies and integrate metrics for health and education outcomes. Ellen is recognized for her knowledge and skills in prevention, instructional design, curriculum development, and public speaking. Ellen is a long-term member of the Society and served on numerous committees over the years.

Natasha Scott, EdD, MSW, Executive Director, Student Services, Cumberland County Schools

Dr. Natasha Scott is the executive director of student services for Cumberland County Schools in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She is also an at-large board member for the North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She has 25 years of experience in public education and as an adjunct professor of Social Work. Dr. Scott is a proud alumna of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and UNC-Chapel Hill. While she loves being a social worker, her most important roles are daughter, sister, auntie, fur Mama to Miss Missy the Yorkie, friend, church member, and Girl Scout co-leader.

Pamela Stevenson, MSW, MBA Mental Health Professional Clinical Coordinator, Alliance for Leading and Learning, Cumberland County Schools

Pamela Stevenson is the Mental Health Professional Clinical Coordinator for Cumberland County Schools, Alliance for Leading and Learning Program. Pamela grew up in Franklin, N.C., where she knew at a young age that she wanted to help people. A proud Catamount, Pamela is a graduate of Western Carolina University where she pursued a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Pamela furthered her education by obtaining a Master's of Social Work and a Master's of Business degree from Newman University in Wichita, Kansas. Prior to becoming the Coordinator for Alliance for Leading and Learning, Pamela has been School Social Worker for the past 13 years. Pamela is married to Patrick Stevenson, whom she met at Western Carolina University. They have three sons: Patrick, Joseph and Donovan. Pamela has a passion for helping others, both in her personal and professional life. Her love of social work creates an avenue of advocacy that is accomplished by active listening, compassion and an appreciation of diverse backgrounds that is used to help individuals recognize and embrace their talents to be the best version of themselves.

Stephanie Daniel, PhD, Executive Director, School Health Alliance for Forsyth County

Dr. Daniel is a licensed clinical psychologist and Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, Wake Forest School of Medicine (WFSM). Dr. Daniel has served as the Executive Director for the School Health Alliance for Forsyth County since 2011. Dr. Daniel is a leader in school-based health collaborations at local, state, and national levels, and is a content expert in school-based health center models of care.



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Patrick Greene, EdD, principal, Greene Central High School

Patrick Greene grew up in eastern North Carolina and attended East Carolina University as a North Carolina Teaching Fellow and later as a North Carolina Principal Fellow. As a principal he led Greene County Early College to become a National Blue Ribbon school. Since 2013, he has been the principal of Greene Central High School. In his time at Greene Central, he completed his Educational Specialist degree and Doctor of Education degree, both at East Carolina University with a dissertation focus on finding pathways to higher education for undocumented Latinx students. Dr. Greene led the school out of a low-performing status and into recognition as North Carolina's first comprehensive high school to earn a Model STEM School designation. He was named as Greene County's Principal of the Year in 2014 and again in 2022. In 2022, he was awarded the Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year. Dr. Greene continues to serve as the principal at Greene Central High School and works toward equity and opportunity for students and rural schools.

Early Childhood System of Care Workshop – Discussions to foster collaboration and policy opportunities

In this workshop-style session, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the current context of home visiting, early childhood mental health care, and child care in North Carolina. Participants will share what they view as key challenges to strong systems to improve children's mental health, as well as opportunities for policy change and community-level strategies.

Home visiting – facilitated by **Melea Rose-Waters, MSW** Senior Policy Director, Family Connects International

Melea Rose Waters, MSW, is the Senior Policy Director at Family Connects International. In her role at FCI, she aims to increase investments in the Family Connects universal newborn nurse home visiting model by influencing policymakers, actively collaborating with stakeholders, and building the capacity of national partners to advocate for resources on the local, state, and federal levels of government. She has over a decade of experience advocating for children and families on the local, state, and federal levels of government, in addition to nearly ten years of working directly with families who were involved with child welfare.

Early Childhood Systems – facilitated by **Charisse Hart, MBA**, CEO of Ready for School, Ready for Life

Mrs. Morgan Forrester Ray is the Director of the EarlyWell Coalition at NC Child. Under her leadership, the initiative aims to improve mental health of children birth through eight by ensuring that infants and young children with mental health challenges can get the services they need. Mrs. Ray is a systems thinker, rooted in creating equitable systems for all. She is a multi-skilled program administrator with experience in government, for-profit, and non-profit sectors. Mrs. Ray received her undergraduate degree in Social Work, and her master's degree in social work with a concentration in Community, Management, and Policy Practice from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Charrise Hart is the Chief Executive Officer at Ready for School, Ready for Life (Ready Ready)—a transformative initiative dedicated to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty in Guilford County, North Carolina. Ready Ready focuses on fostering the healthy development of vulnerable children,



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

equipping them with the tools they need to succeed in both school and life. With approximately half of the county's 55,000 children growing up in or near poverty, Ready Ready addresses the pressing need for upward mobility opportunities. Charrise has earned recognition for her contributions, including the UNC School of Social Work Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2022, she was honored with the C-Suite Award with the Triad Business Journal. Charrise is also active in public education and global service, holding positions on the Teach for America of Charlotte-Piedmont Triad Board of Advisors and the World YWCA Service Council. Charrise is an alumna of NC State University, holding a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. She furthered her education with a Masters of Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as well as an MBA from Wake Forest University.

Supports for Families and Healthy Environments Workshop – Discussions to foster collaboration and policy opportunities

In this workshop-style session, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the ways in which concrete economic supports and healthy physical environments can influence children and families' opportunities for mental health and well-being. Participants will discuss the relationship between physical activity and overall well-being, as well as the ways that inequities in economic stability and access to healthy physical environments impact mental health.

Economic supports – facilitated by **Mat Despard, PhD, MSW**, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and **Sharon Hirsch, BA**, President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

Mat is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work at UNC Greensboro, Faculty Director with the Social Policy Institute at Washington University in St. Louis, and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC-Chapel Hill. Mat conducts research on household financial security related to employment, public policy, behavioral interventions, and financial inclusion and technology. Prior to his academic career, Mat worked for several years in and with nonprofit organizations focused on access to health care, early care and education, and financial empowerment. He received his MSW and PhD from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Sharon Hirsch serves as the President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina, where she leads a team that focuses on making prevention a priority for NC and building capacity for communities to have the knowledge, support, and resources to prevent child abuse and neglect. She has more than 30 years' experience in nonprofit and government agency management, public relations, advocacy and child well-being. At PCANC she has led efforts to catalyze community prevention plans, has increased staff capacity to provide supports for evidence-based parenting programs and has secured more than \$1 million in new investments in prevention programming.

Healthy Environments facilitated by **Aaron Hipp, PhD**, Professor, North Carolina State University

J. Aaron Hipp, PhD, is a University Faculty Fellow; Professor of Community Health and Sustainability in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management; and Associate Director of Social and Behavioral Science Applications in the Center for Geospatial Analytics at NC State. His research focuses on equitable access and spaces to play with specific attention on measurement development. Dr. Hipp currently instructs courses on nature and wellness and evidence-based decision-making. He serves on the



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Steering Committee for the National Physical Activity Plan and is an Interdisciplinary Research Leader with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Addressing the Mental Health Workforce and Facilities Capacity Crisis

In this session, panelists will discuss the mental health workforce, including challenges to education, retention, and distribution of mental health care professionals, as well as data development to understand the scope of need for services. Panelists will also identify areas of opportunity for building a strong mental health workforce.

Moderator: Therese Garrett, MD, Behavioral Health Medical Director, WellCare Health Plans

Dr. Therese Garrett is the Behavioral Medical Director at WellCare Health Plans. She has worked in both outpatient and crisis settings in community mental health, through the San Francisco Department of Public Health, as the medical director for the Foster Care Mental Health program and San Francisco Child Crisis. She also served as an outpatient psychiatrist in college mental health at North Carolina State University. Throughout her professional career she has been involved in supervision and training of psychiatry residents and fellows, both as volunteer faculty at UCSF and adjunct clinical faculty at UNC. Dr. Garrett received her bachelor's in psychobiology and bachelor's in philosophy from the University of Southern California in 1999. She then obtained her MD from the University of California- San Francisco in 2004. She completed her general psychiatry residency at the Harvard Longwood program, and fellowship training in child/adolescent psychiatry at UCSF.

Carrie Brown, MD, MPH, DFAPA, Chief Psychiatrist/Deputy Chief Medical Officer at NCDHHS

Carrie Brown, MD, MPH, DFAPA is NCDHHS Chief Psychiatrist/Deputy CMO, provides leadership for the behavioral health and resilience strategic priority, and serves as CMO for the state-operated behavioral healthcare facilities. She's a graduate of Princeton University, Duke University School of Medicine, and UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health (MPH) with Psychiatry training at Duke University Hospital. She's experienced in treating SMI within the community, inpatient, integrated care, and correctional settings; health services research; and as a research fellow with the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research. She's an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at UNC School of Medicine and an Assistant Consulting Professor in the Duke SOM Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Tauchiana Williams, DSW, LCSW, Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Standing MSW Program, UNC Chapel Hill

Dr. Williams is a clinical associate professor, program manager and lead interventionist for the Substance Use Prevention and Education Research (SUPER) program at UNC-CH, School of Social Work. She directs the 12-month Advanced Standing MSW Program and coordinates the school social work license program. She was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to serve on the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board. She has received the Dean's Recognition of Teaching Excellence Award over several years. As a licensed clinical social worker, Dr. Williams has treated children and families through intensive in-home services and outpatient therapy offices for 18 years. She specializes in treating children who have experienced trauma and supporting youth with navigating anxiety and depression. She's served as a school social worker and currently operates a telehealth private practice. Dr. Williams received her



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Bachelor of Arts from Wellesley College, Master of Social Work from UNC Chapel Hill, and Doctorate of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania. She has been a member of the UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work faculty since 2010.

Possibilities in Prevention

Ann Rodriguez, MHA, Executive Director, i2i Center for Integrative Health

Ann Rodriguez is the i2i Center for Integrative Health Executive Director. She provides leadership in all aspects of the organization and works with the Board of Directors to maintain the mission of the organization. Ann values the partnerships and collaborations with all stakeholders of the MH/IDD/SUD system and works to include all stakeholders in policy making. Ann's early professional experience included legislative support to the US Congress as well as nursing home administration. Since 1994, through her work with the NC Council of Community Programs, she further developed her skills in lobbying, facilitation, and policy development. Ann is recognized as a key player in the development of numerous policies related to the Medicaid (b)(c) waiver and to general system improvements. Her interest in the health care field was evidenced at an early age through part-time work at local nursing homes, volunteer work with Special Olympics and family member health care. Ann's deep commitment to supporting a successful public system grew out of personal family experiences where she saw the benefits of public services first hand. Ann holds a Master of Health Administration from Tulane University and a BA in Sociology from the University of Maryland. She is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator in the North Carolina.

Lisa Tyndall, PhD, LMFT, Associate Director, Center of Excellence for Integrated Care, Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation

Lisa Tyndall, PhD, LMFT joined the Center of Excellence for Integrated Care (COE) as an integration specialist in June 2016. In her role, Dr. Tyndall provides technical assistance for integrated care program development to a variety of medical practice settings as well as a training focus on the integrated care workforce. Her responsibilities include shadowing and one-on-one consultation, offerings of trainings, webinars, regular phone consultation and provision of resources and reference materials. Prior to joining COE, Dr. Tyndall spent six years working as the family therapy clinic director for East Carolina University. A licensed marriage and family therapist, she has over ten years of experience serving in various research, instructor and clinical positions related to both marriage and family therapy and integrated care in North Carolina. Dr. Tyndall holds a master's degree in marriage and family therapy and a doctorate in medical family therapy, both from East Carolina University and her undergraduate degree in interpersonal and family communication from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Natalie Tackitt, MEd, MSA, North Carolina HealthySteps Coordinator, Zero to Three

Natalie Tackitt is the North Carolina Coordinator for HealthySteps, a program of ZERO TO THREE. She holds a Masters in School Administration, a Masters in Education of the Deaf and a Bachelors in Early Childhood Education. She has over 35 years experience in a variety of programs supporting children and families. Natalie has a strong belief that strengthening families strengthens communities.

Tykara Young, MSW, LCSW-A, ECMH-E, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, KidSCOPE: A Division of Families and Communities Rising, Inc.



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Tykara Young's journey to the early childhood field started as a teacher. She taught for eight years in various preschool classrooms in Buncombe County. As a result, she has always been invested in the success of children and families. Next, she took an early intervention position where she worked with families to find resources needed to reduce family stress and support children in the classroom. Soon after, Tykara was trained in the Circle of Security Parenting Program. She then offered groups to families in her classroom and school. She later collaborated with Resources for Resilience to provide groups for families involved in the child welfare system.

In 2022, Tykara earned her master's degree in social work. She is passionate about mental health services for families of color and working in rural communities. Currently, Tykara works as the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant at KidSCOPE serving Orange and Chatham Counties. Her goal there is to promote the positive social and emotional development of both children and their caregivers. She does this through collaboration with teachers and parents.

2:30 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 3:45 Legislative Round Table

Representative Timothy Reeder, MD - Republican - District 9, Pitt County

Timothy Reeder, MD, MPH earned a Medical Degree and residency in Emergency Medicine from Ohio State University. He obtained an MPH the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1998, he joined the Brody School of Medicine at ECU where he is an Associate Professor and Executive Vice Chair in the Department of Emergency Medicine. He is past President of the North Carolina Medical Society. He provides clinical care at ECU Health Medical Center. He was elected to the NC House of Representatives in 2023, representing District 9 in Pitt County. He serves on the Committees for Appropriations, Commerce, Education-Universities, Families, Children and Aging Policy, and Health.

Representative Carla Cunningham, BSN, RN – Democrat, District 106, Mecklenburg County

Representative Carla Cunningham represents the 106th District in the North Carolina House of Representatives. She has served as Chair of the Democratic House Women Caucus and Co-Chair of the Democratic House Caucus Women's Issues Work Group. She is a member of the Non-Standing Committee on Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and Health Choice, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Access to Health Care and Medicaid Expansion, and the Child Fatality Task Force, as well as several other committees. Rep. Cunningham also serves on the NC Minority Health Advisory Council, NC Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, NC Department of Health and Human Services - Olmstead Plan Stakeholder Advisory Member, Reforming States Group (RSG) Milbank Memorial Fund: NC Institute of Medicine - Carolinas Pandemic Task Force, and the NC Serious Illness Task Force. She has experience in multiple nursing fields, including Intensive Care, Coronary Care, Medical-Surgical, Neurology, Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Home-Health, Industrial Nursing, Nursing Education, Nursing Management, and Hospice Nursing. In 1981, she graduated from Central Piedmont Community College earning her Licensed Practical Nurse diploma. In 1996, she earned an Associate in Applied Science Degree from Gaston College. In 2009, she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Winston Salem State University graduating with honors.

Senator Jim Burgin, BS – Republican, District 12, Lee, Harnett, and Sampson Counties



2023 NCIOM Annual Meeting

Jim Burgin-NC State Senator District 12: Harnett, Lee, and Sampson counties. In his professional life, Senator Burgin is President / Owner of C&D Insurance and Insurance Network Group, Chairman of the Board of New Horizon Insurance Group, and President of B.C. Property Inc. He is also a partner of John Hiester Automotive, which owns Chevrolet and Chrysler Dodge Jeep dealerships. He was born in Knoxville Tennessee, attended The University of Tennessee Knoxville, and graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Jim and his wife Ann have been married 38 years, they have three children and four grandchildren.

Senator Sydney Batch, JD, MSW – Democrat, District 17, Wake County

Sydney Batch is the North Carolina State Senator for District 17. She and her husband own a small law firm in Wake County, where she practices family law, child welfare law and appellate law, while serving in the NC Senate. Sydney is certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist for the NC State Bar, as well as the National Association of Counsel for Children, and a Certified Parent Coordinator. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she remained for her Juris Doctorate and Masters of Social Work.

3:45 – 4:00

Closing Remarks