

Population Health Council Members - Biographies

Tamim Ahmed, PhD – Access Health CT

Executive Director of All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) for Connecticut with 20+ years of experience in delivering strategic and tactical business information to the health plan, employer and health insurance industry. Dr. Ahmed led informatics groups at Aetna, CIGNA, United Healthcare (Optum) and SCIO Health Analytics. His work has been published in various peer-reviewed healthcare journals such as Health Affairs, Medical Care and Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy. His specialties include health services research, advanced clinical predictive modeling, patient risk analyses, population & provider analytics, pharmacoeconomics, customer segmentation, and Medicaid & Medicare healthcare analyses.

Patricia Baker - Connecticut Health Foundation

Ms. Baker is currently President and CEO of the Connecticut Health Foundation. The mission of the foundation is to improve the health status of CT residents particularly the unserved and underserved through systems change. Ms. Baker is also the Chair of State Health Improvement Plan which allows her to effectively bridge this work with SIM's long term transformation objective. She has also served as CEO of Planned Parenthood, Director of Medicaid programs Oxford Health Plans, National Program Director of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation.

Madeline Biondolillo, MD – CT Hospital Association

As Vice President of Population Health Management. Dr. Biondolillo leads CHA's strategic focus on advancing population health strategies and health equity, supporting hospitals in the implementation of new risk-based healthcare delivery and payment models, and leading CHA's participation in the development and implementation of state and federal innovation efforts. She has strong experience in operations management, contracting, finance, and population health and performance management in public health and healthcare organizations. Prior to joining CHA, Dr. Biondolillo served as a consultant for Beth Israel Deaconess Care Organization PIONEER ACO in Boston, Mass. Prior to that, she was Associate Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, where she directed the Office of Health Policy and Planning and helped create the State Health Improvement Plan and the State Health Resource Plan for behavioral health and cardiac services.

Frederick Browne – Griffin Hospital

Chief Medical Officer, Vice President of Medical Affairs and President of the Griffin Faculty Practice. Dr. Browne is responsible for all the physicians that are part of the Medical Staff and the employed group. He is a practicing physician in an inpatient, outpatient and nursing home, as well as a physician executive guiding the medical staff toward population health. Dr. Browne's dedication to the future of population health has also led him to enroll in Thomas Jefferson University Masters of Population Health.

Nancy Cowser – United Community and Family Services

United Community and Family Services Director of Planning, and now Senior Vice President of Strategy. Ms. Cowser is a member of UCFS's executive team and Strategic Planning, including working with the Board of Directors, Executive team and staff to craft and deploy UCFS' Strategic Plan. She keeps the organization apprised of all aspects of payment reform. Her agency is committed to thinking about preparations for payment reform. Prior to working at UCFS, she worked at their local Community Action Agency, specifically running the TANF, Welfare to Work and Workforce Investment Act programs in Eastern CT. Therefore, she has a broad understanding of the multitude of factors that impact their vulnerable clients' behaviors and outcomes. She also spent many years working in the for-profit sector, including banking and manufacturing. As a volunteer, she is leading a local Economic Community Development agency through its strategic planning process, and is chairing a local charter school's work towards becoming a model 21st Century School and certified Expeditionary Learning School.

Population Health Council Members - Biographies

Tekisha Dwan Everett – Health Equity Solutions

Ms. Everett has been involved in health policy for over 16 years. Her experience and expertise has centered on Medicaid, SCHIP, and health care reform at the state and federal levels, particularly with an eye toward improving health disparities and improving population health through the development and reform of public policy. Her professional and academic background makes her an informed consumer advocate with a vested interest in addressing the root causes of health inequity. She has worked in the areas of diabetes and HIV/AIDS and has used data in both cases to support systemic policy change. She brings a lens of health equity to all of her work on health care policy and advocacy.

Garth Graham – Aetna Foundation

President of the Aetna Foundation along with academic appointment as Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. In his previous roles, he has worked as the Director of the Office of Minority Health at the US Department of Health and Human Services where he led national health disparities reduction efforts. He brings the perspective of a philanthropic leader working to spark healthier lifestyles, promote healthcare equity and promoting innovation to improve the lives of the minority and vulnerable populations.

Lisa Honigfeld – Child Health and Development Institute

Employed at the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) advocating for improvements in child health at the policy level. Ms. Honigfeld brings to the council twenty years of experience in community child health. She has worked on staff at the American Academy of Pediatrics, in the Department of Pediatrics at Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford and at ProHealth Physicians. She has also managed several initiatives designed to expand the capacity of pediatric primary care providers to address behavioral health issues. Medical home has always been central to her work. She developed a care coordination collaborative drawing from the several sectors that serve children and has developed a variety of practice quality improvement programs that physicians use to meet NCQA standards. Ms. Honigfeld chaired the Provider Advisory Committee for the CT BHP from its inception, has served on the DPH Medical Home Advisory Council and on the DSS Behavioral Health Screening Work Group. She is also a member of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant Advisory Committee which is led by the United Way and Office of Early Childhood. In terms of very direct advocacy, she is a Board Member of the Connecticut Family Support Network and Connecticut Hands & Voices.

Steven Huleatt – West Hartford Bloomfield HD

Director of Health, Chief Executive Officer, for the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District
Local Public Health carries out its mission by prevention, promotion and protection of the health of the community. As a Director of Health that has been active for over 25 years locally, regionally, statewide and nationally. Mr. Huleatt is very interested to serve on this committee to advance on population health planning strategies to support the development and implementation of the Connecticut State Innovation Model. He also brings a strong network in public health advocacy, policy and community engagement. As a public health practitioner, he knows from experience that "what gets measured get done" and there is a need for meaningful and timely population health data in shared environment for shared success.

He believes that engagement and empowerment of communities whether defined demographically or geographically is to work together with community partners and providers to eliminate health disparities.

Martha Page – Hartford Food System

As Executive Director, Ms. Page is responsible for all program and financial oversight, as well as the HFS's policy and advocacy efforts. Through her work, Ms. Page has had the opportunity to address population health issues in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Her public health work has consistently focused on the intersection of policy and practice, with practice informed by data and evidence and supported by effective policy. Her multi-sector background and experience could bring an interesting perspective to the Population Health Council Committee. Her expectation is

Population Health Council Members - Biographies

to learn from other perspectives to bring them to the work she does in the community. Ms. Page has 25 years of experience in the health insurance realm, with more than 15 years of executive experience. Her role in that sector ranged from claim policy and payment, to developing health care administration systems and processes, to integration strategies for mergers and acquisitions. Ms. Page has directed environmental health activities for the City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services; this role allowed her to directly impact population health in one of Connecticut's poorest cities. She is also deeply involved in food system policy and activities at both the state and regional levels.

Hugh Penney – Yale University

Chief Benefit Officer. Mr. Penney represents one of CT's largest employers providing health benefits. This includes a medical school, a large clinical practice, and the largest staff model HMO in the state. Ms. Penney has an interest in Population Health from many perspectives particularly through the provision of healthcare to faculty, staff, and students. He has over 30 years of benefit design and administration.

Penny Ross – Integrated Health Services

Operations Director of Integrated Health Services School Based Health Centers which has a long history of providing cost-effective, team-based coordinated care for uninsured or under-insured children and adolescents in East Hartford. Ms. Ross has experience serving high-need, under-served populations. As a non-profit agency providing comprehensive medical, behavioral health, and dental services they have created a sustainable business model by optimizing state funding, Medicaid reimbursements, and private insurance reimbursements.

Lyn Salsgiver – Bridgeport Hospital

Strategic Planning and Community Health Improvement for YNHHS, and the Bridgeport Hospital. She leads the community health needs assessment and health improvement planning process for the Bridgeport Region, and oversee these processes in New Haven and Greenwich. She also partners closely with the YNHHS' ACO/Population Health team that implements PCMHs and clinical integration. Ms. Salsgiver is passionate about improving the health of our communities, and knows that it has to be accomplished through collective impact and community partnerships between health care providers, social service agencies, state agencies, schools and advocacy groups, the faith community, businesses as well as local leaders, residents and others. She has deep knowledge of health care strategy, including payment, care delivery, population and community health and supports the move from volume to value, and has knowledge reforms for payment, insurance and care delivery in order to achieve value. She understands the need to work collectively to break down silos, better coordinate care for individuals, and meet their social determinant as well as their health care needs in order to reduce disparities. As a strategic planner, data analysis is part of her day to day role. She works with diverse data that relates to health care utilization, quality, safety, satisfaction, finance, population health, community health and operations.

Hayley Skinner – ProHealth Physicians

Director, Clinical Performance Reporting responsible for supporting ProHealth's ongoing efforts to ensure that all members of the Care team have the data visibility they require to maximize the quality and efficiency of care delivered to ProHealth patients every day. ProHealth is proud to be in its fourth year as a Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) ACO. Ms. Skinner sees the promise of population health to improve quality and efficiency of care when informed by a robust data-driven strategy. Being an Analyst with a small non-profit health insurance company, Advisor for Population Health Analytic Platform, Researcher for State Department of Health, Director Clinical Performance for Physician Medical Group), provides her with a unique vantage point from which to contribute to analytic/programmatic discussions surrounding population health. Ms. Skinner had the unique opportunity to gain visibility into diverse data sharing and analytic strategies in her prior role as an Advisor to health systems and hospitals nationwide as they looked to build out their population health management strategy.

Population Health Council Members - Biographies

Elizabeth Torres – Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust

Ms. Torres leads BNT to transform targeted neighborhoods into communities of choice where families want to live, work, and invest. She is responsible for expanding BNT's operations to include the development and management of affordable housing and other programs offering pre-purchase homeownership education and foreclosure prevention services. Prior to BNT, Ms. Torres gained experience in the affordable housing development field working for The Community Builders, a national community development organization, for ten years. Ms. Torres is passionate about community development and providing high quality affordable housing to people that need it most. She is a product of subsidized housing and knows first-hand the stability that affordable housing provides to families and children, and is driven to ensure that others have the same opportunity as she did. She remains active in the community serving on several boards and neighborhood groups including the Connecticut Housing Coalition and Bridgeport Regional Business Council.

Vincent Tufo – Charter Oak Communities

As Executive Director and CEO, Mr. Tufo implements a community-based approach to population health providing a valuable framework for 'what works' with an approached population health from a 'place-based', or contextual, perspective. That is, that the majority of causal and co-existing factors driving health disparities are rooted in the places, lifestyles, educational levels and economic attainment of segments of our population. He believes that clinical care access, treatment coordination and lifestyle-based interventions should be similarly rooted in the places where people live, work, learn and recreate.

Operating the Vita Health and Wellness district has placed Mr. Tufo on the leading edge of sharing and integrating client data systems that are critical for care coordination, especially within the underserved population.

Susan Walkama – Wheeler Clinic

As the Wheeler Clinic CEO, Ms. Walkama is highly committed practice/system transformation. At the Behavioral Health Home, she heads a population health program that is focused on reducing health disparities, improving health outcomes, reducing cost and preparing for payment reform. Within this process, she is working on defining the transformations within their practice related to service design, quality and financing that are required for success. Her organization has a prevention and wellness division and they are developing a community health outreach program supported by local communities served. This has included engaging corporations in supporting staffing and community activity, foundation grants and a sizable charitable donation.

Hyacinth Yennie – Neighborhood Revitalization Zone

Chairperson of the Maple Avenue Neighborhood Revitalization Zoning (NRZ) Group and the Southend Wellness Senior Center. Ms. Yennie represents her constituents in regards to quality of life issues not only limited to access to healthcare but also issues involving crime, blight, and education. Through her involvement with both organizations, she has regularly interacted with residents who use various health services. Her participation in healthcare reform discussions would be to provide a view point from a grassroots community organizer. One example of such work is the annual Barry Square Community Day where she brings in representatives from the local health department, area hospitals, and Charter Oak Health Center, Red Cross, and fire and police departments to connect with residents of all ages and educate them on the health services available to them. Additionally, she worked closely with community members and local and state government officials to create the Southend Wellness Senior Center.