

Integrating Health and Housing: Sustainable Solutions through Systemic Change

Wednesday, May 16th, 2018
The Lyceum, Hartford, CT

Speaker Bios

IForums 2018



Andy McMahon, MS

Vice President, Policy/Health and Human Services at United Healthcare

Andy McMahon is the Vice President of Policy/Health and Human Services at United Healthcare. He is an entrepreneurial professional with more than two decades of experience in the fields of affordable housing, health care, human services, and the integration among them. Mr. McMahon has a proven record of cultivating and executing collaborations across government agencies, philanthropy, healthcare entities, and community partners. He has strong and diverse government relations experience in affordable housing, health care, and criminal justice sectors; and has a time-tested commitment and successful track record integrating public systems and private partners to better serve individuals and families with complex health needs. Previously, Mr. McMahon was the Managing Director of Government Affairs & Innovation for the Corporation for Supportive Housing. Andy McMahon holds a degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Northeastern University.



Christi Staples, MSW

Regional Director, New England, Corporation for Supportive Housing

Christi Staples is the Director of the New England region for the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). CSH is focused on human rights, health equity and creating systems change. Prior to her current role with CSH, Christi was the Deputy Executive Director at the Partnership for Strong Communities. She has served as the interim Executive Director of the Health Assistance Intervention Education Network of Connecticut (HAVEN), an organization that provides confidential consultation and support to healthcare professionals facing health concerns related to alcoholism, substance abuse, behavioral or mental health issues and/or physical illness. Christi holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Connecticut, and she is a Connecticut Health Foundation Health Equity Leadership Senior Fellow. Christi was also selected for CT Magazine's 40 under 40 in 2012.



Lisa Bahadosingh, MS, LPC

Director, Youth Initiatives and Special Projects, Supportive Housing Works

Lisa Bahadosingh is the Director of Youth Initiatives and Special Projects at Supportive Housing Works. Since 2010 she has lead the Bridgeport Housing First Collaborative team for 4 years. In this role, she worked to successfully replicate this model throughout Fairfield County which has had a significant impact on ending chronic homelessness in the region. Currently, Lisa is the Director of Youth Initiatives and Special Projects at the agency and convenes community providers around numerous initiatives. Her efforts are now focused on coordinating and implementing a community plan to prevent and end youth homelessness by 2020. Lisa conducts trainings on evidence-based interventions and best practices and manages the local Social Innovation Fund Program that provides services and housing for a very vulnerable population of people. Lisa is a Licensed Professional Counselor with over 12 years of experience in servicing the targeted population. She received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from The University of Connecticut and holds a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Palo Alto University.



Yvette Highsmith-Francis, MA

Vice President, Eastern region, Community Health Center, Inc.

Yvette Highsmith-Francis is the Vice President of the Eastern region of Community Health Center, Inc. Yvette has worked with CHCI for 24 years in a variety of capacities. In her current role, she oversees eight of the fourteen CHCI locations across the state. In the early phases of her career, Yvette worked directly with individuals and families providing support to address social determinants of health, and she is committed to eliminating health care disparities, and ensuring that the most vulnerable populations have access to quality healthcare. Yvette currently oversees Community Advisory committees and is the co-chair of the PCMH+ Oversight Committee. Yvette is a graduate of the UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Health Care Executive program; the Connecticut Health Foundation's 2009 Health Leadership Fellows

Program; a Martin Luther King Scholar at Long Island University; and she received her Master's Degree in Management from Cambridge College. She has received recognition on the local, state and national level for her work with individuals living with HIV and AIDS, along with numerous awards and recognition for her work within CHCI and in the community at large.



Jeanne Milstein
Director of Human Services, City of New London

Jeanne Milstein has a long and distinguished career in public service to children and families in the state of Connecticut and more recently, New York State. She is guided by the adage, "if you aren't outraged, you aren't paying attention." Jeanne is currently the Director for Human Services in the City of New London. Prior to this position, Jeanne was Director of Special Projects and Staff Researcher at the Tow Youth Justice Institute, University of New Haven. She served as Connecticut's Child Advocate from 2000 to 2012, an independent state agency responsible for overseeing the care and protection of children. Jeanne has led efforts to reform the foster care, juvenile justice and mental health systems for children and youth. She has diligently guided and steered initiatives to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in those systems as well. In addition, Jeanne served as the Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Planning and Policy Development for the Office of Children and Family Services in New York State. She began her career as a VISTA volunteer immediately after graduating from Cornell University in 1977. Jeanne has also served as the Director of Government and Community Relations at the Department of Children and Families; Legislative Director at the Connecticut Commission on Children; Director of Government Relations at the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women; and Director of the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut. Jeanne has dedicated her career to improving the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.



Victoria Veltri, JD, LLM
Executive Director, State of Connecticut, Office of Health Strategy

Vicki Veltri is the Executive Director for the State of Connecticut, Office of Health Strategy. Previously, Ms. Veltri was the Chief Health Policy Advisor for the Lieutenant Governor, in which she coordinated the state's health reform initiatives, including the State Innovation Model Initiative (SIM), and the Healthcare Cabinet. Vicki was also the state's Healthcare Advocate providing oversight of OHA; assisting and educating consumers with healthcare plans, and their rights; served as a watchdog of Connecticut's healthcare marketplace. Ms. Veltri also worked as a Staff Attorney at Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc. Ms. Veltri holds a BS degree in Chemistry, a Juris Doctorate degree from Western New England College School of Law, and a Master of Laws from New York University School of Law. She also is admitted to practice law in Connecticut, New York, and the US District Court for CT and the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.



Kelly Thompson
Chief Executive Officer, Alliance for Living

Kelly Thompson is the President and CEO for Alliance for Living, located in New London, CT, where she has held the executive leadership position since September 2011. Kelly's commitment and passion for people living with HIV began in the early 1990's when she joined ACT UP Cleveland and worked with the OHIO AIDS Coalition to provide healing weekends for people living with HIV across the state of Ohio. Ms. Thompson's extensive experience is in non-profit management, including fundraising, program development, organizational strategy and development, mediation and conflict resolution, fiscal and performance management and community outreach. In her current position at Alliance for Living, Ms. Thompson ensures that people living with or at-risk for HIV in New London County have the services they need to achieve optimal health and wellness. Alliance for Living provides medical case management for clients living with HIV and support services associated with housing, food security and nutrition, treatment adherence, harm reduction health educational programs. Additionally, AFL provides a housing program for people who were chronically homeless, syringe access and drug user health, HIV testing, and overdose prevention. Ms. Thompson serves on several committees and panels, including the United Way's Governance Committee; Vice-Chair Sub-Continuum of Care Housing; Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS - Community Advisory Board; and Opioid Program Advisory - Southeastern CT. She is also the co-investigator of a research project, focusing on internalized HIV Stigma, teamed with Dr. Robert Heimer at Yale School of Public Health. Ms. Thompson is a graduate of Cleveland State University, where she completed the degrees of Masters of Applied Communications and Bachelor of Arts in Communication. She is a trained mediator and conflict resolution facilitator.