

# Arizona Rural & Public Health Policy Forum



## January 25, 2017

### Arizona State Capitol Executive Tower

*The Forum is presented by the Center for Rural Health with sponsorship  
from the Arizona Rural Health Association.*



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
**Center for Rural Health**



## AGENDA

Arizona Rural & Public Health Policy Forum | *New Administration – Now What?*

8:15 am . . . . . **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Daniel Derksen, MD, Director, Center for Rural Health, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health  
Robert Fleet, President, Arizona Rural Health Association

8:20 . . . . . **Health Policy Update**

Daniel Derksen, MD, Director, Center for Rural Health, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

9:00 . . . . . **ADHS Priorities for 2017**

Cara Christ, MD, Director, Arizona Department of Health Services

9:30 . . . . . **AHCCCS Priorities for 2017**

Thomas Betlach, Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

10:00 . . . . . *Stretch Break*

10:15 . . . . . **Building Sustainability with Policy Solutions**

Charlie Alfero, Director, SW Center for Health Innovation, New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium

11:15 . . . . . **Arizona New Born Screening – Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Syndrome**

Roy Teramoto, MD, Medical Officer, Phoenix Area Indian Health Service

12:00-1:00 pm. . . . . **LUNCH – Meet & Greet Our State Legislators** (3rd Floor Conference Room)

1:15 pm. . . . . **Arizona Health Organizations and the 2017 Legislative Session**

Tara McCollum Plese, Chief External Affairs Officer, Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers  
Greg Vigdor, President and CEO; Greg Ensell, Vice President of Government Relations; Arizona Hospital & Healthcare Association  
Pele Peacock Fischer, V.P. of Policy & Political Affairs, Arizona Medical Association  
Mindy Fain, Co-director, Arizona Center on Aging  
Sheila Sjolander, Assistant Director, Public Health Prevention Services, Arizona Department of Health Services  
Susan Cannata, Healthcare Lobbyist  
Leonard Kirschner, MD, Past-President, AARP  
Emily Jenkins, CEO & President, Arizona Council of Human Service Providers  
Will Humble, Board Member, Arizona Public Health Association  
Flor Redondo, Director, Association of Community Health Worker  
Siman Qaasim, Director of Health Policy, Children's Action Alliance  
Ernie Wetherbee, Acting State Director, USDA, Rural Development  
Marcus Johnson, Director, State Health Policy and Advocacy, Vitalyst Health Foundation

2:30 . . . . . **Policies Relating to Oral Health in Arizona**

Will Humble, Director, Division of Health Policy & Program Evaluation, Center for Population Science and Discovery, UAHS  
Kristin Boilini, Pivotal Policy Consulting  
Kevin Earle, Executive Director, Arizona Dental Association

3:30 . . . . . **Health Committee Chair Update**

Sen. Nancy Barto, Arizona State Senate  
Rep. Heather Carter, Arizona House of Representatives

4:00 . . . . . **Closing Remarks & Adjourn**

## PRESENTERS

**Charlie Alfero, MA**, is the Executive Director of the Hidalgo Medical Services – Southwest Center for Health Innovation and the founder of HMS, a Community Health Center providing primary medical, dental, mental health, family support, community development, and health policy services in southwestern New Mexico. He has over 36 years of experience in rural health policy, systems and program development. He also is the Director of the National Center for Frontier Communities and New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium and serves as Consultant to the National REACH Coalition. Charlie has recently been on the Board of Directors of the National Rural Health Association, and New Mexico Health Connections, a nonprofit health insurance co-op, and other organizations focused on health equity. He currently also serves in an advisory capacity to the U. of Iowa, Rural Research and Policy Institute, the AAFP Foundation Peers for Progress Program, and U. of San Francisco / Commonwealth Fund Community Health Integrated Primary Care program.

**Senator Nancy Barto** has resided in Arizona since 1962. Senator Barto served in the State House of Representatives for five years before her election to the State Senate in 2010 - representing Legislative District 15, which encompasses North Phoenix and Northwest Scottsdale. Senator Barto serves as Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee focusing on health care and family-related issues. Nancy has sponsored major health care reforms aimed at increasing affordable health insurance options, protecting patients fundamental privacy rights, the health of women and the unborn. Recognized as a consistent leader for Arizona families, Nancy has championed important medical tort, property tax and homeowner reforms and been a voice for reform in Arizona's foster care and behavioral health systems.

**Thomas J. Betlach** has served as Director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) since 2009. In this capacity, he reports to the Governor and is responsible for the Arizona Medicaid program. AHCCCS currently provides health care coverage to 1.3 million Arizonans at an annual cost of \$9 billion. The agency administers multiple sources of governmental funds and is responsible for regulatory oversight and compliance of Medicaid managed care health plans and health care providers to assure quality of care, fiscal accountability, program integrity and cost containment. Mr. Betlach earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin and his master's degree in public administration from the University of Arizona.

**Kristen Boilini** has represented clients in various public policy arenas since 1995. She joined the Governor's Budget Office in 1989, under Governor Mofford, and continued to

work for the Symington administration through 1994. In these roles, Kristen developed an in-depth understanding of state budgeting and the appropriations process, public finance, tax policy and government operations. Prior to starting her own firm, KRB Consulting in 2000 and later Pivotal in 2013, Kristen worked as a contract lobbyist for two government affairs firms. In addition, she has worked on a number of ballot initiatives and assisted in the management of a number of political campaigns. In addition to her lobbying practice, Kristen has a strong background in representing clients' interests with various regulatory agencies.

**Susan Cannata** received her juris doctor degree from the University of Arizona, College of Law in 1991, where she graduated summa cum laude and was awarded membership in the Order of the Coif. After law school, Ms. Cannata served as a law clerk to both the Honorable Earl H. Carroll of the United States District Court for the District of Arizona, and the Honorable Michael Daly Hawkins of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She practiced commercial litigation and government relations with Meyer, Hendricks, Victor, Osborn & Maledon. She has been with Peters, Cannata & Moody since its inception in 1995. Ms. Cannata works extensively in the area of government relations, representing a broad range of public and private clients before legislative and administrative bodies.

**Representative Heather Carter** is your state representative from North Phoenix, Cave Creek, and North Scottsdale. Currently, Representative Carter is the Chairperson of the House Health Committee, and a member of the Committee on Elections and Committee on Energy, Environment and Natural Resources. First elected in 2010, she has a track record of sponsoring legislation that solves many of the complex problems facing Arizona, making her one of the most effective legislators at the Capitol. As your state legislator, she has worked to streamline government, improve the economy, encourage job creation, protect the most vulnerable, reform education and healthcare, while maintaining a balanced state budget through responsible spending measures.

**Dr. Cara Christ** is the Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services and has worked for the agency for more than nine years in multiple positions. In May 2015, Dr. Christ was appointed as Director by Governor Doug Ducey. Cara has a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology, and a Master of Science degree in Microbiology and Public Health/Epidemiology both from Arizona State University. Cara started her ADHS career as an Infectious Disease Epidemiologist. Cara left ADHS to attend medical school at the University of Arizona. She did her residency at Banner Good Samaritan

Medical Center in Phoenix before returning to ADHS. Since returning, she has served in many positions throughout the Department, including the State Tuberculosis Control Officer, Bureau Chief for Epidemiology and Disease Control, Assistant Director for the Division of Public Health Licensing Services, Deputy Director for the Division of Public Health Services and as the Department's Chief Medical Officer.

**Daniel Derksen, MD**, is the Walter H. Pearce Endowed Chair and Director of the Arizona Center for Rural Health, and Professor & Chair of the Community, Environment & Policy Department at The University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. He oversees the State Office of Rural Health and Rural Hospital Flexibility Programs. He completed a RWJ Health Policy Fellowship in 2007 with U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman. He researched & drafted provisions to improve the supply and distribution of the nation's health workforce included in Title V of the Affordable Care Act. While working for Governor Susana Martinez (R-NM), he established New Mexico's health insurance Marketplace. As principal investigator of state, federal, private foundation, and grants in excess of \$55 million over his 30-year academic career, Dr. Derksen works to improve insurance coverage and access to high quality health care, emphasizing community-based service-learning models in rural areas.

**Greg Ensell** joined the AzHHA team in November 2016 as Vice President of Government Relations. In this role he will further develop the united voice of AzHHA members to shape federal and state policy, legislation and regulation that will positively influence health and healthcare in Arizona. Greg comes with a wealth of experience working with elected officials, having spent nine years at Cox Communications as Manager of Government and Public Affairs, Policy Advisor at the Arizona State Senate, Manager of Policy Development at the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and economist at Elliott D. Pollack and Company.

**Mindy Fain, MD**, is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Arizona, Division Chief of Geriatrics, General Internal Medicine and Palliative Medicine, and co-director of the Arizona Center on Aging. She is a geriatrician and palliative care physician, and a national leader in developing high value home and community team-based models to care for people with serious illness. She leads two statewide geriatric educational grants to help prepare all clinicians to care for our rapidly aging population. In 2003, Dr. Fain was named a Local Legend from Arizona, a national recognition by U.S. Congressman Jim Kolbe and the American Medical Women's Association. She serves on the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Geriatric Medicine, is a Member of the National Institute on Aging Behavior and Social Science Review panel, and is President of the American Academy of Home

Care Medicine. Her research area of interest is frailty, a major geriatric syndrome. She was awarded the Anne and Alden Hart Chair in recognition of her contributions to the University of Arizona.

**Will Humble, MPH**, has worked in the field of public health in Arizona for more than 30 years. He believes that the key to keeping people healthy and reducing health disparities is to focus on public health prevention and to address the social determinants of health. He has a collaborative management style and is a believer in leading and managing with emotional intelligence. Will worked for the Arizona Department of Health Services for 25 years including 6 years as the Director, where he led the initiative to integrate acute care and public health principles into the Arizona's behavioral health system, overhauled the regulation of hospitals, skilled nursing, assisted living, behavioral health, outpatient treatment and childcare facilities, improved the capacity and performance of Arizona's trauma system, and implemented Arizona's medical marijuana program. He currently serves as the Division Director for Health Policy & Program Evaluation for the Center for Population Science & Discovery at the University of Arizona. He is active in his community, serving on the Board of Directors for the Scottsdale Training and Scottsdale Training and Rehabilitation, the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, and the Arizona Public Health Association.

**Emily Jenkins** has been the President and CEO for the Arizona Council of Human Service Providers since January 2008. Working in the health care field for much of her professional life, Emily has a BA from the UA and Juris Doctorate from ASU. Emily started the Arizona Family Planning Council and worked at Tucson Medical Center where she developed an international health partnership program in Kazakhstan and served as the Director of Government and Community Relations. Emily has family members with behavioral health disorders who have provided her with both an understanding of the needs of those with mental illness and a passion for ensuring that services are available to them.

**Marcus Johnson** is Vitalyst Health Foundation's Director of State Health Policy and Advocacy. Marcus is responsible for initiatives regarding access to care and coverage, workforce development and advocacy efforts. His work focuses on achieving Vitalyst Health Foundation's policy goals at a state and federal level. His responsibilities include convening and engaging the community to identify or advance public policy goals, analyzing and educating the community on state and federal health policy issues, writing or overseeing policy-related research or publications, and managing grants or contracts aimed at achieving Vitalyst Health Foundation's policy objectives. Marcus also oversees efforts aimed at strengthening the

analytic infrastructure for policy analysis in the state, and provides support to bolster advocacy capacity among community partners. His contributions have led to numerous policy and systems changes in health care, behavioral health and public health – including the building of effective partnerships between the health care and public health sectors.

**Leonard Kirschner, MD, MPH**, is a Board Member of the Wickenburg Community Hospital. He was the AHCCCS Director from 1987 to 1993 and is a member of the State Medicaid Advisory Committee. He served as State President AARP AZ for six years and remains a member of their Advocacy Committee. He is a member of the Harvard School of Public Health Leadership Council, the AzHHA Public Policy Committee, the ARMA Government Relations Committee, the Arizona Town Hall Executive Committee, a Trustee of the Arizona Perinatal Trust and the AZDHS AzHIP Steering Committee.

**Tara McCollum Plese, MPA**, is the Senior Director for External Affairs with the Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers (AACHC). She represents the Arizona's Community Health Centers' at the state and federal level and advocates for access to quality, affordable primary health care. She graduated from ASU with a bachelors' degree in Political Science and a Master's degree in Public Administration. Tara serves on a variety of boards and committees for health care; including the State Medicaid Advisory Committee, Arizona Cancer Leadership Team with the ADHS, the ASU School of Health Innovations Health Advisory Board, the Community Health Integration Healthcare Committee, Network Advisory Council (CHIN) for St. Joseph's Hospital, Asian Pacific Community in Action (APCA), and the Advisory Board member for Maricopa County Health Care for the Homeless. She also serves on the National Association for Community Health Centers' Board of Directors and the NACHC Rural Health Committee and Legislative Committee.

**Pele Peacock Fischer, J.D.**, is Vice President of Policy and Political Affairs and directs strategies in legal, political and regulatory development and advocacy for ArMA. Before joining ArMA, Pele served as policy advisor and staff attorney to the majority at the Arizona House of Representatives, where she provided legal and policy analysis of current law and proposed legislation, and served as the Majority staff on multiple committees, including Health, Reform and Human Services, and Commerce. She grew up in Arizona, received her undergraduate degree in business from Southern Methodist University, and her law degree from the University of Idaho. Pele previously served as a law clerk to the U.S. Senate in Washington, D. C., before returning to Phoenix to practice law with the firm of Alvarez & Gilbert. She is a graduate of Scottsdale Leadership and the Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy.

**Siman Qaasim, MBA**, is a well-seasoned health policy professional, with a background in developing and administering community health programs. She joins the team from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, where she was an administrator for the Office of School Health and Wellness initiatives. Siman's career has taken her all over the world, from working in international policy analysis in Washington, D.C. to Nassau, Bahamas as a director of health and safety. Siman is an alumnus of Valley Leadership Class 35 and holds a master's degree in business administration from Nova Southeastern University in Florida

**Sheila Sjolander, MSW** serves as the Assistant Director of the Division of Public Health Prevention Services in the Arizona Department of Health Services. She oversees more than 50 widely diverse programs such as nutrition & physical activity, teen pregnancy prevention, chronic disease, primary care, tobacco prevention & cessation, WIC, oral health, maternal & child health, and injury prevention. Sheila previously led the Bureau of Women's & Children's Health, and has over 15 years of experience in planning, policy and leadership roles at the state level. She formerly served as a Strategic Planner for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services and worked in Oregon in the workforce development field. Sheila received her Master of Social Work degree in social policy and planning from Temple University in Philadelphia.

**Roy Teramoto, MD, MPH**, received his medical degree from the University of Southern California, School of Medicine (now the Keck School of Medicine) in 1976. He completed a pediatric residency and a pediatric nephrology fellowship at the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center and was board certified in both areas. He received an M.P.H. from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Public Health. He served in the U.S. Public Health Service and the Indian Health Service for thirty years as a staff pediatrician at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center, then as the Maternal Child Health Consultant for the Phoenix Area. He retired from the U.S. Public Health Service with the rank of Captain. He currently works part time for the Phoenix Area Office, Indian Health Service.

**Greg Vigdor** has served as the President and CEO of the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA) since March 2013. Over his 35-year career, he has brought extensive healthcare experience from a variety of leadership roles. Since arriving in Arizona, Greg has been a forceful leader for advancing Arizona's healthcare system through policy leadership on issues such as the passage of Medicaid Restoration, improving care for patients through patient safety and end-of-life care programs, and working with his members and others to advance AzHHA's vision of making Arizona the Healthiest State in the Nation.

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**Ernest Wetherbee** is the Acting State Director for USDA Rural Development in Arizona. Mr. Wetherbee will serve in an interim capacity until a permanent State Director is named.

## NOTES

On behalf of the Center for Rural Health at The University of Arizona,  
Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, we wish to  
**thank you** for attending the Arizona Rural & Public Health Policy Forum.

Feel free to e-mail any of our staff if you have any questions.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at future events!

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