



Well Beyond Medicine: Implementing School-Based Behavioral Health Programs

Speaker Biographies

On Tuesday, May 9, 2023, Nemours Children's Health will host a virtual convening focused on school-based behavioral health. Invitees will include national pediatric and behavioral health organizations, content experts, federal agency staff and officials, grantees of relevant federal programs, representatives of state and local agencies, philanthropic organizations, and other interested stakeholders. We will discuss implementation of the various school-based behavioral health provisions included in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act ([P.L. 117-159](#)) and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 ([P.L. 117-328](#)).

This document includes biographies for the convening's speakers.

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**Katie Boyer, MPPA, Senior Advisor, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs,
Nemours Children's Health**



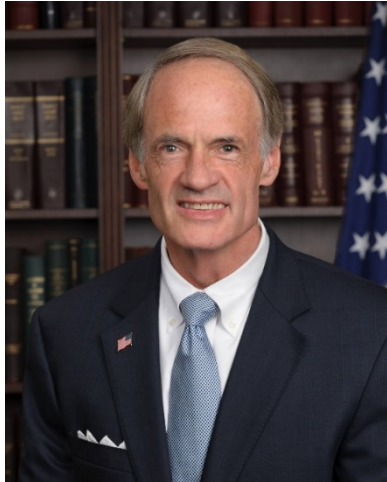
Katie Boyer is the Senior Advisor, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs for the National Office of Policy and Prevention's Policy and Advocacy Team. Katie is on the federal advocacy team, working to advance Nemours' key priorities and initiatives at the national level. This includes working with Congress and federal agencies as well as industry stakeholders and non-government partners. Prior to joining the team at Nemours in 2014, Katie spent three years as the Manager of Federal Affairs at the Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), where she worked with the Administration to develop sound regulatory policy affecting the health and health IT industries. Katie also worked for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and spent a considerable amount of time in her early career as a Legislative Assistant for the Indiana House of Representatives. Katie received her BA in Political Science from Butler University in Indianapolis, and completed her Master's of Public Policy and Administration at Northwestern University.

Alex Briscoe, MA, Principal, The California Children's Trust



Alex Briscoe was appointed director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency in 2009 where he led one of the state's largest public health systems, overseeing health and hospital systems, public health, behavioral health, and environmental health departments with an annual budget of \$700 million and 6,200 FTE contracted and civil service staff. Before joining the county, he was the director of the Chappell Hayes Health Center at McClymonds High School in West Oakland, a satellite outpatient center of Children's Hospital and Research Center. Mr. Briscoe's work has helped design the nexus of public health and public education. He has designed and administered a number of mental health and physical health programs and services in child serving systems. Mr. Briscoe is a mental health practitioner specializing in adolescent services and youth development. He has advised or collaborated with a number of local and national foundations including The Atlantic Philanthropies, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, The California Endowment, and most recently with Tipping Point Community. He has specialized in Medicaid policy and administration, emergency medical services, youth voice and crisis counseling, and safety net design and administration.

Senator Tom Carper, U.S. Senator for Delaware



Born in West Virginia and raised in Virginia, Senator Tom Carper attended The Ohio State University on a Navy R.O.T.C. scholarship, graduating in 1968 with a B.A. in economics. He went on to complete five years of service as a naval flight officer, serve three tours of duty in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, and continued to serve in the Naval Reserve as a P-3 aircraft mission commander until retiring with the rank of captain in 1991 after 23 years of military service. With the war winding down in Southeast Asia, Tom Carper moved to Delaware in 1973 where he earned his M.B.A. at the University of Delaware. In 1976, at the age of 29, he was elected to the first of three terms as Delaware's state treasurer. He then served two terms as governor of Delaware beginning in 1993. On January 3, 2001, Governor Carper became Delaware's junior senator. When Senator Joe Biden stepped down to become Vice President in January 2009, Tom became

Delaware's senior senator. He currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and is a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC). Today, he and his wife of 30 years, Martha, live in Wilmington and are the proud parents of two sons. Senator Carper travels from Wilmington to Washington each day on an Amtrak train.

Jerri Clark, School Health Services Director, Arkansas Department of Education



Jerri Clark holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and organizational leadership. She has been active in the area of federal and state education grant management for approximately 18 years, including the early childhood William F. Goodling Even Start Literacy Program, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program, and the 21st Century Community Learning Center Afterschool Program. Ms. Clark joined the Arkansas Department of Education's School Health Services Unit in 2010 to oversee the implementation of the newly funded School-Based Health Center and Joint Use Agreement state grants. Ms. Clark has worked to advocate for programming for children and youth experiencing social, economic and health disparities. In February 2014, Ms. Clark assumed the role of the School Health Services Director for the Arkansas Department of Education and has served in a dual role to direct the Medicaid in the Schools program since 2017. She serves of the Arkansas Child Health Advisory Committee, is

an appointed Commissioner on the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission, and is a member of the Arkansas Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Advisory Committee.

Tom Coderre, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Tom Coderre is the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). With decades of public, private, and non-profit service, Mr. Coderre is the first person in recovery to lead SAMHSA. Mr. Coderre's career has been significantly influenced by his personal journey and a philosophy that acknowledges the essential role peer recovery support services play in helping people with mental and substance use disorders rebuild their lives.

Mr. Coderre is the former National Field Director of Faces & Voices of Recovery and appeared in the documentary film *The Anonymous People*. He served as a member of the Rhode Island Senate from 1995 to 2003 and as Chief of Staff to the Senate President from 2009 to 2014. He has been recognized on numerous occasions for his dedication and advocacy efforts. Mr. Coderre is a graduate of both the Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.

Shella Dennery, PhD, LICSW, Director, Boston Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnerships Program



Shella Dennery, PhD, LICSW is the Director of the Boston Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnerships Program (BCHNP), a school-based behavioral health program in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Dennery directs a comprehensive program in partnership with the Boston Public Schools. The program provides equitable and culturally responsive behavioral health services and supports to students and families in their educational home. The program also provides professional development and consultation to educators, school staff, behavioral health professionals and administrators focused on social and emotional wellness, and behavioral health. Dr. Dennery has spent her career working as a school social worker in the Boston Public Schools and teaching and consulting on behavioral health related topics in community settings. She partners with

the Children's Mental Health Campaign to advocate for increased access to care and systemic change in behavioral healthcare for youth across Massachusetts. Dr. Dennery is adjunct faculty in social work at Boston College, Simmons University and Smith College, and is an Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

Kate Ginnis, MSW, MPH, Senior Policy Advisor, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



Kate Ginnis is the Senior Policy Advisor for Youth in the Office of the Center Director at CMCS/CMS. Prior to recently joining CMS, Kate was the Senior Director of Parent, Child, and Family Policy and Programs at MassHealth, leading efforts to define a set of key questions and shape a cohesive policy strategy for children and families. She previously held both clinical and policy advocacy leadership roles in behavioral health at Boston Children's Hospital. Kate's policy perspective is informed by over a decade providing treatment, teaching, and doing clinical research with children, adolescents, and families with behavioral health needs in the Emergency Department. Kate holds a master's degree in Public Policy from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University and a dual Master's in Social Work and Public Health from Boston University.

Daniella Gratale, MA, Associate Vice President, Federal Affairs, Nemours Children's Health



Daniella Gratale is the Associate Vice President, Federal Affairs at Nemours Children's Health. In this role, Daniella oversees policy development and advocacy to advance Nemours Children's federal agenda through engagement with Congress, the Administration and national experts. She also leads the integration of enterprise federal and state public policy. Daniella and her team forge relationships with a politically diverse federal congressional delegation, as well as national organizations and health systems, to promote policies that support the healthiest generations of children. She also serves as a Steering Committee member for the Whole Child Health Alliance. Prior to joining Nemours, Daniella served as Government Relations Manager at Trust

for America's Health, a nonprofit organization devoted to strengthening the public health system. Previously, she worked as a Legislative Correspondent and then as a Legislative Assistant for the late Congresswoman Julia Carson. Daniella holds an MA from The George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management and a BA from The College of New Jersey.

Laura Hogan, Consultant to Nemours Children's Health

Laura Hogan consults with nonprofit and philanthropy organizations to improve the health and well-being of communities. Her skills and experience include strategy, planning and oversight of philanthropy initiatives, and policy development. Previous to consulting, Ms. Hogan held the position of Vice President of Program for The California Endowment and her tenure included oversight of foundation grant making. She led the development of several initiatives, such as the Children's Coverage Initiative that ultimately resulted in comprehensive coverage for all children in California, including undocumented.

Sharon Hoover, PhD, Professor and Co-Director, National Center for School Mental Health

Sharon A. Hoover, Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist and Professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Hoover is the Co-Director of the National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH, <https://www.schoolmentalhealth.org/>) and Director of the National Center for Safe Supportive Schools (NCS, <https://www.ncs3.org/>). She currently leads national efforts to support states, districts, and schools in the adoption of national performance standards of comprehensive school mental health systems (see <https://theshapesystem.com/>). Dr. Hoover has led and collaborated on multiple federal and state grants, with a commitment to the study and implementation of quality children's mental health services. She has worked for two decades, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Education, and the World Health Organization to train state and community education and behavioral health leaders and professionals in multi-tiered systems of support for mental health and psychological trauma.

Scott Hutchins, School Mental Health and Medicaid Consultant, Michigan Department of Education



Scott Hutchins is a School Mental Health and Medicaid Consultant for the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) in the Office of Health and Nutrition Services. Scott is a life-long learner committed to servant leadership with a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University and a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in Elementary Education. Prior to MDE, Scott worked as a teacher and administrator for 20 years in various K-12 settings, including general education, special education, urban, suburban, and rural, and these experiences have provided him with a diverse perspective that informs all of his work. Given that experience, he has seen firsthand the devastating effect of poor behavioral health care for students and the disparities that exist between the advantaged and disadvantaged. Scott is passionate about being a champion for ALL learners and is committed to being better than he was the day before.

Nancy Kelly, M.S. Ed., Branch Chief, Mental Health Promotion, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Prior to joining SAMHSA as the Mental Health Promotion Branch Chief, Ms. Nancy Kelly worked in the U.S. State Department's Child and Family Program as the Education Program Specialist beginning in May 2020. Prior to joining the CFP team, she worked as a Public Health Advisor with Health and Human Services/Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) where she worked on a diverse portfolio of projects including: Emergency Management Mental Health and Traumatic Services, Safe Schools Healthy Students Initiative, and Veterans mental health/suicide prevention. She also served as a Contracting Office Representative for the Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation program. Nancy is also Mental Health

First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor. Prior to joining the federal government Ms. Kelly worked on the Safe School Health Students Grant program, the Tribal Youth Initiative, and a 3-year study looking at Mental Health Needs and impact of diagnosis for students in the state of CA. Ms. Kelly hails from Belleville, IL. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from SIU Carbondale, a Master of Science, (Special) Education from SUNY New Paltz, and School District Administrators Certificate from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

McKayla LaBorde, Executive Director of Student Services, Educational Service Unit #3



McKayla's background as a Special Education teacher, behavior consultant, and administrator have afforded her the opportunity to provide leadership and support for students with disabilities and behavioral health challenges for the past 23 years. She has a BS from the University of Nebraska in Special Education, an M.A. in Curriculum & Instruction from California State University, and an M.A. in Educational Administration from UNO. In her current role as the Executive Director of Student Services at ESU #3 in La Vista, NE, she provides training and consultation to 18 school districts in the Omaha and surrounding area on a variety of topics related to supporting students with disabilities and school mental health.

Brooke Luebke, LMFT, Mental and Behavioral Health Manager, Children's Wisconsin



Brooke Luebke is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in WI, and currently manages outpatient and school based mental health clinics in Madison, WI. Brooke has 20 years of experience working with children, adolescents, adults and families in a variety of settings. Brooke started in the clinic manager position in 2017 and has grown the school based mental health program from 2 schools in 2018 to 21 schools in 2023.

Jessie Mandle, MPH, National Program Director, Healthy Schools Campaign

Jessie Mandle, MPH, is the National Program Director at Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC), where she leads HSC's work to strengthen access to health care in schools and expand school health services, including through Medicaid. She oversees the national Healthy Students, Promising Futures Learning Collaborative, which brings together state education, Medicaid and school district partners and stakeholders to support expanded school Medicaid programs. Jessie has a long history of advocating for children's health care and health equity. In her former role as deputy director of the children's advocacy organization, Voices for Utah Children, she led campaigns to ensure all children, regardless of their background or immigration status, have access to health coverage and care.

Emily S. Moser, MPA, MAT, Director of YouthLine Programs, Lines for Life

Emily Moser is a member of the Senior Leadership Team for Lines for Life, a regional non-profit providing prevention programs and 24/7 crisis intervention services. Ms. Moser directs the YouthLine Program which includes a national youth peer support, help, crisis line. Key components of the YouthLine Program also include Mental Health Educational Training and Outreach, Youth Development/Support for a volunteer staff of more than 150, and statewide school suicide prevention. Emily has been on staff at Lines for Life for over a decade working in community prevention, prevention education, and crisis intervention with a primary focus on youth. She has held previous positions as Director of Parenting and Youth Programming and Program Manager for Parent Prevention. Ms. Moser holds a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Lewis and Clark College and a Master of Public Administration degree from Portland State University. Ms.

Moser attended the University of Oregon where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business and Dance.

R. Lawrence 'Larry' Moss, MD, FACS, FAAP, President and Chief Executive Officer, Nemours Children's Health



R. Lawrence Moss, MD, FACS, FAAP is President and CEO of Nemours Children's Health. He is one of the country's leading voices for payment transformation and the advancement of value-based "pay-for-health" models in children's health care. His passion and clarity in focusing on the overall health of children—above and beyond simply treating illness—has been the essential driver now guiding the organization toward a transformation of healthcare to create the healthiest generations of children. Dr. Moss is a renowned pediatric surgeon, biomedical researcher, educator, author, and health system executive. He has been recognized among Modern Healthcare's 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives and is a member of the Children's Hospital Association Board of Trustees. He formerly served as Surgeon-in-Chief at Nationwide Children's Hospital and Yale-New Haven Children's

Hospital and has held professorships on the faculty of Stanford, Yale, and The Ohio State universities. Dr. Moss has served in leadership and advisory roles at the National Quality Forum, the NIH, and the FDA. He is the author of over 200 publications and led a NIH funded research program for 15 years. With 1.9 million patient encounters annually, Nemours' network of more than 75 locations in five states, including two freestanding children's hospitals serves children and families across America and around the world.

Katherine Neas, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education

Katherine Neas is delegated the authority to perform the functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, at the U.S. Department of Education (Department). In this capacity, she serves as advisor to the U.S. secretary of education on matters related to the education of children and youth with disabilities, as well as employment and community living for youth and adults with disabilities. The mission of her office is to improve early childhood, educational, and employment outcomes, and to raise expectations for all people with disabilities, their families, their communities, and the nation.

Neas previously served as senior vice president of public affairs at the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). In this role, she oversaw APTA's federal and state government public policy activities, federal regulatory affairs, grassroots and political action efforts, public relations along with payment and practice management activities. Prior to joining APTA, Neas spent 23 years at Easterseals, a national nonprofit provider of direct services to children and adults with disabilities and their families. Her roles at Easterseals included service on the senior management team, federal and state government relations advocacy, oversight of federal grants and contracts and management of the Easterseals Office of Public Affairs. Prior to Easterseals, Neas was the associate director of the American Association of University Affiliated Programs for persons with Developmental Disabilities. She also was legislative staff to Chairman Sen. Tom Harkin (D.-Iowa) of the Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy between 1987 and 1991, where she worked on all disability legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

A graduate of Georgetown University, she hails from Des Moines, Iowa.

Nirmita Panchal, MPH, Senior Policy Analyst, Kaiser Family Foundation

Nirmita Panchal is a Senior Policy Analyst for KFF's Program on the ACA and the Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Her work focuses on research and data analysis for mental health and substance use. Previously, she worked for the Program on the Health Care Marketplace, where she assisted with the annual Employer Health Benefits Survey. Nirmita holds a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology and Health Policy from the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.

**Marisa Parrella, LICSW, LCSW-C, Director of School Based Mental Health
Clinical Fellowship, Mary's Center**



Marisa Parrella, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Washington DC and Maryland, has spent over 20 years working on behalf of children and families in the field of children's mental health. Her post graduate fellowship at the Yale Child Study Center focused on School Based Mental Health, with an emphasis on trauma informed care and Latin immigrant communities. Since then, she has cultivated the use of trauma-informed care by child therapists through her leadership of specialized foster care teams as well as through the development and growth of the School Based Mental Health Program at Mary's Center. Ms. Parrella is a member of the Coordinating Council on School Mental Health which oversees the New Comprehensive Plan for School Mental Health in Washington, DC. This plan sets out the framework for creating a coordinated and responsive behavioral health system for students in public and public charter schools. Ms. Parrella served as an Adjunct Faculty Member at National Catholic School of Social Service at Catholic University of America from 2010-2014. Ms. Parrella was the Director of the School Based Mental Health program at Mary's Center for 8 years and is currently working to initiate a Clinical Fellowship Training Program in School Mental Health with a focus on health equity, anti-racist practice, and resilience.

**Danika S. Perry, PsyD, Pediatric Psychologist, Colonial School-Wellness
Program Behavioral Health Team Lead, Nemours Children's Health**



Danika Perry, PsyD, is pediatric psychologist at Nemours Children's Health and behavioral health team lead for the Nemours Elementary School-Based Wellness Centers in Colonial School District. She is invested in the wellness center model which improves access to behavioral and physical health services for students in grades K-5 in an environment where they learn and play. She is thrilled to collaborate with students, teachers, families and the School-Based Wellness team in supporting wellness beyond the walls of medicine. Dr. Perry has six years prior experience of integrating behavioral services in Nemours' rural pediatric primary care settings in Delaware. This Delaware native is called to empower her community; particularly those who face significant barriers to care. She enjoys quality time with her family, friends, and her beloved dog Zeus. She is faith driven, values eating healthy, kayaking, yoga, relaxing near tropical waters, and is an aspiring baker.

Jen Pollock, MS, EdS, School Mental Health Program Director, Educational Service Unit #3

Jennifer (Jen) Pollock currently serves as the School Based Mental Health Program Director for ESU #3. In this role, Jen works collaboratively with eight rural school districts to implement school based mental health services, build MTSS systems and lead SOC grant implementation. Previously, she has worked as an Elementary Special Education Program Facilitator for Millard Public Schools, supporting special education services in thirteen elementary buildings, supporting the Structured Behavioral Skills Program and supporting MTSS Behavior Systems and Behavior Coaches. She received her Undergraduate Degree in Psychology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, her Ed Specialist Degree in School Psychology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and her Educational Leadership degree from Doane University. Previously, she has served as a School Psychologist in several metro area school districts.

Olga Acosta Price, PhD, Associate Professor, George Washington University

Olga Acosta Price, Ph.D. is director of the Center for Health and Health Care in Schools (CHHCS) at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health and is associate professor in the Department of Prevention and Community Health at the University. She is a clinical psychologist with postdoctoral training in school mental health. In her current capacity as director of CHHCS she advocates for the expansion of school-connected and community-based prevention and intervention approaches across the US,

with a focus on strengthening systems to ensure quality education and health equity for vulnerable populations. Dr. Acosta Price has dedicated herself to promoting prevention and early intervention programs that address the mental health needs of children and their families, and has developed, implemented and evaluated programs promoting mental health and resilience conducted in school and community settings. Dr. Acosta Price received her master's and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo and her undergraduate degree in psychology from Vassar College.

Lauren Ramos, MPH, Director, Division of Maternal and Child Health Workforce Development, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources & Services Administration



Lauren Raskin Ramos, MPH, is the Director of the Division of Maternal and Child Health Workforce Development at the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). In this role, Lauren leads federal efforts to train the current and future MCH workforce. Lauren is also the lead for MCHB's Autism investments in training, research and state systems development. Previously, Lauren held leadership roles at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. Lauren is a member of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee. She served as an Officer of the MCH Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and as a Board member of the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition. Lauren is a recipient of APHA's MCH Young Professional Award.

Madhavi M. Reddy, MSPH, Senior Public Health Analyst, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources & Services Administration



Ms. Reddy received a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro in 1997. She received a Master of Science in Public Health in health policy from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2000. She started her public health career in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), in 2001 and has worked in the Bureau for over 20 years. During her career, she has been a Project Officer for several programs, including the Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program, the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program, and the Leadership Education in

Adolescent Health and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Training Programs. Currently, Ms. Reddy functions as a Senior Public Health Analyst in HRSA MCHB.

Marcella Rodriguez, MS, APCC, PPSC, Coordinator of School Based Mental Health and Wellness, Sacramento County Office of Education



Marcella Rodriguez is a Coordinator of School Based Mental Health and Wellness for Sacramento County Office of Education. Marcella has worked within schools throughout the Sacramento County since 2009. She has supported the creation and development of various programs throughout the county, integrating behavioral health systems and educational systems with a deep intention of building sustainable systems and services for all community members. Marcella is a bilingual, first-generation Latina-American who holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Master of Science in Counseling, a Pupil Personnel Service Credential, and also holds an Administrative Service Credential. Marcella is also a registered Associate

Professional Clinical Counselor. Marcella lives in CA alongside her husband, two energetic and heart-filled kids, and Luke, a first-generation labradoodle named after the one and only Luke Skywalker.

Melissa Schoemmell, MPH, Consultant, John Snow Research and Training Institute, Inc.



Melissa Schoemmell, MPH, is a consultant at JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. Melissa is the project director for the New Hampshire Medicaid to Schools Training and Technical Assistance Center. For the past two years, Melissa has worked collaboratively with stakeholders statewide and nationally to ensure New Hampshire school districts increase access to school health services. Melissa brings a wide breadth of public health experience to her work, including facilitation, training plan development, evaluation, community health education, strategic planning, conference/event planning, website maintenance and public health emergency preparedness. Melissa received her Master's in Public Health and her BS in Health Management and Policy from the University of New Hampshire.

Luanne Southern, MSW, Director, Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium



Luanne Southern is the Director of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium - a statewide effort to improve access to children's mental health services across the state. Luanne has been involved in children's mental health for decades and has experience at the national, state and local level in the academic, government, non-profit and philanthropic sectors. She grew up in a very small town in Kansas, loves pickle ball, Wordle, walking her dog Jax, visiting her son in San Francisco, hanging out with longtime friends and continuously learning new things.

Kara Odom Walker, MD, MPH, MSHS, Executive Vice President and Chief Population Health Officer, Nemours Children's Health



Kara Odom Walker, MD, MPH, MSHS is Executive Vice President and Chief Population Health Officer (CPHO) for Nemours Children's Health where she leads all aspects of population health strategy, research, innovation, and implementation. Her scope of responsibility includes the advancement of the overall health and well-being of children, both broadly and among the populations served by Nemours Children's. Dr. Walker is a board-certified, practicing family physician. Prior to joining Nemours Children's Health in 2020, Dr. Walker served as Cabinet Secretary of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services under Governor John Carney's first elected term from February 2017 through 2020. She was

previously the Deputy Chief Science Officer at the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute and is a board-certified family physician. Dr. Walker is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Walker holds a medical degree from Thomas Jefferson University, a Master of Science in Health Services Research from UCLA, and a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University.

**Meghan Walls, PsyD, Director of External Affairs, Pediatric Psychologist,
Nemours Children's Health**



Meghan Walls, PsyD, is the Director of External Affairs for Delaware Valley and a pediatric psychologist with the Division of Behavioral Health at Nemours Children's Health. She oversees policy work for the Delaware Valley, as well as Community Engagement and investment efforts. Dr. Walls holds an appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics with Sydney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University and is a member of the psychology resident training program. She

was selected for the Nemours Physician Excellence in Community Service Award as well as the award for 2019 NAMI Delaware Healthcare Professional of the Year. Dr. Walls also received the Delaware KidsCOUNT 2020 professional leader and volunteer award for advocating for Delaware's children and was a Leadership Delaware Class of 2020 Fellow. Dr. Walls holds Gubernatorial appointments to the Delaware Early Childhood Council and the Governor's Advisory Council on Substance Use and Mental Health. She also co-chairs the Data and Policy Committee for the Lt. Governor's statewide Behavioral Health Consortium.

Vicki Waytowich, Ed.D., Executive Director, Partnership for Child Health



Vicki Waytowich, Ed.D. has more than 25 years' experience in the realm of child advocacy with a focus on developing programs and systems of care to improve the health and wellbeing of children and their families. As the Executive Director of the Partnership for Child Health, she has provided leadership and direction to the implementation of a community wide initiatives, specifically, developing, implementing, and evaluating trauma-informed and culturally responsive programs and system changes. Prior to her current role, Dr. Waytowich developed and managed in-patient and community-based programs and interventions for children and youth in mental health, child welfare, juvenile

justice, homeless and independent living systems. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology, a master's degree in criminal justice and a doctorate in Educational Leadership. She is an adjunct professor at the University of North Florida and has published research in the areas of education, anxiety, delinquency, and juvenile violence with a special interest in marginalized and underserved populations.

Cynthia Whitney, MPA, Director of Federal Affairs, Children's Hospital Association



Cynthia Whitney serves as Director of Federal Affairs for the Children's Hospital Association (CHA), where her policy portfolio includes a wide range of issues in children's health and children's health care, with a particular focus on mental and behavioral health. Cynthia currently serves in the leadership of the Mental Health Liaison Group, a national coalition on Mental Health, as Health Policy Committee Co-chair. Before starting her role with CHA, Cynthia worked for two professional associations, most recently the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry where she served as Deputy Director of Congressional and Political Affairs. Cynthia previously spent 6 years in a number of roles within government relations and advocacy at the American Psychological Association, where she worked on a variety of federal policy issues including scientific research funding, social determinants of health, and the health and wellbeing of

children, youth, and families. Cynthia received her Master of Public Administration from American University School of Public Affairs in 2014.

Christopher Williams, Ed.L.D., MSW, Director of School Based Mental Health and Wellness, Sacramento County Office of Education



Dr. Christopher Williams is the Director of School-Based Mental Health and Wellness at the Sacramento County Office of Education. He leads a team intent on bringing the health and education systems together as partners to create a continuum of care for mental health and wellness throughout Sacramento County. Before relocating to the west coast, Chris was a founder and Executive Director of P2L: Pathways to Leadership as well as the Vice President of Social Emotional Learning for The Leadership Program, both in New York City. Chris' work there centered on students who were at risk of dropping out, focusing on altering the trajectory of their lives. For close to 20 years, Chris has been involved in education and youth development and sits on a variety of mental health

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