



### Breaking news: Health care policy, the elections and the safety net

#### **Jonathan Linder, director, Federal Public Policy, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan**

Jon Linder joined BCBSM's Federal Public Policy team in May 2009 and was named director in January 2014. The Federal Public Policy team is responsible for analysis of federal legislation and regulations and the development, in collaboration with the Office of Federal Affairs, of federal advocacy strategy and approach. Their analysis supports implementation of federal obligations, assessment of strategic opportunities, evaluation of advocacy opportunities and engagement in proactive public policy development.

Mr. Linder has a master's degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to graduate school, he was a sports writer and editor in Wisconsin.

#### **Geralyn Lasher, senior deputy director, External Relations & Communications, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**

Geralyn Lasher is the deputy director for External Relations and Communications at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. In that role, she manages relationships with the statewide business community, not-for-profit organizations, governmental entities, universities and other stakeholder groups crucial to the department. She is lead liaison with major partners to blend cultures and opportunities for new endeavors, policy development, research and joint ventures. Lasher also directs the overall communication and marketing programs for the department.

Previously, she served in a similar capacity for the former Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), and she also served as director of communications for Gov. Rick Snyder. In this role, she managed all communications activities for the governor and the administration and crafted proactive messaging and marketing for numerous policy issues that were introduced.

Ms. Lasher's other positions have included serving as director of the Infrastructure Services Division for MDCH, in which she was responsible for strategic planning of all media buys and oversaw publications and internet technologies. In addition, she was director of the Communications, Training and Performance Support Division at MDCH, director of communications for MDCH, press secretary for the Senate Majority Leader and deputy press secretary in the Office of the Governor.

#### **Renuka Tipirneni, MD, MSc., assistant professor of internal medicine, Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, University of Michigan Medical School**

Dr. Renuka Tipirneni is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Divisions of General Medicine and Hospital Medicine, and at the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation (IHPI) at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on investigating the impact of health reform policies and programs on low socioeconomic status, aging and other vulnerable



populations, and on delivery of care in the health care safety net. Her current work includes examinations of access to care under health reform, Medicaid policy including recent consideration of work requirements for beneficiaries, integration of behavioral and physical health care, and assessments of social determinants of health in clinical practice. She is a Co-Investigator on IHPI's evaluation of Michigan's Medicaid expansion, Principal Investigator evaluating Michigan's Medicaid Health Homes program, and a recipient of a K08 career development award from the National Institute on Aging examining the impact of coverage expansions on near retirement adults. Dr. Tipirneni is passionate about the translation of research into implementation of health policies and practice.

### Diversified approaches to address the opioid epidemic

#### **Patrick Stropes, supervisor, Peer Recovery Support Services, Growth Works**

Patrick Stropes is a Certified Peer Recovery Mentor (MCBAP), Certified Peer Recovery Coach (MDHHS) (CCAR), Recovery and Community Support Specialist, and Court Liaison for Growth Works. His story of recovery from his own addiction, coupled with the incredible impact he has made helping others take control of their own lives, has inspired and motivated thousands across Southeast Michigan and beyond.

After hitting a Canton police officer in a blackout, Pat admitted himself into his fifth treatment center. Upon successful completion of the treatment program, Pat spent the next 15 months in sober living housing. During this time, he was enrolled in the 35th District Courts Sobriety Court program. There, Pat was introduced to Growth Works through his probation officer, a meeting that would forever change the direction of Pat's life. Growth Works is a non-profit organization serving Western Wayne and surrounding areas with adult treatment resources and community-based opportunities for youth.

Pat received his certification and currently serves as a member of the 16th and 35th District Court's Treatment Court Panel. He is also a facilitator for the 34th District Court's Reality Check Program. He trains on the behalf of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority on the proper administration of Narcan, training local public safety departments as well as district courts.

Pat is also a member of the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals (MATCP) and in 2016 he was awarded the Treatment Court Hero Award for his efforts in improving people's lives. Pat also enjoys membership in the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), further extending his influence and desire to create positive change.

Pat's keen awareness and willingness to push the limits of recovery practices has led to the creation of an innovative program to address the impending opioid crisis. Growth Works Rescue Recovery / Recovery Response was initiated in 2018 in partnership with St. Mary's Hospital. The program immediately dispatches Certified Peer Recovery Coaches to the hospital when someone is admitted for an opioid overdose. Working with Wayne County Healthy Communities Pat



coordinates opioid education services to high need neighborhoods within the communities of western Wayne County. Serving as a liaison between police departments, municipal governments, the Wayne County Health Department, and establishing relationships with community and faith-based organizations.

**Debra Pinals, MD, medical director, Behavioral Health and Forensic Programs,  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**

Debra Pinals, M.D. is the Medical Director of Behavioral Health and Forensic Programs for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, where she is the chief behavioral health clinical policy advisor. She is also the Director of the Program in Psychiatry, Law, & Ethics and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan.

Prior to coming to Michigan in March 2016 she served as an appointed official as the Assistant Commissioner of Forensic Services for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. Dr. Pinals is board-certified in psychiatry, forensic psychiatry and addiction medicine. She has extensive experience in public policy related to mental health, substance use and developmental disabilities. She has worked as a psychiatrist providing treatment across adult and juvenile justice and behavioral health settings and as an expert witness conducting forensic evaluations. She has over 75 publications related to psychiatry, co-occurring disorders, and forensic mental health.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including a team award given in 2017 by the Governor of Massachusetts for her role as program project lead developing the Women's Recovery from Addictions Program. She has served as President and Chair of local and national committees related to law and psychiatry and public forensic mental health.

**Todd Anderson, director, Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs,  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan**

Todd Anderson has been Senior Director of Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan since 2009. He served as Vice President of Government Affairs for the Small Business Association of Michigan from December 2006 to March 2009. He also worked as a chief of staff in the Michigan House of Representatives. Mr. Anderson received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan and his MPA from Western Michigan University.

**James Hall, MD, family medicine specialist,  
Community Health and Social Services Center**

Dr. James Hall is the Senior Staff Physician in the Department of Family Medicine at the Henry Ford Medical Group, as well as a Family Medicine Specialist at the Community Health and Social Services Center (CHASS). Dr. Hall graduated magna cum laude from Wayne State University's School of Medicine. He did his residency at Henry Ford Hospital in family medicine.



### **Linda Vail, health officer, Ingham County, Ingham Opioid Abuse Prevention Initiative**

As the Health Officer for the Ingham County Health Department, Linda Vail provides leadership for carrying out its local health department functions, as well as its primary care network of community health centers with Federally Qualified Health Center status.

Prior to joining the Ingham County Health Department, Ms. Vail served in local government for nearly 12 years in Kalamazoo County where she became the first female health officer, serving in that role from 2007-2014. Before her career in local county government began in 2002, Vail spent more than 10 years with Pharmacia/The Upjohn Company as a biochemist/molecular biologist, and previously also held positions in the Biochemistry Department of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and the Microbiology Department at the University of Georgia.

Ms. Vail holds a Master's in Public Administration with a public health concentration from Western Michigan University, and a bachelor's degree in Microbiology, magna cum laude, from the University of Georgia.

Linda is a board member and past president for the Michigan Association for Local Public Health, served four years on the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Health Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee, and currently serves on the McLaren Greater Lansing Board of Trustee. She is a member of the State's Medical Care Advisory Council, a board member of the Capital Area Health Alliance and serves on several other local boards and committees. Ms. Vail holds a faculty appointment in the Department of Family Medicine, Michigan State University, College of Human Medicine and as well as the Department of Family and Community Medicine, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine.

During her tenure in Kalamazoo County Ms. Vail provided leadership during emergent public health issues including the largest inland oil spill in history (Kalamazoo River) West Nile Virus, H1N, Ebola and investigation of E. coli contaminated ground beef in conjunction with the CDC that led to a USDA recall nationwide. Recently, she led the Ingham County Health department investigation of a Norovirus outbreak at a local convention center and hotel where more than 450 were confirmed ill at events spanning at five-day period. Since becoming Health Officer of Ingham County in 2014, Linda has overseen renovation/construction of 90,000 square feet of clinic space in eleven Community Health Centers that serve 24,000 patients annually.

### **[Using design thinking to build hospital-primary care partnerships](#)**

### **Juliet L. Rogers, PhD, MPH, chief executive officer, Blue Cottage Consulting**

Juliet L. Rogers, PhD, MPH, Chief Executive Officer is relentlessly pursuing new models for healthcare delivery and the promotion of healthy populations. As the founder and CEO of Blue



Cottage Consulting, Juliet works closely with her team to deliver a whole brain approach to healthcare planning, facility design, operational improvement, and change management for healthcare organizations of all sizes and types. With significant experience in complex hospital systems, her areas of focus include large public or urban hospitals, academic medical centers, and children's hospitals. Juliet also engages in industry thought leadership activities focused on safety net healthcare, equity, and the eradication of health disparities. Prior to joining Blue Cottage, Juliet served in an operational leadership position at the University of Michigan Health System for a decade and recently completed several years of service as a tenure track faculty member and faculty director for the University of Michigan Griffith Leadership Center in Health Management & Policy. She earned her Bachelor, Master of Public Health, and Doctorate degrees from the University of Michigan and the Associate Certified Coach (ACC) credential from the University of Texas at Dallas and the International Coach Federation.

### [Addressing health disparities in the homeless, immigrant and LGBTQ communities](#)

#### **Eric Hufnagel, executive director, Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness**

Currently the executive director of the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, Eric Hufnagel has been engaged in helping vulnerable populations as both a staff member and volunteer with various local, regional, and statewide organizations for more than 35 years.

Mr. Hufnagel has extensive experience in the non-profit sector including executive, program management, and outreach/engagement roles with various national and statewide organizations. He also spent several years as the director of the Ionia County MSU Extension Office where he was a member of a statewide State and Local Government Area of Expertise team.

His community involvement includes long-time service on the boards of directors of a regional domestic violence and sexual assault assistance program, a statewide mental health advocacy organization, a countywide economic development council, a local nursing home and independent living facility, and a district library just to name a few. Mr. Hufnagel has also participated on various other county- and state-level committees and advisory boards and is currently a member of the St. Johns City Commission.

#### **Madiha Tariq, MPH, public health programs manger, ACCESS**

Madiha Tariq, MPH, is the Deputy Director at the ACCESS Community Health and Research Center in Dearborn, Michigan and the Co-Chair for the 8<sup>th</sup> Arab Health Summit. She oversees patient care, health promotion and disease prevention programs including: substance abuse, tobacco cessation, HIV/STD prevention and care, maternal health, infant health, refugee health and wellness programs.



Madiha also leads a team that advocates for improved access to health care through the ACCESS Affordable Health Care Education and Enrollment Initiative, which includes outreach, education and advocacy surrounding the Affordable Care Act in Michigan. Through this initiative, ACCESS has assisted nearly 30,000 Arab Americans and other minorities in Southeast Michigan since 2013. Due to her extensive work in advocating and enrolling the community,

Madiha was also a member of the Public Health Code advisory board charged by the governor of the State of Michigan to review and recommend changes in the state Public Health Code. She helped ensure that the code is sensitive to and appropriately reflects the needs of Arab Americans, one of the largest ethnic groups in Michigan.

In addition to managing the ACCESS Community Health and Research Center's biennial “International Conference on Health Issues in Arab Communities,” Madiha has been part of several research projects to capture the health status of Arab Americans in Southeast Michigan. Research on Arab American populations in Michigan is challenging because Arabs are not a federally-classified minority population. Madiha is a guest lecturer at the University of Michigan Medical School and Wayne State University School of Medicine and has been the spokesperson for health issues among the underserved communities of Southeast Michigan for various media outlets.

Prior to joining ACCESS, Madiha served as a research associate for the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and a development and marketing associate for the U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce. She earned her Master of Public Health degree from George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in international politics and economics from Middlebury College in Vermont.

### **Lilianna Angel Reyes, interim executive director, Affirmations**

Lilianna Angel Reyes, trans-Latina woman and public administration graduate of the University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School, has extensive history in leading organizations and coalitions focused at reducing social and health disparities of marginalized populations including people of color, women, LGBTQ communities, and HIV positive communities. She has worked with many state and national civil rights organizations including Affirmations, Planned Parenthood, Detroit Police Chief’s LGBT Advisory Council, Transgender Michigan, and many others. She has been recognized in USA Today’s 2017 Faces of Pride, Michigan leader. Currently Interim Executive Director of Michigan’s largest LGBTQ+ Community Center, Affirmations and the 1st Latina trans woman to run an LGBTQ+ public organization in Michigan. She is also a Founding Mother and co executive director for a transformative Detroit-metro non-profit, The Trans Sistas of Color Project (TSCOP).



### **DLIVE, transforming trauma**

**Tolulope Sonuyi, MD., MSc., assistant professor of emergency medicine, Wayne State University; emergency physician, Detroit Medical Center - Sinai-Grace Hospital; and medical director, DLIVE**

Tolulope Sonuyi works as an Emergency Medicine physician and Assistant Professor for the Detroit Medical Center and Wayne State University, respectively. Upon obtaining his medical degree at the University of Michigan, he completed residency training at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and subsequently began work at Sinai-Grace Hospital of the Detroit Medical Center. As an Emergency Medicine physician at the bustling Sinai-Grace Hospital, Dr. Sonuyi applied his belief in the ability of the Emergency Department and the community to be able to work in concert to address the ills that render communities unhealthy and in distress. After taking note of the alarming recurrent cycle of violence seen in the ER with Detroit's young adult population, Dr. Sonuyi founded and spearheaded the development of the state's first hospital-based violence intervention program, Detroit Life is Valuable Every day (DLIVE). DLIVE's work is rooted in addressing violence with a health-centered approach – an approach that is designed to improve individual and community health by implementing innovative strategies for preventing repeat injury, death, and incarceration. DLIVE's impact in transforming trauma has not gone without notice as they have received notable recognition and awards, individually and collectively, on a local and national level. Dr. Sonuyi was named the 2017 Emergency Medicine Physician of the Year by the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians.

**Ray Winans, lead violence intervention specialist, DLIVE**

Born and raised on the Detroit's Eastside, Ray Winans has served as one of the city's most central figures in the arena of community violence. Ray's work has involved building critical relationships across sectors that include influential gang members, law enforcement, school officials, and clergy. Ray's first official foray into community work was his founding of the "Keeping Them Alive" (KTA) organization in 2012, after receiving a divine calling to contribute his talents and experience to the welfare of youth who were battling daily challenges. Ray spearheaded the implementation of KTA into select Detroit Public Schools to great success – ultimately leading to a drastic reduction in school fighting and truancy. During this time Ray also served as a Community Organizer for the City of Detroit's violence prevention program, Operation Ceasefire. In this role, Ray provided critical gang intervention expertise and training for other outreach specialists. This work eventually led Ray to seek additional experience in the field of trauma. As a result, he was led to the newly formed hospital-based violence intervention program known as Detroit Life Is Valuable Every day (DLIVE) – the first of its kind in all of Michigan. In April of 2016 Ray was recruited to serve as a Violence Intervention Specialist and provide his expertise and leadership in the continued development of DLIVE. Ray's impact was immediate as he became the Lead Violence Intervention Specialist and created innovative strategies to deepen and broaden the impact of DLIVE's violence intervention work. His work was groundbreaking as he provided otherworldly critical violence intervention for some of DLIVE's



most challenging participants. During this time, he developed expertise in the areas of Mental Health, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Trauma-Informed Care. Ray's work has contributed to DLIVE's local and national media recognition, grant funding, and instrumental strategic community partnerships as DLIVE continues to post amazing results. In 2017, Ray received the Willis Young Award – a national award given by the National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs to the top Violence Intervention Specialist of year. Ray continues to progress in his leadership role within DLIVE as he helps to provide critical leadership in the growth and expansion of DLIVE and serve as a consultant to other organizations.

### Practice transformation, building resilient organizations

#### **Melissa Stratman, CEO, Coleman Associates**

Melissa Statman is the owner and CEO of Coleman Associates. Melissa started with Coleman when she was a pre-Med student and the team leader of her CHC's process redesign team in 1999. Melissa managed the majority of the Coleman Associates social services work (food stamps, Medicaid), as well as Patient Visit Redesign (PVR) and Access improvement collaboratives. Under Melissa's leadership PVR and access improvement were blended for a powerful and time saving approach to improvement: DPI™ (Dramatic Performance Improvement) Collaboratives and Rapid DPI program.

As CEO, Melissa developed the first Performance Dashboards program for clients, she developed a tailored model for private practices, developed and piloted their specialty care access program and concretized the Tactical Nurse training program. Besides her clinical skills and experience in the public health setting, Melissa also worked in the hospital setting developing Cultural Diversity and Interpretive Services Department. When in Boulder, Melissa loves to tap into her farm family upbringing by gardening and cooking with her family.