

Arizona Rural & Public Health Policy Forum

Thursday, February 11, 2016
Arizona State Capitol | Phoenix, Arizona



*The Forum is presented by the Center for Rural Health with sponsorship
from the Western Region Public Health Training Center and the Arizona Rural Health Association.*



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



Arizona
Nevada
California
Hawaii
Pacific Islands
**WESTERN REGION
Public Health
Training Center**



AGENDA

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

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

8:30 **Governor's Office Update**

Christina Corieri, Policy Advisor, Health and Human Services, Office of the Arizona Governor Doug Ducey

9:00 **ADHS & AHCCCS Priorities for 2016**

Cara Christ, MD, Director, Arizona Department of Health Services
Tom Betlach, Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

10:00 **Networking Break**

10:30 **Health Information Exchange**

Melissa Kotrys, Chief Executive Officer, Arizona Health-e Connection

11:00 **Marketplace Enrollment Update**

Daniel Derksen, Director, Center for Rural Health
Allen Gjersvig, Director of Navigator and Enrollment Services, Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers
Michal Goforth, Director, Pima Community Access Program

11:45 **LUNCH – 3rd Floor Conference Room**

1:00 pm **Arizona Health Organizations and the 2016 Legislative Session**

Sara Bode, MD, Advocacy Committee, Arizona Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Tara McCollum Plese, Chief External Affairs Officer, Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers
Len Kirschner, MD, Past President, Arizona Association of Retired Persons
Barb Fanning, Director of Government Affairs, Arizona Hospital & Healthcare Association
Chic Older, Executive Vice President or Pele Peacock Fischer, Vice President of Policy & Political Affairs, Arizona Medical Association
Robert Fleet, President, Arizona Rural Health Association
Joe Fu, Director of Health Policy, Children's Action Alliance
Maria Dadgar, Executive Director, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (waiting for response)

2:15 **CHW Voluntary Certification Initiative**

Heather Carter, Arizona House of Representatives
Yanitza Soto, Community Health Worker Program Manager, ADHS
Kim Russell, Executive Director, Advisory Council on Indian Health Care
Mae-Gilene Begay, Navajo Nation, Pilot Project

3:00 **Arizona Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse Initiative**

Sheila Sjolander, Assistant Director of Prevention, Arizona Department of Health Services
Merilee Fowler, Executive Director, MATFORCE

3:45 **Closing Remarks**

4:00 **Adjourn**

PRESENTERS

For over 15 years, **Mae-Gilene Begay** has been directing the Navajo Nation Community Health Representative (CHR)/Outreach program. The Outreach program includes STD Prevention, TB Control and the Navajo Birth Cohort Study (NBCS) project with the NBCS being the newest program (2012). Ms. Begay earned a Masters in Social Work from the University of Denver in 2007 and received the University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work Service Award in March 2015. Ms. Begay is very active with the American Public Health Association (APHA) and serves as the APHA CHW Section chair and she also serves on the New Mexico Department of Health CHW certification board, the first installed board. Mae-Gilene has been an avid advocator for increasing oral health literacy in Navajo and increase awareness with the health disparities in oral health amongst the Navajo people. Her program is focused on primary prevention to improve general health of the Navajo people.

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.

Dr. Sara Bode is Vice Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Bode is a general pediatrician at the Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine at Phoenix Children's Hospital. Dr. Bode completed her Undergraduate and Medical Degrees at Ohio State University. She completed her pediatric residency at Phoenix Children's Hospital in 2002. She is passionate about community medicine and is the Director of the Advocacy Program and Co-Directs the ADHD Diagnostic Clinic at Phoenix Children's Hospital. (requested final bio)

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 effec-

tive 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.

Arizona Department of Health Services Director, **Dr. Cara Christ**, 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. Cara was born in Missouri and moved to Arizona more than 30 years ago. She grew up in the Valley where she still lives with her husband and three kids. She is an avid Disney fan and also holds a "Ducktorate", from Walt Disney University focused on Disney Style Management.

Christina Corieri serves at Governor Ducey's health and human services policy advisor. In this position, she advises the governor on policy affecting healthcare at the state and national level as well as on welfare, insurance, juvenile corrections, child safety, and health related licensing boards. Prior to joining Governor Ducey's staff, she held positions including healthcare policy analyst at the Goldwater Institute, Chief of Staff for Councilman Sal DiCiccio, and Vice President of Government and Board Relations for a national nonprofit. She holds a JD from ASU as well as a B.S. in political science and a B.A. in history.

Daniel Derksen MD, is the Walter H. Pearce Endowed Chair and Director of the Center for Rural Health (CRH), and Professor & Chair of the Public Health Policy and Management section at the University of Arizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. As CRH Director, he oversees the State Office of Rural Health, the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, and the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program. Dr. Derksen completed a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship in 2008 with U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman. He researched and drafted federal legislative provisions to improve the supply and distribution of the nation's health

workforce that were included in Title V of the “Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act.” In 2011 Governor Susana Martinez appointed Dr. Derksen the Director, New Mexico Office of Health Care Reform where he submitted the state’s health insurance exchange establishment proposal funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Dr. Derksen was president of the New Mexico Medical Society in 2009 and worked on medical homes legislation for the state’s Medicaid programs, which was signed into law (HB 710). He chairs the American Academy of Family Physicians Commission on Governmental Advocacy. He also serves on the American Hospital Association’s Governing Council Section on Rural or Small Hospitals.

Michal Goforth has 36 years’ of health care experience in public, private and non-profit sectors. She has served as the PCAP Executive Director since 2004. Prior to joining PCAP, she served at AHCCCS as the Executive Director of Health-care Group of Arizona offering health care coverage to small businesses and was responsible for oversight of provider relations and development for Southern Arizona for BlueCross BlueShield of Arizona and Samaritan Health Plan. She also served as the Tribal Health Director for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona and Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.

Barbara Fanning is the Director of Government Affairs for the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AZHHA) where she is the organization’s full-time lobbyist. She is responsible for developing and advancing the advocacy agenda of Arizona hospitals and health systems at the state level. Ms. Fanning works on a variety of legislative and budgetary issues affecting Arizona hospitals, including those involving Arizona’s Medicaid program, behavioral health services, trauma and emergency care and efforts to improve access to healthcare coverage for Arizona’s uninsured. She also coordinates the association’s elections strategy through independent expenditures and the political action committee. Ms. Fanning holds a B.A. in Political Science from Syracuse University.

Robert Fleet, MC, LISAC serves as the Director of Medical Management for Heal Choice Integrated Care (HCIC). As Director he is responsible for providing daily operational oversight of medical management and utilization. He has been involved in the mental health field over 15 years. He began his career as a case manager for ComCare and worked his way up to become the National Director of Utilization for Value Options. Mr. Fleet became active in rural health issues when he moved to Flagstaff, AZ. He joined the Arizona Rural Health Association five years ago and now he currently serves as the President of the Arizona Rural Health Association. Mr. Fleet holds a Bachelor Degree in Psychology from the University of Arizona and a Master’s Degree in Counseling from the University of Phoenix.

Merilee Fowler has a Bachelor’s of Science in Business Administration from the University of North Dakota. Merilee has over 20 years of administrative experience working in community collaboration in multiple states. Merilee currently is the Executive Director of two nonprofit agencies MATFORCE and Community Counts. Under her leadership MATFORCE was awarded the 2013 Coalition of the Year for the nation from the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America. Merilee is credentialed as a level 4 prevention specialist in Arizona. She was selected to be the Kris Bell Recipient from Arizonans for Prevention for her work in prevention in the State of Arizona. Merilee has been married for 32 years and has three children and two granddaughters.

Joe Fu, Director of Health Policy, is a public health practitioner with experience in research, analysis, monitoring and evaluation. Prior to CAA, Joe served as a Strategic Information Officer at the US Department of State’s flagship global HIV/AIDS program called PEPFAR. Joe has also served as a Truman-Albright Fellow for the policy and planning group at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Rural Health. Joe earned a bachelor’s in molecular biology from the University of Arizona and a master’s of public health from the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University.

Allen Gjersvig (Jers-vig) has led nonprofit organizations, large and small for more than 30 years. He has worked in the fields of higher education, blood banking and other health related and human service nonprofits. He joined the Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers in 2012, leading the Don’t Get Dropped campaign to inform people at risk of losing Medicaid coverage. As Director, Healthcare Innovation, he leads many projects related to the Affordable Care Act and the Insurance Marketplace including a statewide Federal Navigator grant, a HRSA Primary Care Association (PCA) coordinating grant, and a Robert Wood Johnson/Community Catalyst grant aimed at young adults.

Melissa Kotrys is the Chief Executive Officer for Arizona Health-e Connection (AZHeC), the Arizona non-profit, public-private partnership that drives the adoption of health information technology (HIT) and advances the secure sharing of electronic health information exchange (HIE). Through statewide education, coordination and collaboration, AZHeC promotes the innovative use of HIT and HIE to achieve the Triple Aim of better care, better outcomes and lower costs. Mrs. Kotrys holds a Masters in Public Health from The George Washington University with a concentration in health policy, and a Bachelor of Arts from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Tara McCollum Plese 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.

Chic Older is the Executive Vice President of the Arizona Medical Association and has been with the organization since 1984. Prior to becoming ArMA's top executive in 1989, Chic served as ArMA's Director of Government Affairs for five years. Chic is involved in community and professional organizations such as the Foundation for Senior Living, the American Association of Medical Society Executives and the American Society for Association Executives. Chic has a master's degree in health care administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Pele Peacock Fischer, J.D. is Vice President of Policy and Political Affairs. Pele 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.

Kim Russell is of the Bitter Water People, born for the Tangle People. Her maternal grandmothers are from Chinle, Arizona and her paternal grandmothers are from Tuba City, Arizona on the Navajo Nation. Ms. Russell is the Executive Director of the Advisory Council on Indian Health Care, an independent state agency whose mission is to advocate for increasing access to high quality health care programs for all American Indians in Arizona. Kim has worked with Tribes, the Indian Health Service, and Urban Indian Centers to advance their

health agendas and priorities her entire career. Ms. Russell received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a Master's of Health Administration. Kim enjoys spending time with family and traveling.

Sheila Sjolander 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.

Yanitza Soto, BS, is a Community Health Worker Program Manager at the Bureau of Tobacco & Chronic Disease, Arizona Department of Health Services. Yanitza provides consultative and technical assistance with internal and external partners in the advancement of Community Health Workers in Arizona. Yanitza graduated from The University of Arizona with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health. She also brings a wealth of knowledge and experience concerning Community Health Workers as she held this role with the Pima County Health Department where she worked in the Healthy Start Program and the Pima Kids Connection Program.

ARIZONA RURAL & PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY FORUM

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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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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