



### Elisha M. Acosta, MD

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Elisha Acosta is passionate about her work serving medically complex and technologically dependent adolescents and young adults with intellectual and physical disabilities at the Transition Medicine Clinic at Baylor College of Medicine where she serves as faculty within the Internal Medicine department.



### Tammie Bassford, MD

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Dr. Tamsen Bassford is a family physician with the University of Arizona's Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Director of Medical and Community Services for the Sonoran UCEDD.

Her interests include models of care for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities, and medical education in this area.



### Adam B. Becker, PhD, MPH

Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children

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Adam B. Becker, PhD, MPH is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and Executive Director of the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC). CLOCC is a nationally recognized organization with a coordinated, multi-sector and multi-level approach to preventing childhood obesity. Since 2002, it has been the catalyst to build a broad-based network of over 3,000 individuals representing over 1,200 organizations working together to create and support



environments that promote healthy eating and physical activity. CLOCC has been identified as a leading community model by the Institute of Medicine, American Medical Association, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is housed at Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

Dr. Becker received his Master of Public Health in 1994 and his Ph.D. in 1999, both in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University Of Michigan School Of Public Health, and his BA from Tufts University in Medford, MA. Dr. Becker has extensive training and experience in the practice of Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and has written a number of book chapters and articles on this approach to examining and addressing public health problems. Some of the issues to which Dr. Becker has applied this methodology include: the impact of stressful community conditions on the health of women raising children, youth violence prevention, and the impact of the social and physical environment on physical activity. Dr. Becker was a member of the faculty for six years at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He taught courses in community organizing, qualitative methods and CBPR, program evaluation, and community change strategies. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC), Dr. Becker was the Director of Evaluation and Research at the Louisiana Public Health Institute in New Orleans.



### Steven Becker

JCC Association

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As JCC Association Vice President for Health and Wellness Services and Director of Corporate Partnerships, Becker acts as a resource for the more than 350 JCC, YM-YWHA, and camp sites in the U. S. and Canada. It is JCC Association's goal to help the field programmatically as well as professionally to become the fitness, recreation, wellness and aquatic leader within their community.

With his colleague in early childhood, they have created a health program focusing on pre-school (Discover CATCH) that is currently in over 80 JCCs. He has designed strategic partnerships with collaborative organizations (e.g., NFL, NBA, USOC, Blue Cross/Blue



Shield, and Let's Move). He is currently working with other youth serving organizations to address child abuse prevention.

He sits on the USOC board for multi-sports organizations. In 2010, he was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame. In 2014 he was the recipient of the President's Council On Fitness, Sports & Nutrition – Community Leadership Award.

Prior to working at JCC Association, Steven Becker was the fitness and aquatics director at the Marcus JCC of Atlanta, Georgia for four years, and the Westside JCC in Los Angeles, California for 15 years.

He graduated with a BA in History from UCLA and received his teaching credential from California State, Northridge.



### **Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Public Health Accreditation Board

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Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been the President and CEO of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) since 2009. Prior to coming to PHAB, she worked in both local and state public health practice and as dean of a school of nursing on an academic health sciences center campus. She chaired the Exploring Accreditation Steering Committee, the precursor study for the establishment of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Dr. Bender has served on three Institute of Medicine study committees related to public health and another one related to credentialing research in nursing. She also currently co-chairs a committee for the National Quality Forum that is looking at improving population health by working with communities. She has numerous publications and presentations related to governmental public health infrastructure improvement. She is an active member of the American Public Health Association and is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She is also a member of the National Board of Public Health Examiners.



### **Cindy Bentley, Self advocate**

Special Olympics Wisconsin

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Cindy is 59 years old. She lives in Glendale, a suburb of Milwaukee, WI. Cindy has participated in Special Olympics for 51 years. In 1970, when she was 12 years old, Cindy competed in the second International Special Olympics Summer Games in Chicago.

Over the years Cindy has participated in track, swimming, bowling, basketball, softball, volleyball, soccer, tennis, bocce and snowshoeing. Her favorite sports are tennis and basketball. She currently participates in volleyball, snowshoeing, basketball, soccer, bocce and tennis. Cindy is involved with several leadership activities. She is a member of SOWI Athlete Input Council, on the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (WPPD) steering committee for dementia/Alzheimer in people with ID, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) long term care committee, DHS advocacy committee and the Survival Coalition. Cindy is the Executive Director of People First Wisconsin.

Health is important to Cindy because she can't do her sports if she's not healthy. Cindy works out at least 3X per week. She has a Planet Fitness membership and participates in her local programs Fit Club along with her SOWI sport practices. As the weather gets nicer Cindy enjoys going on walks and kicking the soccer ball around in the park. At home Cindy has an exercise bike she uses in inclement weather.



### **Lucille Beseler, MS, RDN, LDN, CDE, FAND**

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Lucille Beseler, MS, RDN, LDN, CDE, FAND Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; 2016-2017 President Beseler is an entrepreneur, author and professional speaker. In 1991 she established the Family Nutrition Center of South Florida — a comprehensive practice providing in-office

consultations, nutrition services to hospitals and other community organizations and corporate and community wellness programs throughout the state of Florida. She is a pioneer in the area of nutrition reimbursement and continues to create innovative models to allow consumers greater access to nutrition services. Beseler also owns Bill It! MNT, a practice and billing solutions company designed for RDNs, which helps corporations, small and large practices create and obtain nutrition reimbursement opportunities. She has spoken at national and state dietetic association meetings and corporate events and is the co-author of *Nurturing with Nutrition: Everything You Need to Know about Feeding Infants and Toddlers* (Bazarte and Beseler 2003). Beseler has served on the Academy's Board of Directors, as president of the Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and as chairman of the Dietetic Nutrition Practice Council of the Florida State Licensing Board. Beseler is a graduate of Queens College – City University of New York and earned a master's degree from New York University.



### Roberta Carlin, MS, JD

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Roberta Carlin is currently the Executive Director of the American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) in Rockville, MD. She has been involved in the disability field for over 30 years, working in the areas of health promotion and wellness for people with disabilities, primary prevention, reducing health disparities, disability research, government relations, grassroots advocacy, information dissemination and partnership development. Under Ms. Carlin's direction the peer reviewed, and Medline indexed Disability and Health Journal was launched in 2008. Ms. Carlin created the AAHD Health Promotion Resource Center (HPRC) and today the HPRC is a major clearinghouse for contemporary scientific, programmatic and policy information on disability and health. Ms. Carlin currently serves as the Chair of the Friends of NCBDDD, a coalition of over 400 organizations. She also serves on the Executive Council of the APHA Disability Section. Ms. Carlin has years of experience overseeing federal grants and contracts, as well as contracts from private entities. Ms. Carlin has been an invited speaker at numerous national meetings and conferences on topics related to disability and health for people with disabilities. Before coming to AAHD in 2002, Ms. Carlin was the Associate Executive Director of the Spina Bifida Association of America in Washington, DC.





### Priya Chandan, MD, MPH

American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry

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Dr. Priya Chandan, MD, MPH is a physician-researcher who engages in a variety of research projects that address the healthcare delivery system for PWIDD from medical, public health, and health services research perspectives. Dr. Chandan first became involved with Special Olympics through supporting her older brother, who has Down syndrome and is a Special Olympics athlete. She has been involved with Special Olympics at the local, state, and national levels and is currently a Clinical Director for MedFest in Kentucky. Dr. Chandan is leading the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry's medical school curriculum change efforts, the National Curriculum Initiative in Developmental Medicine. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Louisville, where she has a joint appointment with the School of Medicine, Department of Neurosurgery, Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and with the School of Public Health and Information Sciences. She is in the process of completing her PhD in Health Services Organization and Research from Virginia Commonwealth University.



### Rhonda Ford Chatmon

American Heart Association

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Rhonda Ford Chatmon is Vice President for Multi-Cultural Markets for the Mid-Atlantic Affiliate of the American Heart Association. Rhonda joined the Association in May 1997 as a Community Organization Specialist. Her career with the AHA has included staffing the organization's various business enterprises including research, fundraising, emergency cardiac care programs and community education and outreach initiatives. For the last few years of her career, Rhonda led and managed the Community and Health Equity Staff in the affiliate's largest metro markets. Responsibilities include recruitment and management of volunteers and building strategic networks in the assigned market to assess the community health



needs and develop, coordinate and/or implement community wide strategies and programs based on the AHA's 2020 strategic plan. The Vice President drives collaboration with development staff in the market around mission related goals and is accountable for integrating health strategies and strengthening collaborative efforts across all business functions within the market. Currently, Rhonda is responsible for leading the affiliate's Multi-Cultural Market plan, targeted to specific minority communities, based on association goals and applicable affiliate demographics. The plan includes strategies for eliminating health disparities, improving cultural competency and implementing targeted minority initiatives while addressing social determinants of health. Over her 30 year career with the American Heart Association, Rhonda has been recognized for her innovation and successful accomplishment of the AHA's mission. In 2009, Rhonda received the Association highest staff recognition, the National Rome Betts Honorable Mention Award for State Alliances and 2010 Rhonda was awarded the Rome Betts Award for Health Strategies. The Mid-Atlantic Affiliate Multi Cultural Initiatives staff are recognized nationally for the innovation and innovative programs. Rhonda received a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Psychology, Radford University, 1982. Her expertise is in volunteer management, strategic planning, and Program Design/Process Development.



### Kathy Chichester

CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health)

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Kathy is the National CATCH Coordinator for FlagHouse, the publisher and distributor of the CATCH Program, and has been on the CATCH team for over 17 years. Kathy's focus is on connecting CATCH with national partners, foundations, and community based organizations that support child health and obesity prevention. Together with the University of Texas, she has helped guide the CATCH program from a university research initiative, to a nationwide program implemented in over 11,000 US communities in 50 states, and abroad. Kathy travels extensively, meeting with Federal and State level funding and advocacy groups, departments of health and education, legislative bodies, healthcare systems, and international child health organizations. Early in her career she worked at the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, serving as liaison to

national organizations such as the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the US Olympic Committee, and Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association. A CATCH Master Trainer, Kathy has had a varied CATCH related career, having implemented CATCH as a YMCA after school coordinator, and summer camp physical activity director.



### **Bruce Clarke, Self Advocate**

Special Olympics Arizona

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My Name is Bruce Clarke, I am 27 years old and I live in Phoenix Arizona. I am a Staff Member and Athlete with Special Olympics Arizona in charge of our Athlete Input Council and also Athlete Leadership in general. I have worked with Special Olympics for 4 ½ years and have been an athlete for about 3 years. I participate in Basketball, Bocce, & Volleyball. I believe that being an athlete in general especially one with Special Needs it is very important for myself and other Special Olympic Athletes to stay healthy so that we can perform our best on the field.



### **Leslie Cohen, JD**

UA of Medicine – Tucson

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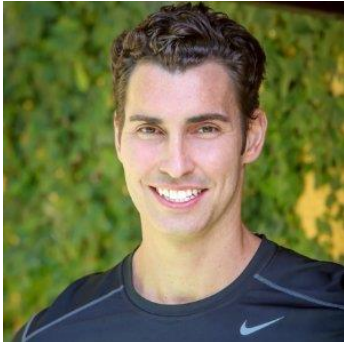
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Leslie J. Cohen, JD, director of the Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (Sonoran UCEDD) at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Cohen holds a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a juris doctor degree from the University Of New Mexico School Of Law. She practiced law in the area of civil litigation for many years in both the private and public sectors. She brings to the Sonoran UCEDD and AUCD extensive experience in developmental disabilities advocacy and policy as well as broad-based community connections



with stakeholders in government agencies, self-advocacy and family groups, provider agencies and network partners.



### Jonathan Cohn

FitSpot

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Jonathan is an entrepreneur and nationally certified personal trainer. Growing up in Manhattan, he's a pizza aficionado who learned young how to work out in small spaces. With a BA in Economics and History from Emory University, he started as an investment banker at Houlihan Lokey, New York. Then came LA, where he founded NeveRest a high-end concierge fitness service. A light bulb moment led to FitSpot. When not working, skiing or traveling, he's just a little obsessed with fantasy football.



### Nell Coonen-Korte, Self Advocate

Special Olympics Minnesota

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My name is Nell Coonen-Korte, I am 35 years old. I am from Shakopee Minnesota. I have been involved in Special Olympics for 11 years. I participate in Swimming, Bowling, Track and Field, Bocce Ball, and Powerlifting. I am a part of the Athlete Leadership Program, where I have taken all the classes they currently offer, Global Messenger, Graduate Global Messenger, Athletes as Ambassadors, Athletes as Coaches, Athletes as Volunteers, Governance and Leadership 101, and Challenges through Choices. I also facilitate our Athlete Input Council. Health and Wellness is very important because it helps me to be the best I can be in everything I do. I try to stay healthy by exercising daily, drinking water, and by eating healthier.



### Ann Costello

Golisano Foundation

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Ann Costello is Executive Director of the [Golisano Foundation](http://golisanofoundation.org), one of the nation's leading foundations dedicated exclusively to helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Foundation was established in 1985 by Tom Golisano, the Founder and Chairman of [Paychex, Inc.](http://paychex.com), a leader in the payroll, human resource, and benefits outsourcing industry.

Ann has worked for more than 30 years in the non-profit sector, primarily in human service administration, philanthropy, and organizational policy development.

She joined the Foundation as Director in 1999 and has witnessed its rapid growth and change in total Foundation assets and annual distribution of funds. Ann has redefined the Foundation's role in the intellectual disabilities service arena as proactive partner and catalyst for transformation.

Under her leadership the Foundation has also supported and launched innovative partnerships and programs.

With the support of two historic donations from Tom Golisano to Special Olympics - \$12 million in 2012 and \$25 million in 2015 - Ann is working as an integral advocate and participant in the strategy to advance Special Olympics Global Healthy Communities initiative to expand inclusive access to health-related services to people with intellectual disabilities around the world.

Costello earned her Master's Degree from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice, and also served as a Research Fellow at the School's City and Regional Planning.



### Carol Curtin, PhD

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Carol Curtin, PhD is the Associate Director of the UMMS Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center and the Director of the Shriver Center's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) programs. She is also Co-Director of the MCHB-funded Healthy Weight Research Network. She maintains faculty appointments in the UMMS Department of Family Medicine & Community Health at the Medical School, the Department of Pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine, and the Sawyer School of Management at Suffolk University. Dr. Curtin has over 30 years of experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities/psychiatric disorders and their families in a variety of settings and using a variety of clinical modalities. She has extensive management and leadership experience, having directed programs in clinical, academic, and research settings. Her research is focused on health promotion with an emphasis on identifying unique modifiable risk factors for obesity in populations of children and adults with disabilities and devising targeted and tailored interventions to meet their needs. She has served as a PI or Co-Investigator on several private and federally-funded projects that have included epidemiological studies on the prevalence of obesity in special populations, weight loss and physical activity interventions for adolescents with ID and autism, and observational studies on physical activity, dietary patterns, and/or obesity in children with a varied developmental disabilities.



### Isabella Danel, MD

Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

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Dr. Isabella Danel, a U.S. citizen and former official of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), became the Deputy Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in January of 2015.

The second-highest post at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), with a portfolio that includes disaster preparedness and relief, technical secretariat of governing bodies, external relations and partnerships, corporate communication, strategic planning and budgeting, and performance monitoring, the Office of the Deputy Director also serves as PAHO/WHO's representative to Canada, the United States, and Puerto Rico, and as acting director in the absence of PAHO/WHO Director Carissa F. Etienne.

Prior to joining PAHO/WHO, Dr. Danel spent two decades with the U.S. CDC, specializing in maternal mortality and international public health. Her posts included Chief of the Field Support Branch of the Division of Reproductive Health, Associate Director for Program Development at the CDC's Center for Global Health, Director of the CDC Regional Office for Central America and Panama in Guatemala, Deputy Chief of the Pregnancy and Infant Health Branch of the Division of Reproductive Health, and Epidemic Intelligence Officer at CDC's Behavioral Epidemiology and Demographic Research Branch. She also spent six years at the World Bank, as Senior Public Health Specialist in the Latin America and Caribbean regional office, on secondment from CDC.

Earlier in her career, Dr. Danel was a Clinical Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a technical advisor to the Ministry of Health of Nicaragua, and an attending physician at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. She has written numerous scholarly articles and book chapters on maternal mortality and other public health subjects, and holds a medical degree from Albany Medical College in New York and a master's in community health in developing countries from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



### Lauren Darensbourg, MPH

President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition

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Lauren joined the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition in April 2010 to cultivate and manage strategic, health-lucrative partnerships to improve health outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities as well as individuals with disability. In this role, Lauren leads all disability and minority health-related activities and initiatives of the President's Council including coordination of I Can Do It, You Can Do It! and Commit to Inclusion; establishment of public and private partnerships which support inclusion and improve access to physical activity and sport opportunities; as well as delivering presentations, speeches and often times leading physical activity segments on behalf of the Council. Lauren joined the US Department of Health and Human Services in May 2008 as an Oakridge Institute of Science and Education fellow at the Office of Minority Health, where she contributed to the National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity, the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities, and the A Healthy Baby Begins With You initiative. Lauren earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry as well as a Master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in behavioral science and health education from Florida A & M University. She is committed to leading a healthy lifestyle and does so by playing recreational sports, working out regularly and eating lots of fruits and veggies.



### Mary Davis

Special Olympics International

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Mary Davis is the Chief Executive Officer of Special Olympics International. In this role, she leads an international team of more than 200 professionals throughout the world who are addressing inactivity, injustice, intolerance and social isolation by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities to be productive citizens in their communities, which leads to a more welcoming and inclusive society for all. The Special Olympics movement currently





reaches more than 5.3 million athletes and Unified Sports partners, holds more than 108,000 competitions annually, and welcomes more than one million coaches and volunteers who help make grassroots operations possible.

She is a long-term campaigner for the rights and inclusion of children and adults with intellectual disabilities, beginning her career as a teacher at St. Michael's House, Ireland -- a leader in the development and provision of community-based services for people with intellectual disabilities in Ireland. She became National Director of Special Olympics Ireland in 1989 and served as Events Director for the 1985 European Special Olympics Games in Dublin. Davis has been appointed to many Special Olympics International Committees throughout her career and served as Chairperson of the International Advisory Committee for four years.

### Kim Elliott

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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Kim Elliott is the Director for Public Policy and manages the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) office in Washington, D.C. She oversees the development and implementation of the Foundation's federal policy agenda. Before joining the RWJF in 2013, she served as Associate Director at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products. Prior to her work at the FDA, Kim served as the deputy director at Trust for America's Health where she co-authored a number of reports on cutting-edge public health issues including pandemic influenza and emerging infectious diseases. Previously, Kim was the Chief Operating Officer for the worldwide Special Olympics organization. In this role, she helped oversee the global expansion of the nonprofit sports program to more than 160 nations. Kim also served as the Special Olympics liaison with the White House, members of Congress, various cabinet and government agencies, and several foreign nations and their embassies in Washington to promote Special Olympics World Games. She also helped create the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program. For nearly a decade, Kim served as a senior adviser and legislative director to former Senator Lowell Weicker of Connecticut.



### Ryan Fulford, RN

The University of Mississippi Medical Center

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Ryan Fulford is a 2013 graduate from the University of Louisiana at Monroe Kitty Degree School of Nursing where he received his BSN and a current BSN-to-PhD student here at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He recently joined Louisiana Tech University's College of Applied and Natural Sciences Division of Nursing in Ruston, Louisiana full-time as a Nursing Instructor, while continuing to maintain part time employment as an RN in the Emergency Department at St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe, Louisiana. His areas of research interest include the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in health promotion activities and self-management of chronic disease. He and his wife Erica live in West Monroe, LA with their two children, Bryson, age 3, and Brynn, who is 3 months old.



### John Gassner

The Aspen Institute

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John Gassner joined the Sports & Society Program in February 2017. He is a sports marketing veteran who has held executive positions at ESPN, the New York Road Runners and Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment. Throughout his career, John has created and executed go to market strategies on behalf of major U.S. sports properties, overseen the international commercial development of the X Games franchise, and developed and managed some of the biggest partnership in the sport of running. John will draw upon both his experience in sports and as a long-time youth advocate to advance Project Play's efforts.



### Jason Gieschen

Special Olympics Nebraska & Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger

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Jason Gieschen, age 32 from Ogallala where I live in my own apartment and drive my own car. I have been active in Special Olympics for 18 years. I participate in bowling, Unified bowling, swimming, basketball, volleyball, power lifting, track and field, Unified golf, and equestrian. I served as the athlete rep for 6 years on the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Nebraska. I am a Global Messenger and graduate of ALP's Gallup University and am currently serving as one of 12 athletes worldwide as a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger. I serve on the US Leadership Council Sub Committee for Unified Sports and on the Healthy Athletes Board for Special Olympics North America. I have participated in National Games and World Games and have attended Hill Day in Washington DC. Other honors awarded me are the 2016 Healthy Athlete of the Year for SpartanNash Foods, Special Olympics Nebraska Athlete Hall of Fame, and was named Special Olympics Nebraska Sportsmanship Athlete of the Year for 2006. I have been employed at Educational Service Unit 16 in Ogallala for 17 years where I do computer and document processing and I also work at Front Street Steakhouse as a dishwasher. I volunteer for service organizations, Adult Basic Ed, and Special Olympics. I sing the National Anthem at sporting events and community activities. I do a lot of public speaking promoting Special Olympics. This past year I spoke at the launch of the Enable Saving Plan—a statewide savings plan for people with disabilities.



### Adriane Griffen, DrPH, MPH, MCHES

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Dr. Adriane Griffen oversees public health efforts at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. She has over 16 years of experience in the disability and health field, with specialty areas in health



promotion, social marketing, qualitative research, and health education. Her activities focus on building the nation's capacity on public health activities for developmental disabilities and health promotion for people living with disabilities across the age span. She directs social marketing efforts, which foster positive health behavior change, and conducts trainings and presentations at various public health forums across the country on early monitoring for developmental delays in children and preventing secondary conditions for people living with a disability, such as smoking cessation. Dr. Griffen integrates action learning principles and action research in her current work as she develops partnerships, collaborates on program planning including proposal development, supervises support staff, and serves as the programmatic operations contact for funders.

Previously, Dr. Griffen served as the Director of Health Promotion and Partnerships for the Spina Bifida Association (SBA) where she was responsible for program and campaign management, program design, evaluation, partnership development and grant efforts. She serves on APHA's Disability Section Executive Committee, on NACCHO's Disability Work Group, and leads the national coalition Friends of CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. She is the Immediate Past Chair of the National Council on Folic Acid.

Dr. Griffen holds a Master of Public Health with a specialty in social marketing from The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist, and recently completed a Doctor of Public Health in Leadership at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where her dissertation efforts focused on understanding state public health system readiness, capacity, and capacity building factors necessary to include people living with a disability in public health programs.



### Cicily Hampton, PhD, MPA

Society for Public Health Education

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Cicily Hampton, PhD, MPA is the Senior Director of Health Science & Policy at the Society for Public Health Education, an international public health professional association, where she leads the association's legislative and regulatory advocacy activities that address public health, health disparities, school health, and health education in addition to planning and conducting advocacy trainings. Prior to her current position, Cicily worked as a policy analyst with UNC Charlotte where she evaluated health outcomes for North Carolina's Medicaid program and at a healthcare advocacy firm. Cicily has experience in



federal and state advocacy as well as the development and execution of state and national lobbying strategies around delivery system and payment reform, quality metrics, and health disparities, which was the focus of her doctoral dissertation. Cicily enjoys traveling, reading, and community service. She holds a BA in Political Science from Seton Hall University, an MPA from American University, and a PhD in Public Policy from UNC Charlotte.



### Andrea Higham

Johnson & Johnson

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Andrea Higham Johnson & Johnson Senior Director, Corporate Equity  
Andrea Higham is the Senior Director of Corporate Equity. Ms. Higham is a key member of Corporate Equity Team where she helps write strategy and execute important equity projects for Johnson & Johnson. Ms. Higham is also responsible for directing the Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future, a national initiative designed to enhance the image of the nursing profession, recruit new nurses and nurse faculty, and help retain nurses currently in the profession. Ms. Higham joined Johnson & Johnson in 1997, and has worked in several areas within the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Equity Group over the past 17 years. Her work at Johnson & Johnson is driven by her passion to serve children, families, and healthcare professionals. Ms. Higham lives in Princeton with her family.



### Becky Johnson

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Becky Johnson is a nationally-recognized healthy lifestyle promotion, organizational management and public relations expert. She currently serves as Executive Director of the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation (HWCF), a broad-based not-for-profit organization whose mission is to help solve obesity – especially childhood obesity – by



encouraging positive and permanent lifestyle changes among school-aged children and their families.



**Nancy Katz, MS, RDN**

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Nancy Brenowitz Katz is the Director of School Partnerships for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. In this role she builds and maintain cross-sector relationships with key national and local government agencies and non-governmental organizations, and leads the organizations work around the Every Student Succeeds Act. Prior to working at the Alliance, Nancy worked at the Office of the State Superintendent in Washington, DC where she oversaw implementation of the DC Healthy Schools Act of 2010. Nancy is a Registered Dietitian and has her Master's Degree in Nutritional Sciences.



**Bruce Y. Lee, MD, MBA**

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Bruce Y. Lee, MD, MBA is Associate Professor of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Executive Director of the Global Obesity Prevention Center (GOPC) at Johns Hopkins ([www.globalobesity.org](http://www.globalobesity.org)), and Director of Operations Research at the International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC) as well as Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. Dr. Lee has over 15 years of experience in industry and academia in systems science and developing and implementing mathematical and computational methods, models, and tools to assist decision making in public health and medicine. He has been the Principal Investigator for projects supported by a variety of organizations and agencies including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), UNICEF, the Global Fund, and USAID.



His previous positions include serving as Senior Manager at Quintiles Transnational, working in biotechnology equity research at Montgomery Securities, and co-founding Integrigen, and serving as an Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, where he founded PIHCOR (Public Health Computational and Operations Research), which is now based at Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Lee has authored over 190 scientific publications (including over 90 first author and over 40 last author) as well as three books: "Principles and Practice of Clinical Trial Medicine", "What If...? : Survival Guide for Physician's", and "Medical Notes : Clinical Medicine Pocket Guide". He is an Associate Editor for the journal Vaccine and Deputy Editor for PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases. He is a regular contributor to the Huffington Post and Forbes. He and his work have garnered attention in leading media outlets such as the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Time, CBS News, Businessweek, U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg News, Reuters, and National Public Radio (NPR). Dr. Lee received his B.A. from Harvard University, M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He completed his internal medicine residency training at the University of California, San Diego. His Twitter handle is @bruce\_y\_lee



### Alice Lenihan, MPH, RD, LDN

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Alice Lenihan is a Senior Global Advisor for Special Olympics International. Alice is a Registered Dietitian with over 30 years' experience directing Maternal and Child Public Health Nutrition Programs for the State of North Carolina.

Alice received a B.S. in Foods and Nutrition from the College of St. Elizabeth (NJ) and an MPH from the University of North Carolina. She started as a volunteer with Special Olympics in 1999 and is one of the founders of the Health Promotion Program.



### **Beth Mack, PhD**

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Beth Taylor Mack, Ph.D. is the Director, Health Behavior and Wellness, with Y-USA. She has more than 20 years of experience in the health and wellness fields. She began her career as a certified athletic trainer for nearly 12 years before migrating into executive roles in marketing, administration and human resources. Prior to the Y, she previously held the roles of staff development specialist and director for population health and wellness at Pocono Medical Center. She also served on the Board of Directors for the Pocono Family YMCA. Beth earned a bachelor's degree in sports medicine/athletic training from the University of Connecticut, a master's degree in applied psychology from Fairfield University, and a doctorate degree in human development, with a concentration in health promotion, from Marywood University.



### **Darcie Mersereau, MPH**

Vice President, Health Programs

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Darcie Mersereau has been with Special Olympics International since September 2005. As the Vice President for Health Programs, Ms. Mersereau oversees a \$25 million public health program that provides health clinics, services, and education to its athletes, trains health professionals in providing care to people with intellectual disabilities, and utilizes data collected locally to inform discourse and action to improve the health of people with intellectual disabilities. Under the organization's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, the Ms. Mersereau is leading the engagement and activation of leaders from across sectors to normalize the inclusion of intellectual disability in mainstream policies, programming, curricula, and funding streams.

Prior to assuming this position in December 2009, Ms. Mersereau led the Research & Evaluation program at Special Olympics, where she

managed internal and external studies, conducted data analyses, and translated data to support development, communications, and marketing efforts.

Ms. Mersereau holds a BS in Labor Economics from Cornell University and an MPH from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.



### Liviya Mendelsohn, PhD, MEd, MA

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Liv is the Manager of Accessibility and Inclusion at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, and Inclusion Director at the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. At the MNjcc Liv facilitates an ongoing initiative to assess and improve the accessibility of facilities, programs and services, guided by community advisory committees and a robust staff accessibility committee. The MNjcc has emerged as a hub of inclusive arts and culture: dance, film, animation, storytelling, theatre, media arts, photography and more. The MNjcc has been recognized as by the Ontario Non-Profit Network as a provincial accessibility best practice case study organization. At the UJA Federation, Liv coordinates the Inclusive Synagogues Working Group of 24 synagogues working towards removing barriers and promoting full participation in community life for people with disabilities and their families, and the annual Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month.

Liv is also Artistic Director of the ReelAbilities Toronto Film Festival.



### Leah Moser, MPH, CHES

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Leah Moser oversees the Healthy Monday Syracuse campaign on the Syracuse University campus and in the community. She has been with



the Lerner Center since 2011 as a Lerner Fellow. She earned a Bachelor's degree in community, public and worksite health from Truman State University, and a Master's degree in public health through the Central New York Master of Public Health program- a joint venture between Syracuse University and SUNY Upstate Medical University. She earned a certificate in health services management and policy from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and is a Certified Health Education Specialist. Leah is also a certified facilitator for the Diabetes Prevention Program with the Downtown Syracuse YMCA



### Krishnan Narasimhan, MD

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Krishnan Narasimhan is an academic family medicine physician and an Associate Professor in the Department of Community and Family Medicine at Howard University. For over a decade, he has advocated for policy change to improve access to care and support primary care. He serves as family medicine residency faculty and clerkship director. He has been elected to the board of Doctors for America and the board of the District of Columbia academy of family physicians. He is a graduate of Jefferson Medical College and completed his family medicine residency at the University of Connecticut. He also completed a primary care health policy fellowship at the Georgetown University Department of Family Medicine and the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. He has experience in medical education, evidence based medicine, health disparities, economic impacts, population health, and clinical transformation.



### Cynthia Peacock, MD

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Dr. Peacock is the medical director of the Baylor College of Medicine - Texas Children's Hospital Transition Medicine Clinic, which is a medical home for adolescent/young adults with



intellectual and developmental disabilities who are aging out of the pediatric health care system. The clinic offers primary care with added care coordination and case management. The clinic continues to be a model of care that provides comprehensive and patient-centered care that emphasizes chronic condition management using community supports to maximize participation in adult life.



### Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH, FAAP

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Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH, FAAP is the Division Director for the Division of Human Development and Disability (DHDD) at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). Dedicated to the health and development of children and adults across the lifespan, she applies her personal passion and knowledge to a critical leadership position at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In her role at DHDD, Dr. Peacock directs CDC's public health approach, which helps children and adults with disabilities get the most out of life by supporting programs, surveillance, research and policies that facilitate better healthcare, increases in accessibility, and inclusion. DHDD also works to optimize child development for those at risk for high-impact conditions so children can reach their full potential in life. Dr. Peacock oversees a division staff focused on the best health outcomes for the following populations:

- Infants and children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, fragile X syndrome, hearing loss, mental disorders, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida and Tourette Syndrome
- Infants and children at risk for developmental delays, disabilities, and mental disorders
- Adults living with disabilities, including those with functional mobility and cognitive limitations

In addition to her DHDD responsibilities, Dr. Peacock continues to see patients in developmental clinics - the Good Samaritan Health Center and the DeKalb County Refugee Clinic - while also serving as an adjunct professor with the Georgia State Center for Leadership in Disability and Georgia Leadership & Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities program. She also represents CDC on a number of federal

and national committees including the HHS Pediatric/Obstetric Integrated Program Team, the HHS CHILD Working Group, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Council on Children with Disabilities, and AAP's Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council. As an expert member of CDC's Children's Preparedness Team, working with CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR), Dr. Peacock holds a substantial role in public health disaster preparedness and response for children.



### **Mary Pittaway, MA, RND**

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Mary Pittaway, a registered dietitian and public health nutritionist, has been involved in public health for 40 years serving state and county governments, non-profit and private organizations. She received her BA at Holy Names College in Spokane, completed a dietetic Internship at UW- Harborview Medical Center and earned her MA in Communication, University of Montana. Mary is a Global Clinical Advisor for Health Promotion with Special Olympics International. She serves as a faculty affiliate with the University of Montana Department of Health and Human Performance.



### **Camie Powell**

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Camie's main responsibilities are; growing the Special Olympics Health program in Arkansas, developing partnerships for sustainability, and marketing the two hundred and forty competitions and one hundred fundraisers the organization does year-round. Camie received her graduate (MS) and undergraduate (BA) degrees from the University of Central Arkansas. She currently resides in Maumelle with her husband Heath and son Lucas. Camie's devotion for the program began as a member of the Special Olympics youth leadership movement eighteen

years ago. This involvement shaped her sincere passion to tell the impact that Special Olympics has on every life.



### **Tiffany Pulcino, MD, MPH**

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Tiffany Pulcino, MD, MPH, board-certified in internal medicine and pediatrics, joined the practice in 2008. She is a graduate of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and completed her residency at the University of Rochester Medical Center in the Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Program. Dr. Pulcino has a special interest in transitional care: the process of young adults moving into the adult health care system, especially those with medical problems diagnosed in childhood, such as cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, inflammatory bowel disease, and congenital heart disease.



### **Thomas Quade, MA, MPH**

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Tom Quade is first and foremost a public health practitioner. He is currently the Health Commissioner for Marion County, Ohio. Prior to serving as the Health Commissioner for Marion, Tom served as the Deputy Health Commissioner for Summit County, Ohio. One of his duties in that role was to serve as the Accreditation Coordinator where he successfully facilitated the agency's successful PHAB accreditation journey, something he is currently repeating in Marion. Between 2000 and 2010, he served the City of Akron in a number of roles, including epidemiologist, Health Promotion Division Director, Community Health Assessment and Health Promotion Division Director, Deputy Health Director, and then Interim Director of Health for the Akron Health Department. It was during his tenure as Interim Director that he successfully guided the Akron City Health Department through its yearlong consolidation process with the Summit County Board of

Health. Tom also holds a community faculty position with the Northeastern Ohio Medical University's Master of Public Health program.



### Mary Pat Raimondi, MS, RD

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Mary Pat brings methodical, thoughtful and strategic expertise in public policy, marketing and nutrition education to her position as vice president of strategic policy and partnerships at the American Dietetic Association (ADA). She focuses on federal government relations and lobbying, including federal regulatory relations; alliance and coalition building; public policy strategy development; and identification of new policy and program opportunities.

Prior to joining the American Dietetic Association in summer 2010, Mary Pat Raimondi was the program director for health and nutrition at the University of Minnesota Extension, where she helped shape the university's federal and state legislative public policy key messages and managed multiple grants and innovative programming.

She is also a former LPPC chair and a current member of the Board of Directors and House of Delegates Leadership Team.



### Jordan Schubert, Self Advocate

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I am 23 years old and have been participating in Special Olympics since I was 10. I currently play basketball and floor hockey. I also previously played softball and soccer. My greatest sports accomplishment in Special Olympics is winning six state championships in basketball. My greatest non-sports accomplishment was getting hired to work for Special Olympics Pennsylvania full time shortly after I graduated from



college. Health is important to me because Special Olympics allows athletes to be able to compete for life once they turn 8. In order for an athlete to be able to participate throughout their life, they need to live a healthy lifestyle.



### Gillian Sealy, PhD

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Gillian Sealy is the Chief Executive Officer of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative (CHMI) at the Clinton Foundation. In her role, Gillian oversees the initiative's overarching goals of decreasing the prevalence of preventable disease and closing health inequity and health disparity gaps. Gillian previously served as the National Community Health Transformation Director at CHMI. In that role, Gillian led a team of regional directors working with communities across the country to improve health while also guiding them to create sustainable frameworks for better health and fostering systemic change.



### Timothy P. Shriver, PhD

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Timothy Shriver is Chairman of Special Olympics and in that capacity, he happily serves together with over 5.3 million Special Olympics athletes in 170 countries, all working to promote health, education, and a more unified world through the joy of sports.

Before joining Special Olympics in 1996, Shriver was and remains a leading educator focusing on the social and emotional factors in learning. He co-founded and currently chairs the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), the leading school reform organization in the field of social and emotional learning. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Co-Chairman of the National Commission on Social and Emotional Learning, President of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, Member of the Board of





Directors for the WPP Group, LLC, and is a co-founder of Lovin' Scoopful Ice Cream Company.

Shriver earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University, a Master's degree from Catholic University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Connecticut. He has produced 4 films, is the author of the New York Times Best Selling book Fully Alive – Discovering What Matters Most, written for dozens of newspapers and magazines and has been rewarded with degrees and honors which he happily accepted on behalf of others.

Shriver and his wife, Linda Potter, reside in the Washington, D.C. area and have five adult children.



### Lawrence A. Soler, JD

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Lawrence A. Soler is President and CEO of the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA), which works with the private sector and First Lady Michelle Obama to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic. Since 2010, PHA has garnered more than 150 commitments to offer healthier options or increase physical activity with leading brands. PHA also operates marketing campaigns promoting water (Drink Up) and fruits and vegetables (FNV) with fresh advertising that is popular with kids and families. Prior to joining PHA, Mr. Soler was Chief Operating Officer for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, a \$200 million voluntary health organization. While leading JDRF, the organization was recognized by National Journal as one of the most powerful interest groups in Washington DC. The New York Times said "not since AIDS activists stormed scientific meetings in the 1980s has a patient group done more to set the agenda of medical research." Time magazine called JDRF "one of the nation's most forceful disease advocacy groups." Mr. Soler received a B.A. with honors from Clark University and his J.D. from George Washington University. He serves on the Board of Directors of the JDRF.



### Catherine Thomas, MBA

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Ms Thomas is an accomplished marketing professional with more than 20 years experience in healthcare, telecommunications, and IT. As Vice President, Marketing & Customer Engagement, she brings extensive experience across product marketing, product management, sales enablement, and media and analyst relations to HealthCelerate. For nearly a decade, her focus was in telecommunications, working with firms such as Concert Communications and Teligent, before moving to the government sector. As Director of Marketing & Communications for XIO Strategies, she supported contracts for Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the Office of Personnel Management, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and other agencies. In 2013, Ms. Thomas migrated full-time to the healthcare industry with STANLEY Healthcare and then later to Specialists On Call. She earned a BS in Marketing from Penn State University, and a MBA from George Mason University.



### Peter Tippet, MD, PhD

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PETER TIPPETT, M.D., Ph.D. HealthCelerate CEO, Dr Tippet is the CEO of HealthCelerate, former Verizon Chief Medical Officer, and a recognized leader in health IT transformation, information security and regulatory compliance. Among other technology start-ups, Tippet created the first commercial anti-virus product, which became Norton; founded TruSecure and CyberTrust and was Chairman of MD-IT. Tippet was a member of PITAC (President's Information Technology Advisory Committee under G.W. Bush), which drove modern Health IT transformation policy, served 3 years with the Clinton Health Matters initiative and recently served on the White House / NIH Precision Medicine Initiative. Tippet received the U.S. Chamber's First Leadership in Health Care Award for his work to improve transparency and reward innovation through the modernization of the exchange of



health information technology. He has been recognized by many leading industry publications including InfoWorld, as one of the 25 most influential CTOs in 2002. Tippet was a Research Assistant to R.B. Merrifield (Nobel Prize, 1984) and Stanford Moore (Nobel Prize, 1972) at Rockefeller University. He is a physician, with a current California Physician & Surgeon License, and board certification in internal medicine with both Internal Medicine & Emergency Medicine practice history. He received both a PhD in biochemistry and an M.D., from Case Western Reserve University, and a bachelor's degree in biology from Kalamazoo College.



### Allen Tobin, Self advocate

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I am Allen Tobin. I'm 45 and from Kansas City, Missouri. I have been with Special Olympics Missouri for 24 years. I play softball, basketball, flag football, bocce, bowling, floor hockey, volleyball and track & field. I am a team leader, reporter, producer and camera man for my half of the state for our SOMO TV show, which is on [www.SOMO.org/TV](http://www.SOMO.org/TV).

I have been going to different places to share my healthy athlete story and give speeches for fundraisers for our Training for Life Campus, which will be a one of a kind campus. It is only for Special Olympics Missouri athletes. My health is important! When I'm healthier, I can play my sports better and I enjoy my life. To stay healthy I play all kinds of sports, I walk a lot, ride my bike and try to eat as healthy as I can. I don't eat a lot of sweets and I don't drink soda pop anymore.



### John Tschida, MPP

Association of University Center on Disabilities

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John Tschida, MPP, is the associate executive director of research and policy for the Association of University Center on Disabilities. AUCD is a national network of more than 100 university-based interdisciplinary programs advancing policy, research, education, practice, leadership and advocacy to improve the quality of life of children and adults with disabilities in the U.S. and around the world.

Mr. Tschida has spent the last 20 years using data and research to drive policy change and service development for individuals with disabilities. Before joining AUCD, he served as director of the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. NIDILRR is the federal government's premiere applied research agency impacting individuals with disabilities.

Prior to joining NIDILRR in 2014, he served as director of public policy and innovation at Allina Health in Minnesota, where he developed integrated health delivery systems and financing models for people with disabilities. At the Courage Center, Minnesota's leading nonprofit provider of rehabilitation services, Mr. Tschida was vice president of public affairs and research, directing a policy and research team that focused on defining and achieving better outcomes for complex populations. His team received one of the first Health Care Innovation Awards from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Earlier in his career, Tschida served as a research fellow at the National Rehabilitation Hospital Center for Health and Disability Research, in Washington, D.C. He was also assistant director of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office.

Mr. Tschida has served on a number of public and private boards designing policy or governance solutions to further the independence of people with disabilities and he has written numerous articles on disability and public policy for national and local publications.

Mr. Tschida has a master's degree in public policy and a health services research certificate from Georgetown University.



### Allison Tubbs

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Allison Hoit Tubbs is a certified exercise physiologist and health educator. She is the Project Coordinator of the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD), a federally funded National Center on Disability and health promotion resource and practice center of the CDC – NCBDDD. Her work is focused on building healthy, inclusive communities where all people have equal access and opportunities for healthy living. Her experience spans across the areas of industrial rehabilitation, health promotion, wellness coaching, health communication, and physical activity programming for people with disability. Ms. Tubbs has developed and implemented public health advocacy campaigns including, Commit to Inclusion, in partnership with the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, & Nutrition and How I Walk, in support of the U.S. Surgeon General's Call to Action on Walking. Additionally, she coordinates the Inclusive Fitness Coalition (IFC), a formal partnership with the American College of Sports Medicine, which consists of over 220 organizations and 900 individuals. Ms. Tubbs has been published in MediaplanetUSA distributed through USA Today, the ACSM's Fit Society® Page, and Sports 'N Spokes magazine. She is also a regular contributor to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Service's Be Active Your Way Blog. Locally, Ms. Tubbs is the current Chair of the Alabama Obesity Task Force and Advocacy Chair for the Alabama State Association on Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.





### **Debra B Waldron, MD, MPH, FAAP**

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Debra Waldron, MD, MPH, FAAP is the Senior Vice President of Child Health and Wellness at the American Academy of Pediatrics. She previously was the Director of the Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs, Maternal Child Health Bureau in the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. Dr. Waldron was Vice Chair and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Iowa. Her areas of expertise are integrated health systems, population health, and family engagement.



### **Marc R. Watkins, MD, MSPH, FACOEM**

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Board Certified Senior Physician Executive with expertise in leading organizations in maintaining and expanding market share through strategic growth with a strong focus on the delivery of quality patient care. Strategic thinker with a bold and passionate vision for delivering quality healthcare in a rapidly changing consumer focused economy. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with additional strengths in:

- Process Improvement
- Health Information Technology
- Program Management
- Building Cross Functional Teams • Organizational Effectiveness
- Business Development
- Utilization Review
- Collaborating and Creating a Vision

Prior to joining The Little Clinic he spent 6 years with Concentra Health Services in various physician leadership roles and most recently was National Medical Director- Clinical Account Management providing strategic operational and clinical program development to major employers across the country.



Marc is board certified in Occupational & Environmental Medicine and earned distinction as a Fellow of the American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine. He is also a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and American College of Physician Executives. Marc earned his M.D. in Nashville on a U.S. Navy scholarship, training initially in General Surgery. He spent five years in the U.S. Navy serving exclusively with the U.S. Marines. He was twice awarded the Navy Commendation Medal (2) in direct support of combat operations while assigned in Iraq.

Since leaving the U.S. Navy he has earned a Master of Public Health and completed additional leadership development training. He is also Adjunct Clinical Faculty in the Division of Occupational Medicine/Family Medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN.

Marc is married to his medical school sweetheart (Deann) and lives in Brentwood, TN. He enjoys golf, travel and trying new things.



### Chris Watts, MBA

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Chris Watts is an innovative social entrepreneur and problem solver. Currently, Chris serves as the Executive Director of the National Fitness Foundation, the only congressionally chartered nonprofit with a focus on health & fitness. Previously, Chris started 4POINT4, a sportswear social enterprise with the vision that all athletes play for a cause by donating a portion of proceeds to charity. 4POINT4 was inspired by Chris's work in the Obama Administration, as he led partnerships for the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition in support of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Initiative. Chris has been recognized by Forbes as a 30 Under 30, World Economic Forum as a Global Shaper, and his college and high school as a Distinguished Alumnus award winner. A Pittsburgh native with an engineering degree from Carnegie Mellon University, Chris earned an MBA from George Washington University and is an Adjunct Professor for Applied Ethics in Sports at Georgetown University.



### Liz Weintraub

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Liz Weintraub has a long history of leadership in self advocacy, and has held many board and advisory positions at state and national organizations. In addition to her part-time position with AUCD, Liz also works for the Council on Quality & Leadership (CQL) and consults for National Children's Center in Washington, DC. Her work with both of these organizations focuses on improving quality of life for people with disabilities.

Liz is the immediate past chair of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council. Liz a faculty member of The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Delaware and is the President of the Board of Directors for Shared Support Maryland, a progressive provider organization.



### James R. Whitehead, EdD, MS

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James Whitehead is executive vice president of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) in Indianapolis, Indiana, a position he has held since 1990. Prior to his appointment at ACSM, Dr. Whitehead served in executive roles at the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in Washington, DC, from 1987 to 1990, and also was a principal with an association management firm that specialized in health and science NGOs and political candidates at the U.S. federal level. Dr. Whitehead's area of research and practice focuses on innovation within planning processes, as well as health policy and administration. He has published articles in health, public policy, and organizational literature. Dr. Whitehead has received honor awards from many professional associations, including the International Academy of Sports Vision, the Association for the Advancement of Applied Sports Psychology, the Council for Better Hearing and Speech, and the American College of Sports Medicine. He attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham, receiving degrees



in political science (public administration) and history (business and medical history).



### Mary Helen Witten

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Ms. Witten holds master's degrees in both Social Work and in Public Health (Nutrition) and joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1998. Ms. Witten is currently a Project Officer for the Disability and Health Program at Division of Human Development and Disability. While serving as the Project officer for Special Olympics (SOI) since 2001, she has guided SOI to increase its focus on overall health, particularly using the socio-ecological framework for locally-based health promotion programs and follow-up referrals for care. She spearheaded work with the "Healthy Weight" initiative focusing on person with disabilities through SOI and state funded Disability and Health programs. Previously, she worked with the Arc, the Amputee Coalition, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Foundation, the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability, and the American Association on Health and Disability to improve the health of people with disabilities.

She has provided exceptional leadership and vision in working with states and national disability organizations to foster the needs of person with disabilities. She is known for her expertise in public health policy, partnership building, and has established many key collaborations to improve the health of people with disabilities. Ms. Witten has had extensive experience at all levels of state and local public health, and was the Director of the WIC program for the state of Louisiana and worked in health care as a Registered Dietitian. Ms. Witten has been actively involved in issues surrounding persons with disabilities since 1995.



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Margo Wootan was recently named one of the Most Innovative Women in Food and Drink by Fortune Magazine and recognized by Harvard School of Public Health for her leadership in public policy. She is the director of nutrition policy at the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), named as the top Ranked Nonprofit for National Childhood Nutrition/Health. Dr. Wootan received her B.S. in nutrition from Cornell University and her doctorate in nutrition from Harvard University's School of Public Health. Wootan has coordinated and led efforts to require calorie labeling at fast-food and other chain restaurants, require trans-fat labeling on packaged foods, improve school foods, reduce junk-food marketing aimed at children, and expand nutrition and physical activity programs at CDC. She co-founded and has led both the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity (NANA) and the Food Marketing Workgroup. Wootan is a powerful voice shaping the national nutrition debate. She is quoted regularly in the nation's major media and appeared in the movies *Super Size Me* and *Fed Up*.





### Don Wright, MD, MPH

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Don Wright, M.D., M.P.H., was named Acting Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on February 10, 2017. The Assistant Secretary for Health leads development of HHS-wide public health policy recommendations, oversees 12 core public health offices — including the Office of the Surgeon General – and 11 advisory committees.

Dr. Wright is also the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health and Director of the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP), a position he has held since January 3, 2012.

From 2007 to 2009, he was the HHS Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health. During this time, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as the alternate U.S. delegate to the World Health Organization Executive Board.

As director of ODPHP, Dr. Wright leads the coordination and policy development for public health and prevention activities within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. ODPHP is responsible for Healthy People program, a framework for public health priorities and actions laid out in a comprehensive set of 10-year national health objectives, as well as the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Physical Guidelines for Americans. Currently, Dr. Wright also is serving at the Acting Executive Director of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition. Prior to joining ODPHP, Dr. Wright served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Healthcare Quality. Earlier, he was Director of the Office of Occupational Medicine for the U.S. Department of Labor, where he built strong governmental and non-governmental partnerships addressing safety and health.

Dr. Wright received an undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University, a medical degree from the University of Texas, and a master's degree in public health from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He completed his family medicine residency training at Baylor College of Medicine and is board-certified in both Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine. He is a fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the American Academy of Family Physicians.