

Virtual Meeting | Thursday, June 2, 2022
Speaker Biographies

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Tom Morris, MPA

Associate Administrator

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy



Tom Morris serves as the Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In that role, Tom oversees the work of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, which is charged with advising the HHS Secretary on rural health issues. Over the course of his Federal career, Tom has testified on rural health issues before the House and Senate. He has past work experience in the U.S. Senate as well as various policy and program positions within HRSA and HHS. A 1996 Presidential Management Intern, Tom came to government after a career as a newspaper reporter and editor. In 2012, Tom was the recipient of the HHS Distinguished Service Award and in 2015 he was awarded a Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service. He has an undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

and a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Community Health from East Carolina University. He also earned a Certificate in Public Leadership from the Brookings Institution in 2008.

Alan Morgan, MPA

Chief Executive Officer

National Rural Health Association



Alan Morgan serves as Chief Executive Officer for the National Rural Health Association. He has more than 22 years of experience in health policy development at the state and federal level. He served as staff for former US Congressman Dick Nichols and former Kansas Governor Mike Hayden. Additionally, his experience includes tenures with the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and with the Heart Rhythm Society where he established a Washington, DC based government affairs office. Prior to joining NRHA, he served as a federal lobbyist for VHA Inc. Mr. Morgan's health policy articles have been published in: The Journal of Rural Health, The Journal of Cardiovascular Management, The Journal of Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology, Cardiac Electrophysiology Review, and in Laboratory Medicine. He also served as a co-author for the 6th edition of

“Policy & Politics in Nursing and Health Care.” He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from University of Kansas, and a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University. In 2011, he was selected by readers of Modern Healthcare Magazine as being among the top 100 most influential people in healthcare.

Cara James, PhD
President and CEO
Grantmakers In Health



Dr. Cara James is the president and CEO of Grantmakers in Health (GIH), a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to helping foundations and corporate giving programs improve the health of all people. Dr. James is a nationally recognized expert and thought leader in health equity and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations. In her new role, she will lead GIH's national network comprised of roughly 230 foundations and corporate giving programs, representing 38 states and the District of Columbia. In her previous role as Director of the Office of Minority Health at CMS, she provided leadership to advance U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and CMS goals related to improving minority health and eliminating health disparities. Under her guidance, CMS developed its first CMS Equity Plan to Improve Quality in Medicare, its first Rural Health Strategy. Prior to joining CMS, Dr. James served as Director of the Disparities Policy Project and Director of the Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Dr. James is a past member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's (NASEM) (formerly the Institute of Medicine or IOM) Health and Medicine Division's Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities.

Diane M. Hall, PhD, MEd
Senior Scientist for Policy and Strategy, Rural Coordinator
Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Dr. Diane Hall is a senior scientist for policy and strategy in the Policy Research, Analysis, and Development Office (PRADO) in CDC's Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy (OADPS). She leads the office's work on translating science for policy use, policy research and analyses, and developing policy-relevant trainings. Diane also serves as CDC's coordinator and point of contact for rural health work. Diane led the development of the office's policy portal, POLARIS (Policy Analysis and Research Information System). Previously, Diane held several positions in CDC's Division of Violence Prevention, where she worked on research related to the prevention of teen dating violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and youth violence. She also served as lead of several translation products on Veto Violence. Diane earned her B.A. in Psychology from Hollins College and earned her MEd in psychological services and her PhD in school, community, and child clinical psychology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Philanthropy: Rural Health Assets and Equity

Somava Saha, MD, MS

Founder and Executive Lead

WE in the World



Somava Saha, MD, MS, a Baha'i, has spent over 25 years working to grow thriving people and communities in some of the poorest places in the world. A primary care doctor and public health professional, Somava is Founder and Executive Lead of Well-being and Equity in the World (WE in the World), as well as Executive Lead of the [Well Being In the Nation \(WIN\) Network](#), which work together to advance intergenerational well-being and equity. Over the last five years, as Vice President at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Dr. Saha founded and led [100 Million Healthier Lives](#) (100MLives), which brought together 1850+ partners in 30+ countries reaching >500 million people to improve health, wellbeing and equity. In 2012, Dr. Saha was recognized as one of ten inaugural [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) Young Leaders awardees under 40 for significant contributions to improving the health of the nation. She has consulted with leaders from across the world, including Guyana, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Australia, Tunisia, Denmark and Brazil. She has appeared on a panel with the Dalai Lama, keynoted conferences around the world, and had her work featured on Sanjay Gupta, the Katie Couric Show, PBS and CNN. In 2016 she was elected as a Leading Causes of Life Global Fellow.

Rural Broadband and the Role of Philanthropies

Alan Morgan, MPA

Chief Executive Officer

National Rural Health Association



Alan Morgan serves as Chief Executive Officer for the National Rural Health Association. He has more than 22 years of experience in health policy development at the state and federal level. He served as staff for former US Congressman Dick Nichols and former Kansas Governor Mike Hayden. Additionally, his experience includes tenures with the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and with the Heart Rhythm Society where he established a Washington, DC based government affairs office. Prior to joining NRHA, he served as a federal lobbyist for VHA Inc. Mr. Morgan's health policy articles have been published in: The Journal of Rural Health, The Journal of Cardiovascular Management, The Journal of Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology, Cardiac Electrophysiology Review, and in Laboratory Medicine. He also served as a co-author for the 6th edition of "Policy & Politics in Nursing and Health Care." He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from University of Kansas, and a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University. In 2011, he was selected by readers of Modern Healthcare Magazine as being among the top 100 most influential people in healthcare.

Karen Minyard, PhD

Director

Georgia Health Policy Center



Karen Minyard, Ph.D., has been director of the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) since 2001 and is also a research professor with the Department of Public Management and Policy. Minyard connects the research, policy, and programmatic work of the center across issue areas including population health, health philanthropy, public and private health coverage, and the uninsured. Minyard has experience with the state Medicaid program, both with the design of program reforms and external evaluation. Her research interests include financing and evaluation of health-related social policy programs; strategic alignment of public and private health policy through collective impact; the role of local health initiatives in access and health improvement; the role of targeted technical assistance in improving the sustainability, efficiency, and programmatic effectiveness of nonprofit health collaboratives; and health and health care financing. In addition to overseeing the center's overall strategic vision, Minyard plays a leadership role in several center projects that weave

together the key learnings, skillsets, and areas of expertise of the GHPC, including evaluation, technical assistance, policy and economic analysis, backbone and organizational support, health and health care financing, health system transformation, Health in All Policies, and rural health. She is currently co-principal investigator and spearheading evaluation efforts for the GHPC's national coordinating center, Bridging for Health: Improving Community Health Through Innovations in Financing, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She also serves on the executive trio of the Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement, along with the Atlanta Regional Commission and the United Way of Greater Atlanta.

Shirley Bloomfield

Chief Executive Officer

Rural Broadband Association



Shirley Bloomfield is chief executive officer of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association, the premier association representing nearly 850 independent telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. With more than 30 years of experience representing the country's smallest telecom operators, Bloomfield is an expert on the role of federal communications policies in sustaining the vitality of rural and remote communities and the benefits rural broadband networks bring to millions of American families and businesses and the national economy. Bloomfield has a strong track record of leadership in seeking synergies and aligning strategic partnerships among rural telecom companies, their larger counterparts, other rural utilities and local and federal governments, further expanding business opportunities for small communications providers. Under her leadership, NTCA has made

broadband an integral part of policy conversations in Washington, D.C., and has secured billions of dollars in federal funding for rural service providers to expand build out and sustain networks and help close the digital divide. Bloomfield is a strong supporter of national efforts to improve the resilience and reliability of critical electric and telecommunications infrastructure and serves as a board member of NRTC and the Southeast Reliability Corporation (SERC).

Foundation Spotlight: Paving the Way for Action in Rural Health and Aging

Rani Snyder, MPA

Vice President, Program

John A. Hartford Foundation



Rani E. Snyder, MPA, is Vice President, Program at The John A. Hartford Foundation. Ms. Snyder has over 25 years of experience working with preeminent health care institutions across the nation improving the care of older adults, identifying and guiding health care programs that have set the standard for medical best practices, increasing medical education opportunities, and maximizing resources to improve health care broadly. She brings that experience to The John A. Hartford Foundation where she coordinates initiatives that foster collaboration among academic institutions, hospitals and health care providers to build Age-Friendly Health Systems, support family caregivers, and improve serious illness and end-of-life care. She is a board member and past board chair for Grantmakers in Aging, a membership organization comprised of philanthropies with a common dedication to improving the experience of aging, a board member for the American Society on Aging, a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, and previously served as a Volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman for the State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division.

What is happening besides COVID?

Allen Smart

Founder

PhilanthropywoRx



Allen Smart is a national spokesperson and advocate for improving philanthropic practice under his group –PhilanthropywoRx.

Allen is the former Interim President, Vice President of Programs and Director of the Health Care Division at the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust- a \$700 million statewide North Carolina funder. Prior to coming to the Trust in 2006, Allen was the Vice President of Programs at the Rapides Foundation, a healthcare conversion funder, in Alexandria, Louisiana. He has also served as Director of Community Development for a midwestern Catholic Hospital System and as Grants Administrator for the City of Santa Monica, California.

Allen received his Master of Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago, his Master of Arts in Telecommunication Arts from the University of Michigan and his Bachelors in Arts in Philosophy from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

As part of his personal and professional interest in philanthropy, Allen regularly writes for sites such as The Daily Yonder, Inside Philanthropy, Grantcraft and GivingCompass, as well as presenting to national and regional organizations like Grantmakers in Health, Southeastern Council of Foundations, National Rural Assembly and the federal Office of Rural Health Policy. He is a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Rural Resource Hub at The University of North Dakota, Board of Directors for

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Healthy Communities by Design and the Board of the North Carolina Healthcare Association Foundation. He was previously the selection committee chair for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation national Culture of Health Prize.

Charles Dwyer

Senior Program Officer

Maine Health Access Foundation



Charles Dwyer (*he/him*) joined MeHAF as Program Officer in December 2012. He currently oversees MeHAF's Systems Improvement and Innovation Grants (SIIRG) Program and Rural Health and Health Workforce initiatives and provides assistance to the foundation's Governance Committee. Charles is also an advisor of the Maine Community Foundation's Equity Fund. He has 16 years of public health experience, most recently serving as the health department liaison in the four-county area of the Mid-coast. From 2006 to 2011 he served as the Director of the State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care which began convening the statewide Health Workforce Forum and the Maine Tele-health Collaborative under his leadership. Charles is proud to be a former AmeriCorps National Service Volunteer and a lifelong resident of Maine. He graduated from the University of Southern Maine, School of Social

Work in 1996. He completed the Northeast Regional Public Health Leadership Institute in 2002, and is an alumnus of the Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership's Health Leadership Develop class of 2018. Charles continues to learn and grow both personally and professionally, always reminding himself that "failure is success in progress".

Kim Tieman

Vice President and Program Director

Benedum Foundation



Kim Barber Tieman is the Vice President and Health and Human Service Program Director for the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. Kim has a master's degree in social work and is a licensed social worker in West Virginia. She has a background in community development, program development and management, training, grant writing and grants management. Ms. Tieman has worked in the nonprofit sector, in state government, in schools, and at foundations. Kim served as an adjunct faculty member for the West Virginia University School of Social Work Master of Social Work Program Charleston campus for 18 years, where she taught classes in non-profit management, finance, and social welfare policy.

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Kevin Lambing, CMSgt (ret), USAF

Senior Program Officer, Health Services

TLL Temple Foundation



Kevin's 30-plus-year career in the Air Force culminated in his service as the Senior Advisor to the Air Force Surgeon General. In this role he defined, shaped, and executed health care policy in support of 45,000 personnel at 75 medical treatment facilities around the globe, ensuring a cost effective, patient-centered and prevention-based healthcare continuum for 2.6M beneficiaries.

He has an extensive clinical background in peace and wartime that includes Orthopedics, Dialysis, Critical Care and Emergency Medicine. From 2002 to 2005 he served as the EMT and HAZMAT consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General, and was on the Board of Directors for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. Throughout his decorated career, he played a key role in many strategic and historic Department of Defense initiatives. He has served around the globe in Europe, Asia and the middle east.

He earned an Associate of Applied Science degree from the Community College of the Air Force, Bachelor's of Science degree from Wayland Baptist University, a Master's of Business Administration degree from Webster University and has completed multiple prestigious leadership courses to include: The Enterprise Leadership Seminar, Darden School of Business, University of Virginia, The Keystone Executive Leadership Course, National Defense University, Suffolk, Virginia, and the Gettysburg Leadership Experience, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Rural Health Policy: Philanthropic Efforts to Add Value and Preserve Care

Sheldon Weisgrau, MHS

Vice President of Health Policy

Missouri Foundation for Health



Sheldon Weisgrau is Vice President of Health Policy at Missouri Foundation for Health. He has a long history of working to develop innovative health care delivery and financing models in rural communities, including directing the programs that led to the creation of Critical Access Hospitals. Before joining the Foundation, Sheldon led a state-based effort to implement health reform in Kansas and held senior positions with a health policy coalition, a state-based policy think tank, and a rural health consulting firm. During this time, he has worked to ensure the delivery of health care services in rural and underserved communities and to enhance the knowledge and engagement of health care consumers, providers, and policymakers. Sheldon earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a master's degree in health policy and management from the

Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

Lin Hollowell

Director of Health Care
Duke Endowment



Before joining the Endowment in 2001, Hollowell worked in hospital administration with the Greenville Health System in Greenville, S.C., with management responsibilities in strategic planning, market development and physician relations. Hollowell serves on the editorial board of the North Carolina Medical Journal and the board of Care Share Health Alliance, Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina and AccessHealth SC. He is a Commissioner with the North Carolina Medical Care Commission and a Hull Leadership Fellow with Southeastern Council of Foundations.

Shao-Chee Sim, PhD, MPA

Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Evaluation
Episcopal Health Foundation



Shao-Chee Sim leads the Foundation's work in health policy analysis; pilot projects, learning collaboratives; research and evaluation portfolio. Current priorities include Medicaid managed care organizations social determinants of health (SDOH) strategies, multi-sectoral community health collaboratives, innovative SDOH financing strategies, community health center payment reform, rural healthcare service delivery, and public opinion survey research. Dr. Sim currently serves on the Board of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum and National Rural Health Resource Center. He also serves on advisory committee of the Kinder Institute of Urban research at Rice University and the Asian American Policy Review at Harvard University. He earned his Master's degree in public administration from the JFK School of

Government at Harvard University and a doctorate in public policy from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

Nancy Dickey, MD

Executive Director

A&M Rural and Community Health Institute



After nearly 12 years of service as president of the Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) and vice chancellor for health affairs for The Texas A&M University System (January 2002 through October 2012), Dr. Nancy W. Dickey returned to the College of Medicine where she serves a number of roles both academic and administrative. During her tenure, the health science center grew the number of programs and number of graduates, expanded its research programs and extended its service to the citizens of Texas. Currently, she serves as executive director of the A&M Rural and Community Health Institute working with physicians and hospitals across the state of Texas and the nation to facilitate best practices in patient safety, enhanced quality of care, and physician excellence and demonstrating the importance of translation of sound policy and evidence-

based medicine across the spectrum of practice sites and care delivery. Other roles at A&M include service as interim dean of the TAMHSC-College of Medicine (June 2000 until Dec. 31, 2001) and founding director of the TAMU Family Medicine Residency. Dr. Dickey was the first woman elected president of the American Medical Association. She is the recipient of numerous awards: American Academy of Family Medicine John G. Walsh Award for Lifetime Contributions to Family Medicine (2019), Institute of Medicine (2007), Texas's Women's Hall of Fame (2010), and six honorary doctorate degrees.

Julia Wacker

Executive Director

CaroNova



Julia Wacker is Executive Director of CaroNova and President of the North Carolina Healthcare Foundation, the charitable non-profit affiliate of the North Carolina Healthcare Association. As Executive Director, Ms. Wacker oversees the day-to-day operational development and strategic initiatives of CaroNova, a newly launched health innovation and reform initiative serving the Carolinas. Previously, Ms. Wacker was the Association's Vice President of Behavioral Health, developing state-level programmatic and policy initiatives in support of North Carolina health systems and the communities they serve. Ms. Wacker is the co-author of several book chapters, journal publications, and the American Board of Pediatrics' Performance Improvement Module on community pediatrics and patient-centered care. Ms. Wacker is the recipient of the Public Health Social Work Leadership Award and the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Award. She earned a Bachelor's in Education Studies from the New School University and Master's in Social Work and Master's in

Science in Public Health from UNC Chapel Hill.

Jai Kumar

Senior Director for Program Design

CaroNova



Jai Kumar is the Senior Director of Program Design for CaroNova. In this role, Mr. Kumar leads the programmatic planning and design of all new CaroNova initiatives. Previously, he led the development of the North Carolina Healthcare Association's (NCHA) opioid strategy, working with public and private partners to develop best practice protocols to address the opioid crisis in health systems throughout North Carolina. Before joining CaroNova and NCHA, Mr. Kumar served as a senior director with the YMCA of the Triangle, leading the association in youth development and inclusive programming initiative. Mr. Kumar earned his Master's in Public in Health Policy and Management from the Gillings School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor's in Biological Sciences from the North Carolina State University.

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Speaker Biographies

Administration Update

Carole Johnson

Administrator

Health Resources and Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Carole Johnson is the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Johnson joined HRSA from the White House COVID-19 Response Team. She previously served as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, leading the state's largest agency and providing health care and social services to one-in-five New Jerseyans. During her tenure as Commissioner, the Department expanded Medicaid coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services, created new Medicaid benefits to improve maternal health outcomes, and integrated Medicaid into the newly launched state-based Affordable Care Act marketplace. Under Johnson's leadership, the Department also substantially increased child care rates for the first time in a decade, expanded food assistance benefits, and created an Office of New Americans to support the state's diverse communities.

Johnson served for more than five years as the Domestic Policy Council public health lead in the Obama White House, working on the Ebola and Zika responses, implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and combatting the opioid epidemic. In addition, she served on Capitol Hill as health staff for the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging and for members of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee and U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee.

At the Department of Health and Human Services, Johnson previously managed health care workforce policy issues for HRSA. She also was policy director for the Alliance of Community Health Plans, program officer with the Pew Charitable Trusts health program, and senior government relations manager with the American Heart Association.

She holds a master's degree in government from the University of Virginia.

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Catherine Oakar

Special Assistant to the President for Community Public Health and Disparities
The White House



Catherine Oakar most recently served on the Biden-Harris Transition. She was also a Senior Advisor at Waxman Strategies consulting on public health, nutrition, and health care issues. During the Obama-Biden Administration, she served at the White House as the Associate Director of the *Let's Move!* initiative in the First Lady's office and as a Senior Advisor in the Office of National AIDS Policy. Oakar was also the Director of Public Health Policy in the Office of Health Reform at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She began her work in Washington, D.C. as a Winston Health Policy Fellow. She has also conducted community-based research with low-income cancer survivors and safety net clinics. Oakar graduated from the University of Notre Dame and the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She is originally from outside Cleveland, Ohio.

Farah Ahmad, MPA

Chief of Staff, Rural Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Farah Ahmad has spent her career advancing policies and programs that promote economic inclusion and opportunity. She currently serves as the Chief of Staff for USDA Rural Development. From 2015 through 2017, Ms. Ahmad served as a Program Manager with the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's Community and Economic Development program. Before rejoining Rural Development, Ms. Ahmad managed financial resiliency programs and strategic and operational initiatives for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. She also served as a Senior Policy Analyst for the Center for American Progress where she helped advance evidence-based economic policies that centered on racial equity. Farah Ahmad holds a Master of Public Affairs from the Princeton University School of Public and International Affairs and a Bachelor of Science from the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

Build Healthy Places Network

Doug Jutte, MD, MPH

Executive Director

Build Healthy Places Network



Douglas Jutte, MD, MPH is Executive Director of the Build Healthy Places Network, a national organization with the mission to transform the way organizations work together across the health, community development, and finance sectors to more effectively reduce poverty, advance racial equity, and improve health in neighborhoods across the United States. Dr. Jutte sits on the Board of Trustees for Mercy Housing, a national non-profit affordable housing developer, and is a member of the health advisory committee for Enterprise Community Partners, one of the country's largest community development financial institutions (CDFIs). He is also a member of CommonSpirit Health's Community Economic Initiatives committee and Trinity Health's Socially Responsible Investment Advisory Group. He has been a leader in the Federal Reserve Bank and RWJ Foundation's Healthy Communities Initiative, which has convened over 40 cross-sector gatherings throughout the country since 2010. Prior to founding the Network, Dr. Jutte worked as a pediatrician for nearly 20 years in low-income community clinics and as a neonatal hospitalist and was a professor in the UC Berkeley School of Public Health for 15 years. He has published in a number of prominent scientific journals including *Pediatrics*, *Epidemiology*, the *American Journal of Public Health* and *Health Affairs*. Dr. Jutte received his BA from Cornell University, MD from Harvard Medical School, and MPH from UC Berkeley. He trained in pediatrics at Stanford University and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in population health at UCSF through the RWJF Health & Society Scholars program.