

2025 BETTER HEALTH PARTNERSHIP LEARNING COLLABORATIVE AGENDA

Corporate College East: 4400 Richmond Rd., Warrensville Hts., OH 44128

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	REGISTRATION Breakfast and Networking
8:30 – 8:40 a.m. Main Room 126	WELCOME Kirstin Craciun , MPP, MSW, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, Better Health Partnership
8:40 – 8:55 a.m. Main Room 126	COLLABORATIVE CHAMPION AWARD Jim Weisman , MBA, Board Chair, Better Health Partnership
8:55 – 10:30 a.m. Main Room 126 Introduction by Robert Eick	RANDALL D. CEBUL KEYNOTE ADDRESS FEATURING DR. CHARLENE WONG, MD, MSHP Protecting Health as a Team Sport Dr. Charlene Wong, a nationally recognized physician executive and health innovator, most recently served as Senior Advisor for Health Strategy to the Director of the CDC. She has led national efforts to integrate public health and healthcare, improve mental health and maternal-child health, and strengthen cross-sector partnerships. Her keynote will call us to co-design solutions, align resources, and leverage data to drive better outcomes—setting the tone for a day of collaboration and impact.
	REACTION PANEL Keynote reaction panel will include experts representing policymaking, faith-based institutions, and the healthcare sector. Moderator: Charlene Wong , MD, MSHP, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Policy, Duke University Robert Eick , MD, MPH, President and CEO, Better Health Partnership Keisha Krumm , MDiv, Executive Director, Greater Cleveland Congregations Brian S. Martin , DMD, MHCDS, Vice President of Population Health, Akron Children's Hospital; Assistant Professor of Surgery, Northeast Ohio Medical University Tristan Rader , MPA, State Representative
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	BREAK
10:45 – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Room 125	MORNING BREAKOUT: (LEAD) FROM THE BLOCK UP: COMMUNITY-LED APPROACHES TO CONNECTING KIDS TO CARE Many cities across the country are addressing the challenge of lead poisoning. In Toledo, The Junction Coalition was selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the only organization in Ohio—and one of just 11 nationwide—to implement a grassroots lead poisoning prevention program. In this session, participants will learn about The Junction Coalition's #419GetTheLeadOut program, which pairs caregivers of young children with neighborhood navigators who create customized plans for education, testing, and support. Attendees will hear how The Junction Coalition's silo-busting partnerships with healthcare and public health support a unique approach: scaling door-to-door engagement to connect families to pediatric care and other prevention services. Following a brief presentation, small-group discussions will invite attendees to reflect on what stands out about The Junction Coalition's approach and how these ideas could inform small tests of change to strengthen outreach and lead prevention efforts in Cleveland.
	Moderator: PJ Kimmel , MPH, Project Lead, Better Health Partnership Archie Beasley, Jr. , Program Director, The Junction Coalition

10:45 – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Main Room 126	MORNING BREAKOUT: INNOVATIONS IN FOOD AS MEDICINE: FROM THE GROUND UP This session will provide perspectives on how Food as Medicine (FAM) is being deployed and trends that may impact its sustainability. Hear from clinicians about how Food as Medicine (FAM) can help connect people to food that can improve health conditions and life overall. The healthcare system perspective will also be discussed, including how hospitals have adapted their use of food resources and lessons learned. Statewide collaborative efforts that seek innovative pathways to ensure greater sustainability will also be shared. Moderator: Alissa Glenn, MSPPM, PhD, Director of Community Health and Research, Greater Cleveland Food Bank Kristen Matlack, MPH, Manager of Social Care Initiatives, The MetroHealth System Cheryl Sarakauskas, RN, RDN, CDCES, Wellness Coordinator, Neighborhood Family Practice Grace Wagner, MS, Director of Health Initiatives, Ohio Association of Foodbanks
10:45 – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Room 130	MORNING BREAKOUT: ADDRESSING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH MORE SUSTAINABLE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT Quality improvement in healthcare has long been heralded as essential for achieving better patient outcomes, enhancing safety, improving efficiency, increasing patient satisfaction, and maintaining regulatory compliance. In this session, learn about strategies that can be used to scale best practices in clinical care in the community health center setting. Moderator: Sara Iguodala, MPH, Founder, Indive Consulting Marianella Napolitano, MBA, RN, Director of Population Health, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Ohio Jean Polster, RN, MS, President, Jean Polster Coaching and Consulting; Ret. FQHC President & CEO Mamta (Mimi) K. Singh, MD, MS, Professor of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine; Director, Interprofessional Improvement Research Education Clinical Center- VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System
12:00 – 12:45 p.m.	GROUP PICTURE / LUNCH
12:45 – 1:15 p.m. Main Room 126	BETTER HEALTH PARTNERSHIP: OUR WORK TODAY, OUR PATH AHEAD — TOGETHER Robert Eick, MD, MPH, President and CEO, Better Health Partnership
1:15 – 2:15 p.m. Main Room 126	PLENARY SESSION: ENSURING MEDICAID AND SNAP BENEFIT ACCESS AND CONTINUITY A variety of actions at the federal and state level have implications for certain individuals who currently have Medicaid coverage and/or SNAP benefits. This plenary will provide an update on the current status of federal and state actions affecting these programs. Panelists representing healthcare providers, the employment sector, and community agencies will discuss the anticipated impacts and approaches needed to co-design successful solutions. Moderator: Jenn Kons, MPA, Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of Greater Cleveland Laura Chalker, MBA, Chief Operating Officer, Greater Cleveland Works Ken J.A. Griffin, DHA, MA, RMC, President and CEO, Care Alliance Health Center Emily Muttillo, MPA, Director of Applied Research and Williamson Family Fellow for Applied Research, The Center for Community Solutions

	Patrick Runnels , MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer, Veale Healthcare Transformation Institute; Chief Medical Officer, Population Health; Ann S. and Anthony J. Asher Chair in Community Health; University Hospitals
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	BREAK
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Room 125	AFTERNOON BREAKOUT: STRENGTHENING PERINATAL HEALTH IN NORTHEAST OHIO Cleveland has one of the country's highest infant mortality rates, with stark racial disparities. Supporting ongoing work by First Year Cleveland, a new opportunity seeks to scale best practices to improve perinatal health for all in Cuyahoga County. This working session will introduce the new <i>Partner for Change</i> initiative, focused on driving impact across Ohio. Plan to attend as we explore upstream risk factors and opportunities to improve maternal and infant health outcomes through local quality improvement. Moderator: Sara Iguodala, MPH, Founder, Indive Consulting Ndidi Edeh-Larberg, MPH, RRT, Director of Research and Evaluation, Better Health Partnership Monique Katsuki, MD, MPH, FACOG, OB/Gyn Hospitalist, Cleveland Clinic Angela Newman-White, MA, Executive Director, First Year Cleveland
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Main Room 126	CHW-ONLY SESSION AFTERNOON BREAKOUT: MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE: TRUST-BUILDING CONVERSATIONS IN CARE COORDINATION In this CHW-only session, participants will learn to identify common human and systemic reasons why patients delay or avoid care and learn techniques rooted in motivational interviewing. In addition, CHWs will practice patient-centered communication strategies through role-play and group feedback, and reflect on their own biases and assumptions that may impact care delivery. Nicole D. Avant, Pharm.D., BCACP, Founder, Owner, and Lead Consultant, Avant Consulting Group
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Room 130	AFTERNOON BREAKOUT: LEAD 101: FROM EDUCATION TO ACTION Lead poisoning has been an ongoing source of concern in communities across the region and country. In fact, the City of Cleveland has the highest rate of childhood lead poisoning in the country—which has spurred concerted efforts by the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition and others to prevent lead exposure and increase testing rates. In this session, learn more about how to identify common sources and risk factors for childhood lead exposure and strategies for prevention. The presenter will share how community health workers and others can engage families in lead prevention efforts and connect children to care. Sheila Calloway, Educator, Lead Safe Resource Center, Environmental Health Watch
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Room 230	AFTERNOON BREAKOUT: BUILDING EFFECTIVE NETWORKS FOR TRANSITIONS OF CARE Smooth transitions of care ensure patients receive consistent, ongoing treatment and support, which is vital for managing health conditions. In this session, participants will learn to define key barriers to effectively link people leaving the hospital to ongoing care, and gain knowledge about effective strategies to improve transitions of care. Moderator: Chris Mundorf, MPH, PhD, Chief Strategy Officer, Better Health Partnership Amber Gravino, MS, RD, LD, Director of Population Health, Neighborhood Family Practice Colleen Ptak, LISW-S, Senior Director, Population Health, The Centers Megan Recker, LISW-S, MBA, System Director of Behavioral Health, Summa Health

	Thom Thomas, Quality Engineer, Neighborhood Family Practice
Accreditation Statement: Better Health Partnership, an independent 501(c)(3), receives support from The MetroHealth System to offer and administer CME credits. The MetroHealth System is accredited by the Ohio State Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The MetroHealth System designates this educational activity for a maximum of 6.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s) [™] . Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. Other Healthcare Professionals: check with your professional association as these credits might be applicable for licensure renewal.	

SPEAKER BIOS

Nicole D. Avant, Pharm.D., BCACP, Founder, Owner, and Lead Consultant, Avant Consulting Group

Dr. Nicole Avant is a board-certified ambulatory care pharmacist, professor, and strategist whose career has been dedicated to advancing racial and health equity. Growing up in Chicago, she witnessed firsthand the consequences of unequal access to health-promoting resources, shaping her lifelong commitment to equity and justice.

Dr. Avant holds a B.S. in Finance with Honors from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and earned her Doctor of Pharmacy, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of Illinois Chicago. She completed two pharmacy residencies at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, where she built expertise in managing chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, HIV/AIDS, and anticoagulation disorders.

A trailblazer in her field, Dr. Avant became the first Black woman professor and Chief Diversity Officer at the fifth-oldest College of Pharmacy in the United States. Her groundbreaking research has focused on implicit bias, microaggressions, and the experiences of marginalized identities navigating power dynamics in healthcare and higher education.

Dr. Avant has been recognized for her scholarship and leadership, receiving the 2021 Best Publication Award and the 2017 Rising Star Awards. She is also a respected professor, teaching about racial and ethnic health disparities, inclusive leadership, and pharmacy practice.

Drawing on interdisciplinary insights from sociologists, historians, organizational strategists, and somatic practitioners, Dr. Avant takes a holistic approach to transformation. She partners with organizations to enhance care, connection, dignity, and safety—for patients, employees, and communities. Nicole builds structural competence, cultivates pleasure activism, and fosters environments where people feel respected, valued, and able to thrive.

Archie Beasley, Jr., Program Director, The Junction Coalition

Archie Beasley, Jr. is the Program Director for The Junction Coalition's #419GetTheLeadOut campaign, grant funded by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Preventing children from being lead poisoned is the goal, creating a Lead Free Community in Toledo, Ohio. The Junction Coalition is a Community Based Organization founded in 2016 to uplift and advance the Junction Community. Their 4 pillars are Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, Social Justice, and Peace Education.

Sheila Calloway, Educator, Lead Safe Resource Center, Environmental Health Watch

Sheila Calloway is a community organizer and has been a lead advocate for over 6 years. She is an educator with the Lead Safe Resource Center at Environmental Health Watch. As a proud lung transplant recipient, she is passionate about creating healthy, safe home for children and families. When not doing community work, you will find her playing with her 10 grandkids or tending to her plants. She is happy to be here, just loving life.

Laura Chalker, MBA, Chief Operating Officer, Greater Cleveland Works

Laura Chalker is the Chief Operating Officer for Greater Cleveland Works. In this role Ms. Chalker's portfolio includes strategic planning, finance, operations, programs, and compliance. Ms. Chalker has over 25 years of experience in the non-profit sector. She has previously served as Executive Director of the Bond Accountability Commission, Chief Program Officer at The Centers, Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and as a consultant to non-profit organizations in the community.

Ms. Chalker is a Leadership Cleveland (Class of 2019), Cleveland Bridge Builders (Class of 2008) and Lead Diversity (Class of 2007) alum. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Allegheny College and her Master

of Business Administration from Baldwin Wallace University. Ms. Chalker serves on the board of the Healthy Lakewood Foundation and the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland.

Kirstin Craciun, MPP, MSW, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, Better Health Partnership

Kirstin leads stakeholder engagement efforts that center health equity at Better Health Partnership. She promotes community and member engagement through the planning and execution of external communications, public relations, convenings, social media, and webinars. In her previous role at Better Health, Kirstin led coordination of Northeast Ohio community health centers' COVID-19 response efforts, ensuring collaboration with public health, payers, hospitals and community partners, including the faith-based community.

Prior to working at Better Health, Kirstin served as the Director of Community Outreach for The Center for Health Affairs. In this capacity, Kirstin led the Community Health Needs Assessment Roundtable and together with Dr. Heidi Gullett brought the hospital community, public health and other essential stakeholders together to develop Cuyahoga County's first collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment and explore opportunities for collaboration on addressing CHNA-related strategic health priorities.

Ndidi Edeh-Larberg, MPH, RRT, Director of Research and Evaluation, Better Health Partnership

Ndidi Edeh-Larberg is the Director of Research and Evaluation at Better Health Partnership and a licensed Respiratory Therapist with over 7 years of experience in public health. She holds a BA in Science and Respiratory Care and an MPH in Epidemiology from The University of Toledo, and is completing her Ph.D. in Epidemiology at Kent State University in 2025.

As a recognized subject matter expert in maternal and child health, Ndidi leads research initiatives and evaluation strategies focused on addressing birth outcome disparities and promoting health equity in Northeastern Ohio. Previously, she served as Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist for Summit County Public Health, where she investigated sleep-related deaths, neonatal deaths, and other poor birth-related outcomes while providing critical data support to local government entities, grassroots organizations, and hospitals. Her groundbreaking doctoral research examines the relationship between perceived racism, stress, and poor birth outcomes in African American women. Ndidi's research portfolio includes co-authoring studies on adolescent behavior, leading analyses on sleep-related deaths, and serving as Co-PI on projects examining racism as a root cause for poor birth outcomes.

Currently, she serves as the data lead for the Partners for Change initiative to reduce infant mortality in Cuyahoga County, collaborating with First Year Cleveland, the Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth, and University Hospitals. Her expertise in research methodology, program evaluation, and commitment to addressing health disparities have earned her widespread respect in the public health field.

Robert Eick, MD, MPH, President and CEO, Better Health Partnership

Dr. Robert Eick became the President and CEO of Better Health Partnership in November 2024. He is a physician leader and health policy expert with over a decade of experience with social drivers of health, health equity, health system management, value-based care delivery models, Medicaid and Medicare innovation, and payer and provider engagement. He is committed to building inclusive relationships, fostering collaboration, providing mentorship, and co-creating and driving strategic vision to improve health outcomes and reduce inequities.

Dr. Eick served as Principal Consultant at Eick Consulting for seven years. His additional roles have also included Senior Consultant on Population Health and Health Equity at RTI Health Advance, Vice President of Clinical Strategy for UnitedHealthcare, Policy Fellow at the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy, Deputy Chief Medical Officer at Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC), and Executive Director of Carolina Medical Home Network at the North Carolina Community Health Center Association.

Dr. Eick holds a Doctor of Medicine and a Master of Public Health from the Physician Leadership Development Program at the Boonshoft School of Medicine, Wright State University, in Dayton, Ohio. He also earned bachelor's degrees in biochemistry and Spanish from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Alissa Glenn, PhD, MSPPM, Director of Community Health and Research, Greater Cleveland Food Bank
Alissa Glenn, PhD, MSPPM, serves as the Director of Community Health and Research at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Alissa leads the food bank's efforts to use data and research to drive impact and improved health outcomes through high-quality programs. Alissa received her doctorate in Urban Policy from Cleveland State University, and has a Master's degree in Public Policy and Management from The Heinz School at Carnegie Mellon University. Prior to her work in food security and community health, she worked in policy and strategy consulting, serving a wide variety of clients in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Amber Gravino, MS, RD, LD, Director of Population Health, Neighborhood Family Practice
Amber Gravino is a dedicated healthcare leader with a background as a clinical dietitian and a strong, data-driven foundation that has shaped her transition into public health. She currently serves as the Director of Population Health at Neighborhood Family Practice, where she leads a team of community health workers and oversees Medicare Annual Wellness Visits. Amber's work centers on value-based care, with a focus on finding innovative ways to close care gaps and build sustainable systems for long-term success.

Outside of her professional role, Amber enjoys life's adventures with her husband, their 1-year-old and 3-year-old children, and their whimsical 14-year-old semi-deaf Italian greyhound. Her family brings joy and balance to her days, reminding her of the importance of creativity and connection in every aspect of life.

Ken J.A. Griffin, DHA, MA, RMC, President and CEO, Care Alliance Health Center
Dr. Ken J. A. Griffin serves as President and CEO of Care Alliance Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center that has been serving Cleveland for over 40 years. Founded to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness and residents of public housing, Care Alliance has grown into a cornerstone of community health and a trusted ally for thousands of patients each year.

With more than two decades of leadership in healthcare and social services, Dr. Griffin has focused on advancing health equity, improving access to quality care, and building sustainable systems that address both clinical outcomes and the social determinants of health. Under his leadership, Care Alliance continues to expand its reach through innovative partnerships, value-based care initiatives, and a patient-centered model that reflects its mission: to provide high-quality, comprehensive care to those who need it most.

Dr. Griffin holds a Doctorate in Healthcare Administration and an MA in Business with an emphasis in Management and Leadership. He is deeply committed to community engagement, equity in healthcare, and ensuring that safety-net providers remain strong pillars in their communities.

Sara Iguodala, MPH, Founder, Indive Consulting
Sara Iguodala partners with mission-driven organizations to strengthen strategy, streamline programs, and turn data into meaningful action. With a background in public health and deep experience at both state and community levels, she helps teams design initiatives, implement quality improvement strategies, and translate complex information into stories that drive impact. Her work supports cross-sector collaboration and sustainable solutions, particularly in the areas of maternal and child health, community engagement, and systems change.

Monique Katsuki, MD, MPH, FACOG, OB/Gyn Hospitalist, Cleveland Clinic
Monique Katsuki, MD, MPH, FACOG, is an OB/Gyn Hospitalist at the Cleveland Clinic and Assistant Professor at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. She serves as Assistant Department

Chair of OB/Gyn at Hillcrest Hospital and works with the Cleveland Clinic Center for Infant and Maternal Health. Dr. Katsuki is currently pursuing a PhD in Clinical & Translational Science at Case Western and her research and leadership activities focus on advancing respectful maternity care and eliminating inequities in maternal and infant health outcomes through multidisciplinary and community collaborations.

PJ Kimmel, MPH, Project Lead, Better Health Partnership

As Project Lead, PJ organizes cross-sector collaboratives to improve health outcomes in Northeast Ohio. He helps mobilize academic institutions, health systems, managed care organizations, public health departments, social service agencies, and community advocates for collective impact. PJ believes that Northeast Ohio can become one of the healthiest places to live when we work together.

Before joining Better Health Partnership, PJ worked as a project manager at Unite Us, leading cross-functional initiatives to expand access to coordinated social care. Earlier in his career, he was an analyst at Cleveland Clinic, where he developed and implemented change management strategies for a finance transformation initiative. Collaboration has been a core value and a joy throughout PJ's career.

PJ earned a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Public Health from Kent State University. His Midwest upbringing, public education, and nonprofit experiences have instilled in him a deep sense of pride and responsibility for public service. Outside of work, PJ finds fulfillment in hiking, exploring local food scenes, commuting by bike, and being part of a progressive faith community that sustains his belief in the power of community.

Jenn Kons, MPA, Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of Greater Cleveland

Jenn Kons is Vice President of Community Impact at United Way of Greater Cleveland, where she leads initiatives to advance economic mobility across Cuyahoga and Geauga Counties. She oversees United Way 211, public policy, community investments, and impact analytics, building on nearly two decades of experience in health and human services. Since joining United Way in 2017, Jenn has held multiple leadership roles driving strategic planning and large-scale investments addressing non-medical drivers of health. Her prior leadership includes roles at Care Alliance Health Center and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Jenn holds an MPA from Cleveland State University, a BA from Mercyhurst College. She lives in Cleveland with her husband and son.

Keisha Krumm, MDiv, Executive Director, Greater Cleveland Congregations

Keisha Krumm is the Executive Director and Lead Organizer of Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), a nonprofit community power organization that amplifies the voices of Cuyahoga County residents in pursuit of social justice. She joined GCC in November 2019, bringing over two decades of experience building community organizations and developing leaders across congregations, educational associations, nonprofits, and labor unions.

Her organizing work has tackled issues such as job creation, quality education, affordable healthcare, mental health access, and racial justice in cities including Los Angeles, Seattle, Tacoma, Milwaukee, and now Cleveland. Under her leadership, GCC has continued its legacy of driving systemic change in health equity, criminal justice reform, economic justice and voter engagement since its founding in 2011.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Keisha played a pivotal role in organizing GCC's "Color of Health" initiative, which challenged medical redlining by major pharmacy chains and secured testing and vaccination access for underserved neighborhoods. She also helped design and implement the "Dollars for Doses" campaign, which vaccinated thousands of residents who might otherwise have been left behind—saving lives and reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Keisha currently organizes GCC's health equity work through the Healthy Blocks Initiative, which focuses on access to quality care, workforce development, aging-in-place housing, and strengthening communities to take ownership of their health outcomes.

She holds a master's degree in Christian Community Development from the Mennonite Biblical Seminary. A devoted wife and mother, Keisha has committed her life to justice-seeking and community transformation.

Brian S. Martin, DMD, MHCDS, Vice President of Population Health, Akron Children's Hospital; Assistant Professor of Surgery, Northeast Ohio Medical University

Dr. Brian Martin is currently serving as Vice President of Population Health and Medical Director of the Akron Children's Health Collaborative at Akron Children's Hospital. In this role he is responsible for implementation of Akron Children's population health strategy, including Quality, Outcomes, and financial performance of a risk-bearing accountable care organization (ACO), the Akron Children's Health Collaborative. He is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED). His clinical practice is focused on dental and oral surgical care for patients with medical complexity, with a specific focus on the cleft/craniofacial population.

Dr. Martin received his bachelor's degree (BA, Honors) from Colgate University and his DMD from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed his residency in Pediatric Dentistry at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and is Board Certified in his specialty. In 2014 he completed a Master of Science in Healthcare Delivery (MHCDS) in a joint program of the Tuck School of Business and the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College.

Kristen Matlack, MPH, Manager of Social Care Initiatives, The MetroHealth System

Kristen Matlack serves as the Social Care Initiatives Manager at The MetroHealth System's Institute for H.O.P.E.[™] (Health, Opportunity, Partnership, Empowerment). In this role, Kristen leads program development, management, and coordination aimed at strengthening and expanding strategies to address the social drivers of health (SDOH). Her portfolio includes subject matter expertise on food security programs and overseeing emerging initiatives to screen for and respond to SDOH needs. Before joining MetroHealth, Kristen accumulated extensive experience in community-based research and management roles with The Ohio State University Extension and Case Western Reserve University's Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods.

She holds a Master of Public Health from Drexel University and a bachelor's degree in public health education from James Madison University. Kristen resides in the Greater Cleveland, Ohio area with her husband and two sons.

Chris Mundorf, PhD, MPH, Chief Strategy Officer, Better Health Partnership

Chris leads Better Health Partnership in the development, execution, and communication of strategic initiatives, and leads the collaborative efforts and delivery of data analyses and visualization of regional health information received from our members and partners. Before joining Better Health Partnership, Chris served as epidemiologist for the Portage County Combined General Health District and as an Assistant Professor of Public Health at Hiram College. Chris earned his Master of Public Health degree and Ph.D. from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

Emily Muttillio, MPA, Director of Applied Research and Williamson Family Fellow for Applied Research, The Center for Community Solutions

Emily Muttillio serves as Director of Research, Williamson Family Fellow for Applied Research at The Center for Community Solutions. She guides staff members in examining a variety of health, social, and economic conditions. For the past eight years, she has been a member of the Benefits Access Partnership, a working group comprised of Cuyahoga County Job and Family Services, Greater Cleveland Food Bank and The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. The group has worked collaboratively to improve access for community members to benefits programs including SNAP and Medicaid. Emily received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from John Carroll University and a Master

of Public Administration from the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. Emily serves on the boards of McGregor Foundation.

Marianella Napolitano, MBA, RN, Director of Population Health, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Ohio
Marianella Napolitano is a healthcare executive with over 15 years of experience leading innovation in Medicaid managed care, clinical transformation, and population health. As Director of Population Health for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Ohio, she oversees strategy and execution of initiatives that improve outcomes, reduce disparities, and advance health equity for vulnerable populations.

Her leadership spans statewide programs such as doula networks and Medication Assisted Treatment for pregnant women, behavioral health integration, and alternative payment model adoption. Marianella has managed multimillion-dollar budgets and directed operations across pharmacies, dental clinics, and EMR implementations. Previously, she served as Chief of Healthcare Programs at The Centers & Circle Health Services, leading the integration of a community mental health agency and a federally qualified health center. Over the course of her career, Marianella has held progressively senior roles across provider and payer organizations, consistently expanding her scope of responsibility and impact. She holds an MBA in Healthcare Management and degrees in Nursing and Management Information Systems.

A Crain's Cleveland Business 40 Under 40 honoree and Cleveland Bridge Builders alumna, Marianella serves on several boards, including the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance, the American Cancer Society OH/N-KY/WV area Board, and the Ohio Rural Health Association. Fluent in Spanish, Italian, and English, she champions culturally responsive care and community health.

Angela Newman-White, MA, Executive Director, First Year Cleveland

Angela Newman-White is the Executive Director of First Year Cleveland since 2023. Her leadership in maternal and infant health over the past 20 years has been recognized at the local, state, and national levels.

Prior to taking her position, Mrs. Newman-White spent 18 years in public health, coordinating numerous successful initiatives to address disparities in maternal and child health. Notably, securing funds to expand CenteringPregnancy, launching One Community—a place-based collective impact framework, and working with key stakeholders to create First Year Cleveland in 2015.

Since her transition to Executive Director, Angela has rebranded the organization as a Connector, Protector, and Activator, supporting community serving organizations through policy, advocacy, and fundraising. Over the past 2.5 years, First Year Cleveland has invested over \$7 million dollars in community serving organizations, launched a statewide Infant Vitality Advocacy Day, and contributed to research to inform policy changes related to housing, screening, and basic needs.

Mrs. Newman-White holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Arts in Sociology from Cleveland State University. Among many local and state boards and collaboratives, since 2019 she has served on the Board of Directors for [CityMatCH](#) and the Cuyahoga County Children and Family Services Advisory Board.

Jean Polster, RN, MS, President, Jean Polster Coaching and Consulting; Ret. FQHC President & CEO

Jean has a coaching and consulting practice focused primarily on health care and non-profit executives and holds an ACC credential from the International Coaching Federation. She has over 40 years of senior management experience in health and human services including hospitals in Ohio and California, social services/child welfare/mental health organizations and 19 years as the CEO of Neighborhood Family Practice, an FQHC in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jean has led growth strategies for revenue generation, improving access and quality of care. Jean is passionate about leadership development and performance improvement in service to our community. Jean has extensive board experience, including past leadership roles for the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (OACHC), Better Health Partnership and OCHIN – a large safety net information service platform. Jean has a BS in Nursing from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and a MS in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Colleen Ptak, LISW-S, Senior Director, Population Health, The Centers

Colleen Ptak, LISW-S, is an accomplished Independent Social Worker Supervisor with extensive experience in social work, program management, and service integration. With a Master of Social Work from the University of South Carolina and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Iona College, she has held various leadership roles, most recently serving as the Senior Director of Population Health at The Centers. Colleen has successfully managed health initiatives, directing care coordination programs and creating processes to leverage value-based contracts. Her expertise spans across mental health services, integrated care systems, and community-based programs.

Tristan Rader, MPA, State Representative

Tristan Rader serves as the State Representative for Ohio's 13th House District, representing Cleveland's West Side and Lakewood. A former Lakewood City Councilmember, Tristan has long been dedicated to strengthening local communities through innovative, people-first policies. From expanding access to food and housing to championing clean energy and good jobs, he has built a career on delivering real results for Ohio families. Tristan brings that same commitment to his work at the Statehouse, helping create a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

Megan Recker, LISW-S, MBA, System Director of Behavioral Health, Summa Health

Megan holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Neuroscience from Miami University, as well as a Master's Degree in Social Science Administration from Case Western Reserve University and a Master's of Business Administration from Cleveland State University.

Ms. Recker's career has centered around Behavioral Health service delivery; first as a provider of child trauma therapy in 24-hour care settings, and later as an administrator in both Community Mental Health and Hospital environments. Currently, she is charged with strategic and programmatic oversight of the continuum of Behavioral Health services at Summa Health System. In her work at Summa, she prioritizes community-based initiatives and strategic systems collaboration as a conduit to developing comprehensive, patient-centered care. In addition to understanding the pulse of the community, she believes that involvement with state and national organizations is requisite to crafting a practical vision at the local level. Ms. Recker recently completed a fellowship with The College for Behavioral Health Leadership: Equity Grounded Leadership program, deepening her understanding of the diverse factors that impact Behavioral Healthcare delivery, nationally.

Outside of work, you can find Megan on her yoga mat, or hiking the trails with her husband and three kids.

Patrick Runnels, MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer, Veale Healthcare Transformation Institute; Chief Medical Officer, Population Health; Ann S. and Anthony J. Asher Chair in Community Health; University Hospitals

Patrick Runnels is a nationally recognized physician leader and psychiatrist whose career has focused on guiding transformation within healthcare systems large and small to maximize value while improving access and outcomes for the most vulnerable and complex patients. He currently serves as Chief Medical Officer for both Population Health and the Veale Transformation Institute, and holds the Ann S. and Anthony J. Asher Chair in Community Health at University Hospitals Health System in Cleveland, Ohio. During his seven years in population health, University Hospitals has ranked among the most successful Accountable Care Organizations in the country, generating nearly \$200 million dollars in shared savings.

Dr. Runnels has served in numerous administrative positions in hospital and community health settings across more than 15 years. In addition, his focus on developing transformational leadership skills in both individuals and organization led him to establish the Clinical Leadership and Transformation Academy at University Hospitals as well as the Public and Community Psychiatry Fellowship at Case Western Reserve University, as well as designing and teaching a course – Empowering Healthcare Innovation – for the Healthcare MBA at the Case Western Reserve University Weatherhead School of Management.

Dr. Runnels is a Professor of Psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He attended medical school at the University of Missouri, Columbia, completing General Psychiatry Residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, and the Public Psychiatry Fellowship at Columbia University. He also completed his Executive MBA at Case Western Reserve University Weatherhead School of Management.

Cheryl Sarakauskas, RN, RDN, CDCES, Wellness Coordinator, Neighborhood Family Practice

Cheryl Sarakauskas is a Wellness Coordinator at Neighborhood Family Practice. She is a Registered Dietitian, Nurse, Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist. She provides Nutrition Education and support to improve health outcomes. She also partners with Hunger Network and Greater Cleveland Food Bank to improve access to healthy food within the community.

Mamta (Mimi) K. Singh, MD, MS, Professor of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine; Director, Interprofessional Improvement Research Education Clinical Center- VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System
Dr. Mimi Singh is a general internist and medical education researcher. She is the Jerome Kowal, MD Professor of Geriatric Health Education Chair at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and Director of the Health Professions Education fellowship and co-director for the VA Quality Scholars program for the Cleveland VA. She leads Cleveland VA's Interprofessional Improvement Research Education Clinical Center (IIRECC). She chairs the Adult Leadership Team for Better Health Partnership. Her academic interests include medical education, quality improvement, primary care redesign, systems thinking and health equity. Nationally, she is a former member of the Society of General Internal Medicine National Education Committee, the JGIM Editorial Board and she currently is on the national VA's Academic Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) Sub-council.

Thom Thomas, Quality Engineer, Neighborhood Family Practice

Thom Thomas is a Quality Engineer contracted by Neighborhood Family Practice with over 20 years of experience in healthcare process/continuous improvement. Thom holds a Master Black Belt in 6 Sigma and is certified in Lean, Project Management, and Change Management. His passion is improving the quality of care delivered to patients.

Grace Wagner, MS, Director of Health Initiatives, Ohio Association of Foodbanks

In her role as Director of Health Initiatives for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, Grace leads two federal health insurance enrollment programs that connect uninsured and underinsured individuals to affordable health coverage and supports the work of Ohio's foodbanks to improve the health and well-being of food insecure Ohioans. Grace holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Science in Nutrition from the University of Memphis.

Jim Weisman, MBA, Board Chair, Better Health Partnership

Jim is CEO of Ingine, an early-stage healthcare analytics company bringing novel artificial intelligence-based clinical decision support tools supporting personalized medicine to providers and payers. He brings over 30 years of experience in healthcare and general management.

He was the VP and CEO-in-Residence for BioEnterprise for the group's healthcare IT sector. He also was on the management team of HealthSync, a start-up company developing corporate sponsored health insurance

marketplaces, Glengary Ventures, as well as consulting to major financial institutions while with the First Manhattan Consulting Group.

He received his B.S. in Economics from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and his Executive MBA from Case Weatherhead School of Management.

Charlene Wong, MD, MSHP, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Policy, Duke University

Charlene Wong, MD MSHP is a physician and health policy leader who served as the Senior Advisor for Health Strategy to the CDC Director, where she led the agency's collaborative approach to protecting health through partnerships with health care and across government to advance priorities in supporting young families, mental health and overdose, and readiness and response. Previously, she was the inaugural Assistant Secretary for Children and Families and the Chief Health Policy Officer for COVID-19 in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Wong is on faculty at Duke University and launched the North Carolina Integrated Care for Kids (NC InCK) as Executive Director in 2020, an innovative model serving ~100,000 Medicaid-insured children in central North Carolina by integrating services across health care, educational, and social sectors (e.g., schools, housing, food, early care and education, child welfare). She is a primary care pediatrician, specializing in adolescent and young adult medicine.

Dr. Wong's research and policy training includes fellowships at the CDC and in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Morehead-Cain scholar and completed her medical and research training at Emory University, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, University of Washington, Seattle Children's Hospital, University of Pennsylvania, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband and two daughters.