

## Speaker biographies

### Opening plenary



**Kate Connor, MD, MSPH**

Kate Connor is a primary care pediatrician, medical director of the Rales Center for the Integration of Health and Education and assistant professor of Pediatrics in the Division of General Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Connor’s work focuses on preventive care redesign, particularly school health, as a means to engage traditionally marginalized families and to improve health and educational equity. At the Rales Center, she works with a multi-disciplinary team of professionals to create, implement, and evaluate clinical programs that utilize an innovative population health approach. She is core faculty in the Johns Hopkins Center for School Health, Chair of the Maryland Council on the Advancement of School Based Health Centers, and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on School Health Executive Committee.

Dr. Connor received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her medical doctorate from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She completed her pediatric residency training and chief residency at Children’s Memorial Hospital and Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine. At Johns Hopkins, she completed a fellowship in general academic pediatrics and earned a master’s degree in public health from the Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has been providing primary and school-based healthcare for Baltimore kids and families since 2010 and will celebrate her 10<sup>th</sup> year with the Rales Center in this spring.

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### Closing plenary



**LeeAnne Cornyn, JD**

Throughout her career LeeAnne Cornyn has worked tirelessly on behalf of Ohio’s most vulnerable populations – children and those living with mental illness and substance use disorder. She was appointed by Governor Mike DeWine in December 2023 to serve as Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).

Prior to her appointment, Cornyn served as Governor DeWine’s Deputy Chief of Staff where her responsibilities included oversight of the health, mental health, human services, education, and children’s issues policy portfolio.

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Cornyn also served as the Director of Cabinet Affairs, where she acted as a liaison between the Governor and his 26 state agency directors. She originally joined the DeWine-Husted Administration as the first Director of Children’s Initiatives where she focused on coordinating efforts between agencies to improve outcomes in maternal and child health, early childhood education, and foster care. She was instrumental in the creation of OhioRISE, which is a DeWine-Husted Administration initiative to keep kids with severe mental health issues in state and ensures that they receive coordinated care services under Medicaid. Cornyn began working on behalf of Governor DeWine when he was Ohio Attorney General. At the Attorney General’s office, she served as an Assistant Attorney General as well as the Director of Children’s Initiatives.

Also, an educator, Cornyn taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade science in Los Angeles as a Teach for America corps member. She is a graduate of Miami University and holds a law degree from Ohio State University.



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### **John Carey**

John Carey was appointed the Director of the Governor’s Office of Appalachia by Governor Mike DeWine in February 2019. The Governor’s Office of Appalachia works to coordinate economic and community development initiatives to improve the lives of those living in the 32-county region. The Office also works with the Appalachian Regional Commission in Washington, D.C. and with various local entities to promote the region’s assets and support initiatives that increase the economic activity of the region.

John Carey served as the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education from 2013 - 2018. As Chancellor he worked to align higher education programs with Ohio’s job creation and workforce needs. Carey also implemented initiatives that increased collaboration among colleges, universities, technical schools and local businesses and community organizations.

Prior to joining the Ohio Department of Higher Education, Carey was Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives at Shawnee State University. He led university workforce initiatives, working closely with local businesses. Carey served in the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate. He was the Mayor of Wellston for seven years.

A graduate of Ohio University, he lives in Wellston with his wife, Lynley, and two sons.

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### **Stephen D. Dackin, MS**

With more than 40 years working in multiple educational settings, Stephen D. Dackin has amassed extensive experience in state education policy, instructional leadership, postsecondary education, and workforce readiness.

As the director of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, appointed by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Director Dackin focuses on improving educational outcomes and opportunities for all students, emphasizing the importance of partnerships and connecting classroom learning with real-world experiences to ensure Ohio's students have the necessary skills for a bright future.



### **Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA**

Bruce T. Vanderhoff was appointed director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) in August 2021. Dr. Vanderhoff joined the agency after being named chief medical officer in November 2020 and is a key leader in planning, managing, and executing Ohio's COVID-19 response, including its wide-reaching vaccination program. Dr. Vanderhoff also leads the effort to transform the landscape of public health in Ohio through programs and policies that strive to erase inequities, elevate the importance of social determinants, and improve healthcare access and outcomes.

Before joining ODH, Dr. Vanderhoff had amassed years of experience leading large teams in successfully dealing with important healthcare issues in Ohio. He served more than a decade as a senior vice president and chief medical officer at OhioHealth, where he prepared the healthcare system to manage the threat of Ebola and H1N1. He also addressed pressing healthcare issues affecting Ohio from rural Appalachia to metropolitan Columbus.

Dr. Vanderhoff's service has made him a nationally recognized physician leader with an impressive track record of managing large-scale healthcare initiatives, addressing disparities, and improving population health.

His deep commitment to public service has been recognized through both the Phillips Medal of Public Service from Ohio University and an honorary Doctor of Community Leadership in Healthcare from Franklin University. Dr. Vanderhoff holds a doctorate in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Business Administration from Franklin University, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.



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### Workshop sessions

*Speaker biographies are listed in alphabetical order for Workshop sessions.*



**Heather Asch, RN, BSN, LSN** is a graduate of Mount Carmel College of Nursing with a degree in BSN. Heather worked at Mount Carmel Hospital in Surgery where she specialized on the open-heart team for 11 years. After a brief hiatus to help raise a family, Heather found a role at Dublin City Schools as a clinic aide and then pursued her license as a school nurse to become a Dublin City Schools District Nurse. Heather is in her 4th year as a District Nurse for Dublin City Schools and is currently the lead nurse overseeing multiple schools.



**Kelly Blevins, RN** serves as a School Health Population Health Coordinator in MetroHealth's School Health Program. In this role, Kelly plays a critical part in coordinating and supporting health initiatives that promote the well-being of students across the Cleveland Heights University Heights School District. She works closely with school staff, families, and community partners to develop and implement strategies that address the physical, emotional, and mental health needs of students. Kelly is committed to creating a supportive and healthy school environment, ensuring that students have the resources they need to succeed both academically and personally. Kelly's role is centered on improving access to healthcare,

advocating for student wellness, and providing essential health services to ensure the success of each student. Her clinical experience and passion for student health are reflected in the strong partnerships she fosters within the district to achieve better health outcomes for the student population.

Outside of her work, Kelly enjoys spending time with her husband and two children. She enjoys exploring new restaurants, traveling with her family, and supporting her children at their extracurricular activities.



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**Kelley Brazeau** began her career as a Speech Language Pathologist serving adults and students with disabilities. Throughout her years of service in education, she has served as a Transition Coordinator, Intervention Specialist, Director of Special Education, and Director of Positive School Culture in K-12 urban and suburban school districts. Kelley is currently the Executive Director of Diverse Learners and Whole Child Supports for Reynoldsburg City Schools.



**Kim Brengartner, RN, BSN, LSN** graduated in 1997 with an Associate's Degree in Applied Sciences from Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, then went on to obtain her BSN from The University of Toledo in 2014. Kim worked in pediatrics as a new graduate doing home health for the most medically fragile children. Kim then went on to spend almost 15 years as a staff nurse at The Toledo Hospital and Dublin Methodist Hospital in the area of Women and Children's health as a postpartum and newborn nursery RN.

Kim was fortunate to receive a job as a clinic aide at Dublin City Schools where she worked to learn the role of nurses in schools. She then went on to gain more experience as a school nurse in a charter school for 2 years. She was then delighted to be offered the chance to transition back to a Dublin City Schools as a District Nurse obtaining her LSN, Licensed School Nurse through Ashland University.



**Ben Bring, MD** is a board-certified physician in family and sports medicine and currently serves as the Program Director of the Dublin Family Medicine Residency in Dublin, Ohio. Some of his other professional roles include: Head team physician for Columbus Academy High School, Medical Director for the OhioHealth Capital City Half Marathon, Medical Director for the Arnold Sports Festival, Medical Director for the Columbus Marathon, Medical Director for the Grandview Yard Half Marathon, Medical Director for Red Cross First Aid Response Team, Member OhioHealth Sports Medicine Institute

Ben's interests include osteopathic medicine, sports medicine, musculoskeletal ultrasound, medical acupuncture, exercise prescription, fitness, wilderness medicine, school-based health care, community medicine, preventative medicine in primary care, and teaching in medical education. In his free time he enjoys traveling the world and visiting national parks with his family.

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**Jordan Burdick, JD** is a healthcare attorney with experience advising clients on matters concerning state scope of practice and prescriptive authority laws and Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. She routinely works with federally qualified health centers, medical providers, trade associations, child welfare providers, recovery home operators, and community behavioral health providers. Jordan understands the interconnectedness of healthcare issues that oftentimes take a collaborative effort across many employees and teams to resolve. As part of her compliance work with behavioral health care providers, Jordan has developed a deep knowledge of 42 CFR Part 2 and state Medicaid regulations affecting behavioral health providers and regularly

advises clients on compliance with such regulations.



**Jennifer Casertano, MPH** is the Adolescent Health Manager in the Women and Family Health Services Section at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). She oversees Adolescent Resiliency, Youth Experiencing Homelessness project, School-Based Health Centers and Pediatric Mental Health Care Access work. Jen has been at ODH for over five years and was previously in the Violence and Injury Prevention Section (VIPS) as a public health consultant for the Child Injury Prevention Grant. Prior to ODH, she worked at the Defiance County Health Department as the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan coordinator.

Her passion in adolescent health includes continuing to improve the health of Ohio's youth.



**Marilyn Crumpton, MD, MPH** is a Board Director for the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance. Dr. Crumpton served as a Growing Well volunteer medical director since 2015. Growing Well is a school health collaborative working with community partners to increase health & wellness services as part of the Community Learning Centers for Cincinnati Public Schools and for other districts in the Southwest Ohio region. She served as the founding director for Growing Well from 2006-2015.

Dr. Crumpton served as medical director for the Division of School & Adolescent Health at Cincinnati Health Department, including medical consultant for Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) from 2008-2019 and as Interim

Health Commissioner for the City of Cincinnati from 2016-2018.

Dr. Crumpton received her undergraduate degree at Birmingham Southern College, her medical degree from the University of Alabama in Birmingham School of Medicine and a master of public health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She completed her internship and residency program in pediatrics at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Dr. Crumpton is

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certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. She is Past President of the Ohio School Based Health Alliance and the Alabama Public Health Association.



**Anna Cummins** spent the first 25 years in education teaching elementary school, Anna transitioned to a district grant writer for her last two years working for Bracken County Schools. During those last years she worked to increase opportunities for students through grant writing and being awarded local, state and federal grants for after school programs, increasing technology and a School Based Health Center. In conjunction with Interact for Health, the local health department, local government, the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry and local FQHC PrimaryPlus, the school and community now have a medical and dental provider in a town that was underserved. Retired from the school district, Anna now works for the Bracken County Health Department as a grants consultant and as the liaison for the SBHC Advisory Committee.



**Megan Danison, MS-PCC-S** is serving as the Southeast Regional Coordinator with the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance. Megan currently works full time at Hopewell Health Centers, as the School Based Health Services Coordinator. Her current role involves working with all things school based; health centers, mental health services, and providing support to school based employees, supervisors, and school districts.

Megan has a background in mental health is a licensed independent clinical counselor supervisor. Megan provided mental health services and supervision for over 10 years in the schools. Megan has an appreciation for working with trauma and sexual abuse victims. In her free time, Megan enjoys spending time with her husband and 2 sons.



**Kristen Fluitt, MS** is the Senior Quality Manager at The Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics and program manager for Store It Safe (SIS), the Chapter's youth suicide prevention program. She has a master's degree in clinical psychology and has worked in a variety of settings including inpatient and outpatient behavioral health settings.

Kristen's interests include behavioral health and adolescent health. Outside of professional pursuits, she enjoys time with her three Yorkshire terriers and being the best dance mom she can be for her 13 year old daughter Presley.



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**Alvernese Ford, BA, CCHW** is a dedicated Community Health Worker with MetroHealth's School Health Program in Cleveland, Ohio, serving families in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district. Passionate about advocating for her community and empowering youth, Alvernese works closely with students and their families to connect them with essential resources, including housing, utility assistance, food, and health care system navigation.

A champion for youth leadership, Alvernese played a key role in establishing the Youth Advisory Committee at Cleveland Heights High School. Last school year, the committee addressed food insecurity by launching a school market that distributed 20,000 pounds of food to the community. This year, the group is focusing on promoting mental health awareness in their school. Recognized for her impactful work, Alvernese received the 2024 Leadership Award at the Ohio Statewide Community Health Worker Conference.

Alvernese is pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work at her alma mater, Cleveland State University, to further her career and skills. Outside of work, she is a devoted mother to her beautiful daughter, Hea'Ven. Whether helping Hea'Ven excel academically or celebrating her achievements, Alvernese embraces motherhood as one of her greatest roles. She also treasures quality time with her fiancé, Her favorite thing to do is travel with her family.



**Mary Francis, MA, LSW, LICDC** is an independent consultant with more than 30 years of experience working with nonprofits, with an emphasis on school-based health centers and rural partnerships to improve health. Mary formerly served as the Senior Program Officer at Interact for Health, where she managed a portfolio of grantee and community engagement projects to support health in the community. From 2014-2020, Mary managed Interact for Health's Thriving Communities initiative and from 2002 to 2014, she served as director of the ASAP Center, which supported grassroots community-led prevention. Previously, Mary directed the prevention department of the Addiction Services Council and Glad House. She was also an Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of Cincinnati Teacher's College for 15 years and also worked with Wright State University's SARDI program, writing and teaching about curriculum adaptations for people with disabilities.

Mary has an Associate of Applied Science in Human Service from Edison State College, a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the Union Institute and a Master of Arts in Adult Education and Distance Learning from the University of Phoenix. She is a licensed social worker, a licensed independent chemical dependency counselor with clinical supervision endorsement and a certified prevention



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consultant. Mary also serves on the board of the Children’s Oral Health Network, the Appalachian Funders Network, and the Ohio Mental Health Addiction Services Strategic Prevention Framework Rx advisory committee. Mary is also a Board Director for the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance and serves as the Ohio Alliance Southeast regional coordinator.



**Rebecca Grant, MD** is a dedicated physician with over 13 years of experience in the Central Ohio medical community, holding dual board certifications in Family Medicine and Obesity Medicine. She earned her medical degree from The Ohio State University College of Medicine and completed her Family Medicine residency at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center in 2011. Currently, Dr. Grant serves as Associate Program Director of the Dublin Methodist Family Medicine Residency in Columbus, OH. Previously, she was a Family Physician and Associate Clinical Professor at Ohio State Wexner’s Outpatient Care East and has been adjunct faculty at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, where she led the Primary Care Teen Clinic and later founded the Ohio State Family Medicine Teen Clinic. She

continues to serve adolescents through her work with Dublin Family Medicine’s School-Based Health Clinic for Dublin City Schools. Her clinical interests focus on adolescent health, obesity medicine and care for underserved populations.

Throughout her career, she has been awarded with the Director’s Award for Excellence in Academics, the American Academy of Family Physician Pfizer Teaching Development Award, National Top Ten Percent Patient Satisfaction Award for the past 5 years consecutively and most recently Connolly Castle Top Doctors in Central Ohio for the past 3 years. Grant is also active in the Central Ohio community with a specific focus on health education, promoting STEM careers and mentoring young women.



**Darla Gray, LPN** is the Xenia Community Schools’ district nurse for over 20 years. She serves as the Health Services Facilitator for the district of over 4,000 students while continuing to support the role as district nurse for over 1,300 students. As district nurse she has served on various committees for the district to prioritize health services and persuaded the district to fund a \$600,000 health center to open January 2025. Under her oversight she has implemented on the district level grant coordination for the Dayton Children’s Hospital Health and Wellness Center in partnership with Dayton Children’s Hospital, CareSource, Nationwide Children’s Hospital and ODE to include grant funding for implementation of the SBHC, 5 day a week transportation vehicle, wellness

coordinator, nicotine cessation programming, and ODE expansion of SBHC funding to include mental health services.

Darla has various other roles as a district employee to include overseeing 3 traveling dental/vision programs that provide physician exams/glasses/dental sealants/fluoride treatments/silver diamide

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treatment to all students for free at all 8 of the Xenia Community School buildings each year through partnerships with iSee and Health Partners of Western Ohio. She has also provided CPR, AED and emergency response training for 29 years for over 1000 staff/students yearly. She has received the Xenia School District Employee of the Year along with 2024 School Based Health Alliance Ohio Champion GRIT Award.



**Angie Hartman, MPH** serves as the Senior Director of School Based Health and Vision Services for The HealthCare Connection (THCC) in Cincinnati, OH and is transitioning to the role of Chief Operating Officer. In this role she leads all aspects of the growing school health program and team overseeing partner development, strategy, enrollment, patient access, patient flow, community partnerships, and operations ensuring equitable access to high-quality school-based healthcare. She is currently launching the organization's vision service line including a portable program and traditional vision center. Prior to THCC, Angie was a consultant to nonprofit organizations and agencies in strategic operational planning, program development and process improvement. She has helped launch and further develop more than 30 vision and wellness centers for multiple

organizations. She has partnered with many Federally Qualified Health Centers, schools, and community organizations to provide access to eyecare services. Angie's passion for creating access to care, developing partnerships, and high-functioning teams has helped her achieve meaningful results for her clients and, most importantly, those in need of the care they provide. Angie is on the Board of Directors for the Ohio Optometric Foundation, and the Ohio School Based Health Alliance. She holds a master's degree in public health (MPH) with a certification in healthcare management to complement her years of experience.



**Theresa Hatton** is the Care Connection Strategic Initiatives Manager at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) where she manages several consulting projects on behalf of the School Health Services team, working in conjunction with health care providers and schools to build sustainable, integrated systems of school-based care throughout Ohio. To date, the consultation team has worked with over 60 school districts across 38 counties in collaboration with the Ohio Departments of Health, Education and Development to ensure health and education teams design impactful, sustainable programs. Prior to joining NCH, Theresa served in various roles with the State of Ohio, most recently as the School Based Health Care lead for the Ohio Department of

Medicaid. Under the Kasich Administration, she served as the Chief of Staff for the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT). Additionally, Theresa worked in government affairs for Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter, Ohio Governor Bob Taft and the Ohio Senate. Theresa has previously served as the Vice-Chair of the Ohio School Based Health Alliance and has a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Bowling Green State University.

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**Patrick Hickman** is Ohio's Attendance Advisor at the Department of Education and Workforce. He has a BA in English and M.Ed. in Education from The Ohio State University, and an M.Ed. in School Leadership. He has worked as a substitute teacher, high school English teacher, assistant principal, and principal in public, charter, online, blended, and private schools. He believes strongly in all students being able to access and enjoy their education. In his spare time he enjoys wearing festive shirts, playing games with friends, cooking, and spending time with his wife, two boys, and two cats.



**Joan Hlinomaz, MS, BSN, RN, NCSN**, Ohio Licensed School Nurse is a State School Nurse Consultant in the School Nursing Program, Bureau of Maternal, Child, and Family Health, at the Ohio Department of Health. She has a master's degree in community health nursing and nursing administration. Additionally, Joan has national certification in school nursing and certification in school culture and violence. Joan has practiced as a building school nurse, school nurse leader, and nursing educator for over 25 years. She has presented at state and national conferences on such topics as nursing leadership, school nursing's role in decreasing student absenteeism, school culture and violence, and quality improvement in school health.

Joan has received the following honors: The National Association of School Nurses Research Award (2007) and Ohio Association of School Nurses Carolyn Azbell Research Award (2004) for her study "The Effect of a School Based Physical Activity Program on Student Attendance," the Wright State University College of Nursing Joann Ashley Leadership Award, and the Kettering City Schools Outstanding Teacher Award.



**Treacy Hueve, MSW, LISW-S** is the Chief Behavioral Health Officer for Health Partners of Western Ohio and is responsible for ensuring that behavioral health services are integrated in all community, and school based, health centers across the organization. Behavioral health services are provided for all patients through routine screenings for mood and development, behavioral health support for co-occurring medical diagnoses, and brief solution focused interventions. Treacy earned her Master of Social Work from The Ohio State University, holds a School Social Work License, and has more than 15 years of experience in the social work field.

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**Mary Kay Irwin, PhD** is the Senior Director of School Health Services at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and an Adjunct Faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University. Dr. Irwin is responsible for leading and assuring the development, implementation, and evaluation of school health services delivered by the hospital. At present, the NCH School Health department provides a unique access point for central Ohio area students to access care with 18 school-based health centers, two mobile units, several roving care programs and a health education team. NCH School Health is providing comprehensive primary care, vision, dental, behavioral health, chronic disease management and more. To mitigate health inequities beyond central Ohio, Dr. Irwin leads a statewide School Health Consultation Team to

guide communities in the establishment of school-based services designed to address their respective unmet needs. Dr. Irwin’s research and expertise focuses on the intersection between health and education inclusive of interventions to eliminate health status as a barrier to learning for children and adolescents experiencing chronicity and for those experiencing health inequities.

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**Tabitha Jones-McKnight, DO, MPH, FACOP, FAAP**

Dr. Tabitha Jones-McKnight is Assistant Medical Director at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) where she provides clinical and public health leadership and guidance to various programs and community health initiatives. Before joining ODH, she cared for children living in underserved communities as a National Health Service Corps Scholar and primary care pediatrician for 12 years. A graduate of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (B.S. Biology), The

Ohio State University (MPH), and Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.), Dr. Jones-McKnight trained as an intern with the U.S. Public Health Service and completed an internship and pediatrics residency at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Doctors Hospital West in Columbus, OH. She is also a graduate of the Columbus Medical Association’s Physicians Leadership Academy. Dr. Jones-McKnight is actively involved in community-based initiatives aimed at improving health outcomes for children and families, reducing health disparities, and promoting health equity. On behalf of the Director of Health, she serves on the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. Dr. Jones-McKnight is a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Primary Care at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, where she serves as Discipline Director of Pediatrics.



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**Daphne L. Kackloudis, JD** heads BMD Columbus' health care practice. Daphne's success - and that of her clients - is rooted in the nexus between traditional health care legal services and health care public policy. She has broad and deep experience in health care operations, service delivery, payment systems, and compliance, as well as Medicaid, public policy, and government affairs. Daphne's clients include Federally Qualified Health Centers, hospitals, community behavioral health providers, providers of services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, child welfare agencies, pharmacies, individually licensed health care providers, health care trade associations, and social service agencies.



**Neeley Keys** is the Specialized Onsite Support Teams Mental Health Specialist for both general and special education. She has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a master's degree in Social Work from Indiana University. Neeley, has spent nearly 25 years in the mental health arena working in and partnering with schools. Neeley works with educators by sharing her knowledge on trauma responsive care, importance of building relationships, family engagement, mental health support, Restorative Practices, re-entry protocol, best practices for increasing attendance and more. Her coaching can be customized to meet your specific needs across a variety of mental health topics.



**Julianna Kleinsmith, BS, OCPS** serves as a Prevention Manager at Prevention Action Alliance overseeing Youth and Young Adult programs and Special Projects. Julianna's professional background includes over 20 years of experience working in Ohio's behavioral health field in a variety of capacities that include working with youth, families and the community in services related to mental health, prevention, and addiction and recovery. Her greatest involvement and passion are working with youth and young adults. Julianna has been involved in the development of resources that inform and elevate Youth-Led prevention science throughout the state of Ohio. She is a published author on topics pertaining to the conceptualization of adolescence/ts and Youth-Led prevention.

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**Sarah Kuhns** is the Advocacy & Engagement Manager at the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. Sarah joined the association in 2021 after graduating with honors from University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio with a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy. In her role, she works closely with Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks to advocate on anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs on the state and federal level, combining her passion for advocating for a hunger-free Ohio and her skills of writing, researching and public speaking. Her policy portfolio includes state and federal commodity programs and other programs supporting basic needs security and economic stability.

Prior to her current position, she worked as an intern at the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) and at Ohio Votes/Ohio Voter Rights Coalition as their Southwest Ohio organizer. She currently resides in Columbus, Ohio.



**Allison Lantz, MSN, APRN- CNP** is a board certified pediatric primary care nurse practitioner. She is a graduate of the University of Kent State College of Nursing for her undergraduate and master's degrees. She has over 16 years of nursing experience at Akron Children's. In her current role she is a Nurse Practitioner in a School-Based Health Center and has initiated Akron Children's first School-Based Asthma Treatment Program and Youth Advisory Council.



**Randy Leite, PhD** currently serves as executive director of the Appalachian Children Coalition; an organization focused on expanding access to health services and supports for the children of the 32-county Appalachian Ohio region. In this role, he leads the Coalition's work to stand as a strong voice for children in Ohio's Appalachian region and a facilitator of investments in health services and supports for children. Under Leite's leadership, the Coalition has facilitated more than \$85 million of public and private investment to support children and families in Appalachian communities.

Prior to assuming his current position, Leite spent more than 35 years as a faculty member and academic leader in higher education; culminating in his tenure of 13 years as dean of the College of Health Sciences and Professions at Ohio University. Leite has had a long interest in child and family well-being. He holds a doctoral degree in Human Development and Family Science from The Ohio State University and has conducted research and taught on father involvement with children, family dynamics, and child & family policy. His interest in this area is also reflected in his having been appointed by Ohio's three most recent governors to serve as a

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commissioner on the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood where he works to promote meaningful father involvement with children.

Leite and his wife Theresa, a certified nurse midwife, have three children and three grandchildren.



**Maribel Martinez** has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Lourdes University. She has been a Licensed School Nurse since 2012. Maribel has provided nursing services to students and families preschool through twelfth grade. In addition to working as a school nurse, Maribel was an Intern Consultant for three years assisting nurses who were new to school nursing. Currently, she is the Senior Director of Health and Nursing Services for Toledo Public Schools.



**Christina May, RN** is a registered nurse with 25 years of experience in supporting public health needs of Ohio's children. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Malone College in 1995. After graduating she lived and worked as a public health nurse supervisor in Canton, Ohio while working towards her master's degree in Community Health. Employed by Ohio Department of Education and Workforce since 2021, Christina works as the School-based Health Coordinator, where she coordinates the department's efforts towards improving the health of Ohio's students through school-based healthcare, Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid and Student Wellness and Success funds. Christina is a board member designee for both the Ohio Commission on Minority Health and Ohio Lead Advisory Council, and the Co-Chair of the Center for Community Health Worker Excellence Board.



**Maddy Moser, MSW, LSW**, is a licensed social worker in the state of Ohio and is currently a project specialist with the Student Wellness Department at the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio. Maddy has a BA in Communication, a BS in Business Management and received her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Central Florida.

Prior to her work in social services and education, Maddy worked in operations for a real estate technology startup. This sparked her interest in affordable housing and social justice, which ultimately lead to an extremely rewarding career change to social work. In part of her role at the ESCNEO,

Maddy is a Regional Coordinator for the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance, a Crisis Prevention Institute certified trainer, and the Family Coordinator for the Safe Babies Program of Cuyahoga



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County. Maddy is also a child and adult therapist at a community-based mental health agency in the evenings. She is working toward EMDR certification and her Independent social work license. Maddy is a huge Cleveland sports fan, cat lover, and spin class enthusiast.



**Anna Novais, DDM** is the Dental Director with the Cincinnati Health Department where she also provides comprehensive oral care to patients at school-based and community health centers. At the Cincinnati Health Department, Dr. Novais oversees the operations of 11 dental centers, 6 in community health centers and 5 in school-based centers. Dr. Novais' QI experience includes participation in the first NNOHA Teledentistry collaborative and as a project leader in the Cincinnati Children's Hospital ImpactU work to increase fluoride varnish application in school-age children. She has also led the DentaQuest COrHT Initiative to promote minimally invasive and preventive-focused treatment. Dr. Novais also serves as a cohort advisor in the NNOHA

Oral Health Leadership Institute. Dr. Novais is also a Board Director for the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance.



**Ashley Pittman, MSW, LSW** is the Director of Whole Child Support for Reynoldsburg City Schools; Specializing in collaborative partnership development, student-centered resource acquisition, PBIS programming & implementation, trauma-informed interventions, and reducing barriers to student success through a Whole Child lens. Since 2022, Ms. Pittman has assisted 40% of the District's buildings in earning State recognition for their PBIS work (Bronze status), increased school-based mental health partnerships, and led community initiatives to decrease barriers for student & family success by launching the District caring closet, Bundle Up Bus, and expanded weekend food programs. As an experienced presenter, Ashley has facilitated at both local and State conferences on topics including effective crisis response practices and implementation of successful Whole Child frameworks in the school setting.

Ashley earned both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Social Work (School Social Work) degrees from The Ohio State University in 2017 and 2021. She is a Licensed Social Worker in the State of Ohio. Prior to moving to education in 2017, Ashley spent time in residential services, psychiatric social work, community-based mental health, and private practice. Aside from her role in Reynoldsburg City Schools, Ashley is a part time adjunct instructor with Central Ohio Technical College. When she's not at work, Ms. Pittman enjoys reading, crafting, and spending time with her family.



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**Cynthia Price, LPCC-S** received a Bachelor of Music from Ohio State University in 1996 and went on to study Music Therapy in the master's program at Ohio University. Her studies were completed with a Master of Education in Community and Agency Counseling at Ohio University in 1999. Since 1999, Cynthia has worked for Hopewell Health Centers in Athens, OH. For eleven years she worked on the Child and Adolescent Team providing outpatient counseling services and supervision. In 2010 she piloted a school-based counseling program through Hopewell Health Centers at Nelsonville York City Schools in Nelsonville, OH. Since that time, Cynthia has continued to serve as Clinical Lead Supervisor for this program, which has grown to be comprised of

4 Therapists and a Case Manager that serve children and their families within the Nelsonville York School District. In 2021, this program became part of a School Based Health Center, The Buckeye Care Clinic, that was created through the partnership between Hopewell Health Centers and Nelsonville York Schools.



**Linda Rudy, MEd, RN, LSN** started her nursing career in Orthopedics and then Outpatient Surgery and Recovery Room. When her kids started elementary school she started subbing in the CHUH school district and knew she had found her calling, School Nursing. After completing her school nurse licensure she was hired full time for the CHUH school district and has never looked back. After working in school nursing for over ten years she decided to further her education and attended Cambridge College for her MEd in school nursing. It was one of the greatest experiences of her life and connected her with school nurses from all over

the country whom she still keeps in contact for collaboration. She is starting her 11th year as the head nurse for the district and loves working with such a caring and conscientious group of nurses. She is dedicated to the health and well-being of her students, staff, and community.



**Lindsay (Schwartz) Tesfay, MPH** is the Lead School Health Liaison with the Nationwide Children's Hospital School Health Services team, where she manages the engagement and outreach strategy for the hospital's 18 School-Based Health Centers. Lindsay leads a team of liaisons, coordinates youth engagement strategies, and fosters key partnerships with local schools and school districts to improve access to healthcare. She played a pivotal role in launching the Nationwide Children's Hospital Youth Advisory Council during the 2022-2023 school year and has served as an advisor for the program since its initiation. Prior to her current role, Lindsay worked in HIV Outreach and as a Child Life Specialist with children with congenital heart defects. Lindsay received

her bachelor's degree in human ecology and her master's degree in public health. Lindsay is a passionate advocate for health equity who is dedicated to amplifying youth voices to promote well-being.

## Speaker biographies



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**Roopa Thakur, MD, FAAP** is a practicing pediatrician at Cleveland Clinic Independence Family Health Center. She is board certified in general pediatrics. She earned her medical degree from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio and completed her post-graduate training at Cleveland Clinic Children’s in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Thakur’s interests include resident education and healthcare advocacy. She currently serves as Associate Program Director of Cleveland Clinic Children’s Pediatric Residency Program, overseeing the primary care experiences of our trainees. She also serves as Medical Director of School-Based Health Program and Medical Director of Youth Strategies for Cleveland Clinic Community Health Equity.



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**Lauren Thamann-Raines**- Lauren has been working in the school-based health center world since 2010, working with the Cincinnati Health Department helping to plan, implement, and operate their 13 school-based health centers. She is currently the Program Manager for the health department’s vision and dental program, overseeing 2 school-based vision centers and 5 school based dental sites.



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**Dina Thurman, MS, CPNP-PC, PMHS** is a board certified pediatric primary care nurse practitioner. She received both her undergraduate and master’s degrees from The Ohio State University. She has 25 years of experience working in pediatric health care including primary care, urgent care and child abuse pediatrics. In her current role, she is the nurse practitioner at the Dayton Children’s Health and Wellness Clinic at Xenia Community Schools. She has a passion for improving access to care for underserved children. She recently pursued Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist (PMHS) certification because she realized the community struggled to meet this need.

## Speaker biographies



**Aichetou Waiga, DO** is a PGY3 resident at the Dublin Family Medicine Residency Program. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Nicaragua and Xavier University and earned her medical degree from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. Within her residency, Dr. Waiga is an active member of the Wellness and DEI Committees and was chosen as an AAFP Wellness Champion for the 2024 academic year. Passionate about global and women’s health, she is committed to making a meaningful impact in her local community and internationally.



**Tiffany Ways, MSW, LISW-S** is the Chief School Health Officer for Health Partners and is responsible for school-based service across the Health Partners’ system. Health Partners’ school-based services are multifaceted in both service area and delivery model. The school-based services include integrated, comprehensive health centers; telehealth; and medical, dental, and vision outreach services. Ms. Ways holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan. She completed the University of Kansas School of Medicine Community Health Center Executive Fellowship in December 2020. Tiffany has over 19 years of experience in the social work field.