From Ideas to Action: Addressing Arizona Children’s Oral Health Disparities

2019 Spring Summit

Arizona Oral Health Coalition & Arizona Public Health Association

April 30, 2019
7:30 am-5:00 pm

Desert Willow Conference Center
4340 E Cotton Center Blvd.
Phoenix, AZ 85040
Dear Public Health Partner:

Thank you for attending this special Oral Health Summit, a unique collaboration between the Arizona Oral Health Coalition and the Arizona Public Health Association. Our overall objective for the Summit is to inform key public health Stakeholders about key evidence-based interventions that are occurring around the state and to build a critical mass of public health stakeholders that will have the information they'll need to influence oral health public policy—both through legislative and administrative advocacy.

Our Oral Health Summit, entitled: From Ideas to Action: Addressing Arizona Children’s Oral Health Disparities will start with an examination of the latest data regarding health disparities which will help us adopt strategies and engage partners where they are most needed and can have the greatest impact.

We’re delighted to have a powerful morning keynote speaker, Harry Goodman, DMD, MPH, who is the Former State of Maryland Dental Director who will discuss A Multi-level, Multi-Sector Oral Health Policy Initiative to Reduce Oral Health Disparities and Achieve Health Equity: Early Lessons from the Maryland Model. Dr. Goodman will inform his discussion with his experiences that were stimulated by the tragic death of Deamonte Driver in 2007 with highlights of actions taken and lessons learned.

In the late morning we will transition to our breakout sessions regarding Integrating Pediatric and Oral Health Care in the Primary Care Setting, Tribal Initiatives to Improve Oral Health and Community & School Based Interventions and Best Practices.

Our afternoon breakouts will explore Public Policy and Practice Strategies to Improve the Perinatal Oral Health, ideas for better use of Teledentistry, and system approaches to incorporating Value-based Criteria into the pay structure for clinical services.

We’ll wrap up our day with a panel of decision-makers from Managed Care Organizations, First Things First, and AHCCCS who will be discussing and be available for questions about: 1) Policy interventions to improve pediatric utilization; 2) Plans to use Community Health Workers and Representatives in efforts to engage members; 3) The future of Teledentistry; 4) Ideas for improving oral health care for pregnant women; and 5) Thoughts about how to use value-based payments to improve care.

Throughout the day we’ll be asking our presenters to identify calls to action so that our Summit attendees will be better informed about ways that they can assist with implementing public health policy interventions that will reduce oral health disparities among Arizona’s children.

Will Humble
Executive Director, AzPHA
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POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Atraumatic Treatment of Early Childhood Caries
Susan Sergie, MIHS and NYU Langone Pediatric Dental Residency Program

A Collaborative Partnership for Better Community Oral Health Data
Alejandra Figueroa, Program Evaluator, Project Zero – Women & Infants

An Evaluation of Chronic Disease Among Newly Arriving Refugees in Arizona
Yasmyrn Chowdhury, MPH student, University of Minnesota

Provision of Oral Health Care in Pregnancy:
A Gap Analysis in a System of Health Center
Sara Shanah, Women’s Health DNP student, Arizona State

Add Your Voice
Join AzPHA Today!

Individual (1 Year) ...................... $75
Student .................................... $25

Please visit www.AzPHA.org to review options and benefits of organizational membership
### Keynote Speaker

**AZPHA Proudly Welcomes**

**9:30 – 10:30 AM**

**Harry Goodman, DMD, MPH**

*Former State of Maryland Dental Director*

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**A Multi-Level, Multi-Sector Oral Health Policy Initiative to Reduce Oral Health Disparities and Achieve Health Equity: Early Lessons from the Maryland Model**

The state of Maryland's oral health policy initiative experience serves as a case study. This experience was stimulated by the tragic death of Deamonte Driver in 2007 and highlights actions taken, and lessons learned.

Dr. Goodman will discuss his story of Maryland's response to this tragic event, interventions that received strong support from state congressional and state legislative leaders, senior government leadership, multiple community and professional groups, foundations, and funding agencies. Dr. Goodman will discuss how this experience can be used to inform other states that are working to enhance oral health access as well as health promotion and oral disease prevention strategies, or other health conditions, for vulnerable populations.
Integrating Care to Improve Children’s Oral Health Outcomes
Our morning breakout sessions will explore best practices in Integrating Pediatric and Oral Health Care in the Primary Care Setting, Tribal Initiatives to Improve Oral Health and Community & School Based Interventions and Best Practices.

Each breakout session will be 45 minutes each and will repeat. Participants are invited to attend 2 of the 3 sessions.

Integrating Pediatric and Oral Health Care in the Primary Care Setting
Speakers:
- Gretchen K. Henson, DDS Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health (NOAH)
- Lou Sarrosa Wise, DMD Dental Director, NOAH
- Michelle Gross-Panico, DHSc, RDH Dignity Health
- Laurie Clark, RDH, BADH Dignity Health Dental Hygienist
- Lucy Lonberger, MPA Arizona Complete Health Plan

Dental Therapy and Other Initiatives to Improve Oral Health among Tribal Members
Speakers:
- Diana Yazzie Devine President/CEO, Native American Connections
- Ms. Mae-Gilene Begay, CHR Director, Navajo Nation

Community & School-Based Interventions and Best Practices
Speakers:
- Maria Valenzuela and Alan Gonzalez Esperança
- Berenise Bauer Maricopa County Department of Public Health, First Teeth First program
- Greeta M Mills, RDH, Med First Smiles – Oral Health Professional, UA in Pinal & Gila County

Repeat of Morning Session 1 – participants may choose to attend another of the breakout sessions

Will Humble will discuss the highlights of the 2019 Legislative Session from a Public Health perspective.

Oral Health Policy Health Innovations to Improve Outcomes
Our afternoon breakouts will explore Public Policy and Practice Strategies to Improve the Perinatal Oral Health, ideas for better use of Teledentistry, system approaches to incorporating Value-based Criteria into the pay structure for clinical services, and novel approaches to engage practitioners in other aspects of public health like HPV vaccination.

Each breakout session will be 45 minutes each and will repeat. Participants are invited to attend 2 of the 4 sessions.
1:15 - 2:00 PM  AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION 1

Ocotillo Room  Public Policy and Practice Strategies to Improve Perinatal Oral Health
   Speakers:  • Sara Shanah, BSN, RN Arizona State University  
   • Rebecca Nevadale Frameshift Group

Brittlebrush Room  What is Teledentistry & How Can it Help?
   Speaker:  • Scott Howell, DMD, MPH, FSCD AT Still University

Chia Room  Using Value-Based Payments to Increase Utilization Among Pediatric Medicaid Members
   Speaker:  • William Riley, Ph.D. College of Health Solutions, Arizona State University

Cottonwood Room  Engaging Oral Health Providers in Vaccinating Teens for HPV
   Speakers:  • Tim Flood, MD Arizona Department of Health Services  
   • Ann Spolarich, RDH, PhD, FSCDH,  
   • Seena Patel, DMD, MPH and  
   • Alexis Koskan, Ph.D. Arizona State University

2:15 - 3:00 PM  AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION 2
   Repeat of Afternoon Session 1, participants may choose to attend another of the breakout sessions

3:00 – 3:15 PM  Networking Break

3:15 – 4:45 PM  Decision-maker Panel Discussion
   Join us with all the attendees in the main ballroom for a discussion with our Panel of Decision-makers from Managed Care Organizations, First Things First, and Oral Health Coordination Organizations who will discuss and be available for questions about:
   • Policy interventions to improve pediatric utilization;  
   • Plans to use Community Health Workers and Representatives in efforts to boost utilization;  
   • The future of Teledentistry;  
   • Ideas for improving oral health care for pregnant women; and  
   • Thoughts about using value-based payments to improve oral healthcare.
   Panelists:  • Jami Snyder, MA AHCCCS Director  
   • Charlton Wilson, MD Chief Medical Officer, Mercy Care  
   • Marilee Dal Pra, M.Ed. First Things First  
   • Walter J. Venerable, DDS AZ Complete Health–Complete Care Plan  
   • Bob Thielen, MBA, DDS Magellan Complete Care

4:45 – 5:00 PM  Closing
RECOGNITIONS

In Appreciation to our 2019 Sustaining Individual Members

$1,000 Level
Jane Canby

$750 Level
Pat Van Mannen
David Dube

$500 Level
Gordon Jensen
Phyllis Primas
Pete Wertheim
Nicole Olmstead
Amanda Aguirre
Bob England, MD
Barbara Burkholder
Aimee Sitzler

Thank you to our Sustaining Organization Members

$5,000 Level
Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Maricopa Integrated Health Systems

$3,000 Level
EMS Advisors
Salt River Project
Maricopa Community Colleges

$1,000 Level
Arizona Center for Rural Health
Arizona Complete Health
A.T. Still University
Cochise County Health and Social Services
Dignity Health Medical Group
Empowerment Systems, Inc.
La Paz County Health Department
Magellan Complete Care of Arizona
Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, University of Arizona
Mercy Care
Mohave County Department of Public Health
Navajo County Public Health Department
Northern Arizona University
Pima County Health Department
Pinal County Public Health Services District
Terros Health
UA Center for Rural Health
Vitalyst Health Foundation
Yavapai County Community Health Services
Yuma County Health Services District

$750 Level
David Dube*
PV Health Solutions

$500 Level
Arizona Family Health Partnership
Gordon Jensen*
Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine

$250 Level
Arizona Council of Human Providers
Arizona Medical Association
Arizona Rural Health Association
College of Medicine: Community & Family Medicine, University of Arizona
Esperanca, Inc.
Mariposa Community Health Center
Planned Parenthood Arizona
AZPHA

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Adrienne Lent
Wayne Cottam, DMD, MS AT Still University
Vice Dean, Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, AT Still University of Health Sciences

Dr. Denise Helm is a professor in the Department of Dental Hygiene at Northern Arizona University (NAU) and Principal Investigator for Project Zero-Women & Infants (PZWI), one of 16 state Perinatal Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement grants (PIOHQI). Her goal as a professor is to promote excellence in education by facilitating access to higher education for students of color and those who are educationally and economically disadvantaged. She is committed to increasing access to healthcare for underserved populations and is passionate about promoting environments that embrace diversity in an attempt to address access to healthcare issues.

During her academic career Dr. Helm has served as Provost Faculty Fellow, Special Assistant to the Provost, American Council on Education Fellow, Associate Dean and Department Chair. She has received over $24 million to increase access to oral healthcare and to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Denise holds a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on higher education from NAU. She holds a Master of Arts in Sociology and a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene, from NAU.

Alejandra Figueroa, MA, LSS-GB
NAU Department of Dental Hygiene

Alejandra is the Evaluator for Project Zero-Women & Infants (PZWI). She has worked in healthcare and academic environments for the past 10 years. Alejandra holds a Master’s Degree in Applied Anthropology from Northern Arizona University and is currently working towards an MPH. Alejandra has participated in many projects both independently and as part of collaborative teams, using her expertise in data analysis to support public health, best practice implementation, and research. Her professional roles include project director, program evaluator, and data manager in academic and hospital settings. She holds a Green Belt certification in Lean Six Sigma and has participated in and trained others to lead quality improvement projects.

Harry Goodman, DMD, MPH (Keynote Address)
Former State of Maryland Dental Director

Dr. Harry Goodman is currently retired but formerly served as the Director of the Office of Oral Health at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for over 20 years. Prior to coming to the health department, Dr. Goodman served as the co-chair of the Maryland Dental Action Committee which developed key recommendations to reform the oral health care delivery system for low-income children in Maryland. Dr. Goodman also served as the Region 3 Head Start Oral Health Consultant and was responsible for oral health training and technical assistance for Head Start programs in a 6-state region. He received his dental degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 1975, a Masters in Public Health degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1986 and a Dental Public Health residency program certificate at the University of Michigan in 1989. Dr. Goodman is currently a dental consultant with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
Morning Breakout Session Speakers

Gretchen K. Henson, DDS

*Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health (NOAH)*

Dr. Henson has a BS degree in Public Health & Chemistry from the University of Arizona, a DDS from the University of Colorado, and Pediatric specialty training from NYU Langone. She served on the advisory council for the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum and as Voluntary Emergency Medical Practitioner with The New York Medical Reserve Corps. She was the Co-Director of a dental center for the homeless, a regular volunteer for TeamSmile, Head Start, Special Olympics, Give Kids a Smile Day and has presented nationally for the American Dental Association and Healthcare for the Homeless.

Dr. Henson has held multiple academic appointments at hospitals in New York and Arizona. She is adjunct faculty to the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health and NYU Langone. Dr. Henson serves as the sole pediatric dentist for an FQHC & community health center.

She has one son with Autism.

Lou Sarrosa Wise, DMD

*Dental Director NOAH*

Dr. Lou Sarrosa is the dental director of Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health (NOAH), a Federally Qualified Health Center in Phoenix and Scottsdale. During her 7 year tenure at NOAH, she has helped expand from 3 dental offices with 6 chairs to 5 dental offices with 23 chairs. NOAH's mission, similar to her own, is to provide high quality, compassionate and affordable dental care and education to the communities that they serve. She graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine in Ohio and completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) Residency Program through Lutheran Medical Center (now NYU Langone) at a health center in South Phoenix. With 14 years of experience in private practice, corporate dentistry and public health dentistry, she has found her dental home at NOAH and is dedicated to improving the access to care and the oral health of the community. She is proud that NOAH sees the importance of oral health and that the multidisciplinary integration of services is available to their patients.

She enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband, 2 young children and dog (a black Labrador and Dachshund mix rescue dog).

Michelle Gross-Panico, DHSc, RDH

*Dignity Health*

Michelle Gross-Panico has been a registered dental hygienist since 2000. She has over 15 years of experience specializing in education, public health, and dental care in both academia and clinical dental practice settings. Michelle has a master's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Health Promotion and a doctoral degree in Health Sciences with an emphasis in Global Health.

Currently, Michelle is Manager of the Community Oral Health Department at Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center where she leads three programs that increase access to oral health care among underserved populations. Previously as a Clinical Practice Consultant for United Healthcare Community Plan, she worked to increase utilization of oral health services in Arizona through the development of workforce models and value-based payment incentives.

Michelle has been a member of the American and Arizona Dental Hygienists’ Associations since 2000 in which she has been an active contributor to state advocacy and legislation for oral health in Arizona. For her work, she received the Outstanding Achievement award from the Arizona Dental Hygienists’ Association in October 2017 and the 2017 Most Innovative Oral Health Best Practice from the Institute for Medicaid Innovation. Michelle is enthusiastic to continue contributing to the advancement of workforce models that integrate medical and dental care and increase access to oral health services.
B I O S

Laurie Clark, RDH, BADH
*Dignity Health Dental Hygienist*

Laurie Clark received her bachelors of arts in Dental Hygiene from Carroll College, Helena, Montana and soon after, moved to Arizona. While working in pediatric dentistry and volunteering, Laurie became aware of the importance of expanded dental services for underserved children. She joined the Maricopa County Department of Public Health sealant program for 10 years and continued her passion for children and gained experience in public health dentistry. With expansion of new opportunities in community dental health, Laurie relocated to her current dental hygiene position with Dignity Health’s First Teeth First Program. The program provides oral screenings, fluoride varnish treatments, education, and care coordination for children and pregnant women in a community setting. Laurie’s participation in Dignity Health’s First Teeth First Program and efforts of the team have integrated medical-dental services to pediatricians’ offices. Obstetrician practices are coming on board in the near future. She is excited to be involved in the collaborative efforts of stakeholders of Arizona to help expand access to dental services and reduce oral health disparities in our state.

Lucy Lonberger, MPA
*Arizona Complete Health Plan*

Lucy Lonberger is the Manager of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) program for Arizona Complete Health. Having previously worked in the healthcare field for over 20 years, Lucy holds a Master in Public Administration with an Emphasis in Health Care Management. As the EPSDT manager, Lucy and her team work closely with members, primary care and dental providers to ensure timely and appropriate care, while closing healthcare gaps found in Arizona’s children.

Diana Yazzie Devine, President/CEO
*Native American Connections*

Diana “Dede” Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections President/CEO has been working with Native American urban and tribal entities since 1972 and has been employed as the CEO of Native American Connections (NAC) since 1979. NAC is a 501 (c) 3 Native American operated nonprofit corporation that provides comprehensive behavioral health services, affordable housing, and community based economic development opportunities. NAC serves all populations with a targeted mission to serve Native Americans living both in the Phoenix urban area and from tribal communities. NAC offers innovative research-based behavioral health counseling and substance abuse treatment that is integrated with Native cultural and traditional healing practices. With an operating budget of over $9 million, NAC develops, owns, and operates 18 service sites with over 350 units of affordable housing to fulfill the mission of promoting family stabilization and community wellness serving over 5,000 individuals and families annually.

In 2011, NAC opened Devine Legacy on Central (next to the Native American Community Service Center), a 65-unit mixed income multi-family housing community that recently won the Arizona Commercial Real Estate RED Award because of its multi-purpose use, LEED platinum certification and “green” strategies, and its Transit Oriented Development (TOD) design elements.
Ms. Mae-Gilene Begay, CHR
Director, Navajo Nation

For over 18 years, Mae-Gilene Begay has been directing the Navajo Nation Community Health Representative (CHR)/Outreach program. The Outreach program includes STD Prevention, TB Control and the Navajo Birth Cohort Study (NBaCS) project with the NBaCS being the newest program (2012). About 90% of the CHR program clientele are elders over 55 years old. Ms. Begay earned a Masters in Social Work from the University of Denver in 2007 and received the University of Denver’s Graduate School of Social Work Service Award in March 2015. Ms. Begay is very active with the American Public Health Association (APHA) and serves as the APHA CHW Section past chair and now serves as APHA CHW Nomination Committee. Ms. Begay has recently been selected to be featured on the APHA website. She also serves on the New Mexico Department of Health CHW certification board, the first installed board. And most recently elected to the National Women’s Health Network board.

Mae-Gilene has been an avid advocator for increasing oral health literacy in Navajo and increase awareness with the health disparities in oral health and other chronic diseases amongst the Navajo people. Her program is focused on primary prevention to improve general health of the Navajo people by exploring innovative options.

Maria Valenzuela
Esperança

Maria Valenzuela has over 24 years of experience in community health programs within the Phoenix metropolitan area. She has worked with Latino–Hispanic families in low-income communities with a focus on nutrition, chronic illnesses, oral health, and empowering families to advocate for their health and education. She desires to make an impact by providing culturally and linguistically appropriate and sensitive preventative programming, and by advocating for the most vulnerable populations in the poorest communities in Phoenix.

Alan Gonzalez
Esperança

Alan began his time at Esperança as a volunteer before joining the staff as the Domestic Programs Coordinator. Alan holds a bachelors in Biological Science and masters in the Science of Healthcare Delivery from Arizona State University. He will complete his masters in Physician Assistant Studies in 2021 and is interested in integrating population health practices with primary care to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Berenise Bauer
Maricopa County Department of Public Health, First Teeth First program

Berenise is a proud Arizona Native, born in Phoenix and raised in the small town of Gila Bend. As a child of immigrants and having limited healthcare options growing up, her interest in Public Health was a clear career path for her. Berenise received her Bachelors of Science in Health Sciences with an emphasis in Community Health from Northern Arizona University. Berenise has been in Public Health for over 10 years and has worked in developing and implementing community health programs for underserved populations in Maricopa County. Berenise now serves as Program Coordinator for the First Teeth First Program in Maricopa County’s Department of Public Health.
Laurie Clark received her bachelors of arts in Dental Hygiene from Carroll College, Helena, Montana and soon after, moved to Arizona. While working in pediatric dentistry and volunteering, Laurie became aware of the importance of expanded dental services for underserved children. She joined the Maricopa County Department of Public Health sealant program for 10 years and continued her passion for children and gained experience in public health dentistry. With expansion of new opportunities in community dental health, Laurie relocated to her current dental hygiene position with Dignity Health's First Teeth First Program. The program provides oral screenings, fluoride varnish treatments, education, and care coordination for children and pregnant women in a community setting.

Laurie's participation in Dignity Health's First Teeth First Program and efforts of the team have integrated medical-dental services to pediatricians' offices. Obstetrician practices are coming on board in the near future. She is excited to be involved in the collaborative efforts of stakeholders of Arizona to help expand access to dental services and reduce oral health disparities in our state.

Will Humble is a long-time public health enthusiast and is currently the Executive Director for the Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA). His 30 years in public health include more than 2 decades at the Arizona Department of Health Services, where he served in various roles including as the Director from 2009 to 2015. He continues it be involved in health policy in his role with AzPHA and as Adjunct Faculty with the UA Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health.

He has a BS in Marketing from NAU, a BS in Microbiology from ASU, and a Masters in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Arizona in 2015 for engaging partnerships between academic and executive public health. Will is a believer in using evidence-based health policy to improve health outcomes and in leading and managing with emotional intelligence.

Sara Shanah is completing her final semester at Arizona State University in the women's health DNP program. She will soon begin her career as a women's health nurse practitioner in Arizona. Sara's clinical experience as a student has been in both private practice and community health settings, providing women with primary and perinatal health care. Her doctoral evidence-based practice project focuses on increasing access to oral health care for pregnant women. Sara has been a registered nurse for seven years. Prior to returning to graduate school, she worked in a hospital setting caring for mothers and infants in the immediate postpartum period. Her passion for promoting health and providing holistic care to women, families, and communities is what inspired her to continue her education and become a women's health nurse practitioner.
Rebecca Nevadale
Frameshift Group

Rebecca Nevedale is a dynamic professional with over 10 years of experience working to transform systems of care for children and families. Her professional home is the FrameShift Group, an Arizona-based consulting firm which uses improvement science to assist organizations throughout their process of dissecting, understanding and implementing strategies to solve complex problems. For the past three years, Ms. Nevedale has co-led FrameShift’s work facilitating a learning collaborative for sixteen state grantees involved in HRSA’s Perinatal Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement (PIOHQI) project. In that role, she has assisted grantees in measurably improving the percentage of pregnant women and infants who utilize oral healthcare services. Rebecca is an elected member of the Arizona Public Health Association and represents Region IX (Arizona, Nevada, California, Hawaii) on the American Public Health Association Committee of Affiliates. She has served on various community boards, task forces and steering committees, and is a graduate of several leadership training programs, including the National Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health, the American Express Leadership Academy and Fourth Quadrant Partners Emergent Learning ™ program.

Scott Howell, DMD, MPH, FSCD
AT Still University

Dr. Scott Howell is an assistant professor at A. T. Still University, Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health. He teaches topics in oral health for medical professionals, and dental public health to dental, physician assistant, and osteopathic medical students. He worked with his colleague, a dental hygienist, to develop a teledentistry program at ATSU-ASDOH. The teledentistry program works with low-income adults and seniors, adults with disabilities, and youth in detention. This program was designed to help underserved communities in the Phoenix area and to also teach dental students about teledentistry. Dr. Howell is the treasurer for the Special Care Dentistry Association and is pursuing board specialty status in dental public health.

William Riley, Ph.D.
College of Health Solutions, Arizona State University

William Riley, Ph.D., is professor for the Science of Health Care Delivery in the College of Health Solutions at Arizona State University (ASU). Dr. Riley is a leading authority in health care finance and serves as the Director of the National Safety Net Advancement Center, which assists safety net organizations respond to health care payment reform. Dr. Riley is also a national and international expert in quality improvement methods, techniques, and implementation. He leads translational research projects in international settings, oral health value-based care, and multisector alignment to achieve a culture of health.
**BIOS**

**Tim Flood, MD**  
*Arizona Department of Health Services*

Since 1986 Dr. Flood has served with ADHS, providing the medical direction to the Arizona Cancer Registry. This State central registry analyzes cancer data to identify trends and groups at elevated cancer risk. Through engagement with the medical, dental, and public health communities Dr. Flood encourages strategies leading to cancer prevention, screening, and early detection. His current cancer interest includes the promotion of HPV vaccination to prevent cervical and oro-pharyngeal cancers.

**Ann Spolarich, RDH, PhD**  
*FSCDH*

Ann Eshenaur Spolarich is an internationally recognized author and speaker on pharmacology and the care of medically complex patients. She has presented over 950 lectures and has over 125 professional publications. She is Professor, Course Director of Clinical Medicine and Pharmacology, and Director of Research at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, where she also teaches part-time in the Special Care Clinic. Ann also serves as Associate Director of the National Center for Dental Hygiene Research & Practice. Ann received fellowship status in special care dental hygiene awarded by the Special Care Dentistry Association in 2016.

**Seena Patel, DMD, MPH**  
*AT Still University*

Dr. Seena Patel currently serves as the Associate Director of Oral Medicine and Associate Professor at the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health at A.T. Still University. She is also an associate at Southwest Orofacial Group in Phoenix, AZ, limiting her practice to orofacial pain, oral medicine, and dental sleep medicine since 2012. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orofacial Pain and the American Board of Oral Medicine. Her educational interests involve oral health promotion and disease prevention, the dental management of medically complex patients, orofacial pain disorders, and the diagnosis and management of potentially malignant oral lesions. She has lectured nationally and authored several publications about these topics.

**Alexis Koskan, Ph.D.**  
*Arizona State University*

Alexis Koskan, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Public Health at Arizona State University’s College of Health Solutions. Her work focuses on intervention research aimed at reducing and preventing cancer disparities. Specifically, she is interested in community-based interventions aimed at increasing HPV vaccine uptake and completion among age-eligible individuals. Her other lines of research focus on screening for HPV-related cancers among vulnerable populations.
Jami Snyder, MA
AHCCCS Director

Jami Snyder serves as the Director for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), providing comprehensive health care coverage to 1.9 million Arizonans at a cost of $14 billion annually. Prior to her current role, Ms. Snyder served as the Deputy Director of AHCCCS and the Medicaid Director for the state of Texas, a program offering coverage to 4.7 million enrollees at an annual cost of $29 billion. She has over 20 years of public and private sector experience in the health and human services industries.

Ms. Snyder’s areas of expertise include regulatory oversight, policymaking and leadership development, stemming from her tenure in Texas as well as her prior service at AHCCCS, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the University of Arizona Health Plans, where she functioned as the managed care organization’s Chief Operating Officer.

Ms. Snyder holds a master’s degree in political science from Arizona State University and a bachelor’s degree in political science from Gustavus Adolphus College.

Charlton Wilson, MD
Chief Medical Officer, Mercy Care

As Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Charlton Wilson leads the Office of Health and Clinical Services which is accountable for quality management, medical and behavioral health management, and practice transformation supports across all lines of business. He has oversight of clinical programs for utilization, clinical and non-clinical care management, and discharge planning to help members get the care they need. Additionally, he oversees the practice transformation consultants of the Practice Innovation Institute and the value-based analytics teams that support providers to succeed in their practices.

As a Commissioned Officer with U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), Indian Health Service (IHS), Dr. Wilson worked to develop and strengthen disease management and performance measurement programs and designed, implemented, and improved specialty services for people affected by HIV, diabetes and cancer. Dr. Wilson is Board Certified with the American Board of Internal Medicine and the Board of Governors for American College of Healthcare Executives. He serves as a Board Member for Native Health and Aunt Rita's Foundation, and is also a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix.

Marilee Dal Pra, M.Ed.
First Things First

Marilee Dal Pra is Chief Executive Officer for First Things First. She has spent more than 30 years improving Arizona’s communities and offering support to individuals who need assistance to lead healthy, productive lives.

Prior to joining FTF, Marilee was Vice President for Programs at Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, where she led the foundation’s community initiatives and strategic program development. She was a driving force behind efforts such as Read On Arizona, the state’s third grade reading initiative; BUILD, a multi-state partnership that supports early childhood systems building (now the work of the Arizona Early Childhood Alliance); The Kindergarten Experience, which offers professional development opportunities to kindergarten teachers statewide; and Maricopa Family Support Alliance, a collective of 70 independent agencies that work together to best serve families in need.

Previously, Dal Pra served as the director for the Governor’s Division for Children, where she coordinated policies and programs to improve conditions for Arizona’s children and families in partnership with professional organizations, business groups and policymakers. Her prior work experience also includes oversight of juvenile justice programs for the Governor’s Office and work to improve outcomes for women on probation. During her career, Dal Pra has served on a variety of national and local nonprofit boards, including serving as an original member of the FTF Central Phoenix Regional Council and serving as a gubernatorial and judicial appointee on several commissions and committees. She holds a Master’s Degree in Education from Northern Arizona University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Arizona State University.
BIOS

Walter J. Venerable, DDS
AZ Complete Health-Complete Care Plan

Dr. Walter J. Venerable Jr. received his undergraduate degree from Arizona State University in 1981 and went on to earn his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1985. Dr. Venerable is a member of the National Dental Association and the International Association of Orthodontics. He is a native Arizonan, and active in his church as well as his nonprofit (Guided Steps) that serves West Africa. In his free time, Dr. Venerable enjoys traveling, golf, and restoring cars, as well as local collegiate sports.

Robert K. Thielen, DDS, MBA
Dental Director, Magellan Complete Care

Dr. Bob Thielen is the newly appointed dental director for Magellan Complete Care. Prior to joining Magellan, he was National Dental Director for Aetna Medicaid for the past four years. As a member of the Aetna Senior Leadership team, he developed member-centric national and regional processes for Aetna Medicaid and Medicare Advantage programs, focusing on improving quality of oral health care, with an emphasis on strategies for oral health integration with total health care. He identified regional and national gaps in oral health care, developed relationships with regulators, legislators, and oral health stakeholders to educate at all levels, and utilized this knowledge to address disparities in oral care within Aetna’s RFP bidding process.

Dr. Thielen was with Aetna a total of 14 years, serving as Dental Director for Mercy Care Plan of Arizona, prior to his national appointment.

He is passionate about the role oral diseases play in overall health and the need to not exclude the mouth from the rest of the body. He recognizes the need for innovative interventions to drive oral health awareness and impact outcomes.

Dr. Thielen has served as a panel moderator and subject matter expert at Medical-Oral Health conferences in Washington, DC as well as participating as a Roundtable Member of the Medicaid States Dental Association (MSDA).

He has served as a dental consultant for numerous organizations and MCO’s while maintaining a private practice for many years in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Dr. Thielen holds a Dental Degree from Loyola University in Chicago, and received a BA in Psychobiology from UCLA. He attended Arizona State University’s MBA program with an emphasis on health care administration.

He enjoys trout/salmon fishing, classic cars, and attending comedy club venues.
Arizona Complete Health is proud to support the Children’s Oral Health Summit

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Mercy Care is proud to support the Arizona Public Health Association and the Arizona Oral Health Coalition in their quest to address children’s oral health disparities.

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