

engAGED

The National Resource Center
for Engaging Older Adults



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Speaker Profiles:

Donna Butts
Executive Director, Generations United



Donna Butts is the Executive Director of Generations United, a position she has held since 1997. Generations United's mission is to improve the lives of children, youth and older adults through intergenerational collaboration, public policies and programs for the enduring benefit of all. Previously she served in leadership positions at several youth serving organizations including the YWCA, National 4-H Council, and Covenant House. An internationally known speaker, author and advocate, Butts frequently addresses intergenerational connections, grandparents raising grandchildren and policies effective across the lifespan. She has served on five United Nations expert panels on intergenerational and family issues. She served as an at large delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on

Aging and attended the 2015 conference. Her commentary has appeared in, among others, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Christian Science Monitor and the Wall Street Journal. She has been interviewed on national and local radio and television including the TODAY Show, National Public Radio and ABC News.

Butts is a graduate of Stanford University's Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders. She was recognized three years in a row by The Nonprofit Times as one of the Top 50 most powerful and influential nonprofit executives in the US. In 2015 she was named one of the Top 50 Influencers in Aging by Next Avenue. Under her leadership, Generations United received the 2015 Eisner Prize for Excellence in Intergenerational. In 2017 she was honored by the International Federation for Family Development.

Butts is a member of the National Academy for Social Insurance and the editorial board of the Journal of Intergenerational Relationships: Programs, Policy, and Research.

Mary Click
National Intergenerational Tutoring Director, The Oasis Institute



Mary Click is the National Intergenerational Tutoring Director responsible for developing resources to support the tutoring program in nine Oasis centers and at independent sites in twenty cities. Mary collaborates closely with school district administrators, school district facilitators, and the Oasis network tutoring staff to serve over 4,100 volunteer tutors participating in the program. Her responsibilities also include expansion of the program. She previously served as the St. Louis Tutoring Manager and held other project management roles during her 15-year tenure at The Oasis Institute. Mary holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from St. Louis Christian College. Prior to Oasis, Mary held project support

and administration roles with other non-profits and corporations.

Stephanie Cole
Special Assistant to the Secretary & Director of Special Projects
Pennsylvania Department of Aging



Stephanie Cole is the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Aging and Director of Special Projects at the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. Her expertise includes leading change, committing teams to operational excellence, and servant leadership, which come from her 15 years of private sector leadership experience. As an individual passionate about the needs of older adults since early in her career, she opted for a mid-career shift back to the field of aging at the PA Department of Aging and has held roles in quality assurance and supervised the department's data collection efforts. Now

working directly for the Secretary of Aging, some of her major projects have included championing the department's four-year federally required State Plan on Aging, leading the department's outreach and inclusion efforts with the LGBTQ older adult community, and developing partnerships and collaborations with universities across Pennsylvania that have initiated ongoing intergenerational service-learning programs, partnering both undergraduate and graduate-level students with older adults for semester-long virtual engagements that address educational goals of faculty and bring new purpose to the lives of

older participants. Stephanie has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Shippensburg University and a master's degree in Community Psychology and Social Change from Penn State University.

Thomas Cudjoe, M.D., M.P.H.
Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Endowed Assistant Professor of Medicine

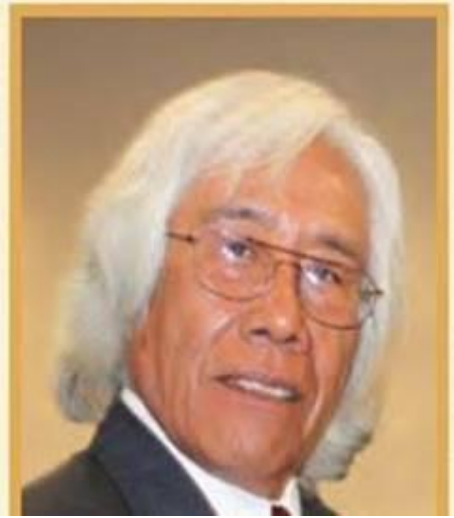


Dr. Cudjoe is board certified internal medicine and geriatric medicine physician. In addition, he is a Major in the United States Army Reserves Medical Corps, a graduate of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leaders. Dr. Cudjoe is Co-Director of Medicine for the Greater Good and a Commissioner on the Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education. He also serves on the Scientific Advisory Board for the Foundation for Social Connection and the Administration for Community Living National Coordinating Center: Connecting Older Adults and People with Disabilities Clearinghouse, Scientific Advisory Group. Dr. Cudjoe is actively engaged in the medical care of homebound older adults via the Johns Hopkins Home Based Medicine program. He is also a recipient of the National Institute on Aging Grants for Early Medical/Surgical Specialists' Transition to Aging Research and a Johns Hopkins University KL2 Mentored Career Development Award. In addition, he has funding from the AARP Foundation and is the Co-Lead for the NIH funded Johns Hopkins University Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratory for Aging Research Stakeholder Core.

Dr. Cudjoe is focused on understanding how social factors influence the health of older adults and developing strategies to improve the health trajectory of older adults. His research focuses on the influence of social context on the health of low-income older adults. He is leveraging mixed methods and human centered design to develop strategies to address social isolation among older adults living in subsidized housing.

Dr. Cudjoe received his undergraduate degree (summa cum laude) in Cellular and Molecular Biology at Hampton University and was active in the Honors College and Army ROTC program (Distinguished Military Graduate-Top 20% of Graduates in Nation). He graduated from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and earned his master's degree in public health in health policy at Harvard School of Public Health. He completed his internal medicine residency Internal Medicine at Howard University Hospital in Washington DC and clinical and research fellowship in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Larry Curley
Executive Director, National Indian Council on Aging



Larry Curley is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. He received his education at the University of Arizona where he received his Masters Degree in Public Administration and a Certificate in Gerontology. In addition, he attended the University of New Mexico where he undertook his Doctoral studies in Political Science and went to Brandeis University where he also undertook a doctoral program at the Heller School of Advanced Social Studies. He has worked in the field of aging and health care for over 40 years starting out as a planner at an Area Agency on Aging in Pima County, Arizona where he was instrumental in establishing a County Public Fiduciary program; He was also a lobbyist in Washington, DC during which he successfully advocated for the passage of "Title VI of the Older

Americans Act," an amendment which he drafted; he also directed one of the five largest Head Start programs in the country when he directed the Navajo Nation's Head Start program; Served as the Nursing Home Administrator of tribal long term care facility; a hospital administrator in northern Nevada; he has served on many commissions, boards, and was a college instructor at the University of Nevada-Reno and Eastern Washington University. Twice he was appointed as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Health under two different administrations and was named Indian Health Service's "CEO of the Year" in 2014. In 2018, he was named as the Assistant Dean of the Four Corners Region for the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine and served as the Public representative on the American College of Physicians Clinical Practices Committee. Prior to being selected as the Executive Director of the National Indian Council on Aging, he served as the Director of Program Development for the Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services in northwest New Mexico.

Kelly Dearman
Executive Director, San Francisco Department of Disabled and Aging Services



As Executive Director of the Department of Disability and Aging Services, Kelly coordinates services to veterans, older adults, adults with disabilities, and their families to maximize health, safety, and independence so that they can remain active in their community for as long as possible and maintain the highest quality of life.

Kelly has more than 15 years of experience developing policies and services to help ensure San

Franciscans thrive as they age. Before joining DAS, Kelly was Executive Director of the San Francisco In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Public Authority, which helps older adults and people with disabilities live independently and participate in their communities. She is also the former President of the San Francisco Human Services Commission. Kelly currently serves as the President of the California Association of Public Authorities, a member on the San Francisco Long Term Care Coordinating Council, and co-chair of the San Francisco Aging and Disability Task Force.

Kelly has a BA from the University of California, Berkeley, a JD from UC Hastings Law, and an MA in Political Science from Rutgers University. For ten years, she ran a small law practice specializing in elder issues and probate law. Previously, Kelly and her sister operated a real estate company founded by their grandmother more than 50 years ago.

Tracey Gendron
Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Gerontology and Executive
Director, Virginia Center on Aging, Virginia Commonwealth University



Tracey Gendron, PhD, is an associate professor and Chair of the Department of Gerontology at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Gendron has a Master of Science in Gerontology, a Master of Science in Psychology, and a doctorate in Developmental Psychology. She is also the author of the book *Ageism Unmasked: Exploring Age Bias and How to End it*. Her research is focused on the language, expression, and perpetuation of ageism and

aging anxiety as well as on elderhood as a stage of development. Her personal and professional goal is to understand, raise awareness of, and disrupt the deeply embedded, normalized, and invisible ageism that is within us all.

Julianne Holt-Lunstad, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, Brigham Young University



Julianne Holt-Lunstad is a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Brigham Young University, the director of the Social Neuroscience Lab, and the chair of the Scientific Advisory Council for the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness. Dr. Holt-Lunstad's research is focused on understanding the long-term health effects, biological mechanisms, and effective strategies to mitigate risk and promote protection associated with social connection. Her work has been seminal in the recognition of social isolation and loneliness as risk factors for early mortality. She serves as a scientific advisor and consults regularly for organizations across sectors aimed at addressing this issue. She has provided expert testimony in a US Congressional Hearing, expert recommendations for the US Surgeon General Emotional Well-Being in America Initiative, served as a

member of the UK Cross Departmental Loneliness Team, and a member of a National Academy of Sciences consensus committee.

Shannon Jarrott, Ph.D.

Professor of Social Work, The Ohio State University; Health and Aging Policy Fellow, Administration for Community Living



Shannon E. Jarrott, Ph.D. is a professor of social work at The Ohio State University. She specializes in community-based services, with an emphasis on shared programming for youth and older persons. Shannon has received state, foundation, and federal funding to study intergenerational community building and outcomes with diverse participants.

Elizabeth "Like" Lokon, Ph.D.

Founder/Director, Opening Minds through Art (OMA)



Elizabeth "Like" Lokon, MGS, Ph.D. is the founder and director of Opening Minds through Art (OMA), an intergenerational art program for people with dementia based at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University in Ohio. OMA has been replicated in over 200 locations throughout North America. As an artist, gerontologist, and educator, she frequently speaks on the intersection of the arts, dementia, and intergenerational service learning and has published in these areas. She has presented her work in North America, Europe and Asia. She received a Fulbright Scholar Award to take OMA to Indonesia in 2023. She is also a fiber artist.

Anne Ordway

Program Specialist at the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Anne Ordway, PhD, is a Program Specialist at the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Anne oversees the disability and aging research and health policy research grant portfolios for NIDILRR. She is the Program Manager of the NIDILRR Advanced Rehabilitation Research and Training (ARRT) Program, which includes 26 institutions of higher education and research focused on preparing the next cadre of disability and rehabilitation researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

Lauren Pongan

National Director, Diverse Elders Coalition



Lauren serves as the National Director of the Diverse Elders Coalition (DEC)—a coalition of six national aging organizations that advocates for policies and programs that improve aging in our communities as racially and ethnically diverse people; American Indians and Alaska Natives; LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning and other self-identifying members of the community) people. Before coming to DEC, she worked to support and build a national network of health equity leaders from Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities throughout the country. Lauren identifies as a mixed race, second generation Filipina American.

Carla Perissinotto, M.D., M.H.S.
Professor of Medicine, UCSF; Associate Medical Director, VITAS



Carla M. Perissinotto, M.D., M.H.S., is a Professor in the Division of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and is board certified in internal medicine, geriatrics, and palliative medicine. She served as the associate chief for geriatrics clinical programs at UCSF from 2017 to 2021. In this role she oversaw and developed new clinical programs serving older adults across care settings. For over a decade she has worked in home-based primary care. More recently, she has begun working in hospice, working to rethink how we care for patients with terminal dementia. Dr. Perissinotto has gained national and international recognition for her research on the effects of loneliness on the health of older adults. Her research and advocacy has focused on integration of loneliness assessments in health care, and evaluation and

implementation of community-based programs focused on ameliorating loneliness and isolation in adults.

Rayna Sage
Principal Investigator



Rayna Sage is a rural sociologist and in 2016, she joined the Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities at the University of Montana. In her work, she uses both qualitative and quantitative methods to engage in participatory action research that informs programming, services, and community development activities that help improve community living for people with disabilities. Dr. Sage is particularly interested in how inequalities related to disabilities

intersect with other inequalities such as racism and sexism. Before this position, she was a clinical assistant professor in Human Development teaching and coordinating internships in human services.

Diane Slezak
Chief Executive Officer, Age Options



Diane Slezak is AgeOptions President and Chief Executive Officer. Diane has served with the agency since 1976. She is the Vice President of the Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the co-Chair of the Legislative Committee. She is known for her advocacy efforts to establish new programs to serve elders including the Elder Abuse Program, the Caregiver Program and others. Most recently she successfully advocated for state funding to

support caregivers and was instrumental in creating a statewide Caregivers' Coalition. She advocated for funding to assure the aging network received funding to do outreach to assure all older adults were counted in the 2000 census. During the pandemic she led efforts to transform services for homebound older adults and led the agency efforts to hold clinics to vaccinate over 5,000 older adults and front-line aging workers in their neighborhoods. She is an innovative minded collaborative leader.

Diane served on Illinois Steering Committee to implement the Self-Neglect Program within the Adults Protective Services Program. She was responsible for establishing the annual Celebrating Aging fundraising-event for AgeOptions.

Diane serves as the President of the Board for Terra Nova Films, a non-profit dedicated to the production of films on aging.

Diane holds a Master Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Public Administration from Dominican University in River Forest Illinois.

**Dianne Stone,
Associate Director, Network Development and Engagement, National
Council on Aging**



(NISC).

Dianne Stone joined NCOA in January 2022 as the Associate Director of Network Development and Engagement where, as a member of the Center for Healthy Aging, she is focused on supporting senior centers throughout the country through the Administration on Community Living funded Modernizing Senior Centers Resource Center and NISC. Prior to joining NCOA, Dianne has more than 20 years of experience with senior centers and aging issues primarily as the Director of the Newington Senior and Disabled Center in Newington, Connecticut. Dianne has also worked, volunteered, and held leadership positions with a variety of organizations in Connecticut, has served on several legislative task forces and has held leadership positions with the National Institute of Senior Centers

Administration for Community Living Staff:

Sherrri Clark

Senior Aging Services Program Specialist, ACL



Lori Gerhard

Director, Office of Interagency Innovation, ACL



USAging Staff:

Meredith Hanley

Director, Community Capacity Building, USAging



Rebecca Levine

Senior Program Manager, engAGED: The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults, USAging



Sara Maloney

Program Manager, Commit to Connect, USAging



Sandy Markwood

Chief Executive Officer, USAging



Deborah Stone-Walls
Chief of Programs and Services, USAging

