

InCK Marks: National Advisory Team Biographies

Kay Johnson, MEd and MPH, President of Johnson Consulting Group, has been actively involved in Medicaid policy development at the federal and state levels for the last thirty years, in policy advocacy, research and technical assistance to states and communities. Her expertise encompasses a wide range of maternal and child health issues, including perinatal care, infant mortality, child development, oral health and services for children with disabilities and special needs. She has provided technical assistance and consultation at the federal, state and community levels on developing more integrated and family-focused services for low-income and vulnerable children, particularly in the first years of life. She started her career with ten years of providing direct services to low-income families, which is fundamental to her analytic work.

Dr. **Maxine Hayes** has dedicated her life to teaching and public service, focusing her efforts on disease prevention. She has received numerous awards for her accomplishments, including the prestigious public health award from the American Medical Association, the 2002 Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service. In addition to her medical degrees, Dr. Hayes earned a Masters of Public Health degree at Harvard University. Dr. Hayes took a teaching position at the Department of Pediatrics of the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1977 and practiced medicine there for nearly a decade. In 1985, she joined the faculty of the University of Washington School of Medicine and began work for the Washington State Department of Health in 1988 as the State Health Officer. She continued that role until her retirement in 2014, working closely with local health officials and the medical community statewide, advising the governor and the state's Secretary of Health on health emergency responses, prevention of childhood diseases and other public health issues.

Kamala Allen, MHA, is the vice president for program operations and director for child health quality at the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS). She oversees CHCS' child-focused efforts, and the direction and financial management of several multi-year initiatives. She has extensive experience in the application of quality improvement methodologies and the use of managed care in public child-serving systems. Ms. Allen has served in previous roles as associate director for special projects for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Medicaid Managed Care Program. Prior to that, she was a program analyst in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Office of Program Development, and project coordinator for the Centers for Disease Control's Maryland Center for Adolescent Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Ms. Allen holds a master of health science in maternal and child health from the Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Hygiene and Public Health. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a concentration in developmental disabilities from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Dr. **Christina Bethell** is a national leader in the development of policy, practice and research applications of population health and systems performance measurement and family and community centered improvement methods. As founding director of the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) and the National Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health (www.childhealthdata.org) she has initiated and led the collaborative development, validation and national, state and local implementation and IT based public reporting of child, family and community health and health systems performance measurement tools. Dr. Bethell is passionate about enabling data-driven partnerships and translating the new brain sciences, mindfulness and other mind-body methods to transform health and related services, with a focus on promoting self and community led

healing, addressing childhood trauma, promoting positive health and advancing High Reliability Organizations. She earned an MBA and MPH from the University of California, Berkeley and PhD in public policy from the University of Chicago. She teaches Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction and has completed several trainings in neuroscience of child development and organizational management with the Mindful Awareness Research Center, the NeuroLeadership Institute and others.

Elisabeth Wright Burak, MSW, is a Senior Fellow at the Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Children and Families (CCF), where she directs projects focused on young children's development and supports CCF's work with national and state partners. She has more than 15 years of experience in public policy to support low-income children and families at the national and state levels. As Director of Health Policy and Legislative Affairs for Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families, Ms. Burak led successful coalition efforts to expand access to ARKids First (Medicaid and CHIP for Arkansas children). In addition to improvements in Arkansas's Medicaid program, she helped achieve other victories for families at the state capitol, including tax relief for families living in poverty and increased access to school-based health, substance abuse, and afterschool programs. At the national level, she previously worked with state leaders on afterschool and early childhood programs at the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices and The Finance Project. She received Master of Public Policy and Master of Social Work degrees from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts in social psychology with honors from Smith College.

Nathaniel Counts, JD, is the Associate Vice President of Policy for Mental Health America. He works on innovative federal and state policy solutions for problems in behavioral health. In particular, he focuses on issues in incentive alignment and sustainable financing in behavioral health care, as well as issues in population health. He is an expert member of the Forum on Promoting Children's Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, and he serves on the Board of Directors for the One Circle Foundation, CHADD (Children and Adults with ADD), and the Flawless Foundation. Mr. Counts received his J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was a Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy Student Fellow, and his B.A. in biology from Johns Hopkins. His most recent publication was "Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being in Public Health Law and Practice" in the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*

Dr. **Paul Dworkin** is Executive Vice President for Community Child Health and Founding Director, Help Me Grow National Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Dworkin's interests are at the interface among child development, child health services and child health policy. His research has focused on the value of developmentally-oriented anticipated guidance, the role of developmental surveillance and screening in the early detection of at-risk children, and the value of care coordination in the linkage of children and families to programs and services. He was the editor of the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics* from 1997 to 2002 and is currently editor emeritus. He is a past president of the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. Dr. Dworkin's vision led to the creation of Help Me Grow, a nationally-recognized and Connecticut statewide initiative to promote the early detection of children at risk for developmental and behavioral problems and their linkage to programs and services that is currently being replicated in more than 25 states with support from The Commonwealth Fund and the WK Kellogg Foundation.

Wendy Ellis, MPH, is the Project Director of the Building Community Resilience collaborative at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University. The **Building**

Community Resilience (BCR) collaborative and networks are testing and implementing a model based on Ms. Ellis' research in designing a strategic process for child health systems to align resources, programs and initiatives with community based partners to address adverse childhood experiences and adverse community environments-- or as Ellis has coined it "**The Pair of ACEs**". The strengths-based approach is aimed at building the infrastructure to promote resilience in vulnerable communities by improving access to supports and buffers that help individuals 'bounce back' and communities thrive. Ms. Ellis has spent the last decade developing and working to grow a 'resilience movement' to address systemic inequities that contribute to social and health disparities that are often transmitted in families and communities from generation to generation. In 2018 Ms. Ellis was selected as an **Aspen Institute Ascend Fellow**. In 2017, Ms. Ellis was selected as for the Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being. Ms. Ellis holds an MPH from the University of Washington's School of Public Health and a BS from Seattle University.

Nora Wells, MS Ed., Executive Director of Family Voices, has worked with Family Voices since its inception in 1992, leading multiple initiatives, in partnership with professionals, around the design and delivery of family-centered quality health care services. She has most recently served as the Director of Programs and as the Director of the Family Voices National Center for Family/Professional Partnerships (NCFPP) before becoming the Family Voices Executive Director in 2014. Through the years she has provided extensive training and technical assistance to family leaders and professionals throughout the country; testified in Congress; and collaborated with numerous federal and private agencies, task forces, and national initiatives, providing the family perspective on policy and practice issues. Ms. Wells was the 2015 recipient of the Merle McPherson Leadership Award for her dedication and service. She holds a MS Ed degree.