



The Mental Health Workforce Crisis

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

Kathryn Santoro, MA, is Director of Programming at the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to transforming health care through evidence and collaboration. Ms. Santoro currently leads NIHCM's programs to highlight market and policy innovations, including webinars and Capitol Hill briefings, and directs the organization's journalism and population health programs.

Ms. Santoro joined NIHCM Foundation in September 2004 after receiving her Master's degree in Public Policy from George Washington University with a focus on women's health policy. Ms. Santoro previously served as a Project Consultant for Women in Government where she was responsible for compiling a state-by-state report card on access to cervical cancer screening. While pursuing her Master's degree, Ms. Santoro was a Communications Assistant for a health policy consulting firm and a Graduate Intern for a Washington, D.C. based women's and children's policy research organization. Ms. Santoro attended Villanova University in Villanova, PA and graduated with a BA cum laude in Political Science.

Clese Erikson, M.P.Aff., is the Deputy Director of the Health Workforce Research Center on Emerging Health Workforce Issues at The George Washington University (GW) and a member of the senior leadership team of the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity. She is currently the Principle Investigator on a three year behavioral health workforce study funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. She has published peer review articles on structural racism, telehealth, the workforce implications of new care delivery models, accountable care organizations, care coordination roles in value-based care, consumer interest in seeing nurse practitioners and physician assistants, primary care and specialty specific workforce issues, and medical school enrollment trends. Prior to joining GW, Ms. Erikson was senior director of the Center for Workforce Studies at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) where she was responsible for overseeing the Center's research strategy, directed efforts on how workforce needs are evolving under new payment and

delivery models and regularly convened workforce researchers to enhance methods and dissemination of findings. Ms. Erikson was also a founding member of the leadership team of an interprofessional student learning collaborative on hot spotting sponsored by the Camden Coalition, Primary Care Progress, and the AAMC. Prior to joining the AAMC, Ms. Erikson was director of research for the American Medical Group Association where she focused on patient safety and quality improvement initiatives and patient and provider satisfaction studies. She received her Master of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.

Randi Dent, PHD, is an Equity Scholar working with the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity Program at the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity. She holds a BA in Psychology from Washington and Lee University, an MS in Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), and recently graduated with her PhD in Health Psychology from VCU. While at VCU, Randi was a National Science Foundation (NSF) graduate research fellow and NSF-funded behavioral health equity research intern at the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. Her research interests are primarily focused on the mental health and mental healthcare utilization of Black Americans, with a particular focus on Black emerging adults (aged 18-29). She is dedicated to translating research into policy and finding ways to improve Black Americans' experiences within the mental health care system, which includes diversifying the mental healthcare workforce.

Angela Weeks, DBA, (She/Her) is the Director of the National SOGIE Center and brings extensive national experience creating, implementing, and evaluating programs and initiatives that improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people and communities. She has led the development of LGBTQ+ trainings and tools, policy revisions, and quality learning collaboratives. Through the Center, she has helped develop, implement, and evaluate 15 different LGBTQ+ programs and initiatives for LGBTQ+ people, their families, and the workforce that serves them.

Kaitlyn Kenney Walsh, PhD, Senior Director of Policy and Research, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. Kaitlyn Kenney Walsh oversees the policy and research arm of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation's work, focusing on the access and affordability of health care and health insurance, access to behavioral health, and structural racism and racial inequities in health. Prior to joining the Foundation, she was the director of policy and research for the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority, where a significant part of her role was identifying the implications of national health care reform for the Commonwealth and its residents. Kaitlyn has also served as a Rappaport Public Policy Fellow and as a guest lecturer on the American health care system at Providence College. She holds a Ph.D. in public and international affairs from Northeastern University.