



NIHCM
FOUNDATION

Achieving Health Equity: What's Next?

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

Sheree Crute, MA is the Director of Communication for the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation in Washington, D.C. Ms. Crute joined NIHCM in 2020 to develop and lead the organization's communications strategy. Previously, Ms. Crute was director of communications and marketing for the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University, a research and policy communications specialist for the New York Academy of Medicine, and a strategic communications consultant for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, focusing on research and policy.

In addition, Ms. Crute is a veteran journalist with decades of experience writing about public health, health inequity and disparities, medicine, and consumer health. She has written for *Washington Monthly*, *The Root.com*, *Health* magazine, *Consumer Reports on Health*, and is co-founder of *FierceforBlackWomen.com*, a website focusing on black women's health.

Sheree has a BA in Journalism, an MA in International Affairs from New York University and a certificate in public health practice from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She was also a 2011 University of Southern California/Annenberg School of Communications National Reporting Fellow.

G. Robert ("Bobby") Watts, MPH, MS, is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, which supports the 300 federally-funded Health Care for the Homeless programs and 100 Medical Respite programs with training, technical assistance, sharing of best practices, research, publications, and an active policy and advocacy program working to eliminate homelessness.

Bobby has 30 years of experience in administration, direct service, and implementation of homeless health services, beginning as a live-in counselor at the New York City Rescue Mission. He spent most of his career prior to joining the Council at Care for the Homeless, which operates clinics, shelters, and conducts policy analysis and advocacy in NYC, beginning as an intern, and serving as the Executive Director from 2005-2017. Under his tenure, the Federally Qualified Health Center agency tripled in size, adding major programs and initiatives –including constructing and operating a shelter for 200 mentally ill and medically frail women –and becoming licensed as a Diagnostic and Treatment Center in New York State. He has served on numerous boards, government-appointed task forces, and workgroups including serving on the Board of Black Agency Executives, as the Finance Officer for the NYC HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council, on the NYS DOH Medicaid Redesign Team's Affordable Housing Workgroup and Value-Based Payment Workgroup on CBOs and Social Determinants of Health and as an inaugural member of the NYS Interagency Council on Homelessness, where he co-

chaired its Health Committee. In February 2021, he was appointed as a member of the Biden-Harris Administration's COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force.

He is a graduate of Cornell University and the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health from which he holds a Master's in Public Health in health administration and a Master's of Science in epidemiology. He also earned a Certificate of Theological Studies from Alliance Theological Seminary in Nyack, NY.

Rita Carreón is Vice President for Health at UnidosUS, a national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization based in Washington, DC. Ms. Carreón oversees the organization's strategic direction in health, including community engagement and programming, addressing social determinants of health, and advancing health equity. She currently leads a team on the public health response for COVID 19 through UnidosUS Esperanza Hope for All campaign. She works in close partnership with UnidosUS Affiliates, public and private partners, and other stakeholders to advance access to quality and equitable health care. Previously, she was Vice President of Clinical Strategies and Health Care Equity at America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and led health programming at the National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.

Ms. Carreón expertise and interests include improving health and quality of care for diverse communities. She advises organizations on envisioning where health happens, including advancing a culture of health with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in addition to the American Cancer Society and American Heart Associations' Health Equity Councils and Pfizer's Multicultural Advisory Council. Ms. Carreón is also co-chair of the steering committee for the National Institutes of Health's Community Engagement Alliance Against COVID 19 Disparities (CEAL Alliance). She is a Carol Emmott Foundation Fellow and a member of the Women of Impact for Health Care – a group of female health care executives with a shared goal to realign the health care system to meet the needs of all Americans, recognizing that people who need care come from all walks of life. Ms. Carreón is a certified health insurance executive, holds a post graduate certificate, health care administration and Bachelor of Science degrees in Community and School Health from California State University, Long Beach.

Stacy A. Bohlen (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians), is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). With the support of a strong, tribally-elected Board of Directors, Ms. Bohlen's service to NIHB has contributed to the organization's successful work to establish and elevate the Tribal presence for improving health care in the Nation's Capital, promoted and strengthened the organization's service to all federally recognized Tribes, significantly increased NIHB's budget, staff and connectivity to the Tribes and increased NIHB's effectiveness. Prior to joining NIHB, she was the Director of Federal Relations for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Deputy Director of the American Osteopathic Association's Washington, DC Office, and served on the staff of former U.S. Congressman Bob Traxler. Ms. Bohlen received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Oakland University in Rochester Hills, MI. She was born and raised in Michigan.

Dr. Creshelle R. Nash, M.D., M.P.H., is the medical director for Health Equity and Public Programs at Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield. In this role, Dr. Nash provides leadership for developing, implementing, and evaluating health equity initiatives to help create a more inclusive and non-discriminatory healthcare system throughout Arkansas.

Dr. Nash provides oversight and guidance on public programs and products to improve health equity for all Arkansans. This role includes a position on the leadership committee for the Vaccinate the Natural State initiative, a combined effort from a diverse set of

organizations working to increase the adoption of COVID-19 vaccines across Arkansas and ensure equitable access and distribution. Dr. Nash is passionate about addressing health disparities in Arkansas' most vulnerable communities and takes action as a leader throughout the state.

In addition to her role at Arkansas Blue Cross, Dr. Nash serves as a consultant for Community Engagement and Social Determinants of Health and Equity at the University of Arkansas College of Public Health, where she is also the co-director of the Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Service Learning Course.

Prior to her work with Arkansas Blue Cross, Dr. Nash served as the medical director for the Arkansas Minority Health Commission, where she developed and implemented community outreach programs and partnerships.

Dr. Nash completed medical school at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD, and served her residency in the Primary Care Internal Medicine Residency Training Program at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, DC. She received a Master of Public Health degree from Harvard University School of Public Health and completed a fellowship in Minority Health Policy from Harvard University School of Public Health, also in Washington, D.C.