



Growing Combination Drug Use and the Overdose Crisis

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

Sheree Crute, MA is the Director of Communications 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. 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. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Council on Black 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.

Cecelia Spitznas, PhD, is the Senior Science Policy Advisor at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), a component of the Executive Office of the President and Acting Assistant Director of Translational Research/U.S. Emerging and Continuing Threats Coordinator. As Senior Science Policy Advisor she provides policy analysis and scientific advice for the ONDCP Director, Chief of Staff, and the Senior Policy Advisor for Public Health on special matters of concern. She has been a career federal

employee for 22 years including 12 years at the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Drug Abuse (one on detail to ONDCP) and at ONDCP for 9 additional years as an employee. While at NIDA Dr. Spitznas oversaw extramural research on addiction treatment development and provider training, especially provision of these by computerized and mobile platforms. Prior to her federal experience she worked as an Assistant Professor in the UAB School of Medicine conducting NIH funded research with people who used crack cocaine and were homeless. She completed an American Psychological Association internship at U.A.B. and a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in addiction treatment research at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In 1998 Dr. Spitznas graduated with her Ph.D. in experimental psychology (major clinical, minor psychobiology) from the University of New Mexico. She holds a BA in psychology from Wake Forest University in North Carolina. Dr. Spitznas' hobbies are dog training, reading, and gardening. She has survived cancer twice. She is a binge eating disorder expert who considers herself in recovery from obesity and food addiction. Her father, who battled alcohol addiction his entire life but cycled into recovery many times with the aid of 12-Step Fellowship and residential treatment taught her that people can and do recover.

Timothy Law, DO is Chief Medical Officer, Vice President Integrative Care Delivery at Highmark. Dr. Law leads efforts on Utilization Management Transformation, Living Health Solutions Collaborations to include population health, Clinical Quality, Gold Carding to include Prior Authorization team, Federal Employee Program and connections to the VBR – True Performance strategy. He began as a member of the Medical Policy Team, where he drove completion of HM CED (Coverage with Evidence) policy to allow better access to new technology for our strategic partners and our members. He now leads the Medical Policy Team as part of his direct reporting structure in Clinical Services. He also serves as chairman of the Care Management and Quality Committee.

Dr. Law was the virtual health lead on Highmark's Covid-19 Command Center team, and led the team in the organization of adding over 1000 codes for inclusion in the coverage policy during the pandemic, helping to bring virtual care to patients in the midst of a pandemic. A board certified physician with two decades of clinical experience, Dr. Law serves as the Medical Director and Principal Investigator of the Ohio Musculoskeletal and Neurological Institute (OMNI) at Ohio University with millions of dollars in NIH grant funded research in healthy aging and wellness.

Dr. Law is in active clinical practice as a rural Family Doctor in Central Ky. He uses virtual health and house calls to perform full service family medicine to include obstetrics and minor orthopedic and dermatologic surgeries. In addition, he has an aesthetics practice

for over 15 years. Trained by vascular surgeons at the Chandler Medical Center in Lexington, KY. He also took his post graduate aesthetics training at the Pfenninger Procedural Institute nearly 20 yrs ago. He currently does traveling Botox and Filler parties around the country and is collaborating medical director for an aesthetics practice in Beverly Hills, CA. Dr. Law earned his medical degree from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, and an MBA in Health Care Management from Indiana Wesleyan University. He completed family medicine residency at Ireland Army Community Hospital, Fort Knox, KY.

Shawn Westfahl is Prevention Point Philadelphia's Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction Coordinator. Shawn's interest in public health started in 2007 when he started volunteering in Philadelphia to provide free services for those experiencing homelessness. In January of 2011 Shawn began his journey in learning about emergency medicine. Later that year he was trained in how to use Narcan and soon afterwards reversed the first of many opioid overdoses. Shawn has been at Prevention Point for over five years. In his current role, Shawn is responsible for managing a team that provides education, harm reduction counseling, and access to life-saving tools such as naloxone and fentanyl testing strips to people who use drugs (PWUD). Shawn manages the organization's Narcan inventory, ensuring distribution to 15 Prevention Point teams, and ensures that the entire staff of 170 people is trained in overdose reversal. Shawn is also a certified Basic Life Support instructor. Shawn's Overdose Prevention team conducts training and education throughout Philadelphia with a focus on PWUD. The team also provides training to providers, parents, partners, peers, and other advocates.