



Children Under Stress: Preventing ACEs and Supporting Childhood Well-Being

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.

Phyllis Holditch Nolon, PhD is the senior scientist for Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the office of the Director of Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Dr. Nolon serves as a senior subject matter expert (SME) on ACEs, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Teen Dating Violence (TDV). In this role, she coordinates the Division of Violence Prevention's work relating to the prevention of ACEs and collaborates with both internal and external partners on advancing the field of ACEs prevention and response. She responds to high-level information requests from the legislative and executive branches of government and from the media relating to the topics of ACEs, IPV and TDV. She is the lead author of the Division's technical package on the prevention of IPV, [Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan: A Technical Package of Programs, Policies, and Practices](#). Since 2009, she has served as the lead of the randomized controlled trial evaluating the comparative effectiveness of CDC's *Dating Matters®: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships* Initiative.

Dr. Nolon graduated with High Distinction with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Virginia. She received her masters and doctorate of philosophy in Community Psychology from Georgia State University. After serving as a postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Violence Prevention for one year, she joined DVP as a behavioral scientist in 2006. She has published multiple peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters and government documents on the topics of violence prevention.

Dr. David Osher is Vice President and Institute Fellow at the American Institutes for Research. Osher's expertise includes violence prevention, school safety, supportive school discipline, conditions for learning and school climate, social and emotional learning, youth development and thriving, cultural competence and responsiveness, family engagement, collaboration, trauma sensitive approaches, mental health services and implementation science. He has and continues to lead and serve as senior advisor to research and practice related contracts and grants across children's ecosystems. His evaluation work includes impact and implementation evaluations of initiatives and programs, systematic reviews, and expert panels. He is or was Principal Investigator of experimental, quasi-experimental, and qualitative research studies that examine whole child, youth development, and social and emotional learning programs in the U.S. and internationally. Osher authored or co-authored 350 books, monographs, chapters, articles, and reports recent books *Keeping Students Safe and Helping Them Thrive: A Collaborative Handbook on School Safety, Mental Health, and Wellness* and *The Science of Learning and Development*. Osher, who brings his lived experience as a parent and grandparent of children and adults who have experienced ACES and has written and published extensively about cultural competence, family- and youth- driven practice and collaboration. Osher received his A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. from Columbia University, had a public health services traineeship and has served as dean and taught at a liberal arts college and two professional schools of human services. David was the 2018 recipient of The Juanita Cunningham Evans Memorial Award for Contributions in School Mental Health and the Joseph Zins Distinguished Scholar Award for Outstanding Contributions to Action Research in Social and Emotional Learning.

Audrey Harvey, MPH, CPH is the Executive Director and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation. Audrey joined Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan in 1991 as manager of corporate taxation. She has served in a variety of roles before ultimately becoming the Foundation's executive director and CEO. Harvey holds a juris doctor, a master's degree in taxation and a bachelor's degree in accounting, all from Wayne State University. She graduated from the University of South Florida in December 2017 with a master of public health – public health practice program. Harvey is also a member of the State Bar of Michigan, licensed to practice in the state of Illinois, a certified public accountant and certified in public health.

Dr. Myra M. Tetteh is a native Detroit. Dr. Tetteh is an alumna of the University of Michigan with an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Sociology, a Master of Public Policy, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health from the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education.

Dr. Tetteh's dissertation was entitled "Urban Park Redevelopment: Neighborhood Benefits and Leisure-Time Physical Activity." The dissertation focused on how park renovation is associated with adults reaching recommended physical activity targets and association with blight, violence, property values.

Currently, Dr. Tetteh is a Senior Program Officer at the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, a statewide non-profit philanthropic arm of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. She was instrumental in helping the Foundation build a stronger focus on Social Determinants of Health and health inequities across its grantmaking continuum. Her grantmaking topics include addressing, Social Determinants of Health, depression, suicide prevention, human trafficking, caregiving in older adults, persons with disabilities (intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities), and chronic diseases. Formerly, Dr. Tetteh worked for the City of Detroit Health Department and later at the University of Michigan, utilizing her public health, public policy, and advocacy knowledge.

Dr. Tetteh is a member of the American Public Health Association, the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, and serves on the Board of Governors for

the University of Michigan Dearborn College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Alumni Affiliate. She is also the Co-Chair of the Transportation and Mobility Committee of the Detroit City Council Green Taskforce. In addition, Dr. Tetteh serves on the Board of Directors for Friends of the Rogue and serves on the State of Michigan Disability Health Advisory Council. Finally, Dr. Tetteh is an active member of her church, Detroit Church, and in her free time, she enjoys bicycling, spending time with family and friends, and watching considerable amounts of Star Trek!

Leon El-Alamin is the Founder and Executive Director of the MADE Institute. MADE Institute was founded in 2015 by Leon El-Alamin. Leon gravitated to the street life of Flint after high school, consisting of gang membership and violence, drugs, and general chaos. Leon left the streets following a shooting that led him wounded and facing a lengthy prison term. During his time inside, Leon converted to Islam and was mentored by older prisoners. He left prison determined to find a more productive life path. Returning to the Flint neighborhoods Leon was faced with several major realizations: The street life of gangs, drugs, violence and chaos were still flourishing, a felony record was a substantive obstacle for obtaining employment and for accessing needed services and supports that would help him avoid recidivism. Through personal determination and grit and the support of his family, Leon was able to overcome the lure of the streets and the barriers to establishing a life. This struggle brought into focus the need for services and supports for other incarcerated individuals as they returned to the Flint community. In 2015 Leon established a new non-profit dedicated to helping returning citizens reunite with their families, neighborhoods and the larger Flint community, access the services and supports they need to be successful, and adopt a safe and healthy lifestyle, thus avoiding a return to the streets and to further incarceration. As former offenders themselves, they have become trusted mentors to returning citizens. Their vision for Flint is that of a welcoming community with the will and resources to embrace returning citizens and the capacity to activate community partners to address the unique needs, gifts and circumstances of each individual. Former offenders often struggle with substance abuse, poor health, behavioral health issues, inadequate education and job skills and limited housing options. Family relationships are strained, broken, or sometimes non-existent. The average person returning to Flint has no money upon release. Those with children owe substantial sums in children support. Many have no means of transportation, no place to live, no cell phone, lack needed legal documents for accessing public assistance and face multiple barrier to employment. The organization was birthed in the early years of Flint's water crisis. Adults and children alike have suffered severe health conditions and irreversible neurological damage. Though media coverage has diminished over time, Flint families and children are still in the midst of a public health crisis.

Dr. Rodlescica Sneed is an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Gerontology & the Department of Psychology at Wayne State University. She is a social and health psychologist who uses community-engaged approaches to evaluate and improve how adults age successfully in economically distressed communities. She has a particular interest in successful aging among justice-involved adults. A Detroit native, Dr. Sneed earned her PhD at Carnegie Mellon University and her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from Columbia University

Ms. Letitia Williams comes to Friends-Detroit with over 22 years in public safety and with a demonstrated history of motivating teams and building positive working relationships across departments and throughout the community. After 15 years as the Chief of Police/Director of Public Safety for the University of Detroit Mercy, Letitia launched a coaching firm emphasizing personal development, strategic planning, and leadership. She holds an MBA from the University of Phoenix, and an MA in Ministry Studies from Grace College & Seminary, where she serves on their Board of Trustees. Letitia also serves on the CE National Urban Youth Advisory Board

