



NIHCM
FOUNDATION

Food Insecurity & Growing Concerns During COVID-19

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

Cait Ellis, MPA is a Program Manager for the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation in Washington, D.C. In this role, Ms. Ellis conducts research and analysis to inform and improve management strategies for health care leaders in the public and private sector. She also provides support for NIHCM's broad programming portfolio, including webinars, data visualizations, events, grants and awards. Ms. Ellis works across a wide range of topics, including the opioid crisis and mental health, rural health, and maternal and child health.

Prior to joining NIHCM, Ms. Ellis held several political and nonprofit internships and fellowships. Originally from California, Ms. Ellis received her Master's in Public Affairs with a concentration in Policy Analysis from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, Bloomington, and she holds a BA in Politics from Willamette University.

Daphne C. Hernandez, PhD, MEd, FAAHB is the Lee and Joe Jamail Distinguished Professor and Associate Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center – Houston, Cizik School of Nursing. She is also a member of the Scholars Strategy Network. Dr. Hernandez is a developmental psychologist who examines health disparities resulting from poverty-related issues, with a focus on maternal and child health, and low-income Hispanic immigrant families. Her work is currently funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, William T. Grant Foundation, and the USDA.

Gita Rampersad, JD, MHA is a passionate population health professional and seasoned healthcare transactional attorney with a successful history of accelerating efforts to tackle health and health care disparities; diversity, equity and inclusion; the social determinants of health and care coordination. A native of Chicago and expert in place-based initiatives, partnerships and community engagement, Gita is a thought leader for organizations involved in the development of cross-sector efforts to increase workforce capacity and diversity, improve health and wellbeing, promote health equity and advance policy. As the Vice President of Healthcare Partnerships and Nutrition at Feeding America, Gita manages all national healthcare partnerships and leads all major health and nutrition projects for second largest charity organization in the US. Gita holds a JD from Loyola University Chicago School of Law with a Certificate in Health Law, and a Master of Healthcare Administration from the University of Illinois School of Public Health.

Rebecca Pittillo is the associate executive director of the Blue & You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas. Pittillo is currently working with Patrick O'Sullivan, the Foundation's current executive director, to prepare for O'Sullivan's retirement in January 2021. O'Sullivan has served as the Foundation's executive director since 2006. The Foundation

awards approximately \$3 million in grants annually to nonprofit and governmental organizations and programs that positively affect the health of Arkansans.

Since joining Arkansas Blue Cross in 2018, Pittillo has worked with regional teams in Pine Bluff, Hot Springs and Texarkana. Pittillo worked the first 21 years of her career at Jefferson Regional in Pine Bluff in a number of leadership positions. Prior to joining Arkansas Blue Cross, she was the executive director of the Jefferson Regional Foundation, served as a member of the Jefferson Regional Senior Leadership Committee and had oversight of all internal and external communication for the organization.

She has experience in the fields of business, communications, marketing, philanthropy and health education. She earned a B.S.E. and a M.Ed. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Pittillo is active serving on the boards of the Pine Bluff Area Community Foundation, Southeast Arkansas College, and is the communications chair of United Way of Southeast Arkansas. She also serves on the Hope Rising International Board in Leogane, Haiti.