REACHING FOR CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH EQUITY:
Investing Where It Matters
19th Annual Meeting of the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention
October 28, 2021
“In pre-pandemic ‘normal,’ cardiovascular disease, despite being preventable, was the leading cause of death, and its burden was inequitable. COVID magnified the inequities. Solving them will not only lead toward optimal, equitable cardiometabolic health but more equitable well-being.”

- John M. Clymer, Executive Director
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Agenda-at-a-Glance

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Pre-meeting Partner Networking via Zoom Chat
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Please join no later than 10:50 am
11:00 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. Welcome
11:05 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Presentation of the National Forum Signature Report
11:15 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. Panel 1: The New Normal Can’t Be the Old Normal: Framework for an Equitable, High-Performance U.S. Health System
12:05 p.m. – 12:20 p.m. Break for Lunch
12:20 p.m. – 1:10 p.m. Panel 2: The Community Case for Optimal, Equitable Cardiovascular Health: How do We Talk about Health Equity and Cardiovascular/Chronic Risk Factors to Broaden Support?
1:10 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Panel 3: A Missing Link in the Prevention and Management of Cardiovascular Disease: Evidence-based System Strategies to Promote Mental Health
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Stretch Break
2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. National Forum Members Take Action
3:00 p.m. – 3:05 p.m. Call to Action
3:05 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. National Business Meeting, National Forum Awards
3:45 p.m. Adjourn
Dear Colleague,

Thank you for joining the National Forum’s 19th Annual Meeting, “Reaching for Cardiovascular Health Equity: Investing Where it Matters.”

The National Forum’s 2021-22 Strategic Plan sets the course toward our vision of people throughout society living heart-healthy, stroke-free lives. The plan is centered on the National Forum’s mission to achieve health equity and optimize cardiovascular health and well-being throughout the lifespan.

Today’s meeting introduces a framework for a post-pandemic “normal” that prioritizes health equity and cardiometabolic health.

We gratefully recognize the Board of Directors, Dr. Stephen Sidney, and staff for their creative input and effort, as well as Amgen, Astra Zeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Esperion, Merck, and Novartis for their generous support as sponsors of today’s meeting.

You and your organization help make the National Forum unique, as the connecting point for the public, private, and social sectors to drive change and improve lives.

Warren A. Jones, MD
Chair

John M. Clymer
Executive Director
PRE-MEETING PARTNER NETWORKING
10:30 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.  Pre-meeting Partner Networking
10:55 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  Please join no later than 10:55 am

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
11:00 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.
John M. Clymer
Executive Director
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL FORUM SIGNATURE REPORT
COVID-19 AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE - TWO PANDEMICS: COLLISION AND CHAIN REACTION
11:05 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Stephen Sidney, MD, MPH
Director of Research Clinics, Kaiser Permanente Northern California
Chief Scientific Advisor, National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

Interviewed by
Janet Wright, MD
Director, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
How can this be? Most industrialized countries spend half as much of their GDP on healthcare as the US does and they get better outcomes. These deficits reduce well-being and American economic competitiveness. The author of The American Health Care Paradox: Why Spending More is Getting Us Less will explain the fundamental cause of the paradox. Health system and business leaders will discuss the changes needed to solve the paradox and close health and health care disparities.

- What should be the framework for a new, equitable normal?
- How do we get there?
- What needs to change in the health system?
- What is one action your organization can take to implement the new framework?

Facilitator
Jay D. Bhatt, DO, MPH, MPA
Founder and Principal of JDB Strategies

Panelists
Elizabeth Howe Bradley, PhD
President, Vassar College

Margaret Sabin, MHA
Past President, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs

Michael W. Cropp, MD, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer, Independent Health

Notes:

BREAK FOR LUNCH
12:05 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Themes and words that stakeholders can use to build and broaden support for a new normal that prioritizes health equity and invests in upstream determinants of health such as education, housing, transportation, and food security will be offered. Communications and healthcare leaders will join the discussion about public support for the new normal? Mayor Frank Scott of Little Rock will tell why a healthy population is essential to community prosperity.

Public health and health equity supporters have advocated for more investment in prevention and upstream determinants of health. Their efforts have not been effective. While other OECD countries invest $2 in upstream determinants for every $1 spent on healthcare, the US invests only 55¢ upstream for each $1 spent on healthcare. Of every $1 spent on healthcare in the US, 95¢ goes to treat disease, leaving only 5¢ for prevention. COVID-19 exposed and amplified disparities in health and well-being. Perhaps as a consequence, the US spends more than any other nation on healthcare while countries that spend less are healthier.

- What can we change in how we talk about health issues to build and broaden support for a new normal?
- Will industry get on board?
- How do we generate value propositions?
- How do we build political support for investing in prevention and public health?

Facilitator
Warren A. Jones, MD
Captain, United States Navy Medical Corps (Ret.)
Professor Emeritus of Family Medicine
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Panelists
Celinda Lake
President, Lake Research Partners

Rosemary McGillan
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer
American Red Cross

Mayor Frank Scott, Jr.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Notes:
Experts in mental health, healthcare, and community interventions to improve mental health will discuss how to raise the priority on mental health. Primary care providers will be encouraged to increase attention on mental health, screen for it, and provide or refer people to evidence-based therapies.

A mayor will discuss why strong mental health matters to the community and its vitality and prosperity. Mental health and healthcare experts will discuss connections between mental health and obesity, diabetes, major adverse cardiovascular events, and medication adherence.

- How can we elevate the priority on depression, stress, and anxiety prevention, screening, and management?
- How can we incentivize these services?
- What community-based programs affect mental health?
- What is one action your organization can take to increase depression, stress, and anxiety screening and management?

**Facilitator**
John M. Clymer

**Panelists**
Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, RN, APRN-CNP
Vice President for Health Promotion, University Chief Wellness Officer, Dean and Professor, College of Nursing, Professor of Pediatrics & Psychiatry, College of Medicine, The Ohio State University
Executive Director, The Helene Fuld Health Trust National Institute for Evidence-based Practice

Cheryl Woods Giscombé, PhD, PMHNP-BC
LeVine Family Distinguished Scholar of Quality of Life, Health Promotion, and Wellness
Associate Dean – PhD Division & Program, School of Nursing, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
Miami-Dade, Florida

**Notes:**
STRETCH BREAK
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m

Jen Childress, MS, MCHES
Senior Program Manager
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

NATIONAL FORUM MEMBERS TAKE ACTION
2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The National Forum invites your organization to share brief (maximum of two minutes) highlights of actions your organization is taking (or will take) to address any of the following: increase resources for root causes of cardiovascular disease, improve health equity, and increase diagnosis and treatment of anxiety, stress, and depression. The opportunity is to demonstrate commitment to action in areas discussed during the convening (not general updates or announcements).

CALL TO ACTION
3:00 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.

John M. Clymer

Notes:
AGENDA

Decision Items:
- 2020 Annual Business Meeting Minutes
- Corporate Operations and Finance Report
- Election of new Board Members

Welcome and Introductions
Warren A. Jones, MD, Chair

Roll Call
Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, Secretary-Treasurer

Approve October 15, 2020, Meeting Minutes
Warren A. Jones, MD, Chair

Executive Director’s Report
John M. Clymer

Corporate Operations & Finance Report
Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, Secretary-Treasurer
Action: Acceptance of Corporate Operations and Finance Report

Governance Report – Warren A. Jones, MD, Chair
2021-2022 Board of Directors Election
Action: Election of new Board Members
The National Forum annually recognizes individuals and organizations who have made exceptional contributions to heart disease and stroke prevention.

**National Forum Heart Healthy Stroke Free Awards**
Presented to an individual and a group whose work embody the recommendations of the national Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke.

- **Dr. Philip Huang, Director, Dallas County Health and Human Services**
  For your commitment to improve the health and quality of life, addressing inequities and disparities in cardiovascular health

- **California Right Care Initiative**
  For applying scientific evidence and outcome improvement strategies to reduce preventable morbidity and mortality associated with cardiovascular disease among Californians
  Accepting is Hattie Rees Hanley, Director

**National Forum Public Policy Awards**
Recognizes an individual and a group who have been effective in advancing policy change that reduces the heart disease and stroke burden on a national, state, or local level.

- **James Bobenhouse, MD, Neurology Associates, Lincoln, Nebraska**
  For successful advocacy for policy changes that led to a statewide stroke system of care in Nebraska

- **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials**
  For policy leadership and advocacy to strengthen public health and prevention in the United States
  Accepting is Carolyn Mullen, Chief of Government Affairs & Public Relations

**National Forum Commitment Award**
Given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the National Forum.

- **Penny Kris-Etherton, PhD, RD, FAHA, FNLA, CLS**
  Evan Pugh University Professor of Nutritional Sciences
  Department of Nutritional Sciences, Penn State University
  For scientific research and service to the National Forum and its Value & Access Collaboration

**National Forum Chair Recognition Award**
The Chair’s Recognition Award recognizes individuals for extraordinary service and leadership to the National Forum.

- **Kimberly Stitzel, MS, RD**
  For leadership and service that has endured the National Forum’s strength and staying power
2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Warren A. Jones, MD
Chair
Captain, United States Navy Medical Corps (Ret.)
Professor Emeritus of Family Medicine
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Marcus Plescia, MD, MPH
Vice Chair
Chief Medical Officer
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, RN, APRN-CNP
Secretary / Treasurer
Vice President for Health Promotion,
University Chief Wellness Officer
Dean and Professor
College of Nursing Professor of Pediatrics & Psychiatry
Executive Director, Helene Fuld Health Trust
National Institute for Evidence-Based Practice, College of Medicine
The Ohio State University

Kimberly F. Stitzel, MS, RD
Immediate Past-Chair
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

Darwin R. Labarthe, MD, MPH, PhD
Emeritus Founder
Professor, Preventive Medicine
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

John M. Clymer
Executive Director
(Ex Officio)
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

Counsel
David R. Zook, JD
Chair
Faegre Drinker Consulting

Jay D. Bhatt, DO, MPH, MPA
Founder and Principal of JDB Strategies, A health equity and innovation consulting firm
Medical Contributor, ABC News
Adjunct Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health

Juliana Crawford
Senior Vice President, Portfolio Management
American Heart Association

Michael A. Cropp, MD, MBA
President & CEO
Independent Health

Mark McEwen
Journalist, Health Advocate, Stroke Survivor

Rosemary McGillan
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer
American Red Cross

Ileana L. Piña, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine, Wayne State University;
Clinical Professor of Medicine, Central Michigan University

Karol E. Watson, MD, PhD
Professor of Medicine/Cardiology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; Co-director, UCLA Program in Preventive Cardiology; Director, UCLA Barbra Streisand Women’s Heart Health Program
FEDERAL LIAISONS

CAPT Kimberly Elenberg, DNP, MSN
Director, Total Force Fitness, Defense Health Agency,
Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness),
Department of Defense

David Goff, MD, PhD
Director, Division of Cardiovascular Sciences
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Walter Koreshetz, MD
Director
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Emmeline Ochiai, MPH
Health Advisor
Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Public Health and Science

Janet S. Wright, MD
Director, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NEW BUSINESS

Warren A. Jones, MD, Chair

ADJOURNMENT
ABOUT THE NATIONAL FORUM

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEART-HEALTHY AND STROKE-FREE SOCIETY

The National is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for collaborative efforts to prevent cardiovascular disease.

The National Forum membership includes over 100 national and international organizations from government, industry, academia, health care, public health, and advocacy.

The National Forum was founded in 2002 to lead the implementation of the National Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke. The Action Plan provides a comprehensive public health strategy and a framework to guide health practitioners and policymakers. Dr. Darwin Labarthe is the Emeritus Founder of the National Forum, and his compassion and dedication continue to inspire us.

CURRENT EFFORTS

The National Forum is leading efforts to help achieve national health goals through 2025 and beyond. Current initiatives and programs include:

- Convening groups representing patients, providers, public health, payers, and pharma/biotech in collaboration to enhance health and well-being by supporting people’s access to evidence-based care that is appropriate for them.
- Engaging mayors across the U.S. in raising awareness that heart disease and stroke can be prevented and promoting healthy environments
- Disseminating Million Hearts® messages and strategies
- Convening experts to identify innovative strategies to elevate the priority on cholesterol control and heart failure prevention
- Organizing an annual conference to share ideas and successful practices in heart disease and stroke prevention
The National Forum’s 2021-22 Strategic Plan sets a vision of people throughout society living heart-healthy, stroke-free lives supported by goals and approaches that draw upon the organization’s strengths as a catalyst for collaboration. It sharpens the National Forum’s mission to achieve health equity and optimize cardiovascular health and well-being throughout the lifespan. The plan highlights environmental factors and drivers that shape our strategy.

**OUR FOCUS**

**ISSUES**

- Health Equity
- Access to equitable, timely and optimal care
- Social determinants of health: strengthening assets, overcoming barriers
- Community health and economic prosperity
- Mental health and heart disease and stroke risk factors

**GOALS**

1. Ensure health equity and favorable social determinants of health are at the forefront of cardiovascular disease prevention and control
2. Enhance health and well-being by supporting access to cultural, financial, physical, and social assets and mental healthcare
3. Improve cardiovascular health:
   - Prevention of risk factors
   - Detection and treatment of risk factors
   - Early identification and treatment of heart attacks and stroke
   - Prevention of recurrent cardiovascular event
4. Enhance (and brand) the National Forum’s strength as a health equity and cardiovascular health thought and change leader
5. Mobilize members and collaborators to improve health equity and cardiovascular health (deepen current members engagement and diversify membership)

**OUR APPROACH - LEADING COLLABORATIVE ACTION TO ACHIEVE HEALTH EQUITY AND OPTIMIZE CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH**

- **Advocacy & Policy Development**
  Forging consensus, presenting a united front, and empowering members to influence policies and systems that improve health equity and cardiovascular health
- **Catalyst for Collaboration**
  Bringing public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders together to accelerate and enhance their impact
- **Knowledge Exchange**
  Facilitating exchange of expertise, insights, and equitable data with partners and stakeholders
- **Thought Leadership**
  Drawing attention to innovative and inspiring ideas
- **Operational Excellence**
  Embracing principles and tools to achieve sustainable improvement and diversify resources
NATIONAL FORUM TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Washington, DC  20036
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JOIN THE NATIONAL FORUM!

The National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention brings together the most dynamic and diverse organizations in cardiovascular health, providing a forum and outlet for organizations to amplify their voices. Our members represent more than 100 national and international organizations. They range from major national health advocacy organizations to government health agencies to private companies invested in cardiovascular health.

National Forum membership offers many benefits including:

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES
Opportunities to engage in collective action to improve population health through National Forum-led initiatives, such as the Value & Access Collaboration, Move with the Mayor™, Million Hearts® Collaborative, and World Heart Day

ALLIANCE DEVELOPMENT
Connections to National Forum members committed to improving patient care

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING
Exclusive opportunities to have meaningful interaction with high-level decision makers from government, nonprofit academic, clinical, patient organizations and industry stakeholders

NETWORKING AND VISIBILITY
Exposure for your organization and its executives to a broad cross-section of the health community

POLICY DEVELOPMENT
Tap into the collective power of the cardiovascular community to solve systemic health care issues that affect all patients

ADVOCACY
Be part of a united effort to advance health equity through heart disease and stroke prevention
REGULAR MEMBERSHIP
Membership is free and open to all organizations and individuals committed to improving cardiovascular health in the U.S. Individuals and organizations may also become contributing members.

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP
The National Forum offers a range of membership tiers for those who wish to provide financial support to implement the mission and strategic priorities. Additional benefits are added for each tier.

PLATINUM – $75,000 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION
Additional benefits include:
- Opportunity to host a NF Board of Directors Dinner and bring up to 3 colleagues
- Opportunity for one day strategy session with NF Executive Director at sponsor’s site
- National Forum may recommend experts for Sponsor Advisory Board
- National Forum may convene experts for Sponsor Advisory Board (for additional fee)
- National Forum may serve as Public Health Advisor to Sponsor
- Recognition of Membership Contributor on NF website and at Annual Meeting

GOLD – $50,000 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION
Additional benefits include:
- Access to National Forum-recommended speaker bureau
- National Forum may recommend experts for Sponsor Advisory Board
- National Forum may serve as Public Health Advisor to Sponsor
- Recognition of Membership Contributor on National Forum website and at Annual Meeting

SILVER – $25,000 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION
Additional benefits include:
- Up to 2 representatives at the National Forum Annual meeting
- Recognition on National Forum website and at Annual Meeting

BRONZE – $10,000 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION
Additional benefits include:
- Recognition on National Forum website and at Annual Meeting

If you are interested in learning more about National Forum membership, please call or email John M. Clymer, Executive Director, at john.clymer@nationalforum.org or 202-903-7303.
CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our 2021 Contributing Members

GOLD CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

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MERCK
**MOVE WITH THE MAYOR™ (MWTM)** is a national initiative that works with mayors across the country to:

- Encourage active, healthy living
- Lead on programs, policies, and infrastructure
- Promote blood pressure control, COVID-19 vaccination and flu vaccination

Cities and towns use the Move with the Mayor™ Step it Up Roadmap to benchmark and measure programs, policies, and services that improve health and measure progress.

**2021 PARTICIPATING CITIES INCLUDE:**

- Akron, OH
- Alameda, CA
- Atlanta, GA
- Aurora, CO
- Augusta, GA
- Bartlett, IL
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Carol Stream, IL
- Cedar Rapids, IA
- Chattanooga, TN
- College Station, TX
- Columbus, SC
- Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- Darjen, IL
- Dayton, OH
- Elyria, OH
- Findlay, OH
- Fontana, CA
- Fremont, CA
- Gaithersburg, MD
- Glendale Heights, IL
- Green Bay, WI
- Greenville, MS
- Hanover Park, IL
- Hartford, CT
- Henderson, NV
- Independence, MO
- Jackson, MS
- Lake Barrington, IL
- Lancaster, OH
- Las Cruces, NM
- Lauderhill, FL
- Little Rock, AR
- Lubbock, TX
- Maplewood, MO
- Mesa, AZ
- Newport News, VA
- Norman, OK
- Oakland, CA
- Providence, RI
- Reno, NV
- Richmond, VA
- Rochester, MN
- Tallmadge, OH
- Tacoma, WA
- Tamarac, FL
- Waterloo, IA
- Wausau, WI
- West Chicago, IL
- West Hartford, CT
- Wood Dale, IL
- Youngstown, OH

Use Move with the Mayor™ to Improve Health in Your Community.
Contact Jen Childress at (515) 422-4498 or jen.childress@nationalforum.org
Move with the Mayor™ Promotes Physical Activity, Blood Pressure Control, COVID-19 Vaccinations and Flu Vaccinations

MOVE WITH THE MAYOR™ (MWTM) is a national initiative that works with mayors across the country to challenge their communities to be more physically active. The past year and a half has highlighted how important it is for each of us to take an active role in our health.

It’s World Heart Day! Mayor Wallace stopped by the Hanover Township Community Health table at Village Hall today, 9/29, for his free health screening—hemoglobin, diabetes & blood pressure. Walk-ins welcome until noon or call 630-540-5906. #MoveWithTheMayor #WorldHeartDay2021
VALUE & ACCESS COLLABORATION

The National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention convenes patient, provider, payer, purchaser, public health, and pharma/biotech leaders to jointly pursue this consensus goal:

Enhance health and well-being by supporting people’s access to evidence-based care that is appropriate for them.

- Identify evidence-based strategies for determining appropriateness of care
- Support the implementation of evidence-based care that aligns incentives for patients, providers, payers, and other stakeholders

Cross-Sector Collaboration
Expanding Access to Healthcare Services from Pharmacists

17 states enacted laws recommended in V&AC Joint Policy Statement

+1 pending governor’s signature

33 Signing Organizations on Joint Policy Statement

Consensus Input to ICER

19 Signing Organizations on ICER’s Evidence Report on Treatment for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

Resources

SHARED Decision-Making Tool for Patients & Providers
Worksheets designed for patients and providers to use in role modeling conversation, treatment options, concerns, preferences, and goals.

What Do Value & Access Really Mean?
A Landscape Report on Stakeholder Perspectives — reports on differences in how the “6 Ps”—patients, providers, payers, purchasers, public health, and pharma/biotech—view these issues.

Best Practices for Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committees
A checklist modeling processes for P&T Committees to consider when managing the formulary system in making equitable coverage decisions.
John M. Clymer
Executive Director, National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

John Clymer is executive director of the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit that serves as a catalyst for public-private collaboration to improve health equity and cardiovascular health. Additionally, Clymer serves on the U.S. Community Preventive Services Task Force. He is a fellow of the Institute for Health Policy and Leadership and adjunct assistant professor at Loma Linda University, and a guest lecturer at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Clymer is the TEDMED Thought Leader for Making Prevention Popular and Profitable. He has authored and co-authored book chapters, testified before various legislatures, given numerous Congressional briefings, and appeared in media such as NBC Nightly News, public radio, and The New York Times. He has served as a subject matter expert at the World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting in Davos, and on the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on Chronic Disease and Malnutrition, and other advisory and governing boards.

Clymer led Partnership for Prevention as its President from 2001-2008, when it won passage of landmark Medicare legislation; was recognized by Harvard Business Review for a “Breakthrough Idea;” and, with former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, established the National Commission on Prevention Priorities. While increasing PfP’s impact, he quadrupled its income.
Stephen Sidney, MD, MPH

Director of Research Clinics, Kaiser Permanente Northern California, Division of Research
Chief Scientific Advisor, National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

Dr. Stephen Sidney is a Senior Research Scientist and Director of Research Clinics at Kaiser Permanente Northern California, where he has conducted research studies since 1983, authoring over 400 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He received a BA from Yale University, MD from Stanford School of Medicine, and MPH in Epidemiology from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. He is Board certified in internal medicine and a Fellow of the American Heart Association Council on Epidemiology.

His primary research interest is cardiovascular disease epidemiology with a major focus on health disparities. His research projects include the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) study funded by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, and a Stroke Prevention/Intervention Research Program (SPIRP) funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The ongoing CARDIA study has examined the evolution of cardiovascular risk and disease over a 30-year period in a cohort of Black and White men and women, age 18-30 years at baseline. He has published four recent articles on U.S. trends in cardiovascular mortality since 2000 as well as five reports published by the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention on this topic.

Dr. Sidney volunteers considerable time to public health efforts in Alameda County, California, a large county which has substantial racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity with consequent health disparities. He is the co-chair of the Frank E. Staggers, Sr., MD, Hypertension Project which aims to lower the burden of hypertension in Alameda County. He has helped promote the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention’s Move with the Mayor™ initiative in Oakland. Dr. Sidney was awarded the Heart Healthy Stroke Free award from the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention in 2017.
Janet S. Wright, MD, FACC  
Director, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Wright returned to CDC in December 2020 to serve as acting director in the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. She recently completed a two-year detail in the Office of the Surgeon General as the acting Director of Science and Policy. In that role, she was charged with ensuring the scientific integrity of the Office’s projects, reports, and presentations and with engagement of powerful partners to advance the Office’s mission. During her service, the Office produced a Surgeon General’s Advisory on Marijuana and the Developing Brain; two Surgeon General’s Reports (Tobacco Cessation and Community Health and Economic Prosperity); and three Surgeon General’s Calls to Action (Hypertension, Maternal Health, and Suicide Prevention). She received the 2020 Surgeon General’s Award for Exemplary Service.

From 2011 to 2019, Dr. Wright served as executive director of Million Hearts®, a national HHS initiative that CDC co-leads with CMS to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes over a five-year period. In the first five-year phase, an estimated 500,000 cardiovascular events were prevented through the efforts in all 50 states and DC and over 125 public and private partners.

Prior to federal service, Dr. Wright served as Senior Vice President for Science and Quality at the American College of Cardiology from 2008 to 2011, providing medical and scientific oversight of clinical guidelines, performance measures, health policy statements, and appropriate use criteria; quality improvement projects; and the National Cardiovascular Data Registry, a suite of databases containing millions of patient records in both inpatient and outpatient care settings.

Dr. Wright practiced cardiology for many years in Chico, California. During those years, she served on ACC’s Board of Trustees, NCQA’s Physician Program Committee, and the Center for Information Therapy, a non-profit organization committed to the provision of personalized health information during each health encounter.

Dr. Wright received her MD from the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center and completed her internal medicine residency at Children’s Hospital and Adult Medical Center and her fellowship in cardiology at San Francisco General Hospital and the University of California, San Francisco.
Jay D. Bhatt, DO, MPH, MPA, FACP
Founder and Principal, JDB Strategies

Dr. Jay Bhatt is a primary care physician, public health professional, and commentator working to care for the underserved and redesign care for vulnerable populations.

Bhatt served as Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of the American Hospital Association and President of Health Research and Education Trust. Dr. Bhatt and his team were awarded to support development of tools of patient safety in ambulatory environments, multi-sectorial collaborations, and age friendly health systems.

Most recently, he was the first Chief Health Officer at the Illinois Health & Hospital Association. In this role, he led large improvement projects including the Hospital Engagement Network (HEN), which were aimed at reducing readmissions and hospital acquired conditions. He has launched several improvement collaboratives; managed the Medical Executive Forum; led the Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety; launched a physician leadership academy, and designed and advanced a statewide high reliability initiative.

Previously, Dr. Bhatt was Managing Deputy Commissioner and Chief Innovation Officer for the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH). There he led the implementation of Healthy Chicago, the city’s public health agenda, and innovations in cross-sector partnerships, predictive analytics, epidemiology and informatics. Under his guidance, the department was been recognized both nationally and internationally in their approach to using predictive analytics to improve food inspections, chronic disease, West-Nile and lead inspections. He also led a groundbreaking initiative with Advocate South Asian Cardiovascular Center in developing the SAHEB (South Asian Healthy Eating Benefits Program). Under his leadership, the Chicago Department of Public Health received an award from the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention.

Dr. Bhatt earned his bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Chicago and his Doctor in Osteopathic Medicine from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He also earned a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a master’s in public health from the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health.
Elizabeth H. Bradley, PhD
President, Vassar College

Elizabeth H. Bradley, PhD has served as President of Vassar College since July 2017. In that time, she has led the College to establish new programs and partnerships in India, Rwanda, and China to bring the model of liberal arts higher education to these settings. In addition, Vassar has collaborated with Columbia University to create a 5-year BA-MPH program for Vassar students. Dr. Bradley has most recently served on Governor Cuomo’s NY Forward Re-Opening Advisory Committee and helped draft the guidelines for NY higher education re-opening in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. She serves on the Poughkeepsie Children’s Cabinet and Board of Trustees at Vassar Brothers Hospital.

Dr. Bradley, a noted public health expert who created the first Masters of Health Administration on the African continent with the Clinton Health Access Initiative and pioneered a model of scale up with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, continues to be a strong advocate for education and public health, publishing opinion pieces in Forbes, Bloomberg News, and other national outlets regularly, as well as peer-reviewed research. Prior to becoming the President of Vassar, Dr. Bradley was on the faculty at Yale for more than twenty years and was most recently the Brady-Johnson Professor of Grand Strategy and Faculty Director of the Yale Global Health Leadership Institute.

Dr. Bradley’s research has focused on quality of hospital care and large-scale health system strengthening efforts within the US and abroad including in China, India, Ethiopia, Liberia, Ghana, Rwanda, and the United Kingdom. Bradley has published more nearly 320 peer-reviewed papers and has co-authored three books including The American Healthcare Paradox: Why Spending More Is Getting Us Less. She is the 2018 recipient of the William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research and was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2017. She is a member of the Council of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Bradley graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard in economics magna cum laude, earned an MBA from the University of Chicago, and a PhD in health economics from Yale University. While at Harvard, Dr. Bradley was captain of the Women’s Squash team. Dr. Bradley grew up in New Britain, Connecticut and is married to her husband John with whom she has three adult children.
Margaret Sabin
Past President, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Southern Region

Margaret Sabin is Past President of Children’s Hospital Colorado’s Southern Region. She joined Children’s Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs in 2018 and led the opening of its new 111-bed pediatric hospital and affiliated regional programs in May 2019. She recently transitioned to full time oversight of the pioneering program “Resilience for Healthy Kids” that she founded in 2018. Sabin also bolsters Children’s Colorado’s population health efforts throughout the system and has led efforts to grow our community partnerships, philanthropy and awareness.

With nearly 40 years of experience in healthcare administration, Ms. Sabin is a national leader in population health management and a pillar of the Colorado Springs healthcare community. She is a certified fitness instructor with the American Council on Exercise. She has initiated several programs with community partners to educate the public about the importance of mental and physical well-being to help prevent health issues before they start.

Before being named President of Children’s Colorado’s Southern Region, Ms. Sabin served as president and Chief Executive Officer of Penrose-St Francis Health Services in Colorado Springs, where she created a culture of high performance, leading to increased quality care for patients. Under her leadership, Penrose-St Francis was named one of Healthgrades America’s 50 Best Hospitals for ten consecutive years. Sabin has also held three other CEO titles in her career.

Ms. Sabin earned her master’s degree in healthcare administration from George Washington University and her bachelor’s degree in biology/pre-med from Villanova University. She and her family have lived in Colorado Springs for over 13 years.
Dr. Cropp is the president and chief executive officer of Independent Health. Under his leadership, the organization delivers products and services that improve the health of almost 375,000 customers – and has been consistently recognized nationally for excellence in quality, service, and innovation.

His focus on building leadership capacity for sustainable, accountable quality care reaches beyond Western New York as he serves in leadership roles on the boards of national health care organizations, including America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP). Dr. Cropp is past chairman of the Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP). In addition, he has established several community initiatives to improve access, quality, and affordability of health care. He is the founding chairman of the P2 Collaborative of Western New York – one of the original grantees in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Aligning Forces for Quality (AF4Q) grant. He is also the founding chairman of the Western New York Clinical Information Exchange (HEALTHeLINK), a consortium of multiple community stakeholders working to provide electronic access to health information across our entire community – a recipient of the government’s Beacon Community award.

Dr. Cropp’s approach of engaging physicians as partners, implementing initiatives with community-minded results, and focusing on customer-centric ideals have earned Independent Health both local and national recognition. For three consecutive years, Independent Health is the highest ranked health insurance plan in the New York/New Jersey region by J.D. Power and Associates Member Health Insurance Plan StudySM. The company has also maintained “Excellent” accreditation status with the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), an independent organization that evaluates health plans throughout the country. In 2009 and 2010, Independent Health was the highest rated health plan in the nation for customer service according to NCQA’s Quality Compass®.

Dr. Cropp received his bachelor’s and medical degrees from Brown University and completed his residency in family practice at Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, which is affiliated with Brown University. In addition to his medical education and training, Dr. Cropp earned an MBA, from the State University of New York at Buffalo.
Dr. Warren Jones has over thirty years of experience in health care. Notably, he founded and established the Mississippi Institute for Improvement of Geographic Minority Health and Health Disparities (MIGMH) at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMC). Over the course of his tenure there, Jones secured approximately $38 million for MIGMH and its constituent programs.

Jones’ other professional experience includes directing the State of Mississippi’s Medicaid Program. As program director, he was responsible for providing health care for over 768,000 Mississippians. He also developed and implemented the Mississippi Medicaid Medical Home program that allowed for annual physical examinations and health assessments.

Over the course of his career, Jones has been recognized for his pioneering efforts in the field of health as well as a distinguished educator. He was recognized as Outstanding Minority Educator in the State of Mississippi and was elected the first and only African American President of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

He was also the first African American appointed as an associate vice chancellor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Jones is the Chair Emeritus of Family Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMC), Chair Emeritus of the National Medical Association’s Family Medicine Section, and Immediate Distinguished Professor of Health Policy at UMC. Prior to Hampton, he held the NIH Endowed Chair in Health Disparities Research at Dillard University, his undergraduate alma mater. He is the recipient of many awards and honors including an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Tougaloo College.

A native of New Orleans, Dr. Jones is a 1978 graduate of the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans. He is married to the former Gennie Lacy of Pickens, MS and the father of six children: Aaron, Keith, Winston, Deanna, Cassandra, and Madison.
Rosemary McGillan
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, American Red Cross

Rosy McGillan serves as chief marketing and communications officer for the American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization that prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies; sheltering, feeding and providing comfort after disasters; supplying about 40% of the nation’s blood; teaching skills that save lives; providing international humanitarian aid; and supporting military members, veterans and their families.

She has spent 25 years developing and implementing integrated communications and marketing programs around a variety of health and social issues, including a special focus on mental health and issues impacting older Americans. Her specialties include developing strategies for industry, government and non-profit organizations seeking to change behavior around topics like chronic disease, health care quality and access.

Ms. McGillan previously worked at Porter Novelli, a global communications and marketing agency known for its work driving social change. As an Executive Vice President and Global Purpose Practice Director, she represented federal government agencies like the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Her pharmaceutical industry experience includes work for leading international corporations and includes FDA approvals, issues management and advocacy. She directed a multi-year initiative with the Administration for Community Living, including development of Alzheimers.gov as part the National Alzheimer’s Action Plan. Ms. McGillan also served as executive lead for the American Psychiatric Association, the Coalition to Transform Advanced Illness Care and a host of other non-profit organizations.

While with MSL PR, Ms. McGillan worked with the American Heart Association and global industry partners on a multi-year health education program to reduce diabetes-related cardiovascular disease. Other work included a major campaign for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, a healthcare quality initiative born out of the Institute of Medicine's To Err is Human report. While on staff at the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, Ms. McGillan provided communication and marketing support for national transportation safety programs on behalf of General Motors and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and poison prevention efforts for Johnson & Johnson. She received her B.A. in political science from the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and her M.A. in journalism and public affairs from American University.
Celinda Lake
President, Lake Research Partners

Celinda Lake is one of the Democratic Party’s leading political strategists. She was one of two lead pollsters for the Biden campaign in 2020 and continues to serve as a pollster to the Democratic National Committee (DNC), other national party committees, and dozens of Democratic incumbents and challengers at all levels of the electoral process. Ms. Lake and her firm, Lake Research Partners, are known for cutting-edge research on issues including the economy, health care, the environment, and education. They have worked for several institutions including the Democratic Attorneys General Association (DAGA), AFL-CIO, SEIU, CWA, IAFF, NRDC, ecoAmerica, NARAL, Human Rights Campaign, Planned Parenthood, The Next Generation, EMILY’s List, VoteVets Action Fund, and the Kaiser Family Foundation. Her international work has included work in Liberia, Belarus, Ukraine, South Africa, and Central America.

Since its formation, Lake Research Partners has become one of the most respected Democratic polling firms in the country. The firm’s work has moved the progressive agenda forward on a variety of issues. Working against conservatives, Ms. Lake’s research demonstrated that the phrase “religious political extremists” was much more communicative than the vernacular “religious right.” In the health care arena, her research has shown that talking about “reducing health care costs” is key, as well as focusing on the 8 out of 10 working families without adequate health insurance.

Her interviews and statistics have been quoted in the Washington Post, New York Times, and Wall Street Journal, as well as a variety of magazines, including Newsweek, Glamour, and Marie Claire. Ms. Lake has also appeared on numerous television and radio news programs to discuss her work and provide expert commentary, including CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, Fox News, and NPR.

Ms. Lake is one of the nation’s foremost experts on electing women candidates and on framing issues to women voters. American Politics calls Ms. Lake a “super-strategist or, better yet, the Godmother,” and Working Woman says she is “arguably the most influential woman in her field.” She is renowned for her groundbreaking research on single women voters in conjunction with the Voter Participation Center and has helped elect numerous female candidates, including Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, former Senator Barbara Mikulski – also known as the “Dean” of Women Senators – former Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, former Houston Mayor Annise Parker, former Attorney General Patricia Madrid – the first Hispanic woman Attorney General in New Mexico – and former Senator Carol Moseley-Braun in her historic victory to become the first African-American woman to be elected to the United States Senate. Celinda has also worked with Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the first female Speaker of the House.

Lake Research Partners has a long history of successful statewide initiative campaigns. Ms. Lake polled in California to beat parental notification initiatives three times in a row. In 2006, Ms. Lake helped with successful minimum wage campaigns in five states and was the pollster on the first successful effort to defeat an anti-gay marriage initiative in Arizona.

Prior to forming Lake Research Partners, Ms. Lake was partner and Vice President at Greenberg-Lake. Her earlier experience includes serving as Political Director of the Women’s Campaign Fund, as the Research Director at the Institute for Social Research in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and as a Policy Analyst for the Subcommittee on Select Education.

Ms. Lake, a native of Montana—born and raised on a ranch—and one of the political world’s most avid whitewater rafters, holds a master’s degree in Political Science and Survey Research from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and a certificate in Political Science from the University of Geneva in Switzerland. Ms. Lake received her undergraduate degree from Smith College in Massachusetts, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude and was recently awarded the Distinguished Alumna Medal by the College. She received the lifetime achievement award from the American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) with Republican Ed Goeas for her work on the Battleground Poll.
Frank D. Scott, Jr.
Mayor, Little Rock, Arkansas

Mayor Scott began his public-service career in the office of Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe where he served for five years, first as deputy policy director and later as director of intergovernmental affairs. While on Beebe’s staff, Mayor Scott continued his education, earning a master’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. That degree, with a concentration in finance, complimented Scott’s undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the Fogelman College of Business at the University of Memphis.

Determined to put his finance training to work, Mr. Scott accepted a position as a community banker with First Security Bank, giving him insight into the issues facing small businesses across the City. At the same time, he continued to devote a significant amount of time to serving both his City and State as a member of the Port of Little Rock Board of Directors and as a member of the Arkansas Highway Commission – experiences which gave Mr. Scott an understanding of the critical infrastructure that forms the backbone of any city.

As an associate pastor, youth mentor, and professional, Mayor Scott lives out the values he learned growing up in Southwest Little Rock, the same area where he lives, today. He gives back to the city that invested in him and reminds young people regularly that values are the foundation of a purpose-filled life.

A firm believer in education and the opportunity that it can provide, Mayor Scott is a former member of the Pulaski Technical College Board of Trustees (now UA-PTC) and currently serves on the UA-Little Rock Board of Visitors.

Mayor Scott believes that “When we come together, we are more than just a series of neighborhoods and zip codes. We are the people of Little Rock, and we can change course for a better direction for our city if we have the will to do it.”
Jen Childress, MS  
Senior Program Manager, National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

Jen Childress manages the National Forum’s Value & Access Collaboration and Move with the Mayor™ initiatives. Ms. Childress brings 20 years’ experience in the field of health promotion. She co-created & launched HealthLead®, a comprehensive workplace & academic health promotion accreditation initiative that helps organizations and universities enhance their health & wellness management policies. Ms. Childress has over a decade of leadership in both the private and non-profit sectors organizing events & convening stakeholders, including recruiting & educating lay-leaders, senior leaders, & community champions. In 2016, she was named one of the National Top Ten Business Women of the American Business Women’s Association (ABWA) for her contributions to business, community, and the association.

Jen holds a master’s degree in health Promotion Management & certificates in Personal Fitness Training, Coaching & Health Education. She has authored content published in peer-reviewed articles & textbooks.
Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, RN, APRN-CNP
Vice President for Health Promotion, University Chief Wellness Officer, Dean and Professor, College of Nursing, Professor of Pediatrics & Psychiatry, College of Medicine, The Ohio State University
Executive Director, The Helene Fuld Health Trust National Institute for Evidence-based Practice

Bernadette Melnyk is vice president for health promotion, university chief wellness officer, professor and dean of the College of Nursing at The Ohio State University, professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at OSU’s College of Medicine, and executive director of the Helene Fuld Health Trust National Institute for Evidence-Based Practice (EPB). She is a pediatric and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, and is internationally recognized as an expert in EBP, intervention research, child and adolescent mental health, and health and wellness. Her funding record includes over $33 million from federal agencies as principal investigator. She is co-editor of five books and over 400 publications.

Dr. Melnyk is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Nursing, the National Academies of Practice, and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She is a member of the NQF Behavioral Health Phase 3 Standing Committee and serves as editor of the journal Worldviews on Evidence-based Nursing. She is an invited member of the National Academy of Medicine’s Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-being and Resilience and is a board member of the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention.

Dr. Melnyk founded the National Interprofessional Education and Practice Collaborative to advance the DHHS’s Million Hearts® initiative. She created and chaired the National Summits on Building Healthy Academic Communities in April 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019, founded the National Consortium for Building Healthy Academic Communities, a collaborative organization to improve population health in the nation’s institutions of higher learning, and served as its first president.
Cheryl Woods Giscombé, PhD, MSN, MA, PMHNP-BC,  
LeVine Family Distinguished Scholar of Quality of Life, Health Promotion, and Wellness  
Associate Dean – PhD Division & Program, School of Nursing, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dr. Woods Giscombé is the Associate Dean of the PhD Division & Program and Levine Family Distinguished Scholar in Quality of Life, Health Promotion, and Wellness. Her program of research focuses on understanding and reducing stress-related health disparities among African Americans. Her research incorporates sociohistorical and biopsychosocial perspectives to investigate how stress and coping strategies contribute to stress-related psychological and physical health outcomes. Dr. Giscombé has a particular interest in the potential for integrative approaches to reduce mental health-related disparities among African Americans.

Dr. Giscombé is dually trained in nursing and psychology. She completed a BA in psychology from North Carolina Central University and a BSN from Stony Brook University in New York. She earned MA and PhD degrees in social and health psychology from Stony Brook University and an MSN from the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Giscombé completed certification in holistic health from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition in Manhattan, New York. In addition, she completed postdoctoral training at UNC Chapel Hill (Interventions to Prevent and Manage Chronic Illness funded by NIH/NINR and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Minority Fellowship Program in collaboration with the American Nurses Association). In 2007 Dr. Giscombé was selected as a “Leader in the Field” by the American Psychological Association when she was awarded the Carolyn Payton Early Career Award.

Dr. Giscombé was a member of the 2014–2016 Cohort of the Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars Program, Sponsored by the UNC Center for Public Service. Her project was conducted in collaboration with Healing with CAARE, Inc. a community health organization in Durham, NC, and her experiences and training as a Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholar resulted in successful community-engaged health equity project continuation, support, and funding.

Dr. Giscombé is particularly grateful for her immediate family (husband, Kessonga and two daughters, Zuri and Zola) her extended family, friends, and mentors who support and inspire her both professionally and personally.
Trent Wakenight
Senior Consultant, The Grove Consultants International

Trent Wakenight is a visual facilitator who uses large-scale graphics and visual templates to drive group dialogue and strategy development in meetings and with teams. As an entrepreneurial, ambitious innovator and problem-solver, he thrives in ambiguity and tackling difficult challenges. Because of this, Trent Wakenight is called on as a ‘go-to’ for strategy creation, executive communications, and design workshops with leadership teams, managers, and end users.

Mr. Wakenight is also called on for in-person, real-time graphic recording at meetings and conferences around the world. Graphic design, data visualization, and PowerPoint wizardry are areas of specialization, and he has helped dozens of organizations turn complex topics into hand-drawn whiteboard videos. He is a senior project manager, process consultant, and strategic communication and visualization specialist.

For more than 20 years, Mr. Wakenight has led and supported complex, multi-domain projects in the U.S. federal government, higher education, and the private sector. In these environments, Mr. Trent Wakenight has crafted a blend of visual-facilitation techniques and design-thinking methods to deliver outcome-focused enterprise goals and strategies, prototypes and new ideas, and product delivery and maturation plans.
John Bartkus
Principal Program Manager, Pensivia, LLC

John Bartkus – Principal Program Manager of Pensivia, LLC – is a program management consultant specializing in enterprise performance improvement and project/program management. His 25+ years in project management cross a variety of industries (broadcast, travel, software, healthcare, behavioral health, architecture & engineering, learning development, telecoms, legal, non-profit) and disciplines (marketing, sales, operations, IT, OD, consulting) working with companies such as British Airways, SITA, Freese & Nichols, Jacobs Engineering, Carter & Burgess, Carstens & Cahoon, DFW Airport, WFAA, AbleTo, ForeFront Telecare, and the American Heart Association.

John is a Project Management Institute (PMI) Certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and a Certified Professional Facilitator (CPF) with the International Association of Facilitators. His formal education includes a Bachelor’s in Applied Technology and Performance Improvement (BAAS-ATPI), and he is a former president of the Fort Worth Chapter of the Project Management Institute and was named PMI Chapter Leader of the Year (globally) in 2013.

John has supported the National Forum with project management for the annual convening – as well as production services to make it engaging and broaden the reach/impact.
Julie Harvill, MPA, MPH is the director of operations for the National Forum. She oversees and manages the daily operations of the organization. Working with the management team, she contributes to the development and implementation of organizational strategies, programs, policies, and practices in support of the National Forum’s strategic plan. She provides strategic, logistical and administrative support to the Forum’s Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and manages the Annual Meeting and Mid-Year Convening.

A native of Illinois, Ms. Harvill received a bachelor’s in psychology and social service from Bradley University in 1985, a master’s in public administration from Sangamon State University in 1993 and a master’s in public health from the University of Illinois at Springfield in 2001. She was formerly the administrator of the Illinois Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention program.

Ms. Harvill was president of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors in 2004-2005. She was co-chair of the Cardiovascular Health Council in 1998, president of the Illinois Society for Public Health Education in 1995 and Executive Council member of the Illinois Public Health Association from 1992–1995. She was co-chair of the National Chronic Disease Conference in 2004 and chair of the Great Lakes Regional Cardiovascular Conference in 2003. Ms. Harvill received the Community Service Award from the Illinois Department of Public Health in 1997, the Outstanding Leadership Award from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors in 2006 and the National Forum Chair Recognition Award for her leadership and actions to increase effectiveness of the organization in 2010. Ms. Harvill resides in Glenarm, Illinois with her husband Rick. They have two daughters, Cassandra and Ciera.
Stacy Rezendes is the Operation Consultant for the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. In this capacity, she provides support for educational and organizational programs, maintains records of program actions, copy editing, tracks timelines and milestones, coordinates Office 365, and responds to member needs.

Before working with the National Forum, Ms. Rezendes was a surgical coordinator for a very busy practice for eleven years and has served as a physician’s personal assistant. She was born and raised in Wisconsin but has lived in several states, most recently moving from Virginia to Texas. She is passionate about healthy, flavorful cooking and tries to be physically active every day.
CALL TO ORDER

Kim Stitzel, Chair
Laura Gordon welcomed members to the 2020 Annual Business Meeting. Roll was taken. There were no corrections or objections to the October 30, 2019, meeting minutes. The Chair declared the consent agenda approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

John Clymer
The National Forum is navigating through the economic and operational disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Finances are in the black; Dr. Plescia will cover the financial numbers in the Treasurer’s Report.

Member engagement is up by multiple measures. The Virtual Mid-Year Convening and today’s Annual Meeting both doubled the previous records for registrations. We have had great audience engagement in our briefings on Biosimilars and Traditional Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage.

The Value & Access Initiative developed a Joint Policy Statement on Expanding Access to Care. Thirty-one organizations representing patients, clinical providers, payers, employers, and public health have signed on in support of policies to increase people’s access to evidence-based care through pharmacies.

Nineteen organizations joined in submitting consensus input to ICER on its new analysis of lipid-lowering therapies. ICER incorporated several of our recommendations in the scope for this analysis.

The National Forum’s new landscape report reveals the differences and common ground in how different stakeholders view value and access.

The Mayo Clinic set up a trial that compares the effectiveness of a shared decision-making tool developed collaboratively by the FH Foundation, APhA Foundation and National Forum to tools from other sources. In the Mayo trial, the Value & Access tool increased patient engagement by 50 percent.

More mayors are getting involved in Move with the Mayor™. They are using National Forum messaging to encourage people to include COVID-safe physical activity, hypertension control, and flu vaccination. Mayors in Ohio and the Chicago suburbs recently used a friendly competition, the Move with the Mayor™ Challenge, to spark more physical activity in their communities.

Additionally, mayors in some cities are using the National Forum’s policy advice and recommendations to advance policies and infrastructure changes that make it easier for people to reduce their chronic disease risk.
The National Forum is fortunate to have a diverse array of experts on the Board of Directors who are providing advice and insights that are helping the organization increase its impact even as we experience the turbulence caused by the pandemic.

We have activated an Advisory Leadership Council as called for in the Bylaws. Initial members include Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia, South Carolina; Keith C. Ferdinand, MD of Tulane; Carolyn Koenig, MD of Mercy East; Ann Marie Navar, MD, PHD of UT Southwestern; and Stephen Sidney, MD, MPH of Kaiser Permanente.

We thank the Annual Meeting sponsors: Amgen, Astra Zeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Esperion, and Boehringer-Ingelheim.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Marcus Plescia, MD, MPH, Secretary-Treasurer
Since January 1, 2020, the National Forum has received and deposited $716,875.86

Wells Fargo bank account balances as of September 30, 2020:

- Checking $213,599.40
- Savings $400,993.40
- Total $614,593.27

First National bank account balance as of September 30, 2020:

$11,529.82
Total $626,123.09

Pending receivables (invoices processed) totaling $180,907.16
Total Cash + receivables $807,030.25

Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2020:

July 2020 net assets = $726,949

Changes in Net Assets as of July 31, 2020:

July 2020 revenues were $14,703 – Includes accounts receivable
July 2020 expenses were $90,112

Revenue and Expenses as of July 31, 2020:

2020 YTD revenues = $649,900
2020 YTD expenses = $531,525

Dr. Darwin Labarthe moved that the Treasurer’s Report be approved. Kim Stitzel seconded the motion. Approved by voice vote.
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Kim Stitzel, Chair
The following were nominated for election to 2-year terms as Directors
- Jay Bhatt, ABC News and the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health
- Juliana Crawford, American Heart Association
- Michael Cropp, Independent Health
- Mark McEwen, The Black News Channel
- Bernadette Melnyk, The Ohio State University
- Marcus Plescia, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Kim Stitzel moved that the slate of nominees be elected as Directors. Dr. Warren A. Jones seconded the motion. Approved by voice vote.

Kim Stitzel announced that she would become Immediate Past Chair and Warren A. Jones, MD, Vice Chair, would become Chair at the conclusion of this meeting.

THE NATIONAL FORUM HONORED THE FOLLOWING 2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS:

National Forum Heart Healthy Stroke Free Award: Individual
- Jen Cooper

National Forum Heart Healthy Stroke Free Award: Organization
- Association of Black Cardiologists, DNP, RN, APHN-BC, CCP

National Forum Public Policy Award: Individual
- Hon. Jerry Hill, California State Senator

National Forum Public Policy Award: Organization
- American Heart Association, Healthy Kids’ Meal legislation

National Forum Commitment Award
- Clyde W. Yancy, MD, MSc

National Forum Chair Recognition Award
- Michael A. Cropp, MD, MPH
- Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, RN, APRN-CNP

Board of Directors Service
- Out-going Chair, Laura Gordon
- Retiring Director, Amanda Seeff-Charny

NEW BUSINESS
Warren A. Jones, MD, Chair
Dr. Warren A. Jones called for any new business. None was presented.

ADJOURN
The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. ET.
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