



Making Equitable Hypertension Control a New Norm **May 9, 2024**

Pre-meeting, NETWORKING

11:30 – Noon pm EDT

Mid-Year Convening, MAIN EVENT

Noon – 2:30 pm EDT

Throughout today's event, "Making Equitable Hypertension Control a New Norm," Japanese Haiku (short form poetry in 5-7-5 syllables) relating to this theme, created by registrants, will be shared. This packet includes the agenda, Haiku, resources, speaker photos, and bios.

Agenda

Welcome

John M. Clymer @JohnClymer

Executive Director

National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

Hypertension: A Pandemic Perspective

Paul Reed, MD @HealthGov

Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health

Director, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

The Business Case for Hypertension Control

Margaret Guerin-Calvert @FTIConsulting

Senior Managing Director President

Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy, FTI Consulting

Kyi-Sin Than @FTIConsulting

Senior Director

Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy, FTI Consulting

Business Example – Paychex Hypertension Program

Bridget Hallman, MPA, CWP @Paychex

Employee Wellness Manager

Paychex, Inc.

Q and A with Meg Guerin-Calvert, Kyi-Sin Than, and Bridget Hallman



Mayors Prevent Hypertension through Move with the Mayor™

Michelle Snyder, MPH [@NatForumHDSP](#)
Community Engagement Coordinator
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

Interviews

Steven S. Sherlin
Mayor, Athens, Tennessee

Improving Equitable Access to SMBP Coverage, Reimbursement, & Care

Alison P. Smith, MPH, BA, BSN, RN [@American_Heart](#)
Program Director, AHA-AMA Initiative to Control Blood Pressure
American Heart Association / American Medical Association

Q & A with Mayor Sherlin and Alison Smith

Congressional Update

Karyn Richman, MPA [@KarynRichman](#)
Principal
Cornerstone Government Affairs
CDC/NIH update

Carlos Jackson [@CarlosJack74](#)
Principal
Cornerstone
PBM Reform Update

Q&A with Carlos Jackson and Karyn Richman

How to address the 'most neglected and widespread pandemic of our time

Tom Frieden, MD [@DrTomFrieden](#)
President and CEO
Resolve to Save Lives

Closing and Adjourn

Modele O. Ogunniyi, MD, MPH [@modeldoc](#)
Professor of Medicine and Master Physician, Division of Cardiology at Emory University
Associate Medical Director, Grady Heart Failure Program

&

John M. Clymer [@JohnClymer](#)
Executive Director
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention



Registrants were challenged to create Japanese Haiku around the meeting theme, “Making Equitable Hypertension Control a New Norm”

Pressure mounts within,
Society's weight, unseen,
Health's dance, in balance.

Hypertension is,
Largely uncontrolled. Why so?
Who knows? Who doesn't?

Blood courses through veins,
Measure and track blood pressure,
Get that BP.

Lifestyle shifts now,
Numbers guide our path forward,
Myths dispelled; we rise.

This is so easy,
Bread and butter medicine.
Then, why the care gaps?

Before the doctor,
Food and exercise the key,
A strong heart we see.

Blood pressure control,
Nothing is more important,
But must be for all.

Steps forward, aligned,
Equity's stride, health's ally,
Hypertension's fall.

Measure carefully,
Treat and intensify meds,
Partner with patients.

Pressure I bleed the same red,
Yet pressure high on my block,
Help us find control.



Resources

Please share links to your high blood pressure and health equity resources; we will include and send you the link along with the recording and transcripts of this meeting when available.

American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation

- [Cardiac Patient Resources](#)

American College of Cardiology

- [Hypertension](#)

American Heart Association

- [High Blood Pressure \(Fact sheets, Tools and Resources\)](#)
- [Hands-Only CPR Resources](#)
- [Stroke Symptoms – F.A.S.T. Warning Signs](#)

American Medication Association

- [SMBP Coverage Insights: Medicaid](#)
- [Release the Pressure Campaign](#)

American Medical Group Association

- [Health Equity](#)

American Public Health Association

- [Health Equity](#)

American Society for Preventive Cardiology

- [Guidelines](#)

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

- [Addressing Hypertension in Pregnancy to Reduce Maternal Morbidity and Mortality](#)

CDC Foundation

- [Contagious Conversations: Hypertension: Handling the Pressure](#)
- [National Hypertension Control Roundtable](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
 - [High Blood Pressure](#)
 - Million Hearts®
 - [Blood Pressure Control](#)
 - [Live to the Beat](#)
 - [Self-Measured Blood Pressure \(SMBP\) Monitoring](#)



Heart Rhythm Society

- [Upbeat.org](https://www.upbeat.org)

HHS, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

- [Hypertension: A Pandemic Perspective](#)

Mended Hearts

- [High Blood Pressure](#)

National Association of County and City Health Officials

- [Cardiovascular Health](#)

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

- [Cardiovascular Health](#)

National Association of Community Health Centers

- [NACHC Journal Article Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring During the COVID-19 Pandemic Perspectives from Community Health Center Clinicians](#)
- [NACHC Simplify Your Pill Routine](#)
- [NACHC Video Integrating SMBP Into Hypertension Management A Clinician Success Story](#)
- [NACHC Video Making SMBP Work for Your Patients Tips for Community Health Centers](#)

National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

- [Shared Decision Guides](#)
- [Know Your Numbers Campaign Videos](#)
- [Move with the Mayor® \(MWTM\) Initiatives](#)

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

- [High Blood Pressure](#)

Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

- [Blood Pressure Patient Resource](#)

Resolve to Save Lives

- [Hypertension Control](#)
- [How to Address the 'Most Neglected and Widespread Pandemic of Our Time](#)

SleepApnea.org

- [High Blood Pressure](#)

WomenHeart

- [Heart Disease Educational Materials](#)

World Hypertension League

- [World Heart Day](#)



Speaker Photos & Brief Bios



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 prevent cardiovascular disease. 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.



Paul Reed, MD

Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health

Director, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Rear Admiral (RDML) Paul Reed's primary responsibility is to advise the Assistant Secretary for Health on disease prevention and health promotion programs and policies pursuant to Title XVII, Section 1701, of the Public Health Service Act.

Additionally, RDML Reed provides direction and oversight for national health initiatives such as [Healthy People 2030](#), the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), the [Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans](#), and the [President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition](#).

Previously, RDML Reed served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Medicine and Science within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. In this role, he provided oversight, direction, and coordination of activities requiring expert medical analysis and advice, particularly those concerning policy, planning, formulation, and presentation of public health issues affecting HHS. He has held numerous leadership roles within HHS, including positions within the Office of the Surgeon General, the



Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, and the U.S. Public Health Service. He has also coordinated the readiness and deployment of Commissioned Corps officers for domestic and international operations for humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, civic assistance, emergency response, and training.

During his nearly 5-year tenure as an Associate Professor of Global Health in the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University, then CAPT Reed also held leadership positions as the Deputy Director at the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health and as the Interim Center Director and Director for Doctrine and Strategic Partnerships at the Center for Global Health Engagement.

He has received numerous awards, including 2 Meritorious Service Medals and the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal. He was recognized by HOSA-Future Health Professionals as their 2015 keynote speaker and the inaugural recipient of their National Health Professional Role Model award. RDML Reed began his career as a uniformed medical officer with the U.S. Navy in 1994 after graduating from the Boston University School of Medicine. He served in this capacity for over 14 years, culminating as the Department Head of Pediatrics at the National Naval Medical Center in 2008. His clinical practice was in primary general pediatric care and pediatric rheumatology.



Margaret Guerin-Calvert

Senior Managing Director President
Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy, FTI Consulting

Margaret (Meg) Guerin-Calvert is a Senior Managing Director at FTI Consulting in Washington, D.C. and founding President of its Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy. She has over 30 years of experience as an economist in public and private sectors, in competition and regulatory policy, mergers, damages, class certification and intellectual property in healthcare and other industries. She leads FTI's Center initiatives on health, health equity, and economic impact, which provide multi-sector collaboratives and stakeholders with actionable data and advanced analytics on drivers of medical and productivity costs of chronic conditions to quantify their economic impact on workforce and community for innovative strategies and measurable and sustainable benefit. Projects include a Chamber-led collaborative in Nashville and a Western NY population health organization; the Center provided comparative assessments of these with major metro areas across key metrics including life expectancy, access, quality, and medical and productivity costs of diabetes, hypertension, and other conditions along with a review of potential interventions. Her Center projects include its selection by the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Foundation) and partnering with the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, to build and disseminate the business case for employer engagement in hypertension prevention and control and ongoing projects to address health disparities.

She has served as economic advisor to clients and governments in the U.S. and internationally, including state insurance agencies; parties involved in Certificate of Need (CON) or Certificate of Public Advantage (COPA); and in market-wide inquiries into healthcare competition. She served as Assistant Chief, U.S.



Department of Justice Antitrust Division, Federal Reserve Board economist, and taught economics at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy (formerly Institute of Policy Sciences). She was also a founding director of Competition Policy Associates, Inc. ("Compass"), now Compass Lexecon, and served as a Senior Consultant, Compass Lexecon. Her professional association or other organization roles include member, American Economic Association; member, AcademyHealth, and member and leadership roles in the Antitrust Law Section, American Bar Association; serving as a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)'s Roundtable on Population Health Improvement; as Co-Chair, NASEM's Action Collaborative on Business Engagement in Building Healthy Communities; as member, NASEM's Business Engagement in Obesity Solutions Innovation Collaborative; and Board of Directors, National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention. She has an AB in economics from Brown University; and an MPA from Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University.

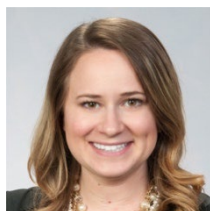


Kyi-Sin Than

Senior Director

Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy, FTI Consulting

Kyi-Sin Than is a Senior Director at the Center for Healthcare Economics and Policy, FTI Consulting Inc. She has over 10 years of experience conducting economic analyses to quantify the cost of illnesses from the perspective of health insurance providers and governments. Her experience includes real-world data analysis using health insurance claims and registry data, economic modeling (cost-effectiveness analyses, budget impact models), preference surveys, and mixed methods program evaluation. Ms. Than has also applied economic modeling methodologies to public health and policy issues. For the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Foundation), she led the initiative to build a budget impact model to support and disseminate the business case for employer engagement in hypertension prevention and control. Ms. Than experience also includes conducting extensive evaluations of value-based payment models on healthcare utilization, expenditures, and quality of care across healthcare settings.



Bridget Hallman, MPA, CWP

Employee Wellness Manager

Paychex, Inc.

Bridget has worked in the Health and Wellness arena for over a decade. She currently works at Paychex, where she leads the global employee well-being strategy for 17,000 employees. Paychex has been recognized ten times by the National Business Group on Health for its outstanding commitment to advancing employee well-being through comprehensive and innovative benefits offerings. Bridget holds a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis in Health Care Management, a bachelor's degree in health science and she is a certified Wellness Practitioner.



Alison P. Smith, MPH, BA, BSN, RN

Program Director, AHA-AMA Initiative to Control Blood Pressure
American Heart Association / American Medical Association

With experience from bedside to board room, Ms. Smith leads Target: BP, an initiative of the American Heart Association and the American Medical Association to support healthcare organizations to improve blood pressure control by providing education, resources, and recognition for improvement.

She also serves on the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing National Advisory Board. Previously, Ms. Smith served as a VP of Strategic Initiatives for C-Change, a national cancer not-for-profit. She also served as a public member for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Family Medicine Residency Review Committee. Ms. Smith worked for fifteen years as a nurse, administrator, and consultant in hospitals.

Ms. Smith earned her BA at Stanford University, BSN at Hopkins, and MPH at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

When taking time to recharge, Alison is playing field hockey for the US Women's Masters Indoor and Outdoor Field Hockey teams.



Michelle Snyder, MPH

Community Engagement Coordinator
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

Michelle Snyder is a Community Engagement Coordinator for the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention, an independent, nonprofit catalyst for collaboration.

Michelle brings experience in health education, health promotion, marketing, and event management in her role at the National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention. She has served in leadership roles in the nonprofit and humanitarian sectors. She received her master's degree in public health with a specialization in community health education and her bachelor's degree in workforce education specializing in education, training, and development both from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL.

She has traveled extensively for her work including teaching/training in Haiti, Honduras, Malawi, and Tanzania. She currently resides in southern Illinois.



Steven S. Sherlin
Mayor, Athens, Tennessee

Mayor Steven S. Sherlin was elected to the Athens City Council November 8, 2022, by the citizens of Athens. The City Council unanimously elected Mayor Sherlin to the position of Mayor November 15, 2022, during the Council Meeting. Mayor Sherlin serves on numerous boards and committees in the City and McMinn County. He was born and raised in Athens and is a retired Industrial Professional, former Business Owner, and retired Southern Baptist Pastor.

Steven has been married to Kathy Wilson Sherlin for 49 years this year and they have three adult children, Angie, Andy, and Amy, all married and career professionals. They have five grandchildren, Jacob, Emma, Jonah, Emily, and Everleigh.

“I am deeply grateful for the privilege to serve the people of Athens as we build on our past success as a community, avoid our past mistakes, and step into the future with great resolve to create Industrial, Retail, Educational, Economic, and Quality of life improvement in our Friendly City.”



Karyn Richman, MPA
Principal
Cornerstone Government Affairs

Karyn Richman, a member of the firm's national security and health teams, has more than 20 years of legislative and political experience, along with a broad and diverse set of bipartisan relationships. She has significant expertise in national security, public health, and appropriations.

Prior to joining Cornerstone, Karyn held pivotal roles within the federal government, including serving as a professional staff member on the House Appropriations Committee including the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor HHS) and Subcommittee on Homeland Security. During her tenure, she played a crucial role in shaping appropriations and oversight in these critical areas, ensuring the efficient allocation of resources to vital programs and initiatives.

Between stints with the Appropriations Committee, Karyn served in key positions at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where she contributed significantly to budgetary planning and execution. Her experience as the branch chief for science and regulatory affairs at the HHS Office of Budget provided her with invaluable insights into the intricacies of federal budgeting processes, particularly as they pertain to health-related programs and initiatives.

During her time at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Karyn assumed the role of acting director a deputy director of the Washington office, where she spearheaded the development and implementation of strategic and legislative goals, further solidifying her reputation as a dynamic leader in the public health sector.



Karyn began her DC career at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) allowed her to delve into issues of homeland security, emergency preparedness, and biodefense, further broadening her expertise and understanding of government operations and priorities.

Karyn is a graduate of Lehigh University, where she earned her bachelor's degree, and Columbia University, where she obtained her Master of Public Administration degree. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her two sons.



Carlos Jackson
Principal
Cornerstone Government Affairs

Carlos joined Cornerstone's Washington, D.C. federal government relations team in November 2021. He brings over twenty years of legislative and political experience within the health field, a strong record of building strategic relationships between policymakers and health care organizations, and a deep knowledge of the complexities of highly regulated provider, public and private hospital system, and payer issues.

In his previous role as vice president of legislative affairs at America's Essential Hospitals (AEH), he led AEH's federal legislative and political strategies and advocacy activities. He was responsible for advancing the association's legislative policy priorities, focused on increasing access to care for the nation's most vulnerable patients, with key authorizing committees and House and Senate leadership. Before joining AEH, Carlos was based in Cleveland, Ohio, managing the Cleveland Clinic Health System's legislative and regulatory policy agendas as executive director of government relations and overseeing the Clinic's advocacy engagements at the state and federal levels of government, including direct outreach and interface with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Prior to his time at the Cleveland Clinic, Carlos spent more than six years on the lobbying team at the American Hospital Association (AHA), where he served as a senior associate director of federal relations. He advocated for AHA's legislative and regulatory agenda to members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, including during the development of the Affordable Care Act and Budget Control Act deficit reduction law.

Before joining AHA, Carlos was a member of the government affairs team at the American Nurses Association (ANA) and worked on Capitol Hill in the offices of two members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation. Additionally, he worked on the staff of two national campaigns during the 2004 presidential election cycle.

Carlos is a graduate of the University of Missouri and resides in Washington, D.C. with his wife and two children.



Tom Frieden, MD
President and CEO
Resolve to Save Lives

Dr. Tom Frieden is a physician trained in internal medicine, infectious diseases, public health, and epidemiology. He is former director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and former commissioner of the New York City Health Department. Dr. Frieden is currently [President and CEO](#) of [Resolve to Save Lives](#).

Dr. Frieden began his public health career in New York City, leading efforts that documented and ended the largest outbreak of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis to occur in the US. He was then assigned to India, on loan from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where he helped scale up a program for effective tuberculosis diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring that saved millions of lives. Asked to return to New York City to become Mayor Mike Bloomberg’s Health Commissioner, he directed efforts to reduce smoking and other leading causes of death that increased life expectancy by 3 years. As Director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Frieden oversaw the work that helped end the 2014 West Africa Ebola epidemic.

Dr. Frieden founded Resolve to Save Lives in 2017 and leads the organization’s efforts to partner with countries to prevent 100 million deaths from cardiovascular disease and to make the world safer from epidemics. In just five years, these efforts have prevented more than 5 million deaths.

Dr. Frieden is also [Senior Fellow for Global Health](#) at the Council on Foreign Relations. His essays and scientific articles provide insights on a wide range of health problems—and how to address them—in the United States and around the world.



Modele O. Ogunniyi, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine and Master Physician, Division of Cardiology at Emory University
Associate Medical Director, Grady Heart Failure Program

Dr. Modele Ogunniyi is a Professor of Medicine and Master Physician with the Division of Cardiology at Emory University. She also serves as the Associate Medical Director of the Grady Heart Failure Program.

After receiving her medical degree from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, she obtained a Master of Public Health and a Certificate in Health Finance and Management from Johns Hopkins University. Her postgraduate training includes a preventive medicine fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control, residency in internal medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine and cardiology fellowship at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Ogunniyi’s research focuses on examining social determinants of health and eliminating disparities in



cardiovascular disease, diversity in clinical trials, palliative care in heart failure and cardiovascular disease in women. She is passionate about mentorship and creating equitable pathways to diversify the

workforce in Medicine. In recognition of her efforts, she received the Emory School of Medicine Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion and the R. Wayne Alexander Research Mentoring Award. and the American Medical Womens Association INSPIRE Award.

She serves as Principal Investigator for several clinical trials and is on the advisory board for the Metro Atlanta Heart Failure Collaborative and the editorial board of Clinical Cardiology. She is an active member and volunteer of many professional organizations including the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association, and the Association of Black Cardiologists, where she serves on the Board of Directors. She is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, American College of Cardiology, and American Heart Association.

Dr. Ogunniyi serves on several national committees, including as Co-Chair of the National Hypertension Control Roundtable and the ABC Membership Committee. She is also a member of the Cardiovascular Disease in Women and Diversity and Inclusion Committees of the ACC. She is the Vice President of Health Awareness Initiative, Africa, a nonprofit organization, whose mission is to promote healthy lifestyles in African communities by creating health awareness through screening and education.



Conference Production



Julie A. Harvill, MPA, MPH

Director of Operations

National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

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 management support to the Forum's Board of Directors, and Executive Committee, and manages the Annual Meeting and Mid-Year Convenings.

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 the effectiveness of the organization in 2010.

From 2012-2020, Ms. Harvill served dual roles with the American Heart Association on the Million Hearts® Collaboration.



Stacy Rezendes

Operations Consultant

National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

Stacy Rezendes is the Operation Consultant for the National Forum. 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 busy practice for eleven years and has served as a physician’s personal assistant.

Stacy 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.



John Bartkus
Program Management Consultant
Pensivia

John Bartkus – Program Management Consultant of Pensivia, LLC – specializes in enterprise performance improvement and project/program management. His 25+ years in project management across 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 engage and broaden the reach/impact.



Jen Childress, MS, MCHES

Director of Programs
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 of experience in the field of health promotion. She co-created and launched HealthLead®, a comprehensive workplace and academic health promotion accreditation initiative that helps organizations and universities enhance their health and wellness management policies. Ms. Childress has over a decade of leadership in private and non-profit sectors, organizing events and 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.



Whitney Webber, MBA

Event Coordinator
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

Whitney Weber is an Event Coordinator for the National Forum. She has a BA in Communications from the University of Kansas and an MBA from Baker University. She has worked for the past decade in event planning and marketing for various associations and companies. Whitney lives in Lawrence, Kansas, with her daughter Grace and spends her free time cooking and traveling.