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HEAL Data-to-Action (HD2A)

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2023-2024

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Dana Bernson, MPH

Dana Bernson, MPH is an Epidemiologist and the Director of Special Analytic Projects within the Office of Population Health at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). Dana has over 10 years of applied public health experience and has been involved in DPH's response to the opioid overdose crisis. She has held key leadership and analytic roles on an interdisciplinary team tasked with compiling and analyzing linked data related to the epidemic under the "Chapter 55" authorization. Dana's team is responsible for operationalizing and conducting analyses using the Public Health Data Warehouse, an extension of the "Chapter 55" work at DPH. Most recently, Dana and her team developed the state's first daily COVID-19 dashboard and provided expertise in data analysis and visualization for the Vaccine Equity Initiative. She also oversees DPH's Health Survey Program and is Chair of DPH's IRB. Dana has extensive experience analyzing data on mortality and a wide range of perinatal issues.



Jonathan Chen, MD, PhD

Dr. Chen leads a research group across data science, clinical informatics, and medicine that seeks to empower individuals with the collective experience of the many, combining human and artificial intelligence approaches that will deliver better care than either can do alone. Dr. Chen continues to practice medicine for the concrete rewards of caring for real people and to inspire this research focused on discovering and distributing the latent knowledge embedded in clinical data.



Chinazo Cunningham, MD, MS

Dr. Cunningham is Commissioner of the New York Office of Addiction Services and Supports where she oversees one of the nation's largest system of substance use and addiction services. She is a physician trained in primary care internal medicine and addiction medicine and has spent over 20 years providing care, developing programs, and conducting research with people who use drugs. For decades, she has also collaborated with community-based harm reduction organizations. Her research has focused on improving access to care, utilization of health care services, and health outcomes. Dr. Cunningham has authored over 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts, has been the principal investigator on numerous federally-funded grants, and has been recognized by local and national awards. Dr. Cunningham has also served on and chaired numerous national advisory committees, guideline committees, and grant-review study sections.

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Andrew Herring, MD

Dr. Herring is an attending emergency physician and the Director of Research at the Alameda Health System (AHS). At AHS he is also the Division Chief of Addiction Medicine and Medical Director of Substance Use Disorder Treatment. Dr Herring has led national efforts to transform hospital-based care for substance use disorders and his work has been featured in local and national press including the New York Times, Los Angeles Times and National Public Radio. Dr. Herring co-founded and is a PI at CA BRIDGE, one of largest state level efforts to promote access to medication for opioid use disorder in the hospital settings. Dr. Herring's research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute , and has been published in numerous journals including JAMA Open and Annals of Emergency Medicine. His work focuses on treatment of substance use disorders and pain management.



Brian Hurley, MD, MBA, FAPA

Dr. Hurley is an addiction physician and the Medical Director of the Division of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control in the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. He is the President of the American Society of Addiction Medicine and gives presentations around the world regarding addiction medicine. He is the Co-Clinical Director of the Addiction Treatment Starts Here program through the Center for Clinical Innovation, focused on increasing the delivery of medications for addiction treatment in California's community health centers. He has also led numerous grant funded projects for supporting access to low-threshold medications for addiction treatment and smoking treatment across Los Angeles County. He is also a co-investigator for several Rand Corporation projects evaluating the integration of substance use disorder and mental health treatment within community health settings.



Kimberly Johnson, MBA, PhD

Dr. Johnson is a research associate professor at the University of South Florida. She also served as the inaugural executive director of the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction, and the director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment at SAMHSA. Prior to accepting the position at SAMHSA, she was a scientist and co-director of NIATx and the ATTC Network Coordinating Office at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She served as the SSA for the state of Maine and was executive director of Crossroads for Women, a SUD treatment agency. She worked as a child and family therapist in her early years. Dr. Johnson is devoted to improving care for people with SUD through data-driven decision making processes at the program, organization and systems level.

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K. Ranga Rama Krishnan, MBBS

K. Ranga Rama Krishnan is the Executive Vice Chairman and Senior Advisor of Rush University Health System. Prior to this role, he was the Chief Executive Officer of Rush University Health System from 2019-2022 and the Dean of Rush Medical College from 2015-2019. Krishnan contributed to building Duke NUS-Medical School in Singapore as a joint venture between Duke University and the government of Singapore, and was the Dean of the Medical School until 2015. Krishnan currently chairs the following boards: National Health Innovation Center, Ministry of Health Singapore, National Medical Research Council, and ALSET Institute at the National University of Singapore. He has published over 500 research papers and numerous books. Krishnan has many patents in areas of dementia, depression and brain-computer interface. Recently, Krishnan was awarded the highest honor for a foreign citizen by the government of Singapore for his extensive work and was given honorary citizenship by the president of Singapore.



Virgil Moorehead, Psy.D.

Dr. Virgil Moorehead Jr. is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and the Executive Director at Two Feathers Native American Family Services in McKinleyville, CA. An enrolled member of the Big Lagoon Rancheria (Yurok/Tolowa), Virgil is the first person in his tribe to attain a graduate degree. A graduate of University of California at Davis (BA), Dr. Moorehead received his Doctorate of Psychology in Clinical Psychology from the Wright Institute in Berkeley, CA in 2015. During his graduate work, he completed his doctoral internship at the University Michigan, Ann Arbor and Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Stanford University. While serving as a Staff Psychologist at Stanford University, Dr. Moorehead received the 19th Annual Anne Medicine Mentorship award for his work with Stanford Native undergraduate and graduate students



Douglas P. Olson, MD

Dr. Douglas (Doug) Olson is an internal medicine and addiction medicine physician. He is the medical director of HAVEN, Connecticut's Physician Health Program, Clinical Director of the Ryan White HIV Program at Optimus Health Care, a community health center, and President of the Board of Directors of the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved. Dr. Olson most recently served as the Chief Medical Officer for the country's Medicaid Program at The Center for Medicaid and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Washington, DC. At CMS, he worked on mental health and substance use treatment initiatives. His career has been dedicated to improving the health of our country's workforce and that of underserved populations. Dr. Olson graduated from George Washington University School of Medicine and completed his residency and chief residency in internal medicine at Yale.

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Anthony Salandy, PhD, MSc.

Dr. Anthony Salandy (he/him) is the Senior Director of Development and Business Strategy at National Harm Reduction Coalition. He has been developing and advancing data-driven solutions to address complex social and organizational challenges for over 20 years. He is a skilled monitoring and evaluation expert, non-profit professional, adept researcher, and strategic consultant whose work has guided the development of state and federal policies in public health, education, child and family welfare, immigration, juvenile justice and other fields. Dr. Salandy is a fierce advocate for health equity and social justice. While working with the University of Delaware, he developed a novel interactive ethnic-specific harm reduction intervention – which is now a SAMHSA promising practice. Additionally, while at Mount Sinai, he completed work in HPV, HIV, and substance use – including monitoring and evaluation of LGB TGNC+, mental health, sexual reproductive health, and harm reduction services.



Dana Smith

Pastor Dana Smith leads New Life II—Connecticut's first Black-owned, faith-based, peer-led recovery center where he works with people trying to overcome addiction, those in recovery and those just fighting through the challenges of day-to-day life. He has served the city of New Britain for the past 24 years in outreach and bringing neighborhoods together to strengthen the community by engaging the people he serves. Pastor Smith has worked in the community helping to organize basketball tournaments and family events and has founded a men's group called Unshakable Men. Pastor Smith also assists with feeding the homeless and is part of the Greater New Britain Re-entry Round Table. Pastor Smith is trained as an integrated healing coach, nationally certified peer specialist, recovery coach, recovery support specialist, and suicide prevention gatekeeper instructor. He lives by the following motto: "Nothing about us without us. "



Cindy Steinberg

Cindy Steinberg is the Director of Policy and Advocacy for the U.S. Pain Foundation and Policy Council Chair for the Massachusetts Pain Initiative. She is a nationally prominent spokesperson for the needs of people living with pain. Ms. Steinberg has been appointed to several high-ranking government policy committees including the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee chaired by the NIH, the Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker's Opioid Working Group and the Massachusetts Drug Formulary Commission. In February of 2019, Ms. Steinberg was invited to testify before the US Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee at a hearing on "Managing Pain During the Opioid Crisis". Ms. Steinberg has won numerous awards for her pain policy accomplishments. Her dedication to pain advocacy was sparked when she sustained a severe crush injury that left her with daily back pain.

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Michael S. Taitel, PhD

Dr. Michael Taitel offers consulting services on a range of healthcare topics with focus on program development and outcomes evaluation. He was Senior Director, Health Analytics at Walgreens (2010 – 2024). He helped establish the Walgreens Center for Health & Wellbeing Research, and led multidisciplinary teams of data and social scientists responsible for conducting clinical program evaluation and outcomes studies, predictive analytics, patient risk stratification and outreach targeting. He also supported Walgreen's health and wellness innovations and partner integrations. Dr. Taitel has more than thirty years of experience in the healthcare industry developing, analyzing, and articulating the impact of programs and services. He is a fierce advocate for health equity and diversity & inclusion. He is an internationally recognized expert and author in population health, healthcare utilization, behavioral medicine, medication adherence, vaccination, COVID-19 surveillance, health disparities, digital health, and predictive modeling.



Dawn Tyus, PhD, LPC, MAc, NCC

Dr. Dawn Tyus is the Director and Principal Investigator of the African American Behavioral Health Center of Excellence, and the Southeast Addiction Technology Transfer Center housed at Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Tyus has been affiliated with Morehouse School of Medicine for 15 years where she is also an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Tyus brings a wealth of experience from a wide variety of professional perspectives and is affiliated with several different boards and organizations. Dr. Tyus is also a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Georgia.



Melissa Weimer, DO, MCR, DFASAM

Melissa B. Weimer, DO, MCR, DFASAM is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Public Health at Yale School of Medicine and Yale School of Public Health. She is board certified in both Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. She is the Director of the Yale Addiction Medicine Consult Service at Yale New Haven Hospital and Associate Program Director for the Yale Addiction Medicine Fellowship program. Dr. Weimer has a clinical and research focus on improving the care of patients with addiction and its associated comorbidities, particularly in the hospital setting, and has specialty expertise in the treatment of complex pain.

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