

## Biosketches of Speakers

### Christopher J. Ausura

**Christopher J. Ausura** is the Director of Equity Operations at the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). Chris joined the public health field in 2011, and during his tenure in state service he has led numerous strategic equity initiatives on behalf of RIDOH and the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services including leading RIDOH's Health Equity Institute, the development of Rhode Island's Health Equity Measures, and the integration social determinants and health equity into the State's Medicaid program. Currently, Chris leads efforts to scale and sustain the Health Equity Zone initiative, Rhode Island's flagship strategic initiative and a national model for advancing health equity and improving the social, environmental determinants of health. In his role, Chris has supported jurisdictions and states across the nation as an expert in the development, implementation, evaluation, and sustainability of place-based equity initiatives. Prior to joining public service, he worked for over a decade in the private sector with roles in insurance, real estate, and hospitality. Beyond his professional role, Chris spends his time contributing as a member of local boards and commissions and working with his family on their farm in Exeter, RI.

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### Ana Avilez

**Ana Avilez** is the Program Associate for the Promise City initiative within the Equitable Recovery Institute at the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA). Previously, she was the Parent and Youth Engagement Specialist of the Mission Promise Neighborhood (MPN) Initiative in San Francisco during this time in her role she was able to co-facilitate the Community Report Card work and create the Youth Internship opportunity program. Before being the Parent and Youth Engagement Specialist, she was a Family Success Coach. She supported families by connecting them to workforce opportunities, public benefits, housing opportunities, and rental relief during COVID. She also facilitated Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors and connected families to other Leadership Development opportunities to explore and expand their leadership skills. Ana and her family immigrated to the Mission District in San Francisco, CA, when she was a child. She continues to inspire families in her community to be the voices of those who don't have the space or opportunity.

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### Dora Hughes, MD, MPH

**Dora Hughes, M.D., M.P.H.**, was named the Acting Chief Medical Officer and Acting Director of the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in July 2023. CCSQ is primarily responsible for executing all national clinical, quality, and safety standards for healthcare facilities and providers, as well as establishing coverage determinations for items and services that improve health outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries. Previously, Dr. Hughes served as Chief Medical Officer at the CMS Innovation Center. She led the Center's work on health equity, advised on care delivery, payment and data collection strategies for the Center's models and initiatives, and represented CMS on clinical and cross-agency working groups within HHS. Earlier in her career, Dr. Hughes served as the Counselor

for Science & Public Health to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. In this role, she helped with passage and early implementation of the Affordable Care Act and provided oversight and guidance on priority issues regarding public health and prevention; workforce and the safety net; food, drug and device regulatory matters; and biomedical research innovation. In addition to federal service, Dr. Hughes was an Associate Research Professor at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University (GWU), where her work focused on the intersection of clinical and community health, health equity, healthcare delivery and teaching. She remains on faculty at GWU's School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Hughes also has served as Senior Policy Advisor at Sidley Austin, where she advised on regulatory and legislative matters in the life science industry. Dr. Hughes began her career in health policy as Senior Program Officer at the Commonwealth Fund, and subsequently as Deputy Director for the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee under Senator Edward M. Kennedy. She then served as the Health Policy Advisor to former Senator Barack Obama. Dr. Hughes received a B.S. from Washington University, M.D. from Vanderbilt and M.P.H. from Harvard. She completed internal medicine residency at Brigham & Women's Hospital.

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### **Patricia Richmond Macfoy**

**Patricia Richmond Macfoy**, a native of North Carolina, Guilford County serves as Executive Director for the New Hope Community Development Group, Inc (NHCDG). NHCDG has served the community since 2007, and is a local non-profit in east Greensboro that seeks to strengthen the community while enhancing the quality of life by creating and directing resources to assist, educate, strengthen, and build family self-sufficiency. Through active civic engagement, the NHCDG promotes and supports the community by taking action and working alongside the community to advocate and solve community problems. Pat is extremely involved in Environmental Justice issues and collaborates with the community and the Bingham Park Environmental Justice Team for the full remediation of Bingham Park. The park is in east Greensboro and was built on top of a landfill. Pat and her team worked to secure an Environmental Justice Small Grant from the EPA. With that funding the community was provided public education, training regarding in-home environmental and health hazards that may increase vulnerability due to extended periods indoors due to stay-at-home orders because of COVID-19. Pat also works to lessen the effects of food insecurity within the community and adjacent neighborhoods. She has helped by offering administrative assistance to local faith-based organizations who have successfully opened and are operating food pantries. NHCDG also operates and manages three community gardens in the community. Pat also served and retired as the Senior Vice President, HR, Insurance and Risk Management Director for Girl Scouts, Tarheel Triad Council, Inc. During her Girl Scout professional career, she served on the human resources Girl Scout Council Advisory Board for Girl Scouts, USA and received training at the Edith Macy Conference Center, which is a Girl Scout instructional facility, staffed and equipped to offer high quality training and guidance to Girl Scouts. Pat received the prestigious Girl Scout Thanks Badge, the national recognition for Girl Scouts for outstanding service significantly above the expected performance. She also uses her nonprofit management experience in helping others to apply and obtain their 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Pat has attended non-profit management seminars at the Center for Non-Profit Leadership, High Point University.

Pat is a motivator and serves as a mentor to many and works tirelessly to help others reach their goals and enhance their skills as they help others. Pat currently serves on the Deaconess Ministry and as human resources advisor to the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina. She contributes her caring and service to others from the way her parents, the late Dr. Walter M. Richmond, Sr. and Annie Johnson Richmond raised and instilled in her and her siblings. Pat is married to Sefield A. Macfoy, Sr. and they have two children—Dr. Stephanie J.C. Macfoy and Sefield A. Macfoy, Jr. Pat is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Her favorite Bible verse that guides her in her daily walk and work is “In all thy ways acknowledge HIM and HE shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:6.

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### **Mary A. Pittman, DrPH**

**Mary A. Pittman**, DrPH, recently stepped down from her role as chief executive officer and president of the Public Health Institute (PHI), a U.S. and global non-profit public health organization dedicated to improving health and equity through economic, social, and healthcare innovation. Pittman is a national leader in community health, addressing social determinants leading to health inequities and promoting prevention and quality of care. Her experience in public health and healthcare, including Medicaid financing and safety net systems, make her an expert adviser in the field of population health and building healthier and more equitable communities and health systems. She has designed and launched leadership programs for women in health as well as for other population health leaders. During her tenure, PHI was recognized three times as one of the 50 best nonprofit places to work in the nation.

Pittman served for six years on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Roundtable on Population Health Improvement, and the Healthy People 2030 advisory committee to the Secretary of HHS. She served as an expert advisor to the Let's Get Healthy California Task Force, and serves on numerous advisory boards for UC Berkeley, School of Public Health, Loma Linda School of Public Health, Charles Drew University Medical School, and other non-profits and a small diagnostic company.

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### **Anne Morris Reid, MPH**

**Anne Morris Reid**, MPH, Policy Director of the Funders Forum on Accountable Health project, is also Lecturer in the Health Policy and Management Department at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University. She began consulting with GWU in 2022 and staffed the Commonwealth Fund Commission on a National Public Health System; a more expansive Department role started in 2023. For over a decade, Reid served in a range of senior-level policy and leadership positions in the Legislative and Executive branches of the federal government, including Deputy Chief of Staff and Counselor to the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Chief of Staff in the U.S. Senate, and Professional Staff to the Energy and Commerce Committee. While Counselor to the Secretary, she developed and executed regulatory, legislative, public affairs, and budget strategy with a focus on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Resources and Services Administration, and Substance Abuse

and Mental Health Services Administration. On Capitol Hill, she contributed to the drafting and steering of workforce provisions during the development and implementation of the Affordable Care Act. She was later promoted to serve as the lead Energy and Commerce Democratic staffer handling hearings and legislative markups for a range of public health agencies and issues. Reid received her BA from Harvard College and MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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## Michelle Reiss-Top

**Michelle Reiss-Top** is the Director of Digital Integration at the Mission Economic Development Agency where she is the senior systems administrator and digital integration specialist. Her self-described "tinker's mindset" has served her well over the decades, helping her overcome workflow design challenges across various industries. She holds a current Salesforce Advanced Administrator Certification and is a trained Human-Centered Design facilitator. As a member of the data and evaluation team, Michelle has witnessed multiple waves of outcome tracking and funder trends over the years. Too often the data could prove the efficacy of service delivery but the systemic mountains MEDA's coaches help families navigate that result in those outcomes remain in place, seemingly intractable. Through the human-centered design approach we now know how to measure the performance of the broken systems instead of the families held back by them. The Community Report Card project provides the opportunity to call out root barriers to economic mobility and leverage the community and service provider voices to knock them down. As a lifelong athlete and now a weekend warrior, collective effort and collaboration are Michelle's default comfort zones. Trying, failing, and then brushing yourself off to try again are some of her favorite ways to find innovative and creative solutions.

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## Josie Williams

**Josie Williams** is a senior research associate on the Population and Global Health Team at the Georgia Health Policy Center. She brings specialized experience in strategic planning, cross-sector collaboration, partnership generation and retention, facilitation and community engagement, and grant acquisition and management. In her role, Williams provides technical assistance to Health Opportunity Pilot sites as part of the Georgia Statewide Health Equity Initiative. Her work centers around supporting community collaboratives throughout Georgia to improve health, well-being, and equity within communities. These community-led are working toward planning and implementing innovative strategies to improve vital conditions and health outcomes.