

Improving Child and Youth Mental Health: Driving Factors and Root Causes

Panelist Bios

Leslie Walker-Harding, MD, FAAP, FSAHM, is the Ford/Morgan Endowed Chair and Professor of the Department of Pediatrics as well as Associate Dean for the University of Washington. She is also the Chief Academic Officer and Senior Vice President for Seattle Children's Hospital. She has been dedicated to the health and wellbeing of children and adolescents for over 25 years, particularly in the area of prevention of adolescent substance use and promotion of healthy adolescent development. Her current focus is to raise awareness of and bring to national scale, proven interventions to prevent the development of substance use and mental health conditions in children and adolescents. In this effort she is Co-Chair of the Forum for Children's Well Being: Promoting Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health for Children and Youth in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. She also is a co-founder and executive sponsor of the UW/Seattle Children's Health Equity Institute for Healthy Pregnancy, Children and Families and President Elect for the American Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs council (AMSPDC)

Margarita Alegría, PhD is the Chief of the Disparities Research Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Mongan Institute, the Harry G. Lehnert, Jr. and Lucille F. Cyr Lehnert Endowed Chair at the Mass General Research Institute and a Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She has spent her career examining how to reduce health disparities for populations of color, immigrants, and linguistic minorities. Dr. Alegría is currently the PI of three National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research studies: Building Infrastructure for Community Capacity in Accelerating Integrated Care, Building Community Capacity for Disability Prevention for Minority Elders, and Latino Youths Coping with Discrimination: A Multi-Level Investigation in Micro- and Macro- Time. She is also PI of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant assessing opportunities to establish institutional, policy and systemic changes to increase racial/ethnic diversity in academic health sciences. She has published over 300 papers, editorials, intervention training manuals, and several book chapters. In October 2011, she was elected as a member of the National Academy of Medicine in acknowledgement of her scientific contributions to her field. She has also been a recipient of notable awards such as the Simon Bolivar Award by the American Psychiatry Association (2009), the Rema Lapouse Award by the American Public Health Association (2020) and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Latino Behavioral Health Research by the National Latino Behavioral Health Association (2021). Most recently, Dr. Alegría received the 2022 Inclusive Voices Award by the American Association for Public Opinion Research. Dr. Alegría received her B.A. in Psychology from Georgetown University in 1978 and her Ph.D. from Temple University in 1989.

Tumaini Rucker Coker, MD, MBA is Division Head for General Pediatrics and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine and Seattle Children's. As a general pediatrician and community-engaged health services researcher, her research focuses on community-partnered pediatric primary care delivery design to promote health equity and eliminate health and healthcare disparities

for children and families in low- income communities. Dr. Coker leads a successful and extramurally-funded research program with a focus on community-engaged design, adaptation, testing, and dissemination of preventive care delivery models. She is the former and founding Research Director of the Health Equity Research Program at Seattle Children's Center for Diversity and Health Equity, and serves as the Co-Director of the University of Washington's NIH-funded Child Health Equity Research Fellowship. Dr. Coker is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, and previously served as chair for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's (NASEM) Committee on Addressing the Long-Term Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children and Families, as a committee member for the of the committee for the NASEM consensus report, Implementing High-Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care, and is a member of the NASEM Standing Committee on Primary Care. Dr. Coker is also a member of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).

Kimberly Eaton Hoagwood, Ph.D., is Cathy and Stephen Graham Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the New York University School of Medicine in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. She served as Vice Chair for Research in the Department from 2012 to 2019. She holds a joint position with the Division of Children, Youth and Families at the New York State Office of Mental Health as a Research Scientist. Previously she was Professor of Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry at Columbia University, specializing in children's mental health services research. Before coming to New York, she was Associate Director for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Research with the National Institute of Mental Health, and oversaw the entire portfolio of research on children and adolescents, spanning basic to applied studies. This gave her a broad perspective on research gaps and the theoretical and methodological connections that exist among different areas of science. In 2000 she served as the Scientific Editor for the Office of the Surgeon General's National Action Agenda on Children's Mental Health with Dr. David Satcher. She was instrumental in crafting NIMH's Blueprint for Change report, which forecasted the emergence of the field of implementation and dissemination research, and she also contributed to the 1999 Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health.

In 2012, she was awarded the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) Dissemination and Implementation Science SIG Achievement Award. In 2015, she received the Carl A. Taube Award from the Mental Health Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA). She has co-authored over 300 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and monographs, and has been appointed to two National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine committees: Committee to Evaluate the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Disability Program for Children with Mental Disorders and the Forum for Children's Well-Being, where she currently co-chairs the Collaborative on Pediatric Vital Signs for the Health and Well-Being of Children.

Dr. Hoagwood is Director of the Center for Implementation-Dissemination of Evidence-Based Practices among States, known as IDEAS, an ALACRITY Center funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (P50MH113662) (www.ideas4kidsmentalhealth.org). This work builds on two prior NIMH-funded centers, as well as numerous other federal grants and state contracts, all focused on improving children's mental health services in state systems. Her specific research interests focus on parent activation in children's health services, quality measurement in children's behavioral health, and improving state policies that affect child and family services through the use of scientific evidence.

Caren Howard (she/her) currently serves as Director of Policy and Advocacy for Mental Health America and has 13 years' experience in congressional and political affairs, and advocacy. Howard earned a B.A. in Political Science at Spelman College, the nation's top ranked Historically Black College.

Howard advises policy priorities and strategy for Mental Health America (MHA) on a wide range of issues including in health care, education, and criminal justice; facilitates relationship-building between MHA affiliates and federal and state officials through MHA's Back Home Campaign and Hill Day programs; and manages four yearly conferences for MHA's Regional Policy Council. Her influence on federal and state policymakers is apparent through direct connections with legislative offices as well as her ability to mobilize grassroots action. Her commitment to mental health advocacy stems from her personal lived experience and noticing the contrasting ease and difficulty between getting treatment in the U.S. for a sprained ankle versus an invisible wound.

Howard joined MHA in January 2017 after serving as a leading fundraiser for several members of the House of Representatives. Her Capitol Hill reach also extends closer to home as she spent five years at the U.S. Capitol on behalf of her hometown representative, Congressman John P. Sarbanes of Baltimore, Maryland and House Majority Leader Congressman Steny H. Hoyer of Southern Maryland. She worked with a very successful coordinated campaign in New Mexico during the 2008 election cycle which helped place Barak H. Obama as its 44th President.