

**Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Youth through Health Care System  
Transformation - Meeting 1  
Speaker Biographical Sketches**

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**Katherine Beckmann** is a program officer and manager for the Children, Families, and Communities program. Beckmann leads the children's health strategy as well as efforts to protect and advance federal policies that support paid family leave, health, and early care and education. She is particularly interested in the intersection of child development, disease prevention, and health promotion to better prepare young children for lifelong education. Prior to joining the Foundation, Beckmann served as the senior policy advisor for Early Childhood Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she coordinated, integrated, and implemented early childhood health and development policies and initiatives across Head Start, child care, Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting programs. Beckmann received her Ph.D. in developmental psychology with distinction at Columbia University where her research focused on social and environmental risk factors leading to toxic stress during pregnancy and cognitive outcomes in preschoolers. She earned her B.A. in psychology at Washington University in St. Louis and M.P.H. in health policy and administration at Yale University.

**Rahil D. Briggs** is the national director of HealthySteps, a program of ZERO TO THREE. She has overseen the dramatic growth of HealthySteps to over 210 sites across the country, reaching approximately 350,000 children and families. She is responsible for all aspects of the program's operations, financial sustainability, evaluation and research, policy, model enhancements, and site professional development and training. She comes to this role after a successful career at Montefiore in New York, where she grew the HealthySteps footprint from one to 21 practices, serving over 30,000 children annually. Additionally, Briggs is the founder and former director of Pediatric Behavioral Health Services at Montefiore, one of the largest integrated pediatric behavioral health services in the nation. The Academic Pediatric Association awarded her for this work with a Health Care Delivery Award. Briggs is the editor of *Integrated Early Childhood Behavioral Health in Primary Care*. She is a clinical professor of pediatrics & psychiatry at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Briggs completed her undergraduate work at Duke University and her doctoral work at New York University.

**Claire M. Brindis** is a distinguished professor of pediatrics and obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive health sciences, Emerita Director, Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies, and co-Director of the Adolescent/Young Adult Health National Resource Center, University of California, San Francisco. As a Latina bi-lingual, bi-cultural researcher, Brindis has methodological expertise in program evaluation and implementation science, community-based participatory research, and policy research on how social determinants and other disparities impact health outcomes, including adolescent, young adults, and women's health at the federal, state, and local levels. She has conducted program evaluations of School-Based Health Centers, Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives, and Family Planning Services. Underlying her work is a commitment to shared data for research and accelerated learning for improved health outcomes in which community partnerships, including community members, schools, and clinics, play key

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roles. Brindis is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and currently serves as vice-chair of its council, on the governing board and executive committee and Governing Board of the National Research Council, on the advisory committee of the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, and on the Committee on Science, Engineering, Medicine & Public Policy. She has served on several National Academies committees. Among her awards are a APHA Martha May Eliot Lifetime Achievement Award to Maternal and Child Health, a Pioneer Award, from the School-Based Alliance, and a HRSA MCHB Title V Lifetime Achievement Award. She has a Dr. P.H. in social sciences and public health from University of California, Berkeley.

**Janet M. Currie** is the Henry Putnam professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University and director of Princeton's Center for Health and Well Being. She also co-directs the Program on Families and Children at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Currie is a pioneer in the economic analysis of child development. Her current research focuses on socioeconomic differences in health and access to health care, environmental threats to health, the important role of mental health, and the long-run impact of health problems in pregnancy and early childhood. Currie is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and of the American Academy of Art and Sciences. She is the president-elect of the American Economic Association and has served as the president of the American Society of Health Economics, the Society of Labor Economics, the Eastern Economic Association, and the Western Economic Association and as the vice president of the American Economic Association. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the Society of Labor Economists, and of the Econometric Society, and has honorary degrees from the University of Lyon and the University of Zurich. She has a B.A. and M.A. in economics from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University.

**Sandy Chung** is a pediatrician and the current president of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Chung has held over 30 state and national leadership positions, including AAP Virginia Chapter President and Founder and Medical Director of the Virginia Mental Health Access Program. She is the CEO of Trusted Doctors, a pediatric practice of over 180 clinicians in Virginia, DC, and Maryland and serves as medical director of informatics at Children's National Hospital's Pediatric Health Network. Her passionate advocacy for child health and pediatricians has delivered major advancements in healthcare equity, mental health, EHR burden reduction, appropriate payment, physician well-being, and optimal child health policies. She is the recipient of multiple awards including the March of Dimes Lifetime Heroine Award recognizing a lifetime of community volunteerism, the Clarence A. Holland Award for providing outstanding contributions to the community and demonstrating leadership in the field of political advocacy, and the Virginia Chapter Child Advocate Award for standing up for the rights, values, and recognition of Virginia's children. As an avid educator of the next generation of pediatricians, her publications include articles on telemedicine, virtual learning, and health information technology. Chung received her medical degree from the University of Virginia and completed her pediatric residency at the Inova L.J. Murphy Children's Hospital.

**Brenda Harding** has been with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) as a health scientist administrator for the past twenty years. In this capacity, she serves as a Level III contracting officer's representative for large contracts and task orders, and as a Program Official

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for AHRQ-funded research grants. Ninety-eight percent of her grant portfolio focuses on pediatrics/children and youth, while the remaining two percent focuses on minority health and low income and homeless populations. Prior to her tenure at AHRQ, Harding served as a public health advisor at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, where she managed up to 15 Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grants and 911 emergency grants. Harding received her M.A. from the State University of New York at Albany and her B.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Ira Hillman** is the bonding strategy lead at Einhorn Collaborative, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to addressing America's growing crisis of connection. The foundational relationships babies experience with their parents are integral to developing sense of self — and ability to trust, empathize, and build mutually supportive, nurturing relationships throughout life. That is why the bonding strategy at Einhorn Collaborative supports collaborations among funders and programs in early relational health and emotional connection, including the Pediatrics Supporting Parents collaborative. Throughout his career and personal volunteer activities, Hillman has worked with organizations to transform their operations, develop new strategies, and build stronger collaborations among stakeholder groups. Hillman spent a decade and a half in Washington DC where he was the chief operating officer and chief of staff for the National Breast Cancer Coalition following his tenure as the managing director of Round House Theatre. Hillman has also worked for the University of Pennsylvania, his alma mater, where he continues to serve as president of his undergraduate class and as a steering committee member for initiatives that promote multicultural outreach and engagement among Penn alumni.

**Sara Kinsman** serves as the director of the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The division aims to advance strength-based health promotion; enhance injury prevention in schools and communities; and expand and improve emergency medical services and emergency preparedness for all our nation's children, adolescents, and young adults. Its programs include the Bright Futures Program, StopBullying.gov, the National Fetal, Infant, and Child Death Review Program, the Poison Control Program, Emergency Medical Services for Children, and the Regional Pediatric Pandemic Network. Prior to joining HRSA, Kinsman served as the director of the Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health in the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. During her tenure as director, Kinsman led the development of the Philadelphia Maternal and Infant Community Action Network and the Philadelphia Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team. She also worked to increase access to long-acting reversible contraception and educated providers about the importance of strength-based, trauma-informed adolescent health care. Kinsman was also an associate professor of clinical pediatrics and director of Inpatient Adolescent Medicine Services at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Kinsman received her medical degree from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and completed her general pediatric residency and adolescent medicine fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Kinsman also completed her master's degree in clinical epidemiology and Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Laurel K. Leslie** is the vice president of research of the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP). Leslie facilitates and oversees research, evaluation, and other special initiatives funded by the

ABP Foundation. She is also professor of medicine and pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts. Leslie has had a long-standing interest in efforts to improve health care delivery for children as well as efforts to address the future of pediatric workforce and education. Particular areas of research interest include health inequities in systems of care for children, pediatric mental health care needs and health care delivery, shared decision making, and implementation science. She participated in the Task Force on the Future of Pediatric Education II, the American Academy of Pediatrics's Pediatric Leadership Alliance and Vision of Pediatrics, and ABP's Residency Review and Redesign Project. Leslie received her bachelor's degree in History and Science from Harvard University, her medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her master's degree in public health from San Diego State University. Leslie is board certified in developmental-behavioral pediatrics at the American Board of Pediatrics.

**Michael C. Lu** is the dean of the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to coming to Berkeley, Lu served as director of the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau under the Obama Administration. During his tenure, he transformed key federal programs in maternal and child health, and launched major initiatives to reduce maternal, infant, and child mortality across the nation, and was awarded the prestigious Hubert H. Humphrey Service to America Award. Lu was a professor of obstetrics-gynecology and public health at University of California, Los Angeles where his research focused on racial-ethnic disparities in birth outcomes from a life-course perspective. Lu received his bachelor's degrees in political science and human biology from Stanford University, master's degrees in health and medical sciences and public health from University of California, Berkeley, medical degree from University of California, San Francisco, and residency training in obstetrics and gynecology from University of California, Irvine.

**Megumi Okumura** is professor of pediatrics, internal medicine and health policy at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Okumura is also a practicing clinician and sees patients in the UCSF pediatric acute care clinic and has a primary care practice focused on adults with special health care needs. She conducts research aimed at studying and formulating interventions that will address barriers and facilitators to chronic illness care for children with special health care needs (CSHCN) as they transition from pediatric to adult-focused health care. Her research portfolio includes improving transition processes in clinical settings, enhancing community participation of families and youth in research, evaluating the impact of state policy changes on health outcomes of CSHCN, as well as developing programs to support life skills and resiliency in young adults with special health care needs in the community. She is the scientific co-chair for the Health Care Transition Research Consortium. She directs the UCSF Resident Research Training Program and the Pediatric Clinical Translational Sciences Pathway. She serves on the Board of the Directors of the WITH Foundation, a foundation focused on improving the health of adults with developmental disabilities. She is dual boarded in internal medicine and pediatrics. She completed a health services research fellowship and her master's focused on implementation and dissemination sciences at the University of California, San Francisco.

**Joshua Sharfstein** is professor of the practice in health policy and management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he also serves as vice dean for Public Health

Practice and Community Engagement and as director of the Bloomberg American Health Initiative. A pediatrician by training, he is a former health commissioner of Baltimore, Principal Deputy Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and health secretary of Maryland. As health secretary, he was deeply involved in the development of the Maryland model for health care payment. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Public Administration. Sharfstein received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School.

**Barry Solomon** is a professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of General Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He serves as assistant dean for Medical Student Affairs and holds the Catherine DeAngelis, M.D. and Jackie Julio Endowed Chair of Pediatrics. Solomon has a joint appointment in the Department of Health, Behavior and Society in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he conducts research with faculty in the Center for Injury Research and Policy. He has held numerous national leadership positions in the Academic Pediatric Association (APA) and currently serves as APA President. His scholarly interests have been focused on preventing childhood injury and addressing social determinants of health through innovations in pediatric primary care. For ten years, Solomon served as medical director of the Harriet Lane Clinic. In collaboration with institutional and community partners, he brought an array of support services to the clinic, including Hopkins Community Connection (formerly Health Leads) to link families with social services and community resources. Solomon grew up in Baltimore, MD, attended college at the University of Maryland and medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. He completed his pediatrics residency at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh followed by a fellowship in general academic pediatrics at Johns Hopkins.

**Rachel J. Thornton** is vice president and chief health equity officer at Nemours Children's Health where she leads diversity, equity, inclusion, and health equity strategy. She leads the organization's first Equity Roadmap, supporting Nemours Children's vision to create the healthiest generations of children. With hospitals in the Delaware Valley and Central Florida, Nemours Children's is one of the largest integrated pediatric health systems in the United States. Thornton has committed her career to health equity research and practice, including organizational transformation. Prior to joining Nemours Children's, Thornton was associate professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the inaugural executive director for clinical services in the Johns Hopkins Medicine Office of Population Health where she led population health management services and community health. A practicing primary care pediatrician, Thornton served as a health policy advisor at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She served as a member of the National Academies study committee on Shaping Summertime Experiences, Opportunities to Promote Healthy Development and Well-Being for Children and Youth and as a member of the Strategy Group on COVID and Rental Evictions. Thornton received a B.A. from New York University, an M.D. from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and a Ph.D. in health policy and management from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. After residency, she completed fellowship training in general academic pediatrics.