

The National Academies of **SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

COVID-19: Disaster Preparedness and Vulnerable Populations: A Workshop Series

Speaker Biosketches

Teresa Blankmeyer Burke, Ph.D. is Professor of Philosophy at Gallaudet University, a bilingual university teaching deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing students in American Sign Language and written English. She is the only signing Deaf philosopher in the world with a doctorate in philosophy. Her academic publications are in philosophy, bioethics, research ethics, policy, and signed language interpreting ethics. She also writes for the general public, including mainstream media publications, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Dr. Burke has served on a number of national and international committees, including the United Nations, World Federation of the Deaf, the American Philosophical Association, and the National Association of the Deaf (USA).

Scott Landes, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Faculty Associate at the Aging Studies Institute. He received his PhD in Sociology from the University of Florida in 2014. Informed by his interest in medical sociology, aging and the life course, and disability theory, the majority of his research focuses on health and mortality trends across the life course for those with intellectual and developmental disability, and for veterans. His other primary research focus addresses the intersections of intellectual disability and social theory. His most recent work focuses on providing evidence of more severe COVID-19 outcomes among people with intellectual and developmental disability in the US.

Michael R. Sayers served over 20 years in the US Army as a logistics officer, spending close to 10 years overseas in support of various military missions. In 2007, he started as the Program Manager of the MCDPH PHEP program that develops plans, trains county and collaborative partner staffs (municipalities, colleges and hospitals to name a few), conducts exercises and responds to real-world events. The PHEP program helps to organize the department's response to potential various communicable diseases (i.e. H1N1, Hepatitis A, Measles, Ebola and COVID-19), radiological emergencies (we have a nuclear power plant (Ginna) within 5 miles of our county line), biohazard threats (i.e. nerve agents and anthrax) and natural disasters involving sheltering of our resident population to include major snowstorms, hurricanes, windstorms and flooding. Since February 2020, he has served as the MCDPH Operations Section Chief for the COVID-19 response.

Reactors Panel Biosketches

Daniel Dodgen, Ph.D., is the Senior Advisor for Strategy, Policy, Plans and Requirements with the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). His expertise includes disaster preparedness & response, climate change, equity & inclusion, health system policy, behavioral health, community resilience, opioids and other cross-departmental priorities. Dr. Dodgen served as the Executive Director of the White House directed national advisory group on disaster mental health and has overseen the behavioral health response to multiple natural disasters, public health emergencies, and mass violence incidents. He serves on the HHS Disparities Council and co-chairs the HHS LGBT Policy Coordinating Committee. He was a lead author on the Special Report on the Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health, released by President Obama in 2016. Before joining HHS, Dr. Dodgen was Senior Legislative & Federal Affairs Officer at the American Psychological Association (APA) following a AAAS Fellowship with the U.S. House of Representatives. With the Red Cross, he responded to the Los Angeles riots, the Northridge earthquake, the Oklahoma City bombings, and the September 11 Pentagon attack. He received the American Psychological Association (APA) 2005 Early Career Award and was elected a Fellow of APA in 2012. He is on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Applied Psychology and the Child Maltreatment Section of APA. In 2016, Dr. Dodgen was selected as a Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executive Fellow. He received his Bachelor's degrees in Spanish and Psychology at the University of Southern California and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of Houston. He is a licensed clinical psychologist in Washington, DC.

Robinsue Frohboese, J.D., Ph.D., is the Acting Director of the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). She also has served as the OCR Principal Deputy Director since she joined HHS in 2000. She has more than 40 years of Federal government leadership experience in civil rights enforcement and policy related to health and human services. During her tenure with OCR, Dr. Frohboese has served in a variety of leadership positions, including Acting OCR Director during four Administration transitions. She has been integral to many OCR civil rights initiatives over the years and OCR implementation of the HIPAA Privacy rule. She has also led a number of special projects for the HHS Office of the Secretary on behalf of OCR, including reports to the President on the Olmstead community integration Federal blueprint and a report to the President on preventing another Virginia Tech tragedy, and has represented the Department on key initiatives, ranging from ten years on the U.S. Disability Treaty Delegation to the United Nations and the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society.

Prior to joining OCR, Dr. Frohboese worked for 17 years in the Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section, at the U.S. Department of Justice, first as a Senior Trial Attorney and then as a Deputy Chief, overseeing major pattern or practice civil rights litigation against states. She began her Federal career as counsel to the U.S. Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee following a Congressional Science Fellowship sponsored by the American Psychological Association and American Association for the Advancement of Science. In addition to her law degree, she has a Ph.D. in Psychology and has received a number of high commendations during her Federal tenure, including a Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award and various awards for outstanding service by multiple HHS Secretaries and Attorney Generals.