

Improving Child and Youth Mental Health: Federal, State, and Local Opportunities

Panelist Bios

Thomas F. Boat, MD trained in pediatrics and pulmonary medicine at the University of Minnesota, the National Institutes of Health, and Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). His first faculty appointment at CWRU (1972-1982) focused on cystic fibrosis (CF) lung dysfunction research related to abnormal mucus in airways and to improving CF care. Dr. Boat next assumed the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of North Carolina (1982-1993) followed by appointment as Chair of Pediatrics and Research Foundation Director at Cincinnati Children's Hospital (1993-2007). He served as Chair or President of the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP), the Society for Pediatric Research, the American Pediatric Society, and was the American Pediatric Society's Howland Award recipient in 2018. After serving as Dean of the UC College of Medicine, Dr. Boat returned to Cincinnati Children's Hospital in 2015 as Director of CF WELL, a learning and education center to promote wellness, quality of life and better health for CF patients and their families. Dr. Boat served as a member of the Board of Children, Youth, and Families and has authored seven National Academies reports addressing physical and behavioral dimensions of child health. In these roles, he has championed pediatric medicine's promotion of safe and nurturing families as important for lifetime health and wellness.

Nathaniel Z. Counts, JD serves as the Senior Policy Advisor for Mental Health to the Commissioner of Health for the City of New York, where he works to implement the City's mental health strategy, which includes efforts to address the children's mental health crisis facing the city. He currently also serves as the Senior Fellow in Behavioral Health Policy at the Commonwealth Fund and as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Previously, he was the Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health Innovation for Mental Health America (MHA), the nation's leading community-based mental health advocacy organization. Nathaniel's thought leadership and research has been published in journals such as JAMA Pediatrics, Lancet Psychiatry, and Pediatrics. Nathaniel received his J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was a Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy Student Fellow, and his B.A. in biology from Johns Hopkins.

Grace Kolliesuah, MSW, LSW is chief of the Bureau of Children, Youth and Families within the Office of Community Treatment at Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services where she oversees the implementation of Ohio's comprehensive array of behavioral health initiatives and services for children, youth, young adults, and families. She forges cross system partnerships to build a system of care infrastructure that focuses on the social, emotional, physical, mental and economic challenges across the life span. Kolliesuah has worked on several national children initiatives and in 2017 was appointed to the Consensus Study Committee of

the National Academic of Sciences, Engineering and Medicines, Bureau of Children Youth and Families which produced the 2019 consensus study report on *Fostering Healthy Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Development among Children and Youth: A National Agenda*. Kolliesuah holds a Master of Social Work from The Ohio State University, Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Akron.

Ramesh Raghavan, MD, PhD is a Professor at the Silver School of Social Work at New York University in New York, NY. Before coming to New York University, he served on the faculties of Rutgers University (where he was Associate Dean for Research), and Washington University in St. Louis. His prior appointment was as policy director for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network at its National Center co-housed at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and Duke University.

Dr. Raghavan conducts mental health services research on the needs of vulnerable children, with a specific interest in children in the child welfare system. Dr. Raghavan has conducted studies on access to mental health care, and quality of services for children; his work has been funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Administration for Children and Families, and the National Institute of Mental Health. His current work is on the economics of implementation, and on enhancing child well-being.

Dr. Raghavan serves on the editorial board of *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research*. In early 2015, he served as Senior Advisor in the Office of the Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families in the US Department of Health and Human Services. He has served on two prior National Academies committees, *Evaluation of the Supplemental Security Income Disability Program for Children with Speech Disorders and Language Disorders* (2015), and *Committee on Improving Health Outcomes in Children with Disabilities* (2017). Dr. Raghavan completed medical school at Stanley Medical College, Madras, India, and a psychiatric residency at Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, India, before coming to UCLA. He completed a fellowship in pediatric pain management in the Department of Pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine. He earned a PhD in health services from the Fielding School of Public Health at UCLA.