Blueprint for a National Prevention Infrastructure for Behavioral Health Disorders: Meeting 2

Speaker Biosketches

Deepa Avula, MPH, is the Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Mental Hygiene at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Division of Mental Hygiene delivers programs and services for New Yorkers focused on mental health, substance use, developmental disabilities, and health promotion for justice-impacted populations. She previously served as commissioner of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services at the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and held multiple executive roles with the federal Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). While there, she oversaw policy and operations efforts for the $10 billion agency; led agency efforts on the Federal Commission on School Safety to advance school-based mental health; served as a key lead on the agency's COVID-19 response and secured Provider Relief Fund availability for behavioral health providers who lost revenue due to the pandemic. She holds a Master's in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a BA in Criminal Justice from The George Washington University.

David M. Clark, CBE, FBA, FMedSci, FAcSS, is the Professor Emeritus of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford. He is well-known for his pioneering work on the understanding and psychological treatment of anxiety disorders: especially panic disorder, social anxiety disorder, health anxiety and PTSD. Recently, he has also focused on how to disseminate effective psychological treatments within healthcare systems and is one of the architects of the English Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme, the success of which has prompted secondary prevention initiatives in several other countries. He has received Distinguished Scientist / Lifetime Achievement Awards from British, Canadian, Dutch, Swedish and American Psychological Associations. The latter described his work as "pure genius with a real-world application".

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 advises on innovative financing, policy, and research strategies for achieving the City's mental health goals. He currently also serves as the Senior Fellow in Behavioral Health Policy at the Commonwealth Fund. 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.

Patsy Cunningham, MA, NCC, LCPC, is a Behavioral Health Advisor at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the Office of Special Health Initiatives. In this role, she provides advice and guidance to HRSA Senior Leadership on policy development and coordination for behavioral health issues that impact the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and HRSA. Patsy has over 14 years of experience in the behavioral health field. She previously served as a Supervisory Public Health Analyst

for the Behavioral and Public Health Branch in HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW). In BHW, she was responsible for developing behavioral and public health policies and programs that improve the health outcomes of underserved populations by increasing access to quality care, balancing the supply of providers and improving distribution of providers in areas with the highest need. Prior to joining HRSA, Patsy worked at Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore, Baltimore's Local Behavioral Health Authority where she was a Provider and Consumer Coordinator and then promoted to the Manager of the Compliance Unit. Patsy holds a Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling and is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and a National Certified Counselor. Her clinical experience includes serving minors with a history of trauma, out of home placements and involvement in the Child Welfare System. She also has extensive experiencing serving adults who were experiencing homelessness, had a dual diagnosis and were involved with the criminal justice system.

Lisa Gennetian, PhD, is an applied economist, Professor of Public Policy, and the Pritzker Professor of Early Learning Policy Studies at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. Drawing on perspectives from the behavioral sciences, psychology, and child development, Dr. Gennetian's research focuses on the economic well being of families and children in the U.S., and the impact of social policies and public investments. She has over 20 years of experience leading U.S. social policy experiments and currently is a co-PI on the first multi-site multi-year randomized control study of a monthly unconditional cash transfer to low income families of infants in the U.S. called Baby's First Years. Dr. Gennetian also has a body of research focused on Latino children and families and is a co-PI directing work on poverty and economic self-sufficiency at the National Center for Research on Hispanic Families.

Brian Hepburn, MD, became Executive Director of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) in July 2015. During his time at NASMHPD, he has championed the importance of the full continuum of care. He is extremely proud of the work done by states and territories particularly in the area of promoting the continuum of care, Suicide prevention, and 988/crisis services. Prior to joining NASMHPD he served 13 years as Maryland's Mental Health Director. In his role as Maryland SMHA Director his priorities were systems integration across a continuum of care and managing a Budget of approximately $1.1 billion covering: 5 hospitals, 2 Regional Institutions for Children and Adolescents, and community services for approximately 155,000 individuals (45% under age 21). He received his M.D. from the University of Michigan School of Medicine, and received Residency Training in Psychiatry at the University of Maryland from 1979 to 1983. He was a Full-Time Faculty Member at the University of Maryland from 1983 to 1988 and has been on the Volunteer faculty at the University of Maryland since 1988. He maintained a private practice from 1983 until 2004.

Amy Lansky, PhD, MPH, is the Director of the Office of Scientific Evidence and Recommendations in the Office of Science at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She provides leadership, oversight, and strategic guidance for the planning and development of CDC guidelines and directs the Community Guide Program which provides scientific, technical, and administrative support for the Community Preventive Services Task Force. As Director of the Community Guide Program, she oversees the prioritization, production, and communication of evidence-based systematic reviews on the effectiveness and economics of population health interventions. Dr. Lansky's previous accomplishments at CDC have included developing and evaluating behavioral interventions, conducting epidemiologic research to inform HIV prevention programs and policy development, and designing and implementing surveillance systems. From 2015-2017 she served as director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy and as senior policy advisor in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Dr. Lansky

holds doctoral and master's degrees in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a bachelor's degree in political science from Swarthmore College.

Jonathan Purtle, DrPH, MSc, is Associate Professor of Public Health Policy & Management and Director of Policy Research at NYU's Global Center for Implementation Science. Dr. Purtle is an implementation scientist whose research focuses on mental health policy. His work examines questions such as how research evidence can be most effectively communicated to policymakers and is used in policymaking processes, how social and political contexts affect policymaking and policy implementation, and how the implementation of policies "on the books" can be improved in practice. He is also interested in population-based approaches to mental health and how mental health can be integrated in to mainstream public health practice.

Therese S. Richmond PhD, RN, FAAN, is the Andrea B. Laporte Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing. She has an extensive program of research aimed at improving recovery from serious injury by addressing the interaction between physical injury and its psychological repercussions. Her research includes a focus on prevention of violence and firearm violence which is grounded in a commitment to social justice. The National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Nursing Research, Centers for Disease Control, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health have supported her research. She is a member of an interdisciplinary team selected as a Catalyst Awardee for the Healthy Longevity Global Grand Challenge to examine a nursing-driven intervention to prevent falls in older adults using remote sensing and artificial intelligence. Dr. Richmond sits on the Executive Committee of the CDC-funded Penn Injury Science Center where she directs the Research Core. She serves on the inaugural Board of Directors for the Research Society for the Prevention of Firearm-related Harms. She served on the Federal Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services for the National Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Richmond is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine where she serves on the Board of Population Health & Public Health Practice.

Susan Thau, is a Public Policy Consultant representing CADCA. She is nationally recognized for her advocacy and legislative accomplishments on behalf of the substance abuse prevention field. She has an extensive background in public policy and has held high positions at the federal, state, and local levels. She was a Budget Examiner and Legislative Analyst at the Office of Management and Budget, in the Executive Office of the President for over ten years. Sue was a driving force behind the passage, reauthorization and full funding of the Drug-Free Communities Act. In addition, Sue has worked to save and enhance funding for all federal substance abuse prevention and treatment programs over the last two decades. She is highly respected as an expert on demand reduction issues by members of Congress and staff on both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill. Sue has an undergraduate degree from Cornell University in Human Development and Family Studies and a Master's Degree from Rutgers University in City and Regional Planning.