

Enhancing the Resilience of Healthcare and Public Health Critical Infrastructure: A Workshop

Committee

Paul Biddinger

Chair

Paul Biddinger, M.D., is the Chief Preparedness and Continuity Officer for Mass General Brigham, where he is also the Director of the Center for Disaster Medicine. He holds the Ann L. Prestipino, MPH Endowed Chair in Emergency Preparedness at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is also the Director of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Research, Evaluation and Practice (EPREP) Program. Dr. Biddinger is an expert in healthcare emergency preparedness and disaster medical response. He serves as the Chief Preparedness and Continuity Officer for Mass General Brigham, one of the nation's leading academic healthcare systems, and oversees all emergency preparedness, response and business continuity efforts for the system. He is also the Principal Investigator for the ASPR-funded Regional Disaster Health Response System (RDHRS) in New England, developing novel systems to strengthen and improve healthcare emergency preparedness across neighboring states. He has served on numerous committees and working groups related to healthcare preparedness and response has provided testimony to the US Congress on preparedness, and has authored or co-authored more than 100 publications in the field. He has responded to numerous prior disaster events, including Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, the Boston Marathon bombings, the Nepal earthquakes, and many others. Dr. Biddinger is a member of ACEP and SAEM. He completed his undergraduate study in international relations at Princeton University, attended medical school at Vanderbilt University, and completed residency training in emergency medicine at Harvard.

Mahshid Abir

Member

Mahshid Abir, M.D., MSC, is a senior physician policy researcher at RAND. Also a practicing emergency physician, her research evaluates the acute care continuum including pre-hospital, emergency, inpatient, and ambulatory care. Abir's past work includes developing measures for hospital surge capacity funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. She also evaluated patient-centered outcomes as part of health system redesign initiatives. She led COVID-19 related projects including evaluating strategies to increase critical care capacity, identifying solutions for boosting vaccine acceptance, and Middle East pandemic response. She led a project funded by HHS/Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation around COVID-19 outcome measures. She co-led a Federal Emergency Management Agency study to develop processes to allocate COVID-19 Public Assistance to health systems. She led a project identifying policies to develop the health care workforce. She served on three National Academy of Medicine consensus committees focused on public health emergency preparedness/response, vaccine supply, and medical supply chain. She testified before the U.S. Senate Aging Committee on disaster preparedness/response/recovery for older adults. She leads a project funded by the American College of Emergency Physicians to evaluate strategies to sustain emergency care. She also leads a study assessing impact of climate change on future demand for medical supplies. She has expertise in mixed methods and community-based participatory research. Abir earned her M.D. from the University of Cincinnati.

Nicolette A. Louissaint

Member

Nicolette Louissaint, Ph.D., MBA, serves as the senior vice president for policy and strategic planning for the Healthcare Distribution Alliance. In this role, she leads the organization's work to build policies and strategic approaches to build supply chain resilience and reinforce the role of healthcare distributors in the healthcare ecosystem. She previously served as the executive director and president of Healthcare Ready, a 501(c)(3) organization that focuses on strengthening the United States' healthcare supply chain preparedness and response before, during and after natural disasters and disease pandemics. Prior to this, Nicolette served as the Senior Advisor to the US State Department's Special Coordinator for Ebola and as a Foreign Affairs Officer at the US Department of State in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. She serves on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Advisory Council, as chair of the Equity Working Group. Most recently, Nicolette was named in The Root 100 Most Influential African Americans in 2020. Nicolette earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Chemical Engineering and Biological Sciences from Carnegie Mellon University, a PhD in Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and an MBA from the University of Baltimore.

Kevin D. Meeks

Member

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Kevin Meeks, M.P.H., is a Chickasaw Citizen and currently serves as the Deputy Secretary of Health for the Chickasaw Nation. He provides leadership and direction to a program responsible for providing comprehensive direct health care to over 90,000 patients. Prior to joining CNDH, RADM Meeks served for 32-year career in the United States Public Health Service. He served in various leadership roles and was instrumental in the management and improvement of Indian Health Care in Oklahoma and across the country. In 2009, RADM Meeks was selected as the Area Director of the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service where he served from until 2017. As the Area Director, he was the senior federal official responsible for the provision of comprehensive health care services to one of the largest and most diverse service populations in IHS. RADM Meeks was ultimately promoted to the IHS Deputy Director of Field Operations in 2017, where he directed 12 IHS Area Offices and was a crucial leader in providing quality health care to 2.2 million American Indians/Alaska Natives. RADM Meeks was the recipient of numerous awards during his career including the Surgeon General's Medallion, the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal, and the Distinguished Service Medal. In 2020, RADM Meeks received the highest honor of his career when he was inducted into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame. Shortly after being inducted, he was named as the Deputy Secretary of Health by Governor Anoatubby. Additionally, he received the Spirit of the Urban Indian award from the Oklahoma City Urban Indian Clinic in 2024.

Get W. Moy

Member

Get W. Moy, D.Sc., is a Vice President and a senior program director for federal projects for AECOM, a global design, management, and technical services firm. Dr. Moy is also, the Chairman of the Infrastructure Working Group, under the Resilience Community of Interest, Society of American Military Engineers, and the past Chair of the High Performance Building Council, under the National Institute of Building Sciences. Dr. Moy has served as an engineer for various sectors of the federal government including the Navy and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), responsible for stewardship of Department of Defense installations worldwide. Dr. Moy was Chief Engineer and Director of Planning/Base Development for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, providing the final technical engineering authority, and leadership in the shaping of the Navy ashore facilities infrastructure. Dr. Moy brings valuable experience from his past role overseeing AECOM's critical Disaster Recovery Team that leverages existing capabilities and services of hundreds of AECOM's most skilled personnel around the nation to provide rapid staffing and solutions to rebuild after all types of devastating disasters. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a member of the United States Naval Institute, the Society of American Military Engineers, and the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. Dr. Moy earned a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Catholic University of America, a Master of Science in Engineering Administration from George Washington University, and a Doctor of Science in Engineering Administration from George Washington University.

Herminia Palacio

Member

Herminia Palacio, M.D., M.P.H., is President of NexusBridge Strategies LLC, where her consulting work draws from expertise forged across diverse sectors and geographies. During her tenure as Executive Director of Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (TX) she oversaw the medical and public health response for over 27,000 evacuees at the Astrodome/Reliant Park Hurricane Katrina Megashelter. As Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (NYC) she oversaw the launch of NYC Care, a program that guarantees low or no cost health care for uninsured New Yorkers. She also served as a member of the Board of Directors for NYC Health and Hospitals, the largest municipal healthcare system in the nation. Herminia has served on several Federal Advisory Act Committees, including the CDC Board of Scientific Counselors, the CDC Advisory Committee to the Director, and the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health. Elected to NAM in 2023, her prior committee work with the National Academies also speaks to her being a recognized expert in both public health and health care, as follows: 1) NAS Standing Committee on Medical and Public Health Research During Large-Scale Emergency Events; 2) IOM Committee on Prepositioned Medical Countermeasures for the Public; and 3) IOM Committee on Public Financing and Delivery of HIV/AIDS Care. Most recently she served as a member of the Commonwealth Fund Commission on a National Public Health System.

Kirk R. Pawlowski

Member

Kirk R. Pawlowski, M.Arch, recently retired as Executive Director of Educational Service 112's Pacific Northwest Regional Construction Services Group program with a focus on educational facilities community safety, indoor air quality, and seismic resilience planning policy, Mr. Pawlowski is a nationally-respected academic health and life sciences architect practitioner and former Principal at the Portland, Oregon - Seattle, Washington firm SRG Partnership. As Associate Vice Provost for Capital Resource Planning at the University of Washington, he served as a member of the UW President's Environmental Stewardship Committee (UWESC), led the UW's "Energy Future" Initiative as a critical component of the University's climate change and carbon reduction plan, and was responsible for the development and management of the UW 10-Year Capital Plan including development and implementation of a new seismic-resilience capital investment program. Executive Director for Capital Planning and Development at Washington State University (WSU) and Oregon State University (OSU), he guided the development of multiple new biomedical research facilities, including the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine Global Animal Health facilities in collaboration with the Gates Foundation; as well as development of a new WSU School of Medicine on WSU's urban Spokane, Washington campus. At OSU, he led the development of a seismic-resilience capital investment program for research and instructional facilities and initiated the creation of OSU development standards for marine biological research facilities located in Oregon's tsunami-inundation zones. Mr. Pawlowski also served as the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Director of Planning and Real Estate, guided the development of clinical and research facilities, and established structural and non-structural seismic performance standards for new buildings and renovations on the Marquam Hill and South Waterfront Campuses, as well as the federal Oregon Primate Research Center. Mr. Pawlowski has served on two NASEM Consensus Study Report committees:

Strengthening the Disaster Resilience of the Academic Biomedical Research Community - Protecting the Nation's Investment, 2016-2017

Managing the NIH Bethesda Campus Capital Assets for Success in a Highly Competitive Global Biomedical Research Environment, 2018-2019

Andrew D. Pickett

Member

Andrew “Andy” Pickett, M.S., is the Director of the Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, having been appointed to the position in April 2015. In this role, he manages public health and healthcare emergency preparedness and response efforts across the Commonwealth. Prior to his role in state government, he worked in local public health emergency preparedness for seven years in Detroit, Michigan, as well as in county emergency management roles. He recently concluded his term as the Past Chair of the ASTHO Directors of Public Health Preparedness peer group and has previously served on several ASTHO and other public health preparedness committees and workgroups. Academically, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geographic Information Science from Central Michigan University and a Master of Science degree in Technology Studies with a concentration in Public Safety and Emergency Management from Eastern Michigan University. He has also participated in the Executive Leaders Program through the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School.

Laura Wolf

Member

Laura Wolf, Ph.D., currently serves as the Chief of Staff for the Data & Analytics team at Blue Shield of CA. She spent 14 years in various Federal positions serving the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), including from 2017-2022 as the Director of the Division of Critical Infrastructure Protection, directing the Healthcare and Public Health Sector Partnership for the federal government. While in that role, Dr. Wolf led the Partnership’s responses to Hurricanes Irma, Maria, and Harvey; the WannaCry cybersecurity response, and the COVID-19 pandemic. During each response and exercise, Laura and the team navigated the boundaries of Federal response abilities; communications challenges; lack of private sector leadership’s awareness of threats; and minimal funding of risk mitigation. Dr. Wolf spearheaded the development of the first version of the Healthcare and Public Health Sector Risk Identification and Sector Criticality (RISC) Toolkit to promote data-driven, comprehensive risk management across the Sector. Dr. Wolf earned her Ph.D. in Biology from the University of California San Diego and her B.S. from MIT.

William J. Yurcik

Member

William Yurcik, M.S., is the current Federal Lead for Cybersecurity Threat Intelligence at CMS Medicare Headquarters which is the unit with the highest technical capabilities engaging in healthcare cybersecurity in the U.S. Government. They coordinate daily with the Veterans Health Administration, Defense Health Agency, and Indian Health Service within the HHS Healthcare Threat Operations Center (HTOC). Mr. Yurcik has forty years of professional experience in cybersecurity publishing 150+ peer-reviewed papers, being principal investigator for close to \$4M in research grants, establishing/chairing four long-running ACM cybersecurity workshops, and leading cybersecurity operations for four large international networks (Army Research Lab-ARL, Naval Research Lab-NRL, NASA Science Internet, and National Center for Supercomputer Applications-NCSA). He is the recipient of NASA's highest civilian honor as well as technical awards from the U.S. DoD and Teaching/Faculty Fellowship awards from multiple universities. William Yurcik earned his Ph.D. ABD from the University of Pittsburgh (Telecommunications Engineering), three Masters Degrees (Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, & Telecommunications), and two undergraduate degrees (EE and Acoustics).