Speaker Biographies

Amy Bush Stevens, MSW, MPH As the Vice President of Prevention and Public Health Policy at the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, Stevens works closely with Ohio’s public health community and co-led development of the 2017-19 State Health Improvement Plan. She has authored several publications at HPIO, such as Improving population health planning in Ohio, What is “population health”? Ohio Prevention Basics, Ohio Public Health Basics, and a Guide to Evidence-Based Prevention. Amy is the co-leader of HPIO’s Health Value Dashboard initiative and also serves as HPIO’s evaluation coordinator. Prior to joining HPIO, Stevens served as the Program Evaluator at the Community Mental Health and Recovery Board of Licking and Knox Counties and as a program evaluation and community health planning consultant with numerous public health and prevention organizations in rural Ohio. She also worked as a Project Coordinator at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. Throughout her career, she has focused on community-based prevention, including the prevention of intimate partner violence, tobacco use, obesity, teen pregnancy, child maltreatment, and youth drug and alcohol use. Amy also has experience assessing the implications of federal and state-level policy changes on the local public health and behavioral health systems, including impacts of the Affordable Care Act. Amy lives in Columbus, Ohio with her husband and daughter. She enjoys riding her bike to work and is passionate about integrating active living into everyday life for all communities.

Rafiat Eshett, MPA, is the Section Chief for the Non-Institutional Policy Section within the Bureau of Health Plan Policy at the Ohio Department of Medicaid. Ms. Eshett has more than 30 years of experience working with Ohio’s Medicaid program with approximately 20 years of experience working with Medicaid managed care programs. Ohio Medicaid delivers health care coverage to approximately 3 million Ohioans. Ms. Eshett currently leads a team that plans and develops Medicaid’s non-institutional policies and services and analyzes and administers Medicaid payment strategies. Non-institutional providers include physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, transportation providers, clinics, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, skilled therapists, durable medical equipment and supplies, chiropractors, podiatrists and dietitians. Prior to her current position, Ms. Eshett worked on managed care policy and contract development, alternative care management delivery systems, and mental health programs. Ms. Eshett has a bachelor’s degree in Urban Planning from Michigan State University, East Lansing and a Master’s in Public Administration degree from the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Brandi Braun is the Deputy Innovation Officer for the City of Columbus. In this role, she helps lead and oversee Smart Columbus, an initiative born from the Smart City Challenge Grant, through which Columbus beat out 77 other US cities to become the model for connected cities of the future. Brandi also helps lead enterprise-wide innovation strategies aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness throughout the City. Brandi previously served as the Chief of Community Relations for Columbus Recreation and Parks, Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Ohio Department of Commerce, and Assistant City Administrator for Gahanna, Ohio. Brandi has a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in Public Administration, a Six Sigma Black belt and is a graduate of Leadership Columbus.

Sumithra Jagannath is a driven, technology-focused President with deep roots in software development, custom enterprise search engine development and digital marketing strategies. She is the Owner of ZED Digital, a digital software enterprise based in Columbus, Ohio. ZED Digital provides Smart Mobility and Data Aggregation solutions to help businesses grow their online revenues and become authorities in their market. Ms. Jagannath is a McGill University post graduate and served as professor of software usability at Concordia University graduate school in Montreal, Canada. She founded a consulting firm in software usability fresh out of college and has not looked back since. Her flagship product for transportation and smart cities called ZIG leads the technology in Mobility as a Service and Smart Mobility payment solutions in the country. Her expertise stems from her passion for computers and 20+ years of experience in software development and implementing usability engineering processes in organizations such as utility companies, banks and Government organizations. She now sits on the Web Development Board of Advisors at Franklin University and is the Vice President for Healthcare Businesswomen’s Association. She also serves as the marketing chair for the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials.
Loren C. Anthes, MBA, Public Policy Fellow, Center for Medicaid Policy Loren joined The Center for Community Solutions in March, 2016, in the position of Fellow, Medicaid Policy Center. Loren has significant public and private experience, and has worked extensively with the legislative and executive branches of state, federal, and local government. Loren comes to CCS from The MetroHealth System, where he served as manager, State and Local Government Relations. He previously worked for The Centers for Families and Children, the Ohio House of Representatives, and the Ohio Medicaid program. Loren has a B.A. in Political Science from Ohio University and a Health Care Masters of Business Administration from Baldwin Wallace University. He currently participates in a number of state and local boards, associations and initiatives in health, advocacy, and the arts and is an Associate Lecturer of Health Systems Science at Ohio University’s Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Doug Arseneault As Public Affairs Administrator of the award-winning Central Ohio Transit Authority, Doug Arseneault is responsible for community engagement and public involvement in COTA’s major projects and initiatives, including the Transit System Redesign in May 2017 and CMAX Bus Rapid Transit that launched in January 2018. Doug also manages the relationships between COTA and emerging mobility providers, such as companies that offer shared cars, bikes, scooters and rides. As COTA’s public policy analyst, he advises executive leadership on strategies to support COTA’s legislative goals and public policy agenda. Doug is a graduate of Chapman University in Orange, CA and a DC native. He lives in the Short North community with his fiancée Brooke Wojdynski.

Jeff Horner; Owner, President Helper Holdings, LLC dba Compass Patient Care dba Compass Patient Transport. Mr. Horner has owned and operated Non-Emergency Medical Transportation service in the Columbus and Cleveland metropolitan areas since 2015. Together with his business partner Vickie Thompson, Compass specializes in providing the highest quality, most reliable, and safest wheelchair transportation patient care in the marketplace. In addition to founding Helper Holdings, LLC, Mr. Horner has a career of over 25 years in the financial services industry, including most recently positions as Vice President Business Development, Senior Vice President Government Services Division, and Chief Development Officer for a large privately-owned A/R Management and Service Center company. He attended The Ohio State University (BA Political Science). He is a Certified Fraud Examiner and past board member at the W.P. Cary School of Business Center for Service Excellence at Arizona State University. Jeff and his wife Lisa live in the Columbus, Ohio area where they have raised five children and enjoy family, developing their faith and friendships as well as various recreational interests.

Courtney Kimbrough-Ramirez is the Director of Information and Referral for HandsOn Central Ohio. She is responsible for strengthening program and service delivery, expanding the impact of HandsOn Central Ohio’s mission by developing new opportunities, and building a culture of service quality and impact. Prior to joining HandsOn, Courtney spent over a decade with Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation, serving in Compliance and Quality Assurance roles within the agency. Most recently, she was responsible for ensuring the Ohio Means Jobs/Franklin County Job Center operated in compliance with applicable federal regulations. Utilizing her strength to research and master changing trends and operational requirements dictated by either policy or regulations, Courtney effectively maintained the integrity of both the agency database as well as the state database, ensured trained workforce professionals provided quality program services, and maintained compliance with federal and state program audits. Courtney earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Miami University and a Master’s of Science in Education and Health Sciences from the University of Dayton.

Ernest L. Perry, Jr. is President & CEO of HandsOn Central Ohio, one of the largest HandsOn organizations in the US and the largest 2-1-1 service provider in Ohio. Under his leadership, HandsOn is leveraging its information systems technology, data, and long history of mobilizing communities to support Central Ohio’s efforts to develop neighborhoods of opportunity, where every resident will want to live, every child will learn, and every one of us can lead. Ernest’s vision is one Central Ohio, characterized by vibrant neighborhoods, anchored by strong institutions. Prior to joining HandsOn, Ernest built a reputation as a leader in social enterprise, neighborhood development, collective impact and impact investing, and technology in Ohio and across the US. His experiences include providing
Executive Leadership in the fields of philanthropy (Promise Neighborhoods and KnowledgeWorks), education (The Ohio State University), entrepreneurship & workforce development (Junior Achievement), and museums (The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center).

Ernest was named one of Columbus Business First’s 20 Nonprofit Leaders to Know in 2014, and was recognized as a Top Nonprofit Executive in Eastern Pennsylvania in 2011. He is a Fellow of the African American Leadership Academy and a graduate of United Way’s Project Diversity. Ernest is, also, a member of the Rotary Club of Columbus. He is, currently, Board President for the Ohio affiliate of the US Association for Information & Referral Services. Ernest also serves on the Boards of the Community Investment Network of Central Ohio (CINCO) and the ARL Education Foundation. Prior Board service includes Every Child Succeeds, CASA of Franklin County, and 100 Black Men of America, Inc. He has also served as President of 100 Black Men of Greater Cincinnati, Inc.

Susan Lewis Kaylor is a skilled and experienced leader in the mental and behavioral healthcare community and has served as President/CEO of St. Vincent Family Center since January 2017. She is passionate about serving central Ohio families and has aligned her life’s work to reflect her desire to serve those in need. Susan first established her roots in the service community by championing the needs of older adults as the Communications Director at the Ohio Department of Aging. She then expanded her expertise in strategy and government relations as a senior leader at the Ohio Attorney General’s Office then advocated for policy change and the success of youth as a Director at the Children’s Defense Fund. Susan then deepened her community reach to support those impacted by addiction and mental health challenges, serving as both a Vice President and the Chief Administrative Officer at the ADAMH Board of Franklin County for 19 years. The knowledge and skills Susan acquired in this field of community mental health prepared her for her most recent transition in 2017 to President and CEO of St. Vincent Family Center, a non-profit organization with an annual budget of more than $12 million. St. Vincent Family Center is one of Ohio’s most experienced and skilled child behavioral health treatment centers, helping over 5,000 families a year by providing a wide range of best-in-class prevention, intervention and behavioral health treatment services for children and families throughout central Ohio. Ninety eight percent of the families enrolled in programs through St. Vincent Family Center are living at or below the level of poverty in the state of Ohio, many of who are experiencing the impact of trauma- violence, hunger, homelessness, addiction, abuse, neglect, and more. Despite their disadvantages, and with the help of an expert, certified care team, more than 90% of the children served at the Family Center successfully return to their schools and families, equipped with the knowledge and skills to navigate life’s challenges.

Aslyne Rodriguez, Co-Founder & CEO at EmpowerBus LLC. EmpowerBus is strengthening the roads to social mobility by providing dignified, reliable, and on-time transportation to and from employment, education, and healthcare opportunities. We utilize clustering and strategic partnerships to address the transportation barriers that are facing under-resourced communities in Ohio.

Carrie Baker currently serves as President and CEO of the Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus. The Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus (HCGC) is an independent, not-for-profit organization committed to transforming the quality, delivery, and affordability of healthcare to ensure that all people in the Columbus region have the best healthcare experience possible. HCGC is an affiliate organization of the Columbus Medical Association and an active member of the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI), a national organization representing more than 30 Regional Health Improvement Collaboratives (RHICs) like HCGC all across the country. HCGC improves the quality, delivery, and value of healthcare and the overall patient experience is by bringing public and private providers, payers, purchasers, and consumers together to learn and share information around innovative best practices, the latest research and policies, and lessons learned for collective patient and provider impact.

Carrie has been working in and around healthcare in Columbus and across Ohio for over 15 years. She has focused on advocacy and quality improvement with providers and payers in non-profit and membership organizations. Carrie has worked closely with the Ohio General Assembly and various Ohio Administrations, as well as officials in the federal government, on issues such as payment reform, hospital reimbursement, chronic disease management and child health priorities. Former employers include the Ohio Nurses Association, the Ohio Manufacturers’ Association, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Children’s Hospital Association and President of her own consulting group. She is very involved in the Columbus community and is a proud 2017 recipient of Columbus Business First’s 40 Under 40 Award.