Afiesha McMahon, MHA, is a Project Director at the IHI. She currently co-leads IHI’s Health Portfolio, which encompasses content, operations, and programming in an effort to achieve 100 Million healthier lives by 2020. Her portfolio of programs has included community-based improvement initiatives focused on poverty reduction and early childhood education as well as primary care transformation. Her experience includes project design and management, set-up and execution of collaborative initiatives, and organizational development. She is a graduate of Suffolk University, Sawyer Business School with a master’s degree in Health Administration.

Jessica Little MS, RD serves as the Director of the HealthDoers Network and has led other initiatives at NRHI including Choosing Wisely and Pathways to Population Health. Through these initiatives, Jessica has provided guidance and expertise assisting NRHI members and other organizations to connect, collaborate and share best practices and lessons learned across regions. She has also led a number of in-person and virtual events focused on population health and community health. Jessica came to NRHI with extensive healthcare experience providing direct care as a Registered Dietitian and leading population management efforts at a local health care organization for patients with chronic conditions, high risk medical conditions, and behavioral health conditions. Jessica is passionate about all aspects of wellness and has also owned and operated a yoga studio and teaches a variety of fitness classes at local studios.

Jolie Ritzo joined the NRHI team in 2015. As Senior Manager, she oversees partner relationships and sales for the HealthDoers platform as well as virtual and in-person programming. In her time at NRHI, Jolie has partnered with IHI on their Pathways to Population Health initiative, led the NRHI member Opioid Affinity Group, staffed the Public Policy Committee, developed curriculum, and planned virtual and in-person events (topics include: healthcare affordability, health equity, quality improvement, practice transformation, population health, price transparency, reducing unnecessary services, and stakeholder engagement). She supports the bi-directional exchange of national and regional content across the member network and provides oversight of the HealthDoers Hub and Community Management Program. Jolie came to NRHI with four years of experience in managed care where she worked as a certified health coach, participated in program development, oversaw the improvement of clinically approved patient education materials, and lead day-to-day operations for a team of outpatient case managers. She attained her Master of Public Health from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2013. Her undergraduate studies focused on Community Health Education. She has also worked on building her leadership skills through numerous trainings and most recently was certified to lead non-profit organizations through the Nonprofit Executive Director Certification Program. Outside of work, Jolie enjoys visiting with family and friends, running, hiking, doing yoga, and working on home projects.

Jenelle Hoseus has spent the last decade dedicated to public policy and healthcare advocacy. Throughout her time as an employee of the State government and non-profits, she has worked diligently with a focus on healthcare reform and quality improvement. She has worked with federal, state and local governments on issues spanning from behavioral health, child welfare, Affordable Care Act, and long term services and supports. Her time spent on Capitol Square has given her significant experience in legislative affairs and executive administration. Jenelle has worked for the Ohio House of Representatives, the Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Job and Family Services, the Department of Medicaid, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and the Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus. In her current role at the Healthcare Collaborative (HCGC), Jenelle has taken on the role of Executive Director of the Central Ohio Pathways HUB. 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. Through the HUB model, HCGC ensures that all at-risk individuals in Central Ohio are able to access care and services to better support a positive health outcome and quality of life. She has overseen the restart of the HUB in Central Ohio, creating the second largest HUB in the State within four months of inception.

Isimeme Ikharehba Green is the Executive Director of the Physicians CareConnection which is an affiliate of the Columbus Medical Association. She has been in this role since 2009. Her primary responsibility is leading the effort to coordinate health care services and resources for people who are vulnerable in Central Ohio and share the value of coordinating safety net services through outcomes measurements and evaluation. Green is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and currently serves as the President of...
her local chapter and is the Director for the State of Ohio Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Green believes she is serving her God-given purpose by helping people. Her favorite saying is “Leadership is an opportunity to serve.” Green is a proud Alumni of THE Ohio State University (Go BUCKS!) and earned both her Bachelors of Arts in Chemistry and Masters in Public Health from this great institution!!

**Alicia Leatherman** currently serves as the Director of Strategic Initiatives for CelebrateOne, Mayor Ginther’s collective impact initiative to reduce infant mortality. In this role, Alicia works with many community partners on the implementation of interventions to eliminate preventable sleep related deaths, reduce prematurity and to help connect the disconnected. Primary areas of oversight include safe sleep education efforts, the Community Connector Corp and home visiting. Prior to joining the Mayor’s Office, Alicia served as the Director of Infant Wellness at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, where she provided staff leadership to the Ohio Better Birth Outcomes (OBBO) Collaborative. There she coordinated the work of the four health systems, PrimaryOne Health and Columbus Public Health around three primary goals: increased access to reproductive health options, increased access to prenatal care and improved perinatal quality in partnership with CelebrateOne.

Before transitioning to the local level, Alicia spent fourteen years working on state-level policy and programming for Ohio’s Early Childhood System. She served as the Deputy Director for Child Care at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Director of Governor Strickland’s Early Childhood Cabinet and the Executive Director of the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association.

**Kim Wilson-Lawson**, President and CEO of the African American Alzheimer’s and Wellness Association (also known as Wellness First) oversees administration coordination, facilitates workshops, does community networking, serves as a church liaison, and fundraises on behalf of the organization. Kim serves as the Program Director at Wellness First in the areas of speech therapy, Alzheimer’s care, and specialized programming for dementia residents, including programming for memory loss, depression, and bi-polar. She is the founder and former CEO of the Center for Family Relations and Health Intervention—a free clinic in Columbus, Ohio, and was also the former Executive Director of Sunrise Assisted Living.

**Joanne Spoth** is the President & CEO of The Breathing Association joining the organization in 2014. She received her nursing diploma from Buffalo General Hospital, a BSN from D’Youville College and her MBA from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Joanne serves as a board member of the Central Ohio Association of Fundraising Professionals, Community Shares and a past president of the Whitehall-Bexley Rotary Club.

Joanne began her nursing career in Buffalo, working as a floor nurse, research nurse, Ambulatory Care Center head nurse and Coordinator of the Buffalo General Health Care Network. After moving to Columbus, Joanne worked at The Buckeye Ranch, Furniture Bank of Central Ohio and as CEO of The Pauline Home Association. In each of these positions Joanne’s nursing background, experience and leadership skills has informed her approach to helping the most vulnerable in our community. At The Breathing Association she proudly leads a dedicated team of 30 staff who provide free lung health care, energy assistance and outreach services to more than 29,000 citizens in Columbus each year.

**Samira Deeb**, MPH-HPM - Public Health Advocate Over the past decade, Samira has worked in varying capacities to uplift and empower refugee and New American populations in Central Ohio through community-based initiatives. In 2013, she worked with the Clintonville Community Resources Center to develop and launch an acculturation services program for refugees. Her activities included serving as a community liaison, and worked on bridging communities by hosting interfaith and multicultural events. Her refugee outreach efforts were recognized in “Bright Ideas Ohio: Smart Solutions for Community Challenges,” a study published by former Governor John Kasich’s office. In 2014, she was selected as the Ohio ambassador for the U.N World Refugee Day, and participated in the World Refugee Day Academy. She received a Bachelor’s of Science in Public Health from The Ohio State University, and a Master’s in Public Health from Kent State University. In 2018, she partnered with Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS) for her most recent research titled, "Strategic Program Development of Community Navigator Program to Address Mental and Behavioral Health Disparities among New American Populations in Central Ohio." She is passionate about solving complex public health problems, and currently works as a compliance specialist with the Division of Air Pollution Control at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

**Seleshi Ayalew Asfaw**, Executive Director of ETSS, has a Doctorate of Medicine from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia and a Masters in Public Health Methodology, Education, and Behavioral Sciences from the Public Health School in Brussels, Belgium. He
practiced medicine and eventually served as the Executive Director of Gondar Regional Health Department through the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia before seeking asylum in Belgium in 1996 as Ethiopia was in crisis of civil war and human right violations. Eventually he immigrated to Columbus, Ohio in 1997 where he worked with Jewish Family Services and ECDI for five years directing IDA and the Microenterprise programs funded by ORR for refugees aimed at building assets in immigrant founded small businesses and nonprofit organizations. He has helped to found a number of community-based organizations tackling public health, educational and economic development issues in Central Ohio. President and Founder of the Refugee Immigrant Chamber of Commerce-CDC; Founding Member of fountain of Life Foundation; Founding member of the Federation of African Organizations in Ohio, a community-based advocacy organization focusing to bring all legally registered African Organization in the state of Ohio; and founder and Executive Director of the Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services organization, a community based organization serving New Americans in Central Ohio. Currently he serves as President of the Ann Sherry Foundation, Board of Director of the African Federation, Inc (AFI), a national African advocacy organization, and was appointed by the Mayor of the City of Columbus to serve as a board member for Primary One Health. He is a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Outreach Council for the Columbus Police Department and the Future Ready Columbus Community Engagement Council and founding member of New Americans Advisory Council and is LIRS Alumni of Leadership and Capacity building academy.

He is successful in fundraising for over 9.5 million in both public and private funding since 2005 to support refugees and immigrants in Columbus. Designed and implemented ETSS Adult and Youth refugee programs. He has a good appreciation of the challenges and opportunities facing new immigrants and is passionate about providing services to assist with the transition to life in the United States. He and his organization received appreciation and service recognition form Franklin County Commissioners, the Mayor’s office, City Council, Columbus Foundation, United Way of Central Ohio, and the Governor’s Office. Dr. Seleshi is honorees of 2015 C-suite award of Columbus Business First; He also received the 2015 Molina HealthCare Ohio Community Champion Award and the 2016 African Distinction Humanitarian Award from the OSU African Youth League. He also recipient of 2016 Cultural Diversity Role Model award from the Columbus Business First and 50 Smart Business award of 2016.

**Dr. Sara Bode** is a pediatrician in the Primary Care Pediatrics Department at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She is the medical director of School Health and Mobile services which includes 13 fixed site School Based Health Centers and two mobile units serving Central and Southeastern Ohio. Her passion and research activities focus around the intersection between health and education and she serves on the AAP Executive Committee for the Council on School Health. She is also the co-director of the resident advocacy training program and works with the AAP Community Pediatrics Training Initiative as a national coach working with state collaborative to improve their Community Health and Advocacy training for faculty and residents. She is married to Dr. Ryan Bode, chief of hospitalist pediatrics at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and they have three children who keep them very busy at home!

**Julie Oberholzer** is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) and co-owner of Nurture Columbus in Columbus, Ohio. She has a background in Psychology and Sociology and completed her Masters degree at George Washington University in Public Health, specializing in Maternal and Child Health. While completing this program, she discovered her passion to improve health outcomes through the most basic preventative healthcare measure: Breastfeeding. Julie has worked in the lactation field for over a decade. In 2009, she became an IBCLC. She sat on the board as the Vice President of Lactation Consultant Association of Greater Washington from 2011-2013 and is a member of the Ohio Lactation Consultant Association (OLCA). Throughout her career, she has worked in hospital postpartum, labor and delivery, and NICU departments, as well as several private practice settings. Julie strives to meet each family where they are in their feeding journey, helping them find their confidence.

**Allyson Wessells** is a physical therapist, International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), and co-owner of Nurture Columbus in Columbus, Ohio. She completed a Bachelor’s degree in Biology from Ohio University in 1997, and a Master of Physical Therapy degree from Northwestern University in 1999. Upon welcoming her first child in 2007, she became a La Leche League leader. She soon discovered how much she values working with families as they learn about breastfeeding, and pursued specialist certification, becoming an IBCLC in 2014. After working for years as a physical therapist in various settings across the country and seeing the direct impact of sub-optimal nutrition and emotional connection manifest in chronic health crises, she is thankful to now
be combining physical therapy and lactation consultant skills to help new parents understand how breastfeeding works to optimize maternal and infant health. Allyson can also be found advocating for families throughout the city, and providing presentations emphasizing the importance of support for breastfeeding and infant development as foundations for preventative healthcare. She is currently sitting as President-Elect for the Ohio Lactation Consultant Association (OLCA).

**Julianna Nemeth**, PhD is a behavior intervention scientist dedicated to conducting the scientific work needed to improve health and reduce disparities for those impacted by violence in the context of ongoing trauma. With a focus on reducing health disparities among populations disconnected from traditional health services, including homeless youth and domestic violence survivors, her research focuses on optimizing behavioral interventions to be delivered in community settings, and in recognition of the biosocial context of the populations with which she works. Her research focuses on the intersection of abuse exposure and injury, and how this has to be taken into account when considering tobacco and other substance use cessation and treatment. Informed by nearly two decades of community work in sexual and intimate partner gender-based violence prevention and crisis response, and trained as a feminist theorist, she also brings gender, culture, justice and community practice lenses to the study of health behavior and the promotion of health equity. She is the co-founder of the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, a 501(c)3 organization recognized by the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention and the Office on Violence Against Women as Ohio’s coalition addressing sexual violence response and its prevention. Dr. Nemeth was awarded a K07 Career Development Grant (2017-2022) from the National Cancer Institute to develop a smoking cessation intervention for homeless youth using novel, optimization methodology (Multiphase Optimization Strategy). She currently also serves as an evaluator on an Office of Victims of Crime funded demonstration grant (2016-2019) awarded to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network; this work focuses on the creation, implementation and evaluation of the C.A.R.E. model, designed by ODVN to increase organizational capacity of domestic violence (DV) service agencies in Ohio to better meet the needs of survivors with disability resulting from mental health or brain injury.

**Carrie Baker** 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 as the President of her own consulting group.

In her role, Carrie 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.

Under Carrie’s leadership, 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 is the leader and spokesperson for HCGC and is responsible for leading its vision, implementing the strategies developed by HCGC among multi-stakeholder projects, funding the mission and managing HCGC day-to-day operations as she and her staff work toward the goals of better health, better care, and lower cost.

Carrie is also involved in the Columbus community and is a proud 2017 recipient of Columbus Business First’s 40 Under 40 Award. She is a busy mom to four fantastic children and lives in Columbus, Ohio.