



CHF Health Leadership Fellows



CHF HEALTH LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

INAUGURAL CLASS 2005-2007

INTRODUCING:



Jerry Bartone

Jerry Bartone

Jerry is the Executive Director of Community Concern of WNY, a provider of behavioral health, senior care management and youth development services in the South towns. He earned a MA in Counseling Psychology from Colgate University and an MBA from the University at Buffalo. Mr. Bartone has over 20 years experience in behavioral health in hospital inpatient and outpatient settings. He is a volunteer for the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County and has been at the forefront in developing innovative youth services, senior care management services and school-based Family Support Centers in southern Erie County. Jerry has two children: Lukas, ten, and Matthew, eight.



Diane Bessel Matteson

Diane Bessel Matteson

Diane is currently employed as the Associate Director of the Homeless Alliance of Western New York where she conducts community-based research documenting the use and need for services for homeless persons and other disadvantaged groups. She has a wide range of professional interests including coalition building, grant writing, service planning, evaluation and advocacy. She is responsible for the implementation of a Homeless Management Information System in Buffalo and Erie County. Diane has a MSSA (Masters of Science in Social Administration) from the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University and is certified in Nonprofit Management from the Mandel Center. She holds a MA in Sociology from the University at Buffalo where she teaches research methods, statistics, and other courses.



Mary E. Bishop

Mary E. Bishop

Mary E. Bishop is currently the Executive Director of the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency (CPEP) located at St. Joseph's Hospital Center in Syracuse, New York. CPEP is the only licensed psychiatric emergency room serving Onondaga and Madison Counties. Mary was charged with reducing the operating deficit and incorporating the program under a three hospital collaborative. Prior to 2003, Mary worked in the for-profit as well as the nonprofit sector. During her tenure at Excellus Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Mary was responsible for extensive primary and specialty care service divisions. Mary has performed both turnaround and development functions in her career. Mary received her BA from Colgate University and MEd from the University of Miami. Following graduate school, she completed an additional fifteen month clinical internship. She is married to David Gregg, a healthcare and business consultant.



Aimee Gomlak Brace

Aimee Gomlak Brace

Aimee Gomlak Brace is the Vice President for Strategic Redevelopment for the Catholic Health System. She is responsible for the development, financing, marketing, and implementation of the \$27 million dollar Our Lady of Victory Renaissance project (reuse of former Our Lady of Victory Hospital). Amy completed her MBA from the University at Buffalo in 1994 after having graduated from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh in 1990. Both degrees were in Business Administration and Economics. Amy is a member of several community and professional boards; active with Leadership Buffalo, the Healthcare Executive Forum, the Rental Assistance Corporation and the Continuing Care Foundation. She has received recognition for her works, including Business First's 40 Under 40, Young Healthcare Executive of the Year for NYS and nomination into the Plattsburgh State Hall of Fame. Aimee and her daughter Julia live in Boston, NY.





James Casion

James Casion

James Casion is the Chief Executive Officer of Baker Victory Services since 1995 which marked the merging of the previously existing Our Lady of Victory Infant Home and Baker Hall. Prior to that, Mr. Casion was the Executive Director of Baker Hall and Our Lady of Victory Infant Home since 1992 and prior to that the Administrator of Baker Hall. Mr. Casion has served in a variety of other positions at the same time including adjunct professor, Canisius College Graduate School of Education, adjunct professor at Trocaire College and Erie Community College. He has also served on a variety of Boards of Directors including Canisius College Graduate School of Education, a founding member and former Chair of Erie County Community Coordinating Council on Children and Families, past President of the Coalition for New York State Children's Mental Health Services, board member of the Child Welfare League of America, past President of the Care Management Coalition, and President of Quality Behavioral Health.



Cheryl Coolican

Cheryl Coolican

Cheryl has served as the Corporate Director of Admissions at Loretto, a non-profit organization which provides services to the elderly in the Syracuse area. Cheryl's responsibilities include maintaining occupancy at Loretto's various sites, which house approximately 1,500 seniors. In addition, she oversees the marketing and outreach of Loretto services.

Cheryl is a graduate of Oswego State University as well as a graduate of the 1999 class of Leadership Greater Syracuse. Cheryl resides in Camillus with her husband Matt, and their two teenage children.



Mary E. Craig

Mary E. Craig

Mary E. Craig is President and Executive Director of the Erie Niagara Area Health Education Center (AHEC). The Erie Niagara AHEC's mission is to improve health care by establishing partnerships between the institutions that train health professionals and the communities that need them most. Prior to her position at AHEC, Ms Craig worked for the American Heart Association as the Senior Director of Minority Health Initiatives for New York and New England. Ms Craig was also Vice President of Advocacy for the American Heart Association's New York State affiliate. Ms. Craig has over ten years of experience in the banking industry, in a number of positions, including Vice President of Marketing for Key Bank. Ms. Craig is an award winning professional actor and vocalist whose work includes directing, writing, and commercial voice over. Mary has appeared in a wide variety of musicals, dramas, and comedies in theatres across WNY. She has received Arties for Best Actress in a Musical. Her latest work, "What Good Ole Days?" is an original work co-written by Ms Craig and premieres at the Paul Roberson Theatre in September 2005. Ms Craig is also founder of the Alafla Theatre, an innovative theatre communications project designed to facilitate cultural enlightenment among health consumers, providers and practitioners to address the issues of cultural disparities in the health care industry. Mary also performs as Mary Talbert throughout the area in celebration of the Niagara Movement, and the Centennial Celebration of the Pan American Movement, a role she initiated for the Forest Lawn American Historical Tour developed by the African American Historical Society.



Deb English

Deb English

Deb is currently working as Administrator of Cayuga County Nursing Home, over the past three months. Prior to this, Deb was with Auburn Memorial Hospital for nineteen years. Her background is in social work and she is licensed as both a social worker and a nursing home administrator.



Barbara Franklin

Barbara Franklin

Barbara is a lifelong resident of Buffalo New York. She attended Medaille College where she studied Business Administration and is preparing to pursue her Masters degree in Health Care Administration and eventually a doctorate. Barbara was recently appointed Ambulatory Care and Community Network Director for the Sheehan Memorial Health system (SMH). She is responsible for overseeing all primary and specialty care services in addition to community networking to foster collaboration, outreach and linkages to SMH services. Barbara recently served as the Executive Director of the Black Leadership Forum's Near East Side Community Health Task Force, a consortium of forty agencies consisting of health systems, health maintenance organizations, independent health centers, civic agencies, universities, community and faith-based organizations that collaboratively address health disparity in the City of Buffalo. Barbara has served as Chief Operating Officer for an Inner-city Healthcare Center and is the President-CEO of Alpha&Omega Enterprises, a public relations and marketing firm whose clients consist of healthcare organizations and small businesses. She is the mother of Tanisha Franklin-DaCosta (Ras Nefta DaCosta) and Dezi Arnaz Jr., and grandmother to Alexis, Ras Supreme, Dezi Arnaz III (Tre') and Ras Justice. An avid reader, she enjoys sewing, music and travel. Barbara serves on numerous boards of directors and committees in Buffalo and Western New York.



Katie Grimm

Katie Grimm M.D.

I am very excited about this opportunity, and learning from the other fellows who have been chosen. My career path toward medicine has been somewhat circuitous, and I have worked as a Medical Technologist and as a Registered Nurse as well. My current job is in private practice in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics in a large group practice. I am involved in other professional arenas as well, specifically in my role as a Medical Staff officer in the Kaleida Health system, as an Executive Board member of the Erie County Medical Society, as secretary of the Buffalo Pediatric Society, and a delegate to the New York State Medical Society. My interests are varied, but I am particularly interested in learning about prevention programs for targeted groups with mental health issues, and have been attending the Eating Disorders Coalition meetings in Buffalo. I have learned much from volunteer work that I have done in Haiti, and the eye-opening view of poverty's impact on a culture. My husband Shawn and I have recently moved back into the city from the suburbs. We are happy about the move and are re-learning about all the city has to offer. We live there with our youngest son Andy. Our daughter Kerry lives in Charleston, South Carolina and our older son Ryan lives in the city of Buffalo.



Carol Kostyniak

Carol Kostyniak

As Executive Director of Buffalo Spine and Sports Institute, I am committed to helping the Institute improve patient health through quality care, an efficient, courteous office and collaboration among organizations in our community. At Buffalo Spine and Sports Institute we dedicate our practice to the diagnosis and management of patients with: spine, sports and occupational injuries, as well as degenerative and other painful musculoskeletal disorders. I also have an extensive technology background and am very interested in the implementation of a personal health record and regional credentialing.



Stephanie Malinenko

Stephanie Malinenko

Stephanie Malinenko currently serves as the Director of the LIFE (Lifeline to Independence for the Elderly) Project at the American Red Cross, Greater Buffalo Chapter. Ms Malinenko began her career as a counselor for runaway and homeless youth before moving into broader community-based work for the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. Ms Malinenko is a graduate of SUNY College at Buffalo and earned an MBA from Medaille College. Ms Malinenko resides in Buffalo, New York.



Tammy L. Marshall

Tammy L. Marshall

Tammy L. Marshall is the current Regional Nursing Director for Loretto Health and Rehabilitation Center in Syracuse, New York. Loretto provides extensive rehabilitative services to over one thousand patients each year. Tammy resides in Cortland, New York with her family, living by the principle, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."



Sharon Mathe

Sharon Mathe

Sharon is the Executive Director of the Healthy Community Alliance. The Healthy Community Alliance is one of New York's 34 rural health networks and has a mission to improve the quality of life in rural communities through broad-based inclusive partnerships that support wellness and prevention. Projects I oversee as the Executive Director range from transforming a former elementary school into senior housing units, a community center and business, lease space to a variety of mental and physical health prevention/ wellness programs in schools and the larger community based on analysis of need. My career in health care spans thirty six years, with thirteen of them in rural healthcare networks. Activities include maintaining a thirty-two year marriage, enjoying the development of our sons aged twenty-six and twenty-three, continuous personal and professional learning, Therapeutic Touch, dancing, yoga, cross-country skiing, walking, gardening, knitting, and acting as caregiver for our twenty year old cat (who is determined to break all records for longevity).



Laura Meyers

Laura Meyers, Ph.D.

Laura is chief Executive Officer of Planned Parenthood of Buffalo and Erie County. Dr. Meyers holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University at Buffalo, a Masters in Counseling from the University at Buffalo and an undergraduate degree from State University of New York at Albany. Her professional background includes over fifteen years of program development and agency management. She has served as adjunct faculty at Niagara University as well as a consultant for program evaluation. Her vita includes presentations at national, state, and regional conferences. Most recently, Dr. Meyers was Vice President of National Programs for EPIC- Every Person Influences Children in Buffalo. She is active in her church and on several community boards.



Anna Monaco

Anna Monaco

Anna Monaco, LCSW-R, is the Director of the Restorative Justice Programs for Child and Family Services. She oversees ten programs that serve juvenile and adult offenders in Erie County. She has been at the forefront of the introduction of the restorative justice philosophy and associated practices to Western New York.



Kathy Murray

Kathy Murray

I am a Quality Improvement Project Coordinator at Kaleida Health. I have been in this role since November 2002, and have twenty years of healthcare experience. I am responsible for coordinating the implementation and integration of quality improvement activities throughout the Kaleida Health system. I also provide the measurement and analysis of data to support various quality initiatives, and coordinate the system-wide patient satisfaction survey process. Some of my recent certifications include: CPHQ- Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality; GE Healthcare trained and certified in Six Sigma (Black Belt), Change Acceleration Process/Change Agent and Work-Out. I look forward to working with, and learning from the Community Health Foundation Leadership Fellows' faculty and participants.





Kathy Nyquist

Kathy Nyquist

Kathy Nyquist is Administrator of Beechwood Residence and Nursing Home; Beechwood Continuing Care's skilled nursing facilities serving two hundred and seventy residents. Kathy was one of the first board certified clinical specialists in geriatric physical therapy in the country and was instrumental in the establishment of Beechwood's Wesley Rehabilitation Center in 1996. Under Kathy's leadership, Beechwood was awarded and implemented two workforce grants totaling \$770,000 which resulted in an innovative career ladder program as well as comprehensive leadership development for staff. Through Kathy's guidance, Beechwood was the recipient of the New York State Department of Health 2005 Dementia Care grant and one of two nursing homes in the state to receive the prestigious NYS Patient Safety Award. Beechwood is currently undergoing a culture change that will transition care delivery from a traditional institutional model to an innovative resident centered model that fosters independence and personal dignity for each resident.



Bruce Pace

Bruce Pace Ph.D.

Bruce Pace has been with Catholic Charities' Monsignor Carr Institute for thirteen years in various positions, including Supervisor of Quality Assurance and Supervisor of Senior Advocacy Services. Currently, he is the Program Director for three licensed outpatient mental health clinics for children in Niagara County. He is a licensed clinical psychologist and has doctorates in Clinical Psychology and Industrial Engineering. He is interested in efficient provision of clinical services, strategic planning, automation of operations, ergonomic design of software and products, scientific management, and cognitive, behavioral, and developmental processes.



Marlene A. Schillinger

Marlene A. Schillinger

Marlene Schillinger is the Executive Director of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County, New York, a non-sectarian human service organization. With over twenty five years in the non profit sector, Ms Schillinger has dedicated her professional career to improving the lives of people in our community. Ms Schillinger holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Buffalo.

Judith Shanley

Judy Shanley has had over twenty-five years of experience in the healthcare field. That experience has included hospitals, community-based clinics, and rehabilitation programs, in law firms and in a regional health maintenance organization. She has been a clinician, a health care lawyer, an administrator and an advocate. "I've seen health care systems and services in beginning, middle and dying stages of life and service." Judy is presently the Executive Director of Southeast Works, a growing agency that serves adults with developmental disabilities in their work, living and playing. Judy sums up her work: "I seek to serve."



Judith Shanley

Amber Slichta

My background as a registered nurse, accountant and former non-profit Executive Director is well-suited to my current position as a Program Officer for the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York. Currently, I am leading a \$1.2 million dollar project designed to improve outcomes in physical, mental and dental health for children in targeted communities of poverty in western and central New York. The Foundation also focuses on the frail elder population where I am part of the team that is leading the first Quality Improvement Collaborative to benefit frail elders in WNY and CNY. On the personal side I enjoy bicycling and jogging around Buffalo where I live downtown, love to cook (deserts in particular), have been scuba diving for over five years and plan to spend New Years in the Galapagos Islands to celebrate finishing my Masters degree!



Amber Slichta





Reita Sobeck-Lynch

Reita Sobeck-Lynch

Reita Sobeck-Lynch is the Administrator of the Wellsville Manor Care Center, a 120 bed skilled nursing facility located in Wellsville, New York. She received an MPH from the University of Texas and had been working with the elderly for the past twenty-two years. Reita is on the advisory boards for the Allegany County Department of Health and Office for the Aging, Allegany/Western Steuben Rural Health Network Board of Directors and the Wellsville Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.



Robert Stall M.D.

Robert Stall M.D.

Dr. Stall is Medical Director and Attending Physician at three nursing homes and an adult care facility in the Buffalo metropolitan area. Dr. Stall also sees adult patients in an outpatient practice limited to geriatric medicine. He is clinical assistant professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine and an alumnus of the Leadership Buffalo Class of 2000. Dr. Stall completed undergraduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1979 with a degree in electrical engineering and obtained his MD degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine in 1983. After finishing an internal medicine residency, he completed a two-year geriatric fellowship based at the Buffalo Veterans Administration Medical Center in 1988, holding a certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatric Medicine.

Since 1988 Dr. Stall has worked as a member of the New York State Department of Health Long Term Care Survey team, helped develop a hospital-based senior health program, acted as medical advisor for a home care agency, and was medical director of a rural hospital. Dr. Stall lectures extensively and his recent efforts have included development of a Grassroots Geriatric program, hosting a monthly call-in radio show aimed at older adults and caregivers. He lives in Getzville and his geriatric-related web-site can be viewed from geridoc.net.



Theresa R. Stephan Hains

Theresa R. Stephan Hains M.D.

I have served as the Director of Student Health at Buffalo State College for the past nine years and as the Medical Director at the college for four years before becoming Director. I have many years of experience as an Emergency Room physician and have worked in medical relief efforts with Catholic Relief Services in Thailand, in the early 1980s. I am particularly interested in health care access issues (or lack of access).



Helen Stepowany

Helen Stepowany

With more than twenty-eight years in the disabilities field, Helen Stepowany is the Associate Executive Director of Program Services at Upstate Cerebral Palsy in Utica New York where she oversees Education, Health, Behavioral, Residential and Community Services for more than ten thousand children and adults with disabilities and/ or healthcare needs in Central New York. In her former role as Executive Director of Finger Lakes Cerebral Palsy, Ms Stepowany was instrumental in the establishment of model inclusive early childhood programs for children with and without disabilities as well as comprehensive services for adults with traumatic brain injury. She is a graduate of Niagara University with additional graduate work completed at RIT and the University at Rochester.



Dennis C. Walczyk

Dennis C. Walczyk

Dennis C. Walczyk is Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities of Buffalo, which serves the eight counties of Western New York. As CEO, he is responsible for all program and service operations, financial accountability and strategic direction and planning. Joining Catholic Charities in 1997 as Chief Operating Officer, Dennis initiated strategic planning for the organization and enhanced internal communication and team building among staff. He was Executive Director of Crisis Services for ten years before joining Catholic Charities. A member of Leadership Buffalo Class of '93, he serves as chair of the University at Buffalo Institute for Non-Profit Agencies and is on the boards of directors of Catholic Health System Home Care, Prism Behavioral Health Network, Quality Behavioral Health, Voice Buffalo, and the Institute for Crisis Intervention and Family Support.





Kendra Washington

Kendra Washington

Kendra Washington is program director for Child and Family Services, Mary Talbert Clinic, a children's mental health outpatient clinic in which services are provided to a diversified population of children and their guardians. She holds a Master's degree in Social Work and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Ms. Washington joined Child and Family Services in 1996.



Simone Washington

Simone Washington

Simone Washington oversees the Financial Counseling Services Unit at Kaleida Health. The Financial Counseling Services team screens patients for Medicaid, Family Health Plus and Child Health Plus Programs. The Financial Counseling Services Unit administers Kaleida Health's Charity Care Program. Simone holds a BS degree in Sociology from Buffalo State College and an MA degree in Organizational Leadership from Medaille College. Simone is also a trained facilitator having just completed the Change Acceleration Process (CAP) Coach training at Kaleida Health. This training allows Simone the opportunity to work with various departments throughout Kaleida Health and facilitate the Change Process. Simone has extensive leadership experience, having served as Executive Director for three not-for-profit organizations in Buffalo, New York for over twelve years.



Sharon J. Williams

Sharon J. Williams

Sharon J. Williams has recently been appointed Diversity Recruiter with the Corporate Employment Offices at Kaleida Health. In this capacity Sharon develops recruitment strategies and partners with leadership, community, and national organizations in order to attract and recruit diverse candidates. Prior to joining Kaleida Health, Sharon served as a recruiter and account supervisor for Kelly Services, Inc. She has also worked in student admissions at Canisius College. Sharon holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Development from Canisius College.

Expectations and Office Contacts

The Office

The Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York has provided the office for the CHF Health Leadership Fellows at the University at Buffalo's School of Public Health and Health Professions at the University's Main Street campus in Buffalo, New York. Contacts there are : Virginia Purcell, coordinator of the CHF Health Leadership Fellows program, and Michelle Tipps-Ankrah, assistant to the program. The office phone number is 716-829-2905. The office address is: CHF Health Leadership Fellows, SUNY at Buffalo, Suite 435 Kimball Tower, 3435 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14214-3079

Expectations

In accordance with the initial call for fellows, full participation by the CHF Health Leadership fellows in all activities of the program is required. This includes all four residential sessions, active participation in the monthly inter-session team meetings, active participation in the development of inter-organizational projects and their final presentations. It is hoped that as we move throughout this first class of fellows that we will build and refine this experience for those who will participate in the future. Evaluation processes will be throughout the program, aiding us in the refinement and improvement of all aspects of the experiences.

Cell phone usage is prohibited during the program portions of the residential sessions and during team meetings.

Timeliness in responsiveness to information requests and to sessions and team meetings is greatly appreciated and expected.

The sharing of your learning experiences within the organizations you represent will help to further the goals of the program. We welcome information and anecdotes about those times when organizations embrace and utilize your experiences.

Dress for the residential sessions is business casual.

Please let us know, in writing, of any food or other allergies that may impact your experience as well as any other accommodations you may need, well enough in advance that we may be able to accommodate them.

