

## Health Leadership Fellows, Class of 2017-2019

### **Betsy Behrend**

Senior Director of Operations and Communications, Say Yes Buffalo



Betsy Behrend is a senior director at Say Yes Buffalo where she oversees communications and programs aimed at increasing high school and college graduation rates for Buffalo public and charter school students.

Prior to this, she managed communications for the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, and worked on behalf of local and national clients at public relations firms in both Washington, D.C. and Buffalo. Betsy's clients have included the State University of New York at Buffalo, the P2 Collaborative of Western New York, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

She has a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University.

### **Denise Bothwell**

Administrator, Elderwood at Lancaster



Denise D. Bothwell has more than 20 years of management and clinical experience in acute and long term health care. Her career began at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas with a clinical specialty in nutrition and inborn errors of metabolism.

Her most recent position is with Elderwood at Lancaster, where she is a long term care administrator in a building that she led to a 5-star rating.

Denise is also a university instructor, having taught at Buffalo State College and The Pennsylvania State University. She is also a published author.

Denise received her bachelor's degree in dietetics from Buffalo State College, her master's degree in nutrition from Texas Woman's University and an advanced certificate in long term care administration from D'Youville College.



### **Kathleen Bronson**

Outcome Broker for Green and Healthy Homes, Home HeadQuarters



Katie Bronson is the outcome broker at Home HeadQuarters for the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative Greater Syracuse program, where she is currently working on a lead prevention action plan.

She holds a master's degree in urban planning and policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and an undergraduate degree in public communication from the American University in Washington, DC.

Previously, Katie's work included a position as the first executive director of the Albany County Land Bank. While working at the City of Albany, she managed the development of a park into a multi-generational park and the Corning Preserve Transportation Enhancements project.

### **Renee Cadzow**

Assistant Professor, Health Services Administration , D'Youville College



Renee Cadzow is an assistant professor and researcher for the Health Services Administration at D'Youville College, where she is also the director for the Center for Research on Physical Activity, Sport and Health. Her research and evaluation focuses on maternal and child health and includes healthcare practice-based research and community based research.

Renee is board co-chair and a trainer at the Community Health Worker Network of Buffalo, and is on the board of the Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network. She also is a community engagement consultant for the State University of New York at Buffalo Clinical and Translational Research Center and actively involved in Buffalo Public Schools wellness efforts.

Renee has an undergraduate degree from Miami University, and earned her master's degree and Ph.D. in anthropology from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

### **Patricia Carey**

Vice President of the Tradewinds Residential Program, Upstate Cerebral Palsy



Patti Carey has more than 22 years of experience as an administrator with Upstate Cerebral Palsy. She is currently the vice president of the organization's Tradewinds Residential program.

Under Patti's administrative oversight, 72 children with special needs from across New York State receive residential services in a combined Residential/School Program. The Tradewinds Program with Upstate Cerebral Palsy has been designated as a New York Center of Excellence in the provision of services for children in the education and residential programs.

She is a graduate of Utica College, where she earned her degree in social work.

### **Aaron Carlson**

Finance Director, The Dale Association



Aaron Carlson is the director of finance at The Dale Association, an organization that provides a variety of human services to older adults in Lockport, NY through its senior center. The Dale Association also services the mental health needs in the community by offering services through its Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS) program in Lockport, NY and its outpatient mental health clinic in North Tonawanda, NY.

Aaron has partnered with clinical operations to help set, implement and monitor operational strategies across a multitude of health care settings such as skilled nursing, outpatient rehabilitation and now behavioral health.

He has his bachelor's degree in psychology and accounting, with a master's degree in public administration from Texas Tech University.

### **Judette Dahleiden**

Woman, Infant and Children Program Director, Catholic Charities of WNY



Judette Dahleiden has more than 25 years of maternal, pediatric and newborn health experience and is currently the director of WIC, a program governed by federal and state regulations while sponsored through Catholic Charities.

She earned her master's degree in executive leadership at Daemen College and her bachelors in nursing through D'Youville College.

Judette is a board member of the New York State Perinatal Association. Her passion derives from advocating for those in need and she strives to enhance and broaden the knowledge of health issues and the importance of promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

### **Gary Damon, Jr**

Erie County Director, Center for Employment Opportunities



Gary Damon Jr. serves as director for the Erie County Center for Employment Opportunities. He is responsible for providing oversight and leadership support to the employment services program for returning citizens with criminal convictions. Gary is also the director of Christian education at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

He recently returned from Beijing, China, where he served in the capacity of chief corporate training consultant for New Oriental China. Gary has been an adjunct professor for the College of Education at Niagara University and was deputy commissioner of youth services for Erie County.

He earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education and English from Niagara University and received his master's in organizational leadership from Medaille College. Currently Gary is a doctoral candidate in transformational leadership at Concordia University-Portland and is working towards earning his Ed.D. by the fall of 2019.

### **Joseph DiStasio**

Chief Financial Officer, BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc.



Joe DiStasio serves as chief financial officer at BestSelf Behavioral Health. His responsibilities at BestSelf include accounting, billing, human resources, facilities and purchasing.

Joe started his career in public accounting by specializing in not-for-profit accounting; his career then took him to Hospice Buffalo and Orleans Community Health before he joined BestSelf Behavioral Health.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting from Canisius College and is a certified public accountant.

He is a passionate person who enjoys numbers, and is someone who balances financial stability of an organization with great services to clients. As a leader at every stop of his career, Joe has worked to help those around him be successful through patient and constructive mentoring.

### **Bridget Dolbear**

Program Services Coordinator, Oswego County Opportunities Nutrition Services



Bridget Dolbear is the program services coordinator for Oswego County Opportunities Nutrition Services. OCO serves as the community action agency for Oswego County, where it provides 50 programs to 30,000 people each year.

She has worked in human services for more than 18 years. As program services coordinator, Bridget oversees nutrition programs for children, older adults and the homebound. OCO Nutrition Services provides nearly 275,000 meals annually to those in need.

She holds an associate degree in humanities and social sciences from Cayuga Community College, and is a graduate of SUNY Oswego's Leadership program. Eliminating the barriers to living a fulfilled life for all is her mission.



**DeAnna Eason**

Executive Director, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc.



M. DeAnna Eason is the executive director of Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc., a civil rights agency that strives to ensure diversity and equal rights in housing for all people through advocacy, education and outreach.

She has headed fair housing investigations for the New York State Attorney General's Office, the National Fair Housing Alliance and New York State Housing and Community Renewal.

DeAnna earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and her master's degree in mental health counseling from Medaille College.

She is an active member of Gethsemane Full Gospel Church, and enjoys traveling with her family and singing.

**Concetta Ferguson**

Senior Vice President, People, Inc.



Concetta Ferguson is a senior vice president at People Inc., a non-profit health and human services agency helping people with special needs and their families, as well as seniors throughout western New York.

Beginning in an entry-level position in 1986, she advanced in her career at the agency and became senior vice president in 2016. Concetta now oversees new program development, service coordination and non-traditional, community-based programs.

Active in the community, she has held leadership roles in St. Paul's Cathedral Vestry and the Elmwood Village Charter School Board.

Concetta received her bachelor's degree from Buffalo State College, and a master's degree from St. Bonaventure University.

**Lisa Fasolo Frishman**

Senior Program Officer, Health Foundation for Western and Central New York



Lisa Fasolo Frishman is a senior program officer at the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, where she oversees the Foundation's work in community health capacity, leadership development and policy.

She comes to the foundation from the NY Funders Alliance, where she had served as executive director. During her time at the Funders Alliance, she was responsible for strategic planning, program development and delivery, resource development, membership education and marketing and communications. Lisa's previous roles include program coordinator at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, scholarship officer at The Denver Foundation in Denver, CO and executive director of Social Venture Partners Denver.

She earned a bachelor's degree from William Smith College and a master's degree from the University of Colorado at Denver.

**Beth Gosch**

Executive Director, The Western New York Foundation



Beth Gosch is the executive director of the Western New York Foundation and has led the development of the foundation's grant making programs since 2005. The Western New York Foundation is a regionally-focused foundation serving seven counties in Western New York.

A former chef, she is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America. Beth worked in numerous hospitality establishments across the Northeast and Midwest. She was the founder and proprietor of a long established retail and wholesale pastry company, and upon the sale of the business she became a restaurant consultant.

**R. Marc Howe,**  
Chief Operating Officer, Neighborhood Health Center



Marc Howe is the chief operating officer at Neighborhood Health Center, a federally qualified health center providing services to a largely at-risk and underserved population.

In his role, he is extensively involved in the day-to-day operations and long term strategic planning for all four locations. Marc is fully committed to the organization's mission and vision of providing high quality, affordable, equitable healthcare to the Buffalo community.

A native of Preston, England, he currently lives in East Amherst with his family. Marc has a degree in management from University College Birmingham in England. He enjoys coaching youth soccer and is particularly passionate about autism acceptance and adoption/foster care awareness.

**Pamela Kefi,**  
Executive Director, Deaf Access Services



Pam Kefi is the executive director of Deaf Access Services, overseeing Western New York's largest sign language interpreting service and other community services.

She served as executive director of the International Institute of Buffalo where she initiated domestic violence and human trafficking services. In California, Pam was a director in crime victim services, addressing homicide, sexual crimes, domestic violence, trafficking and terrorist attacks. She started the WNY Center for Survivors of Torture at Jewish Family Service, and has worked in Haiti with USAID.

Pam was with the Peace Corps in Tunisia and knows French, Arabic and ASL. She has a Bachelors in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts.



**Jodi Martin**

Supervising Public Health Nurse, Oswego County Health Department



Jodi Martin the supervising public health nurse for Preventive Services, a division of the Oswego County Health Department. She is responsible for managing multiple programs, including maternal child health services, communicable disease surveillance, tuberculosis control, immunization and lead poisoning prevention. Currently Jodi is playing a key role in the implementation of an evidenced based home-visiting program, Healthy Families Oswego County.

She was born and raised in Oswego County, and is passionate about improving the health of the community. She has more than 10 years of experience in public health nursing. Jodi earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Keuka College.

She is an avid runner, wife and mother of four children.

**Jane Mogavero**

Executive Director, Patrick P. Lee Foundation



Jane Mogavero joined the Patrick P. Lee Foundation as its executive director in 2016. In her first year, she and the Foundation's board of directors implemented a new funding strategy focused on education and mental health.

Previously, Jane served as director of client relations at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. She has extensive experience in nonprofit advancement, including positions as director of development at the Hospice Foundation and the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens.

Jane earned a bachelor's degree from Fordham University and a law degree from Boston College Law School. She is a past recipient of Buffalo Business First's 40 Under 40 award.

**Jessie Mossop**

Director of Quality and Information Systems, Jericho Road Community Health Center



Jessie Mossop has worked in data management for eight years, most recently as director of quality and information systems at Jericho Road Community Health Center. Jericho Road Community Health Center is a faith-based organization that serves the lower income and refugees of Buffalo, NY.

She attended D'Youville College for her undergraduate and graduate work, where she obtained her master's degree in Health Services Administration.

Jessie enjoys traveling to the Adirondacks with her husband where they strive to become part of the Adirondack 46ers, which is a non-profit organization whose members have climbed all 46 major peaks of New York's Adirondack Mountains.

**Rebecca Newberry**

Executive Director, Clean Air Coalition



Rebecca Newberry is the executive director of Clean Air Coalition, an environmental justice organization located in western New York.

She has worked on campaigns that resulted in a 92% reduction of the carcinogen benzene in the air in Tonawanda, and the transition of the Huntley Coal site. Rebecca has previously worked as an organizer with the Rochester Genesee Valley Area Labor Federation.

She has a bachelor's degree in health science education from The College at Brockport State University of New York, and her master's degree in non-profit management from Canisius College.

Rebecca grew up in Colden, NY and lives in Buffalo, NY.

**Karen Nicolson**

Chief Executive Officer, Center for Elder Law and Justice



For 17 years, Karen Nicolson has been the chief executive officer of the Center for Elder Law and Justice. The Center for Elder Law and Justice is a 43-person law office that provides free legal services in western New York, and is a co-trustee for the WNY Coalition Pooled Trust.

She serves on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Aging, the New York State Bar President's Committee on Access to Justice and the New York State Court System's Elder Justice Committee. Karen is a board member for Prevention Focus and Amherst's Senior Services Advisory Board.

She is the recipient of the 2016 Denison Ray Legal Services Director Award, Buffalo Business First's Legal Elite and the Amherst Senior Citizen's Foundation Senior Community Leader.

Karen earned her bachelor's degree from Stony Brook University, and graduated from the School of Law at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

**Brandiss Pearson**

Faculty Member, St. Joseph Health, College of Nursing



Brandiss Pearson-McIntyre is a nurse practitioner, mentor and inspirational speaker. She is currently an associate professor at St. Joseph's College of Nursing in Syracuse, NY.

Brandiss received an associate degree in nursing from St. Joseph's College of Nursing, a bachelor's degree in social work from Syracuse University, a post-baccalaureate certificate in nursing from Le Moyne College and a master's degree in nursing as a family nurse practitioner with a minor in education from SUNY Upstate Medical University.

She has participated in leadership training through the American Organization of Nurse Executives in the emerging nurse leader institute. Brandiss is a member of the board of directors for the Amaus Health Services medical clinic and is a member of the patient experience advisory board of Crouse Hospital.

**Brittany Perez**

Occupational Therapist and Research Assistant Professor, State University of New York at Buffalo



Brittany Perez is an occupational therapist and research assistant professor at the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access in the State University of New York at Buffalo's School of Architecture and Planning.

She co-founded and co-directs the Age Friendly Erie County initiative, a collaborative effort working to build creative partnerships for a more inclusive community. Brittany is the assistant director for community outreach in the State University of New York at Buffalo Center for Successful Aging and an adjunct instructor in the department of occupational therapy.

She has research expertise in the areas of accessible public transportation, universal design and usability testing.

**Michael Prutsman**

Executive Director, Council on Addiction Recovery Services



Michael Prutsman is currently the executive director of the Council on Addiction Recovery Services (CAREs) in Olean, NY. CAREs is a non-profit organization in western New York that provides services in alcohol and substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery. He has been employed at CAREs since 1997 and has worked in prevention, compliance, quality improvement, management and administration.

Michael holds a master's degree in labor and policy studies with a concentration in human resources management from SUNY Empire State College. He also holds a bachelor's degree in history/secondary education from SUNY Geneseo.

**Karen Pusateri**

Managing Director, Town Square for Aging



Karen Pusateri is the managing director at Town Square for Aging, a non-profit organization committed to making seniors and vulnerable adults more healthy and independent by connecting them with collaborative community-based resources all either under one roof or in a network of care.

She has more than 25 years of experience in developing and implementing customized marketing strategies for various organizations. Karen specializes in designing and delivering creative programs and solutions in both business to business and business to consumer spaces.

She is passionate about providing top-notch senior health care services and developing person-centered approaches, resulting in excellent customer service experiences and positive outcomes.

Karen has a bachelor's degree in communications from Canisius College.

**Karen Rybicki**

Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Erie County Department of Social Services



Karen Rybicki has 18 years of experience in public welfare practice and currently serves as assistant deputy commissioner for the Erie County Department of Social Services. Her portfolio includes leadership over benefit programs including: temporary assistance, emergency services, homeless services, domestic violence and the HEAP program.

Throughout her career Karen has been called upon to plan, organize, direct and coordinate the work of various divisions to ensure efficient and effective operations while ensuring goal are attained in compliance with regulations and professional standards.

In addition to her role as assistant deputy commissioner, she serves on the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women board and is a member of the county executive's New American's Committee.

Karen received her bachelor's degree in social work and master's degree in human service administration from Buffalo State College.



## **Karl Shallowhorn**

Director of Community Advocacy, Mental Health Association of Erie County and Compeer



Karl Shallowhorn is the director of community advocacy for the Mental Health Association of Erie County and Compeer. He is a New York State credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselor. Karl is the author of “Working on Wellness: A Practical Guide to Mental Health” and contributes to BP magazine, which is a publication that increases awareness of bipolar disorders and provides support to people with bipolar disorders, along with their families, caregivers and healthcare professionals.

He serves on the board of directors for the Mental Health Association in New York State, the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network, the 4th and Forever Foundation and is on the Erie County Mental Hygiene Community Services Board.

Karl has a master’s degree in student personnel administration and a bachelor’s degree in broadcasting, both from Buffalo State College.

## **Rebecca Shultz**

Director of Surveillance and Statistics, Onondaga County Health Department



Rebecca Shultz is the director of surveillance and statistics at the Onondaga County Health Department, where she is responsible for the public health surveillance and assessment bureau.

In addition to Rebecca’s role at the health department, she has served as voluntary faculty in the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Prior to moving to Syracuse, Rebecca worked as an epidemiologist with the Florida Department of Health in Tallahassee, Fla.

She received a Master of Public Health in epidemiology from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.



### **Ellen Somers**

Assistant Director, Syracuse Jewish Family Services



Ellen Somers is the assistant director of Syracuse Jewish Family Service. She has worked with older adults and their family members for more than 20 years in a variety of settings, such as adult day programs, assisted living, skilled nursing care and homes. Ellen's areas of interest include cognitive health, mental health and holistic wellness.

She has a master's degree in clinical psychology from West Virginia University, a graduate certificate in gerontology from the University of Utah and is a New York State licensed mental health counselor.

### **Constantina Spiropoulos, M.D**

Pediatrician, Main Pediatrics



Dina Spiropoulos is a pediatrician at Main Pediatrics in Buffalo, NY. She has an interest in promoting healthy development through a team-based approach by embedding an early child development specialist with mental health expertise into primary care.

Dina's pediatric advocacy work, which began during her fellowship in parent-infant mental health, has taught her the importance of working across systems of care for better outcomes of children and families. She is a member of the leadership team for Help Me Grow WNY, an initiative that promotes healthy development of at-risk children and strengthens families by connecting them to services and community resources.

Dina has a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Mount Holyoke College and a medical degree from Albany Medical College. She completed her pediatric residency at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and completed an Infant Mental Health Fellowship program from the University of Massachusetts.

### **Manika Suryadevara**

Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Golisano's Children's Hospital



Manika Suryadevara is an associate professor of pediatrics in the division of pediatric infectious disease at Golisano's Children's Hospital in Syracuse, NY.

She became a member of the faculty in the department of pediatrics at SUNY Upstate Medical University in 2012 where she provides medical care to children in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. Manika's primary advocacy focus is leading her team in the improvement of pediatric immunization rates.

She received her doctorate from SUNY Upstate Medical University in 2004. Manika was board certified in general pediatrics in 2008 and in pediatric infectious disease in 2014.

### **Joyelle Tedeschi,**

Director of Hope Services, Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center



Joyelle Tedeschi is the co-founder and currently the director of the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Hope Services. In Joyelle's role, she oversees a homeless outreach program, an emergency shelter, a Community HUB and Permanent Supportive Housing.

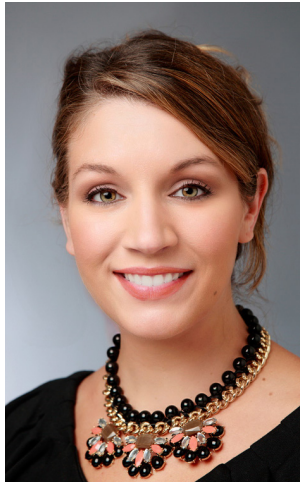
She is a member of the Western New York Coalition for the Homeless and is a co-founder of the WNYCH Outreach Committee. Joyelle co-developed the Housing First program at the Hope Center, and she also led the committee that initiated the City of Buffalo Code Blue effort. Joyelle serves as vice chair of the board of directors for the Homeless Alliance of WNY. She is an adjunct professor for the Master of Social Work program at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Social Work.

Joyelle's most recent awards and acknowledgements include the "Christus Super Omnia Distinguished Alumna" from the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart in 2016, and Business First's "Western New York Women of Influence" in 2014.

She is a graduate of the master's program at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Social Work.

### **Saralin Tiedeman**

Post-Acute care Manager, Millennium Collaborative Care



Saralin Tiedeman serves as the post-acute care manager for the Millennium Collaborative Care Performing Provider System. Her role involves managing Millennium's network of 50 skilled nursing facilities and six home care agencies, as well as working collaboratively with hospital and community partners on quality improvement initiatives to improve care for Medicaid patients through the western New York area.

Saralin graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a master's degree in occupational science, along with a bachelor's in both occupational science and psychology.

She is a licensed and registered occupational therapist in the State of New York.

### **Lauren Wetterhahn**

Director of Program Operations and Strategy, Central New York Care Collaborative



Lauren Wetterhahn is the director of program operations and strategy for the Central New York Care Collaborative, the New York State DSRIP program's lead agency in central New York.

In addition to several other DSRIP roles, she has held research support positions at SUNY Upstate Medical University's Center for Bioethics and Humanities and the Center for Research and Evaluation.

Lauren earned her bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Cornell University, a Master of Public Health from Central New York Master of Public Health and a certificate of advanced study in health services management and policy from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.