**Brooks Ballard** has worked for the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living since 2010, where he is responsible for internal and external communications. He manages the Center's website, oversees their social media presence and blog, coordinates PR & media relations, and assists with communications and marketing components for various Center research projects and events.

Brooks sits on the Board of Directors for IT'S TIME TEXAS, whose mission is to empower people to lead healthier lives and build healthier communities. He is the past Legislative Chair for the Partnership for a Healthy Texas, a statewide coalition dedicated to identifying and supporting policies that will have the most impact on the obesity epidemic. Over the past 6 years, Dr. Kelder and Mr. Ballard created the strategic communications plan for the Michal & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living and have developed, managed and refined numerous social media platforms for use by their Center.

**Mary Bennett** is a Community Coach at County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Mary's role is to provide strategic guidance to communities that want to put the County Health Rankings into action for community health improvement. She is part of a team that develops online tools to connect communities to evidence-informed strategies and foster peer learning, delivers technical assistance and training, and recognizes and celebrates health improvement.

Prior to joining the Population Health Institute, Mary worked with non-profit organizations for over 25 years, primarily focusing on improving the treatment of chronic pain through raising awareness and promoting the best pain policy, legislation, and practice. Most recently she was the Director of Alliance Development with the Pain Alliance to Implement a National Strategy (PAINS). Mary previously worked with both healthcare professional and consumer-driven organizations where she managed all aspects of a national, state-based health advocacy network. This included supporting state leaders with consultation, resources and training to create positive change in their communities, as well as providing links to national issues and efforts.

**Jill Camber-Davidson** RD/RDN, CD is a School Program Manager at AFHK. She is a registered dietitian with over twenty years of diverse nutrition and public health experience. Prior to joining Action for Healthy Kids, Jill worked as a state nutrition education consultant and Team Nutrition Director, a Nutrition and Food Services Director and in clinical nutrition.

Jill has certificates in Adult and Pediatric and Adolescent Weight Management from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Jill also is an active volunteer and leader with local, state and national nutrition and wellness groups. She has been recognized by her peers as a Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year in 1994 and as the Wisconsin Medallion Outstanding Dietitian of the Year in 2011.
Denise Clemente, serves as a Sr. Network Development Specialist, under UnitedHealthcare myConnections. Experienced in Medicaid health plan operations, and clinical network management, Denise lends her expertise in building a new type of community based provider network under myConnections. This new provider network serves to meet the social service needs of Arizona Medicaid populations. Her passion for serving the under-served and vulnerable populations of Arizona lead her to join the myConnections project to connect UnitedHealthcare members to housing, employment, food, transportation, and financial stability programs.

Denise has previously managed large clinical provider networks, and specialty products such as Long Term Care, Children Rehabilitative Services, and the Developmentally Disabled benefit plans. She has received national and local recognition for pilots to impact oral health access for children, most recently a pilot which assigned over 200,000 Arizona Medicaid children to primary dental providers.

Kenneth Cooper, MD, MPH, Founder and Chairman cooper aerobics Center; preventive medicine pioneer and “father of aerobics,” introduced the concept of exercising in pursuit of good health when he launched the world-wide phenomenon Aerobics in 1968—his first of 19 books on health and fitness. His latest book, Start Strong, Finish Strong, is a collaboration with his son, Tyler Cooper, MD, MPH.

A former Air Force flight surgeon, Dr. Cooper invented the 12-minute and 1.5 mile fitness tests and Aerobics Point System. For more than 46 years, Dr. Cooper’s scientific research and expertise has shown that it’s easier to maintain good health than to regain it once it’s lost.

Dr. Cooper is founder and chairman of the renowned Cooper Aerobics Center in Dallas, the home of seven health and wellness companies and The Cooper Institute 501(c)3. His current focus is working to help reverse the childhood obesity epidemic through school-based physical fitness and nutrition programs and assessments.

Dr. Cooper received his Bachelor of Science and Medical Degrees from the University of Oklahoma. He also holds a Master of Public Health from Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Cooper is board certified in preventive medicine.

Amy DeLisio, MPH, RD, is currently the Deputy Director at the Public Health Institute Center for Wellness and Nutrition (CWN) with over twelve years of experience working on nutrition and obesity prevention programs serving vulnerable populations.

Amy’s work includes a broad variety of initiatives that reach low resource populations through federal, state and privately-funded interventions that focus on health equity and chronic disease prevention. Major focus areas of CWN include healthy retail initiatives, worksite wellness interventions, policy, system and environmental change strategies and partnership engagement and development.

Amy is passionate about building the evidence base through effective educational, environmental and policy strategies that increase access to healthy food and safe spaces that advance health equity in low resource communities. Amy is a Registered Dietitian with a Master’s degree in Public Health from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles.
Allyson Frazier has worked in the field of public affairs for over twenty years. In over a decade with the American Heart Association she has been responsible for planning and implementing advocacy campaigns on the local, state and multi-state level. Currently, she oversees grassroots strategy, media advocacy, public opinion research and policy development in support of Voices for Healthy Kids.

Prior to joining the AHA, Allyson was the campaign manager of Clean Air Works, the success campaign making Boston one of the first major cities to go 100% smoke-free in all workplaces, and ultimately paving the way for a smoke-free state law. Her prior experience was in implementing and monitoring public health laws and regulations which provides her an excellent understanding of the process of implementing changes once a bill becomes a law. Allyson was awarded a Master’s in Social Work from Arizona State University in 1998 specializing in community-based strategies and a BA from American University in international studies. Allyson is the proud mom of 3 nonprofits and is extremely active in her community.

Britney Garner is the Government Relations Director for Alabama for the American Heart Association. Still in her first year Britney has developed, implemented, coordinated, and achieved the state public policy goals of the American Heart Association, serving as the primary lobbyist before the state legislature, and coordinated all state grassroots activities to achieve AHA goals and objectives.
— Implemented successful advocacy campaigns resulting in passing of Health Food Financing Act, $.25 Cigarette Tax, and state School Board “Smart Snacks” regulation
— Recruited 1000+ new advocates to “You’re the Cure” database, grew Facebook following by more than 100 new followers, and increased AHA online action goals by 2000% in less than six months
— Recruited 1000+ new advocates to “You’re the Cure” database, grew Facebook following by more than 100 new followers, and increased AHA online action goals by 2000% in less than six months
— Won AHA Greater Southeast Affiliate “Grassroots Advocacy Award”, selected to present at 2015 Scientific Sessions Conference, and secured two six-figure grants to work on AHA legislative agenda.

Dr. Jayne Greenberg, is the District Director of Physical Education and Health Literacy for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Throughout her professional educational career, she has served as Special Advisor on Youth Fitness to the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports; President of FAHPERD; chaired the Sport Development Committee for the United States Olympic Committee, USA Field Hockey; coordinated the Olympic Torch Relay Miami Leg for the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, and assisted the United States Department of Health and Human Services in the development of the I Can Do It, You Can Do It Program, a national initiative to address the physical activity levels of youth with disabilities.

Dr. Greenberg was named as the 2005 National Physical Education Administrator of the Year by the National Association of Sport and Physical Education, received the 2005 Highest Recognition Award by the United States Secretary of Health, Michael Leavitt, received the March 2009 Point of Light Award by Florida Governor Charlie Crist and was appointed the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness in 2009.
Richard Hamburg, is Deputy Director at Trust for America’s Health (TFAH). He oversees public policy initiatives, advocacy campaigns, and internal operations, and has nearly 30 years of experience as a leading health policy advocate. He previously served as the organization’s Director of Government Relations. He has helped lead TFAH's efforts to ensure disease prevention is a centerpiece of national health reform, and has been instrumental in TFAH's work on obesity prevention, building national public health emergency response capabilities, and increasing funding for public health programs.

Prior to TFAH, Mr. Hamburg served as the American Heart Association’s (AHA) national Director of Government Relations. At AHA, Mr. Hamburg managed the daily operations of an extensive federal legislative and regulatory program, represented AHA on health topics ranging from healthcare reform to tobacco control, directed targeted national advocacy campaigns, and developed a grassroots network of over 50,000 members. He is also a past Director of Government Affairs at AHA's New York City affiliate.

Baker Harrell has background and expertise in new media, social movement theory, and health marketing driving the efforts of the nonprofit organization, IT’S TIME TEXAS. In less than two years, IT’S TIME TEXAS has become the preeminent community health organization in the Lone Star State. This year, IT’S TIME TEXAS will impact the health of more than 5 million Texans in over 550 communities.

Baker’s prior ventures in the public health arena have received the Best Practices Health and Fitness Award from the Texas Department of State Health Services and a Most Promising Initiative award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Baker’s philosophy of empowering people to initiate pro-social change is demonstrated throughout IT’S TIME TEXAS’ efforts and supported by Baker’s interdisciplinary, doctoral research, which focused on social change approaches to improve population health.

Eleanor Heidkamp-Young MS, is a Product Consultant with more than five years of experience in the health care industry and public health research. Currently she works for UnitedHealthcare Community & State helping to provide high quality, public sector health care programs for more than three million people in Medicaid, Medicare, and Children’s Health Insurance Programs in 24 states and the District of Columbia. In her role Eleanor develops, tests and scales innovative services for youth and families and manages initiatives to improve health in partner communities.
John Hellerstedt, M.D., serves as Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, leading one of the state’s largest agencies with a staff of 12,000 and an annual budget of $3.3 billion. As Commissioner, Dr. Hellerstedt oversees programs such as disease prevention and disaster preparedness, community health services, environmental and consumer safety, state mental health facilities, and regulatory programs. Dr. Hellerstedt became Commissioner on January 4, 2016.

Prior to becoming Commissioner, Dr. Hellerstedt served as Chief Medical Officer at Seton Family of Hospitals. He also served as the Vice President of Medical Affairs for Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas and as the Medical Director of Texas Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Deanna Hoelscher, Ph.D., R.D., L.D., is the John P. McGovern Professor in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, Director of the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, and Associate Regional Dean for Research at The University of Texas School of Public Health, Austin Regional Campus. Her research interests include child and adolescent nutrition, school-based health promotion programs, dietary assessment methodology, evaluation of child obesity policies, linkages between primary care and public health, and dissemination of school health programs. Dr. Hoelscher was President of the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA). She is current principal investigator of the Texas Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration (TX CORD) Project funded by the CDC and the School Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) survey funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

She has been the principal investigator on many other NIH, RWJF, and Michael & Susan Dell Foundation grants. She was a reviewer on the Institute of Medicine consensus reports on Strategies to Reduce Sodium Intake in the United States (2010), School Meals: Building Blocks for Healthy Children (2010), and Nutrition Standards for Foods in Schools: Leading the Way toward Healthier Youth (2007). Dr. Hoelscher was also a member of the IOM committee on Evaluating Progress of Obesity Prevention Efforts (2013).

Steven A. Hummer, Lieutenant General, Retired
Born on 1 July 1952 in Pennsylvania as the son of a US Marine veteran, Lieutenant General Hummer retired from the US Marine Corps on 1 Aug 2015 after 41 years of active service. After enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1970, and an honorable discharge as a sergeant in 1973, Lieutenant General Hummer was commissioned following graduation from Albright College, PA, in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psycho-Biology.

His assignments in the operating forces included: Rifle Platoon Commander, Company Commander, Battalion Commander and Regimental Commander within 1st Marine Division; Chief of Staff, Joint Special Operations Command; Director of Operations, US Forces-Iraq; and Deputy to the Commander for Military Operations, US Africa Command. Lieutenant General Hummer participated in combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Supporting establishment duties included: Ceremonial Company Commander, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C; Commanding General, Marine Corps Base Hawaii; Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Pacific; Chief of Staff, US Special Operations Command; and Commander, Marine Corps Forces Reserve and Marine Corps Forces North.
Steven Kelder PhD, is co-director of the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living and associate regional dean at the UT Health School of Public Health in Austin. Dr. Kelder has more than 20 years of experience in design and evaluation of child and adolescent research, particularly interventions directed towards youth, schools, and parents.

Recently, his emphasis is on interventions designed for promotion of physical activity and healthy eating, obesity prevention, and substance use prevention. In 2012, he served on the Institute of Medicine committee on Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention: Solving the Weight of the Nation.

Over the past 6 years, Dr. Kelder and Mr. Ballard created the strategic communications plan for the Michal & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living and have developed, managed and refined numerous social media platforms for use by their Center.

Dr. Laura Kettel Khan is currently the Senior Scientist in the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. The Division is the primary public health agency working to prevent obesity and chronic diseases in the United States including healthy food systems, active transportation, and population equity. Its research, evaluation, and program implementation focus on state health departments, communities, schools, early childhood centers, worksites, and health care systems. Dr. Kettel Khan is internationally known in the field of obesity prevention as well as evaluation methodology and research design multi-sectoral and complex interventions and assessment, and serves on numerous national advisory committees related to evaluation and building the evidence for community policy, systems, and environmental strategies for healthy communities. She represents the CDC on numerous national partnerships with private foundations and federal agencies which focus on healthy eating and active living.

Jim Krieger, MD, MPH is founding Executive Director of Healthy Food America (HFA) and Clinical Professor at University of Washington, and was chief of the Chronic Disease Prevention at Public Health-Seattle & King County. He is a nationally recognized expert in obesity prevention programs. His work has led to improvements in school nutrition and physical activity, implementation of the nation’s second menu labeling regulation, reduction in exposure to sugary drinks, and increased access to healthy foods for low income people.

His work as Executive Director of HFA is focused on promoting healthy food consumption and accessibility while reducing exposure to and consumption of unhealthy foods through policy, communications and research. He has led numerous healthy community initiatives, including Steps to Health, Communities Putting Prevention to Work, Transforming the Health of South King County, and King County Partnerships in Community Health. He provides technical assistance on healthy food strategy implementation to communities across the US, including those in AL and TX.
**Dr. Harold W. “Bill” Kohl,** Professor of Epidemiology and Kinesiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center – Houston School of Public Health and the University of Texas, Austin. At the University of Texas School of Public Health, Dr. Kohl also serves as the Associate Regional Dean for Academic Affairs and International Health Affairs at the Austin Regional Campus. Prior to this appointment, he served as Lead Epidemiologist and Team Leader in the Physical Activity and Health Branch of the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. He has worked since 1984 in the area of physical activity and health, including conducting research, developing and evaluating intervention programs for adults and children, and developing and advising on policy issues.

In his recent efforts, he has concentrated on national and international physical activity surveillance and epidemiology issues, as well as program development and evaluation studies for the promotion of school-based physical activity for children and adolescents. He has published more than 200 papers, chapters and monographs in the scientific literature and in 2012 co-authored the textbook *Foundations of Physical Activity and Public Health.*

**David, Lakey** M.D., serves as the Chief Medical Officer and Associate Vice Chancellor for Population Health at the University of Texas System, and the Senior Vice President for Population Health and Isadore Roosth Distinguished Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Tyler (UTHCT). He is the Dean of the School of Community and Rural Health at UTHCT. Dr. Lakey serves on a federal public health advisory committee for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Defense Health Board.

Dr. Lakey served as Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services from January 2007 to February 2015. As Commissioner, Dr. Lakey led one of the state’s largest agencies with a staff of 12,000 and an annual budget of $3.3 billion and oversaw programs such as disease prevention and disaster preparedness, family and community health services, environmental and consumer safety, regulatory programs and mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs. Dr. Lakey led the Texas public health response to multiple high profile events including hurricanes Ike, Gustov and Dolly, the H1N1 influenza pandemic, and the Ebola outbreak in Dallas.
Michael Lopez, joined the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service’s Family and Community Health unit in 2011. As an Extension Health Specialist, Mike focuses his effort on human populations and the effect of the built environment on healthy living. He provides leadership for the development, implementation, and evaluation of Extension educational programs in the areas of planning for active communities, physical activity, and healthy food access.

Margaret Lopez is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Dietetics and a School Nutrition Specialist. Margaret has been recognized as a leader in her field and has been invited to present at several state and national meetings. She has received leadership awards from Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. As an advocate of child health, Margaret is an active member of the Dallas Area Charting the Course, a coalition to reduce childhood obesity with a multifaceted approach. She is a member of the Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions, member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the School Nutrition Association.

Elizabeth Love serves as Senior Program Officer for Houston Endowment, a private philanthropic institution that invests in efforts to enhance the vibrancy of greater Houston and advance equity of opportunity for the people who live here. Elizabeth oversees grantmaking for the Foundation’s health and environmental portfolios as well as a portion of the arts and culture portfolio.

Prior to joining the Foundation in 2009, Elizabeth served as Director of Harris County Public Health’s Office of Policy and Planning, where she led strategic planning activities concerning health promotion, infectious disease, air and water quality, neighborhood conditions, climate change and emergency response. In addition, Elizabeth oversaw the department’s legislative activities, community-based assessment processes and outcomes evaluation framework. In the late 1990’s, Elizabeth served as a fellow for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Elizabeth received a bachelor of arts degree from Rice University and a master’s degree from the University of Texas School of Public Health.
**Melissa Martin**, is a registered dietitian nutritionist and the Director of the Louisiana Department of Health’s Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Martin oversees the Well-Ahead Louisiana initiative, Oral Health and Coordinated Chronic Disease teams, in addition to managing the Tobacco Control program in alignment with the work plans for CDC cooperative agreements and the Bureau’s mission of Connecting Louisiana Communities to a Healthy Future. She serves as the appointed Louisiana state delegate for the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists. Martin believes in personalizing each outreach effort by learning about the background, lifestyle, history and daily environment of the many Louisiana communities; understanding the social determinants of health are essential in shaping the best plan of action to guide communities towards healthier future.

**Lisa Medellin**, MSW, Senior Program Officer Healthcare Georgia Foundation

In her current position, Lisa is the primary liaison between the Foundation and its grant applicants, grantees, policy makers as well as other foundations and nonprofit organizations. Lisa also serves as team lead for the program staff at the Foundation, managing the Foundations’ grant making programs, including identifying new strategic funding partnerships and managing the allocation of the Foundation’s annual distribution of $3.8 million in grants. She manages a diverse grant portfolio that includes; Health Policy, Childhood Obesity, Health Equity, School-Based Health Centers, and Integrated Health Care/Behavioral Health.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Lisa was with Emory University-Rollins School of Public Health, where she was the Director of Resource Management and Communications for a national Tobacco Technical Assistance project. She has held various managerial positions with the American Cancer Society-National Home Office, Emory University School of Medicine, and Planned Parenthood of the Southeast.

Lisa is an active member of the community and is on the board of the Georgia School Based Health Alliance. She has previously volunteered for DeKalb County CASA, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta-Women’s Legacy Council and the Junior League of Atlanta.

**Camille Miller** has been the president and CEO of Texas Health Institute (THI) since 1996. After completing bachelor’s and master’s degrees in sociology and social work, Miller gained extensive experience in policy research and development, planning, researching and developing state policy to address health and human services issues working for Texas statewide elected officials.

Ms. Miller serves on numerous boards throughout the state of Texas. In 2009, Ms. Miller received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter. In May 2010, she was granted the Honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service by the Board of Regents of the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, Texas.
Jennifer Moore, MD, serves as the founding executive director of the Institute for Medicaid Innovation. An experienced critical care and emergency department nurse, she brings her clinical expertise and focus on improving access to quality care for priority populations. She combines her love of research, policy, and clinical practice in women's and maternal child health by maintaining an active appointment as a research professor at the University of Michigan's Medical School in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Dr. Moore comes to Institute from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) where she was appointed as the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Fellow before assuming her role leading the Office of Women's Health & Gender Research. There she represented AHRQ on national women's and maternal child health initiatives, including the development of maternal health quality measures, spearheading efforts to develop a maternity Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS), and leading the $46 million national perinatal quality and safety initiative.

Eric Moreno is a Content Curator for the Salud America! program at the Institute for Health Promotion Research at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He has a BA in English from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a Masters in Communications from Gonzaga University. He specializes in health equity topics for Salud America!

Robert Morrow, MD, MBA, serves as President Houston and Southwest Texas Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas. In his role he works with sales and account management, network, policy development, government and community relations as well as internal and external communications to help provide financially sound health care coverage to as many Texans as possible and to stand with members in sickness and in health. He most recently served as the region's Chief Medical Officer.

Prior to his time at BCBSTX, Dr. Morrow served as the Director of Medical Quality for the Rural and Community Health Institute of the Texas A&M Health Science Center and was recently asked to sit on their Board of Advisors. His previous experience also includes experience as the Chief Medical Officer for Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital in Houston and practicing privately in Family Medicine. Dr. Morrow is a graduate of the Memorial Hermann Southwest Family Practice training program in Houston and the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. He completed his undergraduate studies at Texas A&M University and received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Tennessee.
Dr. Belinda Reininger, is a professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Science for the University of Texas, School of Public Health Regional Campus at Brownsville. Dr. Reininger’s research focuses on evidence-based, participatory approaches to improving health with minority populations. Dr. Reininger currently serves as principal investigator for several projects to address chronic diseases and has over 60 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Reininger, in partnership with an active community advisory board in South Texas, has supported policy and environmental changes including tobacco-free ordinances, complete street ordinances, building bike/ped trails, community gardens, farmers’ markets, chronic care management programs and community wide campaigns. These efforts and partnerships resulted in City of Brownsville winning the 2014 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize.

Catherine Oliveros has 20 years of experience working in public health across a variety of industries and on an international scale. Areas of expertise include strategic planning, operational management, global and community health, community based participatory research, grants management, and program evaluation.

In her role, Catherine focuses her time on community investment strategies that ensure dollars invested in Texas communities are informed, intentional and impactful while addressing key public health issues and supporting business growth and retention. She also oversees employee engagement and plays an integral role in ensuring an innovative and collaborative approach to community partnerships in order to strengthen brand recognition within priority populations.

Prior to joining BCBSTX, Catherine was the Regional Director, Latin America for Susan G. Komen. In her role, she established and led a Latin American investment strategy focused on increasing health system capacity, community based research opportunities and education initiatives.

George T Roberts, Jr, MHA FACHE has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Texas Public Health District since November 2006. Services provided by the Health District include the Center for Healthy Living, Community Outreach, Disease Surveillance, Environmental Health, Immunization, Tuberculosis Control, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Regional Laboratory, Vital Statistics, and WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program. The Health District primarily serves Tyler and Smith County but also provides some services in 21 counties in East Texas. The WIC Program serves a 20 county area and Public Health Emergency Preparedness serves a 7 county region.

Mr. Roberts has over 35 years of health care experience, the majority of which was spent in hospital administration, having previously served at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, and Henderson Memorial Hospital in Henderson, Texas. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration from SMU in Dallas and a Master’s Degree in Health Administration from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri.
Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH was appointed as the Harris County Public Health & (HCPH) Executive Director and the Local Health Authority for Harris County, Texas – the third most populous county in the United States with a population of 4.3 million spread over 1778 square miles, the approximate size of the state of Rhode Island. Prior to joining HCPH, Dr. Shah served as the Chief Medical Officer at the Galveston County Health District and since 1999, an emergency department physician at Houston’s well-respected Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. Dr. Shah assumed the dual role as Deputy Director and its Director of Disease Control & Clinical Prevention upon joining HCPH in 2004, overseeing all departmental clinical and infectious disease activities. Under his leadership at HCPH, the department has won numerous national awards for its innovative work.

Dr. Shah has provided leadership in a variety of Texas-based initiatives, including the Harris County Medical Society, Texas Medical Center, Texas Association of City & County Health Officials (TACCHO), Texas Public Health Coalition, Texas Department of State Health Services, and Texas Medical Association. Dr. Shah has also been asked to serve on a number of national initiatives.

Sarah Sliwa, PhD is Health Scientist at the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention in the Division of Population Health (DPH)’s School Health Branch (SHB). She has over a decade of experience working on initiatives to prevent childhood obesity in community, school, and out-of-school settings (OST). As part of the Research Application and Evaluation Team in the School Health Branch, Sarah leads work related to school-based OST programs as well as school-based obesity prevention strategies. Sarah earned a PhD in Food Policy from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University.

Jack Towsley, Divisional Senior Vice President, Texas Health Care Delivery Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas. is passionate about minimizing the cost of health care in Texas. As the Divisional Senior Vice President of Texas Health Care Delivery for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX), he is responsible for all provider network strategy in Texas, including fee-for-service negotiations, development of new value-based care models, and delivery of ancillary contracting. He leads the effort across all product segments to develop and implement provider contracting and service strategies to ensure competitiveness, contain unit cost, improve member access and enhance provider satisfaction. In this role, he also oversees the Market Solutions and Performance team, as well as the Texas Managed Care Council. As an active member of the community, he also serves on the board of North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, PediPlace and Marathon Kids.

Jack joined BCBSTX in 2013 and brought over 20 years of experience in the healthcare industry, including work in managed care organizations, alternative payment methodologies, provider relations, contracting, and data analytics.
Emily Anne Vall, PhD has a wide range of wellness experience including public health program implementation, public school education, higher education, pre-service teacher education, corporate wellness program design, wellness management, research design and evaluation, and grant coordination and implementation. Her areas of expertise include the Behavior Change Theory and Childhood Obesity. She currently manages the Governor’s childhood obesity initiative, Georgia Shape, under Commissioner Fitzgerald at the Georgia Department of Public Health. In this role, she provides leadership in the management and coordination of this statewide, multiagency, multidimensional initiative that brings together governmental, philanthropic, academic, and business communities to address childhood obesity in Georgia. She coordinates policy efforts in all aspects of the program, including strategies designed to impact childhood obesity from birth through the school years.

Judith Warren, is a professor and special initiatives coordinator with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at Texas A&M University System. She holds a B.S. from Virginia Tech and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Education from Syracuse University with a certificate in Gerontology. Dr. Warren has focused on lifespan health & wellness since 1981. She developed statewide educational training programs for Extension educators in health and gerontology.

She has been PI on grants related to rural health, immunization, cancer risk-reduction, long term care, minority peer education, community capacity building and obesity prevention. She served in several agency administrative positions (1996-2008) before heading up an agency focus on child obesity prevention and evidence-based youth programs. She most recently was PI on a $5 million grant with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA/USDA) to address child obesity through family-focused programming, collaborating with the UT Health Dell Center for Healthy Living. This research project, Texas GROW!EAT!GO, focused on child, parent, and teacher behavior change, BMI and implementation, sustainability and economic outcomes showing significant results in child and parent behavior and child BMI.

Jen Wright, MPH, Jen joined the SC Hospital Association in 2011. As the Program Director, she’s engaging and activating multi-sector executives across the state to create cultures of wellbeing in their worksites. This is done by empowering wellness teams to implement policies and environments supportive of tobacco free people and places, delicious and affordable healthy food, and opportunity for physical activity during the workday. This initiative also positions hospitals as community leaders and catalysts for other industries to make the healthy choice the easy choice for their employees. Most recently, taking the key principles of Working Well and coordinating state and national partners, A Healthier State House was launched. This new initiative builds on the success of A Healthier State, which targets the Governor’s Cabinet agencies and the SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control and aligns with the SC Obesity Strategic Action plan. Evidence based resources provide members of the SC General Assembly with skills and opportunity to reach their optimal health status while making the SC State House a healthier place to govern.

Jen serves on a number of local, state, and national coalitions, including the SC Medical Association Childhood Obesity Task Force, Eat Smart Move More Low-country, and the National Healthy Places Council.
Mylinda Zapata grew up in a rural community with a population of less than 1,000 people. She graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1988 and completed her Nutrition and Foods courses in 1992 at Southwest Texas. She currently lives in San Marcos, Texas and has served as the Nutrition/Health Coordinator for the local Head Start program for 20 years. Mylinda has written and received two grants from the Texas Department of Agriculture though both the Farm to Childcare and the Healthier CACFP Initiatives. Mylinda enjoys cooking, talking about cooking and convincing others to cook.

Namvar Zohoori, MD, PH, is Deputy Chief Science Officer at the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), and Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Public Health. He earned his MD degree from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, his MPH from Johns Hopkins University, and his Ph.D. in Nutrition and Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Zohoori joined the ADH in 2004, having worked previously in the areas of public health, nutrition, epidemiology, aging and chronic diseases in Russia, China, the Philippines, Jamaica and the US. In his years at the ADH, he served for over 10 years as the State Chronic Disease Director. In 2009, he received the ADH Director’s award for Excellence in Public Health Science. In 2012 he was ADH’s nominee for ASTHO’s National Public Health Heroes Award. Dr. Zohoori has served as Chairman of the Arkansas Legislative Stroke Task Force, and of the Arkansas Chronic Disease Coordinating Council.

Nationally, Dr. Zohoori serves on the Board of Directors, and is immediate Past-President, of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors.