

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (in alphabetical order)

*Note: Breakout Session, Lunch Session and Special Session speaker bios are posted on line.*



### **Susan Case**

Susan works for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Child Care Services Division. Ms. Case has worked for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services for 34 years as a case manager, child care licensing specialist and supervisor, policy and training specialist, program manager for residential and agency licensing, and is currently the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Administrator for the Reaching for the Stars Program.

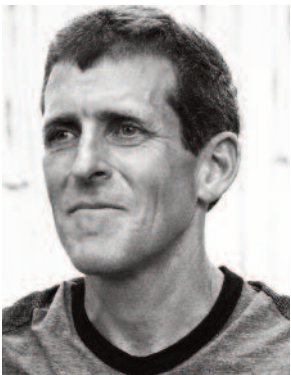
Ms. Case received her Master of Science Degree in Family Relations and Child Development from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma and her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma.



### **Angie Cradock, MD**

Dr. Cradock is a Senior Research Scientist and the Deputy Director of the Harvard Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The mission of the Prevention Research Center is to work with community partners to design, implement, and evaluate programs that improve nutrition and physical activity, and reduce obesity and chronic disease risk among children, youth, and their families; and to reduce and eliminate disparities in these outcomes.

Currently, Dr. Cradock serves as the Co-Principal Investigator of the CHOICES (Childhood Obesity Intervention Cost-Effectiveness Study) Project. This project has modeled the cost-effectiveness of interventions that can improve children's nutrition and physical activity and reduce the prevalence of obesity. Results from this work are providing researchers and policymakers with both methods and data to use in deciding on the "best value for money" interventions to reduce obesity prevalence in children and adults in the United States. In addition, Dr. Cradock leads the CHOICES Learning Collaborative Partnerships, formal partnerships with 11 state and local health agencies which provide technical assistance, training, and cost-effectiveness modeling support to these partners to create local-level cost-effectiveness models of potential obesity prevention interventions to that can inform decision-making.



### **Mark Cucuzzella MD, FAAFP**

Dr. Mark Cucuzzella is a Professor at West Virginia University School of Medicine. He is also a Lt Col in the US Air Force designing programs to promote health and better fitness in the military with the USAF Efficient Running Project. In his community and medical school he has been a tireless promoter of nutritional interventions in patients with any spectrum of the metabolic syndrome and introducing low carb options for hospital patients. He is a member of The Nutrition Coalition advocating for scientific scrutiny in nutritional policy. He was a lead writer of one of the first grants supporting education of Medical Students in nutrition and physical activity through the MEDCHEFS program, now in its 4th year. Mark is also the lead on a large USDA grant to double SNAP benefits at Farmers Markets- the goal is reducing food insecurity as a barrier to healthier eating. He's also been a competitive runner for over 30 years — with more than 100 marathon and ultra marathon finishes — and has a unique streak of 30 years running a marathon under 3 hours

Mark is also the owner of Two Rivers Treads — A Center for Natural Running and Walking in his hometown of Shepherdstown, WV.





### **Latresh Davenport**

Latresh Davenport is the SNAP Nutrition Education Program Coordinator at the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services where she provides leadership and manages the SNAP Nutrition Education program for the state of Georgia. She has 7 years of progressive experience in nutrition education and obesity prevention at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Georgia Coalition for Physical Activity and Nutrition, and the DeKalb County Board of Health. She received her Bachelors of Science from Emory University and a Masters of Public Health from the University of South Carolina. When she is not in the office she can found reading science fiction books.



### **James (Jim) Fawcett**

James (Jim) Fawcett was appointed president of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield West Virginia in October 2016. He is responsible for all market functions for West Virginia's largest commercial health insurance carrier, which serves more than 275,000 members and 3,500 clients through the company's health care benefits business. With offices in Parkersburg, Charleston and Wheeling, it employs nearly 700 people.

Mr. Fawcett has been with Highmark for more than 29 years. Prior to becoming president, he served in a number of leadership roles where he was responsible for the Medicaid markets in Highmark's Delaware and West Virginia health markets, sales and client management for Highmark's Pennsylvania individual and group health markets, and provider contracting and network management for Highmark's core markets in Pennsylvania, Delaware and West Virginia. Mr. Fawcett holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University. He was a commissioned officer in the Air Force, and is a graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh class XXII.



### **Dr. Rahul Gupta**

Dr. Gupta is Commissioner for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health and the West Virginia State Health Officer.

Dr. Gupta is a practicing internist with 25 years of clinical experience who also has faculty appointments as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Health Policy, Management & Leadership at the West Virginia University School of Public Health, Associate Professor at the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy, and visiting faculty at the Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Dr. Gupta earned a Doctor of Medicine degree and subspecialty training in pulmonary medicine from the prestigious University of Delhi and completed his internship and residency training at St. Joseph Hospital at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. Additionally, he earned a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in Healthcare Organization and Policy from the University of Alabama-Birmingham and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in Innovation and Technology Management at the London School of Business and Finance. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.





### **Dr. Torrie Harris, MPH**

Dr. Harris is a New Orleans native with 18 years of experience in public health. She currently serves as the Health and Equity Strategist for the City of New Orleans Health Dept. There she leads efforts to eliminate health disparities, working across sectors and with community partners and members to ensure health for all of New Orleans. Dr. Harris has dedicated her career to health equity through health system improvement, access to healthcare for underserved populations, community improvement, and economic development. She was recognized for her commitment to these areas and was awarded a Trailblazer Award by the Kentucky Health Equity Network, while serving as the inaugural Director for the Office of Health Equity with the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

Dr. Harris received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Xavier University of LA, a Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and a Doctorate of Public Health from the University of Kentucky, College of Public Health.



### **Claire Heiser**

Claire is currently in a 6-month rotation as a Presidential Management Council's Interagency Rotation Program Fellow in the USDA FNS Southeastern Regional Office. Claire's permanent position is as a Team Lead of the Program Advancement Team in Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has held this position since December 2007. As the team lead, Ms. Heiser is responsible to leading a team of project officers who provide technical assistance and training to state, local, tribal and territorial public health departments' nutrition, physical activity and obesity programs. Claire joined the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at CDC in August 2003 as a project officer.

Prior to joining CDC, Claire was a public health nutritionist and obesity program director with the Texas Department of Health for 10 years and a chronic disease nutritionist at the Virginia Department of Health for 5 years. Claire is a registered dietitian who received her master's of science degree in nutrition from Virginia Tech University.



### **Bonnie Hinds**

Bonnie is a State Health Specialist with University of Tennessee Extension, a position she has held since 2008. Before joining Extension, Ms. Hinds served as the Director of Community Development for the eastern region of the Tennessee Department of Health. She is a proud member of Tennessee's coalition-driven, CDC-funded, High Obesity Prevention team.



### **Alice Kirk, MPH**

Alice Kirk has been with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension since 1996. She provides leadership for the development, implementation and evaluation of Extension educational programs throughout all 254 Texas counties in the areas of childhood overweight, community health, and increasing physical activity. Alice strives to improve the health practices of ALL people, families and communities. Many of her recent programming efforts target predominately Hispanic, low-literacy, limited resource and underserved families in rural Texas.



### **Jamie Jeffrey, MD**

Dr. Jeffrey is a pediatrician and Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics at WVU School of Medicine-Charleston Division. She received her medical degree from Marshall University School of Medicine in Huntington, WV and completed her pediatric residency at Akron Children's Hospital in Akron, Ohio. She founded and is Medical Director of HealthyKids Wellness and Weight Management Program at CAMC and Director of KEYS 4 HealthyKids.

After noticing escalating weight and BMI in her patients at Children's Medicine Center over the past 13 years, she has devoted her career to pediatric clinical, research, advocacy and community outreach in the field of childhood obesity. Her most important role is to serve as Director of KEYS 4 HealthyKids, a multi-sector collaborative to prevent childhood obesity by improving the nutrition and physical activity environments and policies so her patients and families don't have to work so hard to lead a healthy life. KEYS 4 HealthyKids works with child care centers, schools and in the community to make the healthy choice the easy choice!



### **Jessica Lawrence, MS**

With a BS in Health Education from Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY, and a Masters of Science in Education/Curriculum and Instruction from Portland State University, Jess Lawrence began her career as a middle school health teacher in Portland Oregon. In 2003 Jess was presented with an opportunity to extend her passion and knowledge beyond the classroom, she became the Health Education Curriculum Specialist at the Department of Education and worked closely with a team of specialists from both the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement coordinated school health. In 2005, she was selected to be one of 17 people nationally to help revise and develop the National Health Education Standards, which were published early in 2007. After working for Oregon Department of Education for three years, Jess decided to pursue a career as an education consultant in 2007 because it would give her the opportunity and flexibility to provide targeted, strategic and comprehensive support to school health organizations. She is the Director of Cairn Consulting and she is an exceptional speaker, presenter and facilitator. Jess's work includes facilitating meetings, workshops and strategic plans, presenting and speaking at conferences, and developing curriculum and materials specifically around school health issues. She is a CDC/DASH trainer for CDC's Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT), School Health Index (SHI) and School Health Guidelines (SHG).

### **Dianna Lewis**

WDVU Extension Agent, Pleasants County, WV Dianna has worked with youth at various levels of development, from ages 4-21, over the past 30 years. As a former teacher, she began her career working with prekindergarten students, but spent the majority of her time working with third grade (8-9 years old) youth. She volunteered with the 4-H program for nearly 20 years before taking a position working for WVU Extension as the Extension Agent in Pleasants County in 2016. As the only Agent in the county, she works with all program units – 4-H youth development; agriculture and natural resources; family and community development. She has led workshops to train future leaders that focus on robotics, and that provide information and recipes to those who live with diabetes.

Participation in the WV Healthy Children Project gave her the opportunity to get back into the classroom and work with prekindergarten students. "Taste the Rainbow" was one activity that she provided for the students where they sampled fruits and vegetables for each color of the rainbow, and then some. The children also really enjoyed traveling to local farms to discover the growing process.

A life-long resident of Pleasants County, she and her husband have two grown children and a chocolate lab-basset hound mix that allows us to share her house. In her spare time she enjoys camping, boating, reading and sewing.



### **Mike Lopez, MUP**

Mike joined the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's Family and Community Health Department in 2011. As an Extension Program 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.

Mike's educational background includes a BS degree in Biomedical Sciences and a Master of Urban Planning (MUP) degree, with a concentration in Active Living and Healthy Communities, both coming from Texas A&M University. He also earned a certificate in Environmental Hazard Management. He has a Professional Designation in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and he graduated from the Walking College Fellowship Program, four-month distance-education training through America Walks, a national organization that promotes walking and walkable communities



### **Jennifer Martin, MS**

Jenny Martin has worked in public health in Southwestern Virginia for twenty-two years. She began her career coordinating programs and managing grants for the Virginia Department of Health and later for the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth. Since 2001, Jenny has served as the Southwest Regional Grants Administrator for VFHY and manages approximately \$1 million in grant funds to community level programs and initiatives each year that reduce and prevent youth tobacco use and childhood obesity. Through her position, she oversees grantee progress, assists with the development of Requests for Proposals, participates in state and national conference planning committees, and maintains a twenty-member Regional Advisory Board. She has presented at state and national conferences and especially enjoys collaborating with local partners in early childhood education, public health and K-12 schools. She earned both her Bachelor's degree in Health Education and Master's Degree in Health and Physical Education from Virginia Tech.



### **Emily Murphy, PhD**

By-trade, Emily Murphy is a Pediatric Exercise Physiologist, with her research interest in the prevention of childhood and adult obesity. She is currently the Obesity Prevention Specialist with the WVU Extension Service. She has been in my current position since August 16, 2010 and prior to accepting her current position, she worked as an Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at West Virginia University. She has over 20 years working on various local, regional and statewide obesity-prevention initiatives.

Emily is currently PI on the WV Healthy Children Project a Cooperative Agreement with the CDC aimed at improving healthy eating, physical activity and screen-time behaviors of 2-5 year olds and their families.



### **Major General (Ret.) Doug Raaberg**

General Raaberg retired from the United States Air Force as a Major General and Deputy Commander of the most advanced air, space and cyber operations in the world.

Most recently, he served as Chief Executive for Northrop Grumman in the United Arab Emirates and served as an elected member of AmCham Abu Dhabi, an independent, Operations Center. His general officer assignments include Director of Air and Space Operations for Air Combat Command.

General Raaberg commanded the nation's only B-2 stealth-bomber wing that spearheaded the air campaign for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. He also holds the world's record for the fastest non-stop flight around the globe. For this history-breaking, aerial achievement he received the U.S. Air Force Most Meritorious Flight of the Year Award. Among his awards and decorations are the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal.



### **Ankit Sanghavi**

Ankit currently serves as the Executive Director of Texas Health Institute. Previously, he served as the Director of Texas Health Institute's Community and Oral Health Program. Ankit provides leadership and direction on all Texas Health Institute initiatives and develops collaborative efforts with Texas Health Institute's local, state, and national partners. Additionally, he serves as an advisor on several national and state committees focused on improving public health. Most recently, Ankit was selected to serve on the Dean's Advisory Board at the School of Public Health at Texas A&M University. Ankit earned a Master of Public Health from Texas A&M University and Bachelor of Dental Surgery from M.U.H.S India.

His professional interests are research, innovation, and use of data in health and health care improvement.



### **Michelle F. Smith**

Michelle is a marketing and research consultant who became active in marketing for school health when she became a parent. She is currently the State Coordinator for Texas Action for Healthy Kids and is Director for the Southern Obesity Summit, a 16-state working conference on obesity prevention. In 2012 Michelle completed a project for Action for Healthy Kids with a goal of engaging middle school parents in wellness activities in schools. She managed a national level community awareness project promoting coordinated school health for the American Cancer Society (ACS) in the late 90s. Currently she is working with National PTA and Action for Healthy Kids on a new parent engagement project Parents for Healthy Kids.

Michelle is an active advocate for school health issues on a state as well as a local basis, serving as chair for the Partnership for a Healthy Texas for two legislative sessions. She also has served on her local school health advisory council for over 15 years, as well as serving on the Texas Action for Healthy Kids Steering Committee, previously as Vice Chair, since 2002.



### **Stephen Smith**

Stephen is one of the Founders of Try This West Virginia and the Director of WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition - a statewide movement to make West Virginia the best place in the world to live, work and raise a family, no matter who you are. In the past 6 years, the Coalition's grassroots programs have recruited, trained and funded 31 student chapters, 268 healthy community development projects, 28 successful policy campaigns, 55 parent-led public education projects, 32 resistance groups, 25 social entrepreneurs, 206 local candidates and campaign managers, and a statewide racial justice organization. Stephen lives in Charleston with his wife Sara, a ferocious public defender, and son Jackson, a ferocious first-grader.



### **Erik Stockton**

Erik is the Health Program Manager for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a federal-state partnership that works for sustainable community and economic development in Appalachia. ARC's health programs include documentation of the Region's health disparities and their economic impacts; strategic grantmaking for government agencies and non-profit organizations; and the deployment of multi-sector public health partnerships that support Appalachia's economic growth and stability. Mr. Stockton's activities include management of a large grant portfolio; implementation of long-term regional interventions in diabetes, substance abuse, and cancer; and engagement with grantmakers, investors, and practitioners through the Appalachia Funders Network.

Eric received a BA in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987. His background includes extensive work in leadership and capacity building for small communities, environmental infrastructure, and partnership initiatives in public health. He has been with ARC since 1996 and lives with his family in Washington, DC.



### **Dr. Ron Stollings**

Dr. Stollings is a native of Madison, West Virginia. Dr. Ron Stollings earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from West Virginia University. He is a graduate of the Marshall University School of Medicine, and completed a residency in internal medicine at Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University.

Board certified in internal medicine, Dr. Stollings joined the Southern West Virginia Health System in February 2018. Previously he had been in private practice at the Madison Medical Group and on the staff of Boone Memorial Hospital for 33 years. Also, he is a professor of medicine for the West Virginia University School of Medicine. Dr. Stollings serves on the Visiting Committees of the WVU School of Medicine and the WVU School of Public Health.

Dr. Stollings was elected to represent the 7th Senatorial District in the West Virginia State Senate in 2006 and was reelected in 2010 and 2014. Previously, he served as Chair of the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee. He currently serves on the Finance, Education, Health and Human Resources, Economic Development, Labor, and Rules committees. He is a member of the Select Committee on Children and Poverty. In addition, he co-chaired the Legislative Interim Oral Health Committee. On the national level, Dr. Stollings is the immediate past co-chair of the Council of State Governments Health Policy Committee. Additionally, he was recognized by the American Medical Association with the 2016 Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service.



### **Jim Strawn**

Jim is the Owner and President of Jim Strawn & Company, a marketing company that specializes in helping civic organizations, non-profits, municipalities, associations and businesses of all sizes engage their customers and followers through results-driven marketing strategies.

He is an energetic leader doing his part to make America, WV, Kanawha Valley and our city of Charleston a better place to live, learn, work and play.

Author. TV Show Host. Speaker. Marketing Strategist. Professor. Trainer. Event Planner. Fundraiser. Auctioneer.

Jim earned his BS degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1983 and received his MA degree from WVCOGS in 1992. A native of West Virginia, Jim has over 35 years of marketing, public relations and community service experience.

Jim is happily married to his college sweetheart, Lisa and they reside in Charleston, WV.



### **Kim Barber Tieman**

Kim is the Health and Human Service Program Director for the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. Kim has a Masters Degree in Social Work and is a Licensed Social Worker in West Virginia. She has a background in community development, program development and management, grant writing, grants management, and training.

Kim served as an adjunct faculty member for the West Virginia University School of Social Work Masters of Social Work Program Charleston campus for 18 years, where she taught classes in non-profit management, finance, and social welfare policy. She has more than 30 years of experience working in nonprofit, state government and school settings.

Kim is an active community volunteer. She serves on many boards across West Virginia and is the co-chair of the West Virginia Early Childhood Council's Health Committee. She is Past-President of the National Association of Social Workers - West Virginia Chapter.





### **Nancy O'Hara Tompkins, PhD**

Dr. Nancy O'Hara Tompkins, who is based in Charleston, is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences and a Co-Investigator with the WV Prevention Research Center with over 25 years of experience in promoting healthy eating and physical activity in children.. Her research interests include youth physical activity and physical activity policy. Dr. O'Hara Tompkins holds a doctorate and a master's degree from the University of Maryland, and a baccalaureate degree from Providence College. She is the lead evaluator on the CDC funded project being presented at SOS 2018.



### **Kayla Wright**

Kayla is the Director of **Try This West Virginia**. Try This has birthed an award-winning how-to website and Facebook community, 3 successful policy campaigns, 258 rural community health projects, 13 regional or statewide collaborations (Healthy Bodies, Healthy Spirits; Mindfulness WV; etc.), and trained more than 2500 citizen leaders to take action in their communities. Kayla earned her bachelor's in International Business and Master's in Business Administration with a Nonprofit Management Concentration in four years from West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Kayla was the first person in her family to graduate high school as well. She was the 2016 Senior Class President at WVWC. Kayla co-chaired the tobacco-free initiative that passed into effect May 2016. After graduation Kayla worked as an Salesfloor Executive Team Leader at Target managing 35 direct reports and 119 store employees when acting as Leader on Duty. She enjoys a wide array of physical activity ranging from aerial yoga to rock climbing. In 2017 Kayla started her position with Try This WV.

As Deputy Director of Try This she is building a network comprised of local leaders from schools, churches, and a wide range of organizations. Kayla believes in the Try This mission of "Knocking WV off the top of the worst health lists," through our motto, "It's up to us!"

