



Speaker's Biographies

September 19, 2019

Kimberlydawn Wisdom, MD

Senior Vice President of Community Health & Equity
Chief Wellness & Diversity Officer
Henry Ford Health System
Michigan's First Surgeon General

Kimberlydawn Wisdom, MD, MS is the Senior Vice President of Community Health & Equity and Chief Wellness and Diversity Officer at Henry Ford Health System. She is a board-certified emergency medicine physician, the Chair of the Gail and Lois Warden Endowment on Multicultural Health, and Michigan's and the nation's First State-level Surgeon General. In 2012 she was appointed by President Obama to serve on the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion and Integrative and Public Health.

Since 1987, Dr. Wisdom has been on the faculty of University of Michigan (UM) Medical School's Department of Medical Education and adjunct professor in the UM School of Public Health. Dr. Wisdom focuses on health disparities/health care equity, infant mortality/maternal and child health, chronic disease, unintended pregnancy, physical inactivity, unhealthy eating habits and tobacco use. She has worked collaboratively with school districts, faith-based organizations and the business community.

Maureen Smith, MD, MPH, PhD

Professor, Departments of Population Health Sciences and Family Medicine
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Maureen Smith is a Professor in the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, Departments of Population Health Sciences and Family Medicine & Community Health. Dr. Smith's research has contributed substantially to improving the quality of care in our health care delivery system. She has designed, implemented and evaluated the impact of health system changes on access to and quality of medical care for aging and chronically ill persons. Her current PCORI grant is a multi-site collaborative study with Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard University and the University of Iowa to evaluate case management programs for high-need high-cost patients in health care systems across the country.

Dr. Smith is a collaborator with WCHQ and the Collaborative Center for Health Equity to measure and publicly report disparities in the quality of care for health systems in Wisconsin. Recent federally-funded studies have examined the quality of primary care delivery including cancer screening and diabetes care as well as the public reporting of quality among persons with multiple chronic conditions.

Matt Gigot, MPH

Director of Performance Measurement and Analytics
Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ)

Matt Gigot is responsible for and oversees many of WCHQ's analytic and reporting projects. Most recently, he led a three-year initiative to begin measuring disparities in health care quality in Wisconsin using data submitted to WCHQ by its health system members. A statewide report highlighting disparities in health care quality was released in 2019 and the project will culminate in the public reporting of health system-level disparities in 2020.

Prior to joining WCHQ, Gigot received his Master of Public Health degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While in graduate school, he worked with Wisconsin's Department of Health Services Diabetes Prevention and Control Program on the Wisconsin HMO Collaborative Diabetes Quality Improvement Project. This initial foray into working with quality data provided Gigot with excellent experience and preparation for his position at WCHQ.

Cristy Garcia-Thomas

AdvocateAurora Health
Chief External Affairs Officer

As chief external affairs officer, Cristy Garcia-Thomas is responsible for shaping the overall experience for patients, employees and community partners. Garcia-Thomas oversees customer service, patient

experience, diversity and inclusion, government and community relations, foundation, and community health as well as community programs.

Garcia-Thomas was Aurora's first chief diversity and inclusion officer. In that position, she partnered with leaders throughout the Aurora system to incorporate diversity and inclusion into the fabric and culture of the entire health system. Her work on this front touched all parts of the organization, including patient care and experience, caregiver recruitment and engagement, retention and organizational development to supplier diversity, marketing, community relations and service quality programs.

Caroline Gomez-Tom

Director, Patient and Community Engagement
Sixteenth Street Clinic, Milwaukee

Caroline Gomez-Tom is highly qualified for her role as Director, Patient and Community Engagement, at Sixteenth Street Clinic. In her previous position as manager of the Wisconsin Navigator Collaborative for Covering Wisconsin (CWI), she helped Wisconsinites understand, use and enroll in health insurance coverage

As manager of the Milwaukee Enrollment Network (MKEN), a multi-stakeholder collaboration co-convened by CWI and the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP), Gomez-Tom organized efforts to improve consumer outreach and education, strengthen enrollment support resources and assist Milwaukee County residents in securing adequate and affordable public or private health insurance.

Gomez-Tom holds a Master's in Social Work from UW-Madison. She serves on the boards of directors for the Milwaukee Latino Health Coalition (MLHC) and Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin (CHAW) and was recently honored as one of the "40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Healthcare" by the National Minority Quality Forum.

Aaron Perry

CEO/Founder
Rebalanced-Life Wellness Association

Aaron G. Perry is a community health advocate for African American men and understands firsthand the challenges men face establishing trust with the medical community. At age 27, Perry recognized something was not right with his health and often shared his concerns with his primary care provider during numerous office visits. Repeated concerns of unexplained weight loss, frequent urination and a nagging cough forced Perry to become an advocate for his personal health until he found a physician that heard his concerns. At age 29, Perry's new physician ordered a simple blood test that revealed he had type 1.5 diabetes, a chronic health condition he lived with for more than two years.

Perry channeled his frustration into action, by rebuilding trust with his medical team consisting of an Endocrinologist, Diabetes Educator, and Nutritionist. At age 44, Perry and his medical team took on the grueling Ironman competition consisting of a 2.4-mile swim followed by a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run. Perry became the first African American person with diabetes to complete the Ironman Competition in a time of 16 hours, 35 minutes and 37 seconds.

Greg Nycz

Executive Director
Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc.

Greg Nycz is Executive Director of Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc., (FHC) a federally funded community health center. Nycz has been involved with the planning and operation of FHC for over 44 years. He has been involved in service, research and educational efforts aimed at improving the health of communities with an emphasis on vulnerable groups of people, principally rural and low-income populations.

Over the past 15 years, Nycz has become increasingly involved in activities designed to address oral health disparities in access to care and outcomes. Since 2002, FHC's partnership with Marshfield Clinic Health System has resulted in providing oral health services to over 142,297 mostly low-income patients from every county in the State. Current focus areas include addressing AODA and mental health treatment deficits throughout FHC's predominantly rural service area.

Nycz received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. He currently serves on numerous boards and committees, including the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, the Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition Steering Committee, the University of Wisconsin Medical School Oversight and Advisory Committee, and the National Association of Community Health Center's Health Policy and Rural Health Committees.