**Medicaid Forward Children’s Health: Executive**

**Working Group Members**

**State Executive Working Group Members**

**Kate Hudson**

**Alaska, CHIP Administrator**

Kate Hudson is the CHIP Administrator for the State of Alaska and has been since the beginning of 2020. She previously worked as the Executive Director of the Violent Crimes Compensation Board for the State of Alaska and is a U. K qualified lawyer.

**Melisa Byrd**

**District of Columbia, Medicaid Director**

Melisa Byrd is the Medicaid Director of the District of Columbia. In this role, Ms. Byrd serves as the principal manager for the District’s Medicaid, CHIP, Alliance and Immigrant Children’s programs. Since becoming Medicaid Director in October 2018, she has led the agency in implementing a bold agenda to reform Medicaid in the District focusing on value over volume; better coordinated care; and increased access to care.

**Lisa Lee**

**Kentucky, Medicaid Director**

Lisa Lee is the Medicaid Director in Kentucky. She has 20 years of experience with Medicaid programs. Much of her career was spent in Kentucky State government with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. While at the Cabinet, Ms. Lee served in a variety of roles within the Department for Medicaid Services, including Member Services Representative, Director of Provider Services, Policy Analyst, Deputy Commissioner, and Commissioner. In addition, Ms. Lee served as the Program Director for the Kentucky Children’s Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) for approximately 14 years. During her tenure as KCHIP Director, she led a successful outreach campaign that resulted in coverage of an additional 60,000 eligible children within Medicaid and KCHIP.

**Amanda Dumas, MD**

**Louisiana, Associate Medical Director**

Dr. Dumas has served as the Associate Medical Director for Louisiana Medicaid for the past year and focuses on maternal and child health policy issues.Dr. Dumas is a general pediatrician whose clinical care centers on adolescents and parenting teens. After completing a General Academic Pediatric Fellowship with the RAND University of Pittsburgh Scholars Program she joined the faculty at LSU School of Medicine, where as an Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics she conducts health disparities research and contributes to resident and medical student education.

**Kate Ginnis, MSW, MPH,**

**Massachusetts,** **Senior Director of Child, Youth & Family Policy and Programs**

Kate Ginnis, MSW, MPH is the Senior Director of Child, Youth & Family Policy and Programs at MassHealth, where she leads efforts to define a set of key questions and shape a cohesive strategy around children and families that encompasses efforts across a range of MassHealth policy and program areas. Previous to joining MassHealth, Kate was the Director of Behavioral Health Advocacy and Policy at Boston Children’s Hospital and co-led the Children’s Mental Health Campaign, a statewide advocacy network. Kate’s policy perspective is informed by over a decade providing treatment, teaching, and doing clinical research with children, adolescents, and families with behavioral health needs in the Emergency Department.

**Jason Lyon**

**Rhode Island, Administrator for Rhode Island Medicaid at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

Jason C. Lyon is currently an Administrator for Rhode Island Medicaid at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services with previous experience at the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. In addition to his state service, Jason has a clinical private practice, treating children and youth for the past 15+ years. Jason is an Independently Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 20 years of state service working to improve the health and well-being of children and youth in the State of Rhode Island. Jason is currently an Administrator for Rhode Island Medicaid at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services with previous experience at the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. In addition to his state service, Jason has a clinical private practice, treating children and youth for the past 15+ years.

**Ryan Van Ramshorst,** **MD, MPH**

**Texas, Chief Medical Director**

Dr. Ryan Van Ramshorst is proud to serve as the Chief Medical Director for Medicaid/CHIP Services at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. In this role, Dr. Van Ramshorst serves as the lead physician for the Texas Medicaid program, which provides needed health services to over 4 million Texans. He supervises the Office of the Medical Director, responsible for providing clinical direction and oversight of managed care and fee-for-service programs. He has been in this role since February of 2019. His professional interests include health policy (specifically Medicaid/CHIP), physician advocacy, and medical education.

**Cheryl Roberts, J.D.**

**Virginia, Deputy Director of Programs and Operations**

Cheryl J. Roberts is currently the Deputy Director of Programs and Operations at the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services where she provides executive level leadership and direction for the divisions that oversee managed care, services and operations, and program integrity programs for Medicaid/CHIP members expending $3.5 billion annually. She is experienced in a patient centered, integrated model of care that includes maternal and child health, quality, oral and behavioral health, pharmacy and long-term services. Previously, Cheryl served as Chief Operating Officer and Assistant Vice President of Operations at two large health insurance organizations.

**James Bush, MD**

**Wyoming, State Medicaid Medical Officer**

Dr. Bush is the State Medicaid Medical Officer in Wyoming. Dr. Bush joined the Wyoming Department of Health in 2007 as Staff Physician and Medicaid Medical Director. In this role he provides clinical expertise throughout the different divisions in the Department and has a strong interest in developing high value care and quality improvement programs. Prior to joining the Department, he had a solo Internal Medicine practice for 24 years in Fort Collins, CO. Interested in medical policy and performance and healthcare structure, he has filled many roles including that of Chief of Staff at Poudre Valley Hospital, President of the Colorado Society of Internal Medicine, and President of the Fort Collins IPA.

**External Executive Working Group Members**

**Carolyn Hill, Ph.D.**

**Senior Fellow at MDRC**

Carolyn Hill is a senior fellow at MDRC where she works on studies and technical assistance efforts in various policy areas, and leads MDRC’s Implementation Research Group, which supports implementation research across the organization. She also co-curates the MDRC’s [Implementation Research Incubator](https://www.mdrc.org/pub/implementation-research-incubator), which aims to inform implementation research in social policy evaluations. Hill’s recent MDRC projects include the [Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation (MIHOPE)](https://www.mdrc.org/project/mother-and-infant-home-visiting-program-evaluation-mihope#overview), the [Families Forward Demonstration (FFD)](https://www.mdrc.org/project/families-forward-demonstration#overview), the [Understanding Poverty: Childhood and Family Experiences Study](https://www.mdrc.org/project/understanding-poverty-childhood-and-family-experiences#overview), the [Head Start Connects: Individualizing and Connecting Families to Comprehensive Family Support Services](https://www.mdrc.org/project/head-start-connects#overview) study, and the [Get Ready Guilford Initiative (GRGI)](https://www.mdrc.org/project/get-ready-guilford-initiative#overview) evaluation. Prior to joining MDRC, Hill was a faculty member in the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University for 16 years, where she also served a three-year term as associate dean for academic affairs.

**Charles Irwin, Jr., MD**

**Professor at UCSF School of Medicine**

Dr. Irwin is a distinguished professor of pediatrics and director of the Division of Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine at the University of California (UCSF) School of Medicine and the UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital. Irwin is a graduate of Hobart College, Dartmouth Medical School and UCSF. He heads the National Adolescent Health Information and Innovation Center (NAHIC) where the Adolescent and Young Adult Health National Resource Center (AYA-NRC is located. Irwin has led the federally funded Leadership Training Program in Adolescent Health since 1977. Over 300 health professional graduate students and fellows have been trained in this program at UCSF since its inception. His current health services research program focuses on improving preventive screening practices in clinical settings and the financial and structural issues altering adolescents’ and young adults’ ability to access health care in the United States.

**Dayna Long, M.D.**

**Co-Director for Community Health and Engagement at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital**

Dr. Dayna Long is Co-Director for Community Health and Engagement at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital. She is a pediatrician with special interests in community health and engagement, and in promoting equity in health care. In her practice, she loves supporting parents and caregivers, and her patients fill her with inspiration and awe. Her goal is to enable all children to be as healthy as possible by eliminating the inequities that lead to poor health outcomes for many families and young children. Dr. Long's research and advocacy examines ways to make communities healthier, such as shifting traditional health care practices to team-based models focused on prevention. Dr. Long earned her medical degree from the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. At UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, she completed a residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in infectious diseases. She has additional training in incorporating cultural humility into patient care.

**Frank Alexander, MPA**

**Managing Director of Judicial and National Engagement** **Casey Family Programs**

Alexander serves as the Managing Director of Judicial and National Engagement at Casey Family Programs, where he is working to strengthen the foundation’s 21st child welfare transformation efforts.  This work is centered on building just, thriving communities and advancing child and family well-being by supporting cross-sector collaboratives and partnerships.  This includes engagement with two critical elements of the nation’s effort to keep children safe and families strong, the judicial branch and executive branch agencies of the federal government.  One such effort is the Thriving Families, Safer Children: A National Commitment to Well-Being led in partnership by the U.S. Children’s Bureau, other federal agencies, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Prevent Child Abuse America.  Prior to joining Casey, Alexander served as the Director of the Boulder County, CO, Department of Housing and Human Services (BCDHHS) and the Executive Director of the Boulder County Housing Authority.  Over the last several years, Frank has been focused on expanding the national infrastructure for diverse and affordable housing and strengthening early childhood and universal supports PN to 5.

**Holly Henry, Ph.D.**

**Director of the Program for Children with Special Health Care Needs** **Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health**

Holly Henry is Director of the Program for Children with Special Health Care Needs at the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. In this role, she works with grantees focused on improving care coordination, implementing quality standards, increasing family engagement and developing self-management supports for children with special health care needs and their families. Holly has managed several international and domestic research studies focusing on child and adolescent health issues, including obesity prevention, media use and awareness, HIV prevention, and tobacco marketing. Dr. Henry earned her Masters and PhD from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is the proud mother of three children.

**Dr. Nia J. Heard-Garris, MD, MSc**

**Pediatrician and a physician-investigator at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine**

Dr. Nia Heard-Garris is a pediatrician and a physician-investigator at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and in the Department of Pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She examines the influence of social adversities experienced in childhood and subsequent child and adolescent health. Dr. Heard-Garris is also interested in the factors that contribute to a child’s ability to thrive despite these experiences. Dr. Heard-Garris is also an active member in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and serves as the Chair and founding member of the Section of Minority Health, Equity, and Inclusion. Dr. Heard-Garris completed a prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Fellowship at the University of Michigan. She earned her Master of Science in Health and Healthcare Research. She received her Doctor of Medicine (MD) from Howard University College of Medicine and earned her Bachelor of Science in biology at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia.