

Event Faculty Details

Assessing Hospitals and Health Systems to Promote Equity

Michigan Health Equity Summit

November 3, 2021

Paul Elam, PhD

MPHI; Chief Strategy Officer

Session: Opening

Dr. Elam is responsible for diversifying the Institute's portfolio to address cutting edge issues that affect the health and well-being of our society. Dr. Elam brings a wealth of knowledge and experience measuring racial and ethnic disproportionality and believes that sound public policy analysis should include an examination of whether all people are being treated fairly and equitably. His current leadership efforts include mentoring and training professionals from historically underrepresented groups in culturally responsive and equitable engagement to ensure that the people who are most impacted are at the center of conversations which seek to find solutions to problems affecting them. Dr. Elam works closely with governmental, philanthropic, university, and nonprofit clients, providing strategic consultation to advance decisions in ways that improve lives, advance social justice and produce equitable outcomes. Dr. Elam earned a PhD in Family and Child Ecology, a Master's degree in Criminal Justice and Urban Studies, and a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, all from Michigan State University.

Samantha Fell, MS, PMP

Spectrum Health Lakeland; Director, Clinical Integration and Quality Improvement

Session: Spectrum Presentation

Samantha Fell is the Director of Clinical Integration and Process Improvement at Lakeland Care Network and Spectrum Health Lakeland. She is responsible for the development and implementation of a division-wide strategic and transformational roadmap systematically improving operational execution through the adoption and application of improvement science. Her role also includes developing a sustainable culture of excellence, accountability, and collaboration in the delivery of standard and efficient solutions sustaining overall value. In her role she leads a dynamic team of process improvement champions, nurses and pharmacists who work throughout the system to coordinate care in the right place at the right time. A strong proponent of system innovation, she is engaged in several system and community projects that support the mission and vision of Spectrum Health Lakeland.

Event Faculty Details

Brenda Jegede, MPH, MSW

MDHHS; Office of Equity & Minority Health Leader

Session: State Disparities Presentation

Brenda Jegede has worked in a variety of positions focused on health equity, maternal and child health, HIV/STD services and injury prevention with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for more than seventeen years. In my capacity as Leader of the Office of Equity and Minority Health and as the Project Manager for Practices to Reduce Infant Mortality through Equity (PRIME) at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, I have participated in several trainings. Topics covered in the trainings include life course theory, social determinants of health, health equity and institutional racism and implicit bias. Trainings have included: Inside Our Mind: Hidden Biases (MDHHS), Health Equity & Social Justice (Ingham County Health Department/Michigan Public Health Institute), Undoing Racism (People's Institute for Survival and Beyond), Health Equity Learning Labs (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Life Course Theory (Dr. Michael Lu and FIMR Life course Symposium). Translating research and theory into practice was the major objective of the PRIME initiative. PRIME was developed to build the capacity of state MCH employees to incorporate equity into their daily work. I have several years of experience managing state contracts and providing technical assistance and consultation in the areas of reproductive health, injury prevention and HIV/AIDS. Additionally, as a Social Worker in hospital and clinical settings, I have developed care plans that address the health and social needs of clients. My current responsibilities include administration of the statewide minority health program, including development of policies, procedures and standards, assessment of trends and issues and coordination of activities with coordination of activities with local, state, regional and federal governmental agencies. I also managed the HIV/AIDS Continuum of Care Unit within the Division of HIV and STD Programs. I was responsible for providing a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medications and essential support services for low-income people living with HIV. I have presented on the topic of health equity at state and national conferences including the Michigan Premiere Public Health Conference, Michigan Health Policy Forum, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, American Public Health Association, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, State/Federal Maternal and Child Health Partnership Technical Assistance Meeting and the CityMatCH Leadership and MCH Epidemiology Conference.

Event Faculty Details

Kevin Ahmaad Jenkins, PhD

Lecturer

Session: Opening/Closing Keynote

A two-time award-winning national journalist, health disparities activist, and dynamic speaker, Dr. Kevin Ahmaad Jenkins is one of the most electrifying voices in America dedicated to eliminating racial health disparities. Dr. Jenkins focused on breaking the social stigmas relating to racial injustice in the fields of healthcare, organizational culture, and design learning for executive leadership. His efforts in analyzing the link between racial stress and vascular-based diseases has received an extensive commendation from the leading health and education authorities. Named among the 40 Under 40 Leaders in Health by the National Quality Forum, his contributions have been featured in media outlets such as ABC World News, The Grio, Philadelphia Inquirer, The Philadelphia Tribune, and NBC. Dr. Jenkins serves as a fellow within the Veteran's Health Administration's Office of Minority Health and on the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Roundtable on Health Equity. Enlightening the masses on how racism negatively influences health, he leverages innovative data-driven strategies to improve the quality of health and the standards of healthcare services of racial and ethnic minorities. Dr. Kevin Ahmaad Jenkins keenly delivers evidence-based solutions to dismantle the effects of racism from health, healthcare, and healthcare decision-making. Dr. Jenkins articulates his real-life experiences and enduring knowledge through powerful presentations, lasting empathy, and straight-talks to lead strategies focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion-to-action. He has successfully navigated academics, healthcare, and corporate arenas as both a thought-leader and consultant working with notable clients such as McDonald's, McKesson Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson, FedEx, The United States Coast Guard Academy, and Booz Allen Hamilton. Acknowledged as a national authority on racism in medicine, Dr. Kevin Ahmaad Jenkins has collaborated with 36 hospital associations and a multitude of healthcare systems on how bring equity to healthcare organizations.

Abby Leonard, RN, MSN

Bronson Healthcare Group; Patient Safety & Quality Coordinator

Session: Bronson Presentation

Abby is the acting co-chair of Bronson's engagement in the MHA Equity Collaborative and coordinator of the Health Equity of Care Performance Improvement Committee, leading the development of the equity data infrastructure, specifically focused on the improvement and implementation of sociocultural demographic data collection and establishing sustainable practices, policies and structures that support ongoing integration of equity into quality improvement.

Event Faculty Details

Molly C. Dwyer-White, MPH

MHA; Vice President of Safety and Quality

Session: Opening

Molly C. Dwyer-White, MPH, serves as the MHA's vice president of safety and quality and the MHA Keystone Center's executive director. In this role, she is responsible for all quality and safety issues for the MHA, including the leadership of the MHA Keystone Center. As executive director, Ms. Dwyer-White collaborates with Michigan hospitals to drive innovation with quality and safety agenda, overseeing the center's state and national patient safety activities, which encompass the work of the MHA's federally certified Patient Safety Organization.

Drawing from scientific evidence and lived experiences of patients and families, Ms. Dwyer-White leverages patients and families and community members as partners to drive and foster a culture of patient and family centered care. Using evidence-based practices, she spearheads initiatives that drive equitable and high-quality outcomes across hospitals and health systems statewide and beyond.

Prior to the MHA, Ms. Dwyer-White served as the director for the Office of Patient Experience at Michigan Medicine where she provided leadership on systemwide initiatives to improve the patient and family experience. From point of care to healthcare system design, her work aimed to draw from the interdependence of providing high quality care in a safe environment.

Ms. Dwyer-White has also spent years in program development and outreach for non-profit community organizations. Her passion for collaborating with partners has resulted in work that fosters innovative community and patient-engaged research and programs that produce outcomes that matter to people and families.

Kathy Stiffler, MA

MSU, Institute for Health Policy; Sr. Health Policy Advisor

Session: Welcome, Closing

Kathy Stiffler has over 35 years of experience with the State of Michigan's State Health Department and is now with Michigan State University's Institute for Health Policy as the Senior Health Policy Advisor and Executive Director of the Michigan Health Policy Forum. In her roles with MDHHS, she managed numerous Public Health programs including Child and Adolescent Health Centers, Maternal and Infant Health Programs, the Children's Special Health Care Services Program and was the deputy director of the State Medicaid Program including serving as the Acting Medicaid Director for two years. Kathy holds a B.S in Public Health Education and a M.A. in Hospital Health Education both from Central Michigan University.

Event Faculty Details

Lynn Todman, PhD, MCP

Spectrum Health; VP Health Equity

Session: Spectrum Presentation

Lynn Todman, PhD is the Vice President of Health Equity at Spectrum Health where she provides strategic oversight and coordination of health equity efforts across health care system's three divisions – Spectrum Health West Michigan, Spectrum Health Lakeland, and Priority Health. Prior to this role, she was Vice President for Health Equity, and the Executive Director of Population Health at Spectrum Health Lakeland. Before joining Spectrum Health Lakeland, Lynn worked in higher education, including at the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago; the University of Milan and Politicnico di Milano in Italy; Western Michigan University, the University of Notre Dame, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Lynn earned a B.A. from Wellesley College, and a Master's in City Planning (M.C.P) and a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is a City Commissioner for the city of St. Joseph, MI, and a Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Leader working to advance health equity through cross-sector and cross-professional collaborations.

Beth Washington, BA

Bronson Healthcare Group; VP Community Health, Equity, and Inclusion

Session: Bronson Presentation

Beth Washington is a Kalamazoo native. She is a graduate of Kalamazoo Central and Kalamazoo College with degrees in Human Resources and Relations and a Secondary Teaching Certificate in all Social Studies subject and English. She currently serves as Vice President of Community Health, Equity and Inclusion. A transformative leader at Bronson, Beth inspires, guides, and supports Bronson's implementation of the American Hospital Association's Equity of Care Pledge, which she adapted to create a Bronson Equity Framework. She serves as executive support for Bronson's Community Health Committee, chair of the system's Equity Council, and co-chair of the system Health Equity of Care Performance Improvement Committee. She and her team work to shape mindsets and environments for all to have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy. She has developed and implemented a strategic plan to combat institutional health inequities. She has improved and expanded the delivery of language services across the system for non-English speakers; increased the active participation of Bronson in collective impact projects and was part of the collaborative team that "Banned the Box" from the Bronson application process. Her and her team continue to develop and implement innovative intercultural development education. Beth's work also extends into the community. She is a member of the steering committees for Southwest Michigan Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative and Cradle Kalamazoo.