

# Health Care Solutions for Utahns

2019



UHPP Annual Conference

**UTAH HEALTH POLICY PROJECT**

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**UHPP** | Utah Health  
Policy Project

Sustainable Health Care Solutions for Underserved Utahns

Thank you for joining us today as we discuss ways to improve our state's health care system through better access, education, and public policy. Keeping the health care consumer front and center.

# Health Care Solutions for Utahns

## Agenda

Thursday, December 11, 2019

Utah Cultural Celebration Center

1355 West 3100 South, West Valley City, Utah 84119

**8:30-9:30am Breakfast and Registration**

**9:30-9:45am Welcome and Introduction**

**Matt Slonaker**, Executive Director, UHPP

**Kristy Chambers**, Chair, UHPP Board of Trustees

**9:45-10:30am Keynote – Health Coverage for Utah’s Children and Families: What can be Done?**

**Joan Alker**

Executive Director, Georgetown Center for Children and Families

**10:30 – 10:45pm Morning Break**

**10:45 – 11:15pm Medicaid Expansion Update**

**Stacy Stanford**, Policy Analyst, UHPP

**11:15-12:15pm Panel 1: Health Access Assistants: How have they made a difference in Utah?**

**Moderator: Maria Guadarrama**, Community Relations Director, TCU

*For nearly 8 years, Utah Health Policy Project has provided direct health care insurance enrollment and coverage to care services to the public. This panel will focus on: what Health Access Assistants do, how has the job changed over the years, and why this work is so important.*

Sarah Leetham, Healthy Kids Program Director, TCU

Allison Heffernan, SUD Outreach and Enrollment Program Director, TCU

Brittney Roylance, Health Care Consumer, TCU

Luis Rios, Coverage to Care Program Director/Lead Broker, TCU

**12:15 – 1:00pm Lunch**

<b>1:00 – 1:45pm</b>	<b>Keynote – Drug Costs a Top Financial Concern in Utah and the Nation: A Solutions-Oriented Discussion</b>
	<b>Elaine Ryan</b>
	Vice President of State Advocacy and Strategy Integration AARP
<b>1:45 -2:00pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Break</b>
<b>2:00 – 3:00pm</b>	<b>Panel 2: Health Care Affordability: What are the Next Best Steps in Solving the Affordability Crisis in Utah</b>
	<b>Moderator: Matt Gephardt, KUTV</b>
	<i>Health care affordability is consistently a top tier concern for Utahns, from high drug prices, increasing premiums and copays, to large amounts of wasteful spending. The panel will discuss pragmatic solutions about what is being done and what should be done to bring health care costs down for Utahns.</i>
	Jen Hepworth, Health Care Consumer
	Representative Brad Daw
	Representative Suzanne Harrison
	Laura Summers, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, Senior Health Policy Analyst
<b>3:00-3:15pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Break</b>
<b>3:15-4:15pm</b>	<b>Panel 3: Health Disparities Across Utah: A Look at the Data and Finding Solutions</b>
	<b>Moderator: Courtney Bullard, UHPP Education and Collaboration Director</b>
	<i>A recent study by the Utah Office of Health Disparities offers an exceptionally unique breakdown of health disparities in Utah. Panel experts will weigh in about how to best utilize this wealth of data to create targeted policy solutions to combat health disparities around the state.</i>
	Brittney Okada, Office of Health Disparities
	Dr. Jose Rodriguez, Interim Associate Vice President for Health Equity and Inclusion, University of Utah
	Representative Sandra Hollins
	Representative Christine Watkins
<b>4:15 – 4:30pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks and Prize Giveaway</b>

# **Keynote:**

## **How National and State-Level Health Care Trends affect Utah's Children and Families**

**Joan Alker** | Executive Director, Georgetown Center for Children and Families



Joan Alker is the Executive Director and a Co-Founder of the Center for Children and Families (CCF), and a Research Professor at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy. Her work focuses on health coverage for low-income children and families, with an emphasis on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Two of her most recent reports examine the role of Medicaid in rural areas and the nation's progress on covering children. She has authored numerous reports and studies on a range of issues including Medicaid waivers, premium assistance, and was the principal investigator of a multi-year study on Florida's Medicaid program. A frequent speaker and commentator, Alker has twenty-five years of experience working on issues affecting low-income families. She holds a Master of Philosophy in politics from St. Antony's College, Oxford University and a Bachelor of Arts with honors in political science from Bryn Mawr College.

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# Medicaid Expansion Update

**Stacy Stanford** | *Health Policy Analyst, UHPP*



Stacy Stanford is the health policy analyst at Utah Health Policy Project. Her focus is on healthcare access through a disability rights lens, and she has been an active advocate for patients and consumers for over a decade. Stacy began her career as an activities director in long term care centers, working primarily with residents with dementia. After a car accident caused disabling health issues, Stacy shifted gears, and she went back to school where she received a BA in disability justice from Westminster College in 2016; this was a customized degree program combining political science, sociology, and justice studies. Stacy began with UHPP as a consumer volunteer in 2014, then came on board as an intern, then part-time associate. She has now been with the organization as the health policy analyst since 2017. Stacy organized more than two dozen health care defense events during the ACA repeal fight of 2017, and she led much of the grassroots volunteer efforts behind the successful 2018 Proposition 3 Medicaid expansion ballot initiative campaign. In her spare time, Stacy serves on the boards of the Disability Law Center and Art Access; she also enjoys creating mixed media art, cooking, and watching as much football as possible.

## Health Access Assistants: How have they made a difference in Utah?

### **Maria Guadarrama | Take Care Utah Community Relations Director**



Maria graduated from Utah State University with a Global Communications major where she found a passion for the nonprofit sector. Soon after graduating she moved to Salt Lake City where she joined AmeriCorps, in 2015 and served at UHPP as a Certified Application Counselor. After her year of service at UHPP, she joined the Association of Utah Community Health as a Community Health Worker. Her role as a liaison was to assist clients in connecting, listening and advocating for their health. She then had the opportunity to become a Community Outreach Coordinator for Molina Healthcare where she strengthened her relationship with organizations and community leaders. Because of her experience and passion with nonprofit organizations María continued her education at Westminster, completing her Graduate program in Masters of Arts in Community Leadership (MACL). María has a drive in working with the Latina/o community and hopes to continue serving her community. This year she had the opportunity to lead the Take Care Utah Hispanic Heritage Parade and Street Festival, which, she says was the highlight of her year.

### **Sarah Leetham | Healthy Kids Program Director**



Sarah has always had a desire to work within her community. She has volunteered with the VOA-Homeless Youth Resource Center, Rape Recovery Center, and the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault. She also had several years of experience under her belt within the healthcare industry. Right out of high school she began working at ARUP Laboratories full time, handling patient samples, and eventually moving into the field of quality control and advocating for better patient care. She graduated from the University of Utah in 2018 with a double B.S. in Consumer and Community Studies, and Health, Society, and Policy.

This is where she first encountered UHPP, as they were working on the Proposition 3 Ballot Initiative to fully expand Medicaid in the state of Utah. While at the University, she worked with Alliance for a Better Utah, and HEAL Utah during legislative sessions. She advocated for legislative changes that supported healthy communities. She has a passion for the policy process and how it can impact determinants of health. When she is not working at UHPP, she's either canvassing for a local election, cooking dinner for friends, or walking her three dogs.

## **Allison Heffernan | SUD Outreach and Enrollment Program Director**



Allison Heffernan joined UHPP October 2018 as a Health Access Assister. She took on the role as Substance Use Disorder Outreach and Enrollment Program Director in August 2019. She graduated from the University of Utah in 2016 with a B.A. in International Studies with an emphasis in Global Health and a double minor in Spanish and Nutrition. While there she developed her beliefs that healthcare should be available for everyone. She is excited to serve her community in assisting people to gain access to healthcare. Growing up she was a part of the organization National Charity League (NCL) for over 7 years volunteering with organizations throughout Salt Lake County. In the summer of 2016, Allison joined Planned Parenthood Association of Utah (PPAU) as their education intern. She worked with both the community educators and the public affairs team, helping facilitate comprehensive sex education classes with different organizations. In October of 2017 she became a Youth Counselor for the Housing Authority of the County of Salt Lake (HACSL) for an after-school program for youth in their public housing.

## **Brittany Roylance | Health Care Consumer**



Brittany Roylance is from Oregon and the mother of 4 amazing children. In May 2019, she went to the Volunteers of America Center for Women and Children, which is where she met Allison Heffernan. Allison helped her get on Medicaid Expansion, which helped her get enrolled in VOA's Cornerstone Counseling Center for treatment services and get a treatment evaluation. She can now access a Primary Physician for mental and physical health. "If it wasn't for Medicaid expansion, I would be just another lost

soul, homeless on the streets without medication or healthcare. There are all vital to my survival and I am so thankful to this program and want others to know it is possible and help is out there."

## **Luis Rios | Coverage to Care Program Director/Lead Broker**



Luis Rios is a Health Access Assister at UHPP, where he helps individuals and families sign up for health insurance. He first came to UHPP through AmeriCorps in 2013, where he focused on lowering the uninsured rate for Utah children by enrolling them in Medicaid and CHIP as part of United Way of Salt Lake's Promise Neighborhood program. After his one-year term with AmeriCorps, Luis joined the enrollment team at UHPP as a navigator for Take Care Utah. Luis is one of the most experienced enrollment assisters in the state, where he primarily serves Utah's Hispanic community, while also assisting individuals leaving the criminal justice system. As a Coverage to Care Program Director, Luis directs UHPP's efforts on making sure that the individuals and families understand their new coverage, get connected to a Primary Care Provider, understand resources the health insurance plans offer. Luis and his wife live in Tooele with their three daughters, and a dog.

# Keynote

## Drug Costs a Top Financial Concern in Utah and Around the Nation: A Solutions-Oriented Discussion

**Elaine Ryan** | *Vice President of State Advocacy and Strategy Integration, AARP*



Elaine M. Ryan, MPA, is the Vice President of State Advocacy and Strategy Integration (SASI) in the Government Affairs Department of AARP. She leads a team of legislative staff who work with 53 state offices to advance AARP's state advocacy agenda with Governors and state legislators throughout the nation. This work is to enable individuals age 50 plus and their families to attain and maintain their financial and health security. Elaine earned her Master of Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a Bachelors in Economics from Fordham University.

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## Health Care Affordability: What are the Next Best Steps To Solve the Affordability Crisis in Utah

**Matt Gephhardt | KUTV**



Matt Gephhardt is a reporter at KUTV in Salt Lake City. He has worked at KUTV since 1998 and has been the on-air face of the popular Get Gephhardt watchdog unit since 2010. Gephhardt's consumer investigations frequently expose situations of patients stuck in medical insurance and hospital billing nightmares.

**Jen Hepworth | Health Care Consumer**



Jen Hepworth lives with her husband of 8 years and her 4 kids in Layton, Utah. Her 6 year old was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at 3 weeks old and she has been her daughter's advocate ever since. She spends her "free" time volunteering for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, sitting on the Intermountain Cystic Fibrosis Parent Advisory Council, advocating for healthcare concerns, volunteering in her kids' classroom and PTO, and driving her kids around to all of their activities.

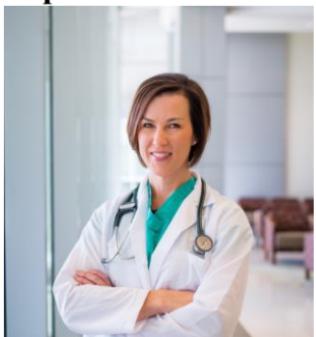
## **Representative Brad Daw | District 60**



Representative Brad Daw was born in Provo, Utah on February 7, 1963, the eldest of six children. He spent most of his childhood in Shelley, Idaho, where his father was a potato farmer. In 1987, he graduated from BYU with a BS in electrical engineering and in 1992, from San Jose State University with an MS. Daw is an Eagle Scout and recipient of the Silver Beaver award. He holds two U.S. patents, one for a unique electrical circuit design and another for a unique software concept. He currently works

as a software engineer at Adobe in Lehi. His foray into politics was kicked off when he attended his first neighborhood caucus meeting and ended up being elected chair of the precinct. He loves being a part of the House of Representatives because he feels like it gives him a chance to help make Utah a better place for all of us. Rep. Daw is passionate about prescription drug abuse prevention, advocating for transparency and integrity in elections, and promoting payday lending practices that benefit both the borrower and the lender. He is also passionate about advancing reasonable and consensus-based cannabis policy. In an effort to more effectively communicate with his constituents, Rep. Daw was one of the first legislators to put out a weekly newsletter and taught a number of his colleagues how to create their own mailing list so they could do the same. He loves the outdoors, especially hiking, biking and camping, and his favorite place for those activities in Utah is Arches National Park.

## **Representative Suzanne Harrison | District 32**



Suzanne was recently elected to the Utah House and represents HD 32 which includes parts of Sandy, Draper, and White City. She is a practicing physician anesthesiologist at Intermountain Riverton Hospital. She grew up in Provo and graduated from Stanford University, attended medical school at the University of Utah and completed her training in anesthesiology at Harvard Medical School. She recently served as President of the Salt Lake County Medical Society.

She and her husband, John, have lived in Sandy and Draper for over 10 years. Their three children attend local public schools. She and her family enjoy skiing, mountain biking, traveling together, and making pancakes on the weekends.

## **Laura Summers | Ken C. Gardner Policy Institute, Senior Health Policy Analyst**



Laura Summers serves as the senior health care analyst at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, conducting research on health care data, policies, and impacts to the Utah health care sector. Summers has expertise in health care, economics, and public policy. Her professional experience includes research for the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. In health care, Summers' research focus is state-level health reform, with a particular focus in Medicaid, public health, and health insurance markets. Prior to joining the Institute, Summers

was the senior director of state intelligence at Leavitt Partners, where she prepared detailed studies of state-by-state comparative data and analyzed national and state health care programs, policies, and trends. In addition to providing research and consulting services to payers, providers, and other health care companies, Summers led health care reform initiatives in states such as Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Washington State. Summers also oversaw the Leavitt Partners teams in designing, managing, and facilitating stakeholder engagement processes for state government projects. Summers previously served as the research director of the Utah Foundation – a nonprofit research firm that publishes reports on issues affecting government policies. Summers received her master of public policy with an emphasis in public economics from Brigham Young University and her bachelor's degree in economics from Westminster College.

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## Health Disparities Across Utah: A Look at the Data and Finding Solutions

**Courtney Bullard | UHPP Education and Collaboration Director**



Courtney claims Clinton, Utah as home, although she spent many of her younger years living in the Middle East. After graduating from the University of Utah with degrees in political science and Arabic, she returned to the area to work for the Ministry of Social Development in Amman, Jordan. That experience sparked a deeper interest in policy research and so afterwards she moved to England to work on a master's degree in social policy and evaluation. While studying in England, she collaborated with several

nonprofits to do more health and immigration policy evaluations related to refugee and immigration issues in England, Lebanon, Jordan, and northern Iraq. Before starting at UHPP, she returned to Salt Lake City and worked in direct service at Women of the World. In her personal time she enjoys playing with her nieces and nephews, practicing Arabic, and reading novels.

**Brittney Okada | Office of Health Disparities**



Brittney Okada works for the Utah Department of Health Office of Health Disparities, where she coordinates and evaluates programs and efforts with vulnerable communities aimed at advancing health equity. She graduated from the University of Utah School of Medicine's Department of Family and Preventive Medicine with a master's degree in public health (MPH). Her experience in public practice and health equity work has involved community-based participatory research, maternal and child health, oral health, and access to care. Brittney is the primary author of the Health Disparities by Utah Legislative District report.

## **José E. Rodríguez, MD | University of Utah**



José E. Rodríguez, MD, FAAFP currently serves as Interim Associate Vice President for Health Equity and Inclusion, is a professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, and Associate Medical Director at the Redwood Health Center. While at the University of Utah, Dr. Rodríguez has taken a strong role in advancing the institutional goals for health equity and inclusion.

Within his department, he has served on the diversity committee, as well as various recruitment committees supporting focused recruitment of underrepresented ethnic and racial minority (URM) faculty and residents. He has represented the university presenting at national conferences on our work and his research on diversity initiatives. Prior to his appointment at the University of Utah, Dr. Rodríguez served as the co-chair of the Council on Diversity and Inclusion and the co-director for the Center for Underrepresented Minorities in Academic Medicine at Florida State University College of Medicine. His academic achievements include publishing several articles on the importance of URM in academic medicine.

## **Representative Sandra Hollins | District 23**



Representative Sandra Hollins was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and has been a Salt Lake City resident for the past 28 years. She and her husband David currently reside in Fair Park and have two daughters, Jaynell and Canice.. Rep. Hollins is a licensed clinical social worker, and the primary focus of her career has been on substance abuse treatment and advocacy services for Salt Lake City's homeless population. Sandra received her bachelor's degree in business management from the

University of Phoenix and her master's degree in social work from the University of Utah. As the first Black American woman elected to the Utah House of Representatives Sandra proudly serves District 23. She serves as the House Minority Caucus Manager, and is a member of the Social Services Appropriations Committee, the Health and Human Services Standing Committee, the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Standing Committee, and the Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel. Notably, she sponsored HB460, the School to Prison Pipeline bill, which requires cultural training for student resource officers.

Sandra is a member of the graduate chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., is a graduate of the Westside Leadership Institute, and has served on numerous boards and councils.

## Representative Christine Watkins | *District 69*



Christine was born in Logan, Utah, where she attended schools in Logan and Lewiston, Utah. She grew up by her grandparents in Lewiston and milked cows, thinned and hoed sugar beets, hauled hay and moved sprinkler pipe. After 8th grade her family moved to Lompoc, California. She was very active in high school and had numerous leadership roles. She graduated from Utah State University with a B.S. in Elementary Education. She has three Special Education endorsements from BYU and a Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of Utah. Christine taught school for 20+ years and worked for the Utah Education Association for 12 years. After her retirement, she became the elementary principal for the local charter school. She lived in Castle Dale, Utah, for 30 years. She was very active in church and community, serving for over 18 years on the city Planning and Zoning Committee. Christine was also co-owner and operator of a carpet cleaning business. She helped her late husband with 30 acres of farmland and a small herd of sheep. Christine is married to John Watkins, who is also her campaign manager. Christine is the mother of five children, 4 sons and 1 daughter. She is the happy grandma to 6 grandkids. She and John live in Carbon County on two and a half acres and enjoy working on their property. Christine has always lived in rural areas and is an adamant advocate for the people who live in rural Utah and the multiple use of its lands. Christine is serving on the, Natural Resources Agriculture, and Environment Committee and Public Education Standing Committees. She is the House Vice-Chair of the Business, Economic Development, and Labor Committee. She is also the House Chair of the Child Welfare Oversight Committee and Native American Liaison Committee.

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## **Matt Slonaker| Executive Director, UHPP**



Matt, after a year as UHPP's Medicaid Policy Director, became Executive Director in September 2013. Matt's unique background includes growing up on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana, working in Washington D.C. and New York City, and marrying a Spaniard! Educated at the University of Montana, Matt took an early interest in policy and government, first studying political science and economics, then going on to complete a law degree. Shortly after law school, Matt joined Governor Brian Schweitzer's budget team in Helena, MT working as an economist and tax policy analyst. Washington, D.C. was the next career stop when Matt began work for Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus. While serving as a nonprofits policy adviser and outreach coordinator, Matt had the opportunity to work on two pieces of landmark legislation: the Affordable Care Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Matt went from political staffer to community advocate upon taking a position in New York City at Care for the Homeless. At Care for the Homeless, he helped coordinate a coalition of providers of health care for the homeless in dealing with vast changes to state Medicaid policy. In Utah, Matt was a founding organizer of the successful Proposition 3 campaign to expand Medicaid and improve health care in the state. He has been quoted extensively in national and local press as a go-to thought leader on health care (including but not limited to the Salt Lake Tribune, NPR Utah, Deseret News, KSL News, New York Times, the New Yorker, Bloomberg News, Huffington Post, and Politico.) When he isn't taking orders from his two little girls, Matt continues to work hard with his team and community partners to develop strategies that strengthen Utah's health care system.

**Kristy Chambers | Chair, Board of Trustees, UHPP**



Kristy Chambers currently serves as the Executive Director of Columbus Community Center and is the former Chief Executive Officer of Wasatch Homeless Health Care, Inc., better known as Fourth Street Clinic. A certified public accountant for over twenty years, Kristy's professional background includes public accounting and top level management positions in healthcare, real estate, retail, and hospitality. Kristy is currently an instructor with the University of Utah Nonprofit Academy and serves on various local and national non-profit boards. Kristy graduated Cum Laude from UCLA with a degree in Economics/Business and has a Masters degree in Taxation, with honors, from the Washington School of Law.



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## NOTES

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