



## Health in Rural America: Innovative Solutions to Address Disparities

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

**KATHRYN SANTORO, MPP** is Director of Programming at the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to transforming health care through evidence and collaboration. Ms. Santoro currently leads NIHCM's programs to highlight market and policy innovations, including webinars and Capitol Hill briefings, and directs the organization's journalism and population health programs.

Ms. Santoro joined NIHCM Foundation in September 2004 after receiving her Master's degree in Public Policy from the George Washington University with a focus on women's health policy. Ms. Santoro previously served as a Project Consultant for Women in Government where she was responsible for compiling a state-by-state report card on access to cervical cancer screening. While pursuing her Master's degree, Ms. Santoro was a Communications Assistant for a health policy consulting firm and a Graduate Intern for a Washington, D.C. based women's and children's policy research organization. Ms. Santoro attended Villanova University in Villanova, PA and graduated with a BA cum laude in Political Science.

**CARA JAMES, PhD** is the Director of the Office of Minority Health at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Prior to joining the Office of Minority Health at CMS, Dr. James was the Director of the Disparities Policy Project and the Director of the Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, where she was responsible for addressing a broad array of health and access to care issues for racial and ethnic minorities and other underserved populations, including the potential impact of the Affordable Care Act, analyses of state-level disparities in health and access to care, and disparities in access to care among individuals living in health professional shortage areas. Prior to joining the staff at Kaiser, she worked at Harvard University and The Picker Institute.

Dr. James is a member of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities and has served on several IOM committees including the Committee on Leading Health Indicators for Healthy People 2020. She has published several peer-reviewed articles and other publications and was a co-author for one of the background chapters for the IOM Report Unequal Treatment. Cara received her Ph.D. in Health Policy and her A.B. in Psychology from Harvard University.

**MARK JANSEN, MD** serves as vice president and chief medical officer for Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He has supervisory responsibility for the following teams: Clinical Strategy and Population Health, Corporate Medical Director, Enterprise Quality & Risk Management and Quality & Risk – Strategic Data & Informatics. Dr. Jansen, who has been board-certified in Family Practice medicine by the American Board of Family Practice since 1984, spent 29 years as a primary care physician in Arkadelphia, Arkansas before joining the UAMS faculty in 2013. Most recently he served as chief medical officer for Regional Programs for the UAMS Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program. He is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice and Arkansas Medical Society.

In April 2016, Dr. Jansen was invested as the inaugural recipient of the Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, George K. Mitchell, M.D., Endowed Chair in Primary Care. The chair was established with a grant to UAMS in 2015 from Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield. It honors Dr. Mitchell – a UAMS graduate and Arkansas Blue Cross board member and retired president who led the health insurer for nearly 20 years. In 2015, he was named Teacher of the Year in the UAMS Department of Family & Preventive Medicine.

**ROBERT MORROW, MD, MBA** serves as the market president of Houston and Southeast Texas at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX). He leads the company's statewide efforts on media and public relations, executive communications and influence strategy in coordination with sales and account management, network, policy development, government and community relations. He most recently served as the region's Chief Medical Officer.

Prior to his time at BCBSTX, Dr. Morrow served as the Director of Medical Quality for the Rural and Community Health Institute of the Texas A&M Health Science Center and was recently asked to sit on their Board of Advisors. His previous experience also includes experience as the Chief Medical Officer for Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital in Houston and practicing privately in Family Medicine. Dr. Morrow is a graduate of the Memorial Hermann Southwest Family Practice training program in Houston and the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. He completed his undergraduate studies at Texas A&M University and received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Tennessee.

Dr. Morrow currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Houston Partnership. As a champion for public health, he is on the Board of Directors for the Houston Division of the Southwest Affiliate of the American Heart Association. He also sits on the Houston Health Connect Board and the Board of Affiliates for the Professional Science & Engineering Master's Program at Rice University. In addition, Dr. Morrow serves as Past Chairman of the Board of the Texas Medical Foundation, Health Quality Institute. He has been an active member of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) throughout his career where his involvement includes serving in a number of leadership positions including: Chair of the Council on Public Health as well as a member of the Councils on Legislation and Medical Education. Currently he serves on the Council on Health Care Quality. Dr. Morrow is a member of the TMA House of Delegates and completed 14 years as a delegate to the American Medical Association (AMA). He also serves on the TMA-Practice Edge LLC Board of Directors. Additionally, Dr. Morrow serves on the Board of Directors of the Caring For Texas Foundation and recently accepted an appointment to the Board for Faith in Practice, an organization that provides year round medical mission work in Guatemala.

**CARRIE HENNING-SMITH, PhD, MPH, MSW** is the Deputy Director of the University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center and an Assistant Professor in the Division of Health Policy and Management, University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She has been with the Rural Health Research Center since 2015.

Dr. Henning-Smith applies her interdisciplinary training in health services research, public health, social work, gerontology, and demography to study policy-relevant issues for rural populations. She has led multiple research projects at the Rural Health Research Center, with a wide range of topics including the social determinants of health, access to and quality of care, and aging and long-term care. She was chosen as a 2017 Rural Health Fellow by the National Rural Health Association and serves as the current editorial board chair for the Journal of Rural Health.

Dr. Henning-Smith completed her Ph.D., Health Services Research, Policy and Administration, University of Minnesota in 2015, and her M.S., Health Services Research, Policy and Administration, University of Minnesota in that same year. She holds an MPH in Health Behavior and Health Education, and an M.S.W. in Social Work Interpersonal Practice and Mental health, from the University of Michigan. Her B.A. is in International Relations from Claremont McKenna College.