Overcoming Opioids: Pathways to Change

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES
(In order of appearance on the program)

KATHRYN SANTORO, MA 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.

CARLA HADDAD is the Senior Advisor on Opioid Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this capacity, she provides high-level policy and oversight support to the Assistant Secretary for Health on HHS’ opioid overdose prevention, treatment and recovery efforts. Prior to this role, Ms. Haddad spent eight years with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). She most recently served as Policy Advisor to the HRSA Administrator, providing policy and strategic advice on a wide range of issues affecting HRSA programs and underserved populations. Ms. Haddad also took on various public health roles in HRSA’s Office of Planning, Analysis and Evaluation, including co-leading the agency’s health reform implementation and coordinating federal efforts to increase access to health care services for individuals affected by lead-contaminated water in Flint, MI.

Ms. Haddad hold a bachelor’s degree in biopsychology and a master’s degree in public health from the University of Michigan.

KEN DUCKWORTH, MD is the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Medical Director for Behavioral Health. In that role, Dr. Duckworth leads our strategic efforts and in the areas of mental health and substance use disorders. Prior to this role, he spent 3 years
as the Associate Medical Director at BCBSMA supervising physicians and psychologists in our insourced BH service. Prior to coming BCBSMA, Dr. Duckworth spent 6 years as a Medical Director at Vinfen Corporation, the largest human service agency in Massachusetts. He has also served as both the Chief Medical Officer and Acting Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH). Dr. Duckworth has also done direct service on a dual diagnosis assertive community treatment team. Dr. Duckworth currently volunteers to see patients in DMH’s early psychosis program at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center as part of his role at BCBSMA.

He attended the University of Michigan, graduating with high honors and Temple University School of Medicine where he graduated in the Medical Honor Society AOA. He trained in adult and child and adolescent psychiatry at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center. He is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and teaches resident psychiatrists there.

Dr. Duckworth and is a Distinguished Fellow American Psychiatric Association was awarded the Presidential Patient Advocacy Award from that organization in 2011. He has also received the Clinical Excellence Award from the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society and was awarded the Drew Foley Award from the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health in 2014. Dr. Duckworth is board certified in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Adult Psychiatry, and has also completed a forensic psychiatry fellowship.

HEMI TEWARSON serves as the director for the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices’ Health Division, where she oversees all the Health Division projects which include Medicaid transformation and coverage, Medicaid data systems, health care delivery and payment system reform, workforce, opioids, and behavioral health and social determinants.

Prior to joining NGA, Ms. Tewarson had decades of experience in health care policy in the private and public sectors. She served as senior attorney for the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Government Accountability Office and was in private practice as a health policy attorney where her practice included advising states on how to reform their Medicaid programs.

Ms. Tewarson holds a J.D. and a master’s degree in public health from the George Washington University and a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania.