

Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee

September 18 - 19, 2023 – PTAC Public Meeting

Encouraging Rural Participation in Population-Based TCOC Models

Presenter and Panelist Biographies

Panel Discussion

(Monday, September 18, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

- [Janice Walters, MSHA, CHFP](#) - Chief Operating Officer, Rural Health Redesign Center
- [Meggan Grant-Nierman, DO, MBA](#) - Family Physician, First Street Family Health; Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center
- [Jen L. Brull, MD, FAAFP](#) - Family Physician and Vice President, Clinical Engagement, Aledade

Listening Session 1

(Monday, September 18, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

- [Aisha T. Pittman, MPH](#) - Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, National Association of ACOs (NAACOS)
- [Jackson Griggs, MD, FAAFP](#) - Chief Executive Officer, Waco Family Medicine
- [Mark Holmes, PhD](#) - Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, and Director, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research

Roundtable Panel Discussion

(Monday, September 18, 2:40 – 4:10 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

- [Adrian Billings, MD, PhD](#) - Chief Medical Officer and Associate Professor, Family and Community Medicine, Texas Tech University School of Medicine
- [Howard M. Haft, MD, MMM](#) - Consultant and Maryland Primary Care Program (Former), Maryland Primary Care Program
- [Jean Antonucci, MD](#) - Family Physician, Northern Light Health (*Previous Submitter - IMPC-APM proposal*)
- [Karen Murphy, PhD, RN](#) - Executive Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer, Founding Director, Steele Institute for Health Innovation, Geisinger

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Listening Session 2

(Tuesday, September 19, 9:10 – 10:40 a.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

- [Alana Knudson, PhD, EdM](#) - Project Director, The Pennsylvania Rural Health Model (PARHM) Evaluation; Director, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health; and Senior Fellow, NORC at the University of Chicago
- [Tom X. Lee, MD, MBA](#) - Chief Executive Officer, Galileo
- [Randy L. Pilgrim, MD, FACEP](#) - Enterprise Chief Medical Officer, SCP Health

Listening Session 3

(Tuesday, September 19, 10:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

- [David C. Herman, MD](#) - Chief Executive Officer, Essentia Health
- [Ami B. Bhatt, MD, FACC](#) - Chief Innovation Officer, American College of Cardiology, and Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School
- [Thad Shunkwiler, LMFT, LPCC](#) - Associate Professor, Department of Health Science and Director, Center for Rural Behavioral Health, College of Allied Health and Nursing, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- [Susan E. Stone, DNSc, CNM](#) - President, Frontier Nursing University

Panel Discussion: Biographies

(Monday, September 18, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

[Janice Walters, MSHA, CHFP](#) – Rural Health Redesign Center



Ms. Janice Walters has been leading rural health transformation efforts at the Rural Health Redesign Center since May of 2020. She has been leading the efforts of the PA Rural Health Model since 2018. In this role, Ms. Walters is responsible for its overall implementation including recruitment of stakeholders, methodology development, transformation planning and oversight of technical partners. She is now serving as a Project Officer to the Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance work awarded to the Rural Health Redesign Center. Prior to leading rural health transformation in Pennsylvania, Ms. Walters spent 12 years in healthcare leadership positions primarily in rural Pennsylvania. Her experience includes financial oversight of the rural health system's business activities and its population health activities. Prior to healthcare, Ms. Walters' experience includes the communication industry as well as manufacturing. Her formal education includes a MS in Healthcare Administration and two undergraduate degrees.

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Panel Discussion: Biographies (Continued)
(September 18, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

Meggan Grant-Nierman, DO, MBA – First Street Family Health; Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center

Dr. Meggan Grant-Nierman is a rural family medicine physician in Salida, CO where she practices full spectrum family medicine. She has spent the last 11 years deeply involved in various value-based payment models, including CPCI, CPC+, PCF, and MSSP ACO. Dr. Grant-Nierman's contributions also extend to her participation in the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative as a clinical faculty member.

Most recently she completed her Master of Health Care Delivery Science at Dartmouth College where she was able to further explore the complex interfaces of delivery model innovation and the reality of payer and consumer behavior in the healthcare sector. Dr. Grant-Nierman earned her Doctor of Osteopathy from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Leadership from Rockhurst University Helzberg School of Management.



Jen L. Brull, MD, FAAFP – Aledade



Dr. Jen Brull is a family medicine physician who obtained her medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and completed her family medicine residency training in Topeka, Kansas. She practiced rural full-scope family medicine for 22 years before transitioning to administrative medicine and now serves as Aledade's Vice President of Clinical Engagement.

She served two years (2013-2014) as an HIT Fellow for the Office of the National Coordinator and was recognized as a Hypertension Control Challenge Champion by the CDC in 2014. She was named as a Top 25 Innovator by *Modern Healthcare* in 2019 and is a physician leader in performance improvement and change management.

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Listening Session 1: Biographies
(September 18, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

Aisha T. Pittman, MPH – National Association of ACOs (NAACOS)

Ms. Aisha Pittman serves as the Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for the National Association of ACOs (NAACOS). In her role, Ms. Pittman leads NAACOS' policy analysis and advocacy work, helping to promote legislative and regulatory policies that will advance ACOs. She has 19 years of experience in healthcare payment, alternative payment models, healthcare quality measurement, and health information technology. Ms. Pittman was previously Vice President of policy with Premier, Inc., a group purchasing organization of more than 4,400 hospitals and 225,000 other provider organizations. During her eight years with Premier, she was responsible for working with policymakers, providers, and other healthcare stakeholders to reduce costs and improve the quality of healthcare. Prior to Premier, Ms. Pittman held senior management roles with the National Quality Forum, the Maryland Health Care Commission and CenterLight Healthcare, in addition to experience at the National Committee for Quality Assurance. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and a Master of Public Health from The George Washington University. Ms. Pittman received GWU's School of Public Health and Health Services Excellence in Health Policy Award.



Jackson Griggs, MD, FAAFP – Waco Family Medicine



Dr. Jackson Griggs is the Chief Executive Officer of Waco Family Medicine Center, a fifteen-site federally qualified health center serving over 61,000 patients in Central Texas. Dr. Griggs is a family physician who has practiced medicine for fifteen years, focusing on families living in poverty. He is an active researcher and has published over 20 manuscripts on topics of primary care, population health, and mental illness. As a consensus committee member, Dr. Griggs contributed to the influential report by National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine, *Implementing High Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care*. He also originated The Waco Guide to Psychopharmacology in Primary Care, a tool endorsed by numerous national organizations and used by clinicians around the world. Leveraging his background in graduate medical education, Dr. Griggs serves as Chair and Vice President of the Waco Family Medicine Institute, which operates a family medicine residency program and three accredited fellowships. He serves as Chair of the Waco Family Medicine Foundation which supports the Center and the Institute through capital assets and targeted funding. He also serves on numerous community boards. Dr. Griggs earned his undergraduate degree in English from Abilene Christian University; he attended medical school at University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and residency at the Waco Family Medicine Residency Program where he was Chief Resident. He is recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He received the Texas Medical Association's annual award in service to graduate medical education and was recently acknowledged as Waco's Person of the Year for his contributions to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Listening Session 1: Biographies (Continued) (September 18, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

Mark Holmes, PhD – University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health

Dr. Mark Holmes is a Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health and Director of the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, where he is also the Director of the North Carolina Rural Health Research and Policy Analysis Center. His interests include hospital finance, rural health, workforce, health policy, and patient-centered outcomes research.



Roundtable Panel Discussion: Biographies (Monday, September 18, 2:40 – 4:10 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

Adrian Billings, MD, PhD – Texas Tech University School of Medicine

Dr. Adrian Billings is Associate Academic Dean of Rural Health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Permian Basin and Senior Fellow of the F. Marie Hall Rural and Community Health Institute at TTUHSC. He is a full spectrum family medicine physician with Preventative Care Health Services (PCHS), a federally qualified health center, practicing in rural Alpine, Marfa and Presidio, Texas along the Texas-Mexico border. Dr. Billings currently serves as chief medical officer for PCHS, is an Associate Professor with the Department of Family and Community Medicine of TTUHSC-Permian Basin, Site Program Director for the TTUHSC Alpine Family Medicine Residency Program, and is the past chief of staff of Big Bend Regional Medical Center, a critical access hospital, in Alpine, Texas.



Additionally, Dr. Billings served as Medical Director for the City of Presidio Emergency Medical Services from 2015-2022. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved – an organization founded by alumni of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) as well as serving in the past on the board of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians (TAFP). He is also the director of the Texas Statewide Family Medicine Preceptorship Program for the TAFP. From 2015-2022 Dr. Billings served as Co-President of the Presidio-Ojinaga Binational Health Council which brings US and

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Roundtable Panel Discussion: Biographies (Continued)
(Monday, September 18, 2:40 – 4:10 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

Adrian Billings, MD, PhD – Texas Tech University School of Medicine *(Continued)*

Mexican healthcare officials together to discuss binational health problems that affect both sides of the United States and Mexico. Dr. Billings also served as a strategic advisor to Dartmouth University and its planning committee for creation of the Center for Advancing Rural Health Equity in 2022. Dr. Billings is currently co-Principal Investigator on a Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Hispanic Center of Excellence grant awarded to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Permian Basin. The goal of this grant is to produce more Hispanic physicians in west Texas. He also serves as Principal Investigator and Project Director on a HRSA Behavioral Health Workforce Education Training grant in collaboration with TTUHSC Permian Basin, PCHS, the University of Texas at El Paso and Sul Ross State University. This grant pays stipends to licensed professional counselor students to rotate in rural sites in west Texas. The goal of this grant is to increase the rural behavioral health workforce of west Texas.

Howard M. Haft, MD, MMM – Consultant and Maryland Primary Care Program (Former)



Dr. Howard Haft received his undergraduate degree at the University of Rhode Island, attended Medical School at Pennsylvania State University, and completed a post-graduate Internship and Residencies at Brown University. Dr. Haft is Board Certified as a specialist in Internal Medicine. Following his residency at Brown, he held a position at the University of California, Davis as an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry. He has a Master's degree from Tulane University in Medical Management (MMM). He is recognized by the American Board of Physician Executives as a Certified Physician Executive (CPE) and as a Fellow of the ACPE. He served as an Adjunct Professor in the McDonough Graduate School of Business.

Dr. Haft served as the Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services in the Maryland Department of Health. During his tenure at the Maryland Department of Health he also served as the Interim Executive Director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, Executive Director and Maryland Primary Care Program and Senior Medical Advisor to the Department during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to serving in state government, he was the Founder and the Chief Medical Officer of Conmed Healthcare Management, a publicly traded company. He served as the President of Maryland Healthcare, a multispecialty clinic in Southern Maryland and as President of the Maryland Foundation for Quality Healthcare. Dr Haft is currently serving as an independent consultant to regional and national companies on issues related to healthcare delivery, equity and payment systems.

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Roundtable Panel Discussion: Biographies (Continued)
(Monday, September 18, 2:40 – 4:10 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

Jean Antonucci, MD – Northern Light Health

(Previous Submitter – An Innovative Model for Primary Care Office Payment Proposal)



Dr. Jean Antonucci is a family physician who has practiced in rural Maine for over 30 years. She is a graduate of Bard College, Temple University School of Medicine (AOA), and the Maine Dartmouth Family Practice Residency program. Dr. Antonucci has worked in various settings, the best being a solo innovative practice for 15+ years developed out of the work of the Ideal Medical Practices project. There she saw every patient the day they called and on time, working with minimal staff. That project became a 501 c3 of which Dr Antonucci was a founding member, treasurer, and program director for CME calls. She writes, tweets and speaks occasionally about primary care. She also worked one year at the University of North Carolina in academic family medicine. Dr. Antonucci sat on the

National Center for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) 2017 revision committee. For her own practice, it was considered a Level 3 PCMH repeatedly. She also conducted meaningful use research and headed the primary care department at her local hospital for two years. Currently, she is enjoying partial retirement, working one day a week for a large system's small office, doing medication-assisted therapy (MAT), innovative chronic pain work, and seeing acute care patients. Dr. Antonucci is rebuilding her greenhouse and trying to grow melons in Maine while continuing as a quiet persistent advocate for primary care. In 2018, Dr. Antonucci submitted a proposal to PTAC for consideration titled, [*An innovative model for primary care office payment.*](#)

Karen Murphy, PhD, RN – Steele Institute for Health Innovation, Geisinger

Dr. Karen Murphy is recognized for significant contributions to public and private healthcare transformation. The leading-edge solutions she champions produce noteworthy patient care, access, and quality results. She is a sought-after expert on improving healthcare delivery and has served at both the state and federal levels. At Geisinger, Dr. Murphy holds the combined titles of EVP/Chief Innovation Officer, Digital Transformation Officer, and founding Director Steele Institute for Healthcare Innovation. In these roles, she has developed Geisinger's Digital Transformation Office, Geisinger's AI Lab (GAIL), a two-time winner of national recognition at AI competitions. She is also the architect of The Intelligent Automation Hub designed to optimize operations and produce significant cost savings. The Behavioral Insight Team (BIT) she created uses data to improve patient and



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Roundtable Panel Discussion: Biographies *(Continued)* (Monday, September 18, 2:40 – 4:10 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

Karen Murphy, PhD, RN – Steele Institute for Health Innovation, Geisinger *(Continued)*

provider decision making. Additionally, Dr. Murphy had led several innovative approaches to social determinants of health and health equity, including a program for pregnant women with substance abuse disorder. Prior to Geisinger, Dr. Murphy was chosen as Pennsylvania’s Secretary of Health, the State’s highest ranking health official and a member of the Governor’s cabinet. In that capacity, Dr. Murphy collaborated with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) and created a test to evaluate the first state-led innovative payment and delivery model for rural hospitals in the U.S. Moreover, her efforts helped to achieve a revision of state immunization regulations eliminating the eight-month provisional period and resulting in a 10% improvement rate of children receiving immunizations in the state. Previously, Dr. Murphy headed the State Innovations Model (SIM) initiative for CMMI. She instituted relationships with national organizations and experts to support efforts accelerating state-led health care transformation. Dr. Murphy was the CMMI lead on developing the Maryland All Payer Model, the first model used to measure hospital global budgets for services in Maryland. She was also accountable for briefing the White House and Secretary of Health and Human Services on progress and issues pertaining to state-led health care innovations. Dr. Murphy also served as the President and CEO of Moses Taylor Health System: an integrated system located in northeastern Pennsylvania. An active board member, Dr. Murphy is affiliated with several health care organizations, including the Healthcare Innovations Professional Society, Keystone Accountable Care Organization, Node Health Global Advisory Council, Health Velocity Capital, and the University of Pennsylvania Leonard Davis Institute for Economics.

Dr. Murphy holds a PhD in Business Administration from Temple University and a BS from the University of Scranton, in addition to an MBA, RN, and Clinical Faculty in Medicine appointment at Geisinger. Dr. Murphy’s numerous awards for her groundbreaking achievements include Top 25 Women Leaders in Healthcare, Sharp Index Innovation Leader Award, Women Power Players in Health IT, 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives, and Changemaker in Healthcare Information and Management Society.

Listening Session 2: Biographies (September 19, 9:10 – 10:40 a.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

Alana Knudson, PhD, EdM – NORC at the University of Chicago

Dr. Alana Knudson serves as a Senior Fellow in the Public Health Department at NORC and is the Director of NORC’s Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis. Dr. Knudson has over 25 years of experience implementing public health programs, leading health services and policy research projects, and evaluating program effectiveness. She has led projects funded by many federal agencies and private foundations, including the following projects that include a telehealth focus – serving as the Project Director for both the CMMI Pennsylvania Rural Health Model Evaluation and for the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) Telehealth Study Project, and Primary Investigator for the Health Resources &

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Listening Session 2: Biographies (*Continued*)

(September 19, 9:10 – 10:40 a.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

Alana Knudson, PhD, EdM – NORC at the University of Chicago (*Continued*)



Services Administration Bureau of Health Workforce Substance Use Disorder Evaluation and the Workforce Resilience Evaluation. Dr. Knudson has state and national public health experience having worked at the North Dakota Department of Health and for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).

She serves on the RUPRI Health Panel, the Rural HIT Coalition, the Board of Directors for the Maryland Rural Health Association, the National Rural Health Resource Center, the Rural Health Foundation, and is a member of the University of Maryland School of Public Health Community Advisory Council, the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine's Department of Population Science and Policy Advisory Board, and the East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health Research Advisory Board. She received the 2021 National Rural Health Association Researcher of the Year Award.

Tom X. Lee, MD, MBA – Galileo

Dr. Tom Lee is the CEO and visionary behind Galileo -- a data-driven, multi-specialty care model designed to improve the quality and affordability of care for broad and diverse populations, including those in last-mile and underserved regions. Operating across 50 states and partnering with employers and health plans, Galileo is one of the fastest growing innovators in population-based care delivery.

Prior to Galileo, Dr. Lee helped build One Medical into the leading, independent primary care system in the country. Previously, he helped launch Epocrates, the #1 mobile app used by clinicians at the point of care. Dr. Lee is a board-certified internist who completed training at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital. He received his BS from Yale University, MD from the University of Washington School of Medicine, and MBA from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.



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Listening Session 2: Biographies *(Continued)* (September 19, 9:10 – 10:40 a.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

Randy L. Pilgrim, MD, FACEP – SCP Health



As Enterprise Chief Medical Officer Dr. Randy Pilgrim provides executive oversight for SCP Health’s clinical operations for all patient care services. He is responsible for creating sustainable systems that deliver clinical excellence, minimize risk, and produce excellent outcomes for patients. He co-chairs ACEP’s Task Force on Alternative Payment Models and was one of 3 physicians who presented an emergency medicine value-based care model, the Acute Unscheduled Care Model (AUCM), to PTAC in 2018, which the Committee recommended to the Secretary of HHS for implementation. Dr. Pilgrim completed medical school and residency at the University of Minnesota. He has been in Emergency Medicine practice and leadership roles for over 25 years. His prior actuarial background provides unique analytical and business perspectives. Dr. Pilgrim is regularly involved with health policy issues at the state and national levels, and continues to advise the evolving role of Emergency Medicine in health care delivery systems of the future.

Listening Session 3: Biographies (September 19, 10:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

David C. Herman, MD – Essentia Health

Dr. David Herman serves as Chief Executive Officer for Essentia Health, an integrated health system headquartered in Duluth, Minnesota. Dr. Herman oversees 77 clinics, 14 hospitals, and 15,000 employees who care for patients in Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota. He is committed to upholding the organization’s values of quality, hospitality, respect, joy, justice, stewardship, and teamwork. Dr. Herman received his medical degree from Mayo Medical School in Rochester, Minnesota, and completed his residency in ophthalmology at Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education. Dr. Herman was a senior staff fellow in ocular immunology and uveitis at the National Eye Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. He received a master’s degree in medical management from the University of Texas at Dallas. Dr. Herman served on the Mayo Clinic staff from 1988 to 2011, where he was a professor of ophthalmology with



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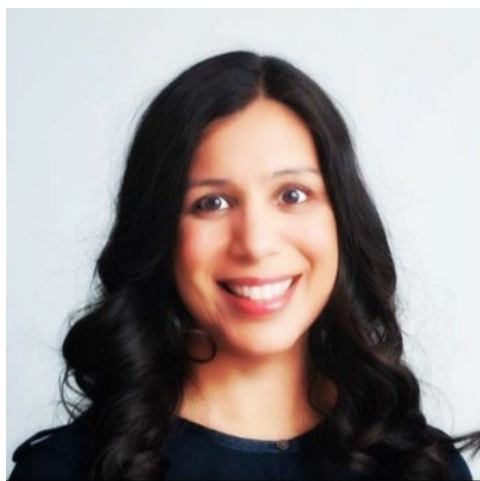
Listening Session 3: Biographies (Continued) (September 19, 10:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

David C. Herman, MD – Essentia Health (Continued)

more than 90 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Herman was also chair of the Clinical Practice Committee at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, a member of the Rochester Executive Board, a member of the board of directors for Mayo Clinic Health System, and a member of the Mayo Clinic Management Team. Following his time at Mayo, Dr. Herman became CEO of Vidant Health in eastern North Carolina. He joined Essentia Health in January 2015. Dr. Herman currently serves on the board of trustees of Ronald McDonald House Charities; the board of trustees of The College of St. Scholastica; the board of trustees of the Minnesota Hospital Association; the board of trustees of the American Academy of Ophthalmology; the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board 6; and the American Cancer Society.

Ami B. Bhatt, MD, FACC – American College of Cardiology; and Harvard Medical School



Dr. Ami Bhatt is the Chief Innovation Officer at the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School. Her interest in digital health strategy and the digital transformation of the cardiovascular field stems from the belief that state-of-the-art, personalized care can be delivered to individuals in the community, empowering patients and creating stronger clinician-patient partnerships for sustainable health outcomes. The ACC Innovation Program has a robust platform to transform digital patient care and advance technologies that are reshaping medicine.

Dr. Bhatt has 20 years of experience as a clinician, investigator, and educator with nearly 10 years of experience in telemedicine and digital health. Dr. Bhatt founded her first program in cardiovascular virtual care in 2013 and continues to work on creating culturally relevant personalized virtual cardiovascular care delivery models. Her research has centered on identifying and implementing solutions to overcoming access barriers to cardiovascular and telemedicine care. A graduate from Harvard College and the Yale School of Medicine, Dr. Bhatt completed her medicine and pediatrics residency at Harvard, her adult cardiology fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and her adult congenital heart disease and pulmonary hypertension fellowship at the Boston Children's Hospital. She was the inaugural Richard Liberthson Endowed Scholar in Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) at the Massachusetts General Hospital while Director of their ACHD program.

Dr. Bhatt most recently served as the Director of Outpatient and Telecardiology at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Corrigan-Minehan Heart Center. Dr. Bhatt is now co-leading the inaugural year of the MGH Elevate Leadership Program aimed at transforming leaders for tomorrow's healthcare challenges. As part of MGH Elevate, Dr. Bhatt is focused on fostering agility, communication, and creativity to develop the next generation of impactful leaders in medicine.

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Listening Session 3: Biographies (Continued)
(September 19, 10:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. EDT)

Subject Matter Experts

Thad Shunkwiler, LMFT, LPCC – Minnesota State University, Mankato



Professor Thad Shunkwiler is an Associate Professor in the College of Allied Health and Nursing at Minnesota State University, Mankato. In addition to his academic work, he is a licensed behavioral health provider with over a decade of experience in treating people with mental health and substance use disorders in rural Minnesota. In 2021, Professor Shunkwiler was named a Presidential Teaching Scholar and one of seventeen healthcare professionals in the country, as well as being named a Rural Health Fellow of the National Rural Health Association. In 2022, he was selected for the "Emerging Rural Health Leader" award by the Minnesota Rural Health Association and received a Governor's appointment to the behavioral health licensing board in Minnesota. Being an invited speaker at state, national, and international behavioral health conferences, Professor Shunkwiler is a recognized leader in developing the mental healthcare workforce.

Susan E. Stone, DNSc, CNM – Frontier Nursing University

Dr. Susan Stone, a certified nurse-midwife, is a leader in strategic development to increase the quality and capacity of the midwifery and advanced practice nursing workforce, with the specific goal of improving health care for families. Her primary position for the last two decades is as the President of Frontier Nursing University, where she has grown the University from a community-based school of nurse-midwifery offering a basic certificate program with an enrollment of 200, to an accredited University offering master and doctoral degrees to nurses seeking graduate education as nurse-midwives and nurse practitioners. Today, the University has more than 2,500 graduate and doctoral nursing students enrolled from every state in the United States and several foreign countries.



Behind Dr. Stone's leadership, Frontier's focus is on educating primary care providers to serve rural and underserved populations. Within its degree programs, the university offers tracks leading nurses to certification as nurse-midwives, family nurse practitioners, women's health care nurse practitioners, and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners. Dr. Stone is the past president of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (2018-19) and was inducted into the National Academy of Medicine Class of 2018 as one of only two nurses in her class. She believes collaboration with other health care professionals is essential to improve the health of women and families and fosters this approach in her various roles.