

Bios for 2021 Community Summit

Morning Plenary

James Michel was recently named the Chief Executive Officer of Access Health CT. He will focus on continuing to strengthen and expand the Access Health CT brand, improve customer experience and ensure sustainability while maintaining our historic commitment to the mission of decreasing the uninsured rate in Connecticut. Mr. Michel has been part of AHCT since the early stages of the organization. He served as the company's first Operations Manager since March 2013, and was promoted to Director of Operations in June 2014, and to Director of Finance in June 2017.

Prior to joining Access Health CT, he was an Audit Director in Aetna's Finance Department for over 8 years, and before that he spent 9 years as Chief Financial Officer for the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) in Hartford, CT. Mr. Michel has a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Hartford. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting at Brooklyn College, with additional graduate work in Accounting and Economics.

Originally from Haiti, he now lives in Bloomfield, CT with his wife and three sons. He is very active as a leader in the community. As an elected official, Mr. Michel served for three terms on the Bloomfield Board of Education and he is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Outreach to Haiti and the Jumoke Academy, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Suffield Academy.

Mr. Michel is a veteran of the United States Army Reserves and was honorably discharged in December 2002 as an officer after 18 years of service.

As Director of SHOP and Product Development, **John Carbone** works with employers, brokers, vendors and carrier partners to increase the visibility, membership and understanding of our Small Group products and Standalone dental plans. Prior to joining Access Health CT, John held positions with MD Health Plan, HealthNet and The Health Consultants Group. His over 24 years of working experience in the healthcare industry has provided him the understanding and intellectual capacity to act as an assertive, driven leader with an abundance of expertise focused on a client-centered approach. John holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Quinnipiac in Health Administration and Broker License in Health and Accident Insurance

Prior to joining Access Health CT as its Director of Health Equity and Outreach, **Tammy Hendricks'** career spanned positions from Pharmaceutical Sales to Marketing and Business Development. Driven by a passion for digital and traditional marketing, she established her own marketing firm, after completing her MBA at the University of Connecticut 2019. She was responsible for the branding, strategic planning, and digital/traditional marketing initiatives for clients including many healthcare providers throughout Connecticut, Florida and New York City. Tammy is acknowledged for well-defined understanding of business development and capacity to identify and align clients' emerging needs with products and services.

She is a seasoned marketing and business development professional with extensive experience in the healthcare field. Her success is driven by building meaningful relationships through problem solving, strategic planning, and dedicated follow through. She has built a wide network of community advocates, doctors/providers and numerous vendors throughout the State during the course of her career. Growing up in CT and completing both bachelors and master's degree at UConn, she looks forward to using her personal/professional background and statewide connections to lead the Outreach efforts in communities throughout CT.

2021 Community Partner Award Recipient

A lifelong Connecticut resident, **Jason Jakubowski** is an accomplished nonprofit executive and a nationally recognized community leader. Jason has served as the President and CEO of Foodshare since 2017. He recently led the organization through a historic merger between Connecticut Food Bank and Foodshare, the state's two largest nonprofit anti-hunger organizations, creating a dedicated team of over 110 employees and more than 8,000 volunteers. Last year, the food bank distributed over 47 million meals through a statewide network of 700 community-based agencies, including pantries, meal programs, and mobile sites. Throughout his tenure, Foodshare was named a "Top Workplace" by the Hartford Courant four times, as well as Connecticut's "Best Charity for Your Money" by business.org.

AHCT Updates for Community Partners

Robert Blundo serves as the Director of Technical Operations & Analytics for Access Health CT. Prior to joining Access Health CT, Mr. Blundo led the development of scalable data operations and analytic solutions for a variety of clients spanning the health payer, provider, and employer space. Mr. Blundo most recently served as the Director of Analytics at SCIO Health Analytics. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management as well as a Master's in Public Health from the University of Connecticut.

Kelly Gavigan Cote, Carrier Product Manager, joined Access Health CT (AHCT) in April 2021. She works closely with medical and dental insurance carriers that offer plans on the exchange. Her primary role is to ensure successful implementation and availability of carrier products for Connecticut residents in the marketplace, meeting the standards, mission and vision of Access Health CT. Prior to joining AHCT, Kelly was employed at Aetna for 32 years in the underwriting department. During that time, she held several positions, led various teams and managed large-scale projects as an Assistant Director. Most notably, one of these projects was an initiative to hire and develop a team to support a new product, which grew to support over 15,000 customers in three years. Kelly led the development of a new operational accounting system, developed standard accounting protocols, created audit controls and collaborated with business partners to establish day-to-day workflows across dependent departments.

Debra Eastman serves as the manager of CACs, Broker Support and the Call Center. She manages a team of five who support the broker and community partner certification process. They also review and address ongoing client concerns from brokers and CACs. Ms. Eastman also partners with the Call Center program manager to ensure consumers and stakeholders are getting the best customer service possible. Ms. Eastman has worked with Access Health CT for five years in several different roles. The most rewarding part of her job is helping consumers get coverage that best fit their needs to stay healthy, and seeing repeat consumers come to field sites and fairs to get healthcare coverage through AHCT.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Marietta Vázquez is a Pediatric Infectious Diseases specialist at the Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Vázquez graduated *Cum Laude* from Yale University in 1990. She attended the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine and returned to Yale and completed Pediatric Residency & Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases, also at Yale. She is a Professor of Pediatrics at the Yale University School of Medicine, she is the Associate Dean of Medical Student Diversity at YSOM and Inaugural Vice Chair of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion in the Dept of Pediatrics and Director of the Yale-Children's Hospital Hispanic Clinic.

Dr. Vázquez's national and international research focuses on the clinical epidemiology of infectious diseases in children and on vaccines licensed for use in children and in adults. Her studies have had direct impact on clinical practice and vaccine policy, as data from her studies have led in part to the recommendation for a 2nd dose of varicella vaccine and by evaluating and discovering novel ways of protecting infants. She studied maternal vaccination— influenza vaccine given to pregnant women to reduce hospitalization due to influenza in their infants was the first US study to show that giving vaccine to pregnant women protects their infants and help to overcome barriers to vaccination—potentially impacting motivations, perceptions and attitudes of pregnant women and of their medical providers towards vaccination during pregnancy.

Dr. Vázquez was the first Latina to be appointed by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to be a voting member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Dr. Vazquez has authored many scientific papers and has been an active spokesperson for the CDC in both Spanish and English media campaigns and is an advocate for immigrant health rights.