



## **Aging Well Through COVID – *Supporting Resiliency & Growth in the Midst of a Pandemic***

### **2020 Speaker Biographies**

**Sharlene Adams**, LSW, CBIST, is the Director State Services for GT Independence. She has over 30 years' experience in various roles in the healthcare field. Sharlene has worked in long-term care, residential care, day services, and case management. In addition to her work with GT Independence, Sharlene is a CARF surveyor with experience in outpatient rehab, residential care, case management and home and community based services.

**Kenneth Albert** joined Androscoggin in June 2016 after spending several years in state government. He served as the Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Director of the Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services within the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to joining the department, Ken practiced health, professional licensing, and regulatory compliance law for several years in Lewiston, Maine. A Maine native, Ken's background is rich in medical experience, including 17 years of clinical practice in emergency and intensive care settings. He served as Director of Emergency Services at Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC), as the Administrator of the Occupational Health Center affiliated with CMMC, and as the Lewiston Site Manager for LifeFlight of Maine. For five years, he traveled across the United States providing critical care nursing in metropolitan, rural and tribal communities. He also taught Legal Issues in Health Care Administration as an adjunct faculty member at New England College. Ken is a graduate of the CMMC School of Nursing and earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Southern Maine, Magna Cum Laude, and a degree of Juris Doctor from the University of Maine School of Law with honors in health law.

**Leana Amaez**, Manager of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Maine DHHS. Prior to joining Maine DHHS in December 2019, Amaez played a leading role in diversity and inclusion efforts at Bowdoin College and served as the director of pro bono services at Pine Tree Legal Assistance. Her tenure at Bowdoin saw the creation of the Religious and Spiritual Life and the Multicultural Life centers and positions, the merging of the Women's Resource Center and the Center for

Sexual and Gender Diversity into the SWAG and the addition of “Perspectives” and “More Than Meets the Eye” to the list of mandatory orientation programming for new students.

**Katlyn Blackstone**, Chief Program Officer, Southern Maine Agency on Aging

**Patricia D’Antonio.** Patricia M. "Trish" D'Antonio, BSPHarm, MS, MBA, BCGP, is GSA’s vice president of professional affairs. In this role, she is responsible for managing the Society’s relationships with other organizations in the aging arena, leading major Society programs and projects, and developing a strategy for future growth of the National Academy on an Aging Society (GSA’s nonpartisan public policy institute). She is also the project director for the Reframing Aging Initiative, a long-term social change endeavor designed to improve the public’s understanding of what aging means and the many ways that older people contribute to our society. She previously served as the executive director of the DC Board of Pharmacy and program manager for the Pharmaceutical Control Division, where she was responsible for the regulatory and policy development for the practice of pharmacy in the District, inspection and investigation of regulated facilities, and served as liaison to the FDA, DEA, and other federal and state organizations that promote safe handling of medications. She served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Controlled Substance Authorities, a non-profit organization that works to provide a continuing mechanism through which state and federal agencies and stakeholders can work to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of state and national efforts to prevent and control drug diversion and abuse. Prior to working with the DC Department of Health, D'Antonio served as director of professional and educational affairs with the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, a professional membership association representing pharmacists who practice in geriatrics. While there she was responsible for advancing initiatives to educate pharmacists and other healthcare professionals in geriatric pharmacotherapy and the unique medication-related needs of the older adult. D'Antonio received her Bachelor of Science in pharmacy from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, and received her Master of Science in health finance and Master in Business Administration with a concentration in health care from Temple University in Philadelphia. She completed a residency in administration and finance at The Philadelphia Geriatric Center and is a board certified geriatric pharmacist.

**Piali De** is the co-inventor of Senscio’s patented Scio™ framework, the artificially intelligent inference engine that contextualizes data in any domain into actionable intelligence. Built upon Scio, Senscio Systems’ Ibis Health Program is a complex chronic care management system designed to improve self-management for patients with complex chronic conditions designed to enable coordination with multiple care team members resulting in early intervention to avoid complications. It provides the perfect balance between technology and the right touch for

individuals with complex health needs, resulting in fewer avoidable hospital admissions and improved health outcomes. Piali De is the author of many publications, three patents, and one pending patent. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi and Sigma Pi Sigma honor societies and is the recipient of the National Women of Color's 2009 Technology Innovation award. In 2005, Piali received the Raytheon CEO Award, Raytheon IDS President's Award and Raytheon Business Development Excellence Award, for her work on profiling Marine Corps missions. A recognized thought leader in digital health innovation, Piali is a frequent and eloquent speaker and guest lecturer at digital health summits and health care conferences, including HFMA, HIMSS, The MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge, Medical Development Group, MedSpeaks, and Health Innovators. Prior to Sencio Systems, Piali De was an Engineering Fellow at Raytheon's Integrated Defense Systems. At Raytheon, she developed a system called Confluence™, designed to deliver knowledge-based decision support for public safety missions, pandemic crisis, natural disaster responses, military missions, and situations that require multiple organizations to analyze data simultaneously and respond in immediate unison. Piali grew up in Calcutta, India. In 1982, she graduated Summa Cum Laude, from Hunter College of the City University of New York, with Bachelors and Masters degrees in Physics. In 1987, Piali completed the doctoral program in Physics at Brown University. She and her husband Hugh Stoddart have two sons: Keiron and Brenton; all four share a passion for traveling.

**Gia Drew**, Program Director, EqualityMaine. Gia joined the staff of EqualityMaine in 2014 after being a volunteer for several years. As program director, Gia oversees all our education, rural outreach, and youth programming, as well as supporting our advocacy work. While originally from Boston, Gia has called Maine home for nearly 18 years. After earning degrees from Syracuse University and Savannah College of Art and Design, Gia was a high school teacher and coach for twenty years, working in Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maryland, and Maine. In that time she became one of Maine's first OUT transgender teachers and one of the first transgender coaches in the country. Outside of EqualityMaine Gia loves spending time in nature, especially hiking, snowshoeing, and ocean swimming.

**Joy Gould**, Manager of Healthcare Workforce Development, DHHS. Joy has spent her career in workforce development, most recently joining Maine DHHS in a newly created role to create and deploy a strategic workforce plan to address the shortage of qualified healthcare workers and implement statewide and community-based initiatives to improve the recruitment and retention of health care professionals. Prior to joining DHHS, Joy served as the Workforce Training Project Director with Community Concepts. Joy has a B.A. in Public Relations and Business from Mount Saint Mary College.

**Kathy Greenlee** is a visionary thought leader and innovator with three decades of state, federal, and international executive experience. She is a nationally recognized leader in aging and longterm care. From 2009 to 2016, Kathy served as the Assistant Secretary for Aging at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). Simultaneously, Kathy created the Administration for Community Living and was its first Administrator. Through legislative and administrative management, Kathy has supported significant growth in various organizations. Kathy also has served as the Kansas Secretary for Aging, Chief of Staff, and Chief of Operations for then-Governor Kathleen Sebelius, and general counsel for the Kansas Insurance Department. Since returning from Washington in 2016, Kathy has been a Senior Health Policy Advisor for the Kansas-City-based Center for Practical Bioethics and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Kathy received her Bachelor of Science Administration from the University of Kansas School of Business and Juris Doctor from the University of Kansas School of Law. She is involved in professional organizations that include the National Academy of Social Insurance, the National Council on Aging, the American Bar Association, National Academies of Medicine, and Center for Practical Bioethics, among others.

**Marilyn Gugliucci**, MA, PhD, is a Professor and the Director of Geriatrics Research at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNECOM). She is also the Founding Director of U-ExCEL (UNE~Exercise and Conditioning for Easier Living) Fitness/Wellness Program for older adults. Her unique Learning by Living Research Projects offer two tracks: (1) The Nursing Home Immersion that "admits" medical students into nursing homes to live the life of an elder resident for 2-weeks; and (2) The 48 Hour Hospice Home Immersion that immerses pairs of medical students into an 18 bed inpatient acute care hospice home for 48 hours to conduct patient care, family support, and post-mortem care. She also conducts research on older adult falls prevention.

Marilyn is a Fellow of four National Associations. She serves on national and state boards and committees, and was the former president for the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.

Although not a nurse, she was a mentor for the International Honor Society of Nurses/Hartford Foundation Geriatrics Nursing Leadership Academy. Marilyn has been recognized with a number of state and national awards. She lectures both nationally and internationally and has multiple publications in the field of aging.

**Don Harden** is Director of Services for Older Adults at Catholic Charities Maine, where he has worked in various capacities for thirty-five years. In his current role, Don has administrative responsibility for home- and community-based long-term care and behavioral health programming including the State Homemaker Program. In addition to previously serving as the

Co-Chair of the Maine Council on Aging, he is Co-Convener of the Aging Initiative's Workforce and Employment Workgroup focusing on creation of aging friendly workplaces, recruitment and retention of the older worker, and workforce development for the long term care sector. He holds a MS in Counseling from USM.

**John Hennessy**, Board Member, EqualityMaine. John has successfully advocated for issues of social justice and poverty, behavioral health, aging, long term care, early care and education, disabilities, poverty, HIV/AIDS, civil rights and primary health care providers. John is the co-founder of the Maine Council on Aging. His clients in the aging network have included the Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Maine Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, and AARP. John is a founding member of SAGE Maine in 2011. While working at AARP, John convened a diverse group of stakeholders and community members to determine the viability of a SAGE affiliate in our state. The group developed and executed a statewide needs assessment and regional focus groups asking LGBT older adults about health care, personal safety, social services and overall well-being. This comprehensive model was held up as an example to replicate for other groups exploring a SAGE affiliate in their state. He is a former member of the Vestry of the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and a former board member of the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination. Prior volunteer work includes EqualityMaine, Dirigo Alliance Board, the campaign to defeat TABOR, and on the steering committee for No on 1. John is a native New Yorker who lives in Portland with his husband, Peter Callnan, and their three spirited Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

**Fatuma Hussein**, Executive Director, Immigrant Resource Center of Maine. As a refugee without a choice in her relocation, Fatuma Hussein knew she had to find a better place for her growing family and their future. Along with 11 other Somalis, Maine was considered a mecca because it exemplified the idealistic American life sought after by the Somali community. Fatuma took a chance on this dream and arrived in Portland, ME on February 4th, 2001 in search of a better place to live. On a snowy day, she was greeted with an even warmer welcome and a new reality in Maine. Fatuma was hired to present crucial information about the Somali community to Maine officials. She began working for an advocacy organization soon after where her colleague asked her to envision her dream. After some deep visualization and careful thought, Fatuma realized she wanted to create an immigrant women's center where vital skills, like English, could be taught to Lewiston's growing Somali community. She began reaching out to community and mosque leaders for help and access to the new community. Outreach was a language she became fluent in after meeting with many families. In a friend's living room, Fatuma met with 35 female community leaders and elders. These women were considered the gatekeepers for the Somali community at a crucial time in the community's advent. The group of women came together to pick Fatuma and four other women as leaders in charge of determining the upcoming organizations name, mission, vision, and other logistics. The group agreed upon

the name the United Somali Women of Maine. The variety of the organization's work and clients led to a major name change that reflects its evolving client base -- the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine.

**Ruta Kadonoff**, Director of Programs, Maine Health Access Foundation. Prior to joining the Maine Health Access Foundation, Ruta served as the Executive Director of Pioneer Network, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating a culture of aging that is life-affirming, satisfying, humane and meaningful. Previously, Ms. Kadonoff was Vice President of Quality and Regulatory Affairs with the American Health Care Association. She also specialized in long-term care policy issues with the US Department of Health and Human Services and served as Deputy Director for The Green House Project, a national program to spread a transformational model of person-centered long-term care. She has worked in diverse organizations across the aging services field over the past 20 years in policy, research and practice, including Leading Age, the Alzheimer's Association and Abt Associates. Ms. Kadonoff holds a Master of Arts degree in the Management of Aging Services from the Erickson School of Aging Studies at UMBC and a Masters of Health Science degree in Health Policy from Johns Hopkins University.

**Laura Lee** is director of grantmaking at the Maine Community Foundation, coordinating the foundation's competitive grant programs. In addition to working with donors and nonprofits, she leads the foundation's strategic goal work on aging. Prior to joining MaineCF in 2015, Lee held positions at Bowdoin College, including assistant dean of student affairs. Lee earned a B.A. in history from Oberlin College and a master's and Ph.D. in U.S. history from UCLA. She lives with her family in Brunswick. is the Director of Grantmaking at Maine Community Foundation. In her role, Laura supports the Androscoggin and Oxford county committees, works with donors and nonprofits in these counties, and manages several competitive grant programs. Laura has a PhD in US history from UCLA.

**Jess Maurer** is the Executive Director of the Maine Council on Aging, a broad, multidisciplinary network of over 65 organizations, businesses and older community members working to promote the safety, independence and well-being of all older adults in Maine. She advances statewide public policy initiatives that support the health and economic security of older Mainers and provides leadership within Maine's aging network. She is the co-author of a report entitled Building a Collaborative Community Response to Aging in Place and Maine's Blueprint for Action on Aging. She leads the Maine Aging Initiative and the Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging and annually organizes statewide and regional events that advance aging policy. A licensed Maine attorney, Jess worked for nearly 17 years in the Maine Office of the Attorney General. In her last 7 years in the Office, she served as a Special Assistant Attorney General, implementing public policy and legislative initiatives for the Attorney General. She is a

graduate of the University of Maine School of Law and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

**Garrett Martin** is the Executive Director of the Maine Center for Economic Policy. Garrett provides oversight and guidance for MECEP's policy development, research methodologies, and analytical techniques, forming conclusions and determining policy solutions. Garrett has extensive experience in economic research, policy development, community economic development, and philanthropic fund management. He holds a master's degree in public affairs from Princeton University with a concentration in economics and public policy analysis.

**Gabriel J. Martinez**, Director, FQHC Champion Program and Community Engagement, UnitedHealthcare, Medicare Health Plan. Gabriel (Gabe) Martinez is UnitedHealthcare's Director of the FQHC Champion Program and Community Engagement for the New England Medicare Health Plan. In this role, Gabe is responsible to support the success and issue resolution among the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that are in UnitedHealthcare's Medicare Network. Gabe works to ensure that the FQHCs in New England are able to find success within UnitedHealthcare's Medicare Incentive Programs which are based on STAR and Risk Adjustment performance. Gabe also assumes the role of Community Engagement Leader in New England. In this role, Gabe works to partner UnitedHealthcare and the many Community Based Organizations, such as MCOA, that jointly support the aging population in our communities. UnitedHealthcare strives to actively engage within the community and provide support through relationship development and collaboration. Gabe currently has 10 years of experience within the healthcare field first beginning with direct patient care while working in both a Transitional Living Center as well as Community Support Services for a community mental health center in New Mexico. He then relocated to New Hampshire in 2012 where he gained further direct care experience working for Greater Nashua Mental Health Center. From there Gabe entered the health insurance industry beginning in Network Management for a behavioral health benefit vendor serving NH's Medicaid population and later joined UnitedHealthcare in 2017 as a Provider Advocate. In 2019 he piloted the FQHC Champion Program in Northern New England. This successful program was then expanded to all 6 New England states after joining the Medicare Health Plan team in April of 2020.

**Kimberley Moore**, Director, Bureau of Employment Services, Maine DOL is a confident, proactive, and innovative professional manager/program facilitator with an abundance of experience in the university, corporate, and public sectors of workforce development and training. Prior to joining the Maine Department of Labor, Kim served as the Project Director for

the Greater Portland Workforce Initiative with United Way of Greater Portland, and as a Business Services Representative with Goodwill Industries of Northern New England.

**William Montejo**, RN, Director, DHHS Division of Licensing & Certification. Bill Montejo has a diverse background in public safety and regulatory compliance. Bill has been a paramedic/fire fighter for many years, has worked in regulatory compliance as a State licensing Agent for Emergency Medical Services. In 2004 Bill obtained a nursing degree and became a registered Nurse working as an Emergency Department nurse for several Maine hospitals. In 2008 Bill joined the Maine Division of Licensing and regulatory Services as a long-Term care Surveyor and has obtained a degree in Health Acre Administration while continuing his career at Licensing becoming a supervisor/manager for Long Term Care, then the Acute Care Team, the Medical Facilities program Manager and now the Director. Bill has participated as one of several state subject matter experts in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services development of the nursing home survey processes.

**Claudette Ndayininahaze**, acts as the executive director of In Her Presence and works full-time as the Intercultural Program Manager at Center for Grieving Children. she has developed an effective network of resources that provides needed support for the immigrant, asylee, and refugee communities on a grassroots level. She is a leader in the Portland immigrant community, encourages individuals and communities to help themselves, but have never lost sight of the importance of compassion, gratitude, and modesty, which allows others to feel comfortable coming to her for assistance. A native of Burundi, Claudette has a bachelor's degree in administration/management from the University of Burundi and was a National Sales Manager for a beverage brewery whose majority stockholder was Heineken. Claudette has served on the boards of different community organizations: Hope Acts, First Parish Unitarian Universalist (FPUU), Youth Family Outreach (YFO), Vice president of Burundi Community Association of Maine (B CAM), Furniture Friends (FF), Welcoming Immigrants Network (WIN) and Financial Stability Expert Panel with United Way.

**Nancy Rankin** has been an educator, counselor, and group facilitator for the past 40 years. A retired professor from the University of New England, Nancy particularly enjoys using the creative process to explore themes and issues important to one's development and health. Most recently, she facilitated a Creativity Circle for the Unlonely Project which is part of the Foundation for Art and Healing.

**Mary Jane Richards** is the Chief Operating Officer at North Country Associates—the largest provider of Long Term Care Services in the state of Maine. She has worked at North Country for



the past 24 years. She is a Multi-Level Administrator, Board member and recent past chair for Maine Health Care Association, a member of the Maine Council on Aging, Multidisciplinary Task Forces in the state and a member of the Maine Council of Elder Abuse Prevention. Her knowledge of care and services across the continuum of care assists legislators to fully understand the impact their decisions make on the elders and caregivers of Maine.

**Catherine Ryder**, LCPC, ACS, Chief Executive Officer, Tri-County Mental Health Services Catherine Ryder serves as the Chief Executive officer for Tri-County Mental Health Services (TCMHS) where she has been employed for 28 years. She believes in developing models that align with the principles of healthcare reform and is passionate about ensuring access, bending the cost curve, and reducing stigma associated with behavioral health. She believes integration is critical and that we must develop clinical and fiscal models that are fully sustainable. Catherine is proud to represent an agency noted for its trauma-informed, recovery-based approach to services. TCMHS has been deeply committed to promoting whole health and wellness through collaboration and coordination with other key providers and resources across their service communities. Catherine is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor with a MS in Counselor Education, a Nationally Certified Counselor, and an Approved Clinical Supervisor. She has completed the certificate program in Primary Care Behavioral Health from University of MA and is a graduate of the Hanley Leadership Development program for healthcare leaders in Maine. Catherine currently serves as Past President for the Alliance of Addictions & Mental Health Services, Vice-President for the Mental Health Risk Retention Group, Vice President for the Maine Health Access Foundation, and is a board member for The Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership as well as Mental Health Corporations of America. Catherine also serves as the Governor's appointee to the Maine Military Leadership Council, representing behavioral health.

**Michelle Probert** is the Director at DHHS Office of MaineCare Services. Michelle Probert joined Maine's Department of Health and Human Services in February 2011 and in her previous role she served as the Director of Strategic Initiatives for MaineCare, Maine's Medicaid Program. In that position, Michelle led the Department's Value-Based Purchasing Strategy as well as its effort to restructure the MaineCare Non-Emergency Transportation system. In Massachusetts, Michelle led cross-Secretariat teams to define services and reform reimbursement and contracting for over \$700 million in human services as Purchase of Service Policy and Pricing Manager for Massachusetts' Executive Office of Health & Human Services. At the Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program, Michelle coordinated a statewide re-procurement and managed the refinement of WIC funding, needs assessment, and caseload allocation methodologies. Michelle began her career as a family advocate for homeless women and children. She has a Master's in Public Policy from UC Berkeley.

**Paul Saucier**, MA, is the Director of the Maine DHHS Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS). OADS administers Older Americans Act programs, long-term services and supports programs for adults of all ages and types of disabilities, and Maine's Adult Protective Services Program. Prior to arriving at OADS, Paul was a Senior Director at IBM Watson Health, where he specialized in integrated care models for older persons and persons with disabilities, including those with both Medicaid and Medicare coverage (dually eligible beneficiaries). In that role, he consulted with Federal and State clients, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, the Pennsylvania Office of Long Term Living and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Paul has also held positions at the USM Muskie School of Public Service, the National Academy for State Health Policy and the Maine Legislature's non-partisan Office of Policy and Legal Analysis. He is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance.

**Nirav Shah**, MD, JD. In June 2019, Nirav Shah, MD, JD, was appointed as the Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC). He brings broad experience in public health to Maine serving most recently as the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. While in Illinois, he implemented key initiatives to address the State's opioid crisis, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and reduce childhood lead poisoning. In addition to being a physician, Dr. Shah is also an attorney and public health economist. He has advised professionals and governments around the nation and globe on improving the delivery of health care. Earlier in his career, he worked for the Ministry of Health Cambodia, where his work included investigating and managing disease outbreaks as an epidemiologist. Shah received both medical and law degrees from the University of Chicago. He also studied economics at Oxford University.

**Danielle Watford**, MSIO, MS, CMQ-OE, Director of Quality & Regulatory Affairs, Maine Health Care Association. Danielle Watford has dedicated her career to the improvement and sustainability of Maine long term care providers. Currently serving as the Director of Quality Improvement and Regulatory Affairs for Maine Health Care Association, she has committed to serving as a resource for providers with an expertise in quality improvement, regulatory application, and advocacy. She holds a master's degree in both clinical psychology and industrial organizational psychology and has sixteen years' experience in long term care quality with an expertise in QAPI implementation, LTC quality measures, and an overwhelming and somewhat twisted love of data and data reporting strategies. She is LEAN SIX SIGMA green belted and is certified as a Manager of Quality in the category of Organizational Excellence

**Susan Wehry**, M.D., Chief of Geriatrics, University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, is a geriatric psychiatrist with over 30 years of experience as a physician leader and educator. During her career she has worked with policy makers, health and human service professionals, older adults and family caregivers throughout the United States. In 2002 and 2007, she helped the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) develop national programming on mental health and individualized care planning in nursing homes. In 2009, she authored Oasis, an interdisciplinary person-centered curriculum that has helped transform dementia care, support mental health recovery and reduce inappropriate antipsychotic use and has actively partnered with CMS in the national initiative to improve dementia care. During her tenure as Commissioner, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living expanded home and community based services—including the award-winning SASH program—and Vermont rose to number one in national AHRQ senior health rankings. She was honored to represent Vermont at the 2015 White House Conference on Aging.