

Tracy Albano

Tracy Albano has been with the California Medicaid agency (Medi-Cal) in Sacramento for four years, currently as manager for the Targeted Case Management program. TCM provides federal reimbursements to local governments for case management that links Medi-Cal clients to medical, social, housing, and other services. As a policy analyst for county, tribal, and school Medi-Cal programs, Tracy has addressed numerous federal issues and designed new programs. Fifteen years prior, her public service included economic forecasting, systems development, and project management for labor programs for the state economic security agency.

Ms. Albano came to Medicaid directly from a decade-long career in photojournalism, mostly in Northwest Indiana and Illinois's southeast Cook County, part of the greater Chicagoland, covering news that included shelters, soup kitchens, and the personal lives and stories of the homeless and dispossessed for the Northwest Indiana Times/Illinois Times, one of the three secondary newspapers covering Chicago's suburbs. When most of the homeless she met described a medical crisis as what began their difficulties, she had no idea she would eventually work for Medicaid. Tracy received a BA in both political science and photojournalism from Western Kentucky University. She has been in all 50 states.

Arturo Valdivia Bendixen

Arturo Valdivia Bendixen is Vice President for Programs and Partnerships at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, an organization that advocates for sound AIDS policy and increased public support for AIDS housing and services, and develops and implements strategies for coordinating AIDS care and prevention services throughout the Chicago Metropolitan area. He also serves as a member and officer of the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness, on the Board of the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness and is director of the Chicago Housing and Health Partnership.

He was a founding member of the Chicago Partnership to End Homelessness and Board member and officer for 7 years, from 1999 to 2006. In 2007, the Partnership merged with the Chicago Continuum of Care Office to become the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness. He was also a founding member of the Chicago Continuum of Care Program Office and member of the Continuum Planning Council and officer for 6 years, from 2000 to 2006. In 2007, the Continuum Board became the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness. At the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, he directs the Ryan White Chicago Case Management Cooperative and a number of supportive housing programs, including the "Hospital to Housing" program, and other harm reduction/housing first projects.

Mr. Bendixen is former executive director of Interfaith House, a non-profit respite care organization that partners with medical care providers and various housing providers to offer residential support and health services to homeless adults living with chronic illnesses, such as HIV/AIDS. He began his work at Interfaith House in 1994 supervising the work of the supportive service case managers at the newly established agency.

He is also an adjunct faculty member at the Jane Addams College of Social Work in the University of Illinois at Chicago.

David R. Buchanan, M.D., M.S.

David Buchanan is the Chief Medical Officer for the Erie Family Health Center's 8 locations in Chicago, and a general internist practicing community based care in Chicago's safety net. Prior to this, he was the Section Head for Social Medicine at John Stroger Hospital of Cook County (formerly Cook County Hospital). After completing an undergraduate degree in Economics at MIT and a medical degree at the University of Chicago, Dr. Buchanan completed a residency program in Primary Care Internal Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. During residency in San Francisco, he began working with homeless populations by performing medical outreach in Golden Gate Park, and began a medical student course on healthcare for homeless patients. In Chicago, Dr. Buchanan's clinical work is divided between a community health center and two homeless shelters where he serves as the medical director. His work as an educator has focused on developing curriculum for medical students and residents on the care of patients experiencing homelessness and on changing attitudes toward underserved populations. He frequently lectures about the social determinants of health, the health impact of housing, and performs trainings nationally about helping patients to apply for Social Security disability benefits.

Dr. Buchanan's research has included being the Principle Investigator for the Respite Care Outcomes Study, the first study documenting savings from providing respite care to homeless people after hospital discharge. He is currently working on the Chicago Housing for Health Partnership, a randomized trial which aims to determine the impact of providing permanent supportive housing on the health status and service costs of homeless people with chronic medical illnesses. He has completed an MS in Clinical Research at Rush University. David's policy work with homeless populations began in 1999 when he was appointed to the Governing Board of Chicago's Continuum of Care. The Continuum of Care sets funding priorities for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's homeless services in Chicago. He participated in the development of Chicago's Plan to End Homelessness, the first such plan for a major city in the United States. David also completed the Soros Advocacy Fellowship for Physicians during which he worked with Interfaith House, Chicago's respite care provider, to advocate for Medicaid reimbursement of providers of interim housing for homeless people after hospital discharge. Additionally, he was a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow in 2006-7.

Liz Drapa

Liz Drapa is the Associate Director with the Corporation for Supportive Housing Illinois. Liz has over ten years of experience working with affordable housing and special needs populations. At CSH, Liz works with organizations to strengthen their capacity to build and operate supportive housing. Liz administers the Supportive Housing Institute, provides technical assistance to providers across the State, and works closely with CSH's lending and grant making. Liz also works on policy and system change, working closely with the City of Chicago, State of Illinois and Indiana, and other municipalities on public policy related to homelessness and affordable housing. This work includes creating new initiatives and pilot projects aimed at housing persons who are chronically homeless; creating new tools and resources to ensure easier access to housing and target housing interventions; and developing sound policies that support the creation and development of new permanent supportive housing. Liz also works closely with the HUD SuperNOFA funding process in both Chicago and the State of Indiana. Prior to joining CSH, Liz worked with the Chicago Continuum of Care on Chicago's 10 Year Plan and the \$50 million dollar SuperNOFA process; with ICF Consulting as a consultant for HUD, focusing on AIDS housing and homelessness issues; and at HUD's Office of HIV/AIDS Housing.

Ira Feldman

Deputy Director, Medicaid Policy and Programs, AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health. Mr. Feldman has a 30 year tenure with the New York State Department of Health. Prior to joining the AIDS Institute in 1986 as its first Director of Health Programs, he held several administrative positions in the Department's Office of Health System's Management, Bureau of Hospital Services. In 2008 he was appointed to his current position of AIDS Institute Deputy Director for Medicaid Policy and Programs. In 2004 he was appointed to the position of AIDS Institute Director of the Division of HIV Health Care. He previously held positions as the Deputy Director of the Division of HIV Health Care, and the Director of the Bureau of HIV Program Review and Health Systems Development.

Mr. Feldman has overseen the development and implementation of health systems, innovative Medicaid reimbursement mechanisms and quality assessment for the continuum of health related HIV services including Designated AIDS Centers HIV Primary Care and HIV Chronic Care models. Most recently, Mr. Feldman has provided overall direction for the implementation of Medicaid managed care for persons with HIV disease and has headed the development of the HIV Special Needs Plans.

Mr. Feldman holds a Master's degree in Health Care Administration from Long Island University and a Bachelor's degree in Music from SUNY New Paltz.

Frank Kopel

Chief of Program and Reimbursement Analysis, in the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). Mr. Kopel has worked in HFS—and its predecessor agency, Public Aid—for 29 years. He was previously employed by the U. S. House of Representatives. His background is in rate setting, program development and evaluation, and Medicaid finance. Among his current responsibilities are: State and local government claiming and financial monitoring of the 1,000+ government entities (other than HFS itself) that administer portions of the Medicaid program; providing data analysis support to the program bureaus of the Division of Medical Programs; revision and maintenance of Title XIX and XXI State plans and related administrative rules; implementing initiatives to maximize federal funding, for both the State and its local government partners; administering provider tax programs that collect nearly \$1 billion per year.

Becky Kanis

Becky Kanis joined Common Ground in 2003 to launch Street to Home, an outreach program that targets the most chronic and vulnerable people on the streets for housing. Working closely with the Times Square Alliance and other partner agencies, Common Ground reduced street homelessness by 87% in Times Square over 3 years. Now Becky helps other communities across the US and in Canada to implement strategies to reframe homelessness as an urgent public health issue and expedite housing placements for individuals with the greatest mortality risk using the Vulnerability Index.

Becky has a Masters Degree in Organizational Change Management from The New School and is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. She served as an Army Officer for nine years before joining Common Ground.

Fabienne Laraque

Dr. Laraque went to medical school and completed an internal medicine residency in Haiti. At the end of residency, Dr. Laraque obtained a NIH-Fogarty International Fellowship during which she obtained a MPH degree from Columbia University School of Public Health and conducted research on the molecular biology of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* related to drug resistance, at Cornell University Medical College. She is also a graduate of the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) - the so-called Disease Detectives, and premier epidemiology training program in the country - and of the NYC DOHMH Preventive Medicine Residency (PMR) Program. She is board-certified in internal medicine and preventive medicine.

In 1997, Dr. Laraque became the Deputy Medical Director at the Bureau of Maternity Services and Family Planning (BMSFP), at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and Director of the Bureau's research unit. In April 2000, she became Assistant Commissioner of the newly formed Office of Family Health. Her responsibilities included overseeing research on maternal, infant and women's health, and programs targeted toward improving reproductive and infant's health, women's health, and access to care for disadvantaged populations. During her tenure, research projects were expanded on infant mortality, maternal mortality surveillance, teen pregnancy, pregnancy risk factors, and women's health. In addition, a cross-cutting community-based infant mortality reduction project was started in central Brooklyn, with an additional \$1 million in funding.

From 2002-2007, Dr. Laraque was the Director of the Office of Surveillance for the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control at the NYC DOHMH. In this position, she oversaw TB reporting in NYC via passive and active surveillance; supervised the maintenance of the TB registry as well as data verification, analysis and dissemination; oversaw interstate referrals for TB patients and contacts; managed reporting to CDC and NYS; led efforts to improve the completeness of TB reporting and reduce reporting delays; and managed various research projects, including TB preventability, the use of rapid testing for the diagnosis of TB, need for TB hospitalization and a *M. tuberculosis* drug resistance survey..

In June 2007, Dr. Laraque joined the Bureau of HIV Prevention and Control as the Director of the Care, treatment and Housing program. In her position, Dr. Laraque oversees Ryan White Services, Housing services, related policy and planning, research and evaluation, and the HIV Planning Council support unit.

Franklin Laufer, Ph.D.

Frank has worked in the New York State Department of Health for over 20 years. He currently works in the Medicaid Policy and Programs office of the Department's AIDS Institute primarily on fiscal issues as they affect the delivery of HIV-related services, including the Department's implementation of Medicaid ambulatory care reform and the calculation of premiums for HIV Special Needs Plans (SNPs), as well as on HIV quality of care measurement. Frank and other Institute staff have conducted analyses of Medicaid data to examine the costs of care for HIV-infected recipients, and are designing similar analyses of the cost of HIV- and HCV-related services. Prior to this, Frank worked in the Institute's Office of the Medical Director, overseeing aspects of the Institute's quality of care program, as well as in the Institute's Division of HIV Prevention during which he served as evaluation coordinator for a federally-funded demonstration project examining HIV prevention services in correctional facilities and participated with other Division staff in devising and implementing a prevention services priority-setting process used statewide to inform the community planning process.

Before coming to the Institute, Frank was assigned to the Department's Bureau of Health Economics to work on reimbursement for HIV care in hospitals and outpatient settings as well as other HIV-related financing issues. During that time he also served as co-director of a pilot study of needlestick prevention devices, for which he also conducted a cost-effectiveness analysis. Frank also conducted a cost-effectiveness analysis of syringe exchange programs in New York State, which was published in the *Journal of AIDS*. In addition to his career at the Department of Health, Frank has held positions at a medical laboratory, the Albany Medical College, and Blue Cross Blue Shield. Frank has a doctorate in public administration from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy of the State University of New York at Albany, with a concentration in policy and decision sciences, and a Master of Science degree in health systems management from Union College (Schenectady, NY).

Elizabeth Lee

Working in the health care arena for over 30 years, Elizabeth Lee has spent 25 of those years in Chicago. Currently, she is a Senior Program Officer for the Michael Reese Health Trust with primary responsibility for the Health Trust's Proactive Program. The Proactive Program provides grants for programs that leverage the resources of multiple agencies to improve health care services and outcomes for vulnerable groups. In addition, the Proactive Program provides resources for project evaluation and public policy analysis and evaluation with the aim of making the case for long-term public support for the "best practices" demonstrated by Proactive projects. The mission of the Health Trust is to improve the health of people in Chicago's metropolitan communities through effective grantmaking in health care, health education and health research.

Past positions held by Ms. Lee include: Vice President, Foundation and Community Benefit Programs, Advocate Health Care; and, Director, Centers for Health Promotion and Women's and Children's Health, the American Hospital Association. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, a Master of Science degree in nursing from the Catholic University of America, Washington D.C., and a Master of Management degree from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. She currently serves as a board member of Interfaith Housing Development Corporation; and, member of the grants review committee of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Angelique N. Miller

Angelique N. Miller, a Social Worker, has been with the housing team of AIDS Foundation of Chicago since 2004 and has been the Director of Housing Partnerships since 2006. Angelique has a Masters degree from The School of Social Services Administration of The University of Chicago. She has worked with housing and homeless issues for 7 years and has experience in evaluation of programs that serve people living with HIV/AIDS, active substance use, and homeless populations. In addition she worked in the substance abuse treatment field, as well as with sexual assault and domestic violence survivors. In her position at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Angelique oversees the implementation of the HUD SHP and HOPWA supportive housing programs; Safe Start I & II, CHHP, RCN, Housing, Health and Independent Living Program, and the Chronic Homeless Initiative. In addition she oversees the short-term rental assistance and emergency housing assistance programs. She is an active member of Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness.

David Munar

David Ernesto Munar is the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Vice President for Policy and Communications. As a person living with HIV, Munar is active in helping influence local, state, and federal public policy on HIV/AIDS. Munar serves on several non-profit boards including the Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative, the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), where he is the chairman, and the AIDS Action Council where he serves as its policy chair. He has served on several federal advisory committees with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the National Institute on Allergies and Infectious Diseases. In 2002, he co-chaired Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich's transition subcommittee on HIV/AIDS, and in 2004 received the CORE Center's Heart of Gold award for his longtime AIDS advocacy. As a private citizen, Munar has been actively involved in local and national politics. He was elected a Kerry delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston and served as an Obama delegate at the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver. Munar is bicultural, bilingual, and a first-generation Colombian-American. He received his B.A. from Northwestern University.

Alicia Neumann, MPA, PhD

Alicia is a Senior Planner at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, where she has supervised federal funding of Medicaid administration and Targeted Case Management services for the past five years. She also serves on the Advisory Committee of Health at Home, the Department's home care services agency, and the San Francisco Community Benefits Partnership, a policy and planning workgroup for local hospitals and other community-based organizations. She earned her Bachelor's degree at Occidental College in Los Angeles, her Master's in Public Administration at San Francisco State University, and is currently a doctoral candidate in Medical Sociology at the University of California, San Francisco.

Debbie Reznick

Debbie Reznick is a Senior Program Officer at the Polk Bros. Foundation, which last year granted approximately \$25 million to nonprofit organizations in Chicago in the areas of social service, education, health care and culture. Debbie received an M.B.A. from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has worked in the Chicago not-for-profit community for 16 years, focusing on areas of social justice and civil rights, in positions including program development, fundraising, strategic planning and marketing. During her time at Polk Bros. Foundation, Debbie has spent the majority of her time on issues related to housing and homelessness and has become an advocate for permanent housing and harm reduction programs. Debbie serves as a board member of the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness. She is the board president of the Albany Park Theater Project, a multiethnic ensemble of teenagers that creates original theater out of the real-life stories of one of Chicago's ethnically-diverse immigrant neighborhoods. Debbie is also a member of the leadership council of the Midwest Harm Reduction Institute, was co-chair of the Donors Forum issue group Grantmakers Concerned with Ending Homelessness and is a former board member of the Chicago Continuum of Care, Chicago Women in Philanthropy and the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs.

John Rojas

John Rojas is the Director of Housing within the Office of Care, Treatment, and Housing of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). In his position, Mr. Rojas oversees the Bureau's HIV/AIDS housing initiatives. His main responsibility is oversight and administration of the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) formula grant for New York City, including the counties of Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester. The New York City HOPWA grant, totaling over \$50M annually, funds capital development, supportive housing, rental assistance, and housing-related support services programs. Prior to working at DOHMH, Mr. Rojas worked at Public Health Solutions, master contractor of the Ryan White and Prevention grants in New York City, overseeing program initiatives.

Michelle Schneidermann

Michelle Schneidermann completed her internal medicine training at UCSF and joined the UCSF faculty in 2003 to help grow the Medical High User Case Management program. She has taught and written about case management, authoring the chapter on case management in Medical Management of Vulnerable and Underserved Patients (McGraw Hill 2007) and presenting at the Society of General Internal Medicine and the California Healthcare Foundation. Along with the rest of her team, she teaches about multidisciplinary teamwork and care of the "difficult patient" to housestaff, students, and community providers. Michelle is also the medical director for the San Francisco Department of Public Health's medical respite and sobering center, a 50 bed facility with two programs targeting chronic inebriates and recently discharged homeless patients in need of recuperative care. The respite program was recently selected by Health and Human Services as one of five "model" programs in the country. Michelle feels extremely fortunate to work with a talented and dedicated multidisciplinary staff and has learned so much from them.

Dave Thomas

Dave Thomas received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois in 1989. In 1991, he received his Masters of Social Work (MSW) from Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois. From 1988 to 1990, he worked as an assistant to the P.A.D.S. Shelter Director in Joliet, Illinois. After working as a school social worker from 1991-2000, Mr. Thomas worked 2 ½ years in human resources for various companies. He began working as a Housing Advocate for people with HIV/AIDS in 2003 at Agape Missions in Joliet. From November 2005 – June 2008, Mr. Thomas has worked at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago as the Supportive Housing Program Coordinator working with the Safe Start I, Renaissance Care Network HOPWA-SPNS, and Housing and Health Study programs. Currently, he is AFC's Supportive Housing Programs Manager working with the AFC SHP coordinators; AFC's housing partner agencies; and community partners to ensure quality supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses.

Evelyn Vazquez

Evelyn Vazquez is the Evaluation Coordinator for the Housing Unit at the Chicago Department of Public Health. She has been working with the Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program for five years. During this time she has been instrumental in further developing the housing unit: wrote the Policies and Procedures Manual, developed Quality Housing Standards for the HOPWA housing program, created new evaluation and reporting tools in compliance with Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements.

Ms. Vazquez collaborated in writing the proposal for the HUD and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Housing and Health Study. She was involved in the preparations for implementing the study locally and also monitoring throughout the duration of the project.

She has experience in coalition development, and in providing technical assistance to community based organizations in the areas of: program monitoring and evaluation, staff/organizational/board development, community asset mapping, gap analysis, needs assessment, and strategic planning.

For the past six years she has been an active member of the Latino Advisory Committee of the National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD).

David J. Vos

Mr. Vos serves as the Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing, in the Office of Community Planning and Development, since 1997. The Office administers the Department's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program, which provides \$300 million nation-wide in federal resources addressing the housing needs of a vulnerable special needs population. In 2008, HOPWA received the "effective" rating under the federal governments Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART), the highest rating a program can achieve. The program was recognized for achieving results in stable housing for beneficiaries, as a well managed, strategically planned effort with clear purposes. In 2008, the office received the Department's highest award, the Secretary's Impact Award, for demonstrating significant achievements in these HUD activities. Mr. Vos serves as the Department's lead staff for HIV issues, including collaborations with the White House Office of AIDS Policy, DHHS and CDC as well as with other HUD offices on homeless assistance, community planning, and fair housing. He lead efforts to design and implement new performance tools in establishing client outcomes for stable housing, reduced risks of homelessness and access to care and in guiding training, agency oversight and evaluation of results.

Fikirtę Wagaw

Fikirtę Wagaw has worked in the field of public health for over a decade She currently serves as Director of Community Based Services the Chicago Department of Public Health's Division of STD/HIV/AIDS. In this capacity she oversees HIV Prevention, HIV care and support services, HIV Housing programs, STD/HIV Adolescent Health programs, and HIV Community Reentry programs for recently released adult and youth populations.

She received her BA in Psychology from the University of Michigan and her MPH in Health Policy and Administration for the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Ray Willis

Ray Willis, a graduate of Kansas State University (Masters Degree in City Planning) in 1971, currently serves as the Director of Community Planning and Development for the Chicago Regional Office of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Mr. Willis has full responsibility for management and oversight of one of the Department's largest portfolios in the country of community development programs, administering an annual budget in excess of \$400,000,000.

In this capacity, Mr. Willis leads HUD's Illinois efforts in key program areas such as the Community Development Block Grant program, Supportive Housing for the Homeless, Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS, and other affordable housing and economic development programs. Mr. Willis has made numerous contributions over the past 32-years career at HUD as planner, innovator, and manager of HUD programs. One of the most noteworthy events while at HUD was Mr. Willis' selection as a Chicago Delegate to the United Nation's sponsored "Human Settlement" conference held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996.

Prior to joining HUD in 1976, Mr. Willis held various planning positions for the Ohio Department of Community and Economic Development, the Housing Authority for the City of Kansas City, Kansas, and Assistant Professor, Department of Regional and Community Planning, Kansas State University.