

## **Speaker Bios for July 17, 2019 Call**

### **Gina Eckart, MS, LMHC, Managing Principal Health Management Associates (*Indianapolis, Indiana*)**

Gina Eckart is a licensed mental health counselor with over 25 years of experience in the public behavioral health field. Just prior to joining HMA, Gina served as the director of the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction with responsibility for policy and funding of the public mental health and addiction system of care across the state, including six state psychiatric hospitals and over 2,200 employees. During that time, she worked closely with the Indiana Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning to improve efficiency and oversight of the Medicaid Rehabilitation Option (MRO) program, development of a 1915i application to serve persons with serious mental illness, as well as a successful Community Alternatives to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (CA-PRTF) demonstration. Under her leadership, the state successfully transitioned 110 individuals with intellectual disabilities from state psychiatric hospitals into community-based care.

Prior to joining the state of Indiana, Gina served in various clinical and leadership roles at Midtown Community Mental Health Center, where she began her career providing crisis services within a level one trauma center. Roles also included management of a 24-hour crisis unit which included an ambulatory detox program. Other responsibilities encompassed development and management of a centralized intake process and creation of an information and scheduling line for the community mental health center. Later areas of focus included expansion of center-wide quality assurance and utilization management processes.

Gina has also served as an adjunct professor at the Indiana University School of Social Work and on the board of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. She has also participated as a trainer for law enforcement on mental health and addiction at both the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and local Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trainings. In addition to serving on multiple local advisory boards and panels, she served on the standards, training, and practices subcommittee for Lifeline, the national suicide hotline and more recently on the board of Hope Academy, a recovery high school in Indianapolis. Gina earned both her Master of Science degree and Bachelor of Science degree at Indiana University. Gina has leveraged her experience as both a provider and policy maker on projects focused on behavioral health. Recent projects include working with states as well as county systems to improve and expand behavioral health services, as well as serving as a state coach for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP).

### **Gina Lasky, PhD, MAPL, Principal, Health Management Associates (*Denver, Colorado*)**

Dr. Lasky is a principal with HMA's Denver office. Gina works across the county on projects related to behavioral health system design for states, counties, managed care plans, and large providers. Her work focuses on development of effective stepped care approaches leveraging a continuum of services tailored to population need. "Right sizing" acute care services and evaluating the full continuum to develop a robust system is a frequent part of her work. Additionally, effective implementation of behavioral health integration into primary care is a core element of supporting clients in developing a full continuum of care.

Other common areas of focus for Gina include behavioral health quality improvement and innovation, such as enhancing measurement-based care, using human centered design thinking, bringing behavioral health services into the community, and partnership development.

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Gina is co-editor of *Integrated Care: A guide for effective implementation* (2017) published by the American Psychiatric Association. Gina earned her masters and doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Denver and a master's degree in public leadership with a specialization in multi-sector management from George Washington University. She is the current Past President of the Board for The College for Behavioral Health Leadership.

### **Debra L. Moscardino, MPA, Independent Consultant (Columbus, Ohio)**

Debby's expertise is in long term services and supports for older adults, children with intellectual developmental and/or behavioral challenges and persons with behavioral health issues. Debby has assisted state agencies, state lawmakers, managed health care plans and direct service providers with evaluating, improving and designing program policies, developing strategic planning efforts and facilitating informed decision-making involving LTSS.

Prior to working as a consultant, Debby was the chief of the Bureau of Long-Term Care Service and Supports (BLTCSS) at the Ohio Department of Medicaid. In that capacity, she oversaw program development, home care operations, and interagency policy for long-term care services in skilled nursing facilities and home and community-based services delivered in the home. Debby led a team that administered one of Ohio's seven waivers and oversaw the administration of six others through the Ohio Department of Aging and Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. In addition to responsibility for the administration of program and policy regarding institutional long-term care facilities, other program areas included HOME Choice, Ohio's federally funded Money Follows the Person demonstration project, which relocates seniors and persons with disabilities to home and community-based settings and helps to balance Ohio's long-term services and supports structure. The Front Door Initiative is the centerpiece of the MFP program rebalancing activities, which seeks to "balance" long-term care services between institutional care and home and community-based services and to create a "no wrong door" for services in Ohio. Debby managed the interagency agreements and relationships with the other state agencies that were responsible for critical components of the Medicaid program such as preadmission screening and resident review for persons with intellectual disabilities and/or mental illness, community behavioral health initiatives including 1915(i) waivers, and Medicaid School Program.

Debby earned a master's degree in public administration from Ohio University, a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Ohio Dominican College, and an associate degree in mental health/mental retardation from Columbus Technical Institute.

### **Alicia D. Smith, MHA, President, Vorys Health Care Advisors (Columbus, Ohio)**

Alicia is the president of Vorys Health Care Advisors LLC (VHCA). VHCA specializes in Medicaid policy, program and system development and financing and payment reform for special populations including those with behavioral health needs, intellectual and developmental disabilities, older adult populations and children with special health care needs.

Alicia has over 25 years of experience in health care policy. More specifically, she has extensive experience with Medicaid and other public assistance programs, and has worked extensively with mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) systems and providers. Alicia has assisted state and

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local government programs design and implemented numerous service delivery and payment reform efforts, including the development and approval of Medicaid health homes and similar care management programs. In addition, Alicia has consulted to several clients, including the District of Columbia, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia on a wide range of issues, including program design and implementation, Medicaid 1115 waiver and state plan development, program analysis, and stakeholder engagement. She has also led several projects with Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs), community behavioral health providers, hospital and health systems, and state and national trade associations, as well as supported MCOs to respond to state-issued requests for proposals.

Immediately prior to joining VHCA, Alicia worked as a principal for another national health care consulting firm. She also served as managing principal for eleven years at a national health care policy consulting and research firm. She began her career in 1995 working at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (now the Ohio Department of Medicaid) as a policy and program developer.

Alicia has presented and has been published on a number of health care policy related topics including: the geropsychiatric system of care in Virginia; billing effectively and accurately for integrated behavioral health services; Medicaid health home best practices and financing and policy considerations; and making the Ohio Medicaid business case for integrated physical and behavioral health care. Alicia has a M.H.A. from The Ohio State University. She holds a B.A. from Central State University.

### **David J. Frederick, MHA, Research and Policy Advisor, Vorys Health Care Advisors (Columbus, Ohio)**

David has experience working with a broad range of providers, trade associations and health systems in Ohio and other states. He has expertise in advising clients on state and federal Medicaid policy, behavioral health program development and fidelity, emerging health care delivery models, managed care organizations, services for children with complex needs, older adult population health, and community-based services.

David's research focus at VHCA spans a variety of health policy issues, including Medicaid funding models and waivers, value-based payment models, complex I/DD reimbursement strategies, outpatient and residential mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) program design, high-fidelity wraparound, EPSDT provisions for children with complex needs, behavioral health managed care carve-in/carve-out models, care coordination, telehealth, integrated care and other topics relating to client work. David received his M.S. in allied health in health care administration from Otterbein University. He received his B.A. from the University of Georgia.