

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

November 2020

Marc A. Cohen, PhD, is a Professor of Gerontology at UMass Boston. In his role at UMass, Dr. Cohen is the Co-Director of the LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston and he also serves as a Research Director at the Center for Consumer Engagement in Health Innovation at Community Catalyst. Prior to joining UMass in the fall of 2016, Dr. Cohen served as the Chief Research and Development Officer and former President and co-founder of LifePlans, Inc., a long-term care research and risk management company that works with both the public and private sector on issues related to the financing and delivery of long-term care. Over his 25 year career, Dr. Cohen has conducted extensive research and analysis on a variety of public policy issues affecting the financing and delivery of long-term care services and has promoted public-private partnerships in helping to address the nation's challenges.

Kim Curyto, PhD, is a clinical psychologist in the Community Living Center (CLC) at the Western New York VA. She is currently a master consultant trainer and program evaluator for STAR-VA, an evidence based interdisciplinary behavioral approach to managing challenging behaviors among residents with dementia. She is involved in adapting a psychosocial preferences assessment tool to the nursing home/CLC setting in order to evaluate the impact of preference congruent care. Her clinical and research interests include the implementation and evaluation of ecopsychosocial interventions and their impact on mood and behavior in persons with dementia.

Steven Handler, MD, PhD, CMD, is the Associate Chief of Staff for Geriatrics and Associate GRECC Director at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. He is also an Associate Professor with a primary appointment in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and secondary appointments in Biomedical Informatics as well as Translational Science. He is a practicing geriatrician with direct patient care responsibilities in the nursing home and Home-Based Primary Care. His primary research area focuses on medication and patient safety, telemedicine, and quality improvement primarily in the nursing home setting.

Michele J. Karel, PhD, ABPP, is a board certified clinical geropsychologist. She serves as National Mental Health Director, Geriatric Mental Health, in the Veterans Health Administration Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. In that role, she coordinates the integration of mental health services in VA Geriatrics and Extended Care programs including Home Based Primary Care and Community Living Centers. She works with many partners to foster geriatric mental health education and training, and sharing of promising care models and practices for meeting the behavioral and mental health needs of aging Veterans.

Cari Levy, MD, PhD, currently is a professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She serves as Section Chief of Palliative Medicine and Director of the Center of Innovation for Veteran-Centered and Value-Driven Research at the Rocky Mountain Regional Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Dr. Levy's research focuses on innovative models of care for older adults, and improving nursing home and end-of-life care for older adults.

Madeline Michel, DNP, APRN, GNP-BC, FNP-BC, is Adjunct Clinical Faculty at Florida Atlantic University and a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner at the the Louis and Anne Green Memory Wellness Center. At this state designated Memory Disorder Clinic under the State of Florida's Alzheimer's Disease Initiative, she provides comprehensive cognitive evaluations of older adults. In collaboration with an interprofessional team, she assists of persons with memory disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease and related disorders (ADRD), and their families through a comprehensive array of services, compassionate and innovative programs of care, and education. Born and raised in Haiti, she has been living in the United States for the past 30 years. Her passion is the wellness of older adults, especially the Haitian older adults living in the South Florida communities. She received a Clinical Excellence Award Form the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing in May, 2019. Her Doctoral Quality Improvement Project "*Wellness Through Action*" is an example of her commitment to the wellbeing of older Haitian adults. She has been actively involved in activities to foster older Haitian adults healthy aging and to function at their personal best to maximize quality of life.

Constantina Mizis has dedicated over 25 years of service to Latino older adults and their family caregivers. She has provided consulting and training services throughout the United States and has worked with national organizations like the National Council of La Raza to develop programs for Latino older adults. Mrs. Mizis is the founding executive director of The Latino Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders Alliance (LAMDA) based in Chicago, IL. LAMDA is on the frontline of addressing Alzheimer's growing impact on the Latino community and provides direct services to thousands of Latinos struggling with Alzheimer's annually. Prior to founding LAMDA, Mizis served as a multicultural outreach manager for the Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter and as a multicultural outreach and community affairs manager at the Sinai Community Institute (SCI).

Kitty Purington, JD, is a senior program director at the National Academy for State Health Policy, where she leads the organization's work on chronic care and vulnerable populations. In this work, Kitty oversees state-focused projects and initiatives that inform national policy discussion on issues such as delivery system and payment reform, behavioral health, and long term care. Prior to joining NASHP, Kitty served as the Program and Policy Manager for Maine's Value-Based Purchasing Initiative, overseeing the development of that state's Medicaid behavioral health home model for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance, as well as the implementation and expansion of its existing health home initiative for Medicaid enrollees with chronic physical health conditions. Kitty previously directed policy at the Maine Behavioral Health Association, working with stakeholders, legislators, and

Maine's executive branch leaders to improve mental health and substance use disorder policies at the state level. Kitty has also practiced as an attorney focusing on elder law, disability, and health-related issues. She has over 25 years' experience working with and for states to improve policies that support older adults and individuals with behavioral health and other chronic care needs.

Martha Roherty is the Executive Director of ADvancing States (formerly NASUAD). ADvancing States represents the nation's 56 state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities and long-term services and supports directors. Ms. Roherty currently serves on various Boards of leadership: the National Resource Center for Participant Directed Services; the National Academy of Social Insurance; the National EVV Association; the Center for Excellence in Assisted Living; and the Long-Term Quality Alliance. Prior to joining ADvancing States, Ms. Roherty served as the director of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors. In that capacity, she helped states navigate through transitions in the Medicaid program, including transitioning the dually eligible population to Medicare Part D; develop Medicaid waivers in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and implement the Deficit Reduction Act. She holds a Master of Public Policy with a concentration in finance from the University of Maryland. Ms. Roherty is the mother of 5, including an adult son with autism who is on the Medicaid waiver, and annually participates in his own person-centered planning process.

Jennifer Rosen is the Director of State Affairs at the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movements. She currently directs the Association's and AIM's 50 state gubernatorial and state legislative engagement strategy, analyzes key policy trends, manages state policy development, and provides technical assistance to the Association's policy staff in the field to support the enactment of state legislative and regulatory priorities nationwide. Jennifer represents the Association and AIM before all national state legislative organizations and frequently interacts with state officials, private sector stakeholders, and staff and volunteers within the Association's Chapter network. Prior to joining the Alzheimer's Association and AIM, Jennifer served as the Director of Policy and Communications for the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL), a non-profit, non-partisan organization that empowers elected women at all levels of government nationwide, including local, state, federal, and tribal leaders. After receiving her B.A. in Political Science and History from The George Washington University, Jennifer currently serves as a Co-Chair of Women in Government Relations' (WGR) State Relations Task Force.