

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO ACCESSING QUALITY HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AD/ADRD

Panelist Bios

October 19, 2018

Diana Blackwelder -- Alzheimer's Association

Diana Blackwelder currently serves as National Early-Stage Advisor for The Alzheimer's Association. Before retirement, she worked in information technology including leadership roles with the NASA Space Shuttle External Tank, Navy Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Guidance System, and the U.S. Judiciary Software Development Security Programs. She has been a volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Children and in animal adoption. Ms. Blackwelder lives in Washington, D.C. with her two cats Buddy and Little Bit. She was diagnosed with MCI in 2016 and Younger Onset AD in September 2017.

John Collinge -- Family Caregiver

John Collinge is the husband of Zandra Flemister who has the Frontal Temporal Degeneration form of dementia. Their son Sam is moderately Autistic. Mr. Collinge earned BA and JD degrees at the University of Arizona. He began his federal career in 1977 as a Vista Volunteer working for Southern Arizona Legal Aid in Tucson. Mr. Collinge joined the State Department in 1978 as a Foreign Service Officer and there met his wife who was in the same entering class. They married in 1981. He retired in 2009 from the Central Intelligence Agency. Post retirement Mr. Collinge worked until recently as a contractor and a consultant for the State Department and the CIA. Mr. Collinge has an avid interest in history, a love of Southern Arizona and enjoys baseball and travel. He volunteers for the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training and at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Bethesda, Maryland. He is active as a Family Advocate at Arden Courts, Kensington where Zandra resides and at IONA Senior Services at Tenleytown, Washington, D.C. where Zandra was the Wellness and Arts Program prior to entering long-term care.

Veronica Cool -- Cool Associates

After 20 years in the corporate sector, Veronica Cool launched Cool & Associates, a management consulting firm to bridge the mainstream world to the Hispanic segment in the United States. Specializing in an integrated model providing solutions including marketing, workforce development and training. She has blended her financial expertise and operational experience with her nonprofit activities to drive engagement and growth. Ms. Cool's expertise includes commercial banking, lending, financial analysis and sales management, working with Wells Fargo and Bank of America, and leading and operating the state-wide Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She is the founder of the Latino Innovators Pitch, an innovative program to showcase and empower Latino entrepreneurs to scale and grow their businesses profitably and sustainably. Veronica founded the Facebook Groups Yo Quiero Trabajo and Emprendedores Exitosos, where she curates content, resources and opportunities for Latino jobseekers and entrepreneurs. Ms. Cool holds a BS from Kutztown University in Business Administration, and a Master's of Science in Finance from Loyola University of MD. A native of Dominican Republic, she is the Past Board Chairman of the MD Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and co-chair of Martin O'Malley's gubernatorial transition steering committee focusing on MBE and Small Business. Cool currently serves on the boards of Open Society Institute, Alliance for Hispanic Commercial Contractors, Life Lens and is a proud member of the Hispanic Leaders Association, Latino Providers Network, Latinas Think Big and SHIFT.

Tim Engelhardt -- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of Medicare and Medicaid Coordination

Tim Engelhardt directs the CMS Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office, dedicated to improving services for individuals dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. Prior to joining CMS in 2010, Mr. Engelhardt was a consultant with The Lewin Group, and he previously served as the Deputy Director for Long Term Care Financing at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Mr. Engelhardt received a BA in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame and an MHS from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Mary Hogan -- Family Advocate

Mary Hogan's personal and professional lives were shaped by the arrival of her youngest brother Bill who was born with Down syndrome in 1960. She spent nearly 40 years as a Special Educator and since Bill's death in 2010 of complications of Alzheimer's disease, she has worked closely with the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices (NTG). Their shared focus has been to raise awareness of the increased incidence of Alzheimer's disease in the intellectual disability (ID) community, advocate for inclusion in the National Plan and address the challenges faced by individuals, families and care providers. For the past two years Ms. Hogan has co-facilitated an online monthly support group for families living with ID and dementia. She was a contributing author to the NDSS publication on *Aging and Down Syndrome: A Health and Wellbeing Guidebook* and to the most recent *Alzheimer's Disease and Down Syndrome, A Practical Guidebook for Caregivers*. She has also co-authored several articles related to the challenges of living and dying with ID and dementia and has presented on Down syndrome and Alzheimer's disease in a variety of forums. A long time attendee of the NAPA Advisory Council meetings, she remains dedicated to improving quality of life and quality care for this very special population.

Helen Kales, MD -- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Helen Kales is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan (UM) and a Research Investigator in the Center for Clinical Management Research (CCMR) and the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) in the VA Ann Arbor Health System. She is also the founding Director of the UM Program for Positive Aging (PPA), a multifaceted UM program established in 2009. The PPA promotes team science via national and international collaborations in order to improve outcomes for older patients with dementia or mental health issues and their families. Dr. Kales served as Director of the Section of Geriatric Psychiatry from 2009-2014, overseeing all clinical, educational, and research operations, and building the Section to include ten geriatric psychiatrists, one of the largest academic concentrations of this specialty in the world. As a fellowship-trained, board-certified geriatric psychiatrist, her research program is directly informed by her clinical work and experiences with patients, families, providers, and systems to diminish the barriers to effective and high quality care for older patients with dementia or with mental health issues. Dr. Kales was named to the Lancet Global Commission on Dementia Care in 2015, and is recognized as an international expert in the behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia, depression in later life and in pharmacoepidemiological research related to the prevalence and risks of use of antipsychotic and other psychotropic medications in patients with dementia.

Ellen McCreedy, PhD -- Brown University

Ellen McCreedy is interested in improving the quality of remaining life for people with dementia. Her research goals are to reduce the amount of futile and burdensome care received at the end of life; and to provide comfort, meaning, and moments of joy to people living with dementia and their families. Professor McCreedy received her MPH in Global Health from the University of South Florida, her PhD in Health Services Research from the University of Minnesota, and recently completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at Brown University, Center for Gerontology and Healthcare Research. Dr. McCreedy is directing a pragmatic trial of a personalized music intervention to reduce agitation and isolation in nursing home residents with dementia.

Marisa Scala-Foley -- National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Aging and Disability Business Institute

Marisa Scala-Foley is the Director of the Aging and Disability Business Institute at the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), which provides community-based organizations with the tools and resources to successfully adapt to a changing health care environment, enhance their organizational capacity and capitalize on emerging opportunities to diversify funding. Recently, she served as Director of the Office of Integrated Care Innovations in the Center for Integrated Programs at the HHS Administration for Community Living, where she managed the agency's efforts to build the capacity of state and community-based organizations for delivery system reform. Before that she helped found and lead the Center for Benefits Access at the National Council on Aging. Ms. Scala-Foley has worked her entire career in the field of aging on issues related to health-care and long-term services and supports. She holds a Masters in Gerontological Studies from Miami University (Ohio), and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology/Gerontology from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Kathy Vesley-Massey -- Bay Aging dba VAAACares

Kathy Vesley-Massey is President and CEO of Bay Aging, a nonprofit Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serving rural eastern Virginia. In addition to traditional aging programs, Bay Aging provides senior housing, public transportation and in-home transitional health care. In 2017 she was awarded The John A. Hartford Foundation Business Innovation Award for forging a statewide coalition of AAAs, named VAAACares[®]. Prior to joining Bay Aging, she served in Virginia state leadership positions such as Deputy Commissioner of the Department for the Aging and Acting Commissioner of the Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
