



# Health Leadership Program

2016 - 2017

**PROGRAM FELLOWS**

*a catalyst for change*



**Missouri** Foundation  
for **Health**

## Health Leadership Fellows Class Of 2016-2017

Phil R. Berger  
Carmen Parker-Bradshaw  
Jennifer Brinkmann  
Laura A. Coleman, LPC  
Margaret (Jean) Darnell  
Cynthia G. Dean  
Lara A. Fallon, LCSW  
Lester Gillespie  
Kami Gollhofer  
Courtney Graves, Ed.D.  
Jennifer A. Haasis, LCSW  
Katie Towns-Jeter  
David Kessel  
Shanté M. Lampley, Ph.D.  
Don M. McBride  
Cathy G. McElderry, Ph.D.  
Laurie A. Phillips  
Meredith L. Rataj, LMFT  
C. Ming Saelee  
Kevin F. Schuh, CPRP  
Billy J. Thompson  
Cheri D. Lilly-Tillis  
Shawni L. Jackson-Triggs, Ph.D.  
Amanda R. Mejia Westall



## Phillip Berger

Phillip Berger is Director of Strategic Initiatives at Family Health Center, a federally-qualified health center in Columbia. He oversees the organization's marketing, community engagement, and planning activities. Phil manages the Center's outreach and enrollment efforts for the Missouri Health Insurance Marketplace and coordinates legislative advocacy for the organization. Prior to joining Family Health Center, he earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology from the University of Central Missouri. He served in Peace Corps from 2008–2010 in Cameroon and earned a Master of Health Administration and Master of Public Health, both from the University of Missouri.

## Carmen Parker-Bradshaw



Carmen Parker-Bradshaw serves as the Director of Community Benefit & Health for Mercy Health System, including 44 hospitals and nearly 700 clinics. In this capacity she is responsible for community benefit investment portfolios and regulatory requirements. Prior to this, she served as Executive Director for The Health Commission; Health Policy Administrator for Springfield-Greene County Health Department; Health Policy Fellow for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Global Health Affairs in Washington, D.C. and the World Health Organization. She has bachelor's degree in Government and Biology and a master's degree in Public Administration and Health Policy.

## Jennifer Brinkmann



Jennifer Brinkmann has been Chief of Staff of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission since 2010. She leads the Gateway to Better Health Demonstration, which provides basic health coverage to 20,000 St. Louis residents, and Alive and Well STL, which is working to address the impact of toxic stress and trauma on health. Prior to joining the RHC, Jennifer held senior positions in communications and brand strategy firms. She holds degrees from Stephens College and Washington University in St. Louis. She currently serves on the boards of the Maternal Child Family Health Coalition and St. Bridget of Kildare School.



## Laura Coleman

Laura Coleman, M.Ed., LPC, has been working at Behavioral Health Response for 15 years. She is currently Director of Clinical Services. She is a member of the Southeast Interagency Committee and BHN's Adult Behavioral Health Services Advisory Board. Both committees work to promote more and higher quality mental health services and trainings. Laura is a Master Trainer in ASIST as well as a MHFA instructor. Laura worked for Life Skills Foundation (now Easter Seals of Eastern Missouri) for 10 years helping individuals with developmental disabilities live and work in the St. Louis community with dignity.



## Jean Darnell

Jean Darnell is the Executive Director of The Community Partnership, a nonprofit organization serving families in central Missouri. She has worked for TCP for more than 15 years, first as a Program Director, before taking on the role of Executive Director. Jean oversees a diverse group of programs and initiatives, serving children with disabilities, youth in foster care, pregnant and parenting teens, and early care and education providers. Jean earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree from Missouri State University and has an extensive background in the field of disabilities. A native of Kansas City, Jean has lived in Rolla for the past 21 years. She is married and has two children.



## Cynthia Dean

Cynthia Dean is the Chief Executive Officer of the Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium, Inc. Previously she served as Regional Director of Cardiovascular Health Programs at the State of Missouri Department of Health, where she was honored as an Employee of the Year and Month. She also received a National Leadership Service Award in 2013 for her work with rural underserved families. She was appointed by Governor Nixon to the Delta Leadership Institute's 2014–2015 Executive Academy. She has previously served on the Missouri Foundation for Health's Community Advisory Council and their Board of Directors from 2003–2014. Additionally, she is a former President of the National Healthy Start Association in Washington, D.C.



## Lara Fallon

Lara Fallon, LCSW, ACSW, is the Social Work Manager at the International Institute. She oversees several social work programs including Direct Service, Preferred Communities, OVC Victims Services for Victims of Human Trafficking, and Rescue and Restore: Refugee Strengthening and Parenting Education. She also provides direct services to refugees and immigrants. Lara consistently works towards building capacity with community service providers, including medical providers to ensure that the needs of refugees and immigrants are not only being addressed but are approached in a culturally competent manner.



## Lester Gillespie

Lester Gillespie is a Program Director at Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center. Since 1998, Lester has been coordinating programs at SWFLC, where he is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of youth and adult programs. Lester has served on numerous committees, such as the Charleston Nutrition Center Board and Charleston A+ committee. He is currently the Chairman of the Charleston C2000 Board where he oversees the implementation of anti-drug and alcohol programs that target youth. Lester attended Southeast Missouri State University and graduated in 1990 with a B.A. in General Studies with an emphasis in Criminal Justice. He resides in Charleston, Missouri with his wife Pamela; together they share three children.



## Kami Gollhofer

Kami Gollhofer has more than 12 years of administrative experience working directly with the low-income and uninsured populations in the Southwest Region. Kami has a comprehensive understanding of the health needs of women, children, low-income, minority, and immigrant populations. She possesses firsthand knowledge of the implementation of state programming to assist disadvantaged populations in their health care needs, with experience including: smoking cessation, mental health, and alcohol/drug abuse programming. In her current role with SWMO AHEC, she collaborates with area hospitals and educational institutions to bring health education and career promotion into rural and underserved areas within the “four states” community.



## Courtney M. Graves, EdD

Courtney M. Graves, Ed.D., is a Licensed Professional Counselor specializing in treating adolescents and their families. She currently serves as Clinical Director at St. Vincent Home for Children. Dr. Graves has also worked with homeless veterans at the Salvation Army, early-childhood families at Saint Martin's Child Center, and individuals battling mental health issues, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse disorders in Atlanta. Dr. Graves serves on the Boards of the Ferguson Florissant School District and the Saint Martin's Child Center. She is the mother of two gifted young men and a member of Delta Sigma Theta and Iota Phi Lambda Sororities, Inc.



## Jennifer Haasis

Jennifer Haasis graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and immediately began her career at BJC Behavioral Health as a Case Manager. Although she thoroughly enjoyed her supporting role as her patients moved through recovery, she wanted to expand her expertise. She transitioned into a role in the Quality Department, and since 2004 has continued to expand her oversight through this department. She is currently the Associate Director of Quality and Compliance and oversees the activities along with the Revenue Cycle, Safety Program, and Provider Network. Her role is to support the health and wellbeing of the client/staff /community.



## Katie Towns-Jeter

Katie Towns-Jeter graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Sports Medicine/Athletic Training and later a Master's of Public Health from Missouri State University. After years of experience in public health and health care, she currently serves as the Assistant Director at the Springfield-Greene County Health Department in Springfield, Missouri. In this role, Towns-Jeter is currently assisting with the development of chronic disease prevention initiatives, health department accreditation, and an unprecedented effort to develop a regional Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan. Towns-Jeter is an active member of the Junior League of Springfield and a mother to two children, Cole and Maren.



## David Kessel

David Kessel has 20 years of experience at Employment Connection, currently serving as Chief Operating Officer. Prior experience includes serving as Business Manager at Advent Enterprises, Inc., in Columbia, Missouri. He also has auditing/accounting experience with the state of Missouri. David received his Bachelor of Science degree from Northeast Missouri State University (Truman). He is a certified Missouri Workforce Development Professional (MWDP), and serves on the St. Louis Alliance for Re-entry (STAR).



## Dr. Shanté M. Lampley

Dr. Shanté M. Lampley is the Chief Deputy Juvenile Officer of the Child Protection Department for the 22nd Judicial Circuit of Missouri. She has also served as adjunct faculty in Criminal/Juvenile Justice for Harris-Stowe State University and St. Louis University. She serves as a committee member for the St. Louis Family and Community Partnership, Washington University Center for Violence and Injury Prevention, Office of State Courts Administrator's Child Welfare Performance Standards Workgroup, and the Missouri Juvenile Division Education Committee. Dr. Lampley is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



## Don McBride

Don McBride is the CEO for ACCESS Family Care, a nonprofit community health center that provides measured quality health care for the uninsured by making it affordable for all people. ACCESS has medical and dental clinics in Joplin, Anderson, and Cassville and medical clinics in Neosho, Mt. Vernon, and Lamar. Prior to his service at ACCESS, Don directed two federal migrant education grants for Crowder College, was an educator with the Missouri Migrant Education Program, and taught English and Spanish at Purdy and Neosho schools. When he finds time, he enjoys bicycling and travel.



## Cathy McElderr

Cathy McElderr is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Social Work at Southeast Missouri State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Alabama. She also holds a Master of Social Work degree and a Master of Public Health degree. Dr. McElderr is a licensed practitioner experienced in health and mental health practice. Her research focuses on social determinants of health and wellbeing. Her scholarly activities extend to women’s issues such as access to health care, HIV/AIDS, and gender-based violence.



## Laurie Phillips

Laurie Phillips assumed her role as CEO of St. Patrick Center in January 2015. Before joining the agency, she managed the largest awareness and fundraising event for the Alzheimer’s Association’s St. Louis Chapter. For the 15 years prior to her nonprofit experience, Laurie worked in finance, including 10 years with Monsanto. Laurie received her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Missouri St. Louis, and an MBA and MSW from Washington University in St. Louis. She sits on the Downtown St. Louis, Inc. Board of Directors and is a member of Washington University’s Brown School Dean’s Professional Advisory Committee.



## Meredith Rataj

Meredith Rataj is a bilingual licensed marriage and family therapist and site director of St. Francis Community Services Southside Center, a social service agency that serves the immigrant population in St. Louis, Missouri with case management, counseling, and after-school programming. Ms. Rataj received her B.A. in Spanish from Truman State University and her M.A. in Marital and Family Therapy from Fuller School of Psychology. Ms. Rataj has worked as a bilingual therapist in community mental health since 2004, providing counseling to Latino youth, adults, and families in individual and group settings. She has overseen agency programming at Southside since 2011.





## C. Ming Saelee

C. Ming Saelee is the Director of Development and Community Engagement for Youth In Need, a social service agency for vulnerable children, youth, and their families in the St. Louis region. Ming leads fundraising efforts related to private grants procurement, in-kind donation management, and the agency's community volunteer program. Previously, Ming served as the Programs and Research Manager for Gateway Center for Giving, a regional association of grantmakers. Ming holds a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies from Occidental College and a Master of Social Work from the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis.



## Kevin Schuh

Kevin Schuh earned his B.A. and M.A. in Sport Management and served in many organizations in the Sports Business Industry until finding himself in Municipal Recreation. Currently he is the Recreation Supervisor with the City of Eureka, creating and promoting healthy activities for Eureka residents. Other positions currently held are President Elect for the MPRA Fitness, Health, and Wellness Section and a member of the park board for Maplewood, Missouri. He currently resides in Maplewood, Missouri with his wife Meredith and young daughter Emerson Rose.



## Billy Thompson

Billy Thompson is a passionate believer and advocate of serving the needs of the whole child in order to effectively impact their personal development and academic success. Since joining The Little Bit Foundation, Billy has helped elevate the organization's model of wraparound service to support student readiness, self-esteem, literacy, and health and wellness. Billy is a 2002 graduate of the University of Missouri. In addition to his work with Little Bit, he has a background in commercial real estate, previously owning and operating long-term care facilities for mentally ill and developmentally delayed adults.



## Cheri Tillis

Cheri Tillis has been leading program development and operations at Fathers' Support Center (FSC) since 2003. She is charged with managing the daily operations of the agency's longstanding Family Formation Program, ensuring ongoing funding of FSC's work, and managing all government grant programs. Tillis represents FSC at many national fatherhood conferences, where she is often called upon to speak about FSC's program, which is increasingly pointed to as a national model. Tillis holds a Master's in Human Resource Management from Lindenwood University and a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Jackson State University.



## Shawni Jackson-Triggs

Dr. Shawni Jackson-Triggs is the Community Program Director for the Alzheimer's Association-St. Louis Chapter. She leads the Community Program Team for Faith Initiatives, Education & Support, and Physician Outreach programs. She is a Parent Asthma Advocate serving on the Washington University School of Medicine Asthma Symptom-Based Adjustment of Inhaled Steroid Therapy in African American Children Advisory Board and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (Asthma) out of Washington, D.C. as a parent and patient participant. Through her work with Alzheimer's disease, she served on the Washington University School of Medicine Knight Alzheimer Disease Research Center African American Advisory Board.



## Amanda Mejia Westall

Amanda Mejia Westall has a Master's in Social Work from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, and Bachelor's in Social Work from the University of Missouri. She joined the staff at Sherwood Forest in 2014 as the Development Specialist and currently serves as Grants Manager. Amanda plays a significant role in helping to raise needed funds for Sherwood Forest. She is responsible for initiating, building, and sustaining relationships with both potential and current grant funders and donors. Amanda also assists with program development and oversees research and evaluation for the organization.