



# 2020 Pediatric Brain Health Summit | Speaker Biographies



**Katherine  
Butterwick**

Katherine Butterwick is a program officer at the Episcopal Health Foundation. She serves on several community coalitions including Houston's Infant Toddler Coalition, Maternal Health Initiative, and Non-Profit Leadership Collaborative. She also serves as an internal advisory for inter-divisional project groups focused on early childhood brain development and health equity. Ms. Butterwick has held positions in a variety of philanthropic and non-profit organizations in the Houston area.



**David Lakey, MD**

David Lakey, MD is Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer at The University of Texas System. He also serves as Senior Advisor to the President and Professor of Medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. He serves as the executive sponsor for the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies, the executive sponsor for the Texas Health Improvement Network, and as the presiding officer of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium. Prior to being appointed to The University of Texas System and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, Dr. Lakey was the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, one of the largest state agencies in Texas.



**Marjan Linndel, MD**

Marjan Linndel, MD is a pediatrician at the Austin Regional Clinic. She is a member of the ARC's taskforce bringing Hunger Vital Signs Screening to the clinics and was a member of the Central Texas Pediatric Trauma Learning Collaborative. She also serves on the Texas Pediatric Society's Committee on Nutrition & Health.



**Dorothy Mandell,  
PhD**

Dorothy Mandell, PhD is an Associate Professor at University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler and UT System Population Health. Her research has spanned multiple topics in maternal and child health including understanding the effects of a variety of perinatal and post-natal factors on later development. She has also conducted analyses and research on a variety of public health topics, including work that has supported the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force, The Texas Collaborative for Health Mothers and Babies, and the strategic plan to align prevention resources between the Department of Family Protective Services and the Department of State Health Services in Texas. She is the primary investigator on several grants focused on improving health and well-being for families with young children.



**Kimberly McPherson**

Kimberly McPherson is Senior Program Officer at the St. David's Foundation. She develops strategies for programs and grant making in the areas of Childhood Adversity and Housing Wrap Around Services. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2011, Ms. McPherson held positions in the mental health and health policy fields at Health Management Associates, a national consulting firm; the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which administers Texas' Medicaid and CHIP services; Mental Health America, a state-wide advocacy organization; and Mental Health Network, a managed care organization.



**Cynthia Osborne,  
PhD**

KEYNOTE

Cynthia Osborne, PhD is the associate dean for academic strategies and director of the Center for Health and Social Policy (CHASP) at the LBJ School. She is also the founder and director of the Child and Family Research Partnership (CFRP), a group that conducts rigorous research on policy issues related to young children, adolescents and their parents. She most recently launched the new national Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at CFRP, a resource for state leaders for the evidence on policies that strengthen outcomes for infants and toddlers.

Dr. Osborne has extensive experience leading long-term evaluations of state and national programs, with the aim of helping organizations understand what works, and how to ensure sustainable implementation of effective policies. Her work includes evaluations of one of the largest home visiting programs in the country (Texas) and many critical state-level child welfare and child support programs. She previously was director of the Project on Education Effectiveness and Quality, an initiative that measured state educator preparation programs' influence on student achievement.



**Anu Partap, MD,  
MPH,**

Anu Partap, MD, MPH, has been a pediatrician for over 20 years. She began her career at Phoenix Children's Hospital/ Maricopa Medical Center where she completed her pediatric residency and chief residency. During her time in Arizona she practiced in safety net hospitals and clinics, school-based clinics, Native American health clinics and co-launched a private practice and charity clinic. She also served on a variety of appointed governmental, advocacy, and professional society commissions, committees, and advisory groups. Dr. Partap joined The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in 2009 to focus her work on improving health outcomes of children affected by abuse and neglect as Medical Director of the Foster Care Clinics at Children's Medical Center in DFW. From 2009-2018, she expanded and redesigned foster care clinical and medical education services with the launch of the state's first multipronged integrated foster care health center, the Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence. She served as consultant to Health and Human Services Commission on foster care health policy, including design and implementation of the state's new medical evaluation foster care requirements in 2017. In 2018, she returned to prevention work and became the Physician Director of the Center for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect at Cook Children's. There she works with a team on identifying effective programs and policies to reduce child abuse in North Texas.



**Sasha Rasco**

Sasha Rasco is associate commissioner for prevention and early intervention at the Department of Family and Protective Services. Sasha's career began in early childhood education as an infant caregiver in an accredited childcare center. After completing graduate school and a Governor's Policy Fellowship with the Governor of Maryland's Office of Children, Youth and Families, Sasha worked for 14 years in the Child Care Licensing division of DFPS, the last two years as assistant commissioner. In 2009 the Texas Licensed Child Care Association recognized Sasha as an early care and education champion, and in 2010 the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services honored Sasha as DFPS employee of the year. Sasha also worked for two years developing programs and projects at Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services' Early Childhood Intervention program. Since 2013 Sasha has led the growth of the Prevention and Early Intervention division at DFPS.



**Jack P. Shonkoff,  
M.D.**

KEYNOTE

Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D., is the Julius B. Richmond FAMRI Professor of Child Health and Development at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Director of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. He currently serves as chair of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, a group of distinguished scholars whose mission is to bring credible science to bear on public policy affecting young children, and chairs the JPB Research Network on Toxic Stress, which is developing new knowledge and measurement capacity to assess the biological, bio-behavioral, and health consequences of excessive stress system activation. In 2011, Dr. Shonkoff launched Frontiers of Innovation, a multi-sectoral collaboration among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, investors, and experts in systems change who are committed to developing more effective intervention strategies to catalyze breakthrough impacts on the development and health of young children and families experiencing significant adversity.

Dr. Shonkoff has received multiple honors, including elected membership to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, elected membership to the American Pediatric Society, designated National Associate of the National Academies, the C. Anderson Aldrich Award in Child Development from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Public Policy for Children from the Society for Research in Child Development.



**Valerie Smith, MD,  
MPH**

Valerie Smith, MD, MPH is a pediatrician at St Paul's clinic in Tyler, TX which is focused on providing care and support to economically disadvantaged children and children in foster care. She is the founder and Chair of the Smith County Food Security Council. She is an Executive Board Member of the Texas Pediatric Society and currently chairs the Committee on Foster Care. In addition, she serves on a variety of committees for American Academy of Pediatrics and the Texas Medical Association.



**Luanne Southern**

Luanne Southern works at the University of Texas System as the Executive Director for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium, which was created by the 86th Texas legislature in Senate Bill 11 to address gaps in mental health care for children and adolescents in Texas. Luanne most recently provided strategic consulting services to the Texas child welfare system, as a Senior Director for Casey Family Programs, a national operating foundation focused on improving - and ultimately preventing the need for - foster care. She previously served as Deputy Commissioner for the Texas Department of State Health Services. Luanne has many years of national, state and local experience in health and human services, with an emphasis on policies and practices that address the behavioral health needs of children, youth and families.



**Jeremy Triplett**

Jeremy Triplett is the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Section Director in the Family and Community Health Division at the Department of State Health Services. Mr. Triplett was named the Title V Maternal and Child Health Unit Director in August 2016 and became the Title V Director in Texas in November 2017. He has over 20 years of experience working with the State of Texas. He previously worked as the Operations Manager for the Purchased Health Services Unit, overseeing the daily operations for the Children With Special Needs, Kidney Health Care, and Hemophilia Assistance programs, and for the Texas Workforce Commission, where he processed economic data for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



**Laurel L. Williams,  
D.O.**

Laurel L. Williams, D.O. is Associate Professor and Chair in the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine. She is also the Director of Residency Training for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. Dr. Williams has expertise in working with youth who self-injure as well as have chronic suicidality in addition to working with adolescents who are pregnant or post-partum and suffering with a mental health disorder. She is working within the Harris Health System to develop protocols for family centered mental health care. She also serves on the executive committee for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium and is the Medical Director of the initiative's Centralized Operations Support Hub (COSH).