

Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus – Briefing on Nutrition and Food Insecurity

Panelist Bios

Chris Bernard, Executive Director, Hunger Free Oklahoma

Chris Bernard is a native Oklahoman who returned home in 2016 after 16 years of work and study in Austin and Chicago. Throughout his career Chris has focused on changing systems, policies, and practices to impact issues of social justice and equity including public health, criminal and juvenile justice reform, and hunger and poverty. He has extensive experience in policy, advocacy, legislative strategy, and program implementation. Chris has proven leadership in forging public/private partnerships and coalition-building to solve complex problems. He has worked inside and outside of government to affect policy, program, and legislative changes that better serve citizens, save government resources, and produce better outcomes for individuals and communities.

Chris' work has always focused on systems change, innovation, and scalability. He operates from a fundamental belief that to solve any problem at a systemic scale it takes government and private partners leveraging their respective strengths and resources.

As the founding Executive Director of Hunger Free Oklahoma, Chris has grown the organization from a staff of two to a staff of 33 in five years. He has built multiple public/private partnerships with state and local agencies that have increased the number of resources available to address hunger and the number of people who access those resources, launched three major emergency response initiatives to meet immediate need while coordinating for long-term sustainability, and worked with stakeholders across the state to maximize the impact of federal nutrition programs. He has also helped to build unprecedented collaborations amongst hunger stakeholders in Oklahoma. Through a focus on building public/private partnerships and fostering collaboration across the state, Hunger Free Oklahoma has worked with government and private partners to create and implement the largest SNAP outreach plan in Oklahoma history, create a statewide Childhood Food Security Coalition, expand the state Double Up nutrition incentive program by more than 2000% in two years, and facilitate a statewide outreach plan and rebranding of summer meals.

Under Chris' leadership, Hunger Free Oklahoma received the 2020 ONE Award from the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits in the transformational category and recognition as a MOSAIC 2021 Top Inclusive Workplace. In 2021, Chris Bernard was selected as the Most Admired Nonprofit CEO in Oklahoma by the Journal Record. Chris holds a BA from the University of Texas at Austin and a JD from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law.

Dr. Crystal Clark, Chief Medical Officer, UPMC Community HealthChoices and Senior Advisor, UPMC Center for Social Impact

Dr. Crystal L Clark MD MPH is Chief Medical Officer of UPMC Community HealthChoices and Senior Advisor to the UPMC Center for Social Impact. Dr. Clark is a Board-Certified Internist who has dedicated her career to improving health and health care for urban populations. Dr. Clark is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at the Washington Hospital Center; her MPH in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health; and her Fellowship in Quality Improvement from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in Cambridge, MA

under Dr. Don Berwick. She has extensive experience implementing and sustaining transformational initiatives in complex health care organizations.

Karlen Sandall, Digital Health Worker Manager, OSF OnCall – OSF Healthcare, Peoria, IL

Karlen oversees the Digital Health Worker team for OSF OnCall, and takes part in program development for implementation in the state of Illinois related to digital health, health equity and social determinants of health. OSF OnCall is the telehealth arm of a larger, multi-hospital organization, OSF Healthcare. At OSF OnCall, the team of Digital Health Workers spans across the state in Illinois, embedded in communities where their patients are to work to increase access to care for underserved populations. The specific focus of this team's work is to connect with patients and community members on a personal level to build trust by offering education and support on digital tools, as well as aligning individuals to community based organizations to meet any SDoH needs.

Will Sellers, Executive Director, Wholesome Wave Georgia

Will Sellers is a servant leader and avid learner that builds relationships and works towards program success one person at a time. Will joined Wholesome Wave Georgia in August 2019 as Executive Director, where he inspires a committed, dynamic team, and supports an engaged, thoughtful Board of Directors. Will is responsible for fundraising, strategy, partnership development, organizational culture, project management, and team member leadership development to increase Wholesome Wave Georgia's impact across the State of Georgia.

Will's leadership and management philosophy is based on 3 pillars: (1) belief in and support of team members; (2) fostering an attitude of partnership; and (3) working to achieve superior results and distinctive impact while building an enduring enterprise.

Will oversees the distribution of fresh, healthy local food incentive reimbursements to a network of 81 community partners covering 47 cities across 37 counties with an aggregate value of over \$3.9 million since Wholesome Wave Georgia's founding.

Before joining Wholesome Wave Georgia, Will served as Deputy Director at Food Well Alliance, a collaborative network of local leaders working to build thriving community gardens and farms across metro Atlanta. He serves on the Board of Directors for The Southface Institute, a nonprofit organization promoting sustainable homes, workplaces, and communities, and Food Well Alliance.

Will holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Morehouse College and a law degree from Boston College Law School. He is a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute Class of 2018. Will is a committed runner having completed 3 half marathons.