

Office of Diversity and Inclusion along with the Health and Human Services Division present a series of courageous conversations addressing health disparities related to racial identities.



**Chelena Bell** is the Workforce and Health Professions Training Manager at the Michigan Primary Care Association.

In this role, she manages health professions training and workforce pipelining initiatives including partnerships with training and education programs/institutions. Her work focuses on providing technical assistance to Michigan Community Health Centers in health center workforce development, recruitment, retention, and human resources management

Chelena is driven by her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her career has been focused on providing equitable access to quality health care for all through coalition building, health service provision, and policy analysis. She holds a Master of Science Administration in Health Services Administration from Central Michigan University. Prior to this role, Chelena served as the Workforce and Operations Specialist where she coordinated support for emergency management and preparedness for health centers.

**Deborah M Lopez** BS,BSN, RN  
President-Capital Area National Association of Hispanic Nurses

Deborah Moreno Lopez is the Founder and President of National Association of Hispanic Nurses. Deborah completed the Nursing Program and obtained an Associates in Nursing from Lansing Community College, has obtained a Bachelor of Science with a major in Human Biology from Michigan State University, and recently obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Spring Arbor University. She has experience providing bedside care as a nurse in the Emergency Department and on a Surgical Specialty Unit. After years of bedside nursing, Deborah was recruited to serve as Sparrow's Nursing Performance Improvement Specialist and Student Liaison. Deborah is passionate about providing compassionate care and creating the best experience possible even in the face of trauma.

The National Association of Hispanic Nurses was founded in 1975 and is the only national organization representing Latino nurses. Today the organization has chapters across the United States. NAHN is actively involved in issues affecting Hispanic nurses and the health of Hispanic communities on the local, state, regional, and national levels. Through mentorship and networking, NAHN promotes communication and collective action by Hispanics in nursing to strengthen their development in a caring and healing profession. NAHN is committed to providing equal access to educational, professional and economic opportunities for Hispanic nurses and to improving health and nursing care for Hispanic consumers.

**Meseret Hailu, RN, MSN, NE-BC**  
President-Lansing area Black Nurses Association

The founding of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) in 1971 marked a significant milestone in the history of black nurses in the United States, particularly in relation to their association with the American Nurses Association (ANA). The Lansing Area Black Nurses Association was chartered on August 4, 2016 with 19 charter members. The mission of LABNA is to provide a forum for nurses to educate, communicate, and advocate for persons of color in the community. The vision of LABNA is to improve the quality of life for persons of color in the Greater Lansing area. Our organization's values Leadership Advocacy Benevolence Nurturing Acceptance.

**Jason Blanks**  
Executive Director-Capital Area Health Alliance

Jason Blanks, alumni of Western Michigan University, currently holds the position of Executive Director for the Capital Area Health Alliance. He has 20 years executive level experience working with diverse and underrepresented populations. His goal is to empower the Greater Lansing Area to achieve better health and create improvements in local healthcare resources, personal health, and well-being of the entire community.

As the former Executive Director of Southfield Area Chamber of Commerce, a membership - led agency; Jason spearheaded major strategic shifts to transform the Southfield Area Chamber into an organization which operates as a resource hub for community partners and members.

During Jason's previous tenure with the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency; he was responsible for co-directing a federal Head Start program for Oakland County. Jason managed all agency grant making efforts. Jason has extensive knowledge in directing adult prisoner and

youth reentry programs within the Child and Family Services Department of the Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency.

Jason currently serves on several boards including: The Humane Society of Monroe County, National African American Human Resources Association, and the Southfield Area Rotary Foundation.

### **Melanie Brim**

President & CEO-Michigan Health Council

Melanie Brim is President and CEO of the Michigan Health Council, a non-profit organization whose vision is for every person to have access to the right team of healthcare professionals to meet their health needs. Melanie and her organization are dedicated to building healthcare workforce capacity by developing innovative products and services, delivering resources and data, and forming strategic partnerships to create effective and sustainable solutions for workforce needs.

Prior to joining the Health Council, Melanie served as Senior Deputy Director of the Public Health Administration and Senior Deputy Director for Health Policy and Planning with the Michigan Department of Community Health. Her roles at the Department included management and direction of public health programs and policies, leadership in health planning, health policy, and access to care programs, as well as managing workforce development activities, the Certificate of Need Program, and the Office of the Chief Nurse Executive.

Melanie has also served as the Director, Bureau of Health Professions and managed the licensing and regulatory functions for over 400,000 health professionals in Michigan, representing 37 professions and 25 regulatory boards.

Prior to her 22 years of state service, Melanie worked in a variety of health care settings including acute care, community-based health care, mental health, correctional health care, long term care, and physician practice management.

Melanie is a graduate of Indiana University where she received both her B.S. in Medical Record Administration and her Master of Health Administration.

### **Terri Logghe, DNP, RN**

Associate Professor of Nursing, Lansing Community College

Dr. Teri Logghe received a BSN and MSN from Saginaw Valley State University then received a DNP in Educational Leadership at American Sentinel University. Dr. Logghe teaching experiences in the areas of Fundamentals, Medical/Surgical and Leadership. She loves helping students reach their personal and professional goals. She has many years working in a hospital setting in ER and critical care/trauma and as a travel nurse in the great state of Michigan.