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DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION
The Board on Children, Youth, and Families

Committee and Staff Biographies

Committee on Applying Lessons of Optimal Adolescent Health to Improve Behavioral Outcomes for Youth

Chair:



Robert Graham (NAM) has spent his career in health policy and the management of health care organizations. He joined the U.S. Public Health Service in 1970, serving a total of 18 years during three tours of duty over the next 30 years. During this time he was deputy director of the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ) and the first administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), during which he held the ranks of Rear Admiral and Assistant Surgeon General. He has long been associated with the medical specialty of family medicine, serving as the CEO of the American Academy of Family Physicians from 1985-2000, and as an Endowed Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Cincinnati from 2005-2013. Throughout his career, Dr. Graham has written and spoken extensively about a number of critical topics in health policy, such as health care reform and the need for universal coverage, health workforce policy, and the organizational characteristics of effective health care systems. Dr. Graham received his undergraduate degree from Earlham College in 1965, and his medical degree from the University of Kansas in 1970. He and Jane Henney, MD married in June of 1975, and reside in Kansas City, MO.

Committee Members:



Angela Bryan is a professor of psychology and neuroscience at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is co-director of the CUChange Research Laboratory where her research has focused on a transdisciplinary approach to the study of health and risk behavior, and the development of interventions to improve health behaviors. Dr. Bryan capitalizes on the integration of basic scientific discoveries regarding biological predispositions associated with health and risk behavior (e.g., genetics and neurocognition) and applied intervention work to change behavior. Much of her work has focused on the reduction of substance-use related HIV/STD risk behavior among adolescents. This work has been funded by NIH institutes including NIAAA, NIDA, and NINR. She has over 170 peer reviewed publications and has been teaching health psychology, social psychology, research methods and statistical methods to undergraduates and graduate students for over 20 years. Dr. Bryan received her PhD in social psychology with a quantitative emphasis from Arizona State University.

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Tammy Chang is an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Michigan and a practicing family physician. She is a health services researcher and practicing family physician with a focus on adolescent health, specifically, breaking the cycle of poverty and poor health among adolescent mothers and their children. Her NIH-sponsored research is focused on improving access to reproductive health care and promoting healthy pregnancy weight gain among at-risk adolescents using text messaging, social media mining, and natural language processing (NLP). She is also the founding director of MyVoice, a national text-message poll of youth age 14-24 that uses mixed methods and NLP with the goal of informing local and national policies in real-time. She has published in several academic journals and received numerous awards including the James C. Puffer, MD/American Board of Family Medicine Fellowship at the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Chang received her MD from the University of Michigan.



Rosalie Corona is a professor of psychology, director of clinical training, and the founding director of the Latina/o Mental Health Clinic at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Prior to joining the faculty at VCU, she worked as a research scientist at the UCLA/RAND Center for Adolescent Health Promotion. Her community-engaged research focuses on Latina/o and African American adolescents' health promotion and risk reduction with specific expertise in adolescent sexual health and substance use prevention. A theme throughout her scholarship is the role of family and culture in promoting adolescents' health behaviors. Dr. Corona's community-engaged research has progressed from an initial focus on identifying local health disparities and the risk and protective factors associated with these disparities, to the development, implementation, and evaluation of family-based prevention programs to address health disparities. She has been a principal investigator or co-investigator on projects funded by the CDC, NHLBI, NCI, NICHD, and the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth. Her reputation as a community-engaged research scholar and teacher have resulted in multiple editorial board invitations, and her accomplishments have also been recognized locally and nationally. Dr. Corona received her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Tamera Coyne-Beasley is a professor of pediatrics and internal medicine, director of the Division of Adolescent Medicine, and vice chair of Pediatrics for Community Engagement at the University of Alabama Birmingham. She has expertise and training in adolescent medicine, medical management, epidemiology, and public health. She also completed a preventive medicine residency/fellowship with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program with a focus on health services research. Dr. Coyne-Beasley is the immediate past president of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, an international multidisciplinary organization dedicated to

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promoting optimal health and well-being of adolescents and young adults. Her academic, community work, policy development, and research have focused on adolescent health, resiliency and risk behaviors, mental health and suicide prevention, health promotion and disease prevention, injury prevention, reducing health disparities, increasing immunizations, improving health care access, community-based participatory and engaged research, practice-based research, sexual and reproductive health, and pregnancy prevention. Dr. Coyne-Beasley received her MD from Duke University.



Bonnie Halpern-Felsher is a professor in the Division of Adolescent Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics at Stanford University. As a developmental psychologist with training in adolescent and young adult health, her research has focused on social, environmental, cognitive and psychosocial factors involved in health-related decision-making, perceptions of risk and vulnerability, health communication, and risk behavior. Funded by the NIH and many foundations, her research has focused on understanding and reducing adolescent tobacco use, alcohol and marijuana use, and risky sexual behavior. She is a core member in the UCSF Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, a project co-leader for the NIH and FDA-funded UCSF Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science, and a co-principal investigator for the new UC Merced Cannabis and Nicotine Policy Center. Dr. Halpern-Felsher's research and committee work have been instrumental in setting policy at the local, state, and national level. She has served as a consultant to a number of community-based adolescent health promotion programs and has been an active member on several national campaigns to understand and reduce adolescent risk behavior. She has also served on five National Academy of Medicine committees and contributed to three Surgeon General reports, all focused on reducing adolescent risk behavior and promoting health. Dr. Halpern-Felsher received her PhD in developmental psychology from the University of California, Riverside.



Jeffrey Hutchinson is a retired US Army Colonel currently working in Austin, Texas as CEO of The Wade Alliance, LLC – a leadership, diversity and inclusion consulting organization, and a BCYF member at the National Academies. As an adolescent medicine specialist and previous associate dean and chief diversity officer at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, he has a unique perspective on adolescent behavior and health equity. His career includes combat in Iraq, clinical leadership, and executive membership on the American Academy of Pediatrics council on communication and media. With 25 years of experience caring for children, teens, young adults, and service members, he applies the intersection of systems with humanism and communication to help teens and parents. He is an advocate for addressing the social determinants of health disparities and has published in several academic journals. Dr. Hutchinson received his MD from the University of California, San Francisco.

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Velma McBride Murry is a professor in the Department of Human and Organizational Behavior and Endowed Lois Autrey Betts Chair of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, as well as a former BCYF member. Dr. McBride Murry is a nationally recognized expert in examining ways in which racism affects family processes, behavior, and health outcomes of families and has conducted developmental, prospective studies on African American parents and youth for over 15 years to identify proximal, malleable protective factors that deter youth risk engagement. This work has advanced current knowledge of the impact of contextual factors, particularly racism, on African-American family functioning through the development of novel strength based family prevention interventions, including the Strong African American Families and Pathways for African American Success programs. Both programs are designed to enhance parenting and family processes to in turn encourage youth to delay age at sexual onset and the initiation and escalation of alcohol and drug use. She has published over 125 papers and received more than 25 external grants to fund her research activities. Dr. McBride Murry received her PhD in human development and family studies from the University of Missouri, Columbia.



Sandra Wilson is a principal associate in the Social and Economic Policy Division at Abt Associates. Dr. Wilson's work focuses on approaches to developing and packaging actionable evidence on effective programs. She is an expert in the design and conduct of meta-analyses and systematic reviews and has broad content knowledge relevant to youth prevention programs. She currently leads a project supported by the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation to develop practice guidelines for youth programs that using a common components approach to evidence-based practice. In addition, she is the project director for the Prevention Services Clearinghouse, an evidence clearinghouse established by the Administration for Children and Families to systematically review research on programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements. Dr. Wilson's functional skills include research design, research synthesis, statistical analysis, product development, and technical assistance. Her domain expertise is includes school-based violence prevention, juvenile delinquency, high school dropout prevention, college/career readiness, and early childhood education. Dr. Wilson received her PhD in policy development and program evaluation from Vanderbilt University.

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Staff:



Nicole Kahn is a program officer on BCYF and the study director for the Committee on Applying Lessons of Optimal Adolescent Health to Improve Behavioral Outcomes for Youth at the National Academies. Before joining the National Academies, Dr. Kahn worked as a social research specialist with the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she collaborated on research projects focused on postsecondary educational attainment and on childhood and adolescent precursors of adult chronic disease. She has also worked as a project researcher at the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, and as a Head Start teacher with Teach for America in Phoenix, AZ. She received her PhD in maternal and child health from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Richard Adrien is an associate program officer on BCYF at the National Academies, providing research support for the Committee on Applying Lessons of Optimal Adolescent Health to Improve Behavioral Outcomes for Youth. Prior to joining the National Academies, he provided technical assistance and research support on issues pertaining to equity, education, and youth development. Additionally, he has counseled youth in educational and community settings to help them identify and attain their career and educational goals. Richard received his Ed.M. in international education development from Columbia University and his M.Ed. in counseling from the University of Toronto.



Pamella Atayi is a program coordinator on BCYF, providing logistical and administrative support for the Committee on Applying Lessons of Optimal Adolescent Health to Improve Behavioral Outcomes for Youth at the National Academies. She coordinates and oversees the work of support staff handling clerical, administrative, and logistical aspects of meetings. Ms. Atayi provides work direction and assists with the daily supervision of support staff. She also compiles and summarizes information for the development and revision of a variety of documents and participates in research efforts. She serves as liaison between programs and boards of the Academies, and related external customers, members, and sponsors on clerical and administrative matters. Ms. Atayi was awarded the Sandra H. Matthews Cecil Award by the Institute of Medicine (now HMD) in 2013, and the DBASSE Esprit de Corps Award in 2017. She received her BA in English from the University of Maryland University College and a diploma in computer information systems from Strayer University.

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Natacha Blain is the director of BCYF at the National Academies. Dr. Blain has over 15 years of experience working with policymakers and senior legislative officials on a variety of social justice issues and campaigns including serving as a Supreme Court Fellow, Chief Counsel to Senator Dick Durbin on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Lead Strategic Advisor for the Children’s Defense Fund’s Cradle to Prison Pipeline Campaign. Prior to joining the National Academies, Dr. Blain served as associate director/acting executive director of Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families (GCYF). There she played a critical role in helping convene and engage diverse constituencies, fostering leadership, collaboration and innovation-sharing through a network of funders committed to the enduring well-being of children, youth and families. Dr. Blain earned her PhD in clinical psychology from Allegheny University of Health Sciences and MCP – Hahnemann University (now Drexel University) respectively, and her JD from Villanova School of Law.

Executive Office:



Monica Feit is the deputy executive director of the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE) at the National Academies. Previously, Monica was at the Department of Health and Human Services, served as the policy director at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration where she was responsible for providing leadership on cross-cutting policy issues, and planned and oversaw policy research in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Prior to joining HHS, Monica served as a senior program officer at the National Academies where she directed studies on topics including the integration of primary care and public health, the health of LGBT populations, and the science of child abuse and neglect. In 2009, she was named an American Public Health Association Government Fellow and worked as a staffer on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee in the office of Senator Dodd during the development of the Affordable Care Act. She received her PhD from London South Bank University.