



Kaiser Permanente Transformation Accelerator: Mid-Atlantic Region

Faculty Bios: Community Health Center, Inc.

Dr. Veena Channamsetty is the Chief Medical Officer of Community Health Center Inc. In this role, she is responsible for the clinical leadership of a large staff of medical providers and caregivers for the state's largest Federally Qualified Health Center. She is responsible for the delivery of evidence based medical standards, the medical staff recruitment and retention, and provider affairs. Dr. Channamsetty oversees the clinical and non-clinical training orientation, training and onboarding for all new CHC medical providers. With the vision of a stable and solid medical staff, Dr. Channamsetty coordinates clinical care with provider professional interests, promoting provider wellbeing and work life balance, overseeing clinical and non-clinical affairs of Physicians, APRNs, and Physician Assistants. She is responsible for ensuring Joint Commission and Patient Centered Medical Home compliance throughout CHC.



Dr. Channamsetty also served as the Vice President of the Medical Staff, and is presently the President of the Medical Staff and the Chair of the Medical Quality Improvement Committee. She is a clinical preceptor for the APRN residency. Dr. Channamsetty works closely with the chiefs of Behavior Health, Dentistry, and Nursing to promote interprofessional care, supporting the successful integration of multiple disciplines for the team based care of patients. She works to implement multiple care delivery initiatives states wide. Dr. Channamsetty received her medical degree from the American University of the Caribbean and her Family Practice Residency from Central Maine Medical Center. Dr. Channamsetty is board certified with the American Board of Family Medicine. She worked at both private and hospital based practices prior to beginning her career at the Community Health Center in 2007, in Meriden CT. She served as the On-site Medical Director for the Meriden and Waterbury sites for 4 years, during which she medically managed her full patient panel and directly supervised the Physicians and APRNs both clinically and administratively. She went on to serve as CHC's Associate Chief Medical Officer for 1 year, prior to taking on the role of Chief Medical Officer.



Mary Blankson DNP, APRN, FNP-C is the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Community Health Center, Inc., overseeing diverse nursing services across the CHC network, including primary care, health care for the homeless, and school based health services. As CNO she ensures the quality and expansion of nursing services, the development of nursing policy, and continuing nurse education. Mary also works collaboratively to ensure Joint Commission and Patient Centered Medical Home compliance throughout CHC.

Building upon her service in various missions organizations, Mary continued to develop her passion for meeting the needs of the underserved by earning her MSN at Yale University in 2005. Mary joined CHC as a family nurse practitioner shortly after graduation. While at CHC, Mary has served as the On-Site Medical Director of the New London County Sites, the Vice President of the Medical Staff, the Chair of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, and has served as a preceptor for CHC's Nurse Practitioner Residency Program. She completed her DNP education at Johns Hopkins University in 2015 with her capstone focusing on "Increasing Identification and Treatment Referral of Individuals with Hepatitis C (HCV) in the Primary Care Setting Through Clinical Dashboards."

Mary is certified and holds professional membership in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She continues to support various quality improvement projects throughout the agency to increase the visibility of nursing's contribution to the Medical Home.



Faculty Bios: Center for Care Innovations



Tammy Fisher is the Senior Director at the Center for Care Innovations. In collaboration with the Executive Director and CCI team, she is responsible for contributing to the overall organizational strategy and operations, and directing programs to transform safety net organizations.

Prior to joining CCI, Tammy was the Senior Director of Quality and Performance Improvement at Partnership HealthPlan, a large Medi-Cal plan with over 500,000 members, where she led Partnership's Quality Strategy and programs. She has an extensive background in using quality improvement methods to drive changes, having led quality improvement strategy and initiatives for the San Francisco Health Plan, Pacific Business Group on Health, and Brown & Toland Medical Group. Tammy has coached more than 50 organizations – community health centers, medical groups, and Independent Physician Associations- across California. As a Technical Advisor to the Integrated Healthcare Association's (IHA) Pay for performance program, Ms. Fisher advised on measures to improve cost efficiency and clinical care.

Tammy received a bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego and has an M.P.H. from New York University. Tammy completed Lean training through Lean Healthcare West and was trained by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement as an Improvement Advisor. Outside of work, Tammy enjoys running, hiking, traveling and spending time with her two kids, husband and friends.

Carolyn Shepherd, MD is a family medicine physician who has worked for 34+ years providing health care in the safety net that serves at risk and underserved populations. Her interest has been in redesigning systems of delivering health and health care. She joined Clinica Family Health Services in 1988 and served as the organization's Senior Vice-President for Clinical Affairs until her retirement in October 2013. She is a frequent national and international speaker on clinical quality improvement, patient centered medical homes and a regular presenter at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). She served as the national Co-chair of the 2010 IHI International Summit on Redesigning the Clinical Office Practice.



Since 2011, Dr. Shepherd has been a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Primary Care Teams-Learning from Effective Ambulatory Practices" project with the MacColl Center. She has also worked on primary care design in over 60 clinics through work with AHRQ, CareOregon, The Colorado Healthcare Foundation, and the Center for Care Innovations. Dr. Shepherd is currently working with safety net clinics to transform primary care in preparation for value-based payment reform.



Alexis Wielunski is a Program Manager at the Center for Care Innovations. Alexis works with CCI leadership, external consultants, grantees, and other partners to carry out the strategy and goals of CCI's PHASE, Transformation Accelerator, and Telehealth programs. With over 10 years experience in community health programs, Alexis has a particular interest in health equity.

Before joining CCI, Alexis was the Senior Manager of Organizational Learning and Sustainability at Health Outreach Partners where she helped launch a new initiative to address transportation barriers to care. Alexis also spent four years coordinating a teen pregnancy prevention program that developed the leadership of young women by utilizing popular education methods and a peer health education model. Alexis worked for California's STD Control Branch to develop youth- friendliness assessment tools for clinics. For over 8 years, Alexis volunteered at the Berkeley Free Clinic providing client-centered HIV Test Counseling and designing, implementing, and evaluating the training of new volunteers.

Alexis earned her BA in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley and MPH from San José State University. Alexis has been a Teaching Associate for Health Communication and Technology and a Lecturer for Health Issues in a Multicultural Society at San José State University. During her free time, Alexis enjoys spending time outdoors, doing DIY projects and training in Capoeira.