



Faculty Biographies

Learning Session #3: Data Analytics

Kaiser Permanente Transformation Accelerator: Mid-Atlantic Region



Tammy Fisher

Center for Care Innovations

Tammy is the Senior Director at the Center for Care Innovations (CCI). 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.

Alexis Wielunski

Center for Care Innovations

Alexis 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.



SA Kushinka
Center for Care Innovations

SA is a Program Director at Center for Care Innovations. She is responsible for designing and leading programs and initiatives, helping to create new partnerships, and developing communication strategies to spread promising practices from CCI's portfolio of programs. A large part of SA's work at CCI has focused on creating support programs to build effective data management capability and to promote more robust healthcare analytics in community clinics.

Prior to joining CCI, SA was a principal consultant at Full Circle Projects, an organization she co-founded in 2004 with a mission to help safety net providers improve the quality of care delivery through the effective use of technology. Through this experience, SA has authored issue briefs, white papers, and evaluation reports exploring the challenges and successes of health IT deployment in community health settings. She has also worked for national consulting companies and health IT vendors, where she designed effective implementation methodologies for electronic health record systems and managed customer support teams. SA received a bachelor's degree from Penn State University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of San Francisco.

Jerry Lassa
Data Matt3rs

Jerry is a statistician and quality improvement professional with over 25 years' experience in healthcare. He has served in leadership roles at an academic medical center, two community health centers, a health center network, and a population health company. He currently consults on various initiatives in California (including the Safety Net Analytics Program) and on international clinical research efforts with the National Institutes of Health in Washington D.C. He also teaches statistics at Northwestern University and loves pivot tables almost as much as Shake Shack burgers.



Boris Kalikstein
Pivotal Moment Consulting

Boris is Principal of Pivotal Moment Consulting. Boris has over fifteen years of experience in organizational strategy development, business intelligence, implementation, and team management. As a Primary Care Executive Consultant at Kaiser Permanente, Boris helped lead the rollout of Advanced Access as well as work around the development of a new provider panel system. He also helped manage the design and rollout of 2010-2012 Strategic Plan initiatives. In 2011, Boris left KP and joined Clinica Family Health as the CIO and VP of Strategy. In this role Boris managed the Process Improvement, Clinical Quality, EMR training, Business Intelligence and IT teams. The role also included the development and implementation of organizational strategy. Most recently Boris served as faculty at Centers for Medicare and Medicaid for practice transformation. Through Pivotal Moment Consulting, Boris is excited to bring his knowledge and expertise to a variety of Healthcare organizations.

Carolyn Shepherd, MD
Leibig-Shepherd, LLC

Carolyn is a family medicine physician who has worked for more than 34 years providing health care in the safety net that serves at risk and underserved populations. Her interest is 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.

Erin Hertel
Center for Community Health and Evaluation

Erin is a senior research associate and program manager for Center for Community Health and Evaluation (CCHE), which is part of Kaiser Permanente's Washington Health Research Institute. Erin has a background in public policy, advocacy, project management and evaluation. Her interests include how communities work together to improve population health and influence policy, as well as how health systems are responding to the changing environment and patient needs. Erin earned her masters in public affairs from the University of Washington.

