



## Beyond the Pandemic - Models for Aging in Community

June 16, 2021, 1:00 PM EST  
Program & Speakers' Bios



### **Gregory Wm. Branch, MD, MBA, CPE, FACP** **Director and Health Officer, Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services**

Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch is the Director of Health and Human Services and Health Officer for Baltimore County. A native of New York City, Dr. Branch is a Magna Cum Laude graduate from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. He completed his training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in the William Osler Internal Medicine Residency Program. Nationally recognized as a Certified Physician Executive, Dr. Branch earned the Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Baltimore Merrick School of Business. He is currently on the faculty at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and School of Public Health, and is an

Adjunct Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Having practiced medicine for over 30 years, Dr. Branch is an internationally recognized Fellow of the American College of Physicians. This distinction represents the pinnacle of integrity, professionalism, and scholarship for those who aspire to pursue careers in Internal Medicine. Dr. Branch is the proud father of two sons, Byron (Brittney) and Allen (Jasmine) and the grandfather of three, Braelyn, London and Tatum.



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## Laura Riley

### Director Baltimore County Department of Aging

Laura Riley is the Director of the Baltimore County Department of Aging serving a county of over 190,000 older adults. In her role, she oversees local provision of Older American's Act programs as well as state and local initiatives focused on assisting older adults to thrive in the community of their choosing. BCDA is routinely acknowledged as a leader of innovation on a national level. Laura has been with BCDA for 35 years, working her way up through various positions in Senior Centers, Guardianship, Individual and Family services and the Deputy Director before her appointment as Director in 2018. She graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore County with bachelor's degrees in Social Work and Sociology. She is also an alumna of Leadership Baltimore County and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging Leadership Institute. She especially enjoys mentoring new staff and helping older adults live their best quality of life.



## Sarah Szanton, PhD, ANP, RAAN

### Patricia M. Davidson Health Equity and Social Justice Endowed Professor and Director of the Center for Innovative Care in Aging at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

Sarah also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Szanton tests interventions to reduce health disparities among older adults. Her main research strands are aging in community, the effects of financial strain on health, and structural racial discrimination and resilience. She co-developed the CAPABLE program which has been tested in randomized trials and scaled to 34 new sites in 18 States. She was a 2019 Heinz Award winner for the Human Condition and is a PBS Organization's "Next Avenue Influencers in Aging." She has published more than 140 papers and been Principal Investigator on more than \$20 million in grants. Szanton completed undergraduate work in African-

American Studies at Harvard University and earned a bachelor's degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. She holds a nurse practitioner master's degree from the University of Maryland and a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University. She is Core Faculty at the Center on Aging and Health, the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions and Adjunct Faculty with the Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy. She has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Innovation Center, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the John A. Hartford Foundation, the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation, the St. David's Foundation, and the AARP Foundation.



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