



## Investing in Public Health Infrastructure

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 10:30 A.M. EST

### Speakers' Bios



#### Christopher Meyer, Research Analyst, MD Center for Economic Policy

**Christopher Meyer** is a research analyst at the Maryland Center on Economic Policy. His work focuses on the state budget, tax policy, education funding, and worker protections, with an emphasis on policies to advance, racial and economic justice. He joined the organization in 2016. He holds a master of public administration from Baruch College, City University of New York.

#### Taneeka Richardson, Policy Analyst, MD Center for Economic Policy

Prior to joining MDCEP, Taneeka worked as a Housing Counseling and Research Assistant for the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership, where she was instrumental in the development of program policies and forging relationships with community partners.

Taneeka also has extensive volunteer experiences, including serving with AmeriCorps and participating on various work groups and committees with local nonprofits. She holds a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Maryland, College Park.



## Kim Sydnor, PhD, Associate Professor and Dean, Morgan State University School of Community Health and Policy

**Kim Dobson Sydnor, PhD** is currently the Dean in the School of Community Health and Policy at Morgan State University. Dr. Sydnor received her B.S. in Psychology from Morgan State University and her doctorate (PhD) in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. She built upon her doctoral training with a postdoctoral fellowship as a Kellogg Health Multidisciplinary Scholar at Morgan State University. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.



Dr. Sydnor has published research in the areas of substance use, cancer, child development, mental health, and community engagement. The topics are varied but the frame is consistent; the academic pursuits are grounded in a framework of the social determinants of health - those conditions and circumstances that shape

both behavior and health status of individuals and communities. There is emphasis placed on the well-being of communities, notably urban communities of color and communities of economic disadvantage with the goal of achieving equity in health for all communities.

Kim Dobson Sydnor is the daughter of the late Rev. Vernon N. Dobson, a civil rights leader in Baltimore who, through his work and commitment, advanced the mission of establishing the Beloved Community – a vision where all are treated equally and fairly, equipped with the resources needed to be fully engaged citizens of the world. This family background drives the commitment and passion for academic and advocacy work in the health equity arena.

Dr. Sydnor is also currently Vice Chair of the Maryland State Minority Health and Health Disparities Advisory, a member of the Member, Maryland Department of Health Racial Disparities in Overdose Taskforce, and Director of the newly established Center for Urban Health Equity at Morgan State University.





**David Bishai, M.D., M.P.H., PhD, Health Officer,  
Harford County Health Department**

**Department of Population Family and  
Reproductive Health Johns Hopkins Bloomberg  
School of Public Health**

David Bishai was appointed as the Health Officer of Harford County in January 2021. He was born in Takoma Park, Maryland and after attending Harvard College received his medical degree from UC San Diego and his Masters in Public Health from UCLA. He earned a PhD from Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania and later rose from assistant to full professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. His research and teaching focus on the impact of local health departments in population health. He is board-certified in both internal medicine and pediatrics.



**Public Health**  
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Health Department**

**Lawrence Polsky, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.O.G.,  
Health Officer Calvert County Health  
Department/ Maryland Department of Health**

Dr. Larry Polsky is the Health Officer of Calvert County. Prior to this role, he was a practicing Ob/Gyn in St. Mary's County for over 15 years. In the 9 years he has served those who live and work in Calvert, there has been a significant expansion of public health services including the first multidisciplinary program for pregnant woman with substance use problems in Maryland (outside of a university setting), a comprehensive multi-agency re-entry program for local inmates, and a mobile crisis team that shifts services from law enforcement to behavioral health and social services. In his spare time, he spends countless hours with his three best new friends: Original Strain of SARS-CoV-2, Alpha Variant, and Delta Variant.

