

DR. SARA ARENA

Dr. Arena is a Professor and the Director of Physical Therapy at Oakland University. Her clinical practice as a home health care physical therapist has been instrumental in her efforts to establish a robust research line examining the efficacy of home-based, physical-therapist-led, prevention-focused programming for older adults.

DR. NATHANIEL BERGMAN

Dr. Bergman is the Chief Pharmacist with Region VII Area Agency on Aging, where he has helped develop their successful Care Transitions program. He oversaw program growth from one hospital site to three hospital sites and received a Michigan Health Endowment Fund grant to continue expansion, while also helping to adapt the program to the needs of local communities.

KARA LORENZ-GOINGS

Kara Lorenz-Goings is the Chief Operating Officer of WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging which serves Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale counties. She has worked at the Area Agency on Aging for 10 years and worked with older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers for 22 years. Kara has held a variety of roles throughout her career as a social worker, consultant, manager, and project director. She has a passion for supporting advocacy efforts and efficient service delivery throughout our network.

ALISON HIRSCHHEL

Alison Hirschel is the Director and Managing Attorney of the Michigan Elder Justice Initiative (MEJI). MEJI is a legal services and ombudsman organization that provides both individual and systemic advocacy for older adults and people with disabilities.

LAURA KUBIT

Laura Kubit is a Staff Attorney and Guardianship Diversion Project Co-Coordinator with the Michigan Elder Justice Initiative. She is a civil legal aid attorney with nearly 10 years of experience serving vulnerable adults in the Great Lakes Bay region. As a generalist, Laura has handled a wide variety of cases, from preventing the loss of safe and affordable housing, to securing protection from abuse, and removing barriers to basic needs.

ANTONIA HARBIN-LAMB, ESQ.

Antonia B. Harbin-Lamb is a Staff Attorney for Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan-Elder Law and Advocacy Center. She focuses on providing legal services, education, and community outreach to older adults. Antonia is also an Adjunct Professor at Madonna University and the host of the *Caregiver Conversations* podcast on WJR's The Great Voice platform located at thegreatvoice.com/Shows/caregiver-conversations.

DR. PETER A. LICHTENBERG

Dr. Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP is the Director of the Institute of Gerontology and a Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Wayne State University in Detroit. His collaboration with Adult Protective Services of Michigan in the area of financial exploitation investigation will be the focus of his remarks.

DR. CLARE LUZ

Dr. Luz, PhD, Associate Professor, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Director, IMPART Alliance, is a gerontologist whose research focuses on long-term health services, particularly the direct care worker (DCW) shortage. She co-chairs both the statewide MDHHS DCW Advisory Committee and the statewide MI DCW Coalition, both of which collaborate with community partners to increase economic well-being and respect for DCWs through higher wages, professionalization, career paths, culture change, and advocacy.

DIANE MARIANI, LCSW, CADC

Diane Mariani is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) with a specialization in Gerontology and a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC). In her current role as Program Manager for the Department of Social Work and Community Health at RUSH University Medical Center in Chicago, she manages the RUSH Caring for Caregivers program which supports family/friend caregivers of adults 60 years and older. Diane also oversees the collaborative work of the "Ready, Willing and Able: Caring for Caregivers in Age-Friendly Health Systems – Dissemination Phase" grant program funded by The John A. Hartford Foundation to share the Caring for Caregivers model throughout Age-Friendly Health Systems, Area Agencies on Aging, and with other key stakeholders nationwide.

DR. JYOTSNA PANDEY, MD PHD

Dr. Jyotsna Pandey, a board-certified pathologist and Professor at Central Michigan College of Medicine, has focused on promoting community health improvement projects to promote healthy aging. Her focus is fall prevention through education and empowerment of older adults through acquisition of major federal and health fund grants that provide capacity building through quality improvement and support fall prevention education to community dwelling older adults and practicing health care professionals including physicians, resident doctors, and medical students.

SCOTT WAMSLEY

Scott Wamsley is the Director of the Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports within the Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration (BPHASA) at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). He oversees the general operations of the bureau, including oversight of Medicaid long-term care services and non-Medicaid programs and services for older adults and caregivers under the Older Americans Act and Older Michiganians Act. He held a prior position as Deputy Director for the Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) within MDHHS. Scott has a Master of Public Administration degree from Eastern Michigan University and has been employed by MDHHS since 1996.