

MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

2025 HEALTHY AGING GRANTEE CONVENING

SPEAKER BIOS

CRYSTAL BARTER

Director of Programs and Services, Michigan Center for Rural Health, Michigan's State Office of Rural Health

In this role, Crystal oversees a broad portfolio of initiatives dedicated to improving the health of rural Michiganders. She leads key programs, including the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program and the Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP), enhancing operational, financial, and clinical quality in Michigan's Critical Access Hospitals, Rural PPS Hospitals, and Certified Rural Health Clinics.

Additionally, she manages multiple state and federal contracts focused on workforce development, substance use disorder, social determinants of health, and veterans' care. With extensive experience in value-based care transformation, Crystal has helped rural healthcare facilities in Michigan succeed in the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) ACO and state-based performance programs. She has also played a pivotal role in advancing primary care services, improving healthcare quality in underserved communities, and establishing Michigan's first certified Rural Health Clinic Quality Network. Additionally, she specializes in building strategic partnerships to expand the reach and impact of the State Office of Rural Health.

LISA DEDDEN COOPER

Director of Operations, National Council of Dementia Minds (NCDM)

Lisa Dedden Cooper joined the National Council of Dementia Minds (NCDM) as director of operations in July of 2024. NCDM is committed to empowering people to live well with dementia, providing hope, connection, strategies, and resources developed by and for people living with dementia. Before joining NCDM, Lisa served for 14 years as manager of advocacy for AARP Michigan, where she provided strategic leadership for AARP's legislative advocacy. She also worked with AARP state and national staff to facilitate AARP's Brain Health Cabinet, and she continues to serve as co-chair of the Michigan Dementia Coalition in her role at NCDM.

Earlier in her career, Lisa worked for 12 years as legal counsel and senior policy analyst for the Michigan Legislature and spent two years as a congressional staffer. She also served as a staff attorney for the UAW-Ford Legal Services Plan, specializing in senior issues. From 2000 to 2006, Lisa served three terms as an elected Ingham County Commissioner.

ANGELA GABRIDGE

Executive Director, MiGen – Michigan LGBTQ+ Elders Network

Angela Gabridge is the executive director of MiGen – Michigan LGBTQ+ Elders Network. She has an extensive career in human services and social justice, holding notable positions at Accounting Aid Society, ACLU of Michigan, Affirmations, and The Helm before joining MiGen. At MiGen, she has successfully grown the organization's operating budget from \$400,000 to \$3 million and led its statewide expansion in 2022.

In 2023, she was appointed to Michigan's first ever LGBTQ+ commission to ensure the LGBTQ+ community is represented at all levels of government. She also serves on the Michigan State Advisory Council on Aging, advocating for the inclusion of LGBTQ+ seniors in aging services across the state.

AMY E. GOTWALS

Chief of Public Policy and External Affairs, USAging

Amy E. Gotwals joined USAging in September of 2005 and currently serves as chief of public policy and external affairs. In her role, Amy leads USAging's public policy, advocacy, external relations, and membership relations activities. Representing local aging agencies, she serves as the lead in outreach to Congress and the administration to ensure that needed resources and support services are available to older Americans and their caregivers.

Amy has 30 years of public policy, lobbying, and grassroots organizing experience. She has represented diverse groups including the Older Women's League, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the National Network for Youth.

STEPHANIE HALL

Director of Planning and Advocacy, AgeWays Nonprofit Senior Services

Stephanie Hall serves as the director of planning and advocacy at AgeWays Nonprofit Senior Services, the Area Agency on Aging supporting older adults across six counties in southeast Michigan: Monroe, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair. In her role, Stephanie oversees planning activities, grant management, and local, state, and federal advocacy efforts aimed at enhancing the lives of older adults and caregivers.

Before joining AgeWays, Stephanie worked at ICPSR in the Child and Family Data Archive at the University of Michigan and at the Policy and Research Group in New Orleans where she worked on a federally funded randomized controlled trial research and evaluation focused on adolescent sexual health and teen pregnancy prevention.

JIM MANGI

Founder, Board President and Care Partner, Dementia Friendly Saline

Jim's first career as a scientist and owner of a nationwide business in no way prepared him for his second, 17-year-long career as caregiver for his wife on her Alzheimer's journey.

Now, in his third career, Jim leads the Saline-based nonprofit now called Dementia Friendly Services focused on making other people's dementia journeys less difficult, with less stress,

and with more dignity and more enjoyment. To that end, Jim and his team run nine current programs, including innovative Memory Cafes, a first-in-Michigan dementia friendly community chorus, a first-in-the-U.S. dementia friendly live theatre program, dementia friendly art fairs, and innovative dementia friendly shopping events — plus their national award-winning dementia friendly movies program. His organization recently received the Michigan Governor's Award for Community Impact.

FEI SUN

Professor, Health and Aging Social Work Certificate program coordinator, School of Social Work, Michigan State University

Fei Sun, PhD, M.S.W, is a professor and coordinates the Health and Aging Social Work Certificate program at the School of Social Work (SSW) at Michigan State University (MSU). He is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and was a Hartford Geriatric Social Work Scholar from 2009 to 2011. Awarded as a Health and Aging Policy Fellow from 2017 to 2018, he worked with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse of World Health Organization (WHO) on developing a global toolkit for dementia friendly communities.

His research received funding support from the National Institute of Justice, Michigan Health Endowment Fund, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and John A. Hartford Foundation. He has published over 110 peer reviewed articles in the field of social work and gerontology. His research and practice areas focus on seeking culturally informed psychosocial and policy interventions for individuals with cognitive impairment or dementia as well as for their family caregivers. Additionally, He serves as the associate editor for the Journal of Gerontological Social Work.

RONALD S. TAYLOR

President and CEO, Detroit Area Agency on Aging

As president and CEO of Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA), Ronald S. Taylor has built key coalitions, partnerships, and community networks to empower older adults to age independently in their own homes. Prior to joining DAAA, Ronald served federally, as an aging services program specialist for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Ronald came to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ACL from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, where he was responsible for a \$330 million budget to administer the federal funding directed to programs of the Older Americans Act. Ronald has received many awards, including being recognized as one of Crain's Notable Executives in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

JOHN TYLER

Senior Philanthropic Advisor, The Philanthropic Initiative

John Tyler works with private, public, and corporate foundations and funder collaboratives to achieve their philanthropic goals through strategic planning, program design and management, stakeholder engagement and communications, and operational alignment. He

provides varied strategic, governance, operational, and programmatic support for TPI clients and projects. John contributes to TPI thought leadership and field-building efforts through public speaking, research, and writing. He is a passionate advocate for embracing complexity, equity, and a lifelong learning mindset in philanthropy.

Prior to joining TPI in 2022, John served as executive director of the Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis where he led the organization through the development of commitments to antiracism, COVID-19 pandemic adaptations, faculty training programs, and new partnership efforts among other initiatives. He has also served as a program analyst at Mathematica Policy Research, a program manager at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, a United States Peace Corps volunteer, a refugee camp volunteer grant writer, a food policy associate at the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability, and more.

CHRISTINE VANLANDINGHAM

CEO, Region IV Area Agency on Aging

Christine Vanlandingham is the CEO for Region IV Area Agency on Aging in Saint Joseph, Michigan. With more than 20 years in the field of aging, Christine is responsible for oversight of all corporate functions for this nonprofit with a budget of \$25 million.

Christine, named the 2024 National Excellence in Leadership winner by USAging and recognized among the 2022 Bold Women of Business, is a distinguished leader in social and clinical care contracting. Christine is the president of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan and a board member of USAging.

SCOTT WAMSLEY

Director of the Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports, Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Scott Wamsley is the director of the Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports within Health Services 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.