AFPHS Learning Community Faculty

C1 – Creating and Leading

Kina White, DrPH, MHSA, FACHE

Dr. Kina L. White is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of KLW Consulting, LLC, a healthcare strategy and transformation firm advising health systems, coalitions, and community-based organizations on systems change, policy and data translation, executive coaching and leadership development. As a nationally recognized public health strategist, Dr. White brings more than 20 years of cross-sector leadership spanning state government, federal agencies, health systems, philanthropy, and academia. She is a co-author of Socially Determined: The Healthcare Executive's Role in Health Equity (Health Administration Press, 2025), a peer-reviewed author in journals including the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, The Gerontologist, and Generations Journal, and a sought-after national presenter with more than 25 conference and keynote appearances at venues including the Gerontological Society of America, the American Public Health Association, the American Society on Aging, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. White most recently served as Director of the Offices of State Health Planning & Research and Community Health Improvement at the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH). In these roles, she reimagined Mississippi's Comprehensive State Health Plan using a data-driven, population health approach and served as Principal Investigator for a $10M+ portfolio of federal and private grants — including programs funded by the CDC, HHS, the Administration for Community Living, and the Trust for America's Health. As the state lead for the Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Initiative, Dr. White advanced the development of Mississippi's Age-Friendly Ecosystem — expanding age-friendly and dementia-friendly communities, universities, employers, and health systems statewide. Under her leadership, MSDH achieved exemplar status as the third nationally recognized Age-Friendly Public Health System in the United States in May 2023, and 17+ rural hospitals and clinics achieved Level 1 Age-Friendly Health System recognition. These efforts earned Dr. White the American Public Health Association Council of Affiliates 2024 Innovation in Public Health Award of the Year. She concurrently served as a Community Capacity Academy Coach with the National Rural Health Association, providing executive coaching to rural Texas health organizations on governance, workforce, and sustainability.

Dr. White is actively engaged in national leadership and service. She serves on the American College of Healthcare Executives Counselor's Committee, the Texas Association of Black Female Physicians Advisory Council, the University of Minnesota Rural Research Center Expert Work Group, and the Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation Inclusive Research Initiative Advisory Committee, among others. She is also

the Grants Management Chair for Bayou City Hangouts, Inc., a Houston-based nonprofit supporting emerging small business owners. Dr. White is a member of the American Public Health Association, the Gerontological Society of America, and the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Dr. White holds a Doctor of Public Health in Health Policy and Management from Jackson State University, a Master of Health Services Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is Board Certified in Healthcare Management (FACHE) and an alumna of the Milbank Memorial Fund Emerging Leaders Program. She completed a two-year NIH-R25 Clinical and Community-Based HIV/AIDS Research Training Fellowship at Brown University and is a Leadership Mississippi alumna.

C2 – Connecting and Convening

Kathy Black, Ph.D., MSW

Kathy Black is a Professor Emerita of Aging Studies at the University of South Florida. Dr. Black has a PhD from SUNY and Master's degrees in Social Work, Gerontology and Public Health from USC/UCLA. She is a Next Avenue Top 50 National Influencer in Aging, Hartford Geriatric Faculty Scholar and Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America. She led Florida's first age-friendly community in Sarasota and helps manage the AARP Florida age-friendly community network. She has 40+ years of experience in the field of aging as practitioner, educator and researcher.

C3 – Coordinating

Kelly Harnish, MPH, MCHES

Kelly Harnish serves as the Healthy Living Manager at Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD), where she leads a broad portfolio of public health initiatives focused on injury and chronic disease prevention. Her areas of oversight include Healthy Aging, Overdose Prevention and Response, Childhood Injury and Violence Prevention, Youth Tobacco and Cannabis Prevention, Behavioral Health, and implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Since joining BFHD in December 2021, Kelly has brought a systems-level approach to community health, drawing on 20 years of experience in clinical and research settings. Prior to her current role, she worked in employee health and wellness at a major U.S. Department of Energy site, supporting occupational medicine efforts. Earlier in her career, Kelly coordinated National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research projects at both Oregon Health & Science University's Department of Cardiology and Montana State University College of Nursing.

Kelly holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Massachusetts and a Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education from Montana State University. She is also a Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES), credentialed by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.

Passionate about health equity, Kelly is committed to creating environments where all people have access to the resources and opportunities needed to reach their fullest health potential.

C4 – Collecting

Beth Dugan, Ph.D.

Elizabeth Dugan, PhD, is a Professor of Gerontology in the Donna M. and Robert J. Manning College of Nursing & Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Professor Dugan's research focuses on community healthy aging (see healthyagingdatareports.org).

Professor Dugan has published 83 peer-reviewed journal articles, state reports, booklets, op-eds, and a book. She has been awarded more than five million dollars of extramural research support. Since 2014 she has been leading work on The Healthy Aging Data Report (see healthyagingdatareports.org), research that reports on things that influence community healthy aging. These practical data tools help local policymakers, service providers, and others understand the state of healthy aging and the factors that contribute to outcomes. Her research team has created reports for the New England states (MA, RI, NH, CT, ME), Mississippi, Wyoming and advised other states on measurement of age-friendly progress.

Dr. Dugan is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America in the Behavioral and Social Science section, a Fellow of the UMB Gerontology Institute, and a Research Affiliate of the University of Massachusetts Transportation Center. She has informed policy at the local level on the Newton Council on Aging, the state level on the Governor's Council to Address Aging Issues in Massachusetts, and federally via the White House Conferences on Aging and a roundtable with the NHTSA Director (on older drivers).

C5 – Communicating

Amanda Kwong, MPH & Andrea Takash, MBA

Amanda Kwong is the Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC) Director at the de Beaumont Foundation. As PHCC's Director, Amanda manages the development

of timely, relevant, and practical tools for public health communicators across the country to use. Through these communication tools and learning opportunities, PHCC helps health professionals communicate more effectively to ensure that everyone has what they need to make informed decisions about their health.

Previously, Amanda was a Campaign Director at the Ad Council, where she spent almost six years overseeing the development, implementation, and evaluation of fully integrated multimedia communication programs on behalf of national non-profit organizations and federal government agencies. These communication programs spanned from helping pre-care partners recognize the early warning signs of Alzheimer's in their loved ones, to encouraging Americans that "Only You" can prevent wildfires by leveraging the trusted voice of Smokey Bear. In 2021, she supported the creative and digital development of the Ad Council's largest PSA campaign in history for the COVID-19 Vaccine Education Initiative, "It's Up To You."

Amanda holds an MPH from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a BA in Psychology from Syracuse University. It is through Amanda's unique background in advertising, social impact, and public health where her deep interest in effective public health communications continues to grow.

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Andrea Takash serves as the Director of Strategic Communications and Policy Research at Trust for America's Health. In this role, Ms. Takash and her team lead a forward leaning communications and policy research program.

Ms. Takash is a recognized leader in federal government communications, spanning a two-decade career. Prior to joining Trust for America's Health, Ms. Takash was the Director of the Office of Communications and Acting Associate Administration of Intergovernmental and External Affairs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Before HRSA, Ms. Takash was at the forefront in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products Office of Health Communication and Education for close to 10 years. While at the FDA, Ms. Takash managed high-profile tobacco regulatory announcements including the Deeming Final Rule and the Comprehensive Plan for Tobacco and Nicotine Regulation, as well as the public relations and earned media launches for FDA's award-winning tobacco public health education campaigns.

Ms. Takash also served as a Public Affairs Specialist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for more than 12 years. During her tenure with the Corps of Engineers, Ms. Takash led the communication efforts for highly sensitive environmental clean-up projects, and managed media relations and public outreach during several natural disaster events.
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Ms. Takash holds a Master of Business Administration from Columbia College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies from Youngstown State University.

C6 – Complementing

Carrie Molke

Carrie Molke is the Director of the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources in the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Public Health. In this role, she provides statewide leadership in aging and disability policy and oversees a broad portfolio of programs and services that advance inclusion and ensure full participation in community life as we age and experience disability.

She has more than 30 years of experience in the field of aging and disability, including 26 years with the Department of Health Services. During her tenure with DHS, she has helped shape and advance major statewide efforts, including the implementation of aging and disability resource centers (ADRCs), publicly funded long-term care reform, dementia systems redesign, and initiatives to strengthen community living across Wisconsin.

Carrie helped launch and lead several statewide initiatives, including Wisconsin's Reframing Aging and Disability Initiative, Wisconsin's Age and Disability Friendly Ecosystem effort, and the Wisconsin Coalition on Social Connection. She has chaired the Wisconsin Dementia Plan Steering Committee since 2014 and led the Governor's Task Force on Caregiving in 2019.

In 2016, Carrie helped lead the strategic integration of Wisconsin's aging and disability programs into the Division of Public Health, strengthening the connection between aging, disability, population health, and public health practices and positioning aging and disability as a core component of Wisconsin's public health infrastructure.

Nationally, Carrie served as an appointee to the National Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care and Services where she chaired the Long-term Services and Supports Subcommittee from 2019-2023.