

Speaker & Presenter Biographies



Daniel Lessler, MD, MHA, FACP

Chief Medical Officer, Washington Health Care Authority

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Lessler is Chief Medical Officer for the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), which administers the state's Medicaid program and Public Employees Benefits.

Prior to joining the HCA in May 2013, Dr. Lessler was Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine and Senior Associate Medical Director at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

Dr. Lessler has been a leader in efforts to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of health care statewide. Between 2004-2005, he served as a member of the founding board of the Puget Sound Health Alliance (PSHA), a nonprofit organization where the people who get, provide and pay for health care come together to improve health care quality and affordability in a five-county region. Subsequently, Dr. Lessler served five years on the PSHA's Quality Improvement Committee. He was founding Chair of the Washington State Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee between 2003 and 2007. In 2007, Dr. Lessler helped found King County Care Partners, a nationally recognized community-based partnership dedicated to the clinical management of medically complex Medicaid clients.

Dr. Lessler's research and administrative interests have focused on the design and operation of programs that promote high quality, cost-effective medical care. He has a particular interest in improving preventive and chronic illness care for underserved and vulnerable populations, and applying Health Information Technology to achieve that improvement. Prior to joining HCA, Dr. Lessler also maintained an active primary care practice and served as an attending physician at Harborview Medical Center.

A native of Connecticut, Dr. Lessler holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Biology from Stanford University. He earned his medical degree at the Stanford University School of Medicine, and a Master's in Health Administration from the University of Washington. Dr. Lessler completed his residency training in internal medicine at the University of California/San Francisco.



Melena L. Thompson, MEd

Behavioral Health Organizations, Implementation and Policy Manager, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, DSHS

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Melena Thompson is the Behavioral Health Organizations Implementation Policy Manager at The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery in the Department of Social and Health Services. She serves as the project manager for the combining of the current mental health programs operated by the Regional Support Networks and the Chemical Dependency services into a behavioral health benefit that will be contracted to Behavioral Health Organizations. These will be the contracts that provide Medicaid funded Mental Health and Chemical Dependency services in Washington and statewide crisis response services.

Melena has a Master's Degree in Education with a focus on Community Mental Health and has more than 20 years of experience working in the public mental health system in Washington State. She has been a mental health case manager, the Regional Support Network Contract Manager, the Outpatient Mental Health Coordinator at The Department of Corrections, the Housing Director for a mental health services provider in King County, and the Policy Alignment Manager for the Community Services and Housing Division at the Department of Commerce. She returned to DSHS in February 2014 to work on this integration project.



Anna Ratzliff, MD, PhD

Associate Director for Education, Division of Integrated Care & Public Health Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington

Keynote Address:

Proven Strategies to Advance Integrated Care in the Latino Community

Dr. Anna Ratzliff is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington. Dr. Ratzliff received her MD/PhD in 2005 from the University of California, Irvine. She completed her doctoral work in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology where her research focused on mechanisms of epilepsy development following head injury. She completed her residency training in psychiatry and served as the Chief Resident at the University of Washington Medical Center. Dr. Ratzliff currently serves as the Associate Director for Education for the Division of Integrated Care and Public Health, works as a consulting psychiatrist for the Mental Health Integration Program (MHIP) and trains psychiatric residents at the University of Washington. Her clinical expertise includes primary care consultation, women's mental health and providing mental health care to underserved populations. Dr. Ratzliff's academic pursuits include developing strategies to provide mental health education to members of integrated care teams, and studying the impact of integrated mental health care programs in special populations.



Luis Flores, M.A.LPC, LCDC, LCCA, RPT-S

Executive Vice President, Serving Children and Adults in Need Inc. (SCAN)

Session I:

The Effects of Trauma on Latino Children and Families: Implications for Policy and Practice

Luis E. Flores is the Executive Vice President of SCAN Inc. (Serving Children and Adults in Need). He has been working in the adult and children substance abuse and mental health fields for the past twenty-four years. He has a master's degree in counseling psychology and is licensed in Texas as a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor and Licensed Childcare Administrator. He is also a Registered Play Therapist and Supervisor (RPT-S) with the Association for Play Therapy. For the past twenty years, he has been focusing on developing culturally-responsive community-based programming for Mexican American families along the Texas-Mexico border. He has been the project director for over 30 projects funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration for Children and Families and the Texas Department of State Health Services. His focus is on developing programs that integrate trauma information and are responsive to the cultural and linguistic needs of families.



Adriana Perez, PhD, ANP-BC

Assistant Professor & Southwest Borderlands Scholar, Arizona State University College of Nursing and Health Innovation

Plenary Session:

Interprofessional Education: Transforming Care through Teamwork

Adriana Perez is Assistant Professor, Southwest Borderlands Scholar, and Co-Director of the Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (HCGNE) at Arizona State University (ASU) College of Nursing and Health Innovation. Her program of research focuses on cardiovascular health promotion among older diverse populations. Dr. Perez has used mixed-methods to address the complexities of culturally-relevant, community-based research that emphasizes cultural strengths, resources, and social networks to develop a feasible and culturally-relevant wellness motivation intervention to reduce cardiovascular health disparities among older Hispanics. She was selected as a 2011-2013 American

Political Science/Health and Aging Policy Fellow, supported by the Atlantic Philanthropies and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to focus on environmental policies that promote healthy aging. Dr. Perez has received funding from the John A. Hartford Foundation National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence for both a pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowship; the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research through an Individual Nursing Research Service Award; Beta Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International; the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurses; and St. Luke's Health Initiative.

Adriana is a Board Certified Adult Nurse Practitioner. In her role as assistant professor and co-director of the HCGNE at ASU, she has worked with interprofessional faculty on courses that translate across disciplines to promote healthy aging. She was recently elected President (2014-2015) of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Phoenix Chapter and she serves on the national Diversity Steering Committee for the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action. This year, she was appointed member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives Board of Directors and the UnitedHealth Group External Nursing Advisory Board. In 2009, along with a strong group of BAGNC Alums, she served as founding member and Chair of the Hartford Gerontological Nursing Leaders (formerly BAGNC Alumni). Dr. Perez will be inducted on October 18th, as Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.



Elena Reyes, PhD

Associate Professor, Florida State University College of Medicine, Regional Director Southwest Florida

Plenary Session:

Interprofessional Education: Transforming Care through Teamwork

Dr. Elena Reyes is an Associate Professor and clinical psychologist with specialty in pediatric psychology, cross-cultural medicine and health disparities. She has over 28 years of experience in medical education and graduate health psychology education. She started her career on the faculty at Baylor College of Medicine and developed the Pediatric Behavioral Medicine Program at Miami Children's Hospital. She is a founding faculty of the Florida State University College of Medicine which opened in 2001 with the mission to train physicians to work with underserved populations. As the College's, Regional Director for SW Florida, she oversees the educational program at the Immokalee Health Education Site which

includes clinical training for medical students and post doctoral health psychology fellows. Dr. Reyes also serves as Director of Behavioral Medicine for the FSUCOM Family Residency Program at Lee Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Reyes has held a number of administrative positions with the College of Medicine, including Associate Chair of the Department of Medical Humanities & Social Sciences, Interim Dean for Student Affairs and Director of the Behavioral Science Curriculum. Her current scholarly work includes serving as Associate Editor of a Behavioral Science Textbook to be used nationally by medical schools, research on acculturation factors impacting HPV vaccine uptake among Latina adolescents and development of a toolkit to be used by physicians to treat obesity in Latino adolescents.

Dr. Reyes' expertise is in culturally appropriate delivery of health care to underserved populations within an integrated behavioral health system. She has focused on the mental health needs of Latino children and families serving the migrant farm working population since 1995. Her passion is service-learning and teaching the next generation of healthcare providers how to work with underserved populations. She is the recipient of multiple recognitions having to do with her teaching and service work, including the Florida Migrant Health Professional of the Year, the Florida Compact Service Learning Faculty Award and FSUCOM Faculty Mission Award..



Daniel Rivas, MD

Family Medicine Physician, Sea Mar Community Health Centers

Plenary Session:

Interprofessional Education: Transforming Care through Teamwork

Dr. Daniel Rivas joined Sea Mar's Burien Medical Clinic in September 2013. He is excited to continue working with the underserved in a community health center. Dr. Rivas completed his residency in Family Medicine at Swedish Family Medicine Residency at Cherry Hill in Seattle. During residency, he completed an area of concentration in rural health and served as recruitment chair for the residency program.

In 2010, Dr. Rivas earned a Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of Texas Medical School at San Antonio. During medical school, he participated in a year-long community medicine track at the Regional Academic Health Center on the Texas-Mexico border.

Dr. Rivas earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Baylor University in 2006, where he graduated cum laude. At the university, he was a member of the Environmental Concern Organization, volunteered with the Student Global AIDS Campaign, and served as president of the Magellan Society, an international service and cultural awareness organization.

Dr. Rivas enjoys teaching students and residents and plans to continue in a teaching role. His professional interests include family planning, office procedures, adolescent health, and LGBT health.



Leo Morales, MD, PhD, MPH

Professor and Chief Diversity Officer, University of Washington School of Medicine

Session II:

Population Health Strategies that Reduce Health Disparities

Leo Morales, MD, PhD, is Professor of Medicine and Chief Diversity Officer for the School of Medicine at the University of Washington. Dr. Morales is the Director of the Center for Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Co-Director of the Latino Center for Health. He has held faculty appoints at UCLA and the Group Health Research Institute prior to joining the University of Washington. Dr. Morales's research has focused on minority health and health disparities including immigrant and Latino Health. Dr. Morales graduated from the School of Medicine at the University of Washington, completed a residency in primary care internal medicine at UCSF/San Francisco General Hospital, and a research

fellowship in health services at UCLA. He received his M.P.H. from the University of Washington and his Ph.D. in Policy Studies from the RAND Graduate School.



Xavier Morales, PhD, MRP

Executive Director, Latino Coalition for A Health California

Session II:

Population Health Strategies that Reduce Health Disparities

Xavier Morales is a longtime advocate for health equity and environmental justice. For the past 15 years, he has worked to enable community-led initiatives to increase health equity across communities and neighborhoods. Taking an expansive view of what constitutes health, he has diligently worked to enable opportunities for youth development, workforce development, college access, prisoner reentry, early childhood development, affordable housing and expanding health care access to all Californians. Xavier, a former Peace Corps volunteer (Hungary), is originally from Sanger, California. He received his B.A. degree in environmental sciences at the University of California, Berkeley, and his Master and

Doctorate degrees in city and regional planning at Cornell University.



Guadalupe Pacheco, MSW

President/CEO, Pacheco Consulting Group, LLC

Session III:

Utilizing National CLAS Standards (Cultural and Linguistic Appropriate Service) to Improve Health Outcomes

Drawing upon the more than 30 years of senior-level health management policy development and non-profit experience to the principal, PCG provides services to public and private sector clients in the areas of health policy, cultural centric service delivery, and public engagement. Through innovative, visionary and goal-oriented approaches of its leaders and consultants, PCG tailors and delivers successful outcomes to its clients based on their needs.

Mr. Pacheco previously served a Project Manager for Lockheed Martin Corporation. He was outsource to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, Office for Civil Rights, to assess and re-launch the office's civil rights medical school curriculum initiative for medical schools across the country.

Prior to that position, Mr. Pacheco served as the Training Director for the AIDs Education and Training Center-Multicultural Center (AETC-MC), Howard University College of Medicine. As the training director, he oversaw training development and the execution of curriculum activities related to the AETC-MC.

Mr. Pacheco also served as a Senior Health Advisor/Project Officer to the Director, Office of Minority Health, Office of Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, US Department of Health and Human Services. As the Senior Health Advisor, he managed agency's portfolios on cultural competency, emergency preparedness, health literacy, e learning, and Latino related initiatives.

Additionally, Mr. Pacheco provided oversight and review of major public health policies initiatives, including the implementation of the Affordable Care Act of 2010, to determine their effectiveness in mitigating health disparities of minority populations. Mr. Pacheco received his BA and MSW from California State University of Fresno and has completed course work for an MPA from USC.



Gino Aisenberg PhD, MSW

Associate Dean, The Graduate School, Diversity and Student Affairs Associate, School of Social Work Co-Director, Latino Center for Health, University of Washington

Call to Action

Dr. Gino Aisenberg is a bilingual/bicultural Latino mental health researcher. His interests focus on three interrelated areas: 1) traumatic exposure of children and families to community violence, 2) depression care for adults, and 3) evidence-based practice.

Born and raised in South-Central Los Angeles, Dr. Aisenberg has extensive clinical experience as a practitioner in the areas of child abuse and community violence experienced by Latino children and families. He possesses a wealth of experience addressing grief and loss and has specialized training in cognitive behavioral therapy for low-income individuals suffering depression. Dr. Aisenberg has worked in schools, hospitals, and community-based organizations.

Dr. Aisenberg's teaching, research and scholarship are deeply informed by culture and context. They emanate from a staunch commitment to marginalized and diverse populations--to promote inclusion of their voices and to address disparities in the access and utilization of mental health services. Dr. Aisenberg has been instrumental in partnering with community-based agencies and organizations serving Latinos throughout Washington state, including our rural communities.

In 2013, Dr. Aisenberg was named Associate Dean, the Graduate School of University of Washington. His responsibilities include: 1) providing leadership in developing diversity initiatives within the Graduate School and across graduate programs of study, and 2) strengthening and advancing the Graduate School's commitment to inclusion, including recruiting and retaining underrepresented and marginalized graduate students.

Dr. Aisenberg is the founding director of the community-engaged research center, Latino Center for Health, which was established in April, 2014. He co-directs the Center with Dr. Leo Morales. The Latino Center for Health focuses on research, policy, and practice in the primary areas of physical and mental health, occupational and environmental health, and violence and injury prevention.

In 2012, Dr. Aisenberg helped establish the Latino Scholars Graduate School Fellowship for graduate students with a demonstrated commitment to the Latino community.

In 2009, Dr. Aisenberg received the University of Washington Distinguished Teaching Award for his excellence in teaching as well as his exemplary commitment to mentoring students, particularly ethnic minority students.