

PEDIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

Behavioral Health in Pediatric Primary Care: Approaches for Supporting and Treating Children and Families Today

November 8-9, 2024

Children's Hospital Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus
2nd floor, Conference and Education Center



Children's Hospital Colorado



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**University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus**

Colleagues—

Welcome to the first Behavioral Health in Pediatric Primary Care: Approaches for Supporting and Treating Children and Families Today conference. On behalf of the Pediatric Mental Health Institute at Children's Hospital Colorado, we are grateful you are joining us.

This conference was born out of conversations we've had with many of you over the course of the last year. We are all concerned about the increasing prevalence of mental health issues - from mild to acute - that we see among the children and youth we serve. Whether in the primary care setting, outpatient clinics or our emergency room, we all need better skills, tools and insights to help our patients and families.

We also know that the greater our partnership and collaboration is between community providers and higher levels of care at tertiary facilities, the more effectively we can help our kids and communities. That's why we are happy to host this conference.

Over the next two days, we will explore the national trends and opportunities that may help us better serve the children and youth of Colorado. We will also dive deep into how community providers can adapt practices, both clinically and operationally, to address mild and moderate mental health cases that so often present in the primary care setting.

You asked us to "keep it real" and ensure our presentations are attuned to the needs of pediatric primary care practices. Co-presenting with many of you allows us to ensure that our content is grounded in the day-to-day challenges and opportunities of running a pediatric primary care practice.

We look forward to collaborating today and tomorrow - and carrying that spirit of partnership into all our work together.

Again, welcome, and thank you,

K. Ron-Li Liaw, MD
Mental Health in-Chief, Chair, Pediatric Mental Health Institute
Children's Hospital Colorado
Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Director, Division Child & Adolescent Mental Health
Department of Psychiatry University of Colorado School of Medicine

Lyndsay Gaffey, MA, LPC
Vice President, Patient Care Services
Pediatric Mental Health Institute
Children's Hospital Colorado

Katie Denman, MBA
Vice President, Service Line
Pediatric Mental Health Institute
Children's Hospital Colorado

Day 1: On the Forefront of Our Youth Mental Health Crisis: Primary Care

Agenda: Friday, November 8, 2024

- 7:30 a.m. **Breakfast**
Mt. Yale
- 8:00 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks and Keynote Presentation: On the Forefront of Colorado’s Youth Mental Health Crisis: The Promise of Primary Care**
Mt. Yale
*Welcoming Remarks: **Dr. K. Ron-Li Liaw, MD, Mental Health In-Chief, CHCO***
*Presenter: **Dr. Lalit Bajaj, MD, Chief Quality Officer, CHCO***
This keynote presentation will highlight the possibility and promise of addressing behavioral health in pediatric primary care. While the process of treating behavioral health in primary care can be challenging from cultural, financial and operational standpoints, the promise of broad-based prevention makes it worthwhile. Dr. Bajaj, who has dedicated his career to helping bridge gaps between primary care and emergency medicine, will launch the conference by addressing not only the “why” of treating behavioral health in primary care but also inspiring participants of its possibility.
- 8:50 a.m. **Break**
- 9:10 a.m. **Best Practice Mental Health Care for Youth in Colorado Deep Dive: Q &A with Dr. Andy Keller and Dr. K. Ron-Li Liaw**
Mt. Yale
*Moderator: **Dr. K. Ron-Li Liaw, MD, Mental Health In-Chief, CHCO***
*Panelist: **Dr. Andy Keller, PhD, President and CEO, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute***
Dr. K. Ron-Li welcomes Dr. Andy Keller, the President and CEO of Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, back to Colorado. Andy knows Colorado well, having spent his early career in the state. Ron-Li and Andy will explore what it will take to provide more access to best practices across our Children’s System of Care to meet the demands of Colorado youth and families.
- 10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:20 a.m. **Meeting the Financial Challenges: Lessons from Across the Country and Colorado**
Mt. Yale
*Moderator: **Katie Denman, MBA, Vice President, Service Line, PMHI, CHCO***
*Co-Presenters: **Dr. Roshni L. Koli, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, and Sulamita Camargo, Senior Director of Finance, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute***
A primary concern involving behavioral health treatment in primary care is creating a viable business case and financial model. Behavioral health visits require more time in consult rooms, and coding can be elusive, often resulting in reimbursements that do not cover costs. This session explores how practices can implement processes and pathways that result in a better bottom line.
- 11:10 a.m. **Break**
- 11:30 a.m. **Breakout Sessions:**
Beyond the Questionnaire: The ART of Screening and Assessment
Mt. Yale

Presenter: Dr. Brian Pitts, MD, Assistant Professor, CU Anschutz

The availability of screening tools for behavioral health conditions suggests there is a science to screening. This workshop will give an overview of the evidence-based screening tools for depression, anxiety, suicide and other conditions. We will weave in the art to this practice, focusing on how practitioners (clinicians and others) enter conversations, ensure candid answers from patients and take actionable next steps.

Supporting a Practice through a Behavioral Healthcare Model Change

Mt. Snowmass

Presenter: Dr. Melissa Buchholz, PsyD, Associate Professor, CU Anschutz

Community Presenter: Anneka Quinn, FNP-C, Pediatrics West

Integrating behavioral health in pediatric primary care requires more than embedding a mental health provider into your practice. Operationalizing interdisciplinary, integrated, team-based care approaches is challenging and requires planning, patience and persistence. This session will focus on strategies that promote practice transformation at every stage of implementation.

12:20 p.m. Lunch
Mt. Yale

1:30 pm. **Breakout Sessions:**

Brief Behavioral Health Interventions and Medication Management for Anxiety

Mt. Yale

Moderator: Dr. Bruno Anthony, PhD, Professor, CU Anschutz, Chief of Psychology, PMHI and PCMH

Co-Presenters: Dr. Ben Mullin, PhD, Associate Professor, CU Anschutz, and Dr. Jooyoung Lee, MD, Sr. Instructor, CU Anschutz

Primary care providers have a range of choices in the direct and immediate treatment of mild and moderate anxiety. Today, many providers are trying “single session” or brief interventions for lower levels of acuity. We will explore what pediatricians can do to manage patients with a specified behavioral health diagnosis, and highlight ways to incorporate psychosocial and pharmacological interventions in current practice. The session will also include discussion of screening and monitoring measures, the evidence behind brief interventions for anxiety and guidance that pediatricians can provide for parents of anxious children.

Lessons from Primary Care: Strategies for Behavioral Health Clinic Culture Shift

Mt. Snowmass

Presenter: Dr. Cecile Fraley, MD, CEO, Pediatric Partners of the Southwest

Community Presenter: Dr. Sarah Humphreys, MD, Sapphire Pediatrics

Introducing new elements to current workflows - anything from depression screening to bringing in a licensed therapist for an immediate consult- requires both operational and cultural shifts for any practice. When behavioral health elements fail in a practice setting, practice culture and norms are often to blame. This panel discussion with local practitioners will share triumphs, failures and “lessons learned” from their work in treating behavioral health in their clinics.

2:20 p.m. Break

2:40 p.m. **Breakout Sessions:**

Roles and Scopes of Team Members

Mt. Yale

Presenter: Dr. Bethany Ashby, PsyD, Associate Professor, CU Anschutz

Community Presenter: Allyson Gottsman, Research Instructor, Family Medicine, CU Anschutz

Effectively treating and managing behavioral health issues in primary care settings requires team efforts. From reception to clinical care to administrative office support, effective practices include all team members in their approach. This session focuses on how to involve and delineate roles and scopes across the practice and how to lead through cultural change.

Collaborative Foundations: Promoting Behavioral Health Integration in Primary Care - Panel Discussion

Mt. Snowmass

Co-Presenters: Kelly Galloway, VP, Associate Chief Nursing Officer, Community Health, CHCO

Dr. Maya Bunik, MD, Professor, Pediatrics, CU Anschutz and Associate Chief Medical Office, Ambulatory, CHCO

Dr. Ayelet Talmi, PhD, Professor, Psychiatry – Harris Program and Director, Section of Integrated Behavioral Health, CHCO

Join us for a conversational panel exploring grassroots partnerships that promote behavioral health integration into primary care. We'll discuss how collaboration between patient care and administrative teams can streamline processes like screening, consultations and interventions and team-based care.

We'll highlight successful programs like CLIMB and HealthySteps, sharing innovative strategies and lessons learned. Together, we'll address challenges faced by these partnerships and explore practical solutions. Let's engage in an open dialogue about the transformative impact of collaboration in enhancing behavioral health integration!

4:00 p.m. **Happy Hour: Networking Opportunity**

Faculty Club, Benson Hotel

Day 2: Pediatric Behavioral Health: Extending Specialty Care to Primary Care / Education and Resource Navigation in Colorado

Agenda: Saturday, November 9, 2024

8:30 a.m. **Breakfast**

Mt. Yale

9:00 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks: Day 2**

Dr. K. Ron-Li Liaw, MD, Mental Health In-Chief, CHCO

9:10 a.m. **Breakout Sessions:**
Primary Care Crisis Services and Escalation Pathways

Mt. Harvard

Presenter: Dr. Beau Carubia, MD, Associate Professor, CU Anschutz

This session will provide a comprehensive review of treating imminent risk behavioral health patients and will review common diagnoses that can readily escalate including aggression, bipolar, conduct disorder and suicidality. Dr. Carubia will discuss approaches providers can take and decrease utilization of escalation pathway and community resources available for those in need.

Financial Sustainability: How Models Can Work for Your Practice Today

Mt. Yale

Moderator: Katie Denman, MBA, Vice President, Service Line, PMHI, CHCO

Co-Presenters: Dr. Roshni L. Koli, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, and Sulamita Camargo, Senior Director of Finance, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

This session will explore approaches that help practices achieve financial sustainability while providing behavioral health care in their practices. We'll discuss practical considerations for improving financial outcomes, including ways to address common reimbursement challenges and optimize resources. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of how to create a sustainable financial model that supports both care delivery and long-term viability.

- 10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:10 a.m. **Breakout Sessions:**
High Impact Brief Behavioral Health Interventions for ADHD and Disruptive Behaviors
Mt. Yale
Co-Presenters: [Dr. Jessica Hawks, PhD, Associate Professor, CU Anschutz](#), and [Dr. Anne Penner, MD, Assistant Professor, CU Anschutz](#)
- ADHD and disruptive behaviors are some of the most common childhood mental health concerns seen by primary care providers. Fortunately, there are brief and effective interventions for this patient population that can be implemented in a primary care setting. This session will highlight screening tools used to accurately identify ADHD and/or behavioral concerns and describe evidence-based brief behavioral interventions and pharmacological treatments that can be used to treat these youth. Common questions and concerns raised by parents will be discussed and suggestions will be provided regarding how to best respond. This presentation will end with a description of resources and referral information that can be accessed to provide ongoing support to these patients, including effective partnership with schools.
- Behavioral Health and the EHR Workflow Optimization**
Mt. Harvard
Presenter: [Dr. Marissa Schiel, MD, Associate Professor, CU Anschutz](#)
Community Presenter: [Michael Ripperton, PedsConnect Manager, CHCO](#)
- This session will explore how to add in behavioral health EHR workflows to create a better tracking system for behavioral health patients. In addition to creating long-term management to help with care coordination, EHR workflows allow less room to fall through the cracks and track additional visits needed for follow-up to help increase financial gains for the practice. In addition, allowing the collection of data improves practice workflows.
- 11:00 a.m. **Break**
- 11:10 a.m. **Breakout Sessions:**
Brief Behavioral Health Interventions for Depression
Mt. Yale
Co-Presenters: [Dr. Marissa Nunes Moreno, PhD, Assistant Professor, CU Anschutz](#), and [Dr. Melissa Batt, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, CU Anschutz](#)
- Pediatric primary care providers are often at the forefront of identifying mood-related challenges in children and adolescents. Our session will equip you with practical techniques for assessing depression and other mood disorders, developing a comprehensive differential diagnosis and identifying when to refer for behavioral healthcare services. We will recommend when to initiate medication for depression during the critical bridge period between services and when to avoid prescribing antidepressants for children at risk for developing bipolar disorder. We will also provide you with actionable behavioral health strategies to integrate into your practice designed to boost patient motivation and start alleviating depressive symptoms.
- Schools: A Connection with Primary Care**
Mt. Harvard
Co-Presenters: [Dr. Lauren Henry, Psychologist, PMHI](#), and [Dr. Lauren Eckhart, PsyD, Clinical Director of Colorado Springs Division](#)
- This session will explore best practices in collaborating effectively with families and schools. Topics include the types of behavioral health providers in schools, the role of pediatrics in support plans (504s, IEPs), psychiatric medications and behavioral health services delivered in schools.
- 12:00 p.m. **Expert Roundtable Lunch: Patients on Your Mind: Case Discussions with your Partners at Children's**
Mt. Yale
CoPPCAP & E-Consults - [Dr. Sandra Fritsch, MD, Professor, Psychiatry, CU Anschutz](#)
Specialty Care Referrals to Children's - [Dr. Jessica Hawks, PhD, Associate Professor, CU Anschutz](#)

Neurodiverse Populations – Dr. Elizabeth Coan, PsyD, Assistant Professor, Director, PCN Autism Program, Developmental Pediatrics

Systems Transformation: Thinking Big - Dr. K. Ron-Li Liaw, MD, Mental Health In-Chief, CHCO

Partnerships with the PCN - Katie Denman, MBA, Vice President, Service Line, PMHI, CHCO

Suicide Screening in Primary Care - Dr. Brian Pitts, Assistant Professor, CU Anschutz

Depression - Dr. Marissa Nunes Moreno, PhD, Assistant Professor, CU Anschutz, and Dr. Melissa Batt, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, CU Anschutz

Schools – Dr. Lauren Henry, Psychologist, PMHI, and Dr. Lauren Eckhart, PsyD, Clinical Director of Colorado Springs Division

Anxiety - Dr. Ben Mullin, PhD, Associate Professor, CU Anschutz, and Dr. Jooyoung Lee, MD, Sr. Instructor, CU Anschutz

While brief interventions may work for some patients, others need referrals to specialists and subspecialists. This expert roundtable lunch will focus on when and where referrals are most appropriate. Providers are often faced with “managing in the meantime” because referrals can take weeks or months before a bed opens or an appointment is available. This session will explore the opportunity to ask and learn about the tools and techniques to manage patients during this waiting period unique to your needs.

Children’s Hospital Colorado and other medical care centers offer many specialty and subspecialty programs and services. While access is often difficult, many programs have availability that goes unused. This session will profile the inpatient, partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs available to Colorado kids and families, Epic referral tools and referral pathways and partnerships with CHCO and across the state.

1:00 p.m. Lessons in Advocacy: A Conversation with Michele and Sandy

Mt. Yale

Moderator: Michele Lueck, Senior Clinical Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Executive Director of PCMH

Panelist: Dr. Sandra Fritsch, MD, Professor, Psychiatry, CU Anschutz

Policy takes on many forms - from decisions made in the clinic to testifying in front of state and federal agencies. Policy development and decisions throughout this continuum impact how care is delivered. Join Michele Lueck and Dr. Sandra Fritsch for a conversation on the intersection of mental health policy. This session will explore key insights into advocacy efforts and the challenges faced by providers in Colorado. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the evolving landscape of mental health care and the importance of advocacy in shaping the future of integrated care.

1:20 p.m. Looking Up and Looking Out: The Need for Advocacy and System Change

Mt. Yale

Co-Presenters: Dr. K. Ron-Li Liaw, MD, Mental Health In-Chief, CHCO, and Dannette Smith, Commissioner, Behavioral Health Administration

While changes can be made at the individual practice level, policy decisions system transformation dictate both the promise and possibility of improving our children’s mental health. The collective voice of pediatric primary care providers can be an effective lever in changes we all need to do our jobs more effectively. This session will give an overview of Colorado’s current policy and legislative context - and suggest meaningful changes that we can work together to make a reality.

2:00 p.m. Adjourn

Dr. K. Ron-Li Liaw, MD, Mental Health In-Chief, CHCO

Speaker Bios



Allyson Gottsman

Allyson Gottsman is the Director of Community Relations for the Colorado Health Extension System, a collaborative of 20 practice transformation organizations and regional health connectors. With a career rooted in healthcare administration, she began pioneering practice facilitation in the early 1990s, focusing on patient-centered care, education and customer service. She developed facilitation training programs and later expanded to clinical transformation as executive vice president of HealthTeamWorks. Allyson has led major statewide initiatives, including the Robert Wood Johnson-funded Improving Performance in Practice (IPIP) program and the CMS-funded Colorado State Innovation Model (SIM), integrating behavioral health into 340 primary care practices. She also managed the Colorado Practice Transformation Network and the EvidenceNOW Southwest project, working with over 400 primary and specialty care practices. Currently, she leads training for value-based payment facilitators, substance use projects in perinatal care and supports Colorado's state-funded behavioral health integration program, involving 140 clinic sites.



Andrew Keller, PhD

Andy Keller, PhD, is the President, CEO and Linda Perryman Evans Presidential Chair of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, a Texas-based nonprofit focused on improving mental health care delivery through nonpartisan policy research and advice. A clinical and community psychologist with over 25 years of experience in behavioral health policy, financing and best practices, Andy has worked with federal, state and local systems to implement evidence-based care and develop supportive regulatory and financial frameworks. Before his policy work, he was a managing partner at a national behavioral health consulting firm and led community-based programs with a Medicaid HMO in Colorado.



Anne Penner, MD

Anne Penner, MD, is a child and adolescent psychiatrist and Associate Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Since starting at CU, she has worked clinically on the inpatient consult service at Children's Hospital Colorado and in the outpatient clinic both at the Pediatric Mental Health Institute and the Johnson Depression Center. Clinically, Dr. Penner has been drawn to working with medically complex individuals as well as youth and families struggling with disruptive behaviors disorders. Additionally, she has been passionate about the educational mission in the Department of Psychiatry since joining the faculty in 2015. She enjoys teaching multiple courses and mentoring psychiatry residents and fellows in scholarship projects, ultimately joining the training team as the Associate Program Director and then the Program Director of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. Dr. Penner also works with two neuroimaging research labs on the Anschutz campus. She truly appreciates the academic mission - clinical, education and research.



Anneka Quinn, FNP-C

Anneka received a BSc in Anatomy and Cell Biology from McGill University. She worked for an economic justice non-profit before returning to school to obtain her ABSN at Duke University. She worked as an emergency room nurse at Duke University Hospital where she gained experience in treating both adult and pediatric mental health crises. While working as an RN, she returned to Duke to obtain her MSN as a Family Nurse Practitioner and DNP with a focus in adolescent health. After several years of practice as an NP, she went on to pursue additional training as a Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist. She practices clinically at Pediatrics West, P.C. and also serves as their Behavioral Health Program Coordinator.



Ayelet Talmi, PhD

Ayelet Talmi, PhD, is a Professor and a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in the Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Children's Hospital Colorado. Dr. Talmi is the Director of Integrated Behavioral Health, Director of the Harris Program in Early Childhood Mental Health and the Director of Project CLIMB, an integrated behavioral health services initiative in pediatric primary care settings. Dr. Talmi engages in early childhood and integrated behavioral health systems and workforce capacity building and implementation, direct service, advocacy and policy in Colorado and nationally. Her primary clinical and research interests focus on integrating behavioral health into primary care settings, early childhood mental health, workforce capacity building for health professionals, and service delivery systems for children and families. Dr. Talmi is a Past President of the Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health, a Graduate Fellow of Zero To

Three's Leader's for the 21st Century Fellowship, and currently serves on several committees related to her areas of expertise at the national level.



Beau Carubia, MD

Beau Carubia, MD, is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He serves as the Associate Medical Director of the Pediatric Mental Health Institute (PMHI), Medical Director for the Consultation Division and Co-Medical Director for the Colorado Springs Division at Children's Hospital Colorado. He is also the Associate Program Director for the Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. Dr. Carubia oversees psychiatric consultations and crisis services across multiple CHCO campuses and specializes in child mental health law, suicide prevention, psychiatric emergencies and the management of delirium, depression and anxiety in medical settings. He earned his medical degree from the University of Colorado after completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Iowa.



Ben Mullin, PhD

Dr. Mullin is the Vollbracht Family Chair in Stress and Anxiety Disorders and the director of the Colorado OCD and Anxiety Program at Children's Hospital Colorado. He completed his doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of California Berkeley. He has received funding from the National Institute of Mental Health for his research on severe anxiety among adolescents.



Bethany Ashby, PsyD

Bethany Ashby, PsyD, is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Ob/Gyn at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Her clinical work focuses on the development and implementation of integrated behavioral health programs in obstetric and pediatric clinics. Dr. Ashby serves as the director of integrated behavioral health services in the Young Mothers and Families' Clinic at CHCO. She also serves as the director of the PROMISE Clinic and director of the Colorado Adolescent Maternity Program; these programs provide integrated obstetric behavioral health services at UHealth. Dr. Ashby is particularly interested in the implementation and evaluation of trauma-informed care in primary care settings and its impact on access to care for medically underserved populations.



Brian Pitts, MD

Dr. Brian Pitts is a board-certified pediatrician and Adolescent Medicine specialist. He is a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado and serves the Aurora community as a primary and specialty care provider with the Adolescent Medical Center at Children's Hospital Colorado. Dr. Pitts has served as a leader in suicide prevention in pediatric primary care at the local, regional and national level. He serves as a researcher and a physician voice on the Partners for Children's Mental Health team.



Bruno Anthony, PhD

Bruno J. Anthony, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist, Professor and Vice-Chair of Psychiatry and Chief of Psychology for the Pediatric Mental Health Institute at Children's Hospital of Colorado as well as Research Director of Partners for Children's Mental Health (PCMH). Dr. Anthony received degrees in Developmental Psychology at Columbia University and Clinical Psychology at the University of Wisconsin and internship at the Yale Child Study Center. Prior to coming to Colorado five years ago, he carried out work at the intramural division of NIMH, the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland and the Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at Georgetown University. He has focused his research and clinical work on developing family-focused and systemic approaches to identify and help youth with behavioral/ developmental challenges and their families within primary care and school settings, including increasing access to quality of health services for minority populations. He has also been a leader in determining key components of peer support and the impact of this growing part of the mental health service

array. At Georgetown, he was Deputy Director of the Center for Child and Human Development, which has been at the forefront of developing systems change strategies for children with disabilities nationally, championing culturally competent services and approaches. His work with PCMH is focused on interventions to promote the prevention of suicide in primary care and school settings. Dr. Anthony has been a lead investigator on many large federal and state grants, has served as a member of federal review panels and has published more than 60 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.



Cecile Fraley, MD

M. Cecile Fraley, MD, is a founding partner and CEO of the independent medical home practice Pediatric Partners (PPSW) of the Southwest in Durango, CO. She received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University. She completed her residency at Primary Children's Hospital, University of Utah. Dr. Fraley is the Physician Champion for PPSW's Integrated Behavioral Health Care Team. Dr. Fraley is interested in regional health care and policy. She has served on the Centura Mercy Regional Medical Center, Colorado state American Academy of Pediatrics, Rocky Mountain Health Plan's Community Senior Leaders Strategy and the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's Medical Services Board Boards.



Clare McNutt, PA

Clare, a Physician Assistant, began her healthcare career in 2009 in Emergency Medicine, where she developed a passion for both physical and mental health care. She transitioned to inpatient behavioral health in 2012, managing patient care and leading a team of Advanced Practice Providers. In 2017, Clare joined Mindoula Health, where she built and scaled a Collaborative Care program to serve over 10,000 patients across 16 states. At Cityblock Health, she led teams focused on Collaborative Care and High-Risk Behavioral Health programs. Now at the Institute, she supports various behavioral health integration initiatives. Clare also teaches at George Washington University and enjoys running, podcasts and volunteering in her community, where she lives with her husband and two daughters.



Dannette Smith, MSW

Dannette R. Smith, MSW, is the Commissioner of the Behavioral Health Administration for the State of Colorado, appointed by Governor Jared Polis in March 2024. With over 30 years of experience in human services and children and family services, Dannette is a strategic leader known for using data-driven outcomes and fostering community engagement to develop sustainable programs. Throughout her career, she has held leadership roles in Chicago, IL; Mecklenburg County, NC; Fulton County, GA; Seattle, WA; Virginia Beach, VA; and Nebraska, where she convened the Early Childhood Roundtable, organized the Statewide Behavioral Health Task Force and co-sponsored the North Omaha Economic Revitalization Report. Her achievements include the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) and induction into the Gamma Omicron Chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. As Commissioner, she continues to advance health equity, behavioral health integration and homelessness services in Colorado.



Elizabeth Coan, PsyD

Elizabeth Coan, PsyD, is a Clinical Psychologist at Children’s Hospital Colorado in the Department of Developmental Pediatrics and holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado. With approximately 15 years of experience, including work as an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapist, Dr. Coan specializes in assessing developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health concerns, providing interventions for children with developmental differences and their families, and advancing program development, teaching and community outreach. She founded the Autism Initiative Program within the Pediatric Care Network, offering education and training for Primary Care Providers in community practices. Dr. Coan is actively involved in the Psychology training program at Children’s Hospital and is committed to providing warm, evidence-based, person-centered care.



Jessica Hawks, PhD

Jessica Hawks, PhD, is a clinical child and adolescent psychologist, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Clinical Director of the Pediatric Mental Health Institute (PMHI) at Children’s Hospital Colorado. In her Clinical Director role, she oversees PMHI clinical programming offered across the continuum of care including the emergency department, outpatient clinics, partial hospitalization programs and inpatient psychiatric units. Dr. Hawks provides mental health services to children and families presenting with a wide spectrum of mental health concerns and regularly provides clinical consultation to professionals across the hospital system. She has particular clinical expertise in working with youth with chronic irritability and their parents. Dr. Hawks clinical leadership and research efforts focus on innovative clinical program development and dissemination efforts aimed at bringing a transdiagnostic approach to pediatric mental health treatment services. Dr. Hawks provides training and supervision to a variety of mental health

trainees and professionals. She is routinely invited to interview for state and national media outlets, as well as provide community lectures on pediatric mental health.



Jooyoung Lee, MD

Dr. Lee is a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Children's Hospital Colorado and a senior instructor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He serves as the lead psychiatric consultant for the anxiety subspecialty clinic at CHCO. Originally from South Korea, Dr. Lee earned his MD from Seoul National University College of Medicine and completed his psychiatry residency at the University of Maryland/Sheppard Pratt program. He pursued further fellowship training in child and adolescent psychiatry at Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School and completed a psychoanalytic psychotherapy fellowship at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute.



K. Ron-Li Liaw, MD

Dr. K. Ron-Li Liaw is the Cannon Y. & Lyndia Harvey Chair in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Chair of the Pediatric Mental Health Institute at Children's Hospital Colorado. Dr. Liaw is a Professor, Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Division Director of Child and Adolescent Mental Health in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She serves as the inaugural Mental Health In-Chief at Colorado Children's Hospital and oversees child mental health vision and strategy, operations, quality, safety and workforce development system-wide. Nationally, Dr. Liaw serves on the Commonwealth Fund's National Advisory Board for Strategies to Address the Youth Behavioral Health Crisis and as an executive sponsor for Cardinal Health, Children's Hospital Association, Zero Suicide Academy's Preventing Youth Suicide national collaborative. In Colorado, Dr. Liaw is a member of the Behavioral Health Administration's Advisory

Council and serves on the Board of the Youth Healthcare Alliance. Dr. Liaw completed her child and adolescent psychiatry residency at NYU Langone Medical Center.



Katie Denman

As Vice President of the Pediatric Mental Health Service Line at Children's Colorado, Katie Denman is responsible for developing the strategic direction and ensuring the overall economic sustainability of the service line. In her eleven years at Children's Colorado, Katie facilitated the development of two organization-wide, five-year strategic plans, numerous clinical program plans, facility expansions, the introduction of the Colorado Child Health Research Institute and the Analytics Resource Center. In addition, Katie led the team that served as the data stewards for the Colorado Hospital Association and other market data and analytics for Children's Colorado. Katie represents Children's Colorado on the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Board. Her passion for youth advocacy began early in a variety of student government positions culminating as a student representative on

the Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System.



Kelly Galloway, MS, RN, NEA-BC

Kelly Galloway has served as Vice President, Associate Chief Nurse for Community Health and Ambulatory Clinical Practice since 2023. This combined role is new to Children's Colorado, and Kelly is excited to represent both community and ambulatory care in this position. Kelly has served in leadership roles within the Ambulatory Division since 2007, most recently as the director of patient care services for Primary Care and Community Programs since 2013.

Kelly's clinical interests have focused on advancing ambulator clinical care and care coordination, bridging the gaps for patients with medical and social complexity and supporting robust transitions of care between the hospital and the community systems that interface with children and youth outside of Children's Colorado's walls. Kelly is interested in continuing to advance the role of ambulatory nursing, specifically demonstrating improved patient outcomes. Kelly's undergraduate nursing degree is from Old Dominion University. She holds a master's degree in nursing leadership from the University of Colorado College of Nursing. Kelly is a board-certified nurse executive.



Lalit Bajaj, MD, MPH

Lalit Bajaj is currently a Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Chief Quality Officer for Children’s Hospital Colorado. Dr. Bajaj completed his BS at the University of California, Davis, and then completed his MD and MPH at the University of California, San Francisco, and Berkeley prior to coming to the University of Colorado for pediatric residency. He completed a chief residency and a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine and has been a pediatric emergency physician for over 20 years. In addition, Dr. Bajaj has served in many leadership roles at Children’s Hospital Colorado including Emergency Department Research Director, Medical Director of the Research Institute, Medical Director of Clinical Effectiveness and is currently the Chief Quality Officer for the Children’s Hospital Colorado system. In his current role, he oversees patient safety, clinical effectiveness, health equity and value-based care. He has focused much of his scholarly work on decreasing low value care, examining disparities

in outcomes and working to further value-based care and optimal outcomes for all patients and families. He has served as a member of the board of the Pediatric Care Network for over 6 years.



Lauren Eckhart, PsyD

Dr. Lauren Eckhart is a Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychologist and the Clinical Director of the Colorado Springs Division of the Pediatric Mental Health Institute at Children’s Hospital Colorado. She is also an Associate Professor of Clinical Practice in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine. In this relatively new role, Dr. Eckhart’s primary focus has been on the expansion of Children’s Hospital of Colorado’s mental health services in Colorado Springs and the Southern Region which includes outpatient and partial hospitalization services at Children’s Colorado Therapy Care on Telstar, integrating behavioral health services into the medical specialty care clinics at Briargate, and enhancing services in the Colorado Springs Hospital and in the school based program. Dr. Eckhart has spent the majority of her career working with children and adolescents who have experienced trauma and as a result has developed a passion for trauma-informed care. She believes that increasing the awareness of this approach beyond the behavioral health

community is critical in improving patient/family experiences and ultimately their outcomes.



Lauren Henry, PsyD

Dr. Lauren Henry is a licensed Pediatric Psychologist with Children’s Hospital Colorado. She is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine. Her areas of research and practice target the prevention and treatment of youth mental health disorders through child and parent skills training, school consultation and community collaboration. Dr. Henry is a nationally certified School Psychologist and currently leads clinical practice for CHC’s Partial Hospitalization Program, a day treatment program for youth experiencing acute mental health crisis.



Marissa Nunes-Moreno, PhD

Dr. Marissa Nunes-Moreno is a pediatric clinical psychologist at Children’s Hospital Colorado (CHCO) in Aurora, Colorado. She is the Director of the Mood Specialty Program at the Pediatric Mental Health Institute (PMHI), where she is currently leading a team in developing a Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) program for young people with mood issues that result in problematic behaviors. Dr. Nunes-Moreno is also a part of the TRUE Center for Gender Diversity at CHCO, often caring for gender diverse youth with mood-related disorders. Dr. Nunes-Moreno is passionate about educating providers across disciplines and finding innovative ways to support the mental health of young people and their families within their practice setting.



Marissa Schiel, MD, PhD

Marissa Schiel, MD, PhD, is a board-certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Schiel serves as the Medical Director of Informatics, Medical Director of Ambulatory Services, and the Co-Medical Director of Colorado Springs for the Pediatric Mental Health Institute (PMHI) at Children's Hospital Colorado. Clinically she serves as an attending psychiatrist in the Eating Disorder Program, as well as the Outpatient Psychiatry Clinic. She is committed to providing compassionate, evidence-based treatment to youth and their families and to supporting providers in their use of the electronic health record.



Maya Bunik, MD, MPH

Maya Bunik, MD, MPH, is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Associate Chief Medical Officer for Ambulatory at Children's Hospital Colorado. She chairs the American Academy of Pediatrics' Section on Breastfeeding and leads the Breastfeeding Management Clinic at Children's Hospital Colorado, helping mother-baby pairs for over 25 years. Dr. Bunik's research focuses on improving early infant feeding practices, and she has authored over 40 publications on breastfeeding support, behavioral health integration and child health. She also serves as the lead editor of the pediatric textbook Current Diagnosis and Treatment.



Melissa Batt, MD, MPH

Melissa Batt, MD, MPH, is a child and adolescent psychiatrist and assistant professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She completed her psychiatry residency, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship, and an Irving Harris Child Development and Infant Mental Health Fellowship at the University of Colorado. Dr. Batt's clinical and research interests center on the treatment and secondary prevention of mood disorders, including bipolar disorder and depression. She serves as the medical director of the STEADY program, which consults on high-risk cases for bipolar disorder based on mood symptoms and family history, and she participates in a multi-site study on youth bipolar disorder. In addition to her work at the Helen & Arthur E. Johnson Depression Center, part of the National Network of Depression Centers, Dr. Batt directs the Child and Family Clinic at the University's Outpatient Psychiatry Clinic, where she supervises fellows treating young patients with mood disorders.



Melissa Buchholz, PsyD

Melissa Buchholz, PsyD, is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in the Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics. She is faculty with the Harris Program for Child Development and Infant Mental Health at the University of Colorado. Dr. Buchholz is the director of HealthySteps for the state of Colorado and has worked to scale this model across the state since 2012. She is passionate about disseminating health promotion and prevention services for young children and has spent her career focusing on integrating early childhood behavioral health services into medical settings, specifically pediatric primary care. Dr. Buchholz is particularly interested in improving access to behavioral health care for young children and building comprehensive systems of care for young children and their families. She is a graduate of ZERO TO THREE's fellowship and a member of the Academy of Fellows at ZERO TO THREE.



Mike Ripperton

Mike Ripperton is the IT Director - PedsConnect at Children's Hospital Colorado, bringing extensive experience and a passion for health information management. With a strong background in operations, analytics and technology, he has held leadership roles across the healthcare sector, driving successful outcomes. Mike specializes in health information practices, focusing on regulatory compliance, data privacy, patient access, provider relations, reimbursement processes and electronic medical records (EMR) systems. Known for his problem-solving and project management skills, he has a proven track record of optimizing efficiency and improving profitability across diverse healthcare specialties.



Michele Lueck

In 2022, Michele joined the Pediatric Mental Health Institute at Children's Hospital Colorado as an Executive Director, after serving as the President and CEO of the Colorado Health Institute (CHI), where she led a decade of expansion and growth. As part of the Prevention and Early Treatment team, Michele is responsible for strategy and efforts to bring mental health programs and services to kids throughout Colorado in the communities where they live, study and play. As part of her role, she also serves as a Senior Clinical Instructor for the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, assisting with policy and advocacy.

Michele is a public health strategist, advising leaders and agencies on strategic direction and policy issues. In 2020, she was named Denver Business Journal's Most Admired CEO. Michele chaired the Board of Trustees of Adams State University from 2019 through 2023 and served on the board for nearly 8 years. She was appointed first by Governor Hickenlooper and reappointed by Governor Polis. Michele earned an undergraduate degree from Harvard and a master's degree from the University of Melbourne, Australia.



Roshni Koli, MD

Roshni Koli, MD, is a board-certified adult and child and adolescent psychiatrist with over 15 years of experience. Before joining the Meadows Institute, she was the inaugural medical director of the pediatric mental health service line at Dell Children's Medical Center, where she led the creation of a comprehensive continuum of pediatric mental health care, including inpatient and outpatient services. At the Institute, Roshni oversees medically-focused policy and practice guidance, ensuring evidence-based care with a focus on children, youth, and families. She has also served as an educator and leader in psychiatric care, dedicated to reducing stigma and improving access to mental health services.



Sandra Fritsch, MD

Dr. Fritsch is a graduate of Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in 1985. She trained in pediatrics, psychiatry and child psychiatry (Triple Board Residency) at Brown University and completed her residency in 1991. Dr. Fritsch maintains board certification in general psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry. Dr. Fritsch's current professional role is as the medical director of the Pediatric Mental Health Institute, Children's Hospital Colorado, medical director of CoPPCAP (Colorado Pediatric Psychiatry Consultation & Access Program) and professor in the Department of Psychiatry at University of Colorado School of Medicine. Her career has encompassed working at the interface of pediatrics and child psychiatry; both for inpatients in pediatric hospitals and in outpatient child psychiatry. Dr. Fritsch has worked in Massachusetts and was fortunate to be involved in the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program (MCPAP), developed a similar program in Maine, and is the project director/medical director of CoPPCAP, a

HRSA PMHCA funded initiative. Dr. Fritsch's professional interests include advocacy, innovations in medical education, collaborative care models between primary care and mental health providers and the interplay of physical health concerns and mental health needs. She has been in her current role for over seven years, having previously practiced in Maine.



Sarah Humphreys, MD

Dr. Humphreys joined Sapphire Pediatrics in 2011, and became President in January 2024. She is a board certified fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She earned her MD degree at the University of Oklahoma and completed her pediatric residency at the University of Maryland. She has practiced pediatrics in Denver since 2004, and she particularly enjoys caring for adolescents. Outside of work, Dr. Humphreys enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband and two teenage daughters.



Sulamita Camargo

Sulamita brings over 13 years of experience in medical billing, finance and project management, with a focus on mental health operations for the past decade. Passionate about helping providers find customized solutions for their financial and administrative needs, she believes in achieving operational excellence through collaboration. Before joining the Meadows Institute, she served as Vice President of Operations for Mindoula Management Services, overseeing operations for Mindoula Health and CareMind Health and leading efforts in behavioral healthcare billing, physician contracting, claims and clinic management. At the Institute, Sulamita supports the Policy Implementation Team in advancing collaborative care and measurement-based care, while working with partners to implement efficient revenue cycle workflows. She holds a BA in Business Management from the University of South Florida and lives in Tampa, Florida, with her husband and three children, enjoying biking, boating and hosting book club gatherings.