



**Briefing: Coordinating Funding and Data to Address Social Determinants of Health
September 29, 2022**

Panelist Bios

Dr. Sandra Ford, Special Assistant to the President for Public Health and Science at the White House

Sandra Elizabeth Ford, M.D., M.B.A. is the Special Assistant to the President for Public Health and Science. In this role, which she began in May of 2021, Dr. Ford's portfolio includes the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

Prior to assuming this exciting new role, Dr. Ford held a number of public health leadership positions in Georgia, most notably as the District Health Director of DeKalb County and Chief Executive Officer of the DeKalb County Board of Health, a position she held for 16 years. In this role, Dr. Ford directed clinical and population-based services for DeKalb's more than 760,000 residents who speak more than 130 languages and dialects. She was responsible for programs such as Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health, and Refugee Health. Under her leadership, DeKalb County Board of Health received over \$40 million in grant funding to address obesity, physical activity, nutrition, asthma and smoking cessation. Her Maternal and Child Health initiative, M.O.R.E. (Mothers Offering Resources and Education) has received national recognition and has been supported by entities as diverse as United Way and R&B icon Usher Raymond.

While Dr. Ford was serving as District Health Director for DeKalb County, she also served as the Interim District Health Director for Fulton County (population 1.04M) from 2019-2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her knowledge and expertise were essential when facing the COVID-19 crisis, and she was instrumental in ensuring the safety of the citizens of DeKalb and Fulton Counties simultaneously while still overseeing core public health services in both counties.

From May 2008- July 2009, Dr. Ford served as Acting Director of the Georgia Division of Public Health, where she orchestrated the agency's reorganization. There, she also led the development of policy and legislation pertaining to public health and enforcing related laws and regulations.

Dr. Ford's Public Health career began in April 2003, when she was appointed Florida Department of Health's Deputy State Health Officer/Deputy Secretary for Children's Medical Services, where she was responsible for the oversight of all health services for children with special health care needs in the state.

A board-certified pediatrician, Dr. Ford received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Stanford University, a Medical degree from Howard University's College of Medicine, and a master's degree in Business Administration with a focus in Health Services Administration from Howard University's Graduate School of Business.

Dr. Ford has held faculty positions at Howard University's College of Medicine, Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, and Morehouse School of Medicine. Her dedication to minority health and health inequities has led to appearances on CNN, CNN International and local Atlanta stations, including FOX, ABC, CBS, NBC, and NPR.



Erica Coletti, CEO, [Healthy Alliance](#)

Erica Coletti believes that everyone should have equitable access to all types of care – medical, behavioral, and social – to maintain and improve their health. Coletti took on the role of CEO of Healthy Alliance in July 2021 – engaging medical, behavioral, and social service providers in developing innovative solutions to improve community health. Coletti has an extensive background in consulting and operations, with over 20 years of experience. Prior to becoming CEO, Coletti was Healthy Alliance’s COO, leading the strategic development and execution of Healthy Alliance’s work within the Capital Region (and beyond) – including the oversight of community partner services for Healthy Alliance’s IPA and the coordination and technical operations of their referral network. Before joining Healthy Alliance, Coletti led operations for a boutique consulting firm in Albany, NY. After the firm was acquired by EXL Services operating out of New York City, Coletti took a leadership role as the Vice President of Operations and Health Care for the digital consulting organization in EXL Service. There, she led a global team and worked directly with c-suite clients to help them design and implement their digital strategy. Coletti has a master’s degree in Business Administration with a focus on Technology & Entrepreneurship from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a B.S. in Biology from Vanderbilt University.

Sue Pechilio Polis, Director, Health and Wellness, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, [National League of Cities](#)

Sue Pechilio Polis directs the health and well-being portfolio for NLC as part of the Institute for Youth, Education and Families. The portfolio includes the conceptualization, development and implementation of [Cities of Opportunity](#), a multi-year effort to engage mayors and city leaders in comprehensively addressing the root causes of poor health (SDOH) through an equitable policy and systems change approach. With expertise in health policy, Sue’s work spans the connection to housing, economic opportunity, mental health and substance use disorders, obesity, trauma, and local systems alignment, and data for well-being. Prior to the National League of Cities, Mrs. Polis led the development and management of the Trust for America’s Health (TFAH) external relations and strategic partnership efforts in support of the organization’s public policy goals. Her focus included multi-sector alignment in community health improvement, as well as workplace wellness and substance use disorders.

Prior to joining TFAH, Mrs. Polis worked at AARP on health and financial security-related issues with an emphasis on advancing policy to address the needs of vulnerable 50+ populations. Her focus areas included health care workforce, retirement savings, consumer protection, and low-income programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Mrs. Polis was the founding National Director of Advocacy for the American Heart Association. Mrs. Polis background also includes consulting on health, environmental and tobacco-related issues campaigns.

Amy Riegel, Executive Director, [Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio \(COHHIO\)](#)

Amy was selected to serve as COHHIO’s Executive Director in June 2022 after serving as the Senior Director, Housing for managed care organization CareSource, where she initiated and led the deployment of \$50 million strategic investments in affordable housing across multiple states and helped to launch and replicate Healthy Beginnings at Home, a nationally recognized research study looking at the relationship between housing stability and healthy birth outcomes. Amy is an accomplished housing advocate with over 15 years of experience working with nonprofits and governmental entities, including the City of



Dayton, where she provided policy leadership and designed programs in the areas of housing development, asset-based community development, community engagement, education, and homelessness. She serves on numerous boards in Ohio and nationally that are focused on poverty elimination, affordable housing, and neighborhood revitalization. Amy lives in Dayton with her husband and three daughters. She is a graduate of Wright State University. She loves attending sporting events, especially when her daughters or the UD Flyers are playing.