

# SPEAKER BIOS

## 2016 MCH Conference

### Making a Population-based Difference

Learn more about the 2016 MCH Conference presenters!

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#### **Chad Abresch, MEd**

Chad Abresch, MEd is the Executive Director of CityMatCH, a national organization dedicated to improving the health of women, children, families and communities. As Executive Director, he has focused the organization on three priorities—promoting health equity, effectively using science for public health practice and cultivating great leaders for the public's health.

During his time at CityMatCH, Mr. Abresch has received several personal awards, yet is most honored by those he has accepted on behalf of the organization—the Director's Award presented by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Martha May Eliot Award for Effective Practice presented by the American Public Health Association.

In addition to his public health work, Mr. Abresch also has a wealth of experience in non-profit mission and management beginning with his graduate thesis and including the start-up of a state-wide (NE) 501(c) 3. Mr. Abresch was previously employed by the Wellness Councils of America as Senior Staff Writer, where he authored a wide variety of corporate health promotion literature, and the Gallup Organization, where he won the Gallup U.S. Interviewer Award. He enjoys life in Omaha, NE with his wife Melissa and their four young children.

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#### **Eileen Auer Bennett**

Eileen Auer Bennett has led the ABCD efforts in Colorado for 10 years. Eileen's education allows her to support the business/managerial aspects of ABCD. Previous work experience includes time as a service coordinator for children with special developmental needs, thus allowing for unique insights into this field. Additionally, her experience as a parent of a child with multiple disabilities and her many years of service in the early childhood sector have led to many connections with state agencies and other key partners who support the work.

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### **Mandy Bakulski, RD, MPH**

Mandy Bakulski is the Maternal Wellness & Early Childhood Unit Supervisor at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. She provides oversight and leadership for a variety of maternal wellness and early childhood initiatives including the Maternal & Child Health priorities focused on pregnancy-related depression and developmental screening and referral; the newborn hearing program; Project LAUNCH and SIM. Ms. Bakulski has worked in the field of maternal health for over 15 years and has been involved with the early childhood work in Colorado for the past 4 years. She received her bachelor's degree in Nutrition Science & Dietetics from Colorado State University in 2000 and recently completed her master's degree in public health at the Colorado School of Public Health in May 2015. Ms. Bakulski has worked at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment since 2004, originally as the Director of the Prenatal Plus Program.

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### **Lauren Bardin, MPH**

Lauren Bardin joined CDPHE in February of 2015 as the Maternal Health Specialist. She provides public health and health systems expertise to the pregnancy-related depression MCH priority, preterm birth efforts, and manages the Colorado Maternal Mortality Program. Professional experience includes six years working with global health initiatives, most recently while at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control's Division of Reproductive Health. In her role at CDC, Lauren worked on projects aimed to improve emergency obstetric care services and enhance national surveillance systems for the monitoring of pregnancy outcomes and maternal mortality. Lauren received her bachelor's degree in political science from Gonzaga University and her master's in public health from Emory University.

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### **Heather Baumgartner, MSS**

Heather Baumgartner serves as the CDPHE Maternal and Child Health Section Manager, where she leads the administrative and technical assistance systems that support the MCH Program, including the administration of funds to local public health agencies. In addition, she manages efforts focused on infant mortality reduction. Prior to joining the MCH team, Heather led the collaborative development and implementation of Colorado's statewide health assessment and planning system (CHAPS) and development of the 2013 Colorado Health Assessment as a member of CDPHE's Office of Planning, Partnerships, and Improvement. Previous positions with CDPHE have included Healthy Communities Unit Director, Cancer Control Initiatives Manager, and Tobacco Control Community Programs Director. Heather has also worked with the American Cancer Society overseeing tobacco control and coordinated school health policy initiatives. She received secondary education credentials from Iowa State University and a master's in social sciences from the University of Colorado Denver where she serves as an adjunct lecturer.

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### **Audra Bishop, MA**

Audra Bishop is the Youth and Young Adult Unit Supervisor at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and also serves as Colorado's State Adolescent Health Coordinator. With her master's in youth development she has promoted youth leadership and engagement locally, statewide and internationally. She currently offers trainings on both adolescent and positive youth development, is the adult facilitator for the department's youth advisory council and provides leadership on the department's current Maternal and Child Health youth-systems building priority.

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### **Jodi Christopfel, DTR**

Jodi Christopfel is the Early Childhood Obesity Prevention and Child and Adult Care Food Program Projects Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Jodi works with Colorado early care and education centers, trainers, and professionals in promoting and implementing the I am Moving, I am Learning physical activity curriculum. In her free time Jodi enjoys cooking, practicing yoga, and spending time with her husband, dog, and new baby girl.

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### **Jennifer Dellaport, MPH, RD**

Jennifer Dellaport is the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP) Unit manager. Jennifer works with the ECOP team to determine strategic direction for and implementation and evaluation of department-wide programming related to early childhood obesity prevention while aligning activities among related programs including the Colorado WIC Program, Maternal and Child Health Programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention School Health and Chronic Disease Prevention Programs.

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### **Jodi Drisko, MSPH**

Jodi Drisko is the President of Parametrix Group, LLC. She received her MSPH in 1994 and has more than 20 years of experience in public health. Ms. Drisko has worked primarily in the areas of chronic disease prevention and control and maternal child health. She also managed the quality improvement and program evaluation department for Denver Health - Community Health Services for nearly 4 years, overseeing the quality improvement activities for 12 community health centers and 13 school based clinics. She spent six years as the Director of Research and Evaluation in the Health Statistics Section for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, overseeing the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), developing and directing the Colorado Child Health Survey and evaluating maternal child health and chronic disease programs. Ms. Drisko has worked with state agencies and local health departments in Colorado and Hawaii on program planning, evaluation, and quality improvement.

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### **Gina Febbraro, MPH**

Gina Febbraro is currently serving as a Performance Improvement Consultant at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) where she is leading the development and implementation of performance management practices in MCH and Nutrition Services. From 2009 to 2013, Gina served as the MCH Unit Manager at CDPHE where she managed the day-to-day operations of the MCH Program including the administration of funds to local public health agencies throughout the state. Prior to joining the MCH team, Gina served for nearly four years as the director of the Tony Grampas Youth Services Program at CDPHE, a state-legislated, multi-million dollar grant program that funds over 100 community-based, youth-serving organizations throughout Colorado. Gina earned her master's of public health in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University of North Carolina's School of Public Health and her Bachelor's degree in Social Psychology from the Pennsylvania State University.

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### **Oscar Fleming, MSPH**

Based at the National Implementation Research Network at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Oscar Fleming leads the implementation team of the HRSA/MCHB funded National MCH Workforce Development Center. He works with his Center colleagues and local, state and national maternal and child health programs to build implementation infrastructure in support of improved outcomes for families and children. Oscar Fleming has worked on public health and community development programs in the US and the developing world for over 20 years. His areas of interests include program development, coaching, and systems change in support effective implementation of effective programs. In the past Mr. Fleming has worked with ChildFund International, Africare, USAID, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee-US Senate and HRSA. From 1994 to 1996, William served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea, West Africa, supporting community health and development projects, including community health education, hygiene and sanitation, nutrition, and child health promotion. Currently working to complete an executive doctoral in Public Health Leadership, Mr. Fleming has a Master of Science of Public Health and Bachelor of Arts in International Studies degrees from the University of North Carolina-CH.

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### **Eileen Forlenza**

Eileen Forlenza serves as the Colorado Family and Community Engagement Specialist for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. As a parent of an adult daughter with significant disabilities, Eileen has braided her family's experience with public health training to assure that the family perspective is embedded in programmatic design, implementation and evaluation. Eileen is the current President of the *Association of Maternal and Child Health Program (AMCHP)* and has served in advisory roles for the *National Center on Cultural Competency*, *National Center for Healthcare Transition*, *Multi-Stakeholder Patient Centered Medical Home Project*, *National Initiative for Child Health Quality and Family Voices National*. She has served as a curriculum advisory for the *Institute for Patient and Family Centered Care University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill* and served as a Colorado delegate to attend the national *Family Policy Academy*. Nationally recognized as a change leader, Eileen received a personal invitation the White House by President Obama and received the prestigious *Woman of the Year Award* from the National Association of Professional Women.

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### **Angie Goodger, MPH, MHA**

Angie Goodger is a public health consultant for HCP, a program for children and youth with special health care needs at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). In this position, she oversees rural HCP specialty clinics and supports local public health agencies in their care coordination efforts.

Prior to joining CDPHE, Angie was the Director of Best Practices at Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program where she developed implementation guidelines and assisted over 200 pediatric and family practices in developing and monitoring quality improvement projects. Her professional career also includes leadership positions with the Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living in Rochester, MN, and the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health in Mason City, Iowa.

Angie earned her master's degrees from Des Moines University in public health and healthcare administration.

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### **Rebecca Hebner Roppolo, MPH**

Rebecca Hebner Roppolo, MPH, is the Substance Abuse Prevention Systems Coordinator for the Violence and Injury Prevention - Mental Health Promotion Branch at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, where she works to prevent prescription drug overdose and to educate the public on safe, legal, and responsible use of retail marijuana. Rebecca previously worked on tobacco prevention for a local public health agency, researched PTSD treatment and policy at the Institute of Medicine, and developed pediatric vaccines at the National Institutes of Health. A Colorado native, Rebecca returned to her home state after receiving her master's degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and her bachelor's in Human Biology from Stanford University.

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### **Rachel Hutson, MSN, RN, CPNP**

Rachel Hutson is the Director of the Children, Youth and Families Branch at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the state CYSHCN Director for the state's MCH Block Grant. In this role, Rachel provides oversight and support for programs and initiatives related to maternal and child health housed within the branch. Prior to working for CDPHE, Rachel provided primary health care services in Denver as a pediatric nurse practitioner at the Stout Street Clinic of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. Rachel received a Bachelor of Arts from Franklin and Marshall College and a master's in Nursing from Yale University.

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### **Ashley Juhl, MSPH**

Ashley Juhl is a Maternal and Child Health epidemiologist in the Health Surveys & Evaluation Branch in the Center for Health and Environmental Data at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). In her role, Ashley conducts analysis and interpretation of population-based data and informs program planning for various maternal and child health programs. Ashley also recently became the new PRAMS Coordinator for Colorado. Prior to joining CDPHE over seven years ago, Ashley worked as an epidemiologist in the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program at CDPHE conducting surveillance for influenza and methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus. Ashley earned a Master of Science in Public Health from the University of Colorado Denver and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Northern Colorado.

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### **Tomei Kuehl, MPA**

Tomei joined the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in January 2013. She began her career with the Department as the program coordinator for the Sexual Violence Prevention Unit. In this role she was responsible for grant management and implementation of strategic and evaluation plans. Additionally, she provided technical assistance to local funded organizations to implement community-specific strategies. Currently she manages the Sexual Violence Prevention Program and works to build relationships across relevant topics to leverage opportunities to expand the work of the SVP Program. Tomei has worked in the domestic violence/sexual violence field for over six years where she has managed grants, developed outcome measures, provided technical assistance on best practice for community based organizations, and initiated statewide collaborative projects. Tomei has a master's Degree in Public Administration.

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### **Stacy Miller, PhD, RD**

Stacy Miller is the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Breastfeeding Specialist. Stacy leads breastfeeding protection, promotion, and support programming for the Colorado WIC Program, the Maternal and Child Health Program, and CDC-funded projects to reduce childhood obesity. Stacy is a Certified Lactation Counselor, has trained breastfeeding peer coaches and was a La Leche League volunteer. Outside of work, Stacy likes traveling and spending time outdoors with her husband, four year old and 5 month old daughters and their two Labradors.

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### **Jennie Munthali, MPH**

Jennie Munthali is the section manager for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and the MCH Medical Home Priority lead for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). In this position, she articulates and aligns the strategic priorities for the work serving the CYSHCN population. Jennie received her MPH in Health Service Management from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Prior to joining CDPHE, Jennie worked for Catholic Relief Services in the Southern Region of Africa first on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to strengthen and integrate community systems of care and then as a policy specialist working with governments and non-governmental organizations to design and implement effective health care policies.

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### **Karen Trierweiler, MS, CNM**

Karen Trierweiler is a master's prepared nurse midwife with over 30 years of experience in Maternal and Child Health. She practiced as a nurse midwife for many years and served on the Nurse Midwifery faculty at the University of Colorado School of Nursing. She joined the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) in 1990 as a nurse consultant for the Prenatal and Family Planning programs, working closely with local public health agencies across the state. She became the Director of the Women's Health Section at CDPHE in 2000 and in 2006 became the Title V MCH Director for the State. She is currently the Deputy Division Director of the Prevention Services Division at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Karen received the CDPHE 2102 Distinguished Service Award and a Recognition of Distinction for state MCH Leadership from AMCHP in 2013.

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### **Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH**

Dr. Larry Wolk is Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Since joining the department in September 2013, Dr. Wolk's mission has been to simplify the health system for the citizens of Colorado and to position the department as the leader in providing evidence-based health and environmental information. During his tenure, he has overseen flood recovery, a federal shutdown, and the promulgation of the nation's first air quality rules specific to methane reduction for oil and gas operations. His new frontier is addressing the myriad issues surrounding medical and retail marijuana.

Before coming to the department, Dr. Wolk served as Chief Executive Officer of [CORHIO](#), Colorado's nonprofit health information exchange. He was an executive with Correctional Healthcare Companies, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Colorado, Prudential Healthcare of Colorado, and CIGNA Healthcare. In 1996, Dr. Wolk founded the [Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics](#), one of Colorado's largest safety net clinics and a national model for providing care to the uninsured. He continues to practice medicine there.

Dr. Wolk has received many honors, including Colorado Pediatrician of the Year, Denver Business Journal Healthcare Executive of the Year, and the 7News Denver Everyday Hero award.

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