

**NBNA**  
NATIONAL BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION, INC.



**2021 National Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill**

# **COVID-19, Social Justice & Health Equity: NBNA's Call To Action**



**Thursday, February 4, 2021**

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM EST | 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM CST**

**TO JOIN MAIN MEETING: [CLICK HERE](#)**

**National  
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Capitol Hill Day**

**2|4|2021**



# COVID-19, Social Justice & Health Equity: NBNA's Call To Action

## 9:00 AM: Opening Remarks



### Dr. Sheldon D. Fields

**PhD, RN, CRNP, FNP-BC, AACRN, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN  
1st Vice President NBNA, Chair, NBNA Health Policy Committee**

Dr. Sheldon Fields is a well-known and respected HIV/AIDS prevention research scientist who is currently the Associate Dean for Equity & Inclusion in the College of Nursing at Penn State University. He also serves as First Vice President and Chair of the Health Policy Committee for the National Black Nurses Association, Inc.



### Dr. Martha A. Dawson

**DNP, RN, FACHE  
NBNA President; Associate Professor and Sparkman Global Health Fellow, University of Alabama at Birmingham**

Dr. Martha Dawson is the 13th President of the National Black Nurses Association. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Nursing (SON). She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the UABSON. In 2010, she earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Case Western Reserve University Frances Payne Bolton SON. Dr. Dawson completed her hospital administration

residency at Gaston Memorial Hospital in Gastonia, NC. Her practice, clinical and research focus is health systems and nursing leadership.

The Nursing and Health Systems Administration track at UABSON was ranked #2 in the US and has been ranked in the top 10 for 10 years under her leadership. She has served in senior level positions such as, Vice President of Clinical Affairs/Operations, Chief Nurse Executive, Associate Chief Operating Officer, Nursing Director, and assistant to VP of Nursing. She also managed her own healthcare consultant business.

Dr. Dawson is a Scholar in the Sparkman Global Health Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Executive Fellow, and a Johnson & Johnson Wharton Nurse Administrative Fellow. She has served as the principal investigator, project director and coordinator on HRSA and foundation grants exceeding \$2.5 million. In 2019, Dr. Dawson was inducted into the Alabama Nurses Hall of Fame.

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## Dr. Claudia M. Kregg-Byers

PhD, MPH, RN

**Co-Chair, NBNA Health Policy Committee; Assistant Professor, Health and Community Systems, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing**

Dr. Claudia Kregg-Byers is an Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh, School of Nursing and teaches senior nursing students in the Department of Health and Community Systems. She is a subject expert in gerontological nursing and holds a Certificate in Gerontology. Prior to her tenure in academia, Dr. Kregg-Byers worked in home care and community health. Before her career in nursing, she worked for ten years with youth and adolescents as a classroom science, health and special needs educator. Dr. Kregg-Byers is a member of the Pittsburgh Black Nurses in Action serving as the parliamentarian and serving on the Scholarship and Health Policy Committees. She is the co-chair of the National Black Nurses Association Health Policy. She brings a wealth of knowledge relating to health disparities. She received her BSN, Master's in Public Health and Doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh.

## The RWJ Health Policy Program



## Dr. Gregg S. Margolis

**Director, Health Policy Fellowships and Leadership Programs, National Academy of Medicine (NAM)**

Dr. Gregg Margolis leads the NAM's six nationally renowned health policy fellowship and leadership programs with a mission of building health policy leadership and expertise for the future.

Prior to joining the NAM, Dr. Margolis served as the Director of the Division of Health System Policy for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Prior to his federal service, Dr. Margolis held leadership and faculty positions at the University of Pittsburgh, The George Washington University, and the National Registry of EMTs. In 2009-2010, he was the first paramedic to be an RWJF Health Policy Fellow where he served as a health staffer in the US Senate. Dr. Margolis holds a PhD in administrative and policy studies from the University of Pittsburgh and has over 20 years of clinical experience as a field and flight paramedic. He is the author of over a hundred publications and frequent speaker in a wide array of topics in health policy, leadership development, emergency medicine, and disasters/public health emergency preparedness.

9:30 – 10:30 AM:

## Keynote Address



## The Honorable Lauren Underwood (D-IL)

*Keynote*



*(invited)*  
The Honorable  
Cori Bush (D-MO)



The Honorable  
Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

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## Biden/Harris COVID-19 Response Team Remarks

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### Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith

**MD, MHS**

**Biden-Harris COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force**

Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith is the Associate Dean of Health Equity Research at Yale School of Medicine; Associate Professor of Medicine, Public Health, and Management; and Director of the Equity Research and Innovation Center (ERIC) in the Office for Health Equity Research.

ERIC's research focuses on promoting health and healthcare equity for structurally marginalized populations with an emphasis on supporting healthcare workforce diversity and development, developing patient reported measurements of healthcare quality, and identifying regional strategies to reduce the global burden of non-communicable diseases.

Dr. Nunez-Smith currently serves as chair of the Biden-Harris COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force. Previously, she served as co-chair of the Biden-Harris Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board and community committee chair for the ReOpen Connecticut Advisory Group on behalf of Connecticut Governor Lamont. She is the principal investigator on several NIH and foundation-funded grants.

Dr. Nunez-Smith is also Director of the Center for Research Engagement (CRE); Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement at the Yale Cancer Center; Chief Health Equity Officer at Smilow Cancer Hospital; Deputy Director of the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation; Core Faculty in the National Clinician Scholars Program; Director of the Pozen- Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Health Equity Leadership; and Co-Director of the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship.

Dr. Nunez-Smith is board certified in internal medicine, having completed residency training at Harvard University's Brigham and Women's Hospital and fellowship at the Yale Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program, where she also received a Masters in Health Sciences. Originally from the US Virgin Islands, she attended Jefferson Medical College, where she was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society; she earned a BA in Biological Anthropology and Psychology at Swarthmore College.

**10:30 – 11:15 AM: Presentation of NBNA 2021 Legislative Tool Kit (Senate Caucus Room)**

**To JOIN THE MEETING: [CLICK HERE](#)**

**MODERATOR: Dr. Sheldon D. Fields** Chair, NBNA Health Policy Committee



### Dr. Colleen Kilgore

**PhD, MPH, RN, MSN, FNP-BC**

Dr. Colleen Kilgore is an Assistant Professor at the University of South Carolina Upstate, Mary Black School of Nursing. She has been a Family Nurse Practitioner for 23 years and served as Director of Nursing & Quality. Her research areas include women, rural health, and obesity. She served as the NBNA chapter President and has been an NBNA lifetime member since 2015.

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### **Dr. Celia McIntosh**

**DNP, RN, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC, CCRN, SCRNP, CEN  
Rochester Regional Health, Neuroscience Institute**

Dr. Celia McIntosh has 17 years of experience in the health sector as an educator, clinician, consultant, and human rights advocate. She received her Doctor of Nursing Practice and M.S. in Family Nursing and a post-masters in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing from the St. John Fisher College. Dr. McIntosh is the current President of the Rochester Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking, the Vice-Chair of the Inaugural Police Accountability Board in Rochester, NY, and a founding member of the Rochester

Black Nurses Association and the current health policy chair. Dr. McIntosh speaks locally and nationally regarding human trafficking and police misconduct.

**10:30 – 11:15 AM: Student Health Policy Breakout  
(House Caucus Room)**

**To JOIN THE MEETING: [CLICK HERE](#)**

**MODERATOR: Dr. Claudia Kregg-Byers** Co-Chair, Health Policy Committee



### **Dr. Sandy Cayo**

**DNP, FNP-BC  
Vice President of Clinical Performance and Transformation  
New Jersey Hospital Association**

Dr. Sandy Cayo is a thought leader and nurse innovator that advocates for improving equitable access to health care for all. With an over a decade of nursing experience, she has forged a career that positions her to break down barriers and addresses challenges while placing patients and family members at the center of care. She is currently the Vice President of Clinical Performance and Transformation at New Jersey Hospital

Association where she assumes leadership over the Health Research Education Trust of NJ. She is the clinical investigator for a \$3.5 million portfolio which includes initiatives related to perinatal quality, hospital quality improvement, opioid prevention, HIV prevention, and implicit bias training. She is a founding member of the GNYCBNA chapter of NBNA.



### **Dr. Loretta Taylor Lee**

**PhD, CRNP, FNP-BC**

Dr. Loretta Taylor Lee is an Associate Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham with over 30 years of clinical experience. She has been an academic for 15 years and is the NBNA Nurse Educator of the Year. Lee also is an associate editor for the peer-reviewed journal *Ethnicity and Health*.

**11:15 – 11:30 AM: Break. To Join Main Meeting: [CLICK HERE](#)**

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**11:30 – 11:50 AM: COVID-19 Vaccine: Efficacy, Trust, Awareness and Empowerment**

**Sponsored by: Pfizer, Inc.**

**MODERATOR: Dr. Sheldon D. Fields** Chair, NBNA Health Policy Committee



**Dara Richardson-Heron, MD**

**Chief Patient Officer, Pfizer, Inc.**

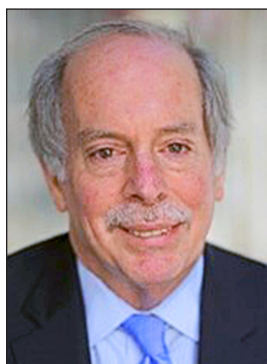
Dara Richardson-Heron is a physician by trade and an advocate by choice, who is passionate about leveraging her skills, experience, and expertise to amplify patients' voices and reduce healthcare disparities. As Pfizer's Chief Patient Officer, Dr. Richardson-Heron leads the company's work to advance patient-focused programs and platforms with the goal of better responding to patients' and communities' needs, and helping people live longer, healthier and more productive lives.

Dr. Richardson-Heron has held various leadership positions, including chief engagement officer and scientific executive for the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) All of Us Research Program, chief executive officer at YWCA USA, chief executive officer of the Greater NYC Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, national chief medical officer at the United Cerebral Palsy Association, assistant executive director and chief medical officer at United Cerebral Palsy of New York City, and special assistant to the CEO and executive medical director at Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. Dr. Richardson-Heron holds a doctorate in medicine from New York University's School of Medicine and a bachelor's degree in biology from Barnard College.

**11:50 AM – 12:10 PM: The Pandemic, Older Adult Nutrition and the Outlook Ahead**

**Sponsored by: Abbott**

**MODERATOR: Dr. Sheldon D. Fields** Chair, NBNA Health Policy Committee



**Robert Blancato**

**President, Matz, Blancato and Associates, Washington, DC**

Bob Blancato serves as the National Coordinator of the bipartisan 3000-member Elder Justice Coalition, the Executive Director of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs and National Coordinator of the Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition.

Mr. Blancato has long been recognized as a national advocate with policy expertise on behalf of older adults. In 2019, he was invited by both the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee to testify on a range of issues. Mr. Blancato's prior work history includes 17 years as a staffer in Congress and an appointment by President Clinton to be the Executive Director of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging, one of four he has participated in. He is a member of the Senior Executive Service.

He currently volunteers on the National Board of AARP and the board of the National Hispanic Council on Aging. In 2019, Mr. Blancato began a four-year term on the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services, appointed by HHS Secretary Azar. Bob holds a BA from Georgetown University and an MPA from American University. Bob has won numerous awards for advocacy, most recently the American Society for Aging's ASA Hall of Fame Award in March 2020.

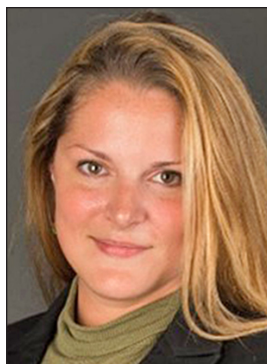


**12:10 – 1:30 PM: To Join the NBNA Day Hangout: [CLICK HERE](#)**

**12:10 – 1:30 PM: Virtual Hill Day Visits**

**1:30 – 1:50 PM: Updates from J&J: COVID Vaccine and Maternal Health Advocacy**

**Sponsored by: Johnson & Johnson**



### **Kelly Cox**

**Senior Director of Global Alliance Development,  
Johnson & Johnson**

Kelly Cox is Senior Director, Global Alliance Development at Johnson & Johnson. In this Government Affairs and Policy-based position, Ms. Cox is responsible for developing and overseeing implementation of public policy advocacy strategies in the US and at a global level, working in partnership with advocacy organizations to strengthen health systems and improve access to high quality health care. Ms. Cox works across all of Johnson & Johnson's subsidiaries, supporting key policy issues, enterprise initiatives and social causes, including advocacy partnerships to support frontline health workers, improve maternal health and address health disparities.

Prior to joining Johnson & Johnson, Ms. Cox most recently served as Senior Vice President at Edelman, leading the agency's national Health Alliances group. Prior to that she was Vice President at the public affairs consultancy APCO Worldwide. Her work for clients spanned across several disciplines including public affairs, corporate social responsibility, issues management and public policy. At the outset of her career, Kelly also served on Advance teams for the Clinton White House and for the presidential campaigns of Vice President Al Gore, Secretary John Kerry and General Wesley Clark.

**1:50 – 2:10 PM: Intergenerational Tobacco Use:  
The Toll on Health Equity**

**Sponsored by: Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids**

**MODERATOR: Dr. Claudia Kregg-Byers** Co-Chair, Health Policy Committee



### **Portia Reddick White, JD**

**Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Washington, DC**

As Vice President for Strategic Partnerships at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), Portia Reddick White leads programs to build, cultivate and sustain relationships with organizations that represent communities disproportionately impacted by tobacco use. As a leader in strategy, outreach and political engagement, she has lead efforts previously with the National Education Association (NEA), Majority Leader Harry Reid, Transport Workers Union of America (TWU), 2016 Democratic National Convention and AARP including roles as speaker, writer, organizer and activist.

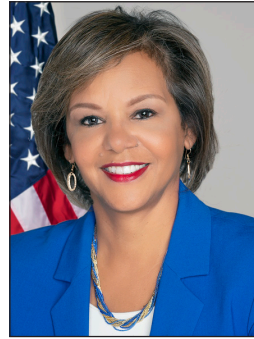
2:10 – 3:00 PM:

## Greetings by Members of Congress (Videos, Live)

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The Honorable  
Cori Bush  
(D-MO)



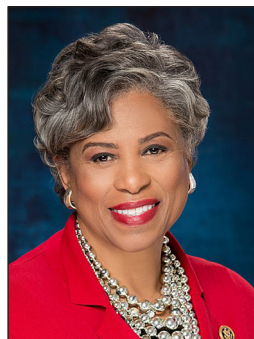
The Honorable  
Robin Kelly  
(D-IL)



The Honorable  
Sanford Bishop  
(D-GA)



The Honorable  
Bobby Rush  
(D-IL)



The Honorable  
Brenda Lawrence  
(D-MI)



The Honorable  
Hakeem Jeffries  
(D-NY)



The Honorable  
Alma Adams  
(D-NC)



The Honorable  
Steven Horsford  
(D-NV)



The Honorable  
Lucy McBath  
(D-GA)



The Honorable  
Cory Booker  
(D-NJ)



The Honorable  
G.K. Butterfield  
(D-NC)

3:00 – 4:00 PM:

## Debriefing, Final Words, Evaluation, Wrap-up and Closing Remarks



*Thank You for Joining Us!*

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*We Thank the Sponsors of the (virtual)  
33rd Black Nurses Day On Capitol Hill*



*Health Policy Committee*

Dr. Sheldon Fields, Chair

Dr. Claudia Kregg-Byers, Co-Chair

Constance Brown

Denise Bell

Dr. Sandy Cayo

Dr. Colleen Kilgore

Patricia Lane

Dr. Loretta T. Lee

Dr. Celia McIntosh

Gwendolyn McIntosh

Fredrick Richardson

Sharon Rogers

Dr. Lenora Yates

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*2021 Corporate Round Table Members*

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