

**Broadband Prescriptions for Mental Health:
A Policy Conference**



**University of Houston Law Center
Health Law & Policy Institute**

May 18, 2016

Connect2Health^{FCC} Task Force Beyond the Beltway Series Presents

Broadband Prescriptions for Mental Health: A Policy Conference

The policy conference aims to engage a diverse array of stakeholders to identify emerging issues and opportunities in using the transformative power of broadband to connect consumers with mental health services. The Beyond the Beltway Series conference will serve as a platform to identify regulatory barriers and incentives to the deployment of broadband technology in the field of mental health, with the hope that it will lead to effective policy and regulatory solutions.

The **Federal Communications Commission** regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. An independent U.S. government agency overseen by Congress, the Commission is the United States' primary authority for communications law, regulation and technological innovation in this space. Learn more at www.fcc.gov.

Connect2Health^{FCC} (C2HFCC) is a senior-level, multi-disciplinary Task Force created by FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to move the needle on broadband and advanced health care technologies. Recognizing that technology innovations in clinical practice and care delivery are poised to fundamentally change the face of health care, C2HFCC is charged with exploring the intersection of broadband, advanced technology and health. Connect2HealthFCC is essentially charting the broadband future of health care – serving as an umbrella for all FCC health-oriented activities to help enable a healthier America. Learn more at www.fcc.gov/health.

The **University of Houston Law Center** is the leading law school in the nation's fourth-largest city. Founded in 1947, it is a top-tier institution awarding Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) and Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees. The Law Center is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. Learn more at www.law.uh.edu.

The **Health Law & Policy Institute** at the University of Houston Law Center is one of the oldest and most renowned in the country. Founded in 1978, it is ranked as the #2 Health Care Law program by the U.S. News & World Report in their 2017 Best Law Schools Rankings. The University of Houston is a member institution of the Texas Medical Center, which gives the Health Law & Policy Institute a formal link to the world's largest complex for health care and biomedical innovation. On campus, the Institute directs curriculum, teaching, research, publications, and conference activities relating to health law and policy. Learn more at www.law.uh.edu/healthlaw.

- During the Policy Conference, we encourage you to tweet using **#C2HFCC**.
- Follow us on Twitter at **@FCC**, **@UHLAW**, and **@HLPI_UHLC**.
- Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FCC and www.facebook.com/uhlawcenter.
- You may submit questions to the session participants via Twitter (**#C2HFCC**) or email (livequestions@fcc.gov).

AGENDA

8:00 – 8:30 Breakfast Meet and Greet

8:30 – 9:00 **Welcome, Introductions and Program Overview**

Leonard M. Baynes, M.B.A., J.D.
Dean and Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center

Robert C. Robbins, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer, Texas Medical Center

Opening Remarks

The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission

9:00 – 9:15 **KEYNOTE: The Future of Broadband Health Technologies**

Introduction Jessica L. Mantel, J.D., M.P.P.
Assistant Professor of Law and Co-Director, University of Houston Law Center Health Law & Policy Institute

Keynote Bernard A. Harris Jr., M.D., M.B.A., M.M.S.
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner, Vesalius Ventures

9:15 – 10:30 **The Texas Story: An Overview of Broadband and Health in the Southwest**

As reported by Connected Texas, broadband infrastructure, deployment and adoption continued to show strong growth in the State between 2010 and 2014, but gaps remain, including areas in south Texas reportedly having the greatest digital divides in the Nation. This introductory session serves as a level-set for the policy conference, describing the connectivity and health picture in the State and the region and highlighting how telehealth has served to bridge some of the gaps.

Introduction Allison N. Winnike, J.D.
Director of Research and Research Professor, University of Houston Law Center Health Law & Policy Institute

Featured Guest Segment: Underserved Populations in the Rio Grande Valley

Francisco Fernandez, M.D.
Founding Dean, Vice-President for Medical Affairs, and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine

The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission

M. Chris Gibbons M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Health Innovation Officer, Connect2Health^{FCC} Task Force, Federal Communications Commission

State of the State: Broadband and Health

Presenters Sharon L. Strover, Ph.D.
Philip G. Warner Regents Professor in Communication and Director, Technology and Information Policy Institute, University of Texas at Austin Moody College of Communication

Brian Henry, M.H.A.
Director of Telehealth, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Demonstration ETHAN (Emergency Tele-Health and Navigation) Project

David E. Persse, M.D.

Physician Director, Emergency Medical Services, City of Houston Fire Department
Public Health Authority, City of Houston Department of Health & Human Services

Harris County Public Safety LTE

Shing H. Lin, M.B.A.

Director, Public Safety Technology Services, Harris County

10:30 – 10:45 BREAK

10:45 – 12:00 PANEL 1: Care Challenges in Mental and Behavioral Health and Connected Solutions

Connected solutions for mental health have been shown to have immense potential to empower individuals and increase access to information, resources, and support. This panel looks at challenges along the spectrum of care and how connected solutions can help address those needs. The expert panelists will also consider current and future implementations and the policy issues and gaps they foresee.

Moderator Mickey Slimp, Ed.D.

Executive Director, East Texas Interactive Healthcare Network, University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler

Executive Director, Northeast Texas Consortium of Colleges & Universities (NETnet)

Discussants Laura M. Galbreath, M.P.P.

Director, SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions, National Council for Behavioral Health

Timothy R. Elliott, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, Texas A&M University College of Education

Executive Director, Texas A&M University Telehealth Counseling Clinic

Susan Rushing, M.A.

Chief Executive Officer, Burke

Travis Hanson, J.D., M.S.

Executive Director, West Texas Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (WTxHITREC), Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

Yahya Shaikh, M.D., M.P.H.

Senior Advisor for Connected Health, Connect2Health^{FCC} Task Force, Federal Communications Commission

12:00 – 12:30 VIRTUAL DEMO: Technology Driving Behavioral Health Support and Patient Engagement

Behavioral health support platforms are going mainstream. This segment demonstrates how the Internet is being leveraged to provide virtual care between clinical encounters and better engage patients and consumers in greater self-management. Mature European models will be discussed, including policy challenges that may arise as these services proliferate.

Introduction Ronald L. Scott, J.D., LL.M.

Research Professor, University of Houston Law Center Health Law & Policy Institute

Presenter Henry Chung, M.D.

Strategic Medical Advisor, Big White Wall

Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Vice President of Care Management Organization (CMO), Montefiore Medical Center

12:30 – 1:30 LUNCH AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITS

Join us in the Law Center Commons for lunch and booths showcasing innovative broadband health technologies, and outside explore the technologies of the Houston ETHAN Project, UTHealth Mobile Stroke Unit, and the Harris County Public Safety LTE mobile command center.

ETHAN (Emergency Tele-Health and Navigation) Project EMS Unit
David Almaguer
Assistant Chief, Emergency Medical Services, City of Houston Fire Department

Harris County Public Safety LTE mobile command center
Shing H. Lin, M.B.A.
Director, Public Safety Technology Services, Harris County

Rice University Scalable Health Initiative
Mayank Kumar, M.S.
Electrical Engineering Ph.D. candidate, Rice University Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Rural Health Telecom
Reid Freeman, Regional Account Manager, Rural Health Telecom
William Anderwald, Operations Manager, TeleQuality Communications, Inc.

SOLVD (Smartphone and Online Usage-Based Evaluation for Depression) Project
Nidal Moukaddam, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine
Medical Director, Stabilization, Treatment & Rehabilitation (STAR) Program for Psychosis

UTHealth Mobile Stroke Unit
Stephanie Parker, B.S.N., RN
Project Manager, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Mobile Stroke Unit

1:30 – 1:45 KEYNOTE: Connecting to Mental Health Care for People with Disabilities: Access, Quality and Parity for Consumers with Dual Diagnoses

Introduction The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission

Keynote Lex Frieden, M.A., LL.D. (hon)
Professor of Biomedical Informatics and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Biomedical Informatics
Senior Scientist and Director, Independent Living Research Utilization program, TIRR Memorial Hermann

1:45 – 2:10 SPOTLIGHT: Innovative Partnerships, Data Analytics and Mental Health

Connected health and integrated care models are spurring rapid innovation in the broadband health ecosystem. This Spotlight will highlight approaches for improving health outcomes through care coordination, personalized care and big data analytics from the start-up and incubator perspectives. Participants will discuss how connected and advanced technologies – like the Internet of Things (IoT) – can disrupt current paradigms and augment current health care solutions.

Moderator Yahya Shaikh, M.D., M.P.H.
Senior Advisor for Connected Health, Connect2Health^{FCC} Task Force, Federal Communications Commission

Presenters Thomas Tsang, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Operating Officer and Co-Founder, Valera Health

Judi Manis
Regional Vice President—Business Development and Strategic Relations, Internet of Things—Healthcare,
AT&T

2:10p – 2:20 BREAK

2:20p – 3:30 PANEL 2: Policy Issues and Prescriptions in Broadband-Enabled Mental Health Care

State and federal laws and regulations can have a substantial impact on the development and utilization of broadband technologies to address mental health care needs. This panel examines the legal and regulatory landscape for connected mental health technologies and will explore creative policy solutions to improve mental health care access and outcomes for consumers, including underserved populations and veterans. These distinguished policymakers and experts will discuss current legislative initiatives and regulatory developments and offer a prescription for future policy solutions.

Moderator Allison N. Winnike, J.D.
Director of Research and Research Professor, University of Houston Law Center Health Law & Policy Institute

Discussants Nora Belcher
Executive Director, Texas e-Health Alliance

The Honorable Garnet F. Coleman
Texas House of Representatives District 147 (D-Houston)

M. Chris Gibbons, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Health Innovation Officer, Connect2Health^{FCC} Task Force, Federal Communications Commission

Mari Robinson, J.D.
Executive Director, Texas Medical Board

The Honorable John Zerwas, M.D.
Texas House of Representatives District 28 (R-Katy)

3:30 Closing

Leonard M. Baynes, M.B.A., J.D.
Dean and Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center

The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission

NOTE: Time will be reserved following each panel for audience Q&A.

SPEAKERS



Leonard M. Baynes

As the ninth dean of the University of Houston Law Center, Leonard M. Baynes brings a national reputation as a communications law scholar with specializations in business, media, and diversity issues. He oversees 10 centers and institutes, including the No. 2 ranked Health Law and Policy Institute. Over the course of his deanship, Baynes has focused on the “Power of Legal Education.” He has initiated a highly successful Pre-Law Pipeline Program designed to create more opportunities for first-generation, economically challenged, and under-represented college students wishing to attend law school. He also has placed a new emphasis on the school’s successful clinic program, which not only prepares students for the real world, but provides valuable pro bono legal services to those without other options.

Baynes was inducted into the Minority Media & Telecommunications Council Hall of Fame, where former FCC Commissioner and MMTC Chair Henry Rivera described Baynes as “a champion for diversity.” He has served in leadership positions on three committees for the Association of American Law Schools, as scholar-in-residence at the Federal Communications Commission, as in-house counsel at NYNEX Corp, and as an associate at the Wall Street office of Gaston and Snow LLP.

During his deanship, he was named as one of the top 100 most influential lawyers of color in the nation. Baynes has written more than 25 law review articles on corporate law, communications law, and diversity, and is in the final stages of co-authoring the case book “Telecommunications Law: Convergence and Competition” to be published by Wolters Kluwer. He also has been an expert witness at the FCC Federal Advisory Committee for Diversity in broadcast ownership. Baynes received his B.S. from New York University, and J.D. and M.B.A. from Columbia University.



Nora Belcher

Nora Belcher is the executive director of the Texas e-Health Alliance, a non-profit advocacy group that she started in 2009 to give health information technology stakeholders a voice in public policy. The Texas e-Health Alliance serves as the state’s leading advocate, from local communities to the national level, for the use of information technology to improve the health care system for patients. Prior to starting the Alliance, Belcher worked in the private sector as a consultant advising health information technology companies on how to do business with government. She also served in Gov. Rick Perry’s office for five years as deputy director in the Governor’s Office of Budget, Planning and Policy, where she was responsible for managing the policy and budget issues for the Texas health and human services system. Belcher holds a bachelor’s degree in government from the University of Texas at Austin.



Dr. Henry Chung

Dr. Henry Chung, M.D. is vice president of Care Management Organization of Montefiore Medical Center and associate professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He provides medical leadership for care management activities for more than 300,000 patients in value based programs. He is also medical director of the Montefiore Accountable Care Organization, an awardee of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovations Pioneer ACO Program. In this role, he is leading quality improvement activities for the medical center and community physician partnership that is central to the success and sustainability of the ACO.

Chung has a track record of leadership and achievement in medical and strategic management in primary care and behavioral health settings, primarily in federally qualified health centers, hospitals, and college health. In 2014, he was appointed to the National Advisory Council of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Chung and Montefiore Medical Center were recently awarded a three-year grant by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovations to integrate behavioral healthcare in primary care across all ages, using the collaborative care model. The model will be enhanced by using web based video technology and also by using a case based payment model to help with financial sustainability of the program.



Mignon L. Clyburn

Mignon L. Clyburn is serving her second term as a commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission, having first been nominated in 2009 by President Barack Obama. She served as acting chairwoman for several months following her nomination to a second term in 2013. Prior to her service at the FCC, Clyburn spent 11 years as a member of the sixth district on the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. She served as its chair from July 2002 through June 2004. Before her public service, she was the publisher and general manager of *The Coastal Times*, a Charleston-based weekly newspaper that focused primarily on issues affecting the African-American community. She co-owned and operated the family-founded newspaper for 14 years.

A longtime champion of consumers and a defender of the public interest, Clyburn considers every commission proceeding with an eye toward how it will affect each and every American. She is a strong advocate for enhanced accessibility in communications for disabled citizens, and works closely with representative groups for the deaf and hard of hearing. She has fought to promote strong competition across all communications platforms, believing that the more robust and competitive the marketplace, the less need there is for regulation. However, when the market is not adequately addressing consumer concerns, Clyburn is an outspoken champion for smart, targeted regulatory action. She has pushed for media ownership rules that reflect the demographics of America, affordable universal telephone and high-speed Internet access, greater broadband deployment and adoption throughout the nation, and transparency in regulation. Clyburn is a member of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Federal-State Joint Board on Separations, and the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Services, all of which she chaired for three years during her first term at the FCC.

Clyburn is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Banking, Finance and Economics.



Garnet F. Coleman

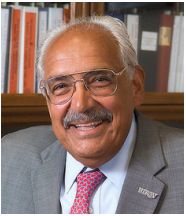
State Rep. Garnet F. Coleman has served the people of District 147 in the Texas House of Representatives continuously since 1991. During his years of service, he earned a reputation as a diligent leader in the areas of health care, economic development, and education. He is currently the senior ranking member of the Public Health Committee as well as the chairman of the County Affairs Committee. Coleman also serves as a member of the Select Committee on Mental Health.

Coleman has been deeply committed to expanding access to health care for all Texans. To further this goal he serves as a member of President Obama's State Legislators for Health Reform. He also is a member of the State Innovation Exchange, an organization that promotes and advances key progressive economic and social policies. Additionally, he is on the board of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee where he advocates for the interests of Democratic state legislators. Coleman is also chairman of the Legislative Study Group, a non-partisan house caucus dedicated to the development of sound public policy.



Timothy R. Elliott

Timothy R. Elliott, Ph.D., ABPP, is a professor in the Department of Educational Psychology in the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University. He holds a joint faculty appointment with the School of Public Health at the Texas A&M Health Sciences Center. He obtained his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1987. He has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles, and received federal grant funding for randomized clinical trials using long-distance technologies to provide problem solving training to family caregivers of persons with traumatic disabilities. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Clinical Psychology*. He serves on the Neurological/Behavioral Health subcommittee for the Defense Health Board. Currently, he is the Executive Director of the Telehealth Counseling Clinic. The clinic provides telepsychology services to underserved individuals in five counties in the Brazos Valley. Initially developed in 2009 with HRSA funds and now supported by 1115 Medicaid waiver funds, the TCC partners with local stakeholders to develop community capacity required for mental health services. The TCC also provides unique training opportunities for advanced psychology doctoral students, who provide services under the supervision of licensed psychologists.



Dr. Francisco Fernandez

Dr. Francisco Fernandez is dean and vice-president for medical affairs at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine. Fernandez received a bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., in 1974 and earned a medical degree from the Tufts University School of Medicine at Boston in 1979. He completed an internship in internal medicine and a residency in psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital and is board certified in psychiatry. He served as a faculty member at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine from 1984 to 1997, with a joint appointment to the faculty of UT Health Science Center-Houston. He joined Loyola University of Chicago in 1997 and the University of South Florida in 2002, serving as the chairman of psychiatry in each institution. In Tampa, he also directed the university's Institute for Research in Psychiatry and Neurosciences. Fernandez is an expert in the psychiatric complications of the medically and surgically ill. He currently serves as president of The American College of Psychiatrists and was the recipient of the Simón Bolívar award of the American Psychiatric Association for his work on AIDS in Hispanic communities. In 2015, he received the Physician of the Year Award from the National Hispanic Medical Association.



Lex Frieden

Lex Frieden is Professor of Health Informatics and Rehabilitation at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). He also directs the Independent Living Research Utilization Program at TIRR Memorial Hermann in Houston. Frieden has served as chairperson of the National Council on Disability, president of Rehabilitation International, and chairperson of the American Association of People with Disabilities. He is recognized as one of the founders of the independent living movement by people with disabilities and he was instrumental in conceiving and drafting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. A graduate of Tulsa University, Frieden has been honored as a distinguished alumnus. He holds a master's degree in social psychology from the University of Houston and he has been awarded an honorary doctorate in law, LL.D., by the National University of Ireland. He has received two presidential citations for his work in the field of disability. Frieden is an often published author and frequent speaker at events throughout the U.S. and internationally. He is currently leading a national research study to evaluate the impact of the ADA and to identify population group disparities related to employment, transportation, housing, and community living.



Dr. M. Chris Gibbons

Dr. M. Chris Gibbons is the chief health innovation officer of the Connect2HealthFCC Task Force. He joined the FCC from Johns Hopkins University, where he was an associate director of the John Hopkins Urban Health Institute and an assistant professor of medicine, public health, and health informatics at the Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine and Public Health.

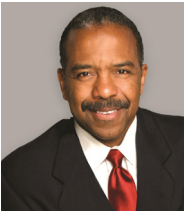
Gibbons is a physician informatician, healthcare disparities, and urban health expert whose academic research has focused on the use of technology and consumer health informatics to improve healthcare disparities. His work is also leading the emergence of a new field of study called Populomics – the intersection of population science, medicine, and health informatics.

Gibbons is a published author and a frequent lecturer on healthcare disparities and public health, often serving as adviser and expert consultant to several states and other federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Gibbons obtained his medical degree from the University of Alabama. He completed residency training in preventive medicine, as well as fellowship training in general surgery and in molecular oncology, at Johns Hopkins. Gibbons also earned a M.P.H., focusing on health promotion among urban and disadvantaged populations, also at Johns Hopkins.



Travis Hanson

Travis Hanson is the program lead for the Innovative Healthcare Transformation department at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. The department includes the university telemedicine programs, telemedicine laboratories, and all other health information technology projects. He is president of the Lubbock Chapter of Healthcare Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and an executive board member of the Llano Estacado Access Partners Health Information Exchange. He attended the University of Utah where he earned bachelor degrees in social statistics and criminology. He later graduated summa cum laude with a master's degree in personal financial planning from Texas Tech University. Hanson also graduated cum laude with a J.D. from the Texas Tech University School of Law.



Bernard A. Harris, Jr.

Bernard A. Harris, Jr. is chief executive officer and managing partner of Vesalius Ventures, Inc., a venture capital firm that invests in early to mid-stage Healthcare technologies and companies. As CEO, he is responsible for managing a portfolio of private assets of early and mid-stage venture investments and operating companies. Prior to Vesalius Ventures, Harris worked with Vanguard Ventures, a \$500 million early-stage venture capital firm focused on life sciences, information technology, and telecommunications. He led the company's emerging VC accelerator in telemedicine for six years. Harris is also a veteran astronaut and president of the Harris Foundation, a non-profit that focuses on education, health and wealth initiative. He holds a B.S. in biology from the University of Houston, a Master of Medical Science from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, an M.B.A. from the University of Houston Clear Lake and an M.D. from Texas Tech University School of Medicine. Harris was a mission specialist on the Space Shuttle Columbia in 1993 and payload commander on Space Shuttle Discovery in 1995; he was on the first flight of the joint Russian-American Space Program, becoming the first African-American to walk in space.



G. Brian Henry

G. Brian Henry is currently the director of telehealth at The University of Texas Medical Branch based in Galveston, Texas. He has 25 years of healthcare experience and holds a Masters of Health Administration from Texas State University. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and currently serves as past president for the Central Texas chapter.

He is a member of the American Telemedicine Association and serves as an advisory board member for the TexLa Telehealth Resource Center at Texas Tech University, a federally funded program designed to provide guidance and resources to developing telehealth programs throughout Texas and Louisiana.

Henry is also president of the HaleyCurls for Hope Foundation, which provides non-medical, financial assistance to families with critically and chronically ill children. In five years, the foundation has raised and given more than \$150,000 to families in need at Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin, Texas. His work focuses on the responsible delivery of evidenced-based, patient-centered care, leveraging technology and innovation to improve outcomes for patients in crisis.



Shing H. Lin

Shing Lin is the director of Public Safety Technology Services at Harris County, Texas. He has more than 15 years of experience in information technology and has extensive experience in both government and corporate environments. Lin's diverse background in IT includes applications design and implementation, management consulting, and technology sales and consulting. For the past five years, he has focused on current mobility trends and their impact on optimizing processes. During this time, Lin spent time at a major cellular carrier, focused on mobility strategy and how to leverage LTE and mobility solutions in the public sector. Lin has a bachelor's degree in Computer Sciences and a Master in Business Administration.



Judi Manis

Judi Manis is the regional vice president of Healthcare Strategic Relations and Business Development in AT&T's Internet of Things Healthcare Group. She leads a team that is focused on the commercialization of health innovations, utilizing AT&T's vast product portfolio, and she is leading the business development efforts associated with the new AT&T Connected Health Foundry. Additionally, Manis and her team are responsible for cultivating strategic relations within the healthcare industry for collaboration opportunities. She brings to her role a wealth of knowledge, having held a variety of leadership positions in the healthcare, mobility, entertainment, and financial services vertical markets within AT&T. Manis earned her B.A. degree in Marketing/Business from California State Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo.



Dr. David E. Persse

Dr. David E. Persse is physician director of emergency medical services for the Houston Fire Department and serves the role of public health authority for the city's Department of Health & Human Services. He began his career in medicine with 10 years' experience as a field paramedic and paramedic instructor in upstate New York and New Jersey. After receiving his pre-med training at Columbia University in New York, he attended Georgetown University School of Medicine, graduating with honors in emergency medicine. He subsequently completed training and research programs at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Ohio State University, Baylor College of Medicine, and Houston's Emergency Medical Services where he served as assistant medical director. After moving to California, he worked as medical director of the Los Angeles County Paramedic Training Institute and as assistant medical director of the Los Angeles County EMS Agency. In 1996, he returned to Houston as director of Emergency Medical Services. In May 2004, he was appointed by city council as Houston's Public Health Authority, responsible for the medical aspects of clinical care quality management, disease control and public health preparedness. Persse is a professor of medicine and surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and associate professor of emergency medicine at the University of Texas Medical School – Houston. He is also a tactical physician with the Houston Police S.W.A.T. team.



Dr. Robert C. Robbins

Dr. Robert C. Robbins became president and chief executive officer of Texas Medical Center on Nov. 5, 2012. Prior to that, he was professor and chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine, where he served as a member of the faculty since 1993. He served as director of the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute, of the Heart-Lung and Lung Transplantation Programs, and of the Cardiothoracic Transplantation Laboratory.

Robbins is an internationally recognized cardiac surgeon who has focused his clinical efforts on acquired cardiac diseases with a special expertise in the surgical treatment of congestive heart failure. His research includes the investigation of stem cells for cardiac regeneration, cardiac transplant allograft vasculopathy, bioengineered blood vessels, and automated vascular anastomotic devices.

Robbins has lectured widely and published more than 300 peer reviewed articles. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Millsaps College in 1979 and a medical degree from the University of Mississippi in 1983. He completed his general surgical training at the University of Mississippi in 1989 and his cardiothoracic training at Stanford University in 1992.



Mari Robinson

Mari Robinson is the executive director for the Texas Medical Board, an agency she joined in 2001. She previously worked for a short time in private practice in the area of civil litigation as well as for the Texas Attorney General's Office. In her current role, Robinson oversees the Texas Medical Board in general in addition to the legal and administrative issues within the agency. She has a law degree from The University of Texas School of Law, and has previously served as an adjunct instructor in the school's advocacy program. Robinson has served on several work groups and committees of the Federation of State Medical Boards, including the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Planning Group (now known as the Interstate Compact Taskforce), the Advisory Council, and Board Attorney Workshop Committee. Robinson is an active member of the Administrators in Medicine and serves as the chair of the Certified Board Investigator Committee.



Susan Rushing

Susan Rushing is CEO at Burke, a Community Mental Health Center headquartered in Lufkin, Texas, that serves a 12-county rural area in east Texas. Rushing holds a B.A. degree in psychology and a M.A. degree in clinical psychology. She joined Burke in 1980 and became CEO in 1990. During her tenure, Burke has been a leader in using telemedicine to expand access to care throughout the region. Burke's innovative approach to crisis care delivery has been recognized through awards by the American Psychiatric Association, the American Telemedicine Association, and the National Council for Community Behavioral Health.



Dr. Yahya Shaikh

Dr. Yahya Shaikh serves as senior advisor for Connected Health and Interagency Initiatives for the Connect2HealthFCC Task Force at the Federal Communications Commission. In this capacity, he provides strategic guidance to the task force and agency leadership on the intersection of broadband, public and population health, and advanced technology. Shaikh joined the FCC from John Hopkins University where he previously directed the Health Innovation Lab, and where he currently serves as adjunct faculty in the Health Systems Program at the School of Public Health. Shaikh is a physician technologist and innovator, and an expert on connected health systems. His research and practice has focused on using connectivity and information technology to add real-time, analytic, and artificial intelligence capabilities to strengthen public health systems. His research relates to meeting the chronic care needs of our nation and the acute care needs of resource-restricted regions around the world, and toward understanding how technology and practice innovation can improve the health of individuals and populations in the U.S. and abroad. Shaikh obtained his M.D. from UCLA and also earned an M.P.H. with a double focus on Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and Humanitarian Assistance and Human Rights. He is currently an adjunct faculty member at the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California.



Mickey Slimp

Mickey Slimp guides multiple teams of innovators in Northeast Texas with the mission to increase access to educational and rural health programs for the people in the region through collaboration and state-of-the-art technology. Working specifically with the Andrews Center, the Burke Center and, most recently, Community Healthcore, Slimp's East Texas Interactive Healthcare Network has gained more than \$10 million annually in FCC subsidies to provide fiber connections across 20,000 square miles of rural east Texas. Based at UT Health Northeast in Tyler, his FCC supported projects offer the broadband infrastructure for psychiatric consults, nursing education, master's level occupational and environmental health programs, and clinical telemedicine. His most recent FCC application also will support a rural psychiatric medical residency program with potential sites in Tyler, Longview, Overton, Sulphur Springs, and Marshall, Texas.



Sharon Strover

Sharon Strover is the Philip G. Warner Regents Professor in Communication and former chair of the Radio-TV-Film Department at the University of Texas where she now directs the Technology and Information Policy Institute. Her recent research projects examine policy responses to the digital divide, internationally as well as domestically; the economic benefits of broadband, particularly in rural areas; the role of libraries in local information environments; and the use of various digital media devices and platforms. She also directs an international digital media program as part of a broader collaboration effort between the University of Texas at Austin and the government of Portugal, a multi-year project that includes developing doctoral programs in digital media and sponsoring research in immersive technologies. Strover has worked with several international, national and regional government agencies and nonprofits on communications policy issues, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service, the Center for Rural Strategies, the Benton Foundation, the Center for Rural Strategies, the European Union, The Appalachian Regional Commission, the Rural Policy Institute, the Ford Foundation, and the European Union.



Dr. Thomas Tsang

Thomas Tsang, MD, MPH, FACP, is currently the CEO and Co-founder of ValeraHealth, a digitally-enabled behavioral health service company that uses a precision-based assessment platform and links patients to appropriate levels of services ranging from behavioral health activation to tele-mental health visits. He was formerly the chief medical officer of Merck's Healthcare Services and Solutions, a subsidiary that is commercializing digitally evidenced-based healthcare solutions. His other roles include: senior advisor to the governor of Hawaii where he spearheaded development of a state-wide healthcare transformation strategy; legislative staff member on the House Committee on Ways and Means, where he worked on the HITECH ACT and the Affordable Care Act; and medical director at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and contributed to the development of the health IT standards for physicians and hospitals. While he was at ONC, Tsang worked with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovations on new delivery system reform and payment innovations. He sits on various advisory boards for technology start-ups and had been part of the Board of Health for New York City.



Allison N. Winnike

Allison Winnike is the director of research and research professor for the Health Law & Policy Institute at the University of Houston Law Center. Her teaching and research interests focus on public health law and health legislation and policy. Particular areas of expertise include telemedicine; public health emergency preparedness; immunization law; and health legislative drafting. She was awarded the National Center for State Courts' 2016 Distinguished Service Award, one of the highest awards presented by the organization, for her significant contributions to the justice system as a result of her public health emergency preparedness legal scholarship and outreach.

Winnike serves on several internal and external committees, including the Texas Medical Board Telemedicine Stakeholder and Electronic Medical Records groups, the Conference of Chief Justices Pandemic and Emergency Response Task Force; and the Immunization Law and Policy Collaboration where she co-chairs the Resources, Repository, and Curation Committee. She recently published "Control Measures and Public Health Emergencies: A Texas Bench Book" and "Preparing for a Pandemic: An Emergency Response Benchbook and Operational Guidebook for State Court Judges and Administrators."

Prior to joining the Law Center faculty, Winnike worked on health policy in the U.S. Senate Office of the Majority Leader for then-Sen. Bill Frist, M.D., and on the subcommittee on public health. She earned her B.A. in Political Science and Policy Studies from Rice University and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center where she trained at the Federal Legislation Clinic.



Dr. John Zerwas

State Rep. John Zerwas, M.D., is serving his fifth legislative term in the Texas House of Representatives. He proudly serves the citizens of House District 28, which encompasses northwestern Fort Bend County and is currently one of the fastest growing regions in the state.

Zerwas is serving his first term as chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education where he is an advocate for increasing access to higher education and growing opportunities for graduate medical education. He also sits on the Committee on Public Health, where he brings firsthand experience and knowledge of health care systems and policy.

A physician for more than 30 years, Zerwas is one of four doctors in the Texas House of Representatives. He is past-president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. More than a decade ago, he co-founded a Houston area group practice that recently became part of US Anesthesia Partners, and he remains active in the partnership. He previously served as president of the Memorial Hermann Health Network Providers and chief medical officer of the Memorial Hermann Hospital System.

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