

# Highlighted Speakers



## **Ron Sims**



Appointed by President Obama and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Ron Sims served for two years as the Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing And Urban Development. As the second most senior official at HUD, Sims managed the day-to-day operations of an agency with 8,500 employees and an operating budget of nearly \$40 billion.

Prior to his appointment at HUD, Sims served for 12 years as the elected Executive of Martin Luther King, Jr. County in Washington State, the 13th largest county in the nation with 1.8 million residents and 39 cities including the cities of Seattle, Bellevue and Redmond.

As County Executive, Sims was nationally recognized for his work on the integration of environmental, social equity and public health policies that produced groundbreaking work on climate change, health care reform, affordable housing, mass transit, environmental protection, land use, and equity and social justice.

## **Rajiv Bhatia, MD, MPH**

**Rajiv Bhatia** is the Director of Occupational and Environmental Health for the San Francisco Department of Public Health, where he has been responsible for developing and implementing environmental health law and policy in San Francisco since 1998. During his tenure, he has developed and implemented new local environmental health regulatory strategies including innovative local laws to for noise and air pollution exposure prevention, food safety, and housing habitability. In 2002, Dr. Bhatia created the Department's Program on Health Equity and Sustainability which over the past decade has broadened the scope of local environmental health practice to include the issues of labor rights and working conditions, sustainable land use and transportation

planning, traffic injury surveillance and prevention, and food policy. In the context of this work, Dr. Bhatia has pioneered the practice of health impact assessment (HIA) and has integrated community health monitoring and forecasting tools into the routine work of transportation and planning agencies. Under Dr. Bhatia's leadership, the Program developed the Healthy Development Measurement Tool — a comprehensive evaluation metric to advance health needs in urban planning which has been widely replicated and adapted.

He has published numerous articles on HIA as well on other local health agency practices to achieve health equity. He is the co-editor of *Tackling Health Inequities through Public Health Practice: Theory to Action*. As a member of the National Research Council's Committee on Health Impact Assessment he co-authored the report, *Improving Health in the United States: The Role of Health Impact Assessment*. Prior to taking his current position, Dr. Bhatia practiced internal medicine in an urban health center. Dr. Bhatia earned a Medical Doctorate from Stanford University in 1989 and a Masters in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley in 2006.

## **INVITED PLENARY SPEAKERS**

### **Angela Glover Blackwell**

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of PolicyLink in 1999 and continues to drive its mission of advancing economic and social equity. Under Blackwell's leadership, PolicyLink has become a leading voice in the movement to use public policy to improve access and opportunity for all low-income people and communities of color, particularly in the areas of health, housing, transportation, education, and infrastructure.

Blackwell is the co-author of [\*Uncommon Common Ground: Race and America's Future\*](#) (W.W. Norton & Co., 2010), and contributed to *Ending Poverty in America: How to Restore the American Dream* (The New Press, 2007) and *The Covenant with Black America* (Third World Press, 2006).

Blackwell earned a bachelor's degree from Howard University, and a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley. Blackwell serves on numerous boards and served as co-chair of the task force on poverty for the Center for American Progress.

### **Dr. Howard Koh**



Howard Koh, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health, oversees the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Public Health and Science, the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Office of the Surgeon General. He also serves as senior public health advisor to the Secretary. At the Office of Public Health and Science, he leads an array of interdisciplinary programs relating to disease prevention, health promotion, the reduction of health disparities, women's and minority health, HIV/AIDS, vaccine programs, physical fitness and sports, bioethics, population affairs, blood supply, research integrity and human research protections.

## **Ray LaHood - Secretary of Transportation**



Ray LaHood became the 16th Secretary of Transportation on January 23, 2009.

Secretary LaHood's primary goals in implementing priorities for transportation include safety across all modes, restoring economic health and creating jobs, sustainability – shaping the economy of the coming decades by building new transportation infrastructure, and assuring that transportation policies focus on people who use the transportation system and their communities.

As Secretary of Transportation, LaHood leads an agency with more than 55,000 employees and a \$70 billion budget that oversees air, maritime and surface transportation missions.

Before becoming Secretary of Transportation, LaHood served for 14 years in the U.S. House of Representatives from the 18th District of Illinois (from 1995-2009). During that time he served on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and, after

that, on the House Appropriations Committee. Prior to his election to the House, he served as Chief of Staff to U.S. Congressman Robert Michel, whom he succeeded in representing the 18th District, and as District Administrative Assistant to Congressman Thomas Railsback. He also served in the Illinois State Legislature.

Before his career in government, Secretary LaHood was a junior high school teacher, having received his degree from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. He was also director of the Rock Island County Youth Services Bureau and Chief planner for the Bi-States Metropolitan Planning Commission in Illinois.

## Section & Caucus Speaker Bios

### Emergency Preparedness & Epidemiology Section

**Dean Lampman** is Regional Surveillance Coordinator at the Southwest Center for Advanced Public Health Practice (APC), a grant-funded unit of Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) in Fort Worth, TX. He holds an MBA from the University of Dallas and a Bachelor's of Journalism from the University of Missouri. Since 2004, the APC has nurtured a regional syndromic surveillance network that encompasses three software systems (ESSENCE, RODS and BioSense) and serves hundreds of North Texas public health and medical professionals who can analyze hospital ED chief complaints, OTC medication sales, and ambulance call data. TCPH's School Health Surveillance System (SHSS), also an APC innovation, was recognized as a Model Practice by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

**Cynthia Harry** is the Emergency Preparedness and Response Epidemiologist at the Oklahoma City County Health Department (OCCHD), an Advanced Public Health Practice (APC) Connector Site. She holds a MS in Public Health Epidemiology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and a BS in Biology from Michigan State University. Since 2004 OCCHD has been conducting regional syndromic surveillance using a self built surveillance system, the Oklahoma County Health Alert System (OCHAS). More recently OCCHD has acquired ESSENCE as a secondary syndromic surveillance system. Both systems are utilized across Oklahoma County by public health and medical professionals to track and analyze Emergency Department chief complaint data. OCCHD has recently developed a more advanced School Health Surveillance System (SHSS) to monitor health related absenteeism in Oklahoma County. Before joining OCCHD, Cynthia worked as a Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, a Cell Biologist Research Assistant at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center and a Undergraduate Research Assistant at Michigan State University.

### Oral Health

**Terrisa Singleton**, Delta Dental of Oklahoma Foundation, will acquaint you with the inspiring work being accomplished by the benevolent dentistry community and the resources available to those in need of dental care they cannot afford or access.

## Health Equity Caucus



**Dr. K. Meghan Wieters**, AICP, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma in Regional and City Planning. Her primary research focuses on how physical activity and planning intersect. Her dissertation research focused on walking travel behavior for office workers in urban and suburban land use settings. Related research areas Wieters is investigating include the potential rural areas to integrate infrastructure that facilitates physical activity and how trailer food vendors could be a tool for economic development, improved land use mix, and nutrition.

Wieters was a practicing planner for 10 years doing transit planning, neighborhood planning, and bicycle and pedestrian planning in Austin, Texas. Wieters uses her experiences as a practicing planner and passion for planning to look for solutions that address daily needs in innovative ways.

### Public Health Nursing

"Paraguard Intrauterine Copper Contraceptive" presented by TEVA WOMEN'S HEALTH