



CALIFORNIA

Health Policy Forum

Public Health Regionalization: Opportunities and Lessons Learned Speaker Biographies

Harold Cox, M.S.S.W.

Harold Cox is the Associate Dean for Public Health Practice at the Boston University School of Public Health.

Prior to joining Boston University, Mr. Cox served as Chief Public Health Officer for Cambridge, MA, where he was responsible for managing all aspects of the city's health department. Trained as a social worker at the University of Texas at Austin, Mr. Cox has more than 25 years of experience in direct service, administration, and advocacy in a variety of health care settings. He has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives on AIDS funding and before the Massachusetts Legislature on various topics including asthma, AIDS, and public health statewide infrastructure. He is the past president of the Massachusetts Public Health Association and of the Multicultural AIDS Coalition. He is a member of the Massachusetts Commission on Health Disparities, and Delta Dental's Oral Health Foundation. Mr. Cox is the recipient of the Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize for Creative Local Public Health from the American Public Health Association, the Rebecca Lee award for outstanding commitment to public health from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Hilliard award for outstanding achievement from the Massachusetts Health Officers Association.

Bonita Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A

Bonita "Bonnie" Sorensen was recently appointed Chief Deputy Director of Policy and Programs for the California Department of Public Health by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. In this position, Dr. Sorensen will oversee the Office of Obesity and Nutrition, Health Information and Strategic Planning, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Center for Infectious Disease, Center for Family Health, Center for Environmental Health, and the Center for Healthcare Quality.

Previously, Dr. Sorensen served as a Deputy State Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health for five years, where she was responsible for 67 individual county health departments. She also led successful response and recovery operations for eight major hurricanes that hit Florida in 2004 and 2005. Dr. Sorensen has also held other health and wellness related positions in Florida, including as the Director of the Volusia

County Health Department, an HIV/AIDS physician, and the Corporate Wellness and Obesity Manager with St. Joseph's Hospital.

She earned a Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Illinois and a Master's in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University.

Michael A. Stoto, Ph.D.

Michael Stoto is a Professor of Health Systems Administration and Population Health in the Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Studies. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health and is associated with the Center for Public Health Preparedness.

An epidemiologist, statistician, and health policy analyst, Dr. Stoto previously served on the faculty of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, and the RAND Graduate School. He has been an adjunct faculty member at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute and the Georgetown Department of Demography. Prior to joining Georgetown University in 2006, Dr. Stoto was a Senior Statistician at the RAND Corporation and the Associate Director for Public Health in the Center for Domestic and International Health Security. From 1987 to 1998 he was a professional staff member at the Institute of Medicine (IOM), where he served as director of the Board on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and led numerous projects in public health practice.

Dr. Stoto received an A.B. from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in Statistics from Harvard University. Dr. Stoto has extensive experience using quantitative and qualitative methods in public health surveillance; conducting case studies of public health practice, especially with regard to preparedness; and evaluating public health interventions.

Christina R. Welter, M.P.H.

Christina Welter is the Deputy Director for the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) where she is responsible for strategic planning in prevention services, including emergency preparedness, health promotion, epidemiology, and lead poisoning prevention. She serves on the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) Workgroup, a project dedicated to developing the first national standards in public health readiness.

Prior to her position at CCDPH, Ms. Welter worked as a regional emergency preparedness consultant for the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC), a non-profit organization serving 11 of the largest local health departments in Illinois. NIPHC works to promote and protect the health of the region through networking and collaborative action that raises public awareness, builds constituency, and influences legislation and policies concerning public health issues affecting northern Illinois. In addition to her work with NIPHC, Ms. Welter served as a consultant for the Public

Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago and the National Association of County and City Health Officials to develop guidance for regional public health readiness. Ms. Welter has also worked in the areas of tobacco control and emergency preparedness at the local level. She most recently served as the Director of Community Preparedness and Coordination at the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). She received her Masters degree in Public Health from the University of Michigan School of Public Health in Health Behavior and Health Education and is currently a doctoral student at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health. Her research and practice interests are in strategic management and health systems research.