

## **WORKSHOP I**

### Access to Care

### **Tuesday, August 13, 2019**

#### Health Coverage 101



**Kit Abney Spelce, Senior Director of Eligibility Services, Central Health**

Kit Abney Spelce is Central Health's Senior Director of Eligibility Services. The Eligibility Services department assists uninsured Travis County residents with enrolling in the Medical Access Program (MAP), Medicaid, CHIP, and the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace. Kit has an education degree from the University of Texas at Austin and served two years in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica. From 1999-2016, Kit worked for Seton Healthcare Family, serving as the Director of Insure-a-Kid, where she led the strategy for enrolling children and pregnant women into CHIP and Medicaid and uninsured adults into the Health Insurance Marketplace. While at Seton, she also served as Interim Executive Director of Children's Optimal Health from 2006-2010, establishing it as a 501(c)3 and developing its operating

infrastructure until a permanent Executive Director was hired.

#### Introduction to the Central Health Enterprise



**Matt Balthazar, Vice President of Health Center Advancement,  
CommUnityCare Health Centers**

Leading a talented team of project managers and performance improvement specialists, Matt is responsible for the development and execution of CommUnityCare's Strategic Plan. Before joining the executive team at CommUnityCare, Matt served in various positions within the organization ranging from Business Development to serving as an operational leader in many of CommUnityCare's health centers. Prior to joining CommUnityCare, Matt worked as the Community Benefit Manager for Seton Healthcare Family, developing community health needs assessments and working with hospital operations to implement plans that address community needs.

Before pursuing a career in healthcare, Matt was a Teach for America corps member teaching middle school math and science to students with special needs in St. Louis. With a dual degree in anthropology and business from Washington University in St. Louis as well as a master's in healthcare administration from Texas State, Matt is passionate about transforming healthcare delivery to a model that puts the patient as the leader of their care team.

Matt is a longtime Austinite who grew up swimming in the Barton Creek Greenbelt and playing any sport with a ball. When not at the office, Matt enjoys spending time with his family (wife Anna and two sons, James and Louis) as well as spending time in nature through annual backcountry backpacking trips.



**Veronica Buitron-Camacho, RN, MSN, Director of Medical Management, Central HealthÆ**

Veronica Buitron-Camacho oversees case management & transitions, utilization management and social services for our Travis County MAP population. As a clinical leader, Veronica works closely with leadership teams to ensure and improve efficiency, quality of care, resource utilizations, clinical documentation, service excellence and work flow within the Medical Management department. Prior to her current role as Director of Medical Management, Veronica served as a DSRIP (Delivery System Reform incentive Payment) Program Manager leading the Chronic Disease Management Model. Veronica has 15 years of nursing experience where she has served in multiple positions and care settings providing inpatient care, emergency care and home health care services for Seton Healthcare Family.

Veronica has also served as the lead faculty in the Associate Nursing Degree Program at Austin Community College. Veronica is passionate about serving vulnerable populations and the programs that empower patients to engage in their own healthcare. Veronica has a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Science degree in nursing administration in community and public health care settings with a minor in education from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.



**Tierra Thomas, MHA, Senior Director of Operations, Sendero Health Plans**

Tierra Thomas joined Central Health in February 2010 as an Administrative Assistant after relocating from Kansas City, Missouri to Austin, Texas. When Central Health created Sendero Health Plans, Inc., a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), Tierra decided to join the new company as a Provider Network Representative. After her assistance with building a Provider Network for the Medicaid and CHIP programs, Tierra moved on to Member Services where she helped build a team to help resolve member and provider concerns. In 2014, she transitioned to Vendor Relations and eventually worked her way up to Senior Director of Operations. Her performance in both roles has been key in navigating Sendero through the years. Tierra has a bachelor's in criminal justice with an emphasis in

administration from Missouri Western State University, and a master's in health care administration from the University of Phoenix.



**Larry Wallace, Enterprise Chief Administrative Officer, Central Health**

Larry Wallace is a proven health care leader and advocate with more than 30 years of experience developing and leading integrated health care operations. Since joining Central Health, Larry has provided critical oversight of key operational functions in departments such as Finance, Human Resources, Health Information Technology, Eligibility Services, and Facilities.

In his time here, Larry has effectively represented Central Health in community engagement opportunities and developed important collaborations and critical linkages with community partners, local safety net providers, community leaders, and constituents. These efforts have helped make significant progress to improve access to health care for Travis County residents.

Prior to joining Central Health, Larry served as an executive at John Peter Smith Hospital (JPS) in Fort Worth, Texas, where he completed their administrative residency program and held several positions during his 19-year tenure. While serving as Vice President for Community Health, Larry led the effort to establish a network of 18 community-based health centers and coordinated multiple service lines to include primary and specialty care, pharmacy, and dental care. Other positions held during his JPS tenure include Director of Business Services, Chief Administrative Director, and Family Practice Residency Program Operations Director. Prior to JPS, Larry also worked at The University of Texas Health Science Center in Dallas, as well as Parkland Hospital.

Larry holds a bachelor's in business administration from Dallas Baptist University and an MBA from Amberton University in Dallas. While serving in the United States Army, Larry attended the U.S. Academy of Health Sciences and received certifications as an Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Specialist. Larry is also a member of the Medical Group Management Association and the American College of HealthCare Executives.

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