

The Executive DrPH in Public Health Leadership

Class of 2008

NICOLE K. BATES

Director, Government Relations

Global Health Council

Residence: Virginia

Nicole K. Bates, MPH is the Director of Government Relations for the Global Health Council, the world's largest membership alliance dedicated to saving lives by improving health around the world. In this role, Nicole leads the development and implementation of the Council's strategy for effective dialogue with U.S. and international policymakers in support of the Council's policy agenda. This includes direct advocacy with political and opinion leaders as well as the facilitation of multisectoral stakeholder dialogue through coalitions and other strategic partnerships.

Nicole's policy approach is most informed by her time spent on Capitol Hill working for Edward M. Kennedy, senior Senator from Massachusetts and, at the time, chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Nicole has also served as Deputy Director for Public Policy at the Center for Community Change and began her public health work in the Chronic Disease Center at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nicole earned an MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a B.A. from the University of Virginia.

DEBRA BINGHAM

Project Director

California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative Stanford University Medical School

Residence: California

Debra Bingham, MS, RN, LCCE, has worked in the field of Maternal Child Health Nursing for more than 29 years. Her education and career began in Idaho and Utah where she held staff and leadership positions at community and tertiary-level hospitals. In 1983, she moved to New York City and held progressive leadership positions at the Children's Hospital of New York (CHONY) at New York Presbyterian Medical Center (NYPMC). While at CHONY she formed and directed the Neonatal Parents' Support Network. In 1990, she was honored by her colleagues as "Nurse of Distinction" for NYPMC and in 1991 as "Nurse of Distinction" for New York State, Region I.

From 1995-2006 Debra worked at St.Luke's-Roosevelt Hospitals in New York City and was promoted to the position of director of Maternal Child Health (MCH) nursing for St. Luke's and Roosevelt hospitals. As the Director of MCH Nursing, Debra had full fiscal responsibility and clinical oversight of the 24-hour, 7-day-a-week work of over 250 nurses in two hospitals in 7 specialty units. In collaboration with her leadership team Debra successfully improved clinical care in all the units she was responsible for through

the systematic implementation of quality improvement projects. Some of the major changes made were: 1) keeping mothers and newborns together, 2) pain management assessment and treatment for newborns and pediatric patients, 3) the coordination and development of an out-patient perinatal and pediatric bereavement support service to complement the in-patient services, and 4) integration of in-patient, Emergency Department, and out-patient pediatric asthma care.

Debra moved to California in 2006 and is currently the Project Director of the California Maternal Quality Improvement Collaborative (CMQCC). CMQCC is a newly forming private and public quality improvement multi-organization collaborative funded by the Maternal Child Adolescent Health Program of the California State Department of Health through Stanford University School of Medicine. CMQCC's charge is to improve maternity care in the entire state of California where there are approximately 550,000 births a year in 350 hospitals. One out of eight births in the United States occurs in California. CMQCC is the sister organization of the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC) which is focused on high-risk neonates in Neonatal Intensive Care Units and was established 10 years ago.

Other organizational activities include Debra's role as a member of the Board of Directors of Lamaze International and the Chair of the Lamaze International Institute for Normal Birth. Debra also serves on the California Maternal Infant Health Assessment (MIHA) Advisory Committee.

Debra is working on a Doctorate in Public Health at the University of North Carolina and her doctoral dissertation focus is the analysis of quality improvement behaviors of medical and nursing front-line leaders and the development of an implementation plan to improve one quality improvement behavior of the front-line leaders analyzed.

PRISCILLA FLYNN

*Coordinator, Office of Women's Health
Mayo Clinic*

Residence: Minnesota

Priscilla Flynn, RDH, MPH, CHES is currently the Coordinator of the Office of Women's Health at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She received her B.S. in Dental Hygiene from the University of Minnesota - Minneapolis and her M.P.H. from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. She maintains licensure as a registered dental hygienist and is certified as a health education specialist and program evaluator. She serves on the Mayo Clinic Diversity Oversight Committee, Women's Health Executive Committee, Action On Obesity Committee and *Women's HealthSource* Editorial Board. Selected recent community activities include membership on the March of Dimes Community Programs Committee (Minnesota Affiliate), Minnesota Cancer Alliance Evaluation Committee, Women's Foundation of Minnesota Grant Review Panel, Minnesota Dental Access Committee, Gamehaven Council Boy Scouts Steering Committee and Somali Community Resettlement Services Board of Directors. Contracts

with State agencies have included preventive dental health programming implementation, conducting public health promotion grant-writing workshops throughout Minnesota, and providing “train the trainer” consultation for school-based sex education and HIV curriculum development.

Priscilla co-founded the Network for Women’s Life and Health (NWLH) based in Winona County, Minnesota, providing a coordinated approach to maximizing the capacity of existing organizations and agencies. Among other achievements, NWLH provided innovative mammography and cervical cancer screening for uninsured and underinsured women.

Her dissertation topic is “The Effects of Acculturation on Somali Women’s Birth Outcomes”. Current areas of focus include conducting multidisciplinary quality improvement initiatives, developing health education programs for Somali refugee women and implementing institutional cultural competency policies. She speaks nationally on women’s refugee health topics and program evaluation practice.

CORINNE GRAFFUNDER

Chief, Program Implementation and Dissemination Branch

*Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention & Control
CDC*

Residence: Georgia

Corinne Meltzer Graffunder, M.P. H. received both a B.A. and MPH in Health Education from the University of South Carolina. During and following her graduate work she was employed by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). In 1987 she joined the U.S. Center’s for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. She is currently the Chief of the Program Implementation and Dissemination Branch within the Division of Violence Prevention in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. In this capacity, she oversees and manages the work of the State and Community Assistance and Partnerships Section; the Health Education, Training and Communications Section; and the Research Synthesis and Application Section. Efforts within her Branch include scientific and programmatic efforts to implement and disseminate effective practices and strategies to prevent violence. The content areas addressed within her Branch include sexual and intimate partner violence, child maltreatment, suicide, and youth violence (including bullying and homicide). Corinne is recognized as a national expert and spokesperson on the primary prevention of violence, particularly violence against women and children.

Prior to joining DVP, Corinne held management positions with CDC’s Division of Cancer Prevention and Control and Office on Smoking and Health.

JOSEPH T. ICHTER, MHA

Specialist, Health Services Research

American University of the Caribbean - Sector Health Affairs, St. Maarten, NA

Residence: St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles, Dutch West Indies

Joseph T. Ichter, MHA, is currently working with the American University School of the Caribbean School of Medicine and the St. Maarten Island Government Sector Health Affairs. His projects include assisting in building a single payer health system through reformation of island health policy, facilitating the first unified Pan American Health Organization health survey of both French and Dutch St. Maarten and developing population-based micro-research projects with medical students. Before moving to Dutch St. Maarten in September of 2007, he worked as Assistant Director and Outreach Officer of the University of New Mexico Center for Community Partnerships and as Executive Director of Santa Fe Project Access. In these roles he provided locum tenens practice management and administered indigent health care programs in New Mexico's underserved urban and rural areas. He lectures and precepts students, residents and faculty on topics related to healthcare access, health systems, medical indigence and health care finance with academic title through the Department of Family and Community Medicine. Prior to his academic career, he worked as the Administrator of the Lovelace Medical Group and Director of Medical Staff Affairs in Albuquerque and as a healthcare consultant for several national organizations.

Both his Masters in Health Administration and bachelor's degree in economics are from UNC Chapel Hill. After completing his master's, he was awarded the Lovelace Health Systems Post-Graduate Health Administration Fellowship in 1993. He has been a consultant and international speaker for Towards Unity for Health – The Network (WHO affiliate), the Washington D.C. based Health Care Advisory Board, TAP Pharmaceuticals, Merck and Pfizer.

LYNN REDINGTON

Healthcare Consultant

Independent Contractor

Residence: California

Lynn Redington, M.P.H., M.B.A. has served as a marketing and strategy consultant in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries for the past 15 years. Lynn has also held senior leadership positions at a managed care organization and four biopharmaceutical companies.

Lynn completed a master's degree in public health from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a 4.0 GPA. Lynn also earned the outstanding student award when she completed her master of business administration program in San Francisco.

MICHAEL STOBBE

Staff Writer

The Associated Press

Residence: Georgia

Mike Stobbe has been a health reporter for the past 18 years. Currently, he is a medical writer for the Associated Press, covering the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Previously, he covered health care and medicine at The Charlotte Observer, The Tampa Tribune, The Florida Times-Union and at The Flint Journal in Michigan.

He has a master's degree in public health policy and administration from the University of Michigan and a master's in journalism from Northwestern University.

He also is an elected member of the governing board of the Association of Health Care Journalists, an organization of more than 1,000 journalists with members in 20 countries. He chairs the association's membership committee.

Justine Strand

Chief, Physician Assistant Division

Associate Professor

Department of Community and Family Medicine

Duke University Medical Center

Residence: North Carolina

Justine Strand, MPH, PA-C is Chief, Physician Assistant (PA) Division and Associate Professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine, Duke University Medical Center (pa.mc.duke.edu). Prior to joining the Duke faculty in 1997, she was Director of General Health Services at the Durham County (North Carolina) Health Department. A 1981 graduate of the Duke PA Program, she received her MPH in Health Policy and Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998. She was a 1995 Public Health Service Primary Care Policy Fellow. She served as Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry, appointed by former HHS Secretary Donna Shalala to advise the Secretary and Congress on Title VII, Section 747, from 2000 to 2003. She is a member of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine and the North Carolina Center for Nursing Advisory Council, and served as President of the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation board of trustees from 2004 to 2007. In 2005, she was named Outstanding PA of the Year by the American Academy of Physician Assistants. She is president-elect of the Physician Assistant Education Association for 2008. She has practiced clinically at a migrant clinic in Colorado, overseas in Brazil, in obstetrics and gynecology and public health, and currently practices one day a week at the Duke Family Medicine Center.

SARAH VERBIEST, MSW, MPH

Executive Director

The University of North Carolina Center for Maternal and Infant Health

Residence: North Carolina

Sarah Verbiest is the Executive Director of the University of North Carolina's Center for Maternal and Infant Health. To learn more about the work of the Center go to www.mombaby.org. She serves on the Governor appointed NC Child Fatality Task Force, co-chairs the NC Perinatal Health Committee, is a board member of the NC Perinatal Association, is a member of the CDC Leadership Team on Preconception Health, coordinates the North Carolina Recurring Preterm Birth Prevention Program, and is a board member of the Women's Birth and Wellness Center.

Prior to this position she served as the State Program Director for the North Carolina Chapter of the March of Dimes. During her seven year tenure at the March of Dimes she received the staff excellence award for the Southern Region and had her programs recognized with National Chapter of the Year awards four times. She earned her Master's in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work and her Master's in Public Health in Maternal and Child Health from the School of Public Health where she was inducted into the Delta Omega Honorary Society. Sarah co-founded and led the North Carolina Folic Acid Campaign, an award winning campaign credited with reducing the incidence of neural tube defects in North Carolina.

In June 2005 she completed a two year fellowship as part of the William Friday Fellowship in Human Relations. She is now part of the Wildacres Leadership Initiative as part of this fellowship. She is a member of the founding class of Leadership America NC. Sarah is the Co-President of the PTA at Pearis Elementary School as well as a member of Girl Scouts where she has provided leadership to Troop 514 for 6 years. Sarah has also volunteered to serve as the alumni coordinator for the DrPH program.