

Speaker Bios Day 1

Denise Neunaber

Denise Neunaber is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH), a position she has held for fifteen years. Under Denise's direction, the Coalition has significantly broadened its scope and impact. It provides staffing and structure for the Balance of State Continuum of Care, a 79-county region that spans the state, and serves as the HMIS Lead Agency for three CoCs and 81 counties. In 2018, immediately following Hurricane Florence, Denise led the creation of Back@Home North Carolina, the state's first disaster rehousing program.

Erika Ferguson

Erika Ferguson serves as the Director of the Office of Healthy Opportunities for the NC Department of Health and Human Services. In this role, she leads the Department's comprehensive strategy to effectively deliver health, not just health care by addressing the medical and non-medical drivers of health including housing, food, transportation and interpersonal safety. Erika started her career managing a homeless shelter in the Mississippi Delta and has since served in a variety of capacities across health care and human services including positions at Duke University and the World Health Organization. Erika holds a BS in Public Health from the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health and Duke University and a Master of Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Georgina Dukes

Georgina Dukes is a social justice advocate and is passionate about using healthcare as a vehicle to create social innovation. Georgina began her career in healthcare administration while a public health student at Clemson University where she managed student and primary care clinics in low-income, rural areas. She has a master's degree in health administration from the Medical University of South Carolina where she continued to build her experience in healthcare through academic medical center operations. After graduation, she was awarded the Duke Health Administrative Fellowship where she executed on projects bridging the gap between hospitals and community health initiatives which led to her employment as a Strategic Project Manager for Duke Heart. Georgina Dukes is now the Network Director for NCCARE360 through Unite Us – a tech company created to address Social Determinants of Health by connecting social and health care. In this role, she is leading a team that is creating a network where community members in need can have access to resources where they not only survive, but instead thrive and live a quality life.

Jamie Markham

Jamie Markham joined the School of Government faculty in 2007. His area of interest is criminal law and procedure, with a focus on the law of sentencing, corrections, and the conditions of confinement. He was named Albert and Gladys Coates Distinguished Term Associate Professor for 2015–2017. Markham earned a bachelor's degree with honors from Harvard College and a law degree with high honors, Order of the Coif, from Duke University, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Duke Law Journal*. He is a member of the North Carolina Bar. Prior to law school, Markham served five years in the United States Air Force as an intelligence officer and foreign area officer. He was also a travel writer for Let's Go Inc., contributing to the Russia and Ukraine chapters of *Let's Go: Eastern Europe*.

Michelle Hall is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission. Michelle's work with the Commission has involved a variety of projects including the annual statistical report on felony and misdemeanor convictions, adult and juvenile recidivism reports, and the annual evaluation of the implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Act. Prior to joining the Commission staff, Michelle coordinated a statewide

task force charged with studying juvenile justice reform and worked at the North Carolina General Assembly. Michelle has her Bachelors in Political Science and Masters in Public Administration, both from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Speaker Bios Day 2

Matt Joyce

In his role at Envoy, Matt oversees a diverse range of projects in areas including criminal justice reform, workforce development, education and philanthropy. Matt leads Envoy's inclusive hiring work, which includes engagements with companies to revise and rebuild HR policies and practices to make jobs accessible to people with past convictions. Previous to co-founding Envoy in 2017, Matt was the Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) and served as Executive Director of the GreenLight Fund in Philadelphia. Matt holds an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School and BA from Haverford College. He sits on the board of EveryoneOn, a national broadband connectivity organization.

John "Ed" Smith

John has 15 years of experience working in the field of Human Services, Homelessness, and Reentry. He is currently employed with The Center For Community Transitions, a reentry program in Charlotte, NC. He is primarily responsible for facilitating employment training, work readiness activities, and job placement for individual adult clients who are experiencing difficulties with finding employment because of their criminal background, as well as for individuals who may have moderate to severe barriers towards securing employment.

Rebecca Atkinson

Originally from Mississippi, Rebecca moved to New Orleans in 2011 to work in project management and improvement engineering. After spending 2 years in the private sector, Rebecca left her position in engineering to pursue a career in public health. In 2014, she began working as the Gender-Based Violence Program Coordinator at Women With A Vision, a New Orleans grassroots organization focused on improving the lives of women and children. In 2015, Rebecca began working at the Institute for Public Health and Justice while pursuing a PhD in public health at Louisiana State University then transitioned into work in City government where she served as a chief of staff under Mayor LaToya Cantrell's administration. Rebecca joined CEO in November, and in her role as regional director, she provides operational and programmatic support to CEO's offices in Louisiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee. She holds a B. S. in chemical engineering from Mississippi State University, an MPH from Tulane University, and is pursuing a PhD in public health at Louisiana State University.

Tiawana Brown

Tia joined the Center for Employment Opportunities on July, 11 2020. Born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina-she is the proud mother of two young adult daughters-Antoinette and Tijema. Tia went from college student, to surviving domestic violence, to federal prisoner.

Tia overcame six plus years in the justice system, including giving birth to her younger daughter, while in the federal prison system. She is a phenomenal mother, daughter, speaker, leader, mentor, advocate and pillar in her community. She has spoken on panels, shared her story on Capitol Hill, and traveled the world to advocate for people returning home. Tia knows how it feels to experience recidivism so she is grateful to be a part of the CEO Team. She believes in sharing her story as an educational tool to prevent people from

choosing the path she chose and to influence positive change for all people who are justice-involved.

Allan Wachendorder

Allan Wachendorder joined Vera in 2018 as program associate in the Center for Sentencing and Corrections. His work in the Center includes helping to expand access to postsecondary education for people who are incarcerated through technical assistance and policy reform. Prior to joining Vera, Allan worked as the Director of Public Policy for the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for five years where he worked to represent the interests of social workers and the people they work with at the state Capitol. He is also a founding member of Nation Outside, an organization formed and led by formerly incarcerated people with the purpose of engaging in elections and criminal justice reform work. A native of Michigan, Allan lives in Southern California with his wife and two daughters.

Jennifer M. Lechner is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission, a position she has held since 2008. Under her direction, the Commission assesses unmet legal needs, engages in statewide strategic planning, coordinates efforts between the legal aid organizations and other legal and non-legal organizations, manages resource development efforts, and works generally to expand civil access to justice. Before moving to North Carolina, she founded and operated a Maine-based company focused on legal association management. She served as the first Executive Coordinator of the Justice Action Group, Maine's access to justice entity, and as the first coordinator of a unified statewide fundraising campaign for all Maine legal aid providers. Lechner began her career as the legislative counsel to the Maine State Bar Association where she lobbied the state and federal government on behalf of Maine's largest professional trade association.

Lechner has served as a consultant to access to justice entities, legal aid organizations, bar associations, and political candidates. She serves on the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Board of Governors and is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association, the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys, and the Wake County Bar Association. She is an author of articles on access to justice and a frequent speaker at law schools and state and national conferences.

Leigh Wicclair serves as the Senior Staff Attorney and Restorative Justice Program Director with the Pro Bono Resource Center. In this position, Leigh increases access to legal services and pro bono opportunities across the state by organizing projects for private attorney volunteers. She also serves in a volunteer capacity to support these issues through the Wake County Bar Association YLD Pro Bono Committee and the NC Advocates for Justice Criminal Defense section.

Prior to joining the Center, Wicclair spent seven years living in Philadelphia, PA where her work focused on the intersection of social justice and criminal justice. Wicclair began her career as a public defender with the Defender Association of Philadelphia. She then worked as an Equal Justice Works/AmeriCorps Legal Fellow with Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity, a nonprofit focused on expungement and increasing employment opportunities for individuals who have had contact with the criminal justice system. Following her fellowship, Wicclair worked as a Judicial Law Clerk for the PA First Judicial District Court of Common Pleas.

Kate Fellman

For the past thirteen years, Kate has worked to educate North Carolina citizens about their right to vote. She has seen first-hand the widespread confusion regarding what's on the ballot and how, when, and where to vote. In 2013, volunteers came together to develop a program to provide communities with localized, fact-based voting information. You Can Vote

(YCV) launched in 2014 as a permanent educational campaign to mobilize volunteers and build community leadership to help voters navigate the rules and cast their vote. YCV communications are designed to support and encourage voting among new and infrequent voters. NC citizens deserve simple, verified voting resources and easy ballot access to make their voice heard.

Kate's passion for education stems from her parents who were both teachers in her hometown of Duluth, Minnesota. She received a B.S. in Communications and Social Science from Metropolitan State University in St. Paul Minnesota. To pay for her education, she worked full-time for General Mills as an executive assistant and training coordinator. During that time she also became a mother to two children. Although she seems to have unlimited energy for the work of You Can Vote, it pales in comparison to juggling work, school and a new family!

Caitlin Metzguer

Caitlin Metzguer was born and raised in Hillsborough, NC and earned a Bachelor's degree of sociology from UNC Greensboro. After UNCG, Caitlin moved to New Orleans for four years to work for a rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention program. After returning to North Carolina, she worked for three years in ACA enrollment and outreach to maximize the number people enrolled in affordable and quality health coverage. She has worked with You Can Vote since 2017, first as a special projects organizer and now in the Deputy Director role. Caitlin loves to be involved with voter engagement starting with registration, then hearing what issues are in the forefront for voters, and making meaningful connections with how elections and their consequences influence daily life.

Bob Coats

Bob Coats serves as the Governor's Census Liaison and Coordinator of the North Carolina State Data Center Network. He is a Demographic and Economic Analyst with the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM). The State Data Center Network is a dissemination partnership between the US Census Bureau and 45 affiliate organizations throughout North Carolina. Mr. Coats served two terms on the national State Data Center Steering Committee from 2010 – 2016, and was elected Chairperson from 2012-2016, and was reelected in 2019. He also leads the 2020 Census Working Group for the NC Geographic Information Coordinating Council. Mr. Coats has worked in data analysis with state government for over 25 years. Prior to state government, Mr. Coats worked at the Raleigh News & Observer newspaper. Bob is a North Carolina native and a graduate of North Carolina State University.