



HELPING MARYLAND COLLEGES EXPAND OTC CONTRACEPTION ACCESS

SPEAKER BIOS

**In collaboration with the
Maryland Department of Health (MDH),
American Society for Emergency Contraception
(ASEC),
and Upstream USA**



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SPEAKER BIOS



Becky Shasha Bennett, MPH

Becky Shasha Bennett, MPH, is the Women's Health Lead at the Maternal and Child Health Bureau within the Maryland Department of Health. In this role, she leads strategy, policy, and equity initiatives to improve women's health across the state, with a focus on reproductive health. Her background spans program management, research, and teaching across government, nonprofit, and academic settings, including roles at Jhpiego, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the University of Maryland. Becky has worked in both domestic and global health contexts. She is a PhD candidate in Maternal and Child Health at the University of Maryland and holds an MPH from the University of Pennsylvania.



Shelly Choo, MD, MPH

Dr. Choo is the Director of the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) at the Maryland Department of Health. In her role, she oversees offices that administer essential MCH services such as the Maryland Title V program, Family Planning, WIC, and home visiting. She previously served as the Chief Medical Officer with the Baltimore City Health Department and the Senior Medical Advisor with B'more for Healthy Babies. Her specialty is in Preventive Medicine and Public Health and is passionate about maternal and child health, equity, and the social determinants of health.



Kelly Cleland (she/her)

Kelly Cleland (she/her) is Executive Director of the American Society for Emergency Contraception, where she leads a team of fierce advocates working to expand access to EC for everyone, everywhere. Kelly has 25+ years of experience supporting the full range of reproductive health options, with a focus on emergency contraception and medication abortion. Kelly serves on the Editorial Board of the journal *Contraception* and regularly publishes and presents her own scholarly work at conferences and expert meetings. Kelly received her MPA and MPH from Columbia University.

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Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)

Dr. Dow serves as the Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs at the MHEC, where she provides leadership, strategic direction, and coordination for academic affairs, research, and policy analysis impacting colleges, universities, and private career schools operating in Maryland. Dr. Dow earned her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Prior to joining MHEC, she applied her expertise in teaching and through her work with the American Psychological Association team at the United Nations. In her current role, Dr. Dow has spearheaded key initiatives, including the implementation of the Transfer with Success Act and the recent updates to the program approval process.



Robyn Elliott

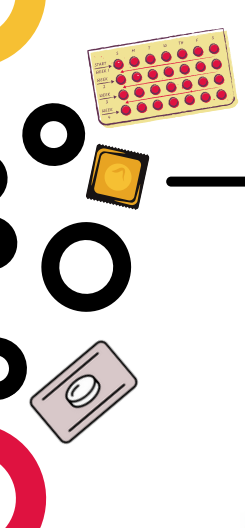
Robyn Elliott is Managing Partner and co-founder of Public Policy Partners, a policy and advocacy consulting firm based in Annapolis. Robyn works on both the state and national levels to support increasing access to reproductive health services. She has expertise in innovative delivery systems, including telehealth, vending machines, and over-the counter insurance coverage. Robyn has contributed to national publications included articles in Contraception and was the primary author of Free the Pill and Cover It Too, the leading national report guiding implementation of coverage policies for over-the-counter birth control. Robyn's achievements have been recognized with several awards including the Charlotte Ellertson Innovation Award from American Society for Emergency Contraception as well as Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award from the Women's Law Center of Maryland.



Jakeya Johnson

Jakeya is a dedicated advocate, strategist, and nonprofit leader committed to advancing equity, justice, and social progress. With a background spanning healthcare administration, public policy, and grassroots organizing, she has built a career at the intersection of policy and direct service, working to expand access to critical resources and dismantle systemic barriers that have long excluded marginalized communities.

Currently, Jakeya serves as a consultant with the American Society for Emergency Contraception, contributing to national and state based strategies that protect and promote equitable access to EC. In addition, she works as Grants Specialist at the Tides Foundation, where she collaborates with philanthropic partners to support social justice initiatives and drive lasting change, and as the Executive Director of Reproductive Justice Maryland, leading statewide efforts to expand reproductive healthcare access, mobilize advocates, and advance policy solutions.



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Melissa Lundberg, RN, MSN, CRNP (she/her/hers)

Melissa Lundberg is a Baltimore native and has worked at UMBC since 2016. She received her undergraduate degree in biology at Dickinson College. She is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University's undergraduate and graduate nursing programs and is a certified family nurse practitioner. Prior to UMBC, she worked in the emergency department at Children's National and in clinical research at Johns Hopkins Allergy and Immunology Center.



Shanelle O'Connor (she/her/hers)

Shanelle O'Connor is a sexual assault and health educator at Bowie State University.



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Ariel Remenicky

Ariel Remenicky is a Senior Practice Transformation Director at Upstream USA, where she leads dynamic project management teams dedicated to expanding equitable, person-centered contraceptive care across health centers in the Northeast. With over two decades of experience in healthcare operations, Ariel brings deep expertise from her leadership roles in FQHCs, health systems, and primary care settings, including oversight of population health and value-based care initiatives. At Upstream, she serves as the Operational Lead for the organization's strategic partnership with the Maryland Department of Health—supporting innovative efforts to improve contraceptive access across diverse health care settings. Ariel lives in Delaware, where she enjoys hot yoga and tending to her native plant garden.



Claudia Trevor- Wright JD, MA, MCHES (she/her)

Claudia Trevor-Wright, JD, MA, MCHES (she/her) is Director of Higher Education & Special Projects at the American Society for Emergency Contraception. Her work focuses on expanding access to EC on college campuses, particularly community colleges. Claudia obtained a Master's degree in Human Sexuality Education and is a master certified health education specialist (MCHES) as well as an attorney. She has over fifteen years of experience in higher education, working within both small and large student health centers. Throughout her career, Claudia developed extensive expertise in sexual health and reproductive justice, sexual violence prevention and response, peer education, health data collection, direct service provision, program design, and policy creation. Claudia also serves as a Sexual and Reproductive Health Consultant at the American College Health Association, where she led a multi-year federally funded pandemic response project.



Amy Yoxthimer, PA-C, MPH

Amy Yoxthimer, PA-C, MPH is the Lead Clinical Advisor at Upstream USA. She has over 30 years of sexual and reproductive health experience working in various roles including as a clinician, program manager, trainer, preceptor. Her work in reproductive health began while serving in the Peace Corps in Thailand and Ecuador. In the Peace Corps, she worked on programs that involved HIV/AIDS, contraceptive care, peer education, and women's empowerment.

Over the last 18 years, Amy has been working as an OB/GYN Physician Assistant in Federally Qualified Community Health Centers. She has been involved with clinic-based programs that focus on expanding equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services, including implementation of Title X programming. From 2005-2014 she worked in Washington, D.C at Unity Health Care providing services to a very diverse population of primarily immigrant patients. In addition, Amy worked in a School-Based Health Center in South East D.C, providing comprehensive reproductive health services and weekly group wellness sessions. Amy currently works in New York at a large Community Health Center, Open Door Family Medical Center.