



MARCH 3-5, 2019
INTERCONTINENTAL WASHINGTON D.C. – THE WHARF

AGENDA

& SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

SUNDAY		MARCH 3
8:30 AM-6:00 PM	Conference Registration Desk Open Potomac Hall	
8:45-9:45	Breakfast provided	
9:45-10:15	Welcome & Opening Remarks Waterside 2 & 3	Paul Throne Washington Leadership Conference Committee Chair, National WIC Association Rita Arni Board Chair, National WIC Association Rev. Douglas Greenaway President & CEO, National WIC Association
10:15-10:20	Call for Nominations Waterside 2 & 3	Diana Hoek Chair Emerita, National WIC Association
10:20-10:50	Opening Remarks Waterside 2 & 3	Sarah Widor Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division, USDA/FNS
11:00-12:00 PM	BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS	
	WIC Policy 101: Overview and Current Issues Waterside 2 & 3	Darlena Birch Senior Public Health Nutritionist, National WIC Association Elisabet Eppes Program Innovation Manager, National WIC Association <i>This session is geared toward new Leadership Conference attendees and will explain key WIC policy processes and WIC policy issues, including advocacy vs. lobbying.</i>
	WIC Policy 201: Diving Deeper Seaport 1 & 2	Brian Dittmeier Senior Public Policy Counsel, National WIC Association <i>This session is geared toward attendees who already have a basic understanding of WIC policy processes and issues. This session will dive deeper into the details about complex WIC policy issues and will review advocacy vs. lobbying.</i>



National WIC Association

SUNDAY		MARCH 3
12:00–1:30	Lunch on your own or with colleagues	
12:00–1:30	State Associations Roundtable (invitation-only)	
1:30–2:30	BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS	
	Protecting Immigrants' Access to WIC: Grassroots Efforts by State and Local Agencies and Other WIC Advocates Waterside 2 & 3	Erika Alarcon WIC mom from California Sarah Diaz Policy and Media Coordinator, California WIC Association Sarah Flores-Sievers Director, New Mexico WIC Program Melinda Morris WIC Program Manager, Boulder County Public Health <i>In this panel discussion, members of the WIC community will describe their efforts to ensure that immigrant families continue to participate in WIC despite the Administration's efforts to limit immigrants' access to public benefit programs. Panelists will also discuss the ways they have lifted up immigrant voices in order to show decision-makers and the general public the negative effects that the Administration's proposals are having on vulnerable communities.</i>
	Black Mothers in Crisis: Maternal Mortality & the Role of WIC Seaport 1 & 2	Christi Dorsey WIC State Director, District of Columbia Rachel Gandell Tetlow Federal Affairs Director, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Jeanne Mahoney American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Eleni Tsigas CEO, Preeclampsia Foundation, and survivor of a maternal mortality near-miss <i>This panel discussion will focus on maternal mortality and how WIC can play a role in helping address this crisis. Panelists will speak to the issue of maternal mortality nationally, share personal experience, and address how organizations such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists are working to create solutions.</i>

SUNDAY		MARCH 3
2:40–3:40	NWA Town Hall on the Future of WIC Waterside 2 & 3	Rev. Douglas Greenaway President & CEO, National WIC Association Brian Dittmeier Senior Public Policy Counsel, National WIC Association <i>With Congress signaling that it will once again consider Child Nutrition Reauthorization, we invite members of the WIC community to share their priorities for statutory and regulatory changes that could improve WIC's ability to serve all eligible participants.</i>
3:40–4:15	Networking Break Potomac Hall	
4:15–5:15	Federal Budget Update Waterside 2 & 3	Bob Greenstein President, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities <i>This session will cover how WIC fits into the broader federal budget.</i>
5:15–6:00	BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS	
	WIC Research Update Waterside 2 & 3	Georgia Machell Senior Director, Research and Program Operations, National WIC Association Victor Oliveira Research Economist, Economic Research Service, USDA Xinzhe Cheng Research Economist, Economic Research Service, USDA Summer Weber Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Epidemiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center <i>This session will provide an update on current and recent WIC research.</i>
	Leadership and Communication 101 Seaport 1 & 2	Brittany Tybo WIC Program Director/Breastfeeding Coordinator, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada <i>This session is designed for newcomers who need a little boost of confidence and preparedness when advocating for WIC. This session will go over communication with difficult people, how to connect to affect positive change, and to empower not only yourself but also those around you.</i>
6:00	Dinner with colleagues or on your own	
6:00–7:00	SECTION AND REGIONAL CAUCUSES	
	California WIC Association	Seaport 1
	New York WIC Association	Seaport 2
	Nutrition First (Washington)	The Slip

MONDAY		MARCH 4
8:00 AM-9:00	Breakfast provided	
9:00-10:00	Special Remarks from Members of Congress Waterside 2 & 3	Congressman Roger Marshall (R-KS) Congresswoman Donna Shalala (D-FL)
10:00-11:00	Keynote Remarks Waterside 2 & 3	Helena Bottemiller Evich Senior Food and Agriculture Reporter, <i>POLITICO Pro</i>
11:00-11:30	Networking Break Potomac Hall	
11:30-12:30 PM	A WIC Agenda for the New Congress Waterside 2 & 3	Brian Dittmeier Senior Public Policy Counsel, National WIC Association Theresa Landau Program Director, Morrisania WIC Program Samar McGregor Senior Nutritionist, PHFE WIC <i>Members of the National WIC Association Legislative Committee will walk through NWA's 2019 Legislative Agenda. This engaging session will help attendees feel prepared to charge the Hill on Tuesday with key messages about WIC.</i>
12:30-2:00	Lunch on your own or with colleagues	

MONDAY		MARCH 4
2:00–3:00	BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS	
	An Update on National Immigration Policy & Public Charge Waterside 2 & 3	Ellen Vollinger Legal Director, Food Research and Action Center Carrie Fitzgerald Vice President, Children's Health Programs, First Focus Brian Dittmeier Senior Public Policy Counsel, National WIC Association <i>Experts from the National WIC Association and other public health and nutrition organizations will provide an update on national immigration policy, including the impacts of public charge on low-income families. Partners who work on the Medicaid and SNAP programs will provide an update on the impact of public charge on these programs, which relate to WIC through adjunctive eligibility.</i>
	Nailing your Hill Visit Seaport 1 & 2	Paul Throne Director, Office of Nutrition Services Prevention and Community Health, Washington State Department of Health Christian Lovell Legislative Assistant, Office of Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) <i>The NWA Washington Leadership Conference Committee Chair will interview a congressional staff member on what makes an effective Hill visit.</i>
3:00–3:15	Remarks from USDA Waterside 2 & 3	Brandon Lipps Administrator and Acting Deputy Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, USDA
3:15–4:30	Getting Ready to Charge the Hill—Hands-on Hill Visit Practice Waterside 2 & 3	<i>This session will provide attendees with an opportunity to prepare for their Capitol Hill visits, hone talking points, and practice their advocacy of WIC. Experienced advocates will be paired with new attendees to help provide additional support and mentorship, providing structure and feedback as attendees make a plan for their legislative visits.</i>

MONDAY		MARCH 4
4:30–5:30	BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS	
	Making it Easier to Shop for WIC Foods: A Panel Discussion Waterside 2 & 3	Glencora Gudger Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Antonia Violante Associate, ideas42 Caroline R. Wensel MSPH/RD student, Center for Human Nutrition, Department of International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health <i>A diverse panel of experts will discuss recent initiatives to improve access to WIC-authorized vendors and to make WIC shopping experience easier and less stigmatizing. Attendees of this session will come away with ideas for how best to partner with retailers and other stakeholders to improve the WIC shopping experience in your community.</i>
	WIC Town Hall for State Directors and NWA Board Members Seaport 1 & 2	<i>State Directors and NWA board members will discuss timely issues affecting WIC administration.</i>
5:00–6:30	Social Hour (See separate flier in folder for details.) Tiki TNT 1130 Maine Avenue SW Washington, DC	
5:30	Dinner on your own or with colleagues	

TUESDAY		MARCH 5
SENATE HART OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 216		
9:00–11:00 AM	Congressional WIC Briefing (Coffee and a light breakfast provided)	Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) <i>Featured members of Congress and WIC participants will discuss WIC's beneficial impact on the nation's public health and address potential steps to improve the program's reach, enhancing maternal and child health outcomes nationwide.</i>
VARIOUS LOCATIONS		
11:00–5:00 PM	WIC Advocacy Day Coordinated Capitol Hill visits	

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

The Honorable Bob Casey US Senator from Pennsylvania

Bob Casey is Pennsylvania's senior senator. He works every day on behalf of the commonwealth's families, fighting to create jobs, advocating for the education and well-being of children, and pursuing a national security strategy that protects our interests and supports those who serve our country. He serves on four committees, including the Senate Finance Committee and Senate HELP Committee. He is also the highest-ranking Democrat on the Special Committee on Aging. Senator Casey and his wife Terese have four daughters and live in Scranton.

The Honorable Roger Marshall US Congressman representing Kansas' 1st District

Roger Marshall is a congressman, physician, father, and husband. He and his wife, Laina, have been married for 32 years and are the parents of four children, and they have two grandchildren. As a physician, Dr. Marshall has delivered more than 5,000 babies, giving him a deep appreciation for the sanctity of life, and an intimate understanding of the healthcare system.

Marshall graduated from Kansas State University with an undergraduate degree in biochemistry before attending University of Kansas Medical School. He received his medical doctorate in 1987 and moved on to his residency in St. Petersburg, Florida. In his final year of residency, he was not only named Teacher of the Year by all other residents and faculty but also received the Resident Research Award. Following his residency, he returned to Kansas, where he began his practice in Great Bend.

He brings seven years of Army Reserve experience to Congress, where he helped train a mobile hospital support unit and rose to the rank of captain. His life began on a Kansas farm, and he preserves his deep agricultural appreciation and understanding through participating in a cattle feeding operation.

Community has been a pillar of Marshall's life and is a focus to this day. He is a board member of Farmer's Bank and Trust, a community bank in Kansas. He has been an elder, deacon, and twice board chair of his church. He has also coached in his community youth sports programs and spends as much time as possible at Quivera National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms.

In Congress, Dr. Marshall serves on the House Agriculture Committee, the Committee on Science, Space and Technology, and the House Small Business Committee.

The Honorable Pat Roberts US Senator from Kansas

Pat Roberts is a fourth-generation Kansan. Born in Topeka, he graduated from Kansas State University, served in the US Marine Corps for four years, then worked as a reporter and editor for several Arizona newspapers. For 16 years, he represented the state's 1st Congressional District. He was elected to the US Senate in 1996 and is currently serving his fourth term.

Roberts has built a reputation as a national leader in agriculture, health care, and defense. He is an advocate of a strong education system, free and fair trade policies, increased investment in science and technology, a focused foreign policy and a strong military.

Roberts is Chairman of the Agriculture Committee. He is also a senior member of the Finance Committee and sits on the Rules and Ethics Committees.

Roberts and his wife have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

The Honorable Donna Shalala

US Congresswoman representing Florida's 27th District

Donna E. Shalala has spent her entire life fighting to improve the lives of others. A lifelong Democrat and the former president of the University of Miami, she has advocated tirelessly for women's rights, civil rights, increased access to health care, better education and schools, and a clean, sustainable environment.

She was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as the US Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), where she served for eight years, becoming the longest-serving HHS Secretary in US history. Donna has lived in Pinecrest and Coral Gables, Florida, for 17 years and is unapologetic in her love for South Florida's natural beauty, its rich culture, and its diverse people.

Brandon Lipps

Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service and Acting Deputy Under Secretary, USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

Before he moved into his current positions, Lipps worked for the Texas Tech University System as the Chief of Staff and Director of Federal Affairs in the Office of Chancellor Robert Duncan. In this role, he was the leading force in developing policy initiatives and strategic priorities for the chancellor. Prior to joining the Texas Tech University System, he served as counsel and senior professional staff to the US House Committee on Agriculture. While there, he led the nutrition policy team in developing the first reforms to, and fiscal savings from, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) since the welfare reforms of 1996. Lipps also served as Chancellor Duncan's consultant, legislative aide, and rural district director during his time as a Texas State Senator. Lipps is also a former associate at the Lubbock law firm of Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam. He hails from Woodson, Texas, and graduated from Texas Tech with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics. Lipps earned his law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law.

Helena Bottemiller Evich

Senior Food and Agriculture Reporter, POLITICO Pro

Helena Bottemiller Evich is a senior food and agriculture reporter at POLITICO, where she was recently honored with a James Beard Award. Prior to joining POLITICO, Helena reported on food politics and policy at Food Safety News. Her work is widely cited and has also appeared in the Columbia Journalism Review and on NBC News. A native of Washington state, she now lives in Washington, DC, with her husband and orange tabby cat.

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Greenaway

President and CEO, National WIC Association

Since 1990, Rev. Fr. Douglas A. G. Greenaway has served as President and CEO of the National WIC Association. Douglas is responsible for directing the association as well as representing the WIC community's interests to the White House, Congress, the US Department of Agriculture, and other federal agencies and departments.

He was ordained to the Holy Order of Priests in the Anglican/Episcopal Diocese of Washington in 2000 and, in addition to his leadership role at the National WIC Association, serves as Priest Associate at St. Paul's Rock Creek Parish in Washington, DC, and in the Anglican Diocese of Europe.

He holds a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary, a Master of Architecture from the Catholic University of America, and is a graduate of Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.

Robert Greenstein

President, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

Greenstein is the founder and President of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. He is considered an expert on the federal budget and a range of domestic policy issues, including anti-poverty programs and various aspects of tax and health care policy. He has written numerous reports, analyses, book chapters, op-ed pieces, and magazine articles on these issues.

In 1996, he was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship for making "the Center a model for a non-partisan research and policy organization." In 2008, he

received both the Heinz Award for Public Policy for his work to "improve the economic outlook of many of America's poorer citizens" and the 2008 John W. Gardner Leadership Award, given annually by Independent Sector, which said "Mr. Greenstein has played a defining role in how people think about critical budget and tax policies.... [and] help[ed] the nation address fiscal responsibility, reduce poverty, and expand opportunity." Two years later, he received the 2010 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize from the American Academy of Political and Social Science, which cited him as "a champion of evidence-based policy whose work at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is respected on both sides of the aisle." In 2011, the New Republic listed him as one of Washington's 25 "Most Powerful, Least Famous People."

Prior to founding the Center, Greenstein was Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service at the US Department of Agriculture under President Jimmy Carter, where he directed the agency that operates the federal food-assistance programs, such as the food stamp and school lunch programs, and helped design the landmark Food Stamp Act of 1977, generally regarded as the Carter Administration's principal anti-poverty achievement. He was appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1994 to serve on the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform and headed the federal budget policy component of the transition team for President Barack Obama. He is a graduate of Harvard College and has received honorary doctorates from Tufts University, Occidental College, and Haverford College.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Erika Alarcon

WIC mom from California

Erika Alarcon is from Sacramento, CA. She is 31 with three daughters, ages 7, 6, and 2 1/2. Erika first started going to WIC while in her first trimester with her eldest child in 2011. During her first WIC visits WIC, she learned how vital good nutrition is for the first months of pregnancy and gained new skills on how to budget, plan, and serve healthier options for her girls and herself. Since then, Erika has become a more confident mom because with WIC she knew what to expect when new developmental stages came up; WIC prepared her ahead of time during their classes. The wisdom she now has is thanks to all the support WIC staff has offered her throughout the past seven years, and she simply remains eternally grateful for it all because it played a vital role in her experience with motherhood.

Zuleyma Arias, CLC

WIC Educator, Summit County (Colorado) Public Health

Zuleyma Arias was a WIC recipient throughout her pregnancy and a breastfeeding mother with her daughter, Sherlen, until Sherlen's first birthday. During her time as a WIC participant, Zuleyma developed a passion for nutrition and a desire to

help new moms navigate their breastfeeding and motherhood journeys. Currently, Zuleyma is a WIC educator in Colorado, where she has been in her position for three years. As a WIC educator, Zuleyma provides individualized nutrition and breastfeeding support to pregnant woman, postpartum mothers, and kids 0 to 5 years of age. She is a certified lactation counselor and provides individualized and breastfeeding education to pregnant women and postpartum mothers. Zuleyma has also started a support group for local postpartum mothers in Summit County. Zuleyma loves working for WIC and is passionate about the work WIC does for her community.

Nicole Bratton

WIC mom from California

Nicole Bratton is a graduate of Cal State University East Bay (formerly Hayward) and Merritt Colleges, with a background in teaching, education, civic engagement. Nicole currently operates her own business—Dress Yo Mess Organizational Design and Staging. Nicole's identity is also reflected in her role as a loving, dedicated, and engaging parent of three children—Elijah, Erin'Tamia, and Ezrael. Nicole enjoys being a mother and the gift of nurturing a new life, a human creation.

Ericka Cofield

WIC mom from California

Ericka Cofield was born in Carson, CA. She received her sports rehabilitation and therapeutic massage education from Fremont College. After the birth of her two sons, Ericka found inspiration to work as a WIC staff while receiving WIC services. Currently she is studying to become a Certified Lactation Educator while inspiring moms she sees daily, letting them know that no matter the situation, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel.

Alondra Hanton

WIC mom from California

Alondra Hanton is the mama of three breastfed, happy children. She's a former WIC and breastfeeding peer counselor participant, having taken great advantage of the program and always having the inclination to help other moms who were struggling in support groups. Alondra breastfed her child, despite having a traumatic birth and premie in the NICU and latching and oversupply issues. But she has always reached out for help and was successful in meeting her goals. Alondra has been a peer counselor for two years, is a Certified Lactation Educator, and is studying to become an IBCLC. Since she has experienced challenges and the magic of breastfeeding herself, she loves sharing her experiences with other mothers. She is thrilled to be a breastfeeding counselor and intends to support women's breastfeeding goals, answer all of their

questions, address their concerns, and above all, become their "breast" friend. She loves listening to Latin music, decorating cakes, and exploring new places in San Diego with her family.

Shalene Mike-Collins

Duckwater Daycare, Nevada

Shalene Mike-Collins, raised in Duckwater, Nevada, is a current employee at Duckwater Daycare. Shalene learned about the WIC program through her tribe. As a mother of two children—a 5-year-old and a 3-year-old—she has faced some struggles. Her first child was born with a congenital heart defect and has undergone three open-heart surgeries before the age 3. She believes the WIC program helped provide the necessities to raise her two children.

Mary Olender

WIC mom from Nevada

Mary Olender worked as a breastfeeding peer counselor for Nevada County WIC from 2012 to 2018, encouraging and supporting moms through their pregnancies and educating them about the benefits of breastfeeding. In 2014, she became a Certified Lactation Educator Counselor. She has been a participant of the WIC program for over ten years. Mary is a wife and mother to a blended household of nine children. She enjoys getting to drink her coffee while it is still hot and making dinners that the majority of her family enjoys.

PRESENTERS

Rita Arni

Board Chair, National WIC Association, and Nutrition Specialist, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services WIC

Rita has 15 years of experience as a State Nutrition Specialist for the Missouri WIC Program in Jefferson City, Missouri. Her WIC career began in 1991 with 8 ½ years as Nutritionist and WIC Coordinator in Saline County, Missouri. After completing the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Dietetic Internship Program and a brief six months in Livingston County as WIC Nutritionist, Rita moved on to employment as Child Nutrition Manager at

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, administering the Team Nutrition Training Grant and leading an IRB approved project for collecting BMIs of school-aged children. In a DHSS re-organization in 2005, Rita was happy to be moved into WIC. Main responsibilities include providing leadership to district-level monitoring and technical assistance nutritionists and assisting with policies, formula approvals, and guidance for local agencies. Before being elected to the executive committee of the NWA board, Rita served two years as Mountain Plains Regional Representative to the Nutrition Services Section.

Darlana Birch

Senior Public Health Nutritionist, National WIC Association

Darlana Birch, MBA, RDN is the Senior Public Health Nutritionist for the National WIC Association. Darlena is responsible for managing NWA's nutrition and breastfeeding activities. Darlena's work includes representing the association on various committees both inside and outside the organization, developing public comments, participating in the association's advocacy efforts, and assisting in the review of research/studies as it relates to nutrition and breastfeeding. Having spent her entire career in WIC, Darlena is passionate about public health and protecting the nutritional wellbeing of the nation's most at-risk women, infants, and children. Prior to her work at NWA, Darlena worked at the Training Center for Maryland WIC. Prior to that, she worked for Arizona WIC and for the Greenlee County WIC Program.

Sarah Diaz

Policy and Media Coordinator, California WIC Association

Sarah Diaz has been the Policy and Media Coordinator at the California WIC Association (CWA) since 2015. Prior to joining CWA, she spent six years in direct services as a home visitor with Early Head Start serving vulnerable families in an under-resourced frontier county, and subsequently as a crisis intervention specialist for the Sacramento Children's Home, serving families in the Sacramento ZIP codes that have the highest rates of child abuse and neglect. She made the switch to policy and advocacy after seeing how her client families struggled to make good choices for themselves and their families with subpar support or accommodation from employers, hospitals, doctors, landlords, schools, etc. Sarah is also a wife and a mom to a busy 5-year-old and enjoys gardening, reading, and photography.

Brian Dittmeier

Senior Public Policy Counsel, National WIC Association

Brian Dittmeier serves as the Senior Public Policy Counsel for the National WIC Association. Brian is responsible for managing the association's advocacy strategy to advance NWA's public policy priorities, including efforts to secure WIC funding and ensure efficient program administration. In this role, Brian manages NWA's relationship with Congress and the Administration, leads targeted grassroots advocacy efforts, and coordinates policy partnerships with child nutrition stakeholders and industry. Brian also leads NWA's annual policy conference in Washington, DC.

Xinzhe Cheng

Research Economist, USDA Economic Research Service, Food Assistance Branch

Xinzhe Cheng is a Research Economist in the Food Assistance Branch of the USDA's Economic Research Service. Her research is focused on using applied econometrics to study WIC and SNAP. Xinzhe works with various administrative data on participants, authorized vendors, and program costs to conduct multiple research projects. She graduated with a PhD in applied economics from the University of California, Davis.

Christi Dorsey, MA RDN

Washington, DC, State WIC Director and Program Manager

Christi Dorsey is the WIC State Director in the Nutrition & Physical Fitness Bureau at DC Health. She has worked in school and community nutrition programs for over 20 years. In her role, she oversees programs that educate communities battling generational illnesses and disease from start to finish. Her work helps those who otherwise may go to sleep hungry and wake up with a saddened spirit. From teenage mothers to low-income families to undocumented immigrants, she enjoys reaching out to each one of them with opportunities to improve their health for the body and mind. In her spare time, she likes to travel on cultural food tours and spend time with her family. Christi holds a degree in nutrition and dietetics; a certificate in project management for IT applications and a graduate degree in international affairs from Columbia University.

Elisabet Eppes

Program Innovation Manager, National WIC Association

Elisabet Eppes has worked at the National WIC Association since 2014. At NWA, Elisabet is responsible for managing the association's activities related to WIC program innovation, focusing on those aimed at improving recruitment and retention of WIC participants. Elisabet develops, coordinates, and builds on the NWA's various program-innovation strategies in the areas of research, marketing, education, and technical assistance. Elisabet's background includes a bachelor of science in biobehavioral health from the Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Public Health with a concentration in nutrition from the University of Washington.

Carrie Fitzgerald

Vice President, Children's Health Programs, First Focus

Carrie Fitzgerald is Vice President of Children's Health Programs at First Focus, a nonprofit children's advocacy organization in Washington, DC. At First Focus, Carrie's work centers on children's coverage in Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). She looks at how health issues affect immigration policy, federal rules and regulations, and state and federal funding in terms of children.

Before coming to First Focus in 2011, Carrie worked for five years at the Child and Family Policy Center (CFPC) in Des Moines, Iowa, as the Senior Health Policy Associate. At CFPC, Carrie addressed state and federal issues related to healthcare coverage for children and families, including the reauthorization of CHIP and its implementation at the state level. Prior to joining CFPC, Carrie worked for the Iowa Department of Public Health, where she coordinated the children's healthy mental development project (ABCDII) sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund. Carrie also served as the Health Department's liaison to the state Part C/ Early Intervention team, focusing on children's health and development and access to services.

During the years before working for state government and on public policy, Carrie worked for

a variety of direct-service nonprofit organizations. These jobs included advocating for abused and neglected children through the court and foster care systems, educating low-income families about how to access and maintain public supports and benefits, strengthening the parenting skills of teen mothers, and advocating for battered women and rape survivors in the legal system.

Carrie has a bachelor of arts degree in English from Drake University and is the mother of two adult children.

Sarah E. Flores-Sievers

WIC and Farmers Market Director, New Mexico Department of Health

Sarah Flores-Sievers has been the WIC and Farmers Market Director for the New Mexico Department of Health, Family Health Bureau since 2012. Prior to that, she was the Eight Northern Indian Pueblo WIC Director. She completed her BS in nutrition and dietetics from the University of New Mexico and her MPA from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She has more than 20 years of public health and fitness work experience. Sarah is an advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves, including animals. Helping people achieve their goals is her passion.

Rachel Gandell Tetlow

Director, Federal Affairs, American College Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

Rachel joined the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) in 2012 and is the Director of Federal Affairs. She manages a team of lobbyists and spearheads ACOG's federal policy efforts on a range of issues, including health reform, Medicare and Medicaid policy, maternal mortality, opioid-use disorder, mental health, and many others. She is a past chair of the Friends of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Prior to ACOG, Rachel managed the policy portfolio of the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). Rachel is a graduate of Northwestern University with a degree in political science and international studies and is an active member of Women in Government Relations.

Glencora Gudger

Behavioral Health Equity Consultant, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)

Glencora is the Behavioral Health Equity Consultant for DBHDS. In this role, she evaluates behavioral health disparities across Virginia and develops programs and policies to promote health equity. Throughout her career, she has focused on integrating culturally appropriate frameworks into policy and community-based participatory research to promote collective behavior change. Previously, Glencora worked with the Richmond City Health District supporting Food Access & Equity programs and strengthening community-clinical linkages with WIC. Glencora received her master's in medical anthropology from George Washington University.

Diana M. Hoek, MS, MPH, RD

Chair-Emeritus, National WIC Association, and Director for Policy, Marketing & Training, Nutrition Division, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Diana Hoek currently works as the Director for Policy, Marketing & Training for the Nutrition Division of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. She earned her BS and MS in nutrition from the University of California, Berkeley and her MPH in health policy and management from Boston University. Diana completed her dietetic internship at the University of California, San Francisco.

Throughout her career, she has worked in many positions in the field of nutrition before coming to work for the Massachusetts WIC Nutrition Program. She worked as a diabetes educator in Boston, MA, a WIC local agency director in San Jose, CA, a nutrition consultant on Long Island, NY, and a clinical dietitian in Tikrit, Iraq. Diana recently retired from the US Army Reserve as a colonel. She currently serves as the Chair Emeritus of the board of directors of the National WIC Association.

Theresa Landau, MS, RD

Program Director, Morrisania WIC Program

Theresa is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and a Certified Lactation Counselor. She has worked at the Morrisania WIC Program for over 40 years (since 1978) and has been the Director of the Program since 1981. She received her Master of

Science in Public Health Nutrition from Columbia University. Ms. Landau has served in a variety of capacities in the management, leadership, nutrition and breastfeeding arenas. She was recently the Chairperson of the National WIC Association (NWA) and had been on the NWA Board for 11 years. She was the Chairperson of The WIC Association of NYS, Inc. for 10 years, a member of its Board of Directors for 20 years and founded the NYC Metro WIC Association. She has had a leadership role or participated in numerous committees and task forces on the local, regional and national levels. Ms. Landau is the Chairperson of the NYC Breastfeeding Leadership Council, Inc., the Co-Chair of the Bronx Breastfeeding Coalition, the Chairperson of Baby-Friendly USA and is on the Executive Committee of New York Statewide Breastfeeding Coalition.

Christian Lovell

Legislative Assistant, Office of Representative Rosa L. DeLauro

Christian Lovell serves as a Legislative Assistant to US Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (CT-03). In this position, he manages the congresswoman's legislative work as a member of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and also advises her on nutrition, anti-poverty programs, and agricultural policy. Previously, he worked as a consultant with Informa Agribusiness Consulting, where he conducted fundamental economic analysis of various legislative proposals, farm programs, and international trade agreements. Christian grew up in Illinois and Indiana, where he was active in both 4-H and FFA youth programs, and raised Registered Hereford cattle with his grandfather. He attended Lake Land College, where he participated on the livestock judging team. He then pursued bachelor's and master's degrees at Texas A&M University and University of California, Davis, respectively, studying agricultural economics.

Georgia Machell, PhD

Senior Director of Research and Program Operations, National WIC Association

Georgia joined NWA in 2015 and is responsible for directing program operations for the association. This involves managing staff and working closely with senior management to ensure the association develops projects, programming, and products that support the mission and vision of NWA. In addition,

Georgia links the research community with the WIC community, advises on WIC research priorities, works closely with the NWA Evaluation Committee, and contributes to NWA's advocacy efforts. Georgia has a PhD in food policy from City University of London and has worked extensively on food-access issues in the UK and the US on both the local community and national levels.

Jeanne Mahoney, RN, BSN

Senior Director, AIM Program and Providers' Partnership
American College Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

Jeanne Mahoney is the Senior Director of ACOG's Provider's Partnership, an initiative to enhance collaboration among women's health care providers, public health, and other national organizations involved with access to care, promotion of guidelines, and psychosocial issues affecting women's health. In this capacity, she directs the multidisciplinary Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health (AIM) and develops initiatives between ACOG members and partners on maternal and women's health, specifically: tobacco control, alcohol, and other substance use, behavioral health, maternal morbidity and mortality, gestational diabetes, and women with disabilities. She came to ACOG from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, where she was involved in coordinating risk-reduction programs for women of reproductive age.

Samar McGregor, MPH, RDN, CLE

Senior Nutritionist, PHFE WIC

Samar has worked for the PHFE WIC Program for over 32 years. PHFE WIC is the largest WIC Program in the nation, serving Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties in California. She is a Senior Nutritionist and currently leads the Nutrition Education and Training section for her agency. She has led various WIC-related special projects focusing on nutrition education, obesity prevention, early literacy, and advocacy.

Samar serves as the Public Health Liaison for her agency and has earned a reputation as an advocacy leader for the WIC program nationwide. She served as the California WIC Association (CWA) board of directors president from 2014 to 2017 and

has served on the National WIC Association (NWA) board of directors as the Local Agency Section Co-Chair since 2017.

Melinda Morris

WIC Program Manager, Boulder County Public Health

Melinda Morris, RDN, IBCLC, is the WIC Program Manager for Boulder County, Colorado, which has clinics in its three main cities. During her seven years in this position, she has managed a 26% drop in funding and a decrease in full-time employees from 12 to 7.5. Melinda began her WIC dietitian career in 1988 in Los Angeles and returned to WIC in Colorado in 1993, after earning her master's of science in human nutrition. Years after nursing her twin boys, she sat for and passed the IBCLC exam. Melinda has served on the NWICA board of directors since 2017. When she's not on the job, she's busy hiking, skiing, and singing.

Vic Oliveira

Research Economist, USDA Economic Research Service, Food Assistance Branch

Vic Oliveira is a research economist in the Food Assistance Branch of the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). Vic joined ERS in 1981. Since 1994, he has conducted research in the food-assistance area, focusing primarily on WIC. Vic received a BS in agricultural economics from the University of Connecticut and an MS in agricultural economics from Penn State.

Paul Throne

Washington Leadership Conference Committee Chair, National WIC Association and State WIC Director, Washington

Paul Throne is the WIC Director for Washington State. He brings 32 years of experience in public health, including mental health, HIV/AIDS, regulatory compliance, public information management, and immunizations. Paul has a doctorate in public health leadership from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and master's degrees in public health and social work from the University of Connecticut. He most recently served as Policy Director for Prevention and Community Health at the Washington State Department of Health before being appointed as WIC Director in March 2018.

Eleni Tsigas

CEO and Founder, Preeclampsia Foundation and survivor of a maternal mortality near-miss

Eleni Z. Tsigas is the CEO of the Preeclampsia Foundation and member of the board of directors for Preeclampsia Foundation Canada. As a preeclampsia survivor herself, Eleni is a relentless champion for patient safety and quality improvement that can directly affect much of the maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity associated with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.

She serves on the Guideline Development Group and as a technical adviser to the World Health Organization (WHO) and participated in the Hypertension in Pregnancy Task Force created by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to develop the national guidelines introduced in 2013 as well as a similar task forces for California, Florida, and other states. Eleni also serves on behalf of the Preeclampsia Foundation as a voting member of the Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health Care and as an AIM Partner. Eleni is frequently engaged as an expert representing the consumer perspective on preeclampsia at national and international meetings and has been honored to deliver keynote addresses for several professional healthcare providers' societies.

Eleni has collaborated in numerous research studies, has authored invited chapters and papers in peer-reviewed journals, and is the Principal Investigator for The Preeclampsia Registry.

Brittany Tybo

WIC Program Director and Breastfeeding Coordinator, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

Born and raised in rural Nevada, Brittany is the current director/breastfeeding coordinator of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada WIC Program. She began with the WIC program as a single WIC mother 12 years ago and has since completed her master's degree and is an advanced lactation consultant and has determined to devote her career to the WIC program. Brittany loves being a mother of three, volunteering in her community and loving on every baby she comes across.

Antonia Violante

Associate, ideas42

Antonia Violante is an Associate at ideas42. Her current work focuses on designing and testing behavioral interventions with state and local government programs. Over the past two years, she has worked with WIC agencies in California to create an intervention to help families maximize their participation in WIC after their infant turns one. Antonia holds a BA in psychology and cognitive science from Swarthmore College.

Ellen Vollinger

Legal Director, Food Research Action Center

Ellen Vollinger is Legal Director for the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). FRAC is the leading national nonprofit organization working to eradicate poverty-related hunger and undernutrition in the US. Based in Washington, DC, FRAC works with national, state, and local partners across the country.

Ellen has responsibility for directing FRAC's advocacy on behalf of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). She has led FRAC's efforts to bolster SNAP, particularly to serve working families, older Americans, persons with disabilities, homeless people, legal immigrants, and victims of disasters. She has worked with administrators, elected officials, industry representatives, and nonprofit partners on strategies to provide a more accessible and effective nutrition-assistance safety net. She serves on the eGovernment Payments Council.

Ellen has a BA in American studies from Smith College, a MASS in legislative affairs from George Washington University, and a JD magna cum laude from the American University's Washington College of Law.

Her prior positions include serving as director of the nonprofit National Committee for Full Employment as well as a practicing attorney with the Washington, DC, law firm of Ross, Dixon and Masback.

Summer Weber, PhD, RD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Epidemiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Summer Weber currently works as a postdoctoral research fellow within the Division of Epidemiology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center on a USDA grant to expand and develop a mobile application for WIC families in Tennessee. Prior to this position, Summer worked under a child-retention project in Illinois WIC, where she specifically conducted research with WIC participants to understand their perceived values of the program and the food packages. Summer holds a PhD in nutrition from the University of Illinois Chicago, and is a registered dietitian.

Caroline R. Wensel

MSPH/RD Student, Center for Human Nutrition, Department of Internal Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Caroline R. Wensel is a graduate student in the Center for Human Nutrition in the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research interests include improving the neighborhood social- and built-environments to promote a culture of healthy living (i.e., increasing access to affordable healthy foods and spaces for physical activity); and collaborating with community stakeholders to identify interventions and policies to maximize sustainability efforts.

Since 2016, she has worked with Joel Gittelsohn, PhD at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to develop, implement, and evaluate

environmental and behavior-change trials to improve diet and reduce risk for obesity and associated chronic diseases in low-income, ethnic-minority communities. She was responsible for the implementation of the B'more Healthy Corner Stores for Moms and Kids trial to identify optimal behavioral economic techniques to improve WIC redemptions by low-income women in Baltimore City corner stores accepting WIC. Currently, she coordinates an NIH-funded multi-level multi-component (food store, school, health services, worksite, policy, and social media) trial in six American Indian communities in the Mid- and South-west United States (OPREVENT2).

Sarah Widor

Division Director for the Supplemental Food Programs Division, for the Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs of the Food and Nutrition Service at the US Department of Agriculture

Sarah Widor is the Division Director for the Supplemental Food Programs Division (SFPD), under the Supplemental Nutrition and Safety (SNAS) Programs of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) at the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Sarah joined FNS in May 2014 as the Chief for the WIC Program Integrity and Monitoring Branch. In February 2016, Sarah was selected as Director of the FNS division, responsible for WIC and the Farmers' Market and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs. Prior to USDA, she served as a Program Examiner at the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, and as a Social Science Analyst for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, US Department of Health and Human Services.