

Presenters – WAFCA Leadership Summit 2021



Michele Mackey recently stepped into the position of CEO/ED of KidsForward after having co-led the organization with since 2017. Mackey brings a deep and diverse leadership background to the CEO/ED position as an attorney, program and operations officer, and innovation and change consultant, focused on leadership development and equitable organizational strategy. As COO at Kids Forward, they have led the alignment of internal culture with the organization’s equity-focused policy advocacy. Mackey also recently served as loaned interim CEO for Forward Community Investments advising its transition from a founder CEO.



Rep. Amy Loudenberg represents the 31st Assembly District, which includes eastern Rock and western Walworth counties. She was recently elected to her sixth term in the state Assembly. She currently serves as the Vice Co-Chair on the Joint Committee on Finance, and the Co-Chair on the Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology. She also serves as the Chair of the State Capitol and Executive Residents Board and is a member of the State Fair Park Board.

As a Midwesterner, Rep. Loudenberg grew up in the suburbs of Detroit and Chicago, and moved to Wisconsin to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she graduated in 1991 with two undergraduate degrees: Political Science and International Relations. After graduation, she worked in environmental project management and regulatory compliance. Rep. Loudenberg spent seven years working at the Greater Beloit Chamber in various leadership roles.



Mandela Barnes serves as Wisconsin’s 45th Lieutenant Governor. Elected in 2018, he is the first African-American to serve as a Lieutenant Governor in Wisconsin, and the second African-American to ever hold statewide office.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Lt. Gov. Barnes is the son of a public-school teacher and a United Auto Workers member, to whom he credits much of his success. He grew up attending Milwaukee Public Schools and graduated from John Marshall High School in 2003. In 2012, at the age of 25, Lt. Gov. Barnes was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly, where he served two terms. His tenure in the State Assembly included serving as Chair of the Legislature’s Black and Latino Caucus and becoming a recognized leader on progressive economic policies and gun violence prevention legislation.

Within his current role, Lt. Gov. Barnes uses a platform of sustainability and equity to fight for solutions that invest in opportunities and fairness for every child, person, and family in Wisconsin, regardless of ZIP code.



Mike Lappen is the Administrator of the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division, where he leads a dedicated and diverse team of BHD employees in reform efforts that began nearly a decade ago - the redesign of Milwaukee County's mental health system to become a community-based system of care that is less reliant on psychiatric inpatient admissions and emergency room visits.

Lappen's responsibilities include managing the BHD transition to the new acute psychiatric care hospital being developed by Universal Health Services. He also oversees the redesign of crisis services and expanded community care, and provides division updates to the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board.

Lappen serves on the Wisconsin County Human Service Association Behavioral Health Policy and Advisory Committee, the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health Legislative and Policy Committee, and the Washington Heights Neighborhood Association Board. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee with a bachelor of arts in psychology and a master of science in educational rehabilitation counseling. Lappen previously worked as a clinical coordinator for the Wisconsin Correctional Service, and supervisor, manager and eventually director with the Ozaukee County Department of Human Services.



Amy Herbst is an industry expert with more than 25 years working with children, youth and families. She received her Bachelor's in Social Work from the University of WI-Whitewater and her Master's in Social Work from the University of WI-Madison.

Throughout her tenure with Children's, Herbst has positioned Children's as a leader in the child welfare and mental and behavioral health fields. At Children's, she led the largest child welfare and foster care programs in the state, producing nationally recognized child permanence and placement stability outcomes. Ms. Herbst championed Children's efforts to create a Child and Family Well-Being framework of care, situating Children's as a thought leader in the field. Currently, Ms. Herbst leads Children's enterprise-wide Mental and Behavioral Health strategy to address the mental and behavioral health needs of children and adolescents.



Peter Carlson is the President of Behavioral Health Services at Advocate Aurora Health. He joined Aurora Health Care in 1994. He is responsible for oversight and operations of a multi-site behavioral health system. He leads strategic planning efforts, business development, physician recruitment and relations, professional education, research, philanthropy, and community relations. He started work with Aurora as the director of intake services at the psychiatric hospital. Prior to joining Aurora, he worked for Family Service of Milwaukee. He earned his bachelor's degree from Lawrence University, a master's degree in education from Wichita State University and a master's degree in business administration from Keller Graduate School.



Joy Tapper serves as the Executive Director for the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership, a public/private consortium dedicate to improving health care for underserved populations in Milwaukee County. The Partnership is governed by the presidents of the health systems, the Medical College of Wisconsin and the five Milwaukee-based community health centers; along with State, County and City health officials. The Partnership focuses on securing coverage, improving access, and enhancing care coordination for low income residents as well as addressing pressing community health needs in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Tapper previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for the Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare system. She has a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Wisconsin -Madison, and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from St. Olaf College. She serves on many civic and health committees in Milwaukee and across the State as well as on the boards of the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association and the Medical College of Wisconsin Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin endowment.



Rep. Evan Goyke represents the 18th Assembly District in Milwaukee and is currently serving his fifth terms. Born Neenah, Rep. Goyke is a graduate of Edgewood High School and received a B.A. in Political Science from St. John's University (Minnesota), and a J.D. from Marquette University Law School.

He is a former state public defender and currently serves on the Historic Concordia Neighborhood Association (board member). Affiliations include: Progressive Community Health Center (former board member); State Bar of Wisconsin; Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America; Milwaukee Democratic Delegation (former chair); and Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association (former board member).