

Tennesseans Teaming Up for Change Statewide Infant Mortality Summit 2012

Plenary Speakers

Mrs. Crissy Haslam, First Lady, State of Tennessee

Born in Houston, Texas, Crissy Haslam moved with her family to Memphis, Tennessee when she was eight years old. She attended St. Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis and continued on to Emory University for college. Crissy graduated from Emory in 1980 with a double major in Finance and Marketing in the College of Business. Crissy married Bill Haslam and moved to Knoxville in 1981. While working as the assistant director of admissions for UT-Knoxville, she received a Master of Science degree in Education in the program of College Student Personnel.

She has served on numerous civic and community boards, and currently serves as chair of the Tennessee Executive Residence Foundation. This Foundation is currently renovating the Tennessee Residence landscaping, garden and grounds with a focus on Tennessee native plants and agriculture.

As First Lady of Tennessee, Crissy focuses on encouraging parent engagement in education. She has been traveling the state to stress the importance of parents as first teachers, parents as education partners, and also to raise awareness for the exponential value of reading on grade level by the 3rd grade. To complement her literacy initiative, Crissy has worked to help increase volunteers to read with, tutor and mentor students in the state through an initiative of United Ways of Tennessee, called "Raise Your Hand Tennessee." Additionally, the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation, a partnership of Imagination Library, is now housed in the Office of the First Lady. Crissy and her husband together serve as co-chairs of the Tennessee Children's Cabinet, which is the only Children's Cabinet in the country with a Governor and spouse serving as co-chairs.

John J. Dreyzehner, MD, MPH, FACOEM, Commissioner of Health

Dr. John Dreyzehner is commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health. He is a physician, residency trained in occupational medicine and board certified in 1999. Licensed to practice in Tennessee and Virginia, Dreyzehner is a Fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. He comes to the state Department of Health after serving as director of Virginia's Cumberland Plateau Health District for more than nine years. Prior to his return to public service in 2002, he was in the clinical practice of occupational medicine. Dreyzehner began medical service in 1989 as a United States Air Force flight surgeon honorably discharged as a major in 1997. He also has practiced for several years in the field of addiction medicine while working on substance abuse prevention, treatment and control in his public health role. He holds appointments as adjunct faculty with East Tennessee State University's College of Public Health, founding faculty of the Healthy Appalachia Institute and visiting assistant professor of public health at the University of Virginia. He also chairs the advisory committee for the Virginia Tech-Carilion School of Medicine's Master of Public Health Degree Program.

Dreyzehner attended the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana graduating Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in psychology. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He completed his Master of Public Health degree at the University of Utah, where he also completed his residency in Occupational Medicine at the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health.

Dreyzehner has served in leadership positions with the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine since 1996 and actively with the National Association of County and City Health Officials since 2002. From 2008 to 2011, he has chaired the NACCHO advisory committee that partnered with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to create a successful, year-long fellowship program for new local health officials. He has enjoyed other long standing service opportunities on the Appalachian Regional Commission's Health Policy Advisory Council, Southwest Graduate Medical Education Consortium, Health Planning Agency of Southwest Virginia, Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council, and Virginia Economic Bridge, among others. He also has served as vice chair of the Southwest Virginia Health Authority and completed several terms as chair of both nonprofits CareSpark Inc. and One Care, Inc. He and his wife Jana, a child psychiatrist, have two sons.

Michael Lu, MD, MS, MPH

Michael C. Lu, M.D., M.S., M.P.H., was named associate administrator of maternal and child health of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on November 3, 2011. HRSA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The mission of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) is to provide leadership, in partnership with key stakeholders, to improve the physical and mental health, safety and well-being of mothers, children and families. Through its Title V program, MCHB serves 40 million women, infants, children, adolescents, and their families each year, including fathers and children with special health care needs.

Dr. Lu joined HRSA from the University of California, Los Angeles Schools of Medicine and Public Health, where he was associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and public health. Dr. Lu brings years of experience in MCH research, practice, and policy to his post at HRSA. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Lu chaired the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality. He has served on two Institute of Medicine (IOM) committees (Committee on Understanding Premature Birth and Assuring Healthy Outcomes, and Committee to Reexamine IOM Pregnancy Weight Guidelines), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Select Panel on Preconception Care.

While at UCLA, Dr. Lu was a lead investigator for the National Children's Study and led a project to monitor and improve the quality and safety of maternity care in California. He was best known for his research on racial-ethnic disparities in birth outcomes, and his leadership on life course. Dr. Lu taught obstetrics and gynecology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and maternal and child health at UCLA School of Public Health. He has received numerous awards for his teaching, including Excellence in Teaching Awards from the

Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics. As an obstetrician, Dr. Lu has attended over a thousand births, and has been voted one of the Best Doctors in America since 2005.

Dr. Lu received his bachelor's degrees in political science and human biology from Stanford University, master's degrees in health and medical sciences and public health from UC Berkeley, medical degree from UC San Francisco, and residency training in obstetrics and gynecology from UC Irvine.

Veronica Gunn, MD, MPH, FAAP

Veronica Gunn, MD, MPH, FAAP, is the Vice President for Population Health Management and Payment Innovation and Medical Director for Community Services at the Children's Hospital and Health System of Wisconsin. In this capacity, she provides medical input to the child welfare, community services and public policy team helping the health system evaluate the needs of children in the community and identify resources to enhance the well-being of those children. The new division of Population Health Management and Payment Innovation was created to focus efforts to improve the health of children, lower the cost of care, develop new payment models and enhance the patient and client experience.

Dr. Gunn has significant expertise in care coordination and public health for children. Prior to taking her current position, she served as chief medical officer for the Tennessee Department of Health. Prior to that, she served as medical director for the Tennessee Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination. In 2009, Dr. Gunn was named the Nashville Business Journal Woman of Influence in Public Policy and received the 2006 Project Blossom Award for Efforts to Reduce Infant Mortality.

Dr. Gunn holds a Bachelor of Science from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., a Doctor of Medicine from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, and Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. While completing her Master of Public Health, she also earned a separate certificate program in injury and violence prevention.

LeAnn Todd Langston, RN

LeAnn Todd Langston is the Manager for the Center for Women's Health of Trover Health System. In this role, she oversees direct daily operations of multi-provider outpatient care delivery in the specialty of obstetrics and women's health. Management areas include obstetrics, gynecology, nurse-midwifery, women's radiology services, cosmetic/reconstructive surgery, aesthetics, and massage therapy. Prior to taking this role, she served as a Manager, Clinical Leader, and Staff RN with Trover Health System.

Mrs. Todd Langston has seventeen years of nursing and management experience in the area of obstetrics and women's health. She has successfully coordinated multiple grant-funded projects with organizations including the University of Kentucky, The March of Dimes, The Komen Foundation, and the Centering Healthcare Institute.

She has been invited to give formal presentations of research data and project outcomes at multiple events for CenteringPregnancy and The March of Dimes prematurity prevention initiative, Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait. In addition, she represented Trover as the South Regional recipient of the 2008 Outreach Scholarship W.K. Kellogg Foundation Engagement Award, and as a national finalist for the 2008 C. Peter Magrath University Community Engagement Award.

Katrina Thompson, AA, BS, MSW

Katrina Thompson is the State Director of Program Services and Public Affairs for the March of Dimes Greater Kentucky Chapter in Lexington, KY. She holds a Master of Social work degree from the University of Kentucky, a Bachelor's in Psychology and minor in Health and Business from Cumberland University, and an Associate of Business from Sue Bennett College.

Prior to her current role with the March of Dimes, she has served as a Program Director for 4-H Youth Development, a psychiatric and mental health therapist, and a regional health prevention specialist. She is on the board of the Kentucky Perinatal Association, is a founding member of the Kentucky Birth Surveillance Registry Committee, and is a member of the Governor-appointed Perinatal Task Force for Kentucky.

Ms. Thompson was manager of the first Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait pilot project for more than five years. She has served as a consultant to the New Jersey March of Dimes State Chapter for replicating the Kentucky project relating to preterm birth. She was the winner of the first Kentucky Perinatal Association Dr. Tom Pauley Award in 2009.

Michael Fraser, PhD, CAE

Michael Fraser, PhD has over 15 years of public health agency and national association experience supporting and serving federal, state, and local public health agencies. Dr. Fraser is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs in Washington, DC. Dr. Fraser has been CEO of AMCHP since August, 2007. In 2009 he received a "Young and Aspiring CEO" award from Association Trends magazine and in 2010 he earned his Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential. During his tenure, AMCHP has been nationally recognized for its work in supporting state maternal and child health programs, most recently by receiving the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Director's Award in October 2010 and the American Public Health Association's MCH Section "Outstanding Leadership and Advocacy" award in November 2010.

Prior to joining AMCHP, Dr. Fraser was Senior Advisor and Deputy Executive Director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) from 2002 to 2007. Prior to that he was a Regional Program Manager with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 2001 to 2002, and a Senior Staff Fellow at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) from 2000 to 2001. Prior to HRSA he was a Senior Research Analyst and Program Manager with NACCHO from 1998 to 2000 and a Research Scientist with Aspen Systems Corporation from 1997 to 1998. Dr. Fraser received his doctorate in sociology from the

University of Massachusetts at Amherst in May 1997 and his M.A. in sociology in 1994. Dr. Fraser received his B.A. in sociology from Oberlin College in 1991.

In 2002 Dr. Fraser received a Distinguished Service Award from Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson for exemplary teamwork, productivity, organization and scientific excellence demonstrated during the public health emergency response to the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks and the anthrax investigation. That same year he also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the CDC Office of the Director for participation in the response to the anthrax events of 2001. In 2001 Dr. Fraser received a Certificate of Appreciation from the HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care.

Dr. Fraser has published several research articles and professional publications, serves on the boards of several national organizations and coalitions and was on the adjunct faculty at the University of Maryland's University College. He is an avid student of leadership and believes a good leader is always trying to catch up with his followers.