

## May 14: South Central AFPHS Celebration

# SPEAKER BIOS

### Ami Mitchell

Ami Mitchell completed her bachelor's degree in mass communications in 1988 and worked in various medical settings while raising her family. In 1996 she received her Master of Science in health education with an emphasis on community education from Middle Tennessee State University and started her career with the Tennessee Department of Health the next year. Mrs. Mitchell has served in various community-based, clinic-based and leadership capacities for 27 years and has been the Public Health Regional Director for South Central Tennessee since 2007. She is a 2003 graduate of the Southeast Public Health Leadership Institute and a 2018 graduate of the Tennessee Governor's Executive Institute. Mrs. Mitchell thrives on living and serving rural Tennessee where she has gained much experience in addressing social determinates of health and health disparities. Her most recent projects are focused on increasing access to healthcare for underserved populations, smoking cessation for pregnant women, risk reduction for victims of human sex trafficking and integrating mental health services in public health departments.

**Email: [Ami.Mitchell@tn.gov](mailto:Ami.Mitchell@tn.gov)**

### Megan Wolfe, JD

Megan Wolfe is the Senior Policy Development Manager at TFAH, where she works with the Policy Development team to advance a modernized, accountable public health system. Ms. Wolfe has been engaged in public policy and advocacy for over 20 years and has represented Fortune 500 and non-profit organizations. Most recently she served as Government Relations Manager for ASCD, an international education association comprising teachers, principals, superintendents, and higher education professionals. Primarily focused on education issues, she advocated for a whole-child approach to education, increased support for educator professional development, and raising the federal investment for education overall. Prior to her association with ASCD, she served as Government Relations Manager for the National Association for Sport and Physical Education, coordinating and leading all their federal advocacy efforts, including their annual lobby day, public policy agenda, and state affiliate advocacy efforts. She also has Capitol Hill experience, serving as a staff member for the Senate Judiciary Committee working on the federal judgeship confirmation process.

Ms. Wolfe received her undergraduate degree in Government from the University of Texas at Austin and earned a J.D. from the Antonin Scalia Law School (formerly the George Mason University School of Law).

**Email: [mwolfe@tfah.org](mailto:mwolfe@tfah.org)**



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### Ralph Alvarado, MD, FACP

Dr. Ralph Alvarado joined Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee's cabinet in January 2023 as the 15th commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health.

Dr. Alvarado has spent nearly a decade in public service and in 2014 was the first Hispanic member elected to the Kentucky General Assembly where he represented Kentucky's 28th Senate district.

During his service in the Kentucky Senate, Dr. Alvarado was Chairman of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee, led the Substance Abuse Recovery Task Force, and was a member of the Medicaid Oversight, Banking & Insurance, and State & Local Government committees.

Dr. Alvarado has been a practicing physician for the past 29 years, working in a variety of clinical settings, as a hospitalist, in primary care, and at skilled nursing facilities. Dr. Alvarado has served as medical director for the Medicare health plan operators Stableview Health and Signature Advantage, in Lexington, Ky.; as medical director and finance chairman for Kentucky One Health Medical Group, in Louisville, Ky.; and as vice-chair for the board of Quality Independent Physicians, also in Louisville.

From 2009 to 2011, Dr. Alvarado was chief and medical staff president at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lexington, Ky., and was elected to the hospital's board in 2010, serving until 2012.

Dr. Alvarado earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, Calif., in 1990, where he went on to receive his Doctorate in Medicine in 1994. Dr. Alvarado completed his medical residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Kentucky in 1998.

Dr. Alvarado and his wife of 30 years, Dawn, have two adult children.



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### Mia McNeil

Mia McNeil, Esq., State Director joined the AARP Tennessee team as State Director in January of 2022 and is the host of AARP Connected on News Channel 5+. She brings a deep understanding of effective advocacy and community outreach. In her former role as Director of Government and Community Relations at the University of Michigan-Flint, she was responsible for managing community relationships and local, state, and federal lobbying on behalf of the university. Prior to her tenure at the University of Michigan, she was an attorney/lobbyist for nine years at Lansing, Michigan-based multiclient lobbying firm Kelley Cawthorne PC, where she represented a broad portfolio of clients on a wide range of issues. In addition, Mia directed Michigan's Rock the Vote campaign and served on the legislative staff of Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Mia earned a J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and a B.A. from Tennessee State University, and she is very active in various community organizations. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the innovation incubator 100K Ideas. She is also a member of the State Bar of Michigan, Rotary Club of Nashville and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®.

**Email: [mmcneil@aarp.org](mailto:mmcneil@aarp.org)**

### Rochelle Roberts

Rochelle Roberts, MOL, serves as Tennessee's State Dementia Director at the Department of Health's Office of Healthy Aging. With over a decade of public health experience—including environmental health, STD surveillance, and managing chronic diseases—she leads statewide efforts to improve dementia care and support for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) and their caregivers. Roberts oversees the BOLD (Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure) Grant, which prioritizes early detection, reducing risk factors, workforce development, and caregiver support initiatives. She also facilitates the TN Dementia Action Collaborative (TDAC) and the TN ADRD Advisory Council, bringing together key partners to advance initiatives that reduce ADRD risk, enhance early detection and care, educate, and support across the state. Roberts envisions a person-centered system of care that supports individuals with dementia, empowers caregivers, and promotes brain health statewide. By leveraging innovation, collaboration, and data-driven approaches, Tennessee is building a BOLD future where individuals and families affected by dementia can live with dignity and thrive.

**Email: [rochelle.l.roberts@tn.gov](mailto:rochelle.l.roberts@tn.gov)**



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### Liz Hall

Liz Hall is the Health Systems Director for the Alzheimer's Association. Through her work with health systems to improve outcomes for dementia patients, she has worked hospitals and medical practices across the Southeast region to implement the Age-Friendly 4Ms framework for older adult care. Liz has almost 20 years of experience working for voluntary health organizations and has also managed field operations and training services for a large behavioral health system. She has a B.S. in Mass Communication and Sociology from Middle Tennessee State University, is a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, and is currently pursuing a Masters of Public Health at the University of Tennessee.

**Email:** [lizahall@alz.org](mailto:lizahall@alz.org)

### Katie McMinn

Katie McMinn is the Public Health Educator with the Coffee County and Moore County Health Departments. Ms. McMinn has been working in public health since graduating Middle Tennessee State University with a degree in Nutrition and Food Science.

In 2003 Ms. McMinn began her public health work in the Upper Cumberland Region as a Nutritionist for the WIC program (Women, Infants and Children) and then moved to Health Promotions in 2006. In 2010 Ms. McMinn transferred back home, to become a Health Educator in the South-Central Region. For 15 years she has enjoyed every moment of working within the communities of Coffee and Moore County.

In addition to everyday duties Ms. McMinn also became a Certified Men's Health Educator and Individual Champion for the Age Friendly Public Health System. In 2023 Ms. McMinn was invited to attend the Dementia Risk Reduction Summit, held at the CDC. This first-ever Dementia Risk Reduction Summit explored how public health can address the risk factors for cognitive decline and dementia across the public health prevention spectrum: from working in partnerships and with health systems to addressing community education and workplace practices. In 2024 Ms. McMinn attended the Positive Aging Conference at MTSU. The aim was to provide attendees with knowledge and resources that support a positive and healthy aging process.

**Email:** [katie.mcminn@tn.gov](mailto:katie.mcminn@tn.gov)

