Dr. Allen J. Brenzel, Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health

Dr. Allen J. Brenzel was appointed the Medical Director for the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in 2010. Prior to 2010 he served as the Medical and Psychiatric Consultant for the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS) and as the Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Kentucky. He attended the University of Louisville School of Medicine and completed a combined residency in Pediatrics, Adult Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry at the University of Kentucky. He also completed his Master in Business Administration in 2006. He joined the UK faculty in 1993 where he is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics. Dr. Brenzel is actively involved in healthcare services reform in Kentucky. This has included working to modernize the State Medicaid Plan to include a full continuum of behavioral health substance abuse services including targeted case management, mobile and residential crisis and peer supports. In partnership with other state agencies, Dr. Brenzel has worked on reducing prescription drug abuse, addressing buprenorphine utilization and diversion, disseminating naloxone rescue kits, and developing guidelines for Kentucky’s recently approved Harm reduction and needle exchanges. He is also the CO-PI on the Kentucky MAT-PDOA grant which is providing coordinated care to women with an opiate use disorder who are pregnant or parenting. In 2017, Dr. Brenzel was actively involved in the submission of Kentucky’s SAMHSA response to the Opioid STR grant. This will bring 10.5 million dollars to Kentucky for each of the next two years to address the opioid use disorder crisis in Kentucky.

Jabari Bruton-Barrett, Gilead Sciences

Jabari Bruton-Barrett is a Multi-State Regional Lead for the FOCUS Program at Gilead Sciences, with his concentration being primarily in the US to expand FOCUS to new regions and settings. Jabari’s territory consists of Kentucky, Minneapolis, St. Louis, and Tennessee. Jabari joined Gilead in 2013 as a Community Liaison and joined the FOCUS team in September 2015. Prior to Gilead, he was the Deputy Bureau Chief of Partnerships, Capacity Building, and Community Outreach with the District of Columbia Department of Health’s HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration in Washington, DC. There, he oversaw HIV grantees performance, convened capacity building and technical assistance groups, and developed and implemented key initiatives. Jabari has a Bachelor of Science from Florida A&M University and a Master of Science in Management Health Care Administration from the University of Maryland.

Dr. Phillip K. Chang, University of Kentucky HealthCare

Dr. Phillip K. Chang, MD, MBA, FACS is the Chief Medical Officer for UK HealthCare. As CMO, Dr. Chang is a key member of the senior leadership team, focusing directly on clinical outcomes, patient experience, team member and faculty engagement and efficiency. Dr. Chang completed his undergraduate education at The College of William and Mary in Virginia, and received his medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk. Prior to his role as CMO, Dr. Chang served as medical director for perioperative services and associate CMO for UK HealthCare. In 2015, Dr. Chang was part of a team that conducted a literature review focusing on opioid pain management, leading to the implementation of a non-opioid pain management strategy for UK HealthCare. Currently he is speaking on the state and national level around the opioid crisis and health care provider opportunity.
Wilson M. Compton, M.D., M.P.E. is Deputy Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) of the National Institutes of Health. NIDA supports most of the world’s research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction related to preventing drug abuse, treating addiction and addressing the serious health consequences of drug abuse, including related HIV/AIDS and other health conditions. In his current role, Dr. Compton's responsibilities include providing scientific leadership in the development, implementation, and management of NIDA’s research portfolio and working with the Director to support and conduct research. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Compton served as the Director of NIDA’s Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research from 2002 until 2013. In this leadership role, he oversaw the scientific direction of a complex public health research program of national and international scope addressing: 1) the extent and spread of drug abuse, 2) how to prevent drug abuse, and 3) how to implement drug abuse prevention and treatment services as effectively as possible. Of note, he led the development of the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH), a large scale longitudinal population study with 45,971 study subjects ages 12 and older to assess the impact of new tobacco regulations in the United States. This project is jointly sponsored by NIDA and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, includes prospective data collection, using both surveys and biological assessments of tobacco exposures, risk factors and health outcomes. Before joining NIDA, Dr. Compton was Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Master in Psychiatric Epidemiology Program at Washington University in Saint Louis as well as Medical Director of Addiction Services at the Barnes-Jewish Hospital in Saint Louis. Dr. Compton received his undergraduate education from Amherst College. He attended medical school and completed his residency training in psychiatry at Washington University. During his career, Dr. Compton has achieved multiple scientific accomplishments: he was selected to serve as a member of the DSM-5 Revision Task Force; is the author of more than 150 articles and chapters including widely-cited papers drawing attention to prescription drug abuse problems in the U.S.; and is an invited speaker at multiple high-impact venues, including multiple presentations to federal judges in presentations sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center. These judicial presentations have focused on how the science of addiction may improve policy and practices related to addicts within the criminal justice system. Dr. Compton is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Alpha Omega Alpha medical education honor society. Dr. Compton is the recipient of multiple awards and in 2008, he received the Senior Scholar Health Services Research Award from the American Psychiatric Association, in 2010 the Paul Hoch Award from the American Psychopathological Association, in both 2012 and 2013, he was selected to receive the Leveraging Collaboration Award from the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Compton received the prestigious Health and Human Services Secretary’s Awards for Meritorious Service in 2013 and for Distinguished Service in 2014.

Alex Elswick, Voices of Hope
Alex Elswick is a co-founder of the non-profit organization Voices of Hope which promotes lifelong recovery from the chronic disease of addiction. Alex holds a B.A. from Centre College, an M.S. from the University of Kentucky, and is currently pursuing a PhD at UK where his research focuses on recovery from substance use disorders. Most importantly, Alex is himself a person in long term recovery.

Nancy Hale, Operation UNITE
Following 34 years as a teacher, career counselor, and administrative coordinator, Nancy Hale retired from public education in 2012 and joined Operation UNITE (Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment and Education) as Co-Program Director for the UNITE Service Corps (AmeriCorps) Program. In February 2015, she was named UNITE’s third President and CEO.

Ms. Hale currently serves on the advisory boards for the National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit and the Institute
for the Advancement of Behavioral Healthcare. She has been involved with her local UNITE Coalition for 14 years and the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association for 26 years.

She is a four-time Delta Kappa Gamma Society “Kentucky Volunteer of the Year” and twice served as president of the Kentucky Association of Professional Educators. She holds a Bachelor of arts degree, Master of Arts in Education, and a Rank 1 in Administration from Eastern Kentucky University.

Dr. Jason Hockenberry, Emory University
Jason Hockenberry is a health economist and health services researcher with expertise in using econometric techniques to analyze the impacts of public health policies, particularly the factors affecting the quality, efficiency, and cost of healthcare. His research contributions in the area of behavioral health policy and behavioral health services have been centered on substance use policies related to cannabis and opioids.

Dr. Ardis Dee Hoven, University of Kentucky College of Medicine
Ardis Dee Hoven, M.D, is an internal medicine and infectious disease specialist residing in Lexington Kentucky. Hoven currently serves as the Chair of Council of the World Medical Association. Prior to this work, Dr. Hoven served as President of the American Medical Association and also served as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the AMA. Dr. Hoven received her undergraduate degree in microbiology and her medical school education from the University of Kentucky, Lexington. She completed her internal medicine and infectious disease training at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. As a physician during the AIDS epidemic, she became an educator and leader in the state regarding the appropriate care and treatment of patients with HIV and AIDS. Ultimately her interest in health policy issues led her to leadership positions within many organizations in the United States.

Currently, Dr. Hoven is Professor of Medicine at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine and serves as an Infectious Disease Consultant to the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

Michelle Rose, MBA, Infectious Disease, Manager Population Health, Norton Healthcare
Michelle Rose is the Manager of Population Health for Norton Healthcare. Her primary areas of research include hepatitis C, HIV, and sexually transmitted infections; specifically the distribution, prevalence, and impact on sub-populations. In early 2018, Ms Rose was invited to testify in front of the Kentucky legislatures Public Health and Wellness sub-committees on high rates of hepatitis C in women of child bearing years. Norton Healthcare data utilized in the presentation were pivotal in securing passage of SB250 – universal screening of HCV in pregnant women and testing all children born to HCV infected mothers.

Prior to relocating to Louisville, Kentucky in May 2016, Ms Rose called Sub-Saharan Africa her home – living and working in 20 of the 54 countries in the region. While in Africa, Ms Rose managed international development and emergency response project that directly aided populations marginalized by disease and genocide, or displaced by wars or natural disasters.

Todd J. Kuehnlein, Drug Enforcement Administration
The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) hired Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) Todd Kuehnlein in August of 2004. Upon graduation from Basic Agent Training at Quantico, Virginia in December 2004, RAC Kuehnlein was posted to the Fresno Resident Office (RO) in California as a Criminal Investigator in an enforcement group. After six years at the Fresno RO, RAC Kuehnlein was selected for an extremely competitive position as a senior investigator in Cartagena, Colombia, were he was charged with working closely with Colombian counterparts in the fight against major cocaine distributors throughout the country. Upon the completion of his tour in Cartagena, RAC Kuehnlein was transferred to the Detroit Field Division in December 2012. While assigned to the Tactical Diversion Squad, he was responsible for investigating the diversion of pharmaceutical narcotics mainly by registrants and pharmacies. In June 2016, RAC Todd Kuehnlein accepted a promotion to the position of Resident Agent in Charge of the DEA Lexington Resident Office in Lexington, Kentucky. As the Resident Agent in Charge, RAC Kuehnlein is responsible for an enforcement group and Tactical Diversion Squad that covers 41 counties within the Eastern District of Kentucky.
Richard W. Sanders, Commissioner, Kentucky State Police

Richard W. Sanders was appointed Commissioner, Kentucky State Police on April 1, 2016, by Governor Matt Bevin.

Commissioner Sanders has over 40 years of distinguished service in law enforcement. He began his career as a police officer for the Jefferson County Police Department in Louisville, Kentucky in 1973. In 1983 the Commissioner joined the Drug Enforcement Administration as a Special Agent within the Louisville, Kentucky Resident Office.

An accomplished fixed-wing and rotary-wing pilot, Commissioner Sanders was transferred to the Miami Field Division in 1988 as a Special Agent/Pilot and provided air support for enforcement operations, both domestically and internationally. In 1994, Commissioner Sanders was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent with the Office of Aviation Support in Ft. Worth, Texas, where he oversaw the training, standardization, and proficiency check rides for all DEA aviators to ensure their operational readiness.

In 1996, Commissioner Sanders was transferred to the Louisville, Kentucky Resident Office as the Resident Agent in Charge (RAC). Commissioner Sanders supervised a multi-agency Drug Enforcement Task Force and assisted in the development of the Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Commissioner Sanders was transferred to DEA Headquarters in 2001 and was promoted to the position of Special Assistant to the Administrator where he served two DEA Administrators. In 2001, Commissioner Sanders was transferred to the Indianapolis, Indiana District Office as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC). Chief Sanders was elected Chairman of the Lake County Indiana HIDTA and expanded cooperation and intelligence sharing among the Indiana Law Enforcement community.

Commissioner Sanders was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in 2002 to serve as Special Agent in charge (SAC) of the DEA’s Chicago Field Division, where he provided direction and leadership for all DEA operations conducted throughout the states of North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana. Elected as Chairman of Chicago’s HIDTA, Commissioner Sanders developed cooperative working relationships with other federal, state and local agencies to address the escalating violence attributed to drugs and gangs. With gangs controlling the retail distribution of narcotics, Commissioner Sanders directed resources to attack gangs through HIDTA, State and Local Task Force groups, and Mobile Enforcement Deployments. He established the “Top 21”, and anti-gang initiative that targets the worst criminals in drug and violent offenses through information sharing and monthly strategy meetings with other law enforcement agencies. He retired as Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Washington, D.C.

Commissioner Sanders served as Chief of Police for Jeffersontown Police Department from 2007 – 2016.

In July 2014, Commissioner Sanders was appointed President of the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police. KACP have a unified network with other law enforcement executives of Kentucky who work to positively influence lawmakers in our capital on key issues facing law enforcement in the Commonwealth, to include the retirement and healthcare systems, among other pertinent legislation.

Commissioner Sanders is a native of Louisville, Kentucky has a Bachelor of Science in Police Administration and a Master of Science in Justice Administration obtained from the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky. Commissioner Sanders is married to the former Deidra Henley and has two sons.

Dr. Danesh Mazloomdoost, Wellward Regenerative Medicine

Danesh Mazloomdoost M.D. is a native Kentuckian and the child of two passionate physicians dedicated to a healthy perspective on pain. He watched his parents build one of Kentucky’s first multidisciplinary pain clinics and from their example, pursued medicine. He is now fellowship-trained and dual-board certified in Anesthesiology & Pain Management from Johns Hopkins and MD Anderson. Dr. Danesh has a long-standing passion fixing the problems in healthcare contributing to the opioid epidemic and the neglect of proper treatments for painful conditions. He is now the medical director of Wellward Regenerative Medicine, continuing the legacy begun by his parents. Wellward’s is the flagship for a new perspective on managing pain – one that amplifies the body’s ability to heal through stem-cell derived technologies and healthy living. Wellward takes healing beyond medicine.
Dr. Mel Pohl, Las Vegas Recovery Center

Mel Pohl, MD, DFASAM is a Board Certified Family Practitioner. He is the Chief Medical Officer of Las Vegas Recovery Center (LVRC). Dr. Pohl was a major force in developing LVRC’s Chronic Pain Recovery Program. He is certified by the American Board of Addiction Medicine, (ABAM), and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). He is the former chairman of ASAM’s AIDS Committee, a member of the planning committee for ASAM’s Annual “Common Threads, Pain and Addiction” Course and co-chair of ASAM’s Pain and Addiction Workgroup. Dr. Pohl is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice and a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. He was elected by his peers for inclusion in Best Doctors in America® from 2009 to present.

Dr. Navin Rajagopalan, University of Kentucky

Dr Navin Rajagopalan is an Associate Professor of Medicine and currently the Director of Heart Failure and Medical Director of Heart Transplantation at the University of Kentucky. He obtained his undergraduate degree and Doctor of Medicine from The Ohio State University. He completed internal medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic and then cardiology and heart failure and transplant fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. He has been at UK since 2009. His research and clinical interests include the treatment of end-stage heart failure, peripartum cardiomyopathy, and donor selection for heart transplantation.

Dr. Jeffrey S. Reeves, Norton Healthcare

Jeffrey S. Reeves, M.D. completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine and his fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. Dr. Reeves is an infectious disease physician serving patients in downtown Louisville at Norton Hospital, the Norton Infectious Disease Specialists clinic, and the Complex Care Clinic. He is the principal investigator for the FOCUS project at Norton Healthcare, which has improved screening practices and linkage to care for blood-borne viruses, including HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. He also served as a physician expert in presentations to the Kentucky House Committee on Health and Family services and Senate Health and Welfare Committee with subsequent passage of legislation that mandates Hepatitis C screening for pregnant women.

Ed Shemelya, Kentucky State Police

Ed Shemelya is a 30-year veteran of the Kentucky State Police and is currently the National Coordinator of the National Marijuana Initiative. This Initiative is responsible for assisting and improving the capabilities of the 32 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas nationwide in carrying out the National Drug Control Strategy objectives of disrupting domestic trafficking and production of, and reducing demand for, marijuana and derivative products.

Prior to his current assignment, he served as the Eastern Region Marijuana Coordinator for the Appalachia HIDTA and was responsible for the oversight of marijuana cultivation activities within the four state Appalachia HIDTA region. Shemelya began his law enforcement career in 1979, where he worked patrol, general investigations, and narcotics within the Pikeville Post of the KSP. Promoted to Sergeant in 1985 and Lieutenant in 1988 he served the agency in many capacities from Internal Affairs, R&D, and as commander of the State Police first fulltime Special Response Team. In 2003 he was appointed Commander of the Kentucky Governor’s Marijuana Strike Force and the Kentucky Eradication Initiative, within the AHIDTA. This multi-agency task force comprised of Federal, State and Local agencies is tasked with fighting Kentucky’s outdoor and indoor marijuana problem. During his six years as commander the Kentucky Eradication Task Force was recognized as the most outstanding eradication Task Force in the nation for four consecutive years by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Shemelya resides in London Kentucky and is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University and Northwestern University. He is married with two daughters and five grandchildren.

Scott Teitelbaum, University of Florida College of Medicine
Scott Teitelbaum, M.D., is the Pottash Professor in Psychiatry and Neuroscience at the University of Florida's College of Medicine, where he serves as Vice Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, Chief of the Division of Addiction Medicine, Medical Director of the UF Health Florida Recovery Center, and Fellowship Director of UF’s American Board of Preventative Medicine (ABPM) - Addiction fellowship.

Originally trained and board-certified as a pediatrician, Dr. Teitelbaum later completed fellowships in addiction medicine and child psychiatry at the University of Florida. Dr. Teitelbaum became medical director of the Florida Recovery Center in 2002, and since then has evaluated and treated more than 3,000 healthcare providers and other professionals from across the country. Through his efforts, the Florida Recovery Center has led the way nationally with its evidence-based treatment of the disease of addiction.

Dr. Teitelbaum developed one of the first-ever accredited fellowships in addiction medicine. His program now has trained more addiction-medicine fellows than any other program nationwide. In 2016, Dr. Teitelbaum was awarded the Pottash Endowment, allowing for the creation of a research initiative that’s focused on addiction medicine and the fight toward recovery. He has been honored with the Exemplary Teacher Award for his guidance of medical students.

In January 2018, the American Society of Addiction Medicine named Dr. Teitelbaum winner of its Prestigious Annual Award, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field.

A national expert who has been consulted by the White House Office of National Drug Control and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Dr. Teitelbaum is passionate about reducing stigma and advancing treatment for those suffering from the disease of addiction.

Emily Walden

Emily Walden lost her son TJ, a Kentucky National Guardsman to the opioid epidemic in 2012. She has been traveling to Washington, DC. every year pushing for change, specifically changes to the FDA. Emily started the Kentucky chapter of Stoppnow (stop the organized pill pushers now) in 2015. She also serves on three committees for Fed Up! a national coalition to end the opioid epidemic; Executive Committee, Co-chair for the Advocacy Committee and Chair for the International Overdose Awareness Day rallies across the country. In 2017 she testified before the FDA concerning Opana ER which resulted in the decision to remove it from the market. Emily is devoted to ensuring the pharmaceutical industry is held accountable and the FDA makes the necessary changes to prevent future epidemics.

Dr, Brent Wright, University of Louisville/Glasgow Family Medicine Residency

R. Brent Wright, MD, MMM, DABFM, FAAFP is the Associate Dean for Rural Health Innovation at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. Prior to his role as Associate Dean, Dr. Wright served as the Residency Director of the UofL/Glasgow Family Medicine Residency Program training over 50 Board Certified Family Physicians who have gone on to provide healthcare in rural and underserved areas. He continues as Medical Director of the T. J. Samson Family Medicine Center where he is a part of federal grant activities focused on improving healthcare delivery to older adults as well as utilizing innovative programs for improving mental health. Dr. Wright has spoken nationally about topics ranging from Medical Education to Entrepreneurship & Innovation. He completed a Master's Degree from the University of Southern California with focus areas of Entrepreneurship and Leadership.