

2017 Latino Health Summit Presenters

Friday, July 28, 2017



Antonia C. Novello, M.D., MPH, DrPH
14th Surgeon General of the United States

Keynote: “In Health and Life Hispanics Are More Than Statistics”

Dr. Antonia Coello Novello was born in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. She graduated from the University of Puerto Rico with a B.S. degree in 1965 and an M.D. degree in 1970. She completed her subspecialty training in pediatric nephrology at University of Michigan and Georgetown University. Dr. Novello received a masters in Public Health from the John Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1982 and a Doctor of Public Health in May 2000. She holds countless awards, including the Legion of Merit, The James Smithson Bicentennial Medal, and the National Governor's Association Distinguished Service to State Government Award, as well as a membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Society and Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences to name a few, and over 53 *honoris causa*. In 2011, Dr. Novello received the Don Quijote Lifetime Achievement Award. On March 9, 1990, Dr. Antonia Novello was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to serve as the 14th Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Her appointment marked two firsts: Dr. Novello became the first woman and the first Hispanic ever to hold this position. As Surgeon General, Dr. Novello advised the public on health matters such as smoking, AIDS, diet and nutrition, environmental health hazards and the importance of immunization and disease prevention. On June 3, 1999, Governor George E. Pataki nominated Dr. Novello to be the 13th New York State Health Commissioner; one of the leading health agencies in the nation with a \$49 Billion budget - one-third of the whole NY state budget. Most recently, Dr. Novello served as the Executive Director of Public Health Policy at Florida Hospital. She currently serves as a liaison between the government of Dominican Republic and its Attorney General on raising the awareness of domestic violence and spearheading efforts for national legislation.

“Psychiatric Care for Hispanics, It’s More Than Just Medications”



Roberto R. Soria, M.D.

Dr. Roberto Soria graduated from the Universidad De Guayaquil, Fac De Cien Med, Guayaquil, Ecuador in 1983. He works in Cincinnati, OH and specializes in Psychiatry. He is affiliated with Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and University of Cincinnati Medical Center. He completed a fellowship in Addiction Medicine. In addition to his work at Cincinnati Children’s and the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Dr. Soria currently serves as the Medical Director of all Clinical Operations at the Crossroads Center, the Medical Director at Lumiere Healing Centers, as well as at has his own part-time private practice. He is dedicated to helping and supporting those in need of mental health services, and he continues to represent the Latino Community in the medical field.

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“Training the Next Generation: Developing a Health Care Workforce to Serve Latino Populations in the Future”



Moderator: Christy O’Dea, M.D.

Christy O’Dea, MD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and the Director of Global Health Education for The Christ Hospital/University of Cincinnati Family Medicine. In addition, she is the Medical Director at Crossroad Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Cincinnati. Her areas of interests include global and underserved health, working with community health workers, and Latino Health. She is interested in medical student education, and is the course director for the Medical Spanish/Latino Health longitudinal elective in the College of Medicine. She is a member of Latino Health Collaborative.
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Ligia Gomez, MA

Ligia C. Gomez, MA trained in both psychology and fine arts in Colombia, South America. Ligia has worked with the Hispanic population in Cincinnati for six years, both as a health educator and a health advocate. She is currently a full-time faculty member in the Romance Languages and Literature Department at the University of Cincinnati. Ligia serves as a liaison for several professional groups that work to improve the living conditions of the local Hispanic/Latino community. She is chair of the *Apoyo Latino: Greater Cincinnati Latino Coalition*, and a founding member of the *Latino Health Collaborative*. Her areas of interest at the University include Service Learning and Spanish for Health and Social Services. Ligia is the creator and director of the *Certificate Program of Spanish for Service Learning in Social Work and Health Care Services* and is involved in the new *Medical Spanish/Latino Health Elective* at the School of Medicine. Ligia's parallel involvement in the University as well as the local Health Care community is helping to create young, motivated graduates who are ready to meet the challenges of dealing with the needs of our growing immigrant population.
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Andrew Parrish

Andrew Parrish is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, he graduated *summa cum laude* with a degree in Biology and a minor in Spanish from Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. He became especially interested in global health, underserved populations, and Latino health during college while living abroad in Cuenca, Ecuador. Since beginning medical school, he has been involved in the Medical Spanish/Latino Health elective and has spent time volunteering as an interpreter in several clinics around Cincinnati. He plans to pursue a career in Plastic Surgery after graduation, and hopes to work closely with local and international communities to provide quality surgical care to all persons.



Diane Ceo-Difrancesco

Diane Ceo-Difrancesco, serves as Faculty Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence and is an Associate Professor of Spanish at Xavier University. She completed her doctoral work in Spanish Applied Linguistics and Teaching Methodology at the University of Pittsburgh. Diane instructs courses in Spanish and Foreign Language pedagogy and has published articles in such journals as *Hispania*, *The Language Educator*, *Central States Reports* and *The NAMTA Journal*. In collaboration with the occupational therapy department at Xavier, Diane has developed a Spanish language and Guatemalan culture course to prepare students, faculty and practitioners for clinical work in Guatemala, including online modules and an in-country immersion program. Diane also serves as interpreter and translator for occupational, physical and speech therapists, nurses and caregivers at residential and day clinics in Guatemala during the train the trainer program. Her research interests include second language acquisition, intercultural communicative competence, language for specific purposes, learner strategy training, and integrating technology to enhance language learning. Diane works to meet the growing needs of the community and her students through the creation of new courses, such as *Latino Voices in the Community* and *Spanish for Population Health*, both designed with intentional service and immersion components. An international presenter and K-12 teacher trainer, Diane has also coordinated study abroad programs in Spain, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico and Peru, and has served as a visiting professor in Costa Rica and Spain.



Derek Petrey, Ph.D.

Derek Petrey, Ph. D. a native of Dayton, Ohio. He started at Sinclair Community College in Fall 2003. He has taught courses in Spanish and Portuguese language, literature, and cultures, and has developed courses in Spanish for Social Work, Spanish for Health Care, and Spanish for Law Enforcement. He has also worked as a free-lance translator and interpreter since 1995, with expertise in legal identification documents, university transcripts, scholarly articles and conservation biology. He served as Honors Program Director for the College from 2009-2015 and has been the director of Sinclair's Center for Teaching and Learning since 2015. He is a recipient of the National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development award for excellence in teaching. He also has fifteen years of experience designing courses for adults outside of the academic community.

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“2017 Health Value Dashboard”



Amy Rohling McGee

Amy Rohling McGee is the President of the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. McGee has served as the president of HPIO, a nonpartisan, independent nonprofit organization that provides information and analysis to state policymakers and others, since 2010. In her leadership role, she is responsible for management, resource development and stakeholder relationship building. McGee frequently presents HPIO’s work at local, state and federal meetings. Her prior public sector experience includes work in the executive branch of state government focused on policy related to issues such as health insurance, health system improvement and Medicaid; and service in the state legislature as a Legislative Service Commission intern in the mid-1990s. Private sector experience includes five years as the executive director of the Ohio Association of Free Clinics, representing health clinics that served the uninsured, primarily through volunteers. She also has led community-based nonprofit programs. McGee earned her bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in Social Work from the Ohio State University. She has received the *Business First* “Forty Under Forty” award and the Ohio State University Alumni Association William Oxley Thompson award. She currently serves on the Ohio State University Alumni Council, representing the College of Social Work.

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“Navigating the Health Care System” Panel



Moderator: Cathy Raffles, MHA

Cathy Raffles, MHA, has been the Community Health Operations Coordinator at the Good Samaritan Free Health Center since 2013, where she enjoys working with a diverse group of uninsured patients. She has a great deal of respect for people who have taken big risks to improve their lives - people who are working to overcome barriers of poverty, oppression, violence and hopelessness. She believes helping others to heal and to care for themselves fosters vibrant communities where those that were sick are now well and able to help their neighbors through difficult times.

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Araceli Ortiz

Araceli Ortiz, is a Community Health Worker STNA at TriHealth through the Outreach Ministries Community Health Worker Program, as well as at Su Casa, Catholic Charities. Araceli has been in health care for about ten years and prior to that, she worked for American Airlines international. Araceli is very passionate about the work she does with the community. She works tirelessly to continue serving our community, providing excellence, respect, value, and culture through engaging with others. Cincinnati is her second home town, and she is very proud to be Mexican. She also has a soon-to-be 12-year-old son whom she adores.

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Emily Fisher

Emily Fisher is the Access to Care Coordinator, Emily leads Columbus Public Health’s collaborative effort to reduce the number of uninsured and maximize the understanding and accessibility of health care for Columbus residents. Emily comes to the City of Columbus with a wealth of knowledge and experience connecting individuals and families to affordable health coverage through the Affordable Care Act. Prior to joining CPH, Emily was the Regional Director for Central Ohio and State Training Coordinator for Enroll America. She has served as a Certified Application Counselor for the Federal Marketplace and has developed training for volunteers and community partners to learn the expanded Medicaid enrollment system. Emily is passionate about community organizing and has spent the last five years working on political campaigns and in the non-profit sector. Emily earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies from the University of Cincinnati. She currently lives in Columbus with her husband, son and two pets.

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Maria Messer

Maria Messer, has been a human rights advocate for more than two decades. As someone who migrated from Mexico with only a basic understanding of English, she personally experienced the alienation immigrants face daily. After earning a Bachelor’s of Arts in International Studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo. In 1998 she earned a certificate in human rights advocacy from the prestigious Inter-American Institute for Human Rights in San José, Costa and began her advocacy work. Maria has travelled extensively along both sides of the US-Mexican border, where she witnessed the anguish of migrants beginning their dangerous journey through the desert into the United States. She documented her experiences in a short educational documentary, titled “Journey of Hope.”

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“Community-Partnered Approaches to Latino Health in Cincinnati”



Farrah Jacquez, Ph.D.

Farrah Jacquez, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist and an Associate Professor in the Psychology Department at the University of Cincinnati. Her work primarily focuses on community-partnered research promoting health equity. Current projects include place-based, community-partnered interventions to promote early childhood wellness (funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and an ongoing partnership with Latino stakeholders in Cincinnati to identify interventions to improve health and healthcare experiences of Latino families. She received her B.A. from Marshall University, her M.A. from the University of Notre Dame, and her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. Through her work, Jacquez aims to address health disparities, and her research focuses on the development and evaluation of intervention and prevention programs that are culturally and contextually appropriate for underserved populations. Dr. Jacquez also teaches Community Psychology at the graduate level and Community Capstone at the undergraduate level at the University of Cincinnati.

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Lisa M. Vaughn, Ph.D.

Lisa M. Vaughn, Ph.D. is Professor of Pediatrics at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine/Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center with a joint appointment in the Educational Studies Community-Based Action Research Concentration at the University of Cincinnati College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services. She is formally trained as a social psychologist. Dr. Vaughn has specific training and a significant publication history in community-based participatory research, community engagement, qualitative research methodologies, and culturally relevant health care with a focus on understanding health disparities and promoting health equity specifically with minority and immigrant families and vulnerable youth. Over her academic career, she has been involved in several projects either as a Principal or Co-Investigator that engage community stakeholders in the research process and use innovative qualitative and participatory action research methodologies. Dr. Vaughn regularly teaches doctoral level classes in community-based participatory research, qualitative research, group process, and research methods at University of Cincinnati.

“The Role of Integrated Behavioral Specialists in Health Care”



Dr. Larry Graham

Dr. Larry Graham, current President of the Behavioral Health Institute of Mercy Health, was born and raised in Louisville KY. He graduated from medical school in 1988 from the University of Louisville and completed his Adult Psychiatry residency at the University of Cincinnati and his Child and Adolescent fellowship at Children's Hospital also in Cincinnati in 1993. He has been employed by Mercy Health since 1993 and has extensive experience in both inpatient and outpatient treatment. Dr. Graham's focus through Mercy has been on increasing access to mental health treatment across the continuum and leading Mercy's response to the opiate epidemic. He's been married for 30 years and has 3 children. When not pressing legislators for better mental health access, He enjoys spending time on his farm with his miniature donkeys, 2 dogs and 4 cats, and scuba diving. He is a rabid University of Louisville cardinal fan and coordinates his schedule around basketball season.

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“Grassroots Best Practices in Behavioral & Mental Health” Panel



Moderator: Regina Vogt-Purdon, LISW-S

Regina Vogt-Purdon is a Licensed Independent Social Worker-Supervisor (LISW-S) who earned her Master’s Degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2009. She has worked for over 12 years in the field of social services with a variety of populations, including teenagers connected with Children’s Services, adults with severe and persistent mental illness, and people struggling with issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity. She is passionate about working with survivors of domestic violence, individuals with co-occurring mental illness and developmental disability, and the LGBTQ community. Regina is trained in trauma-focused interventions, dialectical behavior therapy, and other modalities. She enjoys delivering trainings to colleagues, as well as finding opportunities for growth in challenging situations. She focuses on interacting with others in a way that validates them and helps them realize their gifts.

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Maritza Maldonado-Dyer

Maritza Maldonado-Dyer was born in Puerto Rico and migrated with her parents to New York City until the age of 16 years old, when she returned to her native island. In 1993 Maritza was awarded the *Domestic Violence Awareness Award* by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Rafael Hernandez Colon. In 1999 she began her advocacy work as a bilingual Hispanic/Latino family support worker, for Every Child Succeeds Program, at Santa Maria Community Services. Because of her advocacy efforts in Cincinnati, changes have occurred in Hospitals and governmental agencies, to ensure and improve equality of services for the Hispanic/Latino population. While working at Santa Maria Community Services, she began to identify the barriers to families faced and the Bienestar Program was conceived. Within the first year, 200 families received the basic tools to empower them to thrive in their homes and their communities. Maritza’s passion to serve has inspired other Hispanic/Latino community leaders to work effectively and collaboratively in creating a web of trust, support and hope. From 2005-2011 Maldonado-Dyer was Chair of the Greater Cincinnati Latino Coalition. Because of her efforts working with-in the Hispanic/Latino community and her leadership role, in 2009 Maritza received the *Bridge Builders Award* from Hamilton County Community Action Agency. She also was recognized by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, Senator Bill Harris, President of the Ohio Senate and Representative Tyrone K. Yates as a key leader in the Hispanic/Latino community in Cincinnati OH. From 2009-2011 Maritza held the position of Supervisor for the Interpreters of University of Cincinnati Medical Center and today works with Addiction Services of Cincinnati as a Bilingual Clinical Specialist, Chemical Dependency Councilor and Educator. Her passion is to eliminate the stigma in the Hispanic/Latino community and educate the Hispanic/Latino community on the disease of alcoholism.

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Dr. Angela Ledgerwood, Ph.D.

Dr. Angela D. Ledgerwood, Ph.D., is a Psychologist at CDC Behavioral Health Services, a non-profit community-based mental health agency and a division of Central Clinic Behavioral Health, where she provides therapy and psychological evaluations to children, teens, and adults in English and Spanish. She is also a Legal Examiner and Parenting Instructor at Forensic Evaluation Service Center where she conducts court ordered forensic evaluations and teaches the Spanish language version of a court mandated class for divorcing parents. After living and working in Costa Rica for four and a half years, Dr. Ledgerwood earned her doctorate in clinical psychology at Miami University (Oxford, OH) in 2012 after completing her pre-doctoral internship at Miami University Student Counseling Service. During her graduate education, she received training in both clinical and community psychology. Her dissertation examined the influence of acculturation, gender attitudes, and parenting style on father involvement in Latino families.

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Dr. Maria Espinola, Psy.D.

Dr. Maria Espinola, Psy. D. is Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Dr. Espinola is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and her areas of clinical and research focus are multicultural psychology, trauma psychology, and the psychology of women. Dr. Espinola was born in Argentina and immigrated to the U.S. in 2001. She completed her doctorate in clinical psychology at Nova Southeastern University, her pre-doctoral fellowship in multicultural psychology at Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine, and her post-doctoral fellowship in women's psychology and trauma psychology at McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Espinola's work in the areas of multicultural psychology and trauma psychology has been recognized with numerous honors and awards by national organizations, including the National Latino Psychological Association and the American Psychological Association. She serves on the Executive Board of the UC Latino Faculty Association and on the UC President's Diversity Council.

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Sarah Madrigal, MSW, LSW

Sarah Madrigal, MSW, LSW, is a Licensed Social Worker who earned her Master’s Degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2015. Since her graduation, she has worked with Catholic Charities as a bilingual mental health counselor where she specializes in working with the Spanish-speaking immigrant population. Her areas of focus are in PTSD, issues related to culture and acculturation, and trauma related to migration. She is particularly proud to be a therapist with Catholic Charities, one of the only organizations in the city that serves the undocumented immigration population with the same ease as they can serve the U.S. citizen population. Her professional goal is to continue to enhance awareness of the importance of mental health care and to work to build greater access to mental health care for our immigrant populations.

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Dr. Michelle C. Stoyell-Conti, Ph.D.

Dr. Michelle Stoyell-Conti, Psy.D. is a bilingual (English/Spanish) Clinical Psychologist born in Quito, Ecuador. She currently works as a Behavioral Health Specialist at Mercy Health in Toledo, Ohio. Dr. Stoyell-Conti obtained her doctorate at Wright State University, School of Professional Psychology. Her pre-doctoral internship was done at Florida International University’s Counseling and Psychological Services. Subsequently, she completed a Post-Doctoral Residency at Cornell University’s Counseling and Psychological Services, Gannett Health Service. Dr. Stoyell-Conti’s clinical experience includes: anxiety, depression, trauma, self-esteem, substance abuse, sleep issues, pain management, relationship issues, adjustment difficulties, immigration concerns, LGBTQA issues, international students, acculturation, career concerns, social justice and mindfulness techniques. Moreover, she has experience conducting intellectual and academic testing to assess for Learning Disabilities and ADHD. Additionally, she has experience performing career and personality assessments. In conceptualizing her clients, Dr. Stoyell-Conti operates from a holistic perspective. Her experience has strengthened the idea that there is not “one” solution to all individual problems. She realizes that it is of the utmost essence for her to design her client interactions considering all of their unique qualities and identity background. She views clients’ experiences based on a biopsychosocial model, shaped by the interaction of their multiple identities, the norms of their environment, their interactions with others throughout their development and a biological framework. Depending on each client, she will choose specific techniques from different theoretical orientations. In summary, Dr. Stoyell-Conti will carefully develop her conceptualization of clients according to their specific individual needs.

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“Facing the Opiate Crisis” Panel



Moderator: Judge Marilyn Zayas

Judge Marilyn Zayas was elected to the Ohio’s First Appellate District in 2016. She is currently the highest ranking Latino judge in Ohio and the first Latino judge elected to an Ohio Court of Appeals. Judge Marilyn Zayas grew up in a tough New York City neighborhood. Her dad worked in a printing shop and her mom worked as a seamstress in a garment factory. Judge Marilyn Zayas overcame numerous obstacles to earn a college degree in computer science. She made Cincinnati her home in 1988 when she came to work for Procter & Gamble. She left P & G in 1994 to pursue her dream to become a lawyer. Prior to joining the First Appellate District of Ohio, Judge Marilyn Zayas served the community as an attorney for nearly 20 years. Judge Marilyn Zayas has practiced across various courts including every county court in Hamilton County, in Courts of Appeals, and Federal Courts. She has an extensive legal background including: investor, business and family immigration law; intellectual property; labor and employment; criminal; and juvenile law. Judge Marilyn Zayas also served as an adjunct professor at her alma mater, the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Prior to taking the bench, she was honored to provide training to judges, magistrates, and the Cincinnati FBI in victims’ advocacy and immigration law, and she served for six years as LULAC Ohio State Legal Advisor.



Judge Melissa Powers

Judge Melissa Powers received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Cincinnati, and went on to receive her Juris Doctor from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. She has led a progressive and successful career as a judge and trial lawyer experienced in criminal, juvenile, and appellate courts. Judge Powers has been effective in exercising sound judgment and collaboration to balance needs of victims, offenders, law enforcement organizations, judicial systems, and the community. She has earned a reputation for quickly and effectively resolving matters with the appropriate course of action. Throughout her time at Hamilton County Municipal Court, she established the first Municipal Veterans Treatment Court, as well as served as a board member for Operations Legal Help Ohio, Cincinnati Fire Foundation, Tri-State Veterans Community Alliance, and Cincinnati Works.



Daniel P. Meloy

Daniel Meloy is the Administrator and Director of Public Safety for Colerain Township, Ohio. He previously served as an officer for Colerain Police Department and was promoted through the ranks and served as the Department's Chief of Police before he was promoted in 2013 to oversee both Fire and Police Departments and serve as the Director of Public Safety. He was promoted to his current position as Township Administrator for Colerain Township in September of 2016. Daniel is a Certified Law Enforcement Executive in the State of Ohio and graduated from the 223rd Session of the FBI National Academy. Daniel was honored in 2012 and again in 2017 as the "Public Administrator of the Year" by the American Society for Public Administration for "Excellence in Innovation." Also in 2017, Daniel was honored by the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board for his "Leadership in Alcohol and Drug Services." Daniel is a past recipient of the Michael Kelley "Excellence and Innovation in Policing" Award from the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. He holds a BA from University of Cincinnati and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Northern Kentucky University. Daniel has been a guest panelist and speaker regarding Colerain Township's response to the heroin and opioid epidemics at the 2016 and 2017 Ohio Opiate Conference, the 2016 International Fire Chiefs Conference, while traveling and meeting with communities and public safety leaders in Kentucky, West Virginia, North Carolina, Indiana and Northern Ohio.

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Dr. Anahi Ortiz

Dr. Anahi Ortiz was born in New York, New York. She graduated from the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, a six year BS/MD program, at City College of New York and received her medical degree from Downstate Medical College in Brooklyn. She was appointed to the office of Franklin County Coroner in November of 2014. She has almost 30 years' experience working with high risk communities in the medical field. She brings this experience and knowledge to the Coroner's office, where she is the voice for those who die of violent means and helps to improve the lives of our community. In March of 2015 Dr. Ortiz convened the Franklin County Drug Overdose Initiative. This group meets monthly to look at the rising rate of drug use and deaths in our county and how we can intervene. In a short period, several members of the group have concrete plans to create programs which will decrease the number of deaths from overdoses. Since then, she has hosted the Franklin County Opiate Crisis Summit on March of 2016 and again this year in 2017. She has also worked on a Community Action Plan towards the opiate crisis and launched the Franklin County Opiate Crisis Task Force in August of 2016. Dr. Ortiz also serves on the board of Helping Hands Free Clinic, Medical Advisory Board of Lifeline of Ohio, the National Violent Death Reporting System, and the Medical Advisory Board of YMCA Head Start.

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Judge Lisa Allen

Judge Lisa Allen began her legal career as an assistant prosecuting attorney for the City of Cincinnati in 1989. During her 11 years with the City of Cincinnati, she was recognized by the Hamilton County Police Association, the F.O.P. Lodge 69, and the F.O.P. Queen City Lodge 4 with an award for "Outstanding Prosecution." Judge Allen served as a Magistrate in the Hamilton County Municipal Court from 2000 to 2003. She began her service as a Judge on the Municipal Court in 2003 where she served until her election to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas in 2016. While in Municipal Court, Judge Allen served as Administrative and Presiding Judge from 2009 to 2011. She also presided over the Mental Health Docket, and was recognized with the "Award in Excellence in Mental Health and Criminal Justice" by the National Alliance on Mental Illness in 2013. Since transitioning to the Common Pleas bench, Judge Allen has continued her service to the Mental Health community by presiding over the Felony Mental Health Docket in addition to her regular duties. Judge Allen lives in Loveland with her husband and has two children, a son and a daughter who both will be sitting for the Ohio Bar this year.