

## **Keynote address - Howell Wechsler**

---

Dr. Howell Wechsler is the Director of the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. He joined DASH as a health scientist in 1995 and was named Director in November 2005. He supervises the management of DASH's three surveillance systems (Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, School Health Policies and Programs Study, and School Health Profiles); research and evaluation studies; research synthesis reports; development and dissemination of tools to help schools and community programs implement evidence-based policies and practices; and programmatic activities, including funding of, and technical assistance to, state and local education agencies and non-governmental organizations. He entered the field of public health during his service as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zaire. Dr. Wechsler's work with DASH earned him the Milton J. E. Senn Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics for achievement in the field of school health. He is also the lead author of CDC's *Guidelines for School Health Programs to Promote Lifelong Healthy Eating* and played a leading role in the development of the *School Health Index: A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide*. Before joining CDC in 1995, Dr. Wechsler served for six years as Project Director of the Washington Heights-Inwood Healthy Heart Program in New York City. This community-based cardiovascular disease prevention program was affiliated with Columbia University, where Dr. Wechsler taught courses in health communications. Dr. Wechsler earned a doctorate in health education from Teachers College, Columbia University, a master of public health degree from Columbia University, and a bachelor's degree in Journalism from Northwestern University.

## **Karen Barlow**

---

Karen Barlow is an Account Executive with CD&M Communications. The HMP Account Team has been working with the Maine CDC for over 13 years. They have expertise in public health marketing, social marketing, public relations, and crisis communication. They have collaborated on a wide variety of social marketing campaigns for the Healthy Maine Partnerships, Maine's

Physical Activity & Nutrition Program, Partnership for a Tobacco-Free Maine, Maine Cardiovascular Health Program, H1N1, and KeepMEWell, as well as many other public health clients. They have attended multiple conferences on physical activity, nutrition and tobacco.

### **Colin Clark**

---

Colin Clark's consulting practice focuses on leadership development and building effective teams. He has worked with Fortune 500 corporations, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions. His clients have included American Express, the U.S. Air force, Yale School of Management, Harvard JFK School of Government, and the World Bank. In addition, Colin is a past President of the New Hampshire Chapter of the American Society for Training & Development.

Colin holds an MBA with coursework in organizational development from the University of Southern Maine and a BA from the University of New Hampshire, where he studied political science and business administration. He is also a fourth dan master in the martial art of Tang Soo Do. Prior to his involvement in training and development, Colin worked in real estate and small business development.

### **Megan Hannan**

---

Megan is the Director of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, Maine. Previously, she spent 15 years at the American Cancer Society, finishing as the Director of Government Relations. While at the Society, she was a national trainer in organizing for social change, including coalition development. She has served in leadership roles in many Maine coalitions, and was vice-chair on Coalition on Smoking OR Health as it transitioned into Health Policy Partners of Maine, and finally to merge with MPHA. She also has served as leadership for Consumers for Affordable Health Care, Women's Health Equity Campaign / Women's Health Coalition, Friends of the Fund for a Healthy Maine, as well as New England

wide coalitions, including NECON (New England Coalition on Disease Prevention and Control) and the New England Minority Health Coalition.

Prior to joining the Society in 1995, Megan worked as reporter and free-lance writer. She is a past president of the Maine Public Health Association, served on the governing council of APHA for seven years, and is a Hanley Health Leadership alumna.

### **Carol Kelly**

---

Carol Kelly is the Managing Director of Pivot Point, Inc. She has spent over a decade helping groups get organized, get on message, and get to work. She is a veteran of many public relations campaigns and policy change efforts at all levels of government in Maine. She earned her BS in Economics from the University of Southern Maine, owned a wood flooring business for twelve years, and has since worked as an executive director, facilitator, mediator, and communications specialist.

Pivot Point, Inc., specializes in facilitation, strategic analysis, and public relations, and works with organizations, corporations, coalitions, task forces, staff teams, and emerging groups.

### **Edward Miller**

---

Ed Miller is the Senior Vice President for Health Promotion and Public Policy for the American Lung Association of New England. He is responsible for providing leadership for the research, education and public policy initiatives of the organization in the region. He has served in this capacity for the past two years.

From 1986 until 2007, he served as the CEO of the American Lung Association of Maine. During that time the organization's assets grew from less than half a million to over two million

dollars. The Maine chapter has been recognized as a leader in mission focused work, volunteer development and fundraising success.

### **Michelle Mitchell**

---

Michelle is a trained clinical psychologist who worked extensively in the field of HIV/AIDS in South Africa where she was instrumental in the development of policies and programs that addressed HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care. Since moving to Maine, Michelle has worked as an independent Public Health Consultant. She has taken lead positions in various projects at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention including the Office of Public Health Informatics' Common Ground and Electronic Data Access projects; and the Division of Chronic Disease's KeepMEWell, Communities Putting Prevention to Work and the Healthy Maine Partnership Initiative. Currently, Michelle is the President of Partnerships for Health.

### **Lisa Sockabasin**

---

Lisa Sockabasin is the Director of the Office of Minority Health at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Maine Department of Health and Human Services. The office promotes health equity in Maine's racial and ethnic minority communities by the identification and elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities. Prior to being named the Director of the Office of Minority Health, Lisa worked as a Regional Epidemiologist in the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program for the State of Maine. She was also a nurse epidemiologist with the North American Indian Center of Boston, Inc., focusing on health disparities issues including diabetes management, facing the Native American community.

Lisa continues her work as the Program Coordinator for the Four Directions Summer Research Program at Harvard Medical School and the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Lisa has coordinated the program for the past nine years. The program offers

American Indian college students biomedical research experience, as well as an opportunity to learn about Native American health care issues, and network with Native American students and faculty. Lisa is a member of the New England Minority Health Strategic Planning Committee, which is charged with setting minority health priority areas for New England, she is the chair of the Maine Community Foundation's People of Color Fund, as well as a board member of the Center for Preventing Hate, The Elmina B. Sewall Foundation and the Maine Health Access Foundation.

### **Dennise Whitley**

---

Dennise has served as the advocacy and government relations director for Maine for the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA). Prior to joining the AHA/ASA, Dennise spent many years in hospital management at Stephens Memorial Hospital in Norway, Franklin Memorial Hospital in Farmington and Brighton Medical Center in Portland. Her scope of practice included community relations, public relations, marketing, advocacy, government relations, fundraising, strategic planning, volunteer management and the development of many grant funded health education programs, including the first Project Graduation program in the state at Oxford Hills High School. Much of Dennise's work in the past 11 years has been devoted to tobacco prevention and cessation legislation, securing and maintaining the Fund for a Healthy Maine and increasing Physical Education/Physical Activity in our schools. Dennise currently is a member of the Governor's Council on Physical Activity and the Key Advisory Council for Coordinated School Health Programs. Her personal community involvement and volunteer activities have included serving as a Maine Human Rights Commissioner, a bank director for Franklin Savings Bank, Chair of the Partnership for a Tobacco Free Maine and service on several other health care related boards.