



## Speaker Biographies

### Commissioner Carole Johnson, New Jersey Department of Human Services

Carole Johnson is the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services in Governor Phil Murphy's Administration. She leads New Jersey's largest state agency, providing health care and social services to about one-in-five New Jerseyans. Under the Murphy Administration, Johnson's Human Services Department has expanded Medicaid coverage of opioid addiction treatment, made new investments in Affordable Care Act outreach and enrollment, substantially increased child care rates for the first time in a decade, and made SNAP food assistance more accessible for community college students.

For more than five years, Johnson served in the Obama White House as senior health policy advisor and a member of the Domestic Policy Council health team. In the Obama Administration, she worked to increase health insurance coverage for millions of Americans through the Affordable Care Act, increase coverage of mental health and substance use disorder treatment, combat public health challenges like Ebola and Zika, and improve health and economic security for all Americans.

Johnson also served on Capitol Hill, working for the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging and for members of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee and U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee. In addition, she managed health care workforce policy issues for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and was policy director for the Alliance of Community Health Plans, program officer with the Pew Charitable Trusts health program, and senior government relations manager with the American Heart Association.

### Wardell Sanders, Esq., President, New Jersey Association of Health Plans; Chair, CCSNJ Health Issues Committee

As President of the New Jersey Association of Health Plans, Ward leads the state trade association that represents the major health plans in New Jersey, including all five Medicaid health plans.

Prior to coming to the NJAHP in 2006, Ward served for 15 years in State government positions. He was the Executive Director of the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage Program Board and the New Jersey Small Employer Health Benefits Program Board and started his state service as a Deputy Attorney General.

As President of the NJAHP, Ward was appointed by a number of Governors to state board and commissions – mostly recently by Governor Murphy to the State's Restart and Recovery Council's health care committee.

Ward is a graduate of the Villanova University School of Law and of Franklin & Marshall College. He is a member of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania bars.

From 1984 to 1988, prior to earning his law degree, Ward worked in Washington, D.C. for the International Center, a human rights and foreign policy research organization.

Ward lives in Lambertville, New Jersey and has been elected five times to Lambertville's City Council.

### **Lori Herndon, RN, BSN, MBA, President & Chief Executive Officer, AtlantiCare, A Member of Geisinger**

Lori Herndon, RN, BSN, MBA, is president and CEO of AtlantiCare. She is responsible for the health system's strategic growth, operations and development. She leads more than 6,000 AtlantiCare staff, providers, and volunteers who serve the community in five southern New Jersey counties.

AtlantiCare, based in Egg Harbor Township, NJ, comprises AtlantiCare Regional Health Services including AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center (ARMC) with three locations (Atlantic City Campus, Mainland Campus, Pomona, NJ, and Satellite Emergency Department, Hammonton, NJ), other ambulatory care services, and AtlantiCare Physician Group; the AtlantiCare Foundation, and AtlantiCare Health Solutions, an accountable care organization.

Herndon joined AtlantiCare in 1983 as a staff nurse in critical care. She has served in executive roles for the system since 2007. Prior to her current role, she concurrently served as executive vice president, AtlantiCare, and president and CEO, ARMC. Her early leadership roles at ARMC included hospital administrator, Mainland Campus; administrative director, Maternal Child Health Services; director, Total Quality Management; clinical manager, Medicine/Surgery; and director, Nurse Recruitment.

Under her leadership, ARMC became the 105th hospital in the nation to attain status as a Magnet® designated hospital and has been redesignated three times. ARMC Atlantic City Campus earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark for Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers in 2017 with redesignation in 2019. Also in 2019, she led ARMC in earning the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for advanced certification for Inpatient Diabetes Care. ARMC became one of only 81 organizations across the country, and four in New Jersey, that had earned this certification.

AtlantiCare earned the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's recognition as a "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality" for nine years in a row, most recently in 2020, under Herndon's leadership. She played a key leadership role in AtlantiCare's being named a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Winner and recognition in *Modern Healthcare's* Best Places to Work in Healthcare.

Herndon's focus on listening to patients – critical to her role as a bedside nurse – is a hallmark of her leadership. She regularly rounds on patients, families and staff at all AtlantiCare sites. Herndon co-chaired AtlantiCare's Patient and Family Advisory Council from its inception in 2011 through 2016. This Council, comprised of current and former patients, staff, and other members of the community, is key in integrating the voice of the customer into AtlantiCare's daily operations.

Throughout her career, Herndon has personally been committed to volunteerism and has encouraged AtlantiCare's staff, providers, and leaders to donate their time and talents to enhance the wellbeing of the community. She is on the Board of Trustees and serves as treasurer of the New Jersey Hospital Association. She is on the boards of the Stockton University Foundation, Atlantic City Police Foundation, Atlantic County Economic Alliance, and the OceanFirst Bank Advisory Board. She has also served as chairperson for multiple community events supporting local nonprofit organizations.

Herndon is a member of the American College of Health Care Executives. Closer to home, she is a lifetime member of the Ruth Newman Shapiro Cancer and Heart Fund and the ARMC Mainland Campus Auxiliary.

The New Jersey Institute for Nursing recognized Herndon in 2019 among its Don and Diva Award recipients for her extraordinary impact on the nursing profession and the community. The Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce named her Business Leader of the Year in 2018. The Boy Scouts Jersey Shore Council honored her as Distinguished Citizen of the Year in 2014. In 2013, Herndon was inducted into the Atlantic County Women's Hall of Fame, and Stockton University's William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy honored her with its "Distinctive Alumni Leadership Award."

Herndon earned her Master of Business Administration degree at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing at the Richard Stockton College of NJ, Pomona, NJ; and her registered nurse degree at Geisinger Medical Center School of Nursing, Danville, PA.

### **Amy B. Mansue, President & Chief Executive Officer, Inspira Health**

Amy B. Mansue was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Inspira Health in August 2020. She has dedicated nearly three decades of service to the health care industry, and has made a significant impact across the state, having worked both in politics and for leading hospitals in New Jersey. In recognition of her expertise, Mansue was appointed Regional Coordinator in Central New Jersey by Governor Murphy amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to her role at Inspira, Mansue served as Executive Vice President and Chief Experience Office at RWJBarnabas Health. She was also the former Chief Executive Officer of Children's Specialized Hospital and the board chair for both the New Jersey Hospital Association and the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. Mansue earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in social welfare from The University of Alabama.

### **Anthony J. Mazzarelli, MD, JD, MBE, Co-President/Chief Executive Officer, Cooper University Health Care**

Dr. Anthony Mazzarelli is Co-President/CEO of Cooper University Health Care and the Dean of Clinical Affairs for Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. Cooper University Health Care is a \$1.5B Academic Medical Center, Level 1 Trauma Center, with over 100 ambulatory locations and a 750-physician multi-specialty faculty practice plan. Along with his responsibilities as an executive in a health system, Dr. Mazzarelli continues to practice emergency medicine at Cooper in Camden, New Jersey. Prior to his current role, Dr. Mazzarelli served as Cooper's Chief Physician Executive where he oversaw the physician practice, as well as quality/patient safety and continuous process improvement efforts for the health system, the same topics for which he teaches within the medical school and residency programs.

Dr. Mazzarelli received his medical degree from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, his law degree from University of Pennsylvania Law School and his master's in bioethics from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2010, he was awarded the Halo Award for leading a team of 18 health care providers from Cooper into Haiti in the days immediately following the 2010 earthquake. Dr. Mazzarelli has been named one of the 50 most powerful people in New Jersey health care by NJ Biz and NJ-ROI. He has also received numerous commendations for his leadership. He is a regular guest on multiple local and national media outlets and is a regular talk show guest host on CBS Radio/Entercom and SiriusXM. He is the co-author of the bestselling book *Compassionomics: The Revolutionary Scientific Evidence That Caring Makes a Difference*.

### **Kevin M. O'Dowd, JD, Co-President/Chief Executive Officer, Cooper University Health Care**

From December of 2014 to March of 2018, Mr. O'Dowd served as Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for Cooper University Health Care. In that role, Mr. O'Dowd was responsible for business and organizational development, including the MD Anderson at Cooper partnership. In addition, Mr. O'Dowd also oversaw compliance, marketing, communications, government relations, real estate, and human resources for the health system.

Before joining Cooper, Mr. O'Dowd served in the Cabinet of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, including as Chief of Staff from 2012 to 2014. Prior to joining the Christie Administration in 2010 as counsel to the Governor, Mr. O'Dowd served as the Chief of the Securities and Health Care Fraud Unit in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. During his seven-year tenure as a federal prosecutor, Mr. O'Dowd investigated and prosecuted cases ranging from computer hacking and intellectual property theft to complex health care, securities, and financial fraud. While at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. O'Dowd served as the Chair of the Health Care Task Force, which comprised the leading federal and state health care fraud investigators and prosecutors in the State of New Jersey.

While at the U.S. Department of Justice, Mr. O'Dowd was a frequent panelist and speaker on health care compliance matters. Mr. O'Dowd was twice awarded the Integrity Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Award for Excellence from the U.S. President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency. In 2012, Seton Hall University School of Law presented Mr. O'Dowd with the St. Thomas More Medal for his distinguished public service.

Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2003, Mr. O'Dowd served as Deputy Attorney General for the State of New Jersey for nearly five years. In that position, Mr. O'Dowd's responsibilities included providing legal counsel to the New Jersey Department of Health. Mr. O'Dowd received his BA from The Catholic University of America in 1994 and his JD from St. John's University School of Law in 1997.

Mr. O'Dowd serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hospital Alliance of New Jersey, a member of the Camden Health and Athletic Association Board of Trustees, a member of the New Jersey Hospital Association Board of Trustees, a member of the Ronald McDonald House of Southern New Jersey Board of Trustees, member of America's Essential Hospitals Policy Committee, member of The VIDOCQ Society of Philadelphia, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey Board of Directors. Mr. O'Dowd also serves as a member of the South Jersey Industries Board of Directors.

### **Dennis W. Pullin, FACHE, President & Chief Executive Officer, Virtua Health**

Dennis W. Pullin is president and CEO of Virtua Health, a not-for-profit integrated health system in New Jersey, offering a full continuum of primary, preventative, wellness, acute, and long-term care.

In 2020 and 2018, *Modern Healthcare* recognized Mr. Pullin as one of the nation's Top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare. In 2019, the *Philadelphia Business Journal (PBJ)* honored Mr. Pullin with the Most Admired CEO award. *PBJ* also named him to the 2019 and 2020 Power 100 list of most influential people in the region. He was chosen as one of *South Jersey Biz's* 50 Most Influential Leaders for three consecutive years (2018-2020) and Top CEOs/CFOs in 2017. In 2018, Mr. Pullin received the Distinguished Healthcare Leadership Award from the National Association of Health Services Executives.

Mr. Pullin came to Virtua in 2017 from the Washington, D.C./Baltimore, MD area where he had been president of MedStar Harbor Hospital and senior vice president of MedStar Health. Prior to leading MedStar Harbor, he was senior vice president and chief operating officer at MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Pullin's extensive background includes many executive leadership positions in hospitals, academic medical centers, physician group practices, and private industry. He was vice president of Operations and Business Development at St. Luke's Episcopal Health System in Houston and vice president of Acquisitions and Development at Symbion Healthcare, Inc.

A Fellow and past Regent of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Mr. Pullin serves on the New Jersey Hospital Association Board of Trustees. He is a past chair of the American Hospital Association's Governance Council for Metropolitan Hospitals and past member of the Maryland Hospital Association's Council on Legislative and Regulatory Policy. He is a current member of the Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey Board of Directors. His board service with numerous non-profit community and civic organizations includes Healthcare for the Homeless, Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group, American Heart Association, DePelchin Children's Center and the College of Health Professions at Towson University, among others.

Mr. Pullin serves as host for the Here for Good podcast, where he engages in meaningful conversations with transformational leaders about how they create a positive impact on the world around them.

Mr. Pullin has served as an adjunct professor at Texas Lutheran University and Towson University and has presented and published a wide variety of papers and articles. A past Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, he is a Hall of Fame Inductee of the Edgewood Independent School District, San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Pullin received his Bachelor's degree at Texas Lutheran University and earned a Master of Science degree at Texas A&M University.

### **Brian Sweeney, RN, MBA, FACHE, President & Chief Operating Officer, Jefferson Health New Jersey**

Brian Sweeney is President & COO of Jefferson Health - New Jersey. With more than 23 years of experience at Jefferson Health, Mr. Sweeney most recently served as Chief Operating Officer for Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals in Philadelphia prior to joining the New Jersey leadership team in spring 2020.

Mr. Sweeney – who was named to *SJBiz Magazine's* 2020 "Power 50" list of business leaders - is a transformational healthcare executive who has successfully led and managed diverse clinical programs, operational departments, and support services. He has focused on strategic planning, business development, process improvement, and service line leadership to achieve desired outcomes in quality and safety, financial performance, and growth.

Since joining the New Jersey leadership team, Sweeney successfully managed through many operational challenges surrounding the COVID-19 crisis, as South Jersey emerged as an early regional hotspot for the virus, building strong partnerships with his leadership team, physicians and staff, and Jefferson New Jersey board members.

A results-oriented executive who has led numerous complex change initiatives at Jefferson Health, Sweeney received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Gwynedd-Mercy College in 1996; his nursing career included emergency/trauma care and critical care transport. Mr. Sweeney earned his MBA from Temple University in 2000. A Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, he is a national speaker on leadership, strategy, healthcare operations, and performance improvement.