



NeighborWorks America Networking Breakfast & 35th Anniversary Celebration
Working across Sectors
toward Measurably Healthier Communities

Biographies



Deborah Boatright
Vice President, Northeast Region, NeighborWorks America

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An acknowledged expert in affordable housing and community development, Deborah Boatright specializes in developing partnerships that unite the public and private sector in efforts to improve housing options for low and moderate income families, and address community needs.

Boatright was appointed to be the vice president of NeighborWorks America's northeast region in April 2011, where she oversees operations and develops strategic alliances in 11 states from Maine to Delaware, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. She is responsible for the provision of resources and support to 80 affiliated community development organizations, which together comprise 33 percent of the national NeighborWorks network.

Boatright first joined NeighborWorks America in 2006 as the district director for the Northeast District, which then included New York State, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. She was instrumental in forging new partnerships that reached underserved communities throughout the district while assisting its 29 network members to sustain capacity and impact during the economic downturn.

Prior to joining NeighborWorks America, Boatright served as an assistant commissioner, Office of Community Development at NYS Homes and Community Renewal where she supervised housing and community development activities of regional offices; oversaw community based housing programs statewide as well as the Housing Trust Fund and Tax Credit Programs.

Boatright's many accomplishments include the implementation of New York City's breakthrough anti-abandonment housing initiative. She earned her master's degree in Policy Analysis and Urban Affairs at The New School and was a Fannie Mae fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.



M. Laurie Cammisa, Esq.
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M. Laurie Cammisa, principal in The Cammisa Group, is a recognized leader in the field of hospital community benefits. She led the community benefit efforts at Boston Children's Hospital as vice president for child advocacy for 14 years. She has written and presented extensively on the subject. Her expertise is in helping hospitals develop and implement strategies for community benefits programs that serve the needs of the local community, create broader social impact, and comply with federal and state regulations. She created one of the first performance measurement systems for community benefits in the country. And she has presented nationally on how best to communicate that work to both internal and external audiences.



Eileen Fitzgerald
President & Chief Executive Officer, NeighborWorks America

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As president and chief executive officer of NeighborWorks America, Eileen M. Fitzgerald oversees the provision of technical assistance, financial assistance and training to over 3,000 community based organizations. She also oversees the support of a national network of more than 235 affordable housing and community development organizations serving more than 4,000 communities. NeighborWorks America is a public nonprofit corporation established as the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation by an act of Congress in 1978. [NeighborWorks America is the organization's trade name.]

Fitzgerald became chief executive officer on June 1, 2011, after serving as acting chief executive since January of that year. She served as NeighborWorks America's chief operating officer since June 2005, bringing to the role nearly 20 years of experience in housing and community development. Previously, at the Fannie Mae Foundation, she was responsible for alliance and relationship management for key foundation partners as a senior director of national initiatives. Fitzgerald also served as acting executive director and vice president of program operations for the McAuley Institute, a national nonprofit intermediary committed to improving the housing conditions of women and families through community-based efforts.

Earlier, she contributed to the field as chief investment officer for single-family finance at the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust, a multi-billion dollar investment company that manages assets from hundreds of pension funds. There, she was responsible for the development and rollout of HIT HOME, a home mortgage program for union members.

From 1994 to 2000, Fitzgerald served in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service as the associate administrator and acting administrator, where she was responsible for management and oversight of single-family, multi-family housing and community facilities programs. She served in both Virginia and Maryland state governments. She is a graduate of Fordham University in New York and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University



Charise Fong
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Charise works closely with all of EBALDC's programs to align and continuously improve impact evaluation, information systems, and cross-departmental collaboration. Charise has deep experience with people-based strategies and cross-sector collaborations. She was a founding member of SparkPoint Oakland, and launched EBALDC's East Oakland community hub and the Age-Friendly Community in the San Pablo Avenue Corridor. She also has expertise in outcomes measurement systems.

Charise started her career as a litigation attorney in Los Angeles. She transitioned into the nonprofit sector to work on policy advocacy at CAA in San Francisco and then served as Program Director at Mission Hiring Hall/South of Market Employment Center. Charise has also worked in business development for a technology startup. As an independent consultant, she has assisted nonprofit clients with program development, research and fundraising. She first came to EBALDC in 2006 as the Director of Neighborhood and Economic Development. During this time, she launched the Resident Services program and significantly expanded Family Economic Success programs. She also facilitated organizational discussions on EBALDC's Healthy Neighborhoods strategy and helped launch EBALDC's pilot healthy neighborhoods. Charise holds a B.A. in history from UCLA and a J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law.



Elizabeth González Suárez
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Elizabeth González Suárez is the director of community health practice at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) and the deputy director of the U54 Partnership Outreach Program.

Most of her 17-year tenure with DFCI has been dedicated to designing and implementing evidence-based programs that promote public health among high-risk and underserved populations. Earlier in her career, she conducted research on community based approaches to health promotion and cancer prevention. She was an active member of the Institute's Diversity Initiative, targeting programs to increase representation of people of color into the health professions. Through her work, she has developed strong partnerships with faith-based organizations, community health centers and community development corporations to bring innovative and comprehensive health and wellness program to affordable housing and faith-based organizations.

Currently, she manages Open Doors to Health, a community health worker program to increase physical activity and healthy eating in four low-income housing developments in Boston. In addition, she is responsible for the United Way/Jimmy Fund Tobacco Control and Youth Civic Engagement Initiative and the Faith-Based Cancer Prevention Outreach Program. She co-chairs the DFCI Community Benefits External Advisory Committee, serves on the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center Initiative to Eliminate Cancer Disparities, Community Engagement Committee and on the Advisory Board of the Jordan Boys & Girls Club.

From 2006-2012, Ms. González Suárez served on the board of directors of IBA (Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion). In 2008, she was elected president of the Board. Ms. Gonzalez Suarez's leadership was pivotal in accomplishing IBA corporate merger with its real estate affiliate, ETC Development Corporation (ETC). In 2013, she was awarded the Jorge Hernandez Leadership Award in the civic category, as well as the Sociedad Latina's Nuestra Vos Award for her long-term passionate and steadfast commitment in addressing the issues affecting the Latino community in Boston.

Ms. González Suárez received a bachelor's and master's in Psychology from Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela. She is married with two sons, and is a strong community arts advocate and supporter.



Rebecca Morley
Executive Director, National Center for Healthy Housing

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Rebecca Morley is the executive director of the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH), where she leads a multi-disciplinary staff in the mission of creating healthy and safe housing for children. Ms. Morley led the development of the National Healthy Homes Training Center now active in 40 states and spearheaded NCHH's work in the Gulf Coast region following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. She launched and is the Chair of the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition—a multidisciplinary collaborative of non-profits advocating for better quality housing and neighborhoods for the nation's families.

Before joining NCHH in 2002, Ms. Morley was a senior associate with ICF Consulting in Washington, DC, where she served as an environmental health, affordable housing, and communications consultant to state and federal agency clients.

From 1996 to 2001, Ms. Morley worked with HUD as a Presidential Management Fellow in a variety of posts, including the Offices of the Secretary, Public Affairs, General Counsel, and Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. During her tenure at HUD, she wrote regulations, managed grants, assisted with events and communications, served on the President's Task Force for Children's Environmental Health Safety and contributed to major Departmental reports. Ms. Morley also served as a legislative fellow to U.S. Senator Jack Reed.

She has authored numerous articles and publications on the topic of housing and public health, including a book entitled "Healthy and Safe Homes: Research, Policy and Practice." Ms. Morley serves on the Board of Healthy Housing Solutions, inc. and is the President of the Fleming Park Community Association. She holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and a master's degree in public policy from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Jeanne Pinado
Chief Executive Officer, Madison Park Development Corporation

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In 1998, Jeanne Pinado became the chief executive officer of Madison Park Development Corporation (Madison Park), a non-profit community development corporation in Roxbury, MA. Established in 1966, Madison Park developed and owns 1,300 units of multi-family housing. In the past ten years, the organization built and sold 113 affordable homeownership units, including the 60-unit Davenport Commons project that won the 2003 Fannie Mae Foundation Maxwell Award of Excellence due to its innovative partnership with Northeastern University.

Madison Park owns two commercial buildings in Roxbury's Dudley Square Business District totaling 74,000 square feet and pursues a cultural economic development agenda through its programming at Hibernian Hall. In addition, its community organizers work with residents and merchants on a variety of initiatives including violence prevention and voter turnout and leadership development. Madison Park has an annual budget of \$3.4 million and employs a staff of 24.

Ms. Pinado holds a BA degree in economics from the University of Virginia and an MBA in finance from Columbia University. She serves as the treasurer of Massachusetts Association of CDCs (MACDC) and a member of the Executive Committee of Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA). Jeanne is a board member of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Foley Hoag Foundation, Charlesbank Homes Foundation, Franklin Square Housing Foundation, Zoo New England and chairs the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency Multi-family Advisory Committee. She also serves as board president of Washington, DC-based NeighborWorks Capital Corporation, a CDFI.



Megan Sandel, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Boston University Schools of
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Megan Sandel, MD MPH, is an associate professor of pediatrics at the Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health, the Medical Director of National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership, and a Co-Principal Investigator with Children's Health Watch.

She is the former pediatric medical director of Boston Healthcare for the Homeless program, and is a nationally recognized expert on housing and child health. In 1998, she published with other doctors at Boston Medical Center, the DOC4Kids report, a national report on how housing affected child health; it was the first of its kind, and over the course of her career, Dr. Sandel has written numerous peer reviewed scientific articles and papers on this subject.

She has served as a principal investigator for numerous NIH, HUD and foundation grants, working with the Boston Public Health Commission and Massachusetts Department of Public Health to improve the health of vulnerable children, particularly those with asthma. She has served on numerous committees and advisory boards, such as the National Center for Healthy Housing, a national advocacy group, both the National American Academy of Pediatrics' and the Massachusetts Chapter's Committee on Environmental Health, and the Center for Disease Control Advisory Committee for Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention.



Chuck Wehrwein
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer,
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As executive vice-president and chief operating officer of NeighborWorks America, Chuck Wehrwein oversees the organization's divisions of field operations, national initiatives and applied research, training, organizational assessment and information management. Wehrwein, who was appointed to his position in May 2012, has an extensive background in leadership of both affordable housing development, management and financing, and homeownership education and counseling. He also brings experience in the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

Prior to joining NeighborWorks America, Wehrwein served as president of the Housing Partnership Exchange at the Housing Partnership Network (HPN), which encompasses cooperative businesses such as HPN's health insurance company, property and casualty insurance company and group buying organization. In this role, he also was responsible for overall strategic planning and outcomes, operations, budgeting and resource development with other members of HPN's executive leadership team.

From 2000 to 2007, Wehrwein served as senior vice president for strategic development initiatives at Mercy Housing, where he led the planning and implementation of its portfolio acquisition initiative. He also was responsible for Mercy's underwriting and asset management activities, the Mercy Loan Fund and new business development, along with serving as regional president of Mercy Housing Southwest, Midwest and East.

Before joining Mercy Housing, Wehrwein was chief operating officer of the National Equity Fund, where he was responsible for all program operations ~ including acquisitions, asset management, portfolio management and information systems ~ with annual equity placements of \$300 million to \$400 million. Previously, he served as deputy assistant secretary for multifamily housing at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and as deputy administrator for multifamily housing at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service.

A certified public accountant, Wehrwein earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an MBA from DePaul University.



Aaron Wernham, MD, MS
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Dr. Aaron Wernham is the director of the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts designed to support the use of health impact assessments in the United States.

Dr. Wernham's work focuses on integrating public health considerations into policy decisions outside the health sector. Dr. Wernham has conducted HIA trainings for, collaborated with and advised the National Prevention Council and many state and federal agencies seeking to integrate health into decisions in transportation, housing, land use, oil and gas, and other policy areas.

He leads a national grantmaking initiative on HIA and directs a program that conducts research and provides training, technical assistance, and policy support to agencies and organizations seeking to incorporate the determinants of health into policies, plans, and projects. He served as a member of the National Academy of Sciences committee on health impact assessment (HIA).

Prior to joining Pew, Dr. Wernham directed the HIA program at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, where he led efforts to formally integrate HIAs into environmental impact statements for oil and gas and mining projects and policies, and directed a collaborative state-tribal-federal working group which led to the establishment of the Alaska state health department's HIA program.

Dr. Wernham received his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco, and a master's degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He is board certified in family medicine.