



MEETING AGENDA

February 3, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 10:00
a.m.

Children's Health Caucus Member Meeting

Addressing the Housing Needs of Young Children and Pregnant Women

Hosted by Caucus Co-chair's:

Tom Demmer, State Representative, 90th District
Camille Lilly, State Representative, 78th District
Julie A. Morrison, State Senator, 29th District
Dale Fowler, State Senator, 59th District

9:00 a.m. Co-Chair Welcome & Meeting Purpose

Sen. Julie Morrison

9:05 a.m. Introduction of Panel Speakers

Rep. Tom Demmer

9:10 a.m. Panelists

The Health Risks of Housing Insecurity

Nancy Heil, MD, Pediatrician

Recommended Interventions

Laura Bass, LCSW

Director of Programs- Facing Forward to End Homelessness

Lived Experience

Tamela Milan-Alexander, MPPA, MCH

Outreach Worker- Access Community Health Network

Review of Fact sheet

Mary Elsner, JD,

*Director, Health Equity Initiatives
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP)*

9:40 a.m. Questions & Answer

Sen. Dale Fowler

10:00 a.m. Closing & Next Steps

Rep. Camille Lilly

Get to Know Our Panelists

Nancy Heil, M.D., FAAP

nancyjo336@gmail.com

Nancy Heil is a board certified, general pediatrician who was in clinical practice for thirty-seven years until retiring in 2018. Since 2019, she has volunteered with the Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) on their housing project, First Steps: Improving Child Health and Housing. She is also on the leadership team of the Collaborative on Child Homelessness- Illinois. Additional housing related activity includes representing ICAAP at Chicago Homelessness & Health Response Group for Equity (CHHRGE.) She is Vice-Chair of the Justice and Witness Committee for the Chicago Metropolitan Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ which has been focused on racism, housing, and poverty for the last two years. She received her medical degree from the University of Illinois and completed her pediatric residency at the University of Michigan.

Laura Bass, LCSW, Director of Programs

Facing Forward to End Homelessness | www.ffchicago.org laura@ffchicago.org

Laura Bass is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has a Master's degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago. She has been the Director of Programs at Facing Forward for 5 years and has over 20 years of experience in homeless services. In her role, she oversees a portfolio of programs aimed at ending homelessness for families and individuals, including permanent housing, supportive services, and assistance for survivors of intimate partner violence. Laura is also a Field Consultant for the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.

Tamela Milan-Alexander, MPPA, Westside Healthy Start Community Action Network Coordinator

Access Warren Health Center | <https://www.achn.net/services-programs/westside-healthy-start/tamela.milan@achn.net>

Tamela Milan-Alexander came into the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) field because of her history with opioid use disorder that led to a high-risk pregnancy living in public housing. The Westside Healthy Start (WHS) program was able to provide care coordination for her child experiencing Neonatal abstinence syndrome. After working with her pediatrician, she was able to attain needed services for her family that led to the reunification of all her children. She then worked for many years as a Healthy Start parent advocate and transitioned from patient to employee in 2004.

Tamela has more than 20 years' experience in the MCH community working as a peer educator, developmental screener, and community health worker, as well as a Healthy Start case manager. Mrs. Milan-Alexander has collaborated with many organizations that fight to improve the lives of moms and babies.

A well-respected MCH leader, Tamela also serves on the AAP Family and Partnerships Network Executive committee, Vice President Health Connect One, and the Illinois CHW Advisory Board. Tamela was recently married, purchased her first home, and has five grandchildren.

Mary Elsner, JD, Director of Health Equity

Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) | www.illinoisaap.org melsner@illinoisaap.com

Mary Elsner is the Director of Health Equity Initiatives at the Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) where she oversees ICAAP's housing project, First Steps: Improving Child Health and Housing and the Collaborative on Child Homelessness – Illinois. Ms. Elsner is a former community organizer and legal services attorney representing people living in poverty in eviction, public benefits, family, employment, and consumer cases. She has more than ten years of systems, advocacy, and policy experience focused on improving the health of Illinois children. She received her JD from the University of Wisconsin Law School and her BA from Tufts University.