Mental Health Access in Michigan

Speakers and Panelists

**Joseph J. Ruth, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Sparrow Health System**

Joseph J. Ruth is the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Sparrow Health System. Sparrow is the region’s leading tertiary care facility, located in Lansing, Michigan, and serves the healthcare needs of the greater Mid-Michigan region. Joe is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the flagship hospital, the growth and development of Sparrow Medical Group, and the integrated delivery networks of Sparrow Care Network and Sparrow Physician Health Network. Joe also has lead responsibilities in the development and implementation of the System’s Strategic Plan, regional growth, and Merger and Acquisition activities of the Health System.

**Sheryl Kubiak, Professor of Social Work, Michigan State University**

Sheryl Pimlott Kubiak, PhD. is a graduate of the University of Michigan’s joint program in Psychology and Women’s Studies. Her research interests are at the intersections of criminal justice, mental health and substance abuse – encompassing both individual as well as system-level issues. She joined the faculty at MSU in 2006 after four years as Assistant Professor at Wayne State University. She is currently a full professor in the School of Social Work and former Director of the PhD Program. Her research projects include the implications of cumulative stress, PTSD and depression among women convicted of drug offenses; the impact of welfare reform on those with drug convictions; and the effects of PTSD on incarcerated men and women. In addition she has examined gender differences and similarities in physical and mental health outcomes among those exposed to repeated violence.
Adrian Blow, Associate professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University

Adrian Blow is Associate Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Michigan State University. He is the director of the Couple and Family Therapy program in the department. He obtained his doctoral degree from Purdue University, served on the faculty at Saint Louis University for six years, and subsequently joined the faculty at Michigan State University in 2005. He is involved with several studies related to military deployment including post-deployment adjustment of Michigan National Guard Couples (MING), evaluation of the BuddytoBuddy program (a peer to peer support program), and other family based interventions. He and his collaborators work closely with the MING around issues of data collection, service delivery, and reporting to policy makers about issues related to reintegration.

Tom Watkins, President and chief executive officer at Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority

Tom Watkins serves as President and CEO of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA). He works with a dedicated community board of directors, leadership team, staff and host of provider networks to manage and lead a comprehensive system of care that offers treatment and support to approximately 80,000 people with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities and substance use disorders.

Tom served as Deputy Director of Administration, Chief Deputy and Director of the State Department of Mental Health under Governor Jim Blanchard. As Deputy and Director for the State of Michigan Department of Mental Health, he re-accredited all hospitals serving patients with mental illnesses or developmental disabilities.

Tom later served the citizens of Michigan as State Superintendent of Schools. He currently serves on Michigan’s Stakeholder 298 Work Group set up by Lieutenant Governor Calley to develop policy recommendations for mental health services, access, and delivery.
**Sponsor Leadership**

**Matt Grossmann, Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR), Associate Professor of Political Science, Michigan State University**

As an expert on American politics and government, Matt’s research spans national and state policymaking, election campaigns, interest groups, and political parties. He is the author of *Artists of the Possible: Governing Networks and American Policy Change Since 1945*, published by Oxford University Press in 2014 and *The Not-So-Special Interests: Interest Groups, Public Representation, and American Governance*, published by Stanford University Press in 2012. He has authored numerous journal articles on policy change, political party networks, the legislative process and public opinion. He is also co-author of *Campaigns & Elections*, a textbook available through W. W. Norton, and editor of the volume *New Directions in Interest Group Politics*, from Routledge.

A member of MSU’s faculty since 2007, he is founder and director of the *Michigan Policy Network* and served as liaison to *MSU’s Washington Semester Program*. He received his bachelor’s degree from Claremont McKenna College, his master’s in political science in 2002 and doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2007. He became IPPSR director in January 2016.

**Forum Facilitator**

**AnnMarie Schneider, M.S., Director for Program Planning & Policy Education, IPPSR**

AnnMarie Schneider is the director for Program Planning and Policy Education at IPPSR. She took a lead role in building IPPSR cornerstone programs including the Public Policy Forum Series, State of the State Survey, Michigan Political Leadership Program, and MSU’s Legislative Leadership Program. She continues to work with these programs while advising the Institute’s marketing and communications. She administers the Michigan Applied Public Policy Grant Program for university faculty with policy research interests and is noted for her work in both the public and private sector for group facilitation, strategic planning, networking and program implementation. She serves on the International Studies and Programs leadership team as director of the Canadian Studies Center. In this role, she is charged with strengthening cross border university connections while encouraging academic and research interests in Canada.