

Jessica Swafford Marcella, M.P.A.

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Population Affairs

Director, Office of Adolescent Health

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Jessica Swafford Marcella, M.P.A. was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs and Director of the Office of Adolescent Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on May 10, 2021, after over 20 years working to advance sexual and reproductive health. In this capacity, Jess oversees the Office of Population Affairs, which advises on a range of public health priorities, including quality family planning and adolescent health, and administers nearly \$400 million in grants to support family planning service provision, primary prevention, and information and education activities through the Title X family planning program, the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention program, and the Embryo Adoption Awareness program. Jess began her career on Capitol Hill before she transitioned to working in the nonprofit sector for organizations including the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (now Power to Decide), and Medicines360. Jess holds a bachelor's degree in human biology from Stanford University and a Master of Public Administration from The George Washington University. She lives in Washington DC with her husband, two kids, and dog.

Lee Stevens

Senior Advisor, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

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Lee Stevens serves as the Senior Advisor to the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs in the Office of the Secretary. In this role Lee serves as the primary point of contact for the nation's Governors and their staff as well as the National Governors Association. Lee also leads the IEA Policy Team, supervising a team of three that serve as the Secretary's points of contact for state and local elected officials and national associations.

Prior to IEA, Lee served in the Office of the National Coordinator for the Health IT as the Director of Policy for the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Program, overseeing the development and dissemination of policies intended to support the electronic exchange of health information.

Lee has also served as the Manager of HIE plan development and oversight for the Eastern and Southern regions of the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, including technical assistance and long-term planning activities related to enabling exchange. Lee also served as the liaison for intergovernmental affairs on issues related to health information technology for the Office of the Secretary.

Before coming to the Department of Health and Human Services, Lee served as the Federal Policy Director for the Southern Governors' Association where he managed the Gulf Coast Health Information Technology Task Force. The Gulf Coast HIT Task Force was created to establish a dialogue on health information exchange between states impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Lee has also served as the Washington, D.C. based health and human services advisor for North Carolina governor Jim Hunt and previously as a senior legislative assistant on health issues for former U.S. Congressman Charlie Rose.

Amy André, M.A., M.B.A.,

Staff Lead, SAMHSA Sexual and Gender Minority Interest Group

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Amy André, M.A., M.B.A., is a Public Health Advisor and the staff lead of SAMHSA's Sexual and Gender Minority Interest Group (SGMIG). Prior to coming to SAMHSA in 2014, she co-authored *Bisexual Health: An Introduction* and presented her research on bi health at the White House, Harvard University, and Stanford University Medical School, among many other locations.

Allison Lowery Palmer

Senior Advisor, ACF Children's Bureau

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Allison Lowery Palmer is a Children's Bureau Senior Advisor in the Office of the Associate Commissioner where she works on developing and implementing the Associate Commissioner's strategic planning, policy, and priorities for the Children's Bureau. Prior to that, Ms. Lowery Palmer worked in the Children's Bureau Policy Division, where she developed and drafted national child welfare policy guidance and regulations about the federal foster care, guardianship, and adoption assistance programs. Additionally, since 2001, Ms. Lowery Palmer has served as Children's Bureau expert on civil rights issues; in that capacity, she has conceptualized

and drafted Children's Bureau key guidance and policy documents on equity issues, including on issues relating to: 1) LGBTQ+ children and families who are involved with the child welfare system; 2) child welfare and race, color, national origin; and 3) child welfare and people with disabilities. Ms. Lowery Palmer is a widely requested speaker and trainer on a variety of topics related to all aspects of federal child welfare programs.

Prior to joining the Children's Bureau, Ms. Lowery Palmer performed pro bono work representing parents whose children had been removed from their homes. She also worked as an attorney with the Legal Aid Bureau in Baltimore City, where she represented children in proceedings from shelter care through termination of parental rights cases.

Ms. Lowery Palmer holds a Juris Doctorate from The University of Michigan Law School.

Elliot Kennedy

Director, Office of Policy Analysis and Development

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Elliot Kennedy is the Director of the Office of Policy Analysis and Development. In addition to directing that office, he focuses on developing priority policy initiatives and building partnerships within and outside of the federal government. Elliot's areas of focus include civil rights and protections against discrimination, health equity, and implementation of the HCBS Settings Rule. Elliot joined the HHS in 2014 as a Special Expert for LGBT Affairs at SAMHSA. In 2016, he became the first Senior Advisor for LGBT Health at HHS. In that role, he served as the Departmental lead and liaison for LGBT policy issues and managed the HHS LGBT Coordinating Committee.