



Gulf Health and Resilience Board Member Biographies

CO-CHAIRS

Ms. Christine Morris

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Hampton Roads

Ms. Christine Morris is the executive director of the newly established Hampton Roads (VA) LISC office. Prior to joining LISC, she served for five years as the first Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Norfolk, VA. In October 2015, Norfolk became the third city in the 100 Resilient Cities network to launch a Resilience Strategy. In January 2016, in partnership with the Commonwealth of VA, the city received \$120.5 million grant award under HUD's National Disaster Resilience Competition. In 2019, the Norfolk Resilience Office, in partnership with the Norfolk's Housing Authority, successfully competed for a \$30M Choice Neighborhood Grant to resiliently revitalize the St. Paul's area of Norfolk. Ms. Morris began working for the city as an Assistant to the City Manager in March 2013 concentrating on areas of workforce development and economic vitality including entrepreneurship and growing local business. She worked with Elevate Early Education to establish the New School, a state-wide demonstration preschool partnership with the University of Virginia. Prior to joining Team Norfolk, she served as Vice President of Initiatives for the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.

Dr. Alonzo L. Plough

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Dr. Alonzo Plough joined the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as vice president, Research-Evaluation-Learning and chief science officer in January 2014. Plough came to the Foundation from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, where he served as director of emergency preparedness and response from 2009–2013. In that role, Plough was responsible for the leadership and management of the public health preparedness activities protecting the 10 million residents of Los Angeles County from natural disasters and threats related to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies. He coordinated activities in emergency operations, infectious disease control, risk communication, planning, and community engagement. Prior to this position, Plough served as vice president of strategy, planning and evaluation for The California Endowment from 2005–2009. He was responsible for the leadership of the Endowment's strategic planning and development, evaluation, research, and organizational learning. Plough also served 10 years as director and health officer for the Seattle and King County Department of Public Health, and professor of health services at the University of Washington School of Public Health in Seattle. He previously served as director of public health in Boston for eight years. Plough earned his PhD and MA at Cornell University, and his MPH at Yale University School of Medicine's Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. He earned a BA at St. Olaf College. He has held academic appointments at Harvard University School of Public Health, Tufts

University Department of Community Medicine, and Boston University School of Management. He has been the recipient of numerous awards for public service and leadership and is the author of an extensive body of scholarly articles, books, and book chapters.

MEMBERS

Ms. Laura Bowie ***Gulf of Mexico Alliance***

Ms. Laura Bowie serves as the Executive Director for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, a partnership of the five Gulf States with the goal to significantly increase regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. She began her career in Houston, Texas, at Texas Eastern Pipeline Company and served Continental Airlines as a Senior Manager in the Environmental Affairs Department. Since moving to Mississippi, Ms. Bowie has supported local non-profits spear-heading watershed and grant programs. In 2010, she was the first employee hired by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to take the loose network of partners into a formal not-for-profit organization. Ms. Bowie holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Mississippi State University and a master's degree in environmental management from the University of Houston. She is active in local civic and charitable organizations.

Dr. Charles Branas (NAM) ***Columbia University***

Dr. Charles Branas has conducted research that extends from urban and rural areas in the U.S. to communities across the globe, incorporating place-based interventions and human geography. He has led win-win science that generates new knowledge while simultaneously creating positive, real-world changes and providing health-enhancing resources for local communities. His pioneering work on geographic access to medical care has changed the healthcare landscape, leading to the designation of new hospitals and a series of national scientific replications in the U.S. and other countries for many conditions: trauma, cancer, stroke, etc. His research on the geography and factors underpinning gun violence has been cited by landmark Supreme Court decisions, Congress, and the NIH Director. With community partners, Dr. Branas led the first citywide randomized controlled trials to transform vacant lots and abandoned buildings as sustainable solutions to improving health and safety, including reductions in gun violence. He has worked internationally on four continents and led multi-national efforts, producing extensive cohorts of developing nation scientists, national health metrics, and worldwide press coverage.

Mr. Flozell Daniels Jr. ***Fondation for Louisiana***

Mr. Flozell Daniels, Jr., is President and CEO of Foundation for Louisiana (formerly the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation). He is a public policy and community engagement strategist with expertise in community development, resilience building, legislative strategy, and leadership development. With a focus on building successful coalitions that increase success in expanding economic opportunity for all, Mr. Flozell is accomplished in expanding capacity and outcomes in areas that include community development finance, criminal justice reform, coastal/environmental policy, transit equity, and asset development. Mr. Flozell has led more than \$50 million of award-winning community investment strategies while at the Foundation. Prior to his appointment at the Foundation, he served as Tulane

University's Assistant Vice-President and Executive Director of State and Local Affairs for nine years. Before that, Mr. Flozell cut his public policy and community engagement teeth as an Urban Policy Specialist and Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Mayor, Division of Federal and State Programs for the City of New Orleans. In his civic capacity, Flozell currently serves as Ex-officio and Policy Committee Chair of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans Board of Directors, where he was honored with the first ever Distinguished Service Award for board leadership after serving five years as the post-Katrina Chair leading critical recovery efforts. Mr. Flozell is also a founding member and Board Chairman of the Orleans Public Education Network; a Mayoral-appointed commissioner for the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority; the Supreme Court Chief Justice appointee to the Louisiana Public Defender Board; a founding member of the Greater New Orleans Funders Network; steering committee member of the first of its kind New Orleans White House Local Resource Network; an advisory member of the ResilienceNOLA/100 Resilient Cities Initiative; and has served as a commissioner of the Mayor's Working Group on Criminal Justice Reform in New Orleans that led to historic reductions in jail size. Mr. Flozell is a 2013 graduate of University of Oxford Said Business School's Impact Investing Programme, 2011 Fellow of the Opportunity Agenda Communications Institute, a life Fellow of the Louisiana Effective Leadership Program, an alumnus of Leadership Louisiana, and a graduate of the Metropolitan Leadership Forum. He has an MBA from the A.B. Freeman School of Tulane University, a BA in Biological Sciences from the University of New Orleans, and spent six years doing materials research for the USDA.

Ms. Lois DeBacker
The Kresge Foundation

Ms. Lois DeBacker is managing director of the Environment Program at The Kresge Foundation, an endowed, national, philanthropic foundation dedicated to advancing opportunities in American cities. The Foundation is based in metropolitan Detroit and supports nonprofit organizations throughout the United States and in South Africa. Ms DeBacker was hired by Kresge in 2008 to build out an Environment Program focused on climate change. The program's current focus is on helping cities combat and adapt to climate change while advancing racial and economic equity. Grantmaking includes support for organizations working to advance carbon neutrality in cities, mitigate urban flooding exacerbated by climate change, and implement local policies that address the intersection of climate change, health, and equity. Beyond providing guidance to the Environment staff team in design and implementation of strategies, Ms. DeBacker's accomplishments at the foundation include developing its Climate Change and Urban Opportunity initiative and overseeing in 2008-2009 a complete revamping of the foundation's grants-management policies and procedures. Her prior experience includes more than 16 years of service at the C. S. Mott Foundation in a series of Program Department positions of progressive responsibility, including the role of Associate Vice President-Programs, overseeing the foundation's Environment and Civil Society Programs. While leading the Environment Program, Lois managed a portfolio of grants combatting toxic pollution in low-income communities and communities of color, a cohort of grants addressing protection of the Great Lakes ecosystem, and grants in support of temperate rainforest conservation in Alaska and British Columbia. She also led the foundation's early work to conserve freshwater ecosystems in the Southeastern United States and address coastal land loss in Louisiana. Ms. DeBacker played a critical role in several significant land conservation projects during her tenure at Mott and contributed innovations in the foundation's grantmaking practices. Before joining the C. S. Mott Foundation, she worked for ten years in the legislative and executive branches of Michigan state government, serving in both policy development and program management capacities. She was the first manager of the state's pollution prevention office. Ms. DeBacker has served on multiple nonprofit boards and advisory committees. Her past board service included years with the Biodiversity Project, Consultative Group on Biological Diversity (now known as the Biodiversity Funders

Group), Environmental Grantmakers Association, and Environmental Support Center. She currently serves as board secretary of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, a member of the External Advisory Board of the University of Michigan's Graham Sustainability Institute, and on the steering committee of the Urban Water Funders Group. Ms. DeBacker received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Affairs degree from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs.

Dr. Sandro Galea (NAM)
Boston University

Sandro Galea, a physician, epidemiologist, and author, is dean and Robert A. Knox Professor at Boston University School of Public Health. He previously held academic and leadership positions at Columbia University, the University of Michigan, and the New York Academy of Medicine. He has published extensively in the peer-reviewed literature, and is a regular contributor to a range of public media, about the social causes of health, mental health, and the consequences of trauma. He has been listed as one of the most widely cited scholars in the social sciences. He is chair of the board of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health and past president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research and of the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine. Galea has received several lifetime achievement awards. Galea holds a medical degree from the University of Toronto, graduate degrees from Harvard University and Columbia University, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Glasgow.

Dr. Davin Holen
University of Alaska Fairbank

Dr. Davin Holen is a coastal community resilience specialist for the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program and collaborative faculty at the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy in the International Arctic Research Center, both at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). He facilitates workshops and other activities related to coastal resilience addressing monitoring, mitigation, and adaptation to local stressors from climatic and ocean changes. Before joining Alaska Sea Grant, Dr. Holen spent 15 years at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducting social-science research and managing the subsistence program in Southern Alaska. He has and continues to work in rural communities from the Arctic to Southeast Alaska, providing data and decision support tools for communities to make informed decisions about adapting to future climate and environmental scenarios. Dr. Holen has been an adjunct professor of anthropology since 2003 at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), where he continues to teach now as an assistant professor. He is a lifelong Alaskan from the Susitna Valley, graduated from UAA with a degree in history, and spent two years in Mali West Africa conducting natural resource management development work before returning to UAA to earn an MA in applied cultural anthropology, the first graduate of this degree program. Dr. Holen received a Ph.D. in anthropology from UAF in 2017. His dissertation, and current work, examines societal and economic factors intertwined with climatic and environmental changes influencing subsistence economies important for culture in Alaskan communities. Dr. Holen developed and manages the website Adapt Alaska (adaptalaska.org) hosted by Alaska Sea Grant. For the past five years, he has been a member of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council Scientific Advisory Committee and now serves as Chair. He led the 2019 National Academies Gulf Research Program funded workshop in Alaska Setting Priorities for Health, Social, and Economic Disruptions from Spills in Alaska: Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future.

Dr. Thomas LaVeist (NAM)
Tulane University

Dr. Thomas LaVeist's research and writing has focused on three broad thematic research questions: 1) What are the social and behavioral factors that predict the timing of various related health outcomes (e.g. access and utilization of health services, mortality, entrance into nursing home?); 2) What are the social and behavioral factors that explain race differences in health outcomes?; and 3) What has been the impact of social policy on the health and quality of life of African Americans? His work includes both qualitative and quantitative analysis. Dr. LaVeist seeks to develop an orienting framework in the development of policy and interventions to address race disparities in health-related outcomes. Specific areas of expertise include: U.S. health and social policy, the role of race in health research, social factors contributing to mortality, longevity and life expectancy, quantitative and demographic analysis and access, and utilization of health services.

Dr. Marinelle Payton
Jackson State University

Dr. Marinelle Payton, MD, PhD, MS, MPH is the Principal Investigator of the Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center. She is also the Assistant Dean for Research and Program Development, Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and Principal Investigator and Director of the Center of Excellence in Minority Health and Health Disparities/Institute of Epidemiology and Health Services Research, School of Public Health. Dr. Payton is a physician with specialty training in Neurological Sciences, Surgery, Radiology, Epidemiology, Public Health, and Environmental and Occupational Medicine. She received the combined M.D.-Ph.D. degrees and the M.P.H. and M.S. degrees from Boston University School of Medicine and Harvard School of Public Health. Following clinical training at Yale University and Boston University hospitals, she held hospital and joint academic appointments at Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, MA, prior to joining Jackson State University as the Founding Chair of Public Health, where she led the development of the M.P.H. Program and Dr.P.H. Program, the first and only program in the state of Mississippi. Dr. Payton has over 25 years of experience in medicine, public health, community service, and research (awarded approximately \$10 million over the last two years) and has made exemplary advances closing the disproportionate gap in health disparities—working with the National Institutes of Health to expand the traditional definition of research to encompass areas such as community-based participatory research and health disparities. Her longstanding research has focused on chronic disease and neurotoxins which resulted in peer reviewed publications including the first epidemiological study of blood and bone lead and cognitive function. Dr. Payton has served on many boards including Children's Health, commissioned by President William Jefferson Clinton, and the Science Advisory Board commissioned by Congress, and is the Chair of the Mississippi State Lead Poisoning Prevention Advisory Board. She has also received many awards including the Alfred L. Frechette Award in Public Health, Clinical Environmental Medicine awards, and research achievement awards.

Dr. James Shultz
University of Miami

Dr. James Shultz is a population health scientist and the Director of the Center for Disaster and Extreme Event Preparedness (DEEP Center), Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. He teaches public health courses and advises MD/MPH students in the Department of Public Health Sciences. Dr. Shultz publishes and conducts research on themes of population health

science, disaster behavioral health, climate change impacts on population health, complex disaster risks and resilience, global mental health, and structural violence. He is lead author on a popular textbook, *Public Health: An Introduction to the Science and Practice of Population Health*, along with Drs. Lisa Sullivan and Sandro Galea. Dr. Shultz holds a PhD in behavioral epidemiology and a Master of Science degree in health behavior research from the University of Minnesota Division of Epidemiology and Community Health.

Mr. Jon Thaxton
Gulf Coast Community Foundation

Mr. Jon Thaxton creates and implements Gulf Coast Community Foundation's key strategies for transforming the region's nonprofit community and providing leadership on emerging issues. He joined GCCF in 2012 as director of community investment while completing his 12th year of service on the Sarasota County Commission, and was promoted to senior vice president in 2015. In this role, he works with nonprofit organizations, donors, and other community partners to invest GCCF grants and resources in projects that will transform the region and improve public policies. Mr. Thaxton's of the region and the relationships he built as a public servant are tremendous assets to his work. He has provided critical leadership on behalf of GCCF in the community's creation of a system of care for homeless children and families, and he is part of the cross-sector team that is adapting that model to effectively house and support unaccompanied homeless youth and chronically homeless adults. Other transformative projects in which Mr. Thaxton plays a key role include community-driven efforts to extend the multiuse recreational Legacy Trail in Sarasota County and to sustainably redevelop the Sarasota Bayfront. He is also recognized throughout Florida as a leading advocate for protecting the natural environment. A fifth-generation Floridian, he was raised on a farm near Osprey and grew up working on commercial fishing boats in Sarasota Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. He began his environmental advocacy at Venice High School in 1974 as a founding member of the Ecology Club, and in 1996 he was featured in National Geographic for his efforts to protect endangered species. Mr. Thaxton has served on both the Sarasota Bay and Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Policy Committees.

Dr. Ken Wisian
The University of Texas at Austin

Ken Wisian, Ph.D., Major General USAF (retired), is Associate Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology, Jackson School of Geoscience, The University of Texas at Austin. He also holds appointments in the Center for Space Research and in the Aerospace and Engineering Mechanics Department, Cockrell School of Engineering and is a charter member of the Center for Planetary Systems Habitability at UT Austin. Previously, Dr. Wisian was a senior state executive responsible for disaster recovery, oil spill prevention and response, and coastal infrastructure and environmental protection for Texas. As a military officer for more than thirty years, General Wisian participated in or led combat operations and military disaster response efforts for the Shuttle Columbia crash and multiple hurricanes. He is a geophysicist whose main research is in geothermal systems, modeling, and instrumentation & data analysis. Other current research includes infrastructure resiliency, disasters, autonomy/drones, applied gravity, planetary geology/space exploration and international relations. Dr. Wisian is a Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society. He has published/presented work in subjects as diverse as geophysics,

defense, artificial intelligence, crisis leadership, and deep space exploration. He holds a Ph.D. in geophysics from Southern Methodist University, an M.S. in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, an M.S. in Geology from Centenary College, and a B.A. in Physics from the University of Texas at Austin. He teaches or has taught environmental and laboratory geology, military history, leadership, and currently teaches "Life in the Universe." Dr. Wisian is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School and has more than 70 hours of medium and high-risk test flights. General Wisian served in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans, and his combat medals include the Bronze Star and Air Medal.