

## Colorado Opioid Safety Summit Speaker Bios

### Admiral James A. "Sandy" Winnefeld, Jr. U.S. Navy (Retired)

Admiral Winnefeld graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in Aerospace Engineering and served for 37 years in the United States Navy. He flew the F-14 Tomcat, instructed at the Navy Fighter Weapons School, also known as Topgun, and served as senior aide-de-camp to General Colin L. Powell. He subsequently commanded a fighter squadron, the amphibious ship USS CLEVELAND, the aircraft carrier USS ENTERPRISE, and the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Carrier Strike Group. As a flag officer, he commanded NATO Joint Command Lisbon, Striking and Support Forces NATO, the United States SIXTH Fleet, United States NORTHERN Command, and the North American Aerospace Defense Command, also known as NORAD. He retired in 2015 after serving four years as the ninth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the United States' number two ranking military officer.



Admiral Winnefeld is a frequently published author and a director or advisory board member for several companies, including Enterprise Holdings, operating in a broad spectrum of business sectors. He currently serves as Distinguished Professor at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech, where he is also a member of the Engineering Hall of Fame. He is on the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy, and a senior non-resident fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Admiral Winnefeld and his wife, Mary, are Co-Chairs of S.A.F.E. Project (Stop the Addiction Fatality Epidemic), a national nonprofit committed to contributing in a tangible way to overcoming the epidemic of opioid addiction in the United States.

### Dana Knowles, 9News Reporter (Retired)

Dana Knowles was born in Ann Arbor Michigan and lived in several different states (from New Jersey to California) before graduating from the University of New Mexico with a degree in journalism and creative writing. Her broadcast career brought her to Topeka, Kansas; Raleigh, North Carolina and finally to Denver in early 2000. Initially she aimed to stay in Denver for three years, that is, until she met her now husband and got married.

After almost 15 years as a television news reporter, Dana decided to devote her time to raising a family. She now has three children; a 10-year-old daughter and seven-year-old boy/girl twins.

In 2011, she had surgery on her right hip to repair a labral tear, was prescribed opiate pain killers and quickly became addicted. After almost four years of trying to quit on her own she ended up in treatment and stayed clean and sober for 10 months before a relapse brought her right back in to her addiction. In August 2016, she went back into treatment for three months and has been clean and sober ever since. These days Dana is devoted to sharing her message of recovery in the hopes of eliminating the stigma of addiction so that more people will seek help.

**Don Stader, MD, FACEP, ED Associate Medical Director, Swedish Medical Center**

Dr. Stader holds a medical degree with honors from Baylor College of Medicine, where he was an Albert Schweitzer Fellow and attended emergency medicine residency at Carolinas Medical Center. He serves on the Colorado Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) Board of Directors and is the former President of the Emergency Medicine Resident's Association (EMRA).

DR. Stader is an expert on opioid abuse, policy and clinical approaches to decrease opioid usage, manage pain and treat addiction from the ED. He chairs Colorado ACEP's Opioid Task Force, serves on Colorado Medical Society's Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force, is an Opioid Expert Consultant for the Colorado Hospital Association and is the Editor-in-Chief of the Colorado ACEP 2017 Opioid Prescribing & Treatment Guidelines.

In addition to medicine, he cofounded and works as a film producer for Triage Films LLC and was the creative force behind the Emmy winning documentary 24|7|365 - The Evolution of Emergency Medicine. He is the founder and chair of two non-profit organizations, The Emergency Medical Minute which provides free online emergency medical education & The Last Words Project which allows individuals with terminal conditions or dangerous vocations to speak their last words on their terms through recording posthumous messages for their loved ones.

**Lisa Raville, Executive Director, Harm Reduction Action Center**

Lisa is the Executive Director of the Harm Reduction Action Center (HRAC), a public health agency that works with people who inject drugs. She grew up outside of Chicago and graduated from DePaul University with a degree in Communications and a minor in Women's Studies. Lisa has been with HRAC since 2009. Her activist voice was cultivated with her experiences as an overnight homeless shelter coordinator, development work at a domestic violence agency, a former campaign manager for a CA County Supervisor, and an AmeriCorps VISTA at an AIDS agency.

Lisa is the Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition and is the co-chair of the Naloxone workgroup for the Colorado Consortium on Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention. In 2014, Lisa won the Colorado Public Health Association Award for Excellence in Policy.

**Josh Blum, MD, Internist and Addiction Medicine Physician, Denver Health**

Dr. Blum is the Program Manager of the Denver Health HIV Primary Care Clinic, a Ryan White-funded clinic serving low income clients living with HIV/AIDS. He also provides HIV and general primary care to patients in the Denver City and County jails, and medication-assisted treatment to patients with opioid use disorders in Denver Health's outpatient behavioral health services department.

He established and served as the first physician manager of the Intensive Outpatient Clinic, a high intensity primary care clinic aimed at caring for Denver Health's sickest and highest-utilizing patients. Dr. Blum is an institutional quality officer and leads initiatives on pain and opioid management at Denver Health, and currently oversees a federal grant for expanding medication-assisted treatment in the Denver Health primary care clinics. He is the co-chair of the Provider Education Workgroup at the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention.

As a general internist caring for high-risk populations, his interests include the diagnosis and treatment of HIV and Hepatitis C, chronic pain syndromes, opioid management, mental health, and substance abuse. He is a frequent speaker on pain management, opioids, and substance abuse.

**Jason Hoppe, DO, Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine**

Dr. Hoppe is a clinician-researcher and medical toxicologist in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center. He has expertise in prescription opioid safety, prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP) and provider decision-making.

He is a founding member of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and chairs the PDMP work group.

**Charles H. Smith, PhD, Regional Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Region VIII**

Dr. Smith is the Regional Administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Region VIII. He is the former Director of the Colorado Division of Behavioral Health and Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse for the State of Colorado. Dr. Smith is a licensed psychologist with more than 25 years of experience in fields of behavioral health administration, program development, forensic/correctional psychology, emergency/crisis intervention, recovery support systems, research, and consultation.

**Heidi Wald, MD, MSPH, Physician Advisory, CHA; Associate Professor of Medicine Division of Health Care Policy Research, University of Colorado School of Medicine**

Dr. Wald is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She completed fellowship in Geriatric Medicine, a NRSA Primary Care Research Fellowship, and an MSPH at the University of Colorado Denver.

Dr. Wald has a longstanding interest in patient safety and quality of care for the geriatric patient with a focus on the hospital setting. She is a 2009 recipient of a Paul B. Beeson Career Development Award in Aging and was a 2009-10 Atlantic Philanthropies Health and Aging Policy Fellow. She is the principal investigator of a multisite study on the prevention of catheter-associated urinary tract infection funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and leads the Society of Hospital Medicine's Acute Care of Older Patients Priority Setting Partnership. She has also published in the areas of hospital acquired conditions, models of acute care of older patients, postoperative infections, sentinel event reporting, and root cause analysis.

At the University of Colorado Hospital (UCH), Dr. Wald serves as the co-director of the Acute Care for Elders Service, leads the Multidisciplinary CAUTI Prevention Workgroup, and—between July 2011 and July 2013—directed the Quality Improvement Small Grants Program. In 2012, she received the 2012 President's Award for Leadership from the UCH Medical Staff.

Prior to joining the University of Colorado, Dr. Wald was director of the Hospitalist Group at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania where she was on faculty from 1998-2002. Dr. Wald is board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine.

**Vanessa Knapp, PharmD, BCPS Emergency Department Clinical Pharmacist, UCHealth**

Vanessa's work and expertise has focused on improved patient safety, ED work flow, and clinical outcomes for UCHealth in Northern Colorado. Prior to joining UCHealth, Vanessa received her Bachelor of Science in Health and Exercise Science from Colorado State University, completed her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Wyoming followed by completion of a pharmacy residency at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs.

Her professional interests include emergency medicine, pediatrics, infectious disease, and acute pain management.

**Rachael Duncan, PharmD BCPS BCCCP, Clinical and Operations Manager for the Department of Pharmacy, Swedish Medical Center**

Rachael oversees pharmacy services in the Emergency Department and Critical Care Unit at Swedish Medical Center. Rachael was instrumental in implementing opioid reduction efforts in the Swedish ED in 2016, which led to an almost 50 percent reduction in opioid administration in the past two years. She was a co-author of the Colorado ACEP 2017 Opioid Prescribing & Treatment Guidelines and worked with CHA to implement the multicenter statewide opioid reduction pilot in spring of 2017.

Rachael is the 2017 chair of the nonprofit educational organization Emergency Medical Minute, which provides free podcasts online and has hosted multiple live symposiums to raise awareness of the opioid crisis in the Denver community.

**Holly Pederson, BSN, MA, Director, Boulder Community Health**

Holly was the CHA Opioid Pilot Lead for the hospital. Holly has been at BCH, an independent community-owned 171-bed hospital, for 23 years. Prior to that, she served in other Director and leadership roles that involved the Emergency Department or Critical Care.

Holly began her career in the emergency department in 1977, moved on the flight nursing and then nursing leadership. Holly earned a Masters in Administration, Public Administration from Northern Michigan University.

**Adam Barkin, MD, MPH, FACEP, Sky Ridge Medical Center**

Dr. Barkin is an Emergency Physician and Medical Director of the Emergency Department at Sky Ridge Medical Center in Lone Tree. He is a Denver native and attended medical school at Vanderbilt University Medical School. He completed a Chief Residency in Emergency Medicine with the Harvard Affiliated program at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and received his MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. He is a past president of the Colorado chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).

Dr. Barkin is an editor for the text book, 5 Minute Emergency Medicine Consult.

**Amy Magnus, Gunnison Valley Health**

Amy is originally from Atlanta and attended Georgia Southern University where she and her husband moved to Gunnison in 2013, and Amy began at Gunnison Valley Health in February 2015.

**Wes Hunter, M.A., R.Ph., Pharmacy Director, UCHealth Yampa Valley Medical Center**

Mr. Hunter has been a pharmacist for 30 years and is currently the director of pharmacy at UCHealth – Yampa Valley Medical Center. He sits on the Colorado State Board of Pharmacy and is the immediate past president. A graduate of The Ohio State University, his professional interests include critical care, ethics, antibiotic stewardship and pharmacy management. Professional interests and appointments include CHA’s clinical excellence committee and University of Colorado Clinical Instructor.

**Dr. Robert Werthwein, PhD, Director, Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health**

Robert Werthwein, PhD, has been the Director of the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) at the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) since October 2017. Dr. Werthwein directs the operations and administrative oversight of the public behavioral health system including mental health and substance use community programs, as well as operation of the Colorado Mental Health Institutes at Fort Logan and Pueblo. He also leads in providing policy, performance management, fiscal and administrative tools, and oversight to a large group of mental health facilities, treatment centers and clinics statewide.

Dr. Werthwein joined CDHS in February 2013 and served as the director of the Office of Children, Youth and Families from April 2015 through September 2017. Prior to becoming the Director of OCYF, Dr. Werthwein served as the Office Deputy Director for two years, as well as the acting director for both the Divisions of Child Welfare and Youth Services.

Dr. Werthwein worked tirelessly to change the law in Colorado to prevent children ages 10 to 12 from being charged with low-level offenses leading to them being detained in the Division of Youth Services. The new law ensures that these youth remain eligible to receive services such as mental health and substance abuse assessments, therapy, case management, supervision and educational support, while keeping them safely in the community. Additionally, under his direction, CDHS implemented significant reforms in child welfare, revamping the front end of Colorado’s child protection system through enhanced screening of calls reporting possible child abuse or neglect; a new Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline System; new prevention strategies to assist families before they become part of the system; and training for mandatory reporters so at-risk children come to the attention of the child protection system sooner.

Dr. Werthwein earned his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Howard University. His training focused on the treatment of under-served populations and research of improved care delivery systems. He completed his pre-doctoral internship at the Jersey Shore Medical Center with emphasis on adult and child outpatient therapy, as well as inpatient consultation liaison. Dr. Werthwein also completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Harris Infant Mental Health Program at the University of Colorado. Prior to joining the Colorado Department of Human Services, Dr. Werthwein worked as a researcher and clinician at the Kempe Center and as the Director of Operations for the University of Colorado Depression Center.



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