

Social Work HEALS

A JOINT INITIATIVE OF NASW & CSWE



JaNeen E. Cross, DSW, MSW, MBA

JaNeen Cross is a Social Work HEALS Policy Fellow at the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). She is also an Assistant Clinical Professor at Widener University. Dr. Cross operates a private practice, Mays Family Therapy, providing outpatient mental and behavioral health services. Prior to serving as a HEALS Policy Fellow and Professor, Dr. Cross was a medical social worker at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Newborn Intensive Care Unit for 15 years.

Dr. Cross provides workshop presentations at health care organizations and professional conferences. She serves as an expert on perinatal health workgroups and advisory panels. Dr. Cross is the President of the National Association of Perinatal Social Workers (NAPSW) and serves on the board of directors for the National Perinatal Association (NPA).

Dr. Cross received her Master of Social Work at Temple University, Masters of Business Administration at Rosemont College, and Doctorate of Clinical Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania.



Jenné Johns, MPH

Jenné Johns, MPH is the mother of a micro-preemie, author, motivational speaker and award winning national thought leader. Her son was born 26 weeks prematurely and spent nearly three months in the NICU before coming home. During Jenné's NICU journey, she learned the power of advocacy, patience, and reading to her son. As an advocate for reducing healthcare disparities, Jenné found herself advocating for the needs of her son, as his survival depended on it. She wrote, "Once Upon a Preemie" which is the only children's book written for the parents of preemies while they are in the NICU. This bedside companion seeks to motivate, encourage and inspire preemie babies and families until they go home.

Currently, Jenné is a member of the Preemie Parent Alliance, a board member of Pebbles of Hope, and speaks at national conferences from the preemie parent perspective. Jenné was featured in Heart and Soul Magazine, Tom Joyner Morning Show, CBS Philly News Radio, Disruptive Women in Healthcare Blog, and Women of A New Sisterhood Blog.

In her professional capacity, Jenné holds a Master Degree in Public Health from Temple University, and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Jenné currently leads health disparities and multicultural health initiatives for a national managed care organization and serves on national and regional health equity advisory committees. She was recognized as a “Top Diverse Leader Under 50” by Diversity MBA Magazine, and Leader on the Move by the Philadelphia Business Journal.



Dr. Angela Patterson, MD, FAAP

Dr. Angela Patterson, MD FAAP, is a Neonatologist in Washington, DC. She is double-board certified in Neonatal/Perinatal Medicine and General Pediatrics.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, she attended Wake Forest University, Howard University College of Medicine, and completed her General Pediatrics residency and Neonatology fellowship at University of Maryland Medical Systems. Dr. Patterson was an Attending Neonatologist at Howard University Hospital and at the Washington Hospital Center for over 10 years.

Dr. Patterson has served on and chaired numerous committees, most notably the National Institutes of Health DC Initiative to Reduce Infant Mortality (1998-2000), SIDS and OID Advisory Committee Member, and was a member of the District of Columbia Committee on Metabolic Disorders 2006-2010.

Dr. Patterson moved overseas for 5 years living in both Tunisia, North Africa and most recently in Dubai, UAE. She is currently employed as a Neonatologist at Providence Hospital, Washington, D.C.



Chavis Patterson, PhD

Chavis Patterson is the Director of Psychosocial Services for the Division of Neonatology for Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Chavis Patterson is a licensed Clinical Psychologist whose work focuses on stressors that put children, couples, and families at risk for future difficulties. He received his master and doctoral degrees from the American University in Washington D.C. and completed his internship at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Center. He has worked with families and their adolescents at Temple University’s Center for Research on Adolescent Drug Abuse, Congresso de Latinos Unidos, and the Northeast Treatment Centers. Dr. Patterson has conducted classes on parenting and has presented nationally on topics such as family and parental relationships, coping with a chronic illness, and non-medical alternatives to pain management. He has also provided psychosocial training for staff to care for children who have a chronic illness.

Currently, Dr. Patterson works at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in the Neonatal Infant Intensive Care Unit (N/IICU). As the Director of Psychosocial Services, he is responsible for oversight of the provision of expert psychosocial care to the families as they cope with the complexities associated with having a child in the N/IICU. He functions as an administrative leader, educator and researcher within the N/IICU’s interdisciplinary team.



Uma S. Ahluwalia, MSW

Uma S. Ahluwalia is currently the Director of the Montgomery County (Maryland) Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS). With over 1,600 employees, the department is one of the largest agencies in Montgomery County and includes Aging and Disability Services; Behavioral Health and Crisis Services; Children, Youth and Family Services; Public Health Services; and, Special Needs Housing. Under the leadership of the department's core team, MCDHHS has been pursuing a strong integration and interoperability agenda across the Health and Human Service (HHS) enterprise.

The department's budget for Fiscal Year 2018 is approximately \$320 million. Caseloads for the department in the past four years have increased dramatically as more families and individuals struggle through the tough economy.

Uma holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Delhi in India and a Specialist Post-Master in Health Services Administration from George Washington University. Over a 29-year career in human services, she has progressively moved from case-carrying social worker to executive leadership at the state and local levels.