

MODERATOR
ADAM LONDON

Adam is the administrative health officer of the Kent County Health Department – a position he has held since 2013. In that role he has led the department’s successful pursuit of national accreditation, numerous quality improvement initiatives, the creation of the Kent County Population Health Consortium, and has served as incident commander through multiple public health crises including the COVID-19 pandemic. He has earned a BS in Environmental Health from Ferris State University, an MPA from Grand Valley State University, and a PhD in Public Health/epidemiology from Walden University. Additionally, Adam teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in public health and administration as an adjunct/guest instructor at Grand Valley State University, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Western Michigan University. Adam is also a past president of the National Environmental Health Association, past president of the Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators, and Diplomat of the American Academy of Sanitarians.

PANELIST:
WILLIAMSON WALLACE

Mr. Wallace is a licensed attorney in the state of Michigan. He earned his Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Mr. Wallace has served as a federal executive in the Department of Homeland Security’s Transportation Security Administration, where his positions included Assistant Federal Security Director, Human Resources Specialist, and Manager. Mr. Wallace was a licensed law enforcement officer in Michigan and North Carolina, and is a Gulf War combat veteran, having served 8 years in the United States Army and North Carolina Army National Guard.

In his current role as the Director of Criminal Justice Training, Mr. Wallace directs Grand Valley State University’s Police Academy and is responsible for developing, coordinating, and implementing in-service law enforcement training programs. Mr. Wallace has taught in GVSU’s School of Criminal Justice since 2003. His classes include Justice and Society, Criminal Law, Police Process, Terrorism, and Criminal Justice Leadership. Additionally, Mr. Wallace serves as an Inclusion Advocate, Affirmative Action & EEO Investigator, and Restorative Practices COP Member at GVSU.

Mr. Wallace has testified before the Michigan House and Senate Appropriations Committees on law enforcement training initiatives, served on a statewide ethics committee for the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards, facilitated several law enforcement strategic planning sessions, and facilitated a Multi-Jurisdictional Homeland Security Emergency Exercise.

Mr. Wallace has been an invited speaker on the topics of Implicit Bias & Decision Making, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Professionalism in the Workplace, Employee Relations, Instructor Development, and Terrorism Awareness for First Responders.

DEZIRAE MITCHELL-GARCIA

Dezira Mitchell-Garcia is a Human Resources Technician at Kent County. Her role involves supporting the County's recruitment, retention, benefits, and diversity equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts. She has participated in several professional development courses offered through the County. Additionally, she is part of the County's Cultural Insight Council (CIC) and Wellness Committees. Dezira demonstrates leadership and collaboration in her professional role as well as in her community engagement involvement. Her strengths in communication, strategy, and teamwork make her a true navigator. Dezira is involved in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and its subgroups of Mental and Behavioral Health, Access to Care, and Economic Security; Kent County's Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF); and recently has started working with KConnect. Dezira is passionate about bringing equity and inclusivity to all areas of Kent County services with the hope of advocating for and raising up underserved communities. In her spare time Dezira enjoys reading, spending time with her family, and traveling.

DR. ROBERT FLORA

Dr. Flora is currently the Chief Academic Officer/ Vice President of Academic Affairs and Designated Institutional Official at McLaren Health Care. He assumed this role on October 17, 2016. He previously served as Director of Medical Education and Designated Institutional Officer for Providence Hospital and Medical Center in Southfield, Michigan. He is currently a Professor and Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Medicine at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

Dr. Flora is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Inc.), Healthcare Management (ACHE), as a Certified Physician Executive (CPE) (Certifying Commission in Medical Management), Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CCPS) (IHI), Certified in Public Health (CPH) and Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) (National Association in Healthcare Quality).

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