





*“In this difficult time, we see hope in rebuilding and the resilience of our communities.”*

## A message from our National Director

Looking back at the final months of 2019 through the first half of 2020, it’s difficult to reconcile how much our world has changed in that span of time. On February 6 of 2020, when the Network held our first webinar on public health response to coronavirus, there were only five cases identified in the United States. By June the U.S. had surpassed 100,000 deaths from COVID-19.

As the nation continues to grapple with the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded how health impacts every aspect of our lives. Social isolation, school and business closures, and concerns over voter safety illustrate how a public health crisis can alter our daily lives, with repercussions for years to come. The hardships faced by our communities are due in part to many major structural problems that exist in our country, including the socioeconomic inequalities that disproportionately harm people of color and other marginalized groups, critical weaknesses and gaps in U.S. health policy, and an overwhelmed, underfunded public health system.

- Widespread inequities create the conditions that stymie our ability to fully mitigate the devastating health and economic impacts of COVID-19. Negative health outcomes and civil turmoil are consequences of racist policies, and in the summer of 2020 communities across the country took to their streets to demand justice.

- The pandemic exposed the critical weaknesses and gaps in current U.S. health policy which have long contributed to health disparities. Access to health care is one of the most important social determinants of health; in a health crisis it could make the difference between life and death. As businesses struggled in the pandemic, millions of Americans were left vulnerable as they lost their jobs and consequently their health care coverage.
- Public health, underfunded for decades, does not have the resources needed to effectively respond to the pandemic. Local and state public health departments are struggling with a myriad of barriers in protecting the health of our communities — from challenges to their authority to implement critical interventions and limited means to provide adequate testing, to mistrust and outright threats from a politicized public.

Before and during the pandemic, our work focused on identifying legal and policy pathways to navigate these structural challenges and support the people, programs and organizations who are striving to improve conditions in our communities. We’ve reached thousands who work in public health, health care, government, advocacy and philanthropy with critical guidance, resources, education and information to respond to the health impacts of COVID-19. We’ve partnered with key organizations to assess the efficacy and equity of policies implemented to help inform lawmakers.

Looking forward at ongoing response and future recovery from the pandemic, our work will be guided by the many lessons we’ve learned this past year, as well as our decade of service to public health. In this difficult time, we see hope in rebuilding and the resilience of our communities.

**Donna E. Levin**  
National Director  
The Network for Public Health Law

# COVID-19 Timeline & Network Resources

## (January–June, 2020)

January	1/21	<b>First case confirmed in US</b>	
	1/25	Network publishes Primer: <a href="#">Emergency Legal Preparedness: COVID-19</a>	
	1/30	<b>WHO declares global health emergency</b> <b>US reports first case of person-to-person transmission</b>	
	1/31	<b>US public health emergency</b>	
February	2/06	Network Webinar— <a href="#">2019 Novel Coronavirus: Legal Preparedness and Public Health Response Efforts</a>	
	2/12	<b>First American dies</b>	
	2/26	<b>CDC reports community spread</b>	
March	3/01	Network publishes Guidance: <a href="#">Disclosure of Individuals' COVID-19 Status to Emergency Responders</a>	
	3/05	Network Webinar— <a href="#">U.S. Legal Preparedness and Real-time Responses: COVID-19</a>	
	3/13	<b>Trump declares national emergency</b>	
	3/16	Network Webinar— <a href="#">COVID-19 Real-Time Legal Response: Focus on Quarantine, Isolation, and Other Social Distancing Powers</a>	
	3/18	Network publishes Guidance: <a href="#">Health Care Systems and Providers: Making Decisions When There Are Limited Resources for COVID-19 Patients</a> Network publishes Guidance: <a href="#">Release of Health Department COVID-19 Case Information to News Media</a> Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">"Combating COVID-19 through Law and Policy: Social Distancing Only Works if People Can Stay at Home."</a>	
	3/19	<b>U.S. surpasses 10,000 cases</b> Network publishes FAQ: <a href="#">COVID-19 and Health Data Privacy</a>	
	3/20	Network publishes Fact Sheet: <a href="#">U.S. Social Distancing Measures for COVID-19</a>	
	3/21	Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">"COVID-19 Pandemic Prompts Federal Agencies to Reduce Restrictions on Medications for Opioid Use Disorder."</a>	
	3/23	Network Webinar— <a href="#">COVID-19 Real-Time Legal Responses: Local Governments on the Frontlines</a> Network publishes FAQ: <a href="#">Crisis Standards of Care and Health Provider Liability</a>	
	3/24	Network Publishes FAQ: <a href="#">COVID-19 Emergency Legal Preparedness</a>	
	3/26	Network Webinar— <a href="#">COVID-19: Crisis Standards of Care—Guidance for Health Care Systems and Providers</a> Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">"Supporting Mental Health in the COVID-19 Pandemic."</a>	
	3/27	Network publishes Overview: <a href="#">COVID-19 Emergency Declarations</a>	
	3/30	Network publishes Fact Sheet: <a href="#">Federal Emergency Food Security Measures in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic</a> Network publishes Overview: <a href="#">COVID-19 Stimulus Relief Act</a>	
	3/31	Network publishes Overview: <a href="#">Legal &amp; Regulatory Challenges to Crisis Standards of Care (CSC) in Response to COVID-19</a>	
	April	4/01	<b>The U.S. surpasses 200,000 cases</b>
		4/02	Network Webinar— <a href="#">COVID-19: Data Sharing for Public Health Surveillance, Investigation and Intervention</a> Network publishes Insight Column: <a href="#">"A Public Health Framework for Implementing Economic and Social Supports."</a>
4/04		Network publishes <a href="#">A County Health Department's Protocols for Sharing COVID-19 Information with First Responders</a> Network publishes <a href="#">Public Health COVID-19 Frequently Utilized HIPAA Privacy Rule Provisions</a> Network publishes <a href="#">COVID-19 Legal FAQs: Iowa</a>	
4/06		Network Webinar— <a href="#">COVID-19: State and Local Government Actions to Address Housing Insecurity</a>	
4/08		Network publishes Guidance: <a href="#">Disclosure of COVID-19 Information by Domestic Violence Agencies or Shelters</a>	

4/14	<b>All 50 states report deaths</b>	
	<b>Protests erupt over stay-at-home orders</b> Network Webinar— <a href="#">COVID-19: Focus on Emerging Constitutional Challenges</a>	
	4/16	Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">"COVID-19 Pandemic Response Magnifies the Homework Gap."</a>
	4/20	<b>States announce plans to reopen</b>
	4/21	Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">"Protect and Improve Air Quality to Prevent High Mortality Rates from Future Pandemics."</a>
	4/22	Network publishes Issue Brief: <a href="#">Key Federal Programs to Address Student Food Insecurity When School is out of Session</a> Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">"Securing More Temporary Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic."</a>
	4/23	Network Webinar— <a href="#">Public Health Decision-Making during the COVID-19 Pandemic</a>
	4/24	Network publishes Guidance: <a href="#">Framing COVID-19 Messaging Using the Moral Foundations Theory Framework</a>
	4/28	<b>1M cases in the US</b> Network publishes FAQ: <a href="#">COVID-19 and Health Data Privacy</a> Network publishes FAQ: <a href="#">Federal E-Rate Program for Broadband Services and Internet Access during COVID-19 School Closures</a>
	4/29	Network publishes fact sheet: <a href="#">State-Level COVID-19 Liability Protections</a>
May	5/05	Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">"Matching Supply and Demand: Connecting Farms with Food Banks for Hunger Relief during the COVID-19 Pandemic."</a> Network publishes: <a href="#">Guidance State Legal Authority to Investigate the Spread of Communicable Disease</a>
	5/06	Network publishes Issue Brief: <a href="#">COVID-19: Racial Disparities and Crisis Standards of Care</a> Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">"Disappearing Public Toilets, Public Health and the COVID-19 Pandemic."</a>
	5/14	Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">"Privacy and Public Disclosure during a Pandemic."</a>
	5/19	Network publishes: <a href="#">Guidance Individual Privacy Rights Regarding Data Held by Public Health Agencies or Departments</a>
	5/20	Network publishes: <a href="#">Issue Brief: Summary of Authority and Actions Regarding Public Health Emergencies</a> Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">Drug Enforcement Administration Waives Some Barriers to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic</a>
	5/21	Network Webinar— <a href="#">COVID-19: Legal and Policy Strategies to Promote Mental Health</a>
	5/27	<b>Coronavirus deaths in the United States pass 100,000.</b>
	5/28	Network Webinar— <a href="#">COVID-19: Navigating Public Health Emergency Legal Responses Underlying Re-opening State/Local Economies</a>
	5/29	Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">Reopening America: Protecting Employees as They Return to Work During COVID-19</a>
	June	6/04
6/10		<b>The United States sees rises in confirmed cases across 19 states, 24 states trend downward, and 7 remain the same.</b>
6/11		Network Webinar — <a href="#">COVID-19: Public and Global Health Law and Ethics in Pandemic: Human Rights and Model Public Health Laws</a>
6/12		Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">More than a Vote: Civic Engagement and Health Amid COVID-19</a>
6/25		<b>U.S. CDC estimates that more than 20 million individuals may have had coronavirus in the United States thus far.</b> Network Webinar — <a href="#">COVID-19: Ethical Issues in the Management of COVID-19</a>
6/30		Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">The Navajo Nation Responds to COVID-19</a> Network publishes Insights Column: <a href="#">COVID-19 Pandemic and Tobacco Sales in the US</a>

## Supporting Those Protecting Our Communities

In the early days of the pandemic and beyond, the Network assisted local, county, tribal and state health agencies and others with timely guidance, resources and information critical to key COVID-19 response measures by providing:

- **Over 50 resources** to guide decision-making in numerous areas including public health authority and emergency powers; constitutionality of practices; health data privacy; protections for disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals; crisis standards of care and ethical decision making.
- Workshops and presentations with a total of **2,531 attendees** to build skills and share best practices within the public health workforce.
- **14 webinars** examining real time actions on issues such as quarantine, isolation and social distancing powers; ethics; vulnerable populations; emergency legal response; public health decision-making; and data sharing with a total of **8,301 attendees**
- Front-line, legal and policy consultation and guidance to **more than 450 policymakers**, attorneys, academics, advocates, practitioners, and others on issues including public health authority, emergency response measures, disease reporting and health information privacy, access to health care, and substance use and harm reduction.

*“The Network is a go-to technical assistance hub for our work serving governor’s offices. If the Network did not exist, we’d have to create it. The depth of legal expertise is unparalleled. They are incredible resources and we highly value our partnership.”*

*– Jeff Locke, National Governor’s Association*

*“I greatly appreciate the timely assistance that I received as we are dealing with an unprecedented public health crisis. Thank you for all that you do.”*

*– James Erb, Assistant City Attorney Sr., Bellingham, Washington*



## An Essential, Trusted Collaborator in Time of Crisis

Organizations across the country reached out to the Network for our leadership and expertise, and we played a vital role in the nationwide response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Leading a Coordinated Effort to Assess COVID-19 Law and Policy Response

The Network joined with public health law partners to produce a report that includes critical analyses and recommendations from 50 national experts convened to assess the U.S. policy response to the COVID-19 crisis. This new report will offer policy recommendations on 35 wide-ranging topics, including pandemic preparedness, access to health care, voter health and safety, protections for essential workers, food insecurity and immigration policy. Designed to advise leaders at the federal, state and local level, the report presents a timely examination of policy challenges and opportunities in light of the pandemic. Authors of this report will present their findings at the Network's 2020 Public Health Law Virtual Summit on COVID-19 Response and Recovery to engage public health officials, policymakers, practitioners, lawyers and advocates across the country.

### Protecting Voter Health and Participation in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic exacerbated existing barriers to voting and election participation, making it more difficult for people across the country to exercise their right to vote. As the nation grapples with the spread of COVID-19, we must protect our voting systems and ensure that everyone can safely and securely vote throughout the 2020 election cycle. The Network collaborated with Voting Rights Lab to conduct a webinar to provide hundreds of public health officials and practitioners

with information on how to protect public health and voter participation in the 2020 elections. We also joined with the Voting Rights Lab and the Union of Concerned Scientists to pen an Open Letter to Protect Vulnerable Populations During the 2020 Elections, which was signed by close to a thousand leaders in public health, health care and medicine.

### Ensuring Accurate Reporting of Public Health Law and Policy in Responses to COVID-19

National, state and local news media outlets and publications turned to the Network as a trusted source for their reporting on law and policy issues regarding COVID-19 response efforts, including:





## Addressing the Structural Barriers that Impact Health and Health Equity

Throughout the pandemic, we continued our important ongoing work with partners on access to care and other issues facing many marginalized communities.

### Supporting the Work of The East Side Health and Well-Being Collaborative

Recognizing that health and well-being start where people live, learn, work and play, the East Side Health and Well-Being Collaborative in St. Paul, Minnesota is working with more than 20 local community organizations to build and share power and advance coordinated initiatives that strengthen the health of their community. One of the Collaborative's programs involves "cultural brokers" who are employed by a health care system, but stationed at community based organizations to assist Hmong, Black, Latinx and Native American community members in addressing a range of medical and social needs. The Network worked with the Collaborative to help members better understand the legal issues related to cultural brokers' work helping clients complete housing and immigration forms. As a result, cultural brokers can confidently provide assistance, without crossing over into unlawful practices.

### Addressing the Legal and Policy Barriers to Effective Harm Reduction Efforts

With support from Arnold Ventures, the Network's Harm Reduction Legal Project works to address the legal and policy barriers that impede the establishment and expansion of evidence-based harm reduction measures such as naloxone distribution, syringe access programs, and access to evidence-based substance use disorder treatment. Network law and policy experts have provided guidance and consultation to more

than 150 policymakers, attorneys, advocates and others to assist them in navigating the often extremely confusing maze of existing laws and regulations that hamper harm reduction initiatives. The Project also provides non-partisan, evidence-based publications and training regarding the state of laws impacting individuals who use drugs, individuals in recovery, and their communities, as well as research regarding the impact of those laws.

### Identifying Opportunities to Advance Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

The opioid overdose epidemic remains an urgent public health issue. Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) with the medications methadone and buprenorphine is credited with dramatically reducing risk of opioid overdose deaths and improving other health outcomes. Despite its demonstrated effectiveness, barriers to OAT access arise in various areas of law and policy, restricting access for many in need. Last year the Network convened the Cross-Sector Attorneys for Health (CSAH), a group of more than a dozen attorneys from different sectors seeking to bring cross-cutting areas of legal and policy expertise to address critical public health issues. The CSAH collaborative has identified barriers to OAT access and potential solutions to improve OAT uptake in eight sectors, including the health care system, criminal legal system, family law, housing, zoning, transportation, education and youth, and employment. The resulting paper, *A Cross-Sector Approach to Removing Legal and Policy Barriers to Opioid Agonist Treatment*, will be published and distributed to policymakers, officials, practitioners and advocates by the Network in the Fall of 2020.

## Unlocking the Power of Data for Improving Community Health

Data are essential for public health surveillance, epidemiological investigation, research, program development, implementation and evaluation. A complex legal landscape, and lack of knowledge and training in law, result in actual or perceived barriers to data collection, use and sharing. As a result, opportunities are missed to use and share electronic data to improve the health of communities, promote wellness, address social determinants of health and increase health equity. The Network worked with public health departments and organizations on their specific data use cases in order to help them fully use data to advance the health of their communities. Some of the projects included improving the quality of data in immunization information systems; creating a data sharing template that allows police to share information on drug-related crime with community-based organizations; and assisting public health agencies in navigating data privacy laws regarding the collection and use of data related to child and adolescent mental health in order to improve community health.



# Amplifying the impact of public health: 2020 highlights

Public health is driven by law and policy in ways that are broadly and deeply complex. In 2020, the Network helped tens of thousands of individuals in public health and other sectors cut through this complexity by providing them with the legal expertise and evidence-based information they needed to protect and improve public health.

## Research and Analysis

Sound, evidence-based decision making is critical to building greater quality of life in our communities—and even saving lives. The research reports, briefs, surveys, articles and other resources we produce serve as valuable guides and applied tools that enable those we serve to leverage laws and policies to advance health and health equity. In the last year, the Network:

- Developed **195** reports, briefs, surveys, research articles and other resources on pressing and emerging issues in public health.
- Reached more than **120,000** individuals online with our research, reports and resources.

## Strategic Consultation and Guidance

From disseminating best practices to designing action plans, the guidance we provide helps individuals and organizations working in public health and other sectors develop policy, access laws, understand regulations and advance initiatives.

As trained issue spotters, we help these individuals and organizations understand the laws and regulations central to their unique challenges and provide law and policy pathways they can leverage to make a difference.

Over **700** individuals and organizations received this critical assistance from our national network of public health law and policy experts.

*“I am so grateful for all of the resources your organization provides. They are easy to understand and put into action. Please, please continue doing what you are doing.”*

*- Renee Tedder, Macomb County Health Department, Mount Clemens, Michigan*

The top public health issues receiving our assistance



## Knowledge Building and Training

We empower those working in public health and other sectors, expanding their capacity to leverage laws and policies to make critical advances in health and health equity.

- We provided individuals in public health and other sectors with education and training through **40** webinars, workshops and presentations with a total of more than **9,700** people in attendance.
- In October 2019, more than **130** public health and health care professionals attended the Network’s 2019 Public Health Law Summit: Data Sharing to Improve Community Health to gain specific strategies for collecting, using and sharing data while complying with the law and maintaining community trust in critical areas including law enforcement and criminal justice; behavioral and mental health; primary health care; housing; transportation and human services; and public health and environmental health.
- In November 2019, the Network launched the monthly reporter *Judicial Trends in Public Health* (JTPH) which monitors key court cases and judicial trends in public health. Some of the significant cases covered include *California v. Texas* and *U.S. House of Representatives v. Texas* regarding the constitutionality of the ACA individual mandate; the *Department of Homeland Security v. New York* ruling on the Department of Homeland Security’s public charge rule allowing the federal government to deny green cards to individuals found likely to become a “public charge;” *June Medical Services v. Russo* regarding the constitutionality of a Louisiana law requiring abortion providers to obtain hospital admitting privileges; and the *Bostock v. Clayton County*, a Georgia ruling on whether an employer who fires an employee for being gay or transgender commits unlawful sex discrimination under Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act.



## Raising Awareness and Connecting

We serve a community of people who are engaged in the important work of advancing health and health equity, as well as those interested in supporting and advocating for change. They look to us as thought leaders and experts in how to advance the nation's health through law and policy.



Our **Network Report** bi-weekly e-newsletter and monthly **Judicial Trends in Public Health** reporter kept **close to 12,000** subscribers informed about key emerging issues in public health policy and law.

Subscribers included:

- Officials, lawyers and practitioners at the local, state, tribal and federal levels.
- Researchers and educators.
- Advocates at local and national levels.
- Health care professionals.

We reach tens of thousands of members in our online communities to raise awareness about laws and policies that impact health.



**9,861 Facebook followers**



**4,949 Twitter followers**



**3,341 LinkedIn followers**

More than 70 media outlets and publications turned to the Network as a trusted source for their reporting on public health laws and policies. These included:



## Thank you to our partners and supporters

American Bar Association – Public Health & Policy Interest Group  
American Heart Association  
American Immunization Registry Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics  
Arnold Ventures  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
ASU Center for Public Health Law and Policy  
CDC Foundation  
Center for Public Health Law Research at Temple University  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Center for Sharing Public Health Services  
ChangeLab Solutions  
Data Across Sectors for Health  
de Beaumont Foundation  
East Side Health and Well-Being Collaborative  
Food Safety Inspection Services of the USDA  
Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments  
Harris County Public Health  
Health Impact Project  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
Joint Public Health Informatics Task Force  
Kaiser Permanente  
Lawrence/Douglas County Health Department  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
Michigan University  
Minnesota Department of Health  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Local Boards of Health

National Association of School Nurses  
National Center for Medical-Legal Partnerships  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Governors Association  
National Health Law Program  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
Newborn Screening Translational Research Network  
Public Health Accreditation Board  
Public Health Law Center at Mitchell Hamline School of Law  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Safe States Alliance  
The Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference  
Trust for America's Health  
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health  
University of Maryland Carey School of Law  
University of Michigan School of Public Health

*“Harnessing the power of law and policy is essential for safeguarding community health, especially as we strive to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 during a global pandemic. Kaiser Permanente is pleased to support the Network’s efforts to rapidly share emerging evidence and data, as well as effective protocols and policies, with those on the front lines of the pandemic.”*  
- Kaiser Permanente

*“The Harm Reduction Legal Project is addressing legal and policy barriers at the ground level so that programs working directly with impacted people can do what they do best – provide high quality services to the people who need them most.”*  
- Arnold Ventures

# Supported in our work by leaders committed to improving the health of communities

The Network's National Advisory Board represents some of the country's leading experts and practitioners working at the intersections of law, policy, health care, housing, education and public health. We, and the many others with whom we partner, could not have achieved all that we have without their leadership and guidance. We are deeply grateful for their service.



## Adrian E. Dominguez

MS, Director of Informatics and Epidemiology, at the Urban Indian Health Institute  
*A recognized expert in epidemiology with valuable knowledge of tribal and minority health, and experience working on critical public health issues including pediatric lead poisoning.*



## Barbara Ferrer

Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
*A nationally known public health leader with over 30 years of experience as a philanthropic strategist, public health director, educational leader, researcher and community advocate.*



## Steven Gravely

Strategic and Legal Advisor to Health Care Organizations, the Gravely Group  
*An experienced and respected attorney who has represented health care organizations for over 20 years in a full spectrum of health care legal issues.*



## Scott Hall

Senior Vice President for Civic and Community Initiatives, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce  
*Dedicated to advancing the health and wellness of his community, Mr. Hall leads the Kansas City Chamber's "Health KC" project, an initiative focused on making Greater Kansas City a destination for healthy living.*



## Howard Koh

Professor of the Practice of Public Health Leadership at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Harvard Kennedy School  
*A recipient of more than 70 awards and honors for interdisciplinary accomplishments in medicine and public health, Dr. Koh served as Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under President Obama.*



## John T. Monahan

Senior Advisor for Global Initiatives to the President of Georgetown University  
*A respected leader and advisor who has held senior leadership roles in government, diplomacy, politics, philanthropy and academia, including the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of State, Capitol Hill and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.*



## Umair Shah

Executive Director, Harris County Public Health, and Past President of the National Association of County & City Health Officials  
*Sought for his insights into the fields of medicine and public health, Dr. Shah has presented at both the Texas Legislature and on Capitol Hill and is a recognized leader in local public health.*



## Joaquin Tamayo

Education Changemaker and Senior Policy Advisor at EducationCounsel LLC  
*A champion for youth and for the advancement of the science of learning and development to drive equity, improvement and excellence in U.S. public education, Mr. Tamayo served three years in the executive branch of the Obama Administration*



## Aaron Wernham

Chief Executive Officer of the Montana Healthcare Foundation  
*An experienced family physician turned health policy advocate and expert, Dr. Wernham has worked with underserved communities at the state level and on health policy at the national level, where he developed and led the Health Impact Project, a major national initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.*



## Kimberlydawn Wisdom

Senior Vice President of Community Health & Equity and Chief Wellness & Diversity Officer at the Henry Ford Health System  
*A respected leader in efforts to improve the health of those disproportionately affected by poor health outcomes and a former member of President Obama's Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion and Integrative and Public Health, Dr. Wisdom was Michigan's and the nation's first state-level Surgeon General.*

## Our National and Regional Office Directors



### Donna E. Levin

J.D., National Director  
*Before joining the Network, Ms. Levin spent over 25 years as general counsel at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.*



### Denise Chrysler

J.D., Director, Mid-States Region Office at the University of Michigan School of Public Health  
*A recognized expert in public health data and information sharing, Ms. Chrysler served for 20 years as assistant attorney general in Michigan.*



### James G. Hodge, Jr.

J.D., LL.M., Director, Western Region Office at the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law  
*Mr. Hodge provides leadership in addressing emergency preparedness and response to public health threats, including infectious disease outbreaks like COVID-19, Ebola.*



### Kathleen Hoke

J.D., Director, Eastern Region Office at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law  
*Ms. Hoke draws on her many years of experience as director of the Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law, a position she continues to hold.*



### Jill Krueger

J.D., Director, Northern Region Office  
*Before joining the Network, Ms. Krueger served as assistant attorney general in the Minnesota Attorney General's office and as senior staff attorney at Farmers' Legal Action Group.*



### Gene Matthews

J.D., Director, Southeastern Region Office at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health  
*Mr. Matthews, who previously served as chief legal advisor to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, serves as Senior Investigator at the North Carolina Institute for Public Health.*

## Our Funding

In fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) the Network received \$3.5 million in core funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. We received an additional \$1M in project funding from government agencies, public health and philanthropic organizations, and earned income.

<b>RWJF Core Funding</b>	<b>\$3.5M</b>	<b>Program Services</b>	<b>\$3.8M</b>
		Strategic Consultation and Guidance	\$2.5M
		Research and Analysis	\$1M
		Knowledge Building & Training	\$200K
		Awareness & Connecting	\$100K
<b>Public Health &amp; Other Philanthropic Organizations</b>	<b>\$570K</b>	<b>Management and General Operations</b>	<b>\$500K</b>
<b>Federal &amp; State Government</b>	<b>\$300K</b>		
<b>Earned Income</b>	<b>\$130K</b>		
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$4.5M</b>	<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>\$4.3M</b>

Please note: the figure above does not represent an audited financial statement.



## Looking ahead: Addressing the Structural Challenges to Better Health Outcomes for Our Communities

From our inception in September 2010, a primary objective of the Network has been to empower the public, nonprofit, and private sectors to understand how to use law and policy to improve community health and health equity. In a decade, the Network has become a driving force in using public health law and policy to make our communities safer, healthier, stronger and more equitable through 1) legal guidance and information that we provide to hundreds of agencies and organizations, and 2) leadership in identifying broader structural issues contributing to negative health outcomes and ways to address these issues. The Network is at the forefront in ensuring that law is used effectively to advance a culture of health across communities.

To address the major structural problems that impede positive health outcomes in our communities, the Network prioritizes three major areas of focus in the coming year and beyond:

- Supporting communities and building the capacity of agencies and organizations to critically assess and change laws and policies that shape the social determinants of health are significant ways that the Network can strengthen the work to reduce or eliminate the impact of racism and discrimination on health outcomes.
- As the pandemic exposes the critical weaknesses and gaps in current U.S. health policy, drastic changes in the coming years will impact the systems and protections communities rely on to achieve better health. The Network will provide thought leadership, legal technical assistance, training, resources and education on multiple law and policy fronts to health departments, health systems, schools, community groups and other partners.
- Public health departments are integral partners in community health. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed an overwhelmed public health system, underfunded for decades, with lack of protections for its workforce. We will work to expand our capacity to help the thousands of officials, lawyers and practitioners at public health departments across the country so they have access to the critical, timely legal technical assistance, guidance and information they need.

