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Imagine fully informed health

## 2019 Health Current Summit & Trade Show

### Speaker Photos and Biographies



**Khalid Al-Maskari**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Health Information Management Systems, LLC**

With over 15 years' experience in behavioral health care information technology, Khalid Al-Maskari is considered a thought leader in the field of health care informatics. As Chief Executive Officer of Health Information Management Systems (HiMS), Khalid rapidly grew the company from a single Tucson-based customer to a multi-state presence. His vision for a fully scalable integrated electronic health record software was realized

by bringing together stakeholders of every level in technology, healthcare services, emerging technology and skilled personnel to empower integrated healthcare providers to improve the quality of patient care.

As a goal-oriented executive with demonstrated experience in planning, developing, and implementing innovative technology and information solutions to serve diverse needs, Khalid is well-versed in strategic planning, executing new implementations and ongoing operation of technology services, training, quality assurance and support.

Khalid leads the strategic direction of HiMS and provides expertise by defining, adopting and adhering to IT strategies, processes and standards, and plans, implements and manages organizational application and infrastructure architecture delivery. He is respected for his adept skills in joint application development, capacity planning, project and resource management, and cross-functional team building.

Khalid earned his bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering and an MBA in Healthcare Administration.

Professionally, Khalid was selected as a member of the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT) and was later appointed as co-chair of the CCHIT Security Workgroup, and a CCHIT Security Juror to certify electronic health record software for Meaningful Use certification.

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**Marissa Avila**  
**Care Management Supervisor**  
**North Country HealthCare**

Marissa oversees the care management department at North Country HealthCare. The mission of the care management department is to manage, support, and empower patients who are at the highest risk for poor health outcomes at North Country HealthCare. Marissa has worked with this department for several years and has helped develop and implement workflows that directly impact North Country's highest risk populations. As a

PCMH CCE, Marissa has worked to transform 11 NCHC sites under the 2017 PCMH standards. Prior to working at NCHC, Marissa worked in various behavioral health settings in both Arizona and Colorado. Marissa expects to graduate with her Masters of Public Health soon and continue her work in community health in rural northern Arizona.

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**Curtis Bailey**  
**Senior Sales Architect**  
**NextGen HealthCare**

Curtis Has spent the last 10 years trying to help data and insights come together to create better healthcare outcomes.

He likes to joke that he's done most jobs in healthcare I.T. Except Sweep Floors and Sign Checks.

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**Marilee Benson**  
**President**  
**Zen Healthcare IT**

Marilee has over twenty-five years of experience in the healthcare information technology sector, currently as President of Zen Healthcare IT.

Under her leadership over the past 2 ½ years, Zen has become a trusted interoperability engineering and technology services partner with leading state and regional health information exchanges, as well as with many healthcare IT vendors and

provider groups across the U.S, "During my long career in healthcare IT it has become clear to me that healthcare organizations (both provider organizations and healthcare IT vendors) face significant hurdles to achieve true interoperability, so essential for value-based care, and most of those hurdles are not technology dependent. The healthcare industry, today more than ever, needs seasoned experts and nimble solutions-oriented companies to support a rapidly growing demand for interoperability and data integration tools and projects. As President of Zen, I want to ensure that we are laser focused

on filling that gap and helping healthcare organizations walk that most difficult “last mile” of interoperability on the path to value based care.”

Marilee is a member of the WBL, Women Business Leaders of the U.S. Healthcare Industry Foundation. Marilee received her B.S. in Microbiology from Texas A&M University and her MBA in Engineering Management from University of Dallas.

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**Jaime Bland**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII)**

Jaime Bland, DNP, RN-BC, is the CEO of Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NEHII). Prior to joining NEHII, she worked with a provider organization as a Chief Clinical Officer and at the VA Midwest Region (VISN 23) office in Eagan, MN as the PCMH and health promotion disease prevention program manager for the primary care service line. She has extensive experience establishing and leading care management, population health and clinical quality initiatives.

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**Christina Corieri**  
**Senior Policy Advisor**  
**Office of the Arizona Governor**

Christina Corieri serves as Governor Ducey’s Senior Policy Advisor. In these positions, she advises the governor on various issues and policy affecting healthcare at the state and national level as well as on welfare, insurance, child safety, and health related licensing boards.

Prior to joining Governor Ducey’s staff, she held positions including healthcare policy analyst at the Goldwater Institute, Chief of Staff for Councilman Sal DiCiccio, and Vice President of Government and Board Relations for a national nonprofit. She holds a JD from ASU as well as a B.S. in political science and a B.A. in history.

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**Lynn Curtis**  
**Marketing Specialist**  
**Arizona Board of Pharmacy**

Lynn Curtis is the marketing specialist for the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program at the Arizona Board of Pharmacy. His focus is on improving the use of the PMP, increasing the understanding of the statutes around its proper use, and persuading medical practitioners it should be a best practice. He works with a wide variety of users, including law

enforcement agencies, government organizations, and medical professionals. Before joining the PMP team, Lynn spent 25 years at a major insurance company working in marketing, media production, and training.

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**Anthony Dunnigan, MD, MBI**  
**Chief Medical Information Officer**  
**Valleywise Health**

Anthony Dunnigan, MD, MBI is currently the Chief Medical Information Officer of Valleywise Health, the county health system of Maricopa County, Phoenix, Arizona. He is a practicing Internal Medicine physician with the District Medical Group, and on the faculty of the University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Creighton University in the departments of Biomedical Informatics and Internal Medicine. Previously,

Anthony was Senior Advisor for the Veterans Health Administration and clinical co-lead of the Vista Evolution program, delivering the next generation of health information technology to the VA. He was Director of Medical Informatics at Phoenix Indian Medical Center and is a 17-year veteran of the U.S. Public Health Service. He has a medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland and a Masters in Biomedical Informatics from Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Oregon. He is double-boarded in Clinical Informatics and Internal Medicine.

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**Pele Fischer, Esq.**  
**Attorney**  
**Peacock Legal PLC**

Pele Fischer, Esq. is the principal of Peacock Legal, PLC, a government affairs and legal consulting firm. Through a comprehensive approach to policy development, advocacy, and legal consulting Peacock Legal is focused advancing the business and policy goals of its clients. Peacock Legal is committed to providing the highest level of quality service to a limited number of clients.

Pele is an expert in Arizona health care policy and navigating its legislative and regulatory environment. She has a successful track record in advocacy, problem solving, and consensus/coalition building. She has been intimately involved in all state-level health related legislation over the last 6 years (including federal efforts as well).

Key initiatives include:

- Medicaid Restoration and Expansion
- The Arizona Opioid Act
- Restoration of KidsCare
- Public Health Initiatives

- AHCCCS Initiatives
- ACA Repeal and Replace Efforts
- Arizona Medical Board reforms including passage of the Medical Licensure Compact
- Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program
- Surprise Billing Dispute Resolution Process
- Credentialing Reforms
- Scope of Practice Issues

Prior to starting Peacock Legal, Pele served as the Vice President of Policy and Political Affairs for the Arizona Medical Association where she directed strategies in legal, political, and regulatory development and advocacy. Before joining the Arizona Medical Association, Pele served as a Senior Policy Advisor and Staff Attorney for the Arizona House of Representatives for multiple committees including: Health, Human Services, and Commerce.

Pele is also actively involved in the greater Arizona health care community including serving on the boards of Arizona Public Health Association, Arizona Partnership for Immunization, Health Current, Arizona's Bio-science Road-map Steering Committee, Arizona Chamber Health Care Committee, among others.



**Susie Flores**  
**Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer**  
**HealthPort, Inc**

Susie Flores has 20 years of healthcare experience. Susie founded Health Innovations in 1999 and has worked with over 400 hospitals, 1,200 skilled nursing facilities, national home health and hospice providers, ACOs, physician groups and managed care organizations. Susie has extensive experience in care coordination and population health management. She's developed programs that engage providers across the care continuum with a focus on improving access to care while reducing the cost of care for underserved complex patient populations.

Susie is also the proud founder of Coordinated Care Systems a healthcare/care coordination-based SaaS provider in 2012. As a serial entrepreneur Susie's patient care advocacy led to the founding of both Care Directives and OneCare Provider Network in 2016, and HealthPort in early 2018. As a social worker working with hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and hospice agencies made Susie aware of the lack of access to patient clinical data, coordination of care, and access to care when needed most. The combination of all of these factors became the driving force behind her commitment to building technology applications that can bridge the gaps in a fragmented care delivery model while improving patients' quality of life.

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**Matt Hall**  
**Vice President Business Systems and Technology**  
**Magellan Complete Care of Arizona**

Matt Hall serves as VP Business Systems and Technology for Magellan Complete Care of Arizona (MCC). In his role, Matt works to ensure that Magellan's AHCCCS Complete Care Health Plan is performing optimally by ensuring access to and leveraging applicable information to support daily process and strategic decision making. Matt has previously led Magellan IT for the

Maricopa County RBHA and implemented Magellan Complete Care plans nationally.

Matt has a broad background in multiple industries, having held technology leadership roles in Pharmaceutical, Financial Services, Oil and Gas and Government sectors.

A longtime Arizona resident, Matt holds a Bachelor of Science from ASU and serves on the board of Keen Phoenix – a nonprofit volunteer-led organization that provides free recreational and fitness opportunities for children with disabilities.

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**Morgan Honea**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Colorado Regional Health Information Organization**  
**(CORHIO)**

Morgan Honea serves as the CEO of the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO). Under his leadership, CORHIO has grown at its fastest pace since inception - exchanging health information between 66 hospitals, 5,300+ providers, and over 1,800 organizations. He has also expanded the organization's partnership with the State of Colorado as well

as numerous payers and ACO's to advance the Triple Aim in Colorado. Honea serves in a governance capacity for multiple organizations and as the representative for health information exchange on the Governor's Commission for eHealth Innovation.

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**Connie K. Ihde**  
**Director, Programs**  
**Health Current**

Connie K. Ihde has more than 25 years' experience in Healthcare Informatics where she has led divisions responsible for automated financial, ancillary and clinical systems for hospitals, providers and managed care organization. Prior to joining Health Current (formerly Arizona Health-e Connection) in October of 2011 as the Arizona Regional Extension Center Director, Ms. Ihde

provided financial, operational and information technology consulting services to hospitals, providers and ancillary facilities. She served as Chief Operating Officer for Tamtron, Inc. and President and CEO of HealthVISION Corporation's Canadian Division. Following her work at Wausau Insurance Company's Healthcare Management Systems and Services Division, Mrs. Ihde joined Baxter Healthcare as a Medical Business Consultant.

Ms. Ihde has particular expertise in support services, systems installations, and product direction management. Her background in customer service work included coordination of user's community conferences and seminars, the development of training programs and materials and workflow re-design for clinical and financial application utilization.

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**Debbie Johnston**  
**Senior Vice President of Policy**  
**Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association**  
**(AzHHA)**



**John P. Kansky, MSE, MBA**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Indiana Health Information Exchange (IHIE)**

John P. Kansky is the President and CEO of the Indiana Health Information Exchange. During his 12 years at IHIE, John has held roles in Strategy and Planning, Product Management, and Business Development. Prior to joining IHIE, John's career included experience as a Healthcare IT Consultant with Health Evolutions, CIO of the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County (Indiana), Director of Clinical Engineering at the

Indiana University Medical Center, and biomedical engineering researcher at the University of Washington School of Medicine. He is a co-inventor on three U.S. patents for diagnostic imaging technology.

John was appointed in August 2017 by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to serve a two-year term on the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC), which was established under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act to provide policy recommendations to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

John has spoken nationally on health information exchange (HIE) and healthcare IT. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of:

- The Regenstrief Institute
- The Sequoia Project
- eHealth Exchange
- ONC's HIT Advisory Committee
- Healthcare Innovation Editorial Advisory Board

John is the current Chair of the Coordinating Committee of the eHealth Exchange and has served as the Vice Chair of the HIMSS North America board. He is also an adjunct professor at Indiana University in the school of Public Health. He holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University, an MS in Bio-Engineering from the University of Washington, and an MBA from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.

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**Melissa A. Kotrys, MPH**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Health Current**

Melissa Kotrys is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Health Current, the health information exchange (HIE) that helps partners transform care by bringing together communities and information across Arizona.

Ms. Kotrys currently serves as the Chair of the Maricopa Health Centers Governing Council and the Secretary of the Board for the national trade association of community and regional HIEs, the Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC). Ms. Kotrys also serves on the North America Board of Directors for the Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS), serving a three-year term that began July 1, 2018. Prior to joining Health Current, Ms. Kotrys worked as a consultant and health policy analyst at Deloitte Consulting. Ms. Kotrys holds a Master's in Public Health from The George Washington University with a concentration in health policy, and a Bachelor of Arts from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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**Megan Lipman**  
**Vice President of Compliance and Quality**  
**Management**  
**Jewish Family & Children's Service**

Megan Lipman is Vice President of Quality Management and Compliance at Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS). Megan has over 14 years experience in the behavioral health and medical industry. Her focus at JFCS over the last few years has been on facilitating change into an integrated care model that supports improved member outcomes and success within alternative payment models. Megan has been instrumental in overseeing and implementing the

AHCCCS Targeted Investment Program at JFCS and partnering with colleagues and community partners to design more efficient and satisfactory service delivery under the pillars of the Quadruple Aim. Megan has a passion for continuous quality improvement which drives her initiatives to provide whole health care for adults, children and families. Megan is a graduate of Arizona State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She is also a graduate of the JFCS Leadership Academy and has been presented with the agency's "Exemplary Practice Story".

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**Dominic Miller, LMSW, MPA**  
**Vice President of Outpatient Services**  
**Southwest Behavioral & Health Services**

Dominic Miller started with SB&H in 2017 as a Clinical Manager overseeing programming for high risk populations in the Outpatient Services Division and has spent 7 years in the behavioral health industry. His primary focus has been community based mental health and social work for vulnerable and diverse populations. He earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Social Work and also holds a Master's of Public

Administration degree from Arizona State University. He also is a Licensed Master Social Worker. Dominic oversees our Outpatient Division in Maricopa, Coconino, Gila and Yavapai Counties. In his spare time Dominic is a mentor, enjoys reading, running, and is an avid documentary watcher.

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**Jay Nakashima**  
**Executive Director**  
**eHealth Exchange**

Jay Nakashima leads the eHealth Exchange, the nation's largest health information network which operates in all 50 states. Incubated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2006 as an ONC initiative, the eHealth Exchange is now an independent non-profit dedicated to the public good.

After years in leadership roles at providers, payers, and health IT vendors, Jay now focuses on improving interoperability to improve patient care.

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**Keith Parker**  
**Chief Information Officer**  
**Health Current**

Keith Parker is the Chief Information Officer (CIO) for Health Current, Arizona's health information exchange (HIE). He is responsible for all information system functions at the HIE, which include core HIE services, as well as population health and data analytics.

Mr. Parker joined Health Current in November 2016 and has over 30 years of experience in healthcare. His area of expertise is in health information technology implementation and use, process improvement, along with change management methodology and implementation in healthcare. He holds undergraduate degrees in business administration, economics and an MBA from Saint Martin's University.

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**Karen Popp**  
**Care Coordination Manager**  
**Abacus Health/Arizona Community Physicians**

Experienced nursing professional with a passion for providing personalized patient care while raising the bar on healthcare quality for high-risk patient populations. A registered nurse for 18+ years, I have provided complex case management for patients with heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), hypertension, depression, diabetes, asthma and more. I have used data and analytics to build care management programs to improve quality of care and reduce readmission for high-risk patients transitioning from inpatient hospital care to other healthcare settings.

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**Jesus Rivera**  
**Battalion Chief**  
**Surprise Fire-Medical Department**

Jesus Rivera, Battalion Chief (Paramedic) has served as a member of the Surprise Fire-Medical Department (SFMD) for over 21 years. Jesus is the Division Chief over Surprise's Medical Services. Jesus received the Fire Chief's award in 2016, AEMS Aces of Hearts award in 2018 and the Image Trend Hooley Award for Innovation in 2019. Jesus has an associate degree in Paramedicine, and a bachelor's degree in Public Safety

Leadership. Jesus has been involved in Surprise's behavioral health program since 2015, is a partner in the West Valley Community Paramedicine Program and manages Surprise Ambulance and Treat and Refer program.

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**Stacey Rochman**  
**Director of Grants & Special Projects**  
**Health Current**

Stacey Rochman joined Health Current in 2016 and was the Program Director of the Practice Innovation Institute (Pii), the Arizona Practice Transformation Network created utilizing funds awarded to Health Current by CMS' Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative.

Ms. Rochman has a diversified background in the healthcare and information technology industries including work in hospital, physician, health plan, vendor, and other settings. Ms. Rochman earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Arizona State University and is a Certified Project Management.

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**Jon Smith**  
**Chief Information Officer**  
**North Country HealthCare**

Jon Smith is the Chief Information Officer at North Country HealthCare. He is a Flagstaff native who served 9 years in the United States Marine Corps, before settling down in Southern California in 2014. After 18 months with Hewlett Packard, he transitioned into the healthcare industry with North County Health Services (NCHS) in Southern California, where he served as the Vice President of IT and acting CIO. During his time at

NCHS, Jon's experience, innovation, and strategic thinking completely transformed the HIT department.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology, with an emphasis in Information Systems Security.

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**Ryan Smith**  
**Senior Population Health Data Analyst**  
**Abacus Health/Arizona Community Physicians**

Ryan is a data professional and system developer with 10 years of experience across a variety of different industries, including financial services, public utilities, and health care. He has a passion for replacing antiquated and inefficient manual processes with modern, automated workflows. He firmly believes the effective use and integration of data is the key for success in any business, and even more so to meet the challenges facing the

health care industry in the coming years.



**Melissa Soliz**  
**Partner**  
**Coppersmith Brockelman**

Melissa Soliz is a partner with Coppersmith Brockelman in Phoenix Arizona. Her regulatory health law practice focuses on compliance with data privacy laws, including HIPAA, 42 C.F.R. Part 2, and the new information blocking rules. She's also a prolific writer and presenter on these topics, with forthcoming publications in the Journal of Health Care Compliance and American Health Lawyers Association.

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**Ryan Sommers**  
**Leader, Interoperability & Health Information Exchange**  
**CommonSpirit Health**

Ryan Sommers serves as the Leader, Interoperability and Health Information Exchange for CommonSpirit Health, formerly Dignity Health. He has responsibilities for health information exchange activities across the organization which includes 142 hospitals and over 700 care sites in 21 states nationwide. Ryan has also served in a Population Health Management leadership role at Dignity Health. Prior to joining the organization, Ryan worked for the State of Arizona Governor's Office leading the planning, budgeting, and implementation of the HITECH HIE grant awarded to the State of Arizona. Ryan is a certified Project Management Professional and holds a Bachelor's of Science in Information Technology.

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**Nick Stravos**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Community Medical Services**

Nick Stravos started working in the addiction treatment field in 2012 when he joined Community Medical Services in Phoenix, Arizona and became the agency's CEO later that year. Prior to joining CMS, Nick spent eight years in the US Army as an intelligence analyst (HUMINT) and Arabic linguist and was later promoted to an Infantry Officer where he led a 40-person infantry platoon in combat operations in Iraq. Nick is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute, Army Officer Candidate School, Army Ranger School and Army Airborne School. Upon honorably discharging from the Army, Nick received his MBA from the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

Following numerous deaths of relatives and friends to the current opioid epidemic, Nick has become a passionate advocate for providing the most effective treatment to those affected by the opioid epidemic. Nick has worked with grassroots non-profit organizations in the state of Arizona to expand access to naloxone treatment, needle exchanges, and other harm reduction measures. Nick is the Arizona representative to AATOD and the president of the Arizona Opioid Treatment Coalition which provides collaborative opportunities and support to the 41 OTPs throughout the state of Arizona and is the co-chair for the Substance Abuse Committee for the Arizona Council of Health and Human Service Providers. Nick is currently actively working to educate communities and to expand MAT services to underserved locations in Montana, Arizona, North Dakota, and Alaska

#### Speaking/Education Topics

- MAT 101
- Dealing with Stigma & Community Resistance
- Barriers & Opportunities for Expanding Access to Care
- MAT M&A Trends
- The Role of Data Analytics in Healthcare Operations



#### **Steve Strauss** **Director of Network Development** **Unite Us**

Steve is a reformed attorney and former non-profit. In the law, he clerked at the NJ Superior Court and practiced corporate litigation. Steve left legal practice to direct Market Development for Single Stop USA, a New York-based antipoverty nonprofit organization. He spent several years helping to bring the program to national scale. Steve is now the Head of Network Development at Unite Us, where he leads the business effort to

bring Unite Us into new communities. Outside of the office, Steve enjoys baseball (Go Mets!), the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and pet-based memes.



#### **Pete Wertheim, MS** **Executive Director** **Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA)**

For more than 19 years, Peter Wertheim has been an award-winning Arizona leader in healthcare advocacy, public affairs and communications.

Wertheim is currently the Executive Director of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association representing the interests of osteopathic physicians, which is one the fastest growing healthcare professions in the country. Previously, he worked

within several different healthcare sectors including public health, hospitals and healthcare systems, physician licensure, and Medicaid insurance. Wertheim was the 2011-2012 President of the Arizona Public Health Association and began his career in healthcare working at the Arizona House of

Representatives as a research analyst and policy advisor on health, welfare and budget issues. Wertheim has a master's degree in the science of healthcare delivery from Arizona State University and a bachelor's degree in journalism from Northern Arizona University. He has lived in Arizona for over thirty years.

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**Mary Jo Whitfield**  
**Vice President of Integrated Health**  
**Jewish Family & Children's Services**

Mary Jo Whitfield, MSW is the Vice President of Integrated Health for Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS). Mary Jo has worked in the behavioral health field for more than 40 years. She has wide-ranging experience developing and implementing programs within Medicaid systems that provide services to children, families, persons with substance abuse disorders and persons with serious mental illness. Prior to joining JFCS, Ms. Whitfield held the position of Chief Clinical Officer for ValueOptions, the Regional Behavioral Health Authority for Maricopa County at that time, where she managed the operations of the adult clinics serving persons with serious mental illness and directed the areas of Clinical Administration, Children's Services, Program Development, Program Management and Crisis Services. More recently, Ms. Whitfield's achievements include: JFCS' Michael R. Zent (MRZ) Healthcare Center's designation as a Family Center of Excellence, providing necessary primary and behavioral healthcare to the Maryvale community; Child Crisis Hospital Team; Care Coordination Program; Case Management Program for Children & Youth; Adult Case Management Program; Youth in Transition Program; and Zero to Five Program. Ms. Whitfield has served on numerous community boards including the Maricopa Health Centers Governing Council, Partners In Recovery Vision and Strategy Council, Chair of the Partners In Recovery Program Committee, Arizona Substance Abuse Task Force; Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family Angel Initiative, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona SUD Advisory Board.

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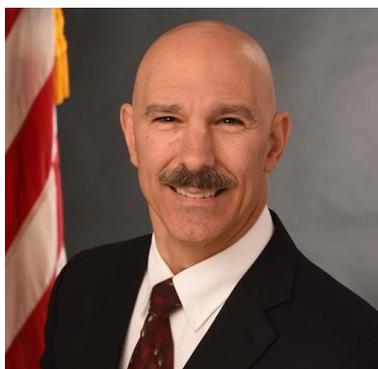


**Matthew Wiley, PhD**  
**Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer**  
**HealthPort, Inc**

Matthew Wiley PhD, Founder and CTO, has 12 years of experience working with patient health information at the intersection of computer science and healthcare. Matthew has applied his expertise in artificial intelligence (AI), natural language processing (NLP), machine learning, and data mining to several areas of healthcare, from diabetes to social media posts from patients to clinical notes from clinicians. Matthew founded Care Directives with Susie Flores in 2016, where he led the development of an advance care planning registry with documents from across the nation. Matthew built the Advance Directive information Exchange (ADiE), the flagship product by Care Directives. Matthew connected ADiE to a variety of interoperability standards, including FHIR, HL7, Direct messaging, CDAs, and Epic and Cerner apps.

Matthew also built an AI pipeline for processing paper-based forms, that automatically extracts handwritten text using state-of-the-art optical character recognition techniques.

Matthew received his PhD in Computer Science in June 2016 from UC Riverside where he studied health data management, data mining, and big data methods. He has interned at City of Hope and Kaiser Permanente, where he worked with information scientists and clinical researchers to develop NLP tools for clinical notes. Matthew also holds an MS degree in Computer Science from Ohio University, where he led the development of machine learning models for patients with Type I diabetes at the College of Osteopathic Medicine; this work led to the founding of the SmartHealth Lab and received significant publicity from the local media.



**Mark Vafiades**  
**Senior Advisor**  
**Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC)**

Mark Vafiades serves as a Special Advisor to the National Coordinator for Health IT, having transitioned from within HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and the U.S. Surgeon General. Mr. Vafiades leads ONC's outreach to health information exchanges (HIEs) and community health organizations.

Prior to HHS, Mr. Vafiades was an electronic health records (EHR) site implementation manager for Kaiser Permanente in Southern California. There he led the conversion from paper charts to electronic records in his service area, later becoming the service area EHR site leader once the implementation was complete.

Before joining Kaiser Permanente, Mr. Vafiades served as a national lead training project manager for IBM. He also spent five years managing two state agencies for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

While living in Southern California, Mr. Vafiades worked as a reserve patrol deputy/first responder for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for twenty years. That experience gave him a unique understanding of the ground-level challenges facing the public health system.