

Webinar & Discussion Group Date: February 22, 2022

## Reimagining a Public Health System to Build an Equitable Tomorrow

### PRESENTER BIOSKETCHES

#### **Ankit Sanghavi** **Executive Director** **Texas Health Institute**

A trained dentist and public health professional, Ankit currently serves as the Executive Director at Texas Health Institute (THI). In his current role, he oversees a range of research, development, and evaluation projects at THI aimed at advancing health and health equity. He also leads the development of partnerships and collaborative efforts with THI's local, state, and national partners. Prior to his current role, Ankit developed and led the community and oral health program at THI.

Ankit is an experienced specialist in systems thinking, public health collaboration, use of research and data in healthcare decision making, health policy planning and development. He serves on several national, state and local, public health committees and organizations including but not limited to the board of directors at National Network of Public Health Institutes, Editorial board of the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, Dean's Advisory Board at Texas A&M University School of Public Health, Texas Health Improvement Network, Texas Oral Health Coalition, and Go Austin Vamos Austin. Before joining THI, Ankit worked at Williamson County and Cities Health District, where he conceptualized, developed and managed the Public Health Practice Review process and also served as their PHAB Accreditation Fellow. Ankit graduated with his Master's in Public Health with concentration in Health Policy and Management from Texas A&M University and his Bachelor's in Dental Surgery from MUHS University, India.



#### **Nastassia Walsh** **Associate Program Director for Community Health and Justice** **National Association of Counties**

Nastassia Walsh is Associate Program Director for Community Health and Justice at the National Association of Counties (NACo). In this role, Nastassia oversees programmatic activities and strategy on NACo's justice and health portfolios to support county innovation. Prior to joining NACo, Nastassia was a senior policy analyst at The Council of State Governments Justice Center where she provided training and technical assistance to state and local criminal and juvenile justice agencies to develop programs for people returning to their communities from jails and prisons. She also spent six years at the non-profit Justice Policy Institute researching local, state and federal criminal and juvenile justice policies. She has a master's degree in forensic psychology from Marymount University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Arizona State University.



**Georges C. Benjamin, MD**  
**Executive Director**  
**American Public Health Association**

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, is the executive director of the American Public Health Association (APHA) since 2002 where he has been leading the Association's efforts to make America the healthiest nation. He came to APHA from his position as Secretary of Health for the state of Maryland. Prior to that he served for four years as the state's Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services. As a secretary, Dr. Benjamin oversaw a department with a budget of over \$4.5 billion, and 10,000 state and local employees. He was successful in expanding

and improving the quality of the state's Medicaid program, and improvements in the health of Marylanders.

Dr. Benjamin is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He is board-certified in internal medicine and a Master of the American College of Physicians. He is the author of more than 160 scientific articles and book chapters. His recent book, *The Quest for Health Reform: A Satirical History*, is an expose of the nearly 100-year quest to ensure quality, affordable health coverage for all through the use of political cartoons. Dr. Benjamin is a member of the National Academy of Medicine of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine. He also serves as a board member of various organizations to include Research!America, the Reagan-Udall Foundation, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Truth Initiative. In 2014 and 2008, he was named one of the top 25 minority executives in health care by Modern Healthcare Magazine, in addition to being voted among the 100 most influential people in health care from 2007-2018 and one of the nation's most influential physician executives from 2009-2015. He is also a former member of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, a council that advises the President on how best to assure the security of the nation's critical infrastructure.