

Envisioning an Equitable Health System: Reweaving America's Social Contract

Speaker Biographies

Damon Francis is the Medical Director of the Homeless Health Center at Alameda Health System in Oakland, CA. In his role, he facilitates the use of health and human services data and community-led governance models to drive decisions that improve racial justice and well-being for all. His experience includes developing and launching holistic primary care clinics in collaboration with strong consumer leadership, including clinics designed for young men of color who have sex with men and people experiencing homelessness. He has been deeply involved in several multi-sector collaborations in Alameda County, California addressing issues such as HIV, housing and homelessness, criminal justice reform, health care reform and COVID-19. In addition, he has advised multiple national organizations on initiatives related to the social drivers of health and health equity, including the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the Social Interventions Research and Evaluation Network, and Kaiser Permanente, among others. Damon is a practicing primary care physician and a specialist in HIV medicine. He attended medical school and residency at the University of California, San Francisco, where he is now a member of the volunteer faculty.

Anthony Iton is the Lecturer of Health Policy and Management and Senior Vice President for Healthy Communities of The California Endowment. The Programs & Partnerships Department is responsible for the development and execution of The California Endowment's strategic plan, with input and guidance from the Board of Directors and Executive Team, to help achieve racial equity in health in California. They achieve this through team-based learning, visioning, strategic planning, and strategic grant making. Prior to his appointment at The Endowment, Iton served since 2003 as both the director and County Health Officer for the Alameda County Public Health Department. In that role, he oversaw the creation of an innovative public health practice designed to eliminate health disparities by tackling the root causes of poor health that limit quality of life and lifespan in many of California's low-income communities. Iton also served for three years as director of Health and Human Services and School Medical Advisor for the City of Stamford, Connecticut. Concurrent to that, he also served as a physician in internal medicine for Stamford Hospital's HIV Clinic. In addition, Iton served for five years as a primary care physician for the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Iton's varied career also includes past service as a staff attorney and Health Policy analyst for the West Coast regional office of Consumer's Union, the publisher of Consumer Reports magazine. Iton, who has been published in numerous public health and medical publications, is a regular public health lecturer and keynote speaker at conferences across the nation. He earned his B.S. in Neurophysiology, with honors, from McGill University, in Montreal, Quebec, his J.D. at the University of California, Berkeley's School of Law, and his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Brian D. Smedley is among the inaugural class of equity scholars at the Urban Institute, where he conducts research and policy analysis to address structural and institutional forms of racism that affect the health and well-being of people of color. Previously, Smedley was chief of psychology in the public interest at the American Psychological Association, where he led the organization's efforts to apply the science and practice of psychology to the fundamental problems of human welfare and social justice. Among his other prior positions are cofounder and executive director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity, codirector of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leaders program, and vice president and director of the Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. He also

was a senior program officer at the Institute of Medicine (IOM), where he served as study director for the IOM report *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, among other reports on diversity in the health professions and minority health policy. Smedley has been honored by the American Public Health Association, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, and the American Psychological Association. Smedley is the treasurer and a member of the board for the Poverty & Race Research Action Council, the chair of the advisory committee to the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, and a member of and consultant to the Institute for Healing Justice and Equity at Saint Louis University.