



DESMAR WALKES, M.D., FAASFM

MEDICAL DOCTOR AND HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVE

Over 34 years of experience in administrative medicine and health care delivery systems as a medical authority, medical director, and board-certified in Family Practice through the American Association for Physician Specialists. Serves as a Co-Co-Principal Investigator for the Center for Disease Control, Center for Forecasting, and Outbreak Analytics Pandemic Preparedness grant. Is a national leader in efficacy strategies and quality control process plans for change management and innovation, resulting in improved access to quality health care for the uninsured, underinsured, and indigent members of the community and increased COVID-19 pandemic testing and vaccine distribution. Expertise in operations management, fundraising, and developing policy for both the private and public sectors to improve organizational productivity through analysis, budgeting, and the development of collaborative partnerships that expand healthcare delivery systems and increase resources toward community impact. Recognized for metric-driven results in leading high-performing teams, risk management, and providing state-of-the-art public health services consistent with organizational goals.

HIGHLIGHTS RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- **APH Medical Director/Health Authority Austin Travis County, 2021- Present**

Established as a national medical executive for policy and delivery systems and resources that effectively mitigated the COVID-19 pandemic and MPOX Outbreak response testing and vaccination distribution and successfully identified and implemented rules, guidance, and mitigation strategies to decrease community transmission. Provides strategic oversight of APH clinical operations, ensuring high-quality services through the development and annual review of SDOs for clinical operations and public health nursing activities. Establish strategic linkages with the pharmacy, stakeholders in partner organizations, city, and county government, FQHC, and social support resources to improve and expand the scope of services available to APH patients. Design and implement business strategies to realize revenue potential. A leading expert on Monoclonal Antibody Therapy and collaborates with the White House Preparedness Office and BCFS Medical Commander. Regularly collaborates with the APH Director and elected officials to advise them on medical policy, strategic risks, and viable solutions. Review, analyze, and monitor operations to assess performance and identify program modifications and improvements. Deliver messages to the public through publications, interviews, community events, and online broadcasts spotlighting Public Health issues, "Walkes Talks" and "Health Talks". Presentation to numerous elected bodies, public forums, and professional organizations, including the NACCHO Disease Forecasting and Outbreak Analysis Community of Practice Group and the UT Health Communications Leadership Institute, "Complex Public Health Communications: Using Models for Real World Public Health Decisions. Spearheaded an Austin-Travis County Collaborative to establish county-wide healthcare and social services data sharing to improve patient access to care, healthcare delivery, and costs. Convened substance use stakeholders and elected officials to respond to increased opioid deaths in Austin-Travis County and obtained almost ten thousand doses of naloxone for distribution to local harm reduction providers. Convened the Children's Mental Health Crisis Workgroup to design and align messaging across the community to empower parents, caregivers, and educators to recognize and assist children and youth with mental health issues post-pandemic in Austin-Travis County. A co-investigator/member of a trans-disciplinary team from seven universities, federal, state, and local jurisdictions that represent over 11% of the US population working to prepare for future pandemics. This effort, funded by the CDC Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics grant awarded to the University of Texas will be used by APH to collaborate in the design of a systems engineering approach to assessing needs, prioritizing, designing, building, testing, and deploying proven analytical tools. Convened the Austin-Travis County Healthcare Collaborative to establish a countywide Care Coordination/Data Sharing platform to improve health outcomes

for all in the jurisdiction. Established an APH Climate Health Committee to address the effects of Climate Change across the department.

- **Bastrop County Health Authority, 2007 – 2021**

Lead physician and medical executive for Bastrop’s COVID-19 pandemic response and vaccine distribution and served as a collaborative partner with elected officials, State of Texas Public Health officials, schools, nursing homes, businesses, and residents. As a gubernatorial appointee for one of the fastest-growing counties in Texas, I managed a dynamic healthcare system establishing, maintaining, and enforcing jurisdictional quarantine orders; Advising local stakeholders such as independent school districts, long-term care facilities, and businesses in quarantine inspections, disease prevention and suppression efforts, birth and death statistics, and general sanitation issues within their jurisdiction; Reporting the presence of reportable diseases to local and state authorities; Aiding local jurisdictions and stakeholders in carrying out public health required rules, ordinances, sanitation laws, quarantine rules, and required reporting of any vital statistics collected.

- **Private Multispecialty Practice, Bastrop, Texas, 1994- Present Affiliation**

Providing leading medical care for rural Texas by servicing families in clinics, hospitals, and nursing homes with holistic complete care including primary preventive and chronic care, lifestyle assessment and counseling including nutrition assessments, fitness assessments and gymnasium facilities and sleep assessment and treatment, housing records, and providing referring doctors, and treating specialists all in one location. My practice has pioneered lifesaving and cost-effective medical access for underserved communities through community collaboration, resource sharing, and fundraising. **Bastrop Sleep Lab, A+ Lifestyle Medical Group Bastrop, Texas.** I founded this entity to educate patients and train physicians about sleep disorders and their impact on health. **Lincoln Clinic,** was founded in 1999—to create a non-profit entity whose mandate is to serve indigent, uninsured, underinsured, and undocumented populations. The Lincoln Clinic provided medical care to thousands of citizens of Bastrop County who otherwise would not have received medical care through the traditional health care delivery systems on a sliding scale basis.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- UT DELL Medical School - Affiliate Faculty 2024
 - Medical Director, Smithville Community Clinic, 2018-2020
 - Preceptor for Physician Assistant and Nurse Practitioners Students from the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of Pennsylvania. 2007
 - Director of Quality Assurance at Smithville Regional Hospital, 2001
 - Chief of Staff, Smithville Regional Hospital, 1998-2001
 - Presidential Appointee to the FDA Generic Drug Advisory Committee, 1994-1997
 - Director Primary Care Capitol Hill Medical Center, Washington, D.C. 1993-1994
 - Consultant Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, Washington, D.C. 1992-1994
 - Clinical Medical Director, House of Ruth Homeless Shelter, Washington, DC, 1992-1993
- Managed a high-volume multi-specialty clinic for women with HIV and AIDS and oversaw 25 healthcare providers.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

- Incident Command System certified – 100, 200, 300, 700, 703, 800
- Board certified in Family Practice, American Association for Physician Specialists, 1997 - Present
- Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas – Surgical Internship, 1987
- University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas – Medical Degree and Basic Research Activity, 1982-1986
- Acadia University, Nova Scotia, Canada – Bachelor of Science, Honors Major-Biology, Honors Thesis-Carbonic Anhydrase in the Toad Bufo Marinus, L., 1976 - 1980
- University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta Canada – Experimental Medicine – Cardiovascular Science 1980

HONORS & AWARDS

- NAACP Community Service Award December 2023
- Kirk Watson Public Service Award October 2023
- Heman Sweatt Symposia on Civil Rights: Unnatural Causes: Health Equity is a Civil Right: Speakers Dr. Ryan Sutton, Stephanie Hayden-Howard and Dr. Desmar Walkes, 2021
- Community Champion Award – Smithville Chamber of Commerce, 2021
- Point of Light Award – Bastrop Chamber of Commerce, 2020
- Top 10 Central Texas Doctors – Austin Business Journal, 2019

- President's Award – Barbados Association of Greater Houston, 2009
- Unsung Heroes Award– Congressional Black Caucus, 2001
- Women of the Year – Bastrop Chamber of Commerce, 2000
- Point of Light Award for Lincoln Clinic – Bastrop Chamber of Commerce, 1999
- Kemper Scholarship – National Institute of Health Student Fellowship, 1982

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Travis County Medical Society, Public Health Committee Chair and Member, 2021 – Present
- Texas Medical Association, 1982 – Present
- American Board of Physician Specialists, 1997 to Present
- American Academy of Sleep Medicine 2003-Present
- National Medical Association, 1986-1987; 2014-Present
- Bastrop Lee County Medical Society, 1994-2021
- National Organization for Women, 1990-1997
- CHI Medicosurgical Society, 1993-1994
- American Surgical Association 1986-1990
- American Medical Women's Association, 1982-1990
- Student National Medical Association, 1982-1986

BOARDS

- CDC CFA Insight Net STLT Community of Practice
- HHS Region 6 Health Equity Community of Practice 2024
- Big Cities Health Coalition Substance Use Workgroup Steering Committee 2023
- HHS Region 6 Climate Adaptation and Public Health Resilience Workgroup, 2023
- Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute Wastewater Surveillance Action Plan Working Group 2022 to present
- Advisory Group of the Dell Medical School Impact on Innovation: Biomedical and Life Sciences for the Bureau of Business Research 2021 to present
- Big Cities Health Coalition Data Platform Advisory Board 2021 to present
- National Sleep Foundation Board Member – Washington, DC, 2017-2023
- Sleep Inc. Board Member – Washington, DC, 2017-2023
- Early Childhood Advisory Committee Chair – Bastrop, Texas, 2017
- Austin Black Physicians Association Chair Fundraising Committee (Founding Member) – Austin, Texas, 2017
- Co-Director of ICU Smithville Regional Hospital, Smithville, Texas, 2001-2004
- Governor's Corrections Managed Healthcare Committee, Texas, 2002
- Board Chair of the Texas Medical Partners for Violence-Free Communities, Bastrop, Texas, 1999-2002
- President of the Board of Directors of the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry, Bastrop, Texas, 1996-2001
- Central Texas Coalition for Indigent Healthcare Committee Member 2000
- Presidential Appointee to the FDA Generic Drug Advisory Committee, 1994-1997
- Advisory Board Member to Earl Carl Institute for Social and Economic Policy – Houston, Texas, 1994
- Advisory Board Member Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning - Washington, DC, 1992-1994
- Member Congressional Black Caucus Spouses, Washington, DC, 1990-1994
- Advisory Board Member to Emergency and Resource Center for the Homeless – Houston, Texas, 1993
- Advisory Board for the Lombardi Gala - Washington, DC, 1993
- Community Advisory Board for the Metropolitan DC Response for the Women's Interagency HIV Study 1993

PUBLICATIONS

- Summary of Maternal Child Health Measures, Travis County, Texas, 2018-2022 Walkes, D, Santos, F, Sundstrom, D, Taylor, J. TCMS Journal 2024 Submission
- The C3C Game: Serious Games and Community-Centered Design for Improved Pandemic Decision Making. DeRosa, F., Escott M., Havron D., Walkes D., Myers L. Submitted

- Suicides in Travis County, 2011-2020; Walkes, D. and Taylor, J., TCMS Journal Mar-Apr 2023 Vol 69. No 2, Pg 21.
- “One Small Step” Opioid Crisis Response; Desmar Walkes MD, TCMS Journal Pg 16-17, July-August 2022
- Drug Overdose Deaths in Travis County, 2018-2021; Desmar Walkes, MD* Beth Devery, RN, JD^{§§} Jeffery P. Taylor, MPH. TCMS Journal submission 2022
- Reducing Tobacco Disparities Among LGBTQ2IA+ Communities; Era Steinfeld, MA; Shimarah Mehrotra, MPH, CPH; Desmar Walkes, MD; Ashley LeMaistre, MPH, Trent Daugherty, MPH—Austin Public Health; TCMS Journal submission 2022
- Final Report, Vaccines Planning Tool for the COVID-19 Modeling Accelerator, For Work Supported by: Johns Hopkins University, The Society for Medical Decision Making, and the Rockefeller Foundation, Report Date, March 2022, for work performed March 2021–January 2022. PIs: Lauren Ancel Meyers (Integrative Biology, The University of Texas at Austin) and David P. Morton (Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences, Northwestern University) In collaboration with: Nazlıcan Arslan (Northwestern), Ozge Sürer (Northwestern), Neo HsinChan Huang (Amazon), Haoxiang Yang (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen), Michael Lachmann (Santa Fe Institute), Spencer Woody (UT-Austin), Janet Pichette (Austin Public Health), and Desmar Walkes (Austin Public Health)
- Nazlıcan Arslan, David P. Morton, Janet Pichette, Desmar Walkes, and Lauren Ancel Meyers. Projections for Austin’s COVID-19 Staged Alert System, Incorporating Reported Cases as Additional Indicator. November 17, 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15781/fs56-5p42>
- Nazlıcan Arslan, David P. Morton, Desmar Walkes, and Lauren Ancel Meyers. Projections for Variants of Concern under Austin’s COVID-19 Staged-Alert System. October 20, 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15781/f8gz-z961>