



Institute of Medicine of Chicago

Youth Mental Health- Identification & Access to Care

March 8, 2024

Tom Allen, MD, Executive Medical Director, Behavioral Health, Government Programs, Health Services Corporation (Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) and Chief Psychiatrist, BCBS Medicaid Program.

Dr. Tom Allen currently is an Executive Medical Director of Behavioral Health, Government Programs, at Health Care Service Corporation, and chief psychiatrist for the BCBS Medicaid program in Illinois. After graduating from college at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, he completed medical school, along with a residency in psychiatry and a fellowship in hospice and palliative medicine, at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. He worked for approximately ten years as a psychiatrist in community mental health and private practice before transitioning to managed care. He is board-certified in both psychiatry and hospice and palliative medicine.

Gloria Barrera, MSN, RN, PEL-CSN, Certified School Nurse, Visiting Clinical Assoc. Professor of Nursing, UIC, and past president of the Illinois Association of School Nurses.

Ms. Gloria E. Barrera, MSN, RN, PEL-CSN currently works as a certified school nurse at a public high school outside of Chicago and visiting clinical associate professor of nursing at UIC. She is committed to improving child health outcomes in our most vulnerable populations through her current practice, advocacy, and teaching. Ms. Barrera was elected as the first Latina President of Illinois Association of School Nurses (IASN) in 2020 and served during the COVID-19 pandemic. She's been engaged with ANA-Illinois by serving as an expert panel member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and now as elected Representative to the ANA Membership Assembly for 2023. She was appointed to the IDPH Diversity in Health Care Professions Task Force as well as the Governor's Illinois Terrorism Task Force's School Safety Committee. She is a vital member of the American Public Health Association's Nursing Section (APHA-PHN), Nursing Coalition on Climate Change and Health, and a Fellow (2022-2023) of the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE). Most recently was named 40 Under Forty in Public Health by de Beaumont Foundation.

Tara Gill, Ph.D. is is Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Center for Childhood Resilience, Pritzker Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Assistant Professor, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University.

Dr. Tara Gill is a Clinical Psychologist with the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, the Center for Childhood Resilience for the past 9 years. She has approximately 20 years of experience in outpatient, community, hospital and school-based mental health. This includes work at the Mount Sinai Hospital's Department of Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health, and the DePaul Community Mental Health Center. Her work focuses on increasing best practices and capacity building with educators, community leaders and other mental health professionals. Her particular interests in working with children from racialized communities and trauma saturated backgrounds have guided her career to include advocacy, child welfare, policy and community engagement. Dr. Gill is committed to increasing equity and addressing racism in education and healthcare. In collaboration with the Chicago Department of Public Health and the Health & Medicine Policy and Research Group, Dr. Gill is the current Co-Chair of a task force that is working to elevate Trauma-Informed and Healing Centered frameworks to the city of Chicago.

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