

## Bright Futures Begin at Birth 2018 – Speaker bios

### Mary Brainerd, former HealthPartners CEO and Minnesota Public Radio Board Chair



Mary Brainerd served as president and chief executive officer of HealthPartners for 15 years, retiring in mid-2017. Prior to joining HealthPartners, Brainerd held senior level positions with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, including Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer. She was also senior Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Blue Plus.

Brainerd grew up in St. Paul and has been actively involved in the Twin Cities community for many years. She is one of the founding CEOs and former Chair of the Itasca Project, a group of 40 government, civic and business leaders addressing the issues that impact long-term economic growth, including jobs, education, transportation, and economic disparities. She is previous chair of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank and currently serves on the boards of Minnesota Life/Securian, Bush Foundation, Stryker, Inc., Bremer Financial Corporation and Minnesota Public Radio.

### Melvin W. Carter III, Mayor of Saint Paul



Mayor Melvin Carter is a fourth-generation Saint Paul resident, Saint Paul Public School graduate, former Saint Paul City Council member and father. He is the son of a police officer and a teacher (who later became a County Commissioner), who instilled in him the value of community and public service. Previously, Mayor Carter served as Executive Director of the Minnesota Children's Cabinet, advising Governor Mark Dayton on early childhood policy and advocating for critical investments to make sure every Minnesota child has access to the same foundational education opportunities regardless of race, gender, background, or income. Prior to joining state government, Mayor Carter served on the Saint Paul City Council from 2008 to 2013, serving as the vice chair of the Council for most of that time. Mayor Carter holds a Bachelor's Degree in business administration from Florida A&M University and a Master of Public Policy from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Mayor Carter lives in Saint Paul's Rondo neighborhood with his wife, Sakeena, and three of their five children.

### Nathan Chomilo, MD, Medical Director, Reach Out and Read Minnesota



Dr. Nathan Chomilo practices as a General Pediatrician at Park Nicollet Brookdale Clinic and an Internal Medicine Hospitalist at Methodist Hospital. His advocacy work includes the impact early childhood intervention and healthcare access have on the long-term prospects of our children and how physicians and health systems can address racial & health equity. He is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Early Childhood and Section on Minority Health, Equity & Inclusion; is one of the Early Childhood Champions for the Minnesota chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; and currently serves as the Medical Director of Reach Out and Read Minnesota. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School, his alma mater. Dr. Chomilo received a Zoology degree from Miami University and completed his combined residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the U of M and was the Pediatric Chief Resident at the U of M Children's Hospital. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and son.

### Andre Dukes, Collaboration Director - Early Childhood, Northside Achievement Zone



Andre Dukes leads the Early Childhood strategy at the Northside Achievement Zone. In his role, he helps to ensure that NAZ scholars are ready for kindergarten by increasing access to quality early learning centers, scholarships, screening, parent support, education and advocacy. Mr. Dukes also created the organization's Family Academy parent education curriculum and is a thought leader on Family Engagement and a fatherhood advocate. Mr. Dukes holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Minnesota Graduate School of Theology and completed the certificate program in Infant Mental Health and Early Childhood at the University of Minnesota Center for Early Education Development. He serves on the board of Think Small and is a member of the MinneMinds executive committee. Mr. Dukes is the Assistant Pastor at Shiloh Temple International Ministries and has worked with city officials to reduce youth violence in North Minneapolis.

### Barb Fabre, CEO, Indigenous Visioning



Barb Fabre has 30 years of working within tribal, state, national and federal levels on tribal and early childhood issues that promote healthy child development for all children. Ms. Fabre's experience in program development, creating early childhood systems and promoting collaborations with tribal communities have helped bring new opportunities for Indian Country. Ms. Fabre holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She has received numerous awards for her work such as the 2015 Nancy Latimer Award, 2015 Early Education Four-Star Leader-Parent Aware for School Readiness, 2014 Virginia McKnight Binger Award in Human Service and the 2014 Becker County Recognition Award. Ms. Fabre testified at the 2014 United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Testimony on "Early Childhood Development & Education in Indian Country: Building a Foundation for Academic Success."

**Megan R. Gunnar, PhD, University of Minnesota**



Megan R. Gunnar is the Director of the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota. She is a Regents Professor and Distinguished McKnight University Professor. She received her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology at Stanford University in 1978 and then completed a post-doctoral fellowship in stress neurobiology at Stanford Medical School. In the fall of 1979 she came to the University of Minnesota as an Assistant Professor, where she moved through the ranks to Full Professor by 1990. Professor Gunnar has spent her career studying how stress affects human brain and behavioral development and the processes that help children regulate stress.

**Dianne Haulcy, Senior Vice President of Family Engagement, Think Small**



Dianne Haulcy has over 25 years of experience in the nonprofit sector and is known for her leadership in the early childhood field. Currently, Ms. Haulcy is the senior vice president of Family Engagement at Think Small, where she oversees the administration of early learning scholarship dollars, as well as outreach for providers and parents. In the past, she directed five early childhood programs all serving inner-city, low-income, ethnically diverse populations and has overseen human services programming in the areas of behavioral health; in-home parenting; youth outreach and out-of-school-time services; shelter and services to homeless families and individuals; and other family and community programs. Ms. Haulcy has a BA in Sociology from Spelman College and an MA in Public Affairs from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.

**Jon McTaggart, President and CEO, American Public Media Group**



Jon McTaggart is chief executive officer of American Public Media Group, the parent company of Minnesota Public Radio, American Public Media and The Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, and Southern California Public Radio in Los Angeles. Mr. McTaggart has been deeply involved in the growth of APMG since 1983, beginning as an MPR station manager in Bemidji and serving in multiple capacities since then including general manager, vice president of business development, senior vice president for new media, senior vice president of content and media, and chief operating officer. Mr. McTaggart holds a bachelor's in communications and journalism from Bemidji State University, and a Masters in Public Administration from Kutztown University. He serves on several organizational boards, including Second Harvest Heartland, Bemidji State University Foundation, and The Sheridan Story. He and his wife Debra live in Maplewood, Minnesota, and have two daughters and a granddaughter.

**Yaa Nti, Family Educator, Way to Grow**



Yaa Nti is a Family Educator with Way to Grow, an early childhood education nonprofit in Minneapolis. As a Family Educator, Ms. Nti carries a caseload of families and goes into the home, instructing parents on child development, helps them navigate school choice and the school system, and ensure that families have the resources they need to stay safe and healthy in their homes. Ms. Nti is originally from Ghana where she earned a degree in Elementary Education. She came to the United States in 2003. In addition to her work with Way to Grow, she is a breast feeding specialist with Hennepin County WIC. Ms. Nti lives in Minneapolis with her husband and four sons.

**Laura Tompkins, Executive Director, Joyce Preschool**



Laura Tompkins joined Joyce Preschool in 2008 as a parent of a preschooler and as a board member. She transitioned to a staff position in 2010, managing the organization's fundraising and communications activities, and became Executive Director in 2014. Prior to Joyce, Laura worked in fundraising and communications roles at several local nonprofits, in Human Resources at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, and as a communications consultant for nonprofit and small business clients. Laura graduated from Carleton College with a BA in French and Francophone Studies, and is currently enrolled in the Carlson School of Management's Executive MBA program at the University of Minnesota. Her two children, now in 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades, both graduated from Joyce Preschool, and the whole family continues to work on learning Spanish.

**Andrea Walsh, President and CEO, HealthPartners**



Andrea Walsh is president and chief executive officer for HealthPartners, the largest, consumer-governed, nonprofit health care organization in the nation. Throughout her career, Walsh has been passionate about health and deeply committed to making a difference in people's lives. Today, she leads a team of more than 26,000 people focused on the mission of improving health and well-being in partnership with patients, members, and the community.

Prior to her appointment as president and CEO in 2017, Walsh was part of the HealthPartners senior executive team for more than 20 years. She served as executive vice president and chief marketing officer for nearly 15 years and joined HealthPartners in 1994 as senior vice president and corporate counsel. Prior to joining HealthPartners, she practiced law and was an assistant commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Health. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School and the University of Kansas.

Walsh has a long history of community service. She currently serves as a trustee for the Minnesota Science Museum and is the immediate past chair, and she is also on the board of the Minnesota Business Partnership.

**Donna Zimmerman, Senior Vice President, Government and Community Relations, HealthPartners**



Donna is the Senior Vice President of Government and Community Relations for HealthPartners. She is responsible for developing and managing federal and state public policy and regulatory relationships, community affairs across the organizations and community partnerships to improve population health. She works in all areas of government and reform product strategy, including Medicare, Medicaid and Individual products. Donna was previously the Director of Government Programs, with responsibility for Medicare and state public programs. Her background is in community health administration and policy, with leadership and executive experience in public and nonprofit sectors. She holds a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's degree in Nursing from St. Olaf College, Minnesota.