

CDC Washington Office Jeff Reczek, MPA



Jeff Reczek, MPA is the Director of the CDC Washington Office. He has a rich history of public service in the legislative and executive branches of the federal government as well as state government.

From 2016-2020, Reczek served as Professional Staff supporting the Senate Appropriations Committee's Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. In this capacity, he negotiated funding and conducted oversight of HHS Operating Divisions including CDC, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Office of the Secretary, and programs funded through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. Reczek also negotiated annual appropriations and played a key role in numerous supplementals, including COVID-19, providing hundreds of billions for vaccines, public health, and health care providers.

From 2010-2016, Reczek was a program analyst in the Office of Management and Budget where he developed annual submissions of the President's Budget for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, as well as the HHS Office of the Secretary. In addition, Reczek focused on oversight and implementation of the Affordable Care Act, including the Health Insurance Exchange and private market insurance reform.

Reczek joined the federal government as a Presidential Management Fellow at the Department of Transportation, and prior to that, began his career in public service working in constituent services for the State of Virginia Governor's office supporting then Governor Tim Kaine.

He has a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Messiah College. Reczek lives in Annandale, Virginia with his wife and three children.

Office of Communications **Kevin Griffis**



Kevin Griffis is the Director of the Office of Communications (OC) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In this position, he leads and directs comprehensive communication outreach and delivery of CDC's health information and mission priorities along with managing risk communication and reputational issues for the agency. He serves as the principal public affairs leader and communication liaison for CDC, and coordinates agency-wide communication efforts by overseeing communication strategies and practices directed toward the public; news media; public health partners; governmental, national, and international organizations; and CDC staff.

Griffis served as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell. There, he led a diversified public affairs team and spearheaded communication activities for a wide range of issues, including the department's response to the 2014 Ebola virus outbreak and the Zika virus outbreak. He was also instrumental in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and the rollout of the tobacco deeming rule.

Following his time at HHS, Griffis joined Planned Parenthood Federation of America in 2017 as vice president of Communications, where he led a large, interdisciplinary team at the forefront of reproductive health care delivery and advocacy for women's rights.

Most recently, Griffis worked for Centene Corporation, a multinational health care company that covers roughly one out of every 15 Americans and is ranked 26th on the Fortune 500 list. At Centene, he was vice president for Strategic Communications, working on messaging initiatives with the company's health plans in 30 states across the country.

Griffis first joined the Obama administration in March 2009 as director of public affairs for the U.S. Department of Commerce. There, he served through the BP/Deepwater Horizon oil spill and major policy initiatives, including the Recovery Act and the National Export Initiative. Prior to joining HHS, Griffis worked as communications director for U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), and as communications director and senior advisor for Senator Booker's successful 2013 special election.

Griffis spent the first six years of his career covering government and politics as a reporter for newspapers in Maryland and Atlanta, GA. In Atlanta, he covered City Hall and the Georgia legislature for Creative Loafing newspaper from 2000-2004. Griffis holds a bachelor's degree from Beloit College in Wisconsin and grew up in the Snellville, GA area.

Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Workplace Equity (OEEOWE)

Reginald R. Mebane, MS



Reginald R. Mebane, MS, is currently the Director of CDC's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Workplace Equity (OEEOWE). As Director, Mr. Mebane is responsible for advising and counseling CDC's executive leadership team on a variety of equal employment opportunity, diversity management, civil rights and human resources issues impacting the agency's complex and diverse global workforce. His key responsibilities include but are not limited to matters related to Affirmative Employment(AEP), Disability, Reasonable Accommodation(RA), Alternative Dispute Resolution(ADR), Special Emphasis Programs(SEP), and EEO Complaints Processing and Settlements for all CDC centers,

institutes and offices. He is also responsible for the design and direction of programs, policies and procedures based on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's(EEOC) rules, regulations, laws and Executive Orders governing equal opportunity, diversity management, civil rights, and human resources that further ensure prevention of individual and systematic discrimination across the enterprise. As the agency's EEO Director, he is the officer with direct liaison responsibility to the EEOC, Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of General Counsel (OGC) and all other respective internal and external customers and stakeholders regarding employment and civil rights regulatory matters. "Our overarching strategy is to make CDC a world class model EEO program."

Mr. Mebane joined CDC in February 2005 as Chief Management Officer of CDC's Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases (CCID). In this role, he had direct authority for the management of the estimated \$4.0B CCID budget which included business operations, human capital, information technology, grants, facilities, and administrative services for the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention; National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases; National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases; and National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne and Enteric Diseases. Under his leadership, CCID grew in size and scope to \$7B, comprising over half the agency's programs, assets, people and EEO activities.

Prior to working at CDC, Mr. Mebane spent over 23 years at FedEx. After starting his career with the company in 1981, Mr. Mebane was promoted from dock worker, to manager, to the Director of International Operations. In 2001, Mr. Mebane moved to Buffalo, New York, to become the Chief Operating Officer for a \$2.0B company that FedEx acquired. In addition to his management duties at FedEx, Mr. Mebane was the corporate lead for the Diversity training curriculum for the corporation from 1995 to 1997 where he became part of the critically acclaimed Fed Ex Leadership Institute. While there he taught leadership, diversity and management practices to FedEx employees from around the world.

Office of Health Equity (OHE) Leandris Liburd, PhD, MPH, MA



Leandris Liburd, PhD, MPH, MA, is the Acting Director for CDC's Office of Health Equity (OHE). She served as the Associate Director for Minority Health and Health Equity for CDC/ATSDR since 2011. In this capacity, she leads and supports a wide range of critical functions in the agency's work in minority health, health equity, and women's health. She plays a critical leadership role in determining the agency's vision for health equity, ensuring a rigorous and evidence-based approach to the practice of health equity, and promoting the ethical practice of public health in communities vulnerable to health inequities. Dr. Liburd has been instrumental in building capacity across CDC and in public health

agencies to address the social determinants of health, and in identifying and widely disseminating intervention strategies that reduce racial and ethnic health disparities. She has skillfully executed innovative models of collaboration that have greatly expanded the reach, influence, and impact of the Office of Health Equity including the successful implementation of the Lewis Scholars Program (formerly the CDC Undergraduate Public Health Scholars Program) and the James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases Graduate Fellowship.

In May 2020, she assumed the role of Chief Health Equity Officer for CDC's COVID-19 Response which was the first time in the agency's history that this role and function was added to the leadership of the Incident Management Structure during the activation of CDC's Emergency Operations Center. These and other accomplishments represent her tireless commitment to improve minority health and achieve health equity for all people.

Dr. Liburd has received honors for her leadership and management accomplishments. She was the 2021 recipient of the Harriet Hylton Barr Distinguished Alumni Award, one of the highest honors of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health. She also received the CDC Honor Award for Health Equity (Group Award) in recognition of her role as Chief Health Equity Officer and contributions of the entire unit in the COVID-19 Response. Among her other awards, Jackson State University presented her with the John Ruffin Award of Excellence in Minority Health and Health Disparities (2016), and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions and Black-Doctor.org named her one of the Top Blacks in Healthcare in 2014 for her outstanding and noteworthy achievements in the healthcare field. In 2010, the National REACH Coalition honored her with their Distinguished Service and Leadership Award, and in 2002, CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation presented her with their Excellence in Collaboration Award for her seminal role in developing local, national, and international partnerships.

Acting Associate Director for Laboratory Science and Safety Reynolds M. Salerno, PhD



Reynolds M. Salerno, PhD, is serving as the Acting Associate Director for Laboratory Science and Safety (ADLSS), Acting Director of the Office of Laboratory Science and Safety (OLSS), and Acting Director of the Center for Laboratory Systems and Response (CLSR) at CDC. In these capacities, Dr. Salerno provides within CDC high-level oversight and coordination of critical laboratory science policies and operations, as well as, management of laboratory safety and quality. He also serves as the interface between CDC and the clinical and public health laboratory and testing community.

Dr. Salerno serves permanently as CDC's Director of the Division of Laboratory Systems (DLS), which works to strengthen the U.S. clinical and public health laboratory systems by continually improving quality and safety, informatics and data science, and workforce competency. He also is the Designated Federal Officer of the U.S. Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee.

He served as lead of CDC's Expansion of Screening and Diagnostics Task Force for the COVID-19 Response, co-lead of CDC's Laboratory and Testing Task Force for the COVID-19 Response, and senior advisor for laboratory and testing for CDC's Mpox response. He represents CDC on the HHS Testing Coordination Group, the Tri-Agency Task Force for Emergency Diagnostics, and the Federal Interagency Working Group on Improving Diagnostic Safety and Quality in Healthcare.

Before joining CDC in January 2016, Dr. Salerno had a 17-year career at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM, where he oversaw research in Sandia's biological laboratories and supported the U.S. government's global health security agenda as a technical adviser to hundreds of laboratories in over 50 countries. He was the lead author of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) laboratory biorisk management standard (ISO 35001, 2019) and the co-author of *Laboratory Biorisk Management: Biosafety and Biosecurity* (CRC Press, 2015) and *Laboratory Biosecurity Handbook* (CRC Press, 2007).

Office of Policy, Performance, and Evaluation (OPPE) Debra Lubar, PhD



Debra Lubar, PhD, is the director for the Office of Policy, Performance and Evaluation (OPPE). In this role, she is responsible for enhancing CDC's effectiveness in improving policy, planning, and evaluation to address and support cross-cutting issues while leveraging CDC's collective influence to improve public health.

Dr. Lubar previously served as the deputy director for management and operations for the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID). In this capacity, she provided senior-level leadership in numerous areas, including strategy, budget, communications, program development, management and operations, policy, and congressional relations.

During the agency-wide COVID-19 emergency response, Dr. Lubar served in several leadership roles, including principal deputy incident manager. She also previously led CDC's budget formulation and appropriations work as the director of the Office of Appropriations in CDC's Office of Financial Resources (OFR). In that position, she served as CDC's primary contact with congressional appropriations committees and the White House Office of Management and Budget.

From 2007-2010, Dr. Lubar served as the branch chief of the State Support, Arthritis, Epilepsy, and Quality of Life Branch in the Division of Adult and Community Health within CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP). During that time, she led national public health efforts to address diseases that profoundly affect people's quality of life.

Throughout her CDC career, Dr. Lubar has developed and executed agency-wide legislative and partnership strategies, served in several leadership roles - including associate director for policy at NCCDPHP - and worked in the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation during the emergency response operations in 2001 and 2002. In 2019, she was the acting director of the Division of Emergency Operations.

Before joining CDC, Dr. Lubar was a senior official with the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, where she led policy efforts. She also served as director of the state's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. She was the founding director of the Healthy Start National Resource Center, an organization focused on infant mortality reduction through community-driven programs.

Dr. Lubar is a recipient of the Presidential Rank Award, one of the most prestigious awards in the federal career civil service. She earned a doctorate in social work from the University of Georgia, a master's degree in social work from Boston University, and an undergraduate degree in human service studies from Cornell University.

Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance, and Technology (OPHDST)

Jennifer Layden, MD, PhD



Jennifer Layden, MD, PhD is the Director for the Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance, and Technology. In this position, she is responsible for leading, coordinating, and executing a comprehensive public health data strategy and improving the availability and use of public health data to inform decision-making and action. A primary focus of Dr. Layden's role is to provide leadership for CDC's Data Modernization Initiative and serve as an advisor to the CDC Director.

Prior to this position, she served as Deputy Director in CDC's Office of Science (OS), where she provided strategic leadership in the release of the expanded COVID public use dataset and led strategic efforts to expand and support open data efforts across the agency. She also established and led the strategic science unit within the COVID-19 Response and served as co-lead for the Vaccine Task Force on the response. Dr. Layden is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including CDC's Charles C. Shepard Science Award.

Before coming to CDC, Dr. Layden served as the Deputy Commissioner and Chief Medical Officer for the Chicago Department of Public Health and as the State Epidemiologist and Chief Medical Officer for the Illinois Department of Public Health. Dr. Layden played key roles in public health responses to COVID-19, EVALI, Hepatitis A, and synthetic cannabinoid contamination at the state and local level. While at the Chicago Department of Public Health, she helped establish the agency's first cloud-based data hub to improve electronic health record data reporting and provided strategic vision in developing the agency's first advanced molecular detection lab through an academic-health department partnership. Additionally, she served on CSTE task forces during both the COVID-19 and EVALI responses, and she has presented at both national and international conferences.

In 2005, Dr. Layden received both her MD and her doctorate in epidemiology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she also completed her internal medicine and infectious disease clinical training. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame. Prior to transitioning to public health, Dr. Layden held faculty positions at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Loyola University Chicago. During that time, she conducted numerous studies on Hepatitis C virus disease progression, burden, and treatment response, as well as population-based studies of HCV burden in West Africa. Dr. Layden has authored more than 70 scientific publications.

Office of Readiness and Response (ORR) Henry Walke, MD, MPH



Henry Walke, MD, MPH, is the Director of the Office of Readiness and Response (ORR). In this role, he supports ORR's three divisions and the Office of the Director to prepare for, respond to, and improve performance in domestic and global public health emergencies. ORR enhances CDC, state, and local health department preparedness and response capacity; ensures lifesaving research with select agents and toxins (including poliovirus) is conducted safely and securely; and develops scientific principles, tools, and the next generation of public health preparedness professionals and leaders.

Most recently, Dr. Walke served as incident manager of CDC's COVID-19 response from July 2020 through September 2021, and as a chief CDC spokesperson. Under his leadership, the COVID-19 response published 8 scientific briefs and over 600 articles in the "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report" and the scientific literature. Over 9,000 CDC employees were involved in the response during his tenure there.

Prior to joining ORR, Dr. Walke served as director of the Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections in the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases and before that he was chief of the Bacterial Special Pathogens Branch in the Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology. In those roles, Dr. Walke collaborated across CDC and with national and international partners to address preparedness and response issues for bioterrorism, emerging infections, and other infectious disease emergencies. In previous roles at CDC, Dr. Walke helped expand the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program, especially in Asia and the Americas. He joined CDC in 2001 as a medical officer based in Amman, Jordan, leading a Field Epidemiology Training Program and working with Jordan's Ministry of Health to strengthen its infectious and non-communicable disease surveillance and reporting systems.

Dr. Walke has worked extensively on CDC's anthrax preparedness efforts, co-chairing the HHS Anthrax Integrated Program Team and taking on co-chair duties for CDC's Anthrax Coordination Unit, which supports the agency's preparedness and response strategy for an anthrax incident. He also played prominent roles in multiple CDC emergency responses, including serving as the EOC's incident manager or deputy incident manager for the Zika, Ebola, and COVID-19 responses and contributing to several hurricane responses (Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Florence), the anthrax Department of Defense incident, and a *Burkholderia pseudomallei* incident in nonhuman primates.

Office of Science (OS) (Acting) Paul Muntner, PhD, MHS



Paul Muntner, PhD, MHS, is the Acting Director of CDC's Office of Science (OS). In this capacity, Dr. Muntner is critical to helping ensure OS advances its strategic and programmatic priorities to support the agency's science.

Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Muntner was a Professor and Associate Dean for Research, and the former Director of the Lister Hill Center for Health Policy, at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Also, at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, he served as the Co-director of the Pharmacoepidemiology and Economics Research Unit and the Hypertension Research Center. From 2000 to 2007, Dr. Muntner served as an Assistant Professor and then Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. From 2007 to 2009, he served as an Associate Professor of Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Dr. Muntner led the National Institute of Health-funded Jackson Heart Study Hypertension Working Group and was a member of the Antihypertensive Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial (ALLHAT) steering committee. From 2015 to 2020, he served as the Director of an American Heart Association-funded Strategically Focused Research Network hypertension center, and he led the Statistical Core for the American Heart Association's Health Equity Research Network to Prevent Hypertension and the Training Core for the American Heart Association's Health Equity Research Network to Prevent Maternal Morbidity and Mortality. From 2015 to 2018, he was Vice Chair of the Statistics Committee for the American Heart Association, he chaired the 2019 American Heart Association Scientific Statement on Blood Pressure Measurement, and he was a member of the group developing the 2017 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Guideline for the Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults.

Dr. Muntner's research has been published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, The Lancet, Annals of Internal Medicine, and Circulation, and has been featured on CNN and in the New York Times and Washington Post.

Dr. Muntner received his doctorate in epidemiology from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in 2001. He also holds a Master of Health Science degree in biostatistics from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.