

Jaime Dirksen is the Deputy Commissioner for Performance and Quality Improvement at the Chicago Department of Public Health. She has been in this position since February of 2011 and is charged with building a data driven organization that focuses on continuous quality improvement. She is currently leading the Department in becoming one of the first and largest local health departments to achieve Public Health Accreditation. Additionally, she oversees the newly created Office of Adolescent and School Health which has focused the Department's efforts on strategic school health initiatives. These include: school-based oral health; school-based STI education, screening and treatment; and school-based vision and Teen Pregnancy Prevention. Ms. Dirksen earned her Master's Degree from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration with a certificate in Health Administration and Policy, and her undergraduate degree in Social Work from the University of Akron.

Karen A. Scott is the Founder and Medical Director for the Young Women's Health Initiative (YWHI) and a board certified Obstetrician Gynecologist currently in community-based practice at Mercy Family Health Center. The Young Women's Health Initiative is a Chicago-based umbrella organization that utilizes best practices to create a profound, sustainable impact on the lives of low-income girls and women ages 13-25 who reside on Chicago's south side by improving reproductive health care services, delivery, and outcomes. Dr. Scott obtained her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University, and completed her residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center, where she won the Berlex teaching award and was appointed Chief Resident.

Roger Shannon is the Program Manager for the Peer Advocate for Health (Options for Youth) program. Peer Advocates for Health (PAH) is a community-based program for adolescent males on the south side of Chicago that provides intensive training and individual support to over 200 young men, ages 14-19, from 33 different high schools. Mr. Shannon has over 26 years of community and school experience in program development, case management, parenting, and prevention. Prior to PAH, Mr. Shannon served as an educational coordinator for the Parents Too Soon program.

Roopa Seshadri is a Senior Researcher at Chapin Hall. Her research interests include child health and welfare policy in the context of human services, especially as they pertain to vulnerable populations; disparities in preventive health care; and healthcare access and outcomes. She has expertise in research study design, use of national survey and registry data, and application of statistical data analysis methodology to research and administrative data, specializing in health and welfare services. Prior to joining Chapin Hall, her work focused on health services and medical research. Dr. Seshadri holds a Ph.D. in Applied Statistics from the University of Memphis and an A.M. in Public Policy from the University of Chicago.