

88th Legislative Session: Mental Health Outcomes

Speaker Bios



Jaime Wesolowski President and CEO Methodist Healthcare Ministries

Jaime Wesolowski is the President and Chief Executive Officer at Methodist Healthcare Ministries. A healthcare executive with four decades of leadership experience, Jaime is responsible for ensuring that the organization carries out the strategic imperatives set forth by the Methodist Healthcare Ministries' board of directors.

Jaime was appointed in October of 2018 to lead Methodist Healthcare Ministries toward accomplishing both its mission of "Serving Humanity to Honor God" and its vision to be the leader for improving wellness of the least served. The mission also includes Methodist Healthcare Ministries' one-half ownership of the Methodist Healthcare System, the largest healthcare system in South Texas, which creates a unique avenue to ensure that it continues to be a benefit to the community by providing quality care to all and charitable care when needed.

Prior to joining Methodist Healthcare Ministries, Jaime served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Methodist Healthcare System, in San Antonio for over eleven years. Before that, he served as CEO at Riverside Community Hospital in Riverside, California; Oak Hill Hospital in Spring Hill, Florida; and Meadowcrest Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana.

As a cancer survivor, Jaime is an avid supporter of the American Cancer Society. He served as Founding Chair of the American Cancer Society's South Texas Area board of directors, and he was later appointed as Chair to the South Region Advisory Cabinet, covering eight states from Arizona through Alabama. Jaime believes his personal experience as a cancer survivor has given him more defined insight and compassion to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of patients and their families.

Jaime earned his master's degree in Healthcare Administration from Xavier University, and his bachelor's degree from Indiana University in Healthcare Administration. His interests include golf, exercising, and supporting various community activities. Wesolowski lives in San Antonio with his wife Lori. They have two adult children, Ellie and Grayson.

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Christine Yanas **Vice President of Policy and Advocacy** **Methodist Healthcare Ministries**

Christine “Chris” Yanas, is the Vice President of Policy & Advocacy at Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc. where she is responsible for the organization’s legislative public policy work at the local, state and federal levels. Chris is an experienced government relations professional with over 18 years of specialized knowledge in health care policy and state Medicaid program funding.

Chris is a poised and thoughtful leader, committed to making a difference through education and advocacy. Her passion for health equity and social justice is the foundation of her work and why she is proud to help further the mission of Methodist Healthcare Ministries, “Serving Humanity to Honor God.”

Prior to joining Methodist Healthcare Ministries, Chris served as the vice president of operations and advocacy at Teaching Hospitals of Texas (THOT) in Austin. In her role with THOT, she advocated on behalf of the state’s teaching hospitals and Level I trauma centers on issues involving Medicaid and indigent care funding, graduate medical education, hospital trauma funding and the integration of behavioral health. Prior to THOT, Chris served as the director of governmental relations and public policy for the University Health System in San Antonio. Her professional experience also includes more than 15 years as a chief of staff and legislative aide at the Texas State Capitol.

Chris earned a bachelor’s degree from The University of Texas at Austin, cum laude, with a double major in English and Political Science. Away from the office, she enjoys cheering for her Texas Longhorns, San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Cowboys. An avid tennis fan, attending all four Grand Slam tennis tournaments around the world is on her bucket list.

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Andy Keller, PhD President and CEO Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Andy Keller, PhD, is president, chief executive officer, and the Linda Perryman Evans Presidential Chair of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, a Texas-based nonprofit organization that provides nonpartisan policy and program research, development, and advice to state and local leaders toward a single goal: improving mental health care delivery in Texas and across the country.

As president/CEO, Andy is responsible for carrying out the mission of the Meadows Institute and overseeing the management and operation of all aspects of the organization. He focuses on long-range goals, strategies, plans, and policies and is accountable for the overall programmatic and fiscal integrity of the Meadows Institute.

Andy is a licensed psychologist with more than 20 years of experience in behavioral health policy, financing, and best practices. Prior to moving full time into policy work, Andy was a managing partner for 15 years at a national behavioral health management consulting firm where he focused on health financing and health system improvement. Before that, he worked in Colorado with a leading Medicaid HMO and the local community mental health system where he directed and led a range of community-based and care management programs.

The throughline of his work has centered on helping state and local health systems implement evidence-based and innovative care, as well as on helping local and state governments develop the regulatory and financial frameworks to support them.

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Nelson Jarrin, JD **Senior Vice President of State Policy** **Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute**

Nelson is an attorney with more than a decade of experience in health care law and policy. He works with his fellow team members and national experts to design strategies that will deliver more effective and efficient mental health care. He also assists the Institute with regulatory compliance, statutory interpretation, and legal analysis.

Nelson previously served as the Vice President of Government Affairs. In that role, he provided data-driven policy and program guidance to legislative leaders, state agencies, and local communities to improve the delivery of mental health services in Texas.

Prior to the Meadows Institute, Nelson served as the Legislative Director and General Counsel for Texas State Senator Charles Schwertner. As one of Senator Schwertner's most trusted advisors, Nelson managed the Senator's legislative agenda, specializing in health policy and the state budget. During the 2014-2015 biennium, Nelson oversaw the Sunset Advisory Commission process for Senator Schwertner, which reviewed and reorganized all state health agencies.

Before joining Senator Schwertner's team, Nelson worked as an attorney at the Texas Legislative Council, where he drafted legislation and provided legal advice for all 181 members of the Texas Legislature. At Legislative Council, he drafted over 800 bills and amendments in the areas of health law, hospital law, occupational regulation, and criminal law.

Nelson earned his law degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School, where he graduated magna cum laude and served as President of the Hispanic Law Students Association. Before law school and his work in the private sector, Nelson graduated summa cum laude from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in economics.