



## Press Conference Speakers

**Andrea Barthwell, MD, DFASAM, Chair of FORE's Board of Directors; Chief Medical Officer, Wire Health; President, Encounter Medical Group, P.C.**



Dr. Andrea Barthwell is the Founder of Encounter Medical Group, P.C., manages and consults through the global health care policy firm EMGlobal, is Director at Two Dreams a comprehensive alcoholism and addiction treatment system, and had her work recognized when she was voted in as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), where she served as President. Reflecting her long-term commitment to individuals with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), she was named as the founding Chair of the Board of the Foundation for Opioid Response Effort (FORE). President George W. Bush nominated Dr. Barthwell in December 2001 to serve as Deputy Director for Demand Reduction in the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). As a member of the President's sub-cabinet, Dr. Barthwell was a principal advisor in the Executive Office of the President (EOP) on policies aimed at reducing the demand for illicit drugs. Dr. Barthwell received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Wesleyan University, where she served on the Board of Trustees, and a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Michigan Medical School.[Text Wrapping Break]

## **Karen Scott, MD, MPH, President of FORE**



Dr. Karen Scott has over 20 years of experience in healthcare policy, quality improvement, health services research, and public health. Dr. Scott has worked with public health and delivery system leaders to redesign care and promote health equity, quality and patient safety, and population health improvement. She has also led large-scale change initiatives within delivery systems, focusing on public and safety net providers, and the populations they serve.

Dr. Scott's previous roles include senior leadership positions at The Commonwealth Fund, a national health philanthropy focused on improving access and quality of care. While at Commonwealth, she also served on the board of Grantmakers in Health. Dr. Scott has also held leadership positions in large delivery systems, at NYC Health and Hospitals and New York Presbyterian Hospital. Additionally, Dr. Scott served as Chief Medical Officer in the Office of Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this role, she worked on a range of public health system issues, including quality of care in the Indian Health Service and infectious disease initiatives. Dr. Scott also collaborated to advance policy on social determinants of health and concurrently served in the role of Interim Acting Director of the HHS Office on Women's Health.

Dr. Scott is a board-certified physician in preventive medicine. She received her M.D. from Cornell University Medical College and completed a residency in preventive medicine at Johns Hopkins. She received a Master of Public Health from Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University and her Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Science from Harvard University.

**Sivabalaji Kaliamurthy, MD, Child and Adolescent Addiction Psychiatrist  
at Children's National Hospital and Howard University**



Dr. Sivabalaji Kaliamurthy is a physician with board certifications in general psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, and addiction psychiatry. He earned these certifications through training at the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital and Yale University in Connecticut before joining the healthcare community in Washington, DC.

Currently, he holds positions at two esteemed institutions in the nation's capital: Children's National Hospital and Howard University. Dr. Kaliamurthy played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Addiction Clinic at Children's National, a specialized outpatient clinic providing tailored support to children grappling with co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders. At Howard University, he oversees psychiatric and substance use services at the Mental Health Clinic on select days of the week.

Beyond his clinical responsibilities, Dr. Kaliamurthy serves as a faculty member at both George Washington University and Yale University, where he shares his knowledge with trainees from various specialties, with a primary emphasis on addiction. His advocacy for advancements in pediatric substance use disorder treatment and research reflects his dedication to making positive contributions to the field. Additionally, Dr. Kaliamurthy actively collaborates with local school districts and health departments to proactively address substance use prevention among children and adolescents. His commitment to community well-being and early intervention strategies underscores his dedication to enhancing the lives of individuals and communities affected by addiction and mental health challenges.

**Jeanette Bentancourt, EdD, Senior Vice President for U.S. Social Impact at Sesame Street Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind Sesame Street**



Dr. Jeanette Betancourt directs the development and implementation of community and family engagement initiatives making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and their families. These research-based initiatives are designed to impact children's early learning, health and well-being, and provide strategies and resources to counteract the effects of trauma while fostering the critical connections that adults have on children's lives.

Prior to joining Sesame Workshop, Dr. Betancourt created programs in adult learning and early childhood education at Teachers College, Columbia University. She is a licensed bilingual speech and language pathologist and educational therapist. She participates on several national and local boards and has contributed to the start of charter schools. Dr. Betancourt has a BA and MA in Speech and Language Pathology, an MS in Bilingual Reading/Special Education, and an Ed.D. in Special Education.

**Debra Waldron, MD, MPH, FAAP, Senior Vice President, Healthy Resilient Children, Youth, and Families at the American Academy of Pediatrics**



Dr. Debra Waldron is a senior physician executive and experienced public health leader in the areas of population health, health care delivery systems, and health policy. She oversees multiple programs and initiatives at the AAP that address bio-eco-developmental aspects of child, adolescent, young adult and family health, and serves as the Principal Investigator of an extensive portfolio of related federal and privately funded grants. Dr Waldron plays a key role on the Academy senior leadership team committed to addressing the mental health crisis and provides guidance to the newly formed Council on Health Mental Development.

Prior to joining the AAP, Dr. Waldron served in the US Department of Health and Human Services as the Director of the Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs in the Health Resources and Services Administration. There she oversaw the national program focused on improving the system of care for children and youth with special health needs and their families. Additionally, as the Vice Chair of Child Health Policy and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Iowa, Dr Waldron led the redesign of Iowa's system of coordinated, family centered care for children and youth with special health needs. During her tenure as President of the Iowa chapter of the AAP, she served on multiple state level committees. She is recognized at the national level as an expert in medical home, early childhood systems, and integrated care models.

## Lucy Battles, Parent



Lucy Battles is a maternal health advocate and patient family partner based in North Carolina. Lucy overcame a number of maternal traumas - perinatal substance use, medical stigma, an emergency c-section, and postpartum depression. Her lived experiences as a mother in recovery, as well as her professional experiences in the recovery field, have given her unique perspectives on what women living with substance use disorder need to experience life-long recovery. Lucy works with youth and emerging adults who are impacted by substance use, mental health challenges, and justice involvement. She shares her story on the state and national level to both patients and providers alike to spread awareness and advocate for empathic, collaborative and integrated healthcare options for pregnant and parenting women.

## Dwayne Dean, Parent



Dwayne Dean is a Recovery Coach Professional and a Recovery Coach Professional Facilitator through the International Association for Recovery Coach Professionals. Dwayne is also a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and a Registered Peer Supervisor through the Maryland Addictions and Behavioral Health Professional Certification Board. Dwayne is the founder of Peer Recovery Training and Support Services, where he is the Principal Facilitator and Lead Recovery Organizational Consultant.

As a faculty member of the University of Maryland College Park, Dwayne is a Peer Supervisor and Interventionist for the Global Mental Health and Addictions Program, where he is currently conducting research through a grant from the National Institute of Health to measure outcomes of having a Peer-delivered behavioral activation model to help improve retention rates of persons receiving medication for opiate use disorder. Dwayne serves as a Peer Supervisor for Peer's on the Domestic studies in Maryland as well as the Global Studies in South Africa. Dwayne has recently accepted his candidacy to serve on the Board of Young People in Recovery. Dwayne is the full-time father of a 2-Year-old daughter (Monroe), and has 10 years of long-term recovery.





Karli, Abby Cadabby, and Elmo



The logo consists of a grid of six squares in shades of blue and cyan, arranged in a pattern that suggests the number 5.

# Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts 5 Years of Accelerating Solutions

**Announcing New Initiatives to Fight the Youth Opioid and Overdose Crisis  
Wednesday, Sept. 27, National Press Club, Washington, DC**

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**What:** As fentanyl continues to devastate our young people, the [Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts \(FORE\)](#) will announce new funding and initiatives to combat the opioid and overdose crisis facing America's youth at a press conference in Washington, DC. Parents will be on hand to share their experiences.

**Where:** [National Press Club](#), 529 14<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Washington, DC

**When:** Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 9am-10am ET

### **Who:**

- **Andrea Barthwell, MD, DFASAM**, Chair of FORE's Board of Directors
- **Karen A. Scott, MD, MPH**, President of FORE
- **Sivabalaji Kaliamurthy, MD**, Child and Adolescent Addiction Psychiatrist at Children's National Hospital and Howard University
- **Jeanette Betancourt, EdD**, Senior Vice President for U.S. Social Impact at Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind Sesame Street
- **Debra Waldron, MD, MPH, FAAP**, Senior Vice President, Healthy Resilient Children, Youth, and Families at the American Academy of Pediatrics
- **Lucy Battles**, mother of 3 children
- **Dwayne Dean**, father of a 2-year-old

**Why:** FORE recognizes the need for holistic prevention strategies and is supporting several projects that are engaging and empowering vulnerable families and communities to prevent opioid use disorder and overdose. This press conference, during National Recovery Month, will announce innovative solutions and discuss how policy makers, health care providers, parents, caregivers, educators, and the court system can work together to protect our children.

**How:** To attend in person RSVP to, Myrna Manners, [mmanners@mannersdotson.com](mailto:mmanners@mannersdotson.com), 718-986-7255. To attend virtually, register [HERE](#)

(Opportunities for interviews with speakers)

**Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE)**

FORE was founded in 2018 as a private 501(c)(3) national, grant-making foundation focused on addressing the nation's opioid crisis. FORE is committed to funding a diversity of projects contributing solutions to the crisis at national, state, and community levels. FORE's mission is to support partners advancing patient-centered, innovative, evidence-based solutions impacting people experiencing opioid use disorder, their families, and their communities. Through convening, grantmaking and developing informational resources, FORE seeks to bring about long-term change.



# Foundation *for* Opioid Response Efforts

## 5 Years of Accelerating Solutions

**Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) Announces \$1.3 Million in Grants to Sesame Workshop and the American Academy of Pediatrics to Fight Youth Opioid and Overdose Crisis**

**Funds for Prevention, Improving Nurturing Connections Between Caregivers and Young Children, and Building Family Resilience**

**WASHINGTON, DC (September 27, 2023)** -- The [Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts \(FORE\)](#) today announced grants totaling \$1,341,000 to Sesame Workshop and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for initiatives to fight the opioid and overdose crisis that is devastating America's youth. The announcement was made at a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC during National Recovery Month, where FORE outlined its broad agenda to expand its focus on children, youth, and families.

Since its founding five years ago in 2018, FORE has now given 100 grants, totaling \$39,219,374 to 88 organizations across the country working on solutions to the opioid and overdose crisis that is gripping our nation.

“Drug overdose deaths among US adolescents and young adults have significantly increased in recent years, largely due to fentanyl, xylazine, and other adulterated substances. An estimated 8.7 million children ages 17 or younger live in households with at least one parent who has a substance use disorder,” said Karen A. Scott, MD, MPH, president of FORE. “This is tragic and unsustainable. FORE is partnering with Sesame Workshop, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other organizations across the country to develop programs that will engage and empower vulnerable families and communities to prevent youth opioid use disorder and overdose.”

For young children who live in households with a parent who has a substance use disorder there can be significant ramifications on factors important for development, such as a sense of security, emotional support, and predictable routines. When in the throes of addiction, parents can face incredible guilt and shame because they are unable to offer the nurturing connections necessary for children's well-being. [Sesame Workshop](#), the global impact non-profit behind Sesame Street, is receiving a FORE grant of \$841,000 to leverage existing tools, create new resources, and develop professional training to improve nurturing connections between parents, caregivers, and young children, leading to family resilience. The funding will enable Sesame Workshop to expand its library of Parental Addiction resources, which include free, bilingual storybooks, videos, and interactive digital activities featuring the Muppet, Karli, and designed to help children impacted by parental substance misuse. Sesame Workshop will collaborate with

two other FORE grantees, the Morgan County Partnership in West Virginia and Denver Health, as well as All Rise (formerly the National Association of Drug Court Professionals), to develop tools that strengthen connections between adults and children throughout a parent's recovery.

"When a parent struggles with addiction, the whole family struggles," said Jeanette Betancourt, Ed.D., senior vice president of U.S. Social Impact, Sesame Workshop. "With this generous support from FORE, we aim to equip caring adults with tools to comfort and guide young children through these difficult moments. Together, we can help families heal, reestablish trust, and find their path to recovery."

Pediatricians, including adolescent medicine physicians, are on the front lines of the opioid crisis affecting children and young adults. The [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) is receiving a FORE grant of \$500,000 to improve the prevention, early identification, and treatment of substance use among adolescents and young adults by strengthening the capacity of pediatricians and pediatric health care providers to care for them and their families. As part of the project, the AAP will create a Pathways to Resilience Toolkit offering practical strategies for having conversations with youth about opioid use disorder and the risks of overdose from experimental or incidental drug use, with a particular emphasis on the current risks of fentanyl exposure. It will also offer clinicians guidance on age-appropriate prevention, harm reduction, and treatment strategies, and how to eliminate stigma that can impede open discussions about substance use. As the largest pediatric professional organization in the country, with over 67,000 members, the AAP is uniquely positioned to play a key role in addressing the youth opioid and overdose crisis.

"As pediatricians, our primary concern is the health and well-being of our adolescent and young adult patients," said Debra Waldron, MD, MPH, FAAP, senior vice president of Healthy Resilient Children, Youth & Families at the AAP. "We recognize the urgency of tackling the youth opioid and overdose crisis, especially in the context of the growing fentanyl crisis, and are pleased to partner with FORE to create new resources for pediatricians. This funding will help AAP create an array of resources to empower our pediatricians to have honest and constructive conversations with youth and their families."

### **Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE)**

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### **Sesame Workshop**

Sesame Workshop is the global impact nonprofit behind *Sesame Street* and so much more. For over 50 years, we have worked at the intersection of education, media, and research, creating joyful experiences that enrich minds and expand hearts, all in service of empowering each generation to build a better world. Our beloved characters, iconic shows, outreach in communities, and more bring playful early learning to families in more than 150 countries and advance our mission to help children everywhere grow smarter, stronger, and kinder. Learn

more at [www.sesameworkshop.org](http://www.sesameworkshop.org) and follow Sesame Workshop on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [TikTok](#).

**The American Academy of Pediatrics**

The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. Learn more at [AAP.org](http://AAP.org) and follow AAP on social media [@AmerAcadPeds](#).

**Source:** Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE)

**Contact:** Myrna Manners, Manners Dotson Group, 718-986-7255,  
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