



## Congressional Briefing: Ready or Not: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters and Bioterrorism

March 18, 2019

12:30 pm ET in 2044 Rayburn House Office Building

### **Scheduled Speakers:**

#### **John Auerbach, MBA**

John Auerbach is president and CEO of Trust for America's Health (TFAH). As such he oversees TFAH's work to promote sound public health policy and make disease prevention a national priority. Over the course of a 30-year career he has held senior public health positions at the federal, state, and local levels. As Associate Director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) he oversaw policy and the agency's collaborative efforts with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, commercial payers, and large health systems. During his six years as the Commissioner of Public Health for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, he developed innovative programs to promote health equity, combat chronic and infectious disease, and support the successful implementation of the state's health care reform initiative. As Boston's health commissioner for nine years, he directed homeless, substance abuse, and emergency medical services for the city as well as a wide range of public health divisions.

Mr. Auerbach was previously a professor of practice in health sciences and director of the Institute on Urban Health Research and Practice at Northeastern University; program director of one of the country's first community health centers; and an administrator in a clinical training program at a tertiary care safety-net hospital.

#### **Celeste Philip, MD, MPH**

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH is a physician executive and leader with two decades of experience as a public health and medical professional in local, state, and international settings. Dr. Philip completed over 10 years of service with the Florida Department of Health (department), most recently serving as Florida's Surgeon General and Secretary of Health for nearly three years, directing a staff of over 13,000 with a \$3 billion budget. She began her career with the department in Polk County where she served as medical director and lead for community assessment, strategic planning, and accreditation. She went on to serve in numerous capacities, including interim director for three county health departments and interim bureau chief for communicable diseases where she oversaw the department's effective efforts to curtail one of the largest tuberculosis outbreaks in the nation. After five years in local public health, Dr. Philip was promoted to Deputy Secretary for Health and Deputy State Health Officer for Children's Medical Services before being appointed as secretary.

During her tenure as Florida's top doctor, Dr. Philip led the state's Zika virus response to successfully limit mosquito-borne transmission in south Florida and oversaw the state's public health and medical efforts (ESF8) during hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma, Nate, and Michael.

Dr. Philip serves on the board of directors for the Public Health Accreditation Board and the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, and previously held numerous volunteer positions with the American Heart Association, including president of the Greater Southeast Affiliate and participation on their national health equity task force. She was named the 2016 Outstanding Woman in Public Health by the University of South Florida's College of Public Health.

Dr. Philip graduated from Howard University in Washington DC magna cum laude then earned a Master of Public Health in maternal and child health and a Doctor of Medicine from Loma Linda University in California. She completed a family medicine residency at Florida Hospital in Orlando and served at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer and preventive medicine resident while a commissioned officer of the US Public Health Service. She is double-board certified in family medicine as well as public health and general preventive medicine.

#### **Lori A. Upton, RN BSN MS CEM**

Lori Upton is a Certified Emergency Manager through the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the University of Texas and a Master's Degree in Emergency Management from Touro University.

Ms. Upton is the Regional Director of Emergency Management and Operations for the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council. In that capacity, she coordinates and prioritizes planning objectives to meet Federal preparedness grant requirements and acts as the Medical Operations Chief in the Catastrophic Medical Operations Center (CMOC) for a 25-county region that includes over 180 hospitals and 900 nursing homes in 277 cities. Ms. Upton was responsible for the development of the Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coalition and authored the regional medical response plan that has now been adopted by all jurisdictional officials in the region served. This coordinated effort was placed into action during the response of the Texas Gulf Coast to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and Harvey.

Ms. Upton has an extensive background in clinical operations and leadership of Emergency Departments and Trauma Centers and has been involved in emergency management since 1997. Actual disaster response experience includes: World Trade Center (2001), Hurricane Katrina (2005), Hurricane Rita (2005), Hurricane Gustav (2008), Hurricane Ike (2008), H1N1 Outbreak (2009), West, Texas Explosion (2013), and coordinating the healthcare IMS after the SE Texas flooding (2016) and Hurricane Harvey (2017). Curriculum development includes hospital incident command systems, decontamination, and pediatric specific disaster response as well as authored the Emergency Nurse Pediatric Course Disaster chapter.