

**WEBINAR: Data Storytelling:  
Utilizing Data to Tell Stories of Impact and Engage Policymakers**

Thursday, July 18, 2019 | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT

**PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Megan Sandel, MD, MPH**

*Principal Investigator, Children's HealthWatch; Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health*

Megan Sandel is the Associate Director of the GROW clinic at Boston Medical Center, a Principal Investigator with Children's Health Watch and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health. She is the former pediatric medical director of Boston Healthcare for the Homeless program, and is a nationally recognized expert on housing and child health. In 1998, she published with other doctors at Boston Medical Center, the DOC4Kids report, a national report on how housing affected child health, the first of its kind, and over the course of her career, Dr. Sandel has written numerous peer reviewed scientific articles and papers on this subject. In 2001, she became the first medical director of the founding site for medical-legal partnerships, Medical-Legal Partnership-Boston, and from 2007-2016 she served as the Medical Director of the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership. She has served as a Principal Investigator for numerous NIH, HUD and foundation grants, working with the Boston Public Health Commission and Massachusetts Department of Public Health to improve the health of vulnerable children, particularly with asthma. She has served on many national boards, including Enterprise Community Partners, and national advisory committees at American Academy of Pediatrics and CDC Advisory Committee for Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention.



**Allison Bovell-Ammon, MDiv**

*Deputy Director of Policy Strategy, Children's HealthWatch*

Allison Bovell-Ammon is the Director of Policy Strategy. In this role, Allison leads federal policy work of Children's HealthWatch as well as health care systems integration of housing and food advocacy locally and nationally. She works closely with the Executive Council, Executive Director, and other staff to develop Children's HealthWatch policy priorities, lead advocacy and communications strategies and grow and develop federal legislative and national relationships for maximizing the impact of Children's HealthWatch to inform policies that improve child and family health. In coordination with the Leadership Team and the Engagement, Equity & Inclusion Associate, Allison develops and leads policy engagement for Advisory Board members to advance the mission of the organization. In addition to policy work, Allison works on multiple projects addressing housing instability among patients and families at Boston Medical Center. She co-leads, with Dr. Sandel, Housing Prescriptions as Health Care for Families, an innovative project connecting high-



health care utilizing families experiencing housing instability with services tailored to improve housing stability and health. She also coordinates the Metro Housing Boston co-location site at Boston Medical Center and facilitates partner relationships for Housing Prescriptions as Health Care for Medically Complex Adults.

Previously, Allison was the Boston-Site Coordinator for Children’s HealthWatch where she supervised data collection in the Boston Medical Center Emergency Department before transitioning to the Headquarters team as the Research, Policy and Communications Coordinator. In that role, she coordinated the Healthy Families EITC Coalition and was the primary liaison for Witnesses to Hunger. Before joining Children’s HealthWatch, Allison worked with Drs. Frank and Rose-Jacobs’ on the Primary Care Enrichment Program (PEP) research study at Boston University, which is a longitudinal study that explores the effects of in-utero substance exposure on the development of children. Allison has previously worked and volunteered with several direct-service non-profit organizations. Allison received her BA magna cum laude from Birmingham-Southern College and Master of Divinity summa cum laude from Boston University School of Theology.

### **Ronda Alexander (Moderator)**

*Director of Operations, Vital Village Network at Boston Medical Center*

Ronda Alexander is a native Detroitter dedicated to working with communities to reach their desired goals by aligning and leveraging their resources. Ronda joins us from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan where she served as the Director of Corporate and Community Alignment on the organization’s College and Career Pathways team. In her role at United Way Ronda worked to help external corporate partners find meaningful ways to engage with both students and educators; as well as worked across teams within the organization to align and leverage resources. Prior to joining United Way Ronda worked on the premier education initiative of Ford Motor Company Fund – Ford Next Generation (Ford NGL) for nine years. While at Ford Fund Ronda served a variety of roles including Professional Development/Technical Assistance Specialist and Program Manager for STEM initiatives. In all of her roles with Ford Fund Ronda worked with and supported multiple communities across the country as they worked to transform their communities through education. *Learn more about Vital Village at: <https://vitalvillage.org>*



### **About the Webinar**

*Data storytelling can serve as a powerful tool for system transformation, from conveying a community’s vision for health and equity, to translating information into a compelling narrative, to engaging decision makers in championing health-promoting policies and investments. This session will discuss why narrative change strategies are critical to advancing efforts that support the wellbeing of young children and families, and share tools, resources, and examples of designing effective framing and messaging strategies to support your work. Building on the experience of Children’s HealthWatch, speakers will present tools and promising strategies from a new data storytelling toolkit, including how to develop effective frames, design message maps, and plan for dissemination. The session will also lift up examples of applying these narrative strategies, including best practices for communicating the impact of housing on children’s health and wellbeing.*