

Sarah Newman Boateng
Dedicated Public Servant and Community Advocate

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Professional Summary

Proud native of Pittsburgh with over ten years of dedicated professional and community related experience working in public health and government affairs. An accomplished executive leader with a proven record of driving change and effective results both within the Commonwealth of PA as an appointee of Governor Tom Wolf, while with Planned Parenthood and through working with the U.S. Senate under the direction of Senator Bob Casey. A devoted advocate for the LGBTQ community and women's issues with the ability to tie the advocacy into action and the action into policy improvements.

Accomplishments

Pennsylvania Department of Health and Office of the Physician General

Opioids

Led the development of core competencies for medical students in cooperation with all ten medical schools in Pennsylvania. Includes development of a tool kit to assist in implementation of competencies.

- Led the development of evidence-based specialty specific opioid prescribing guidelines
- The guidelines have received affirmation by the respect regulatory boards including the Board of Medicine.
- Developed Continuing Education Modules with PA Medical Society
- Designed for medical doctors, doctors of osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioners, nurses, physician assistants, dentists, podiatrists and pharmacists
- Modules
 - Prescribing guidelines – complete
 - Naloxone – complete
 - Facilitated referral/Warm hand off – in the works
 - ABC-MAP
 - Alternative treatment for pain management

Established PA Opioid Data Dashboard – a multi-agency effort to publish data related to the opioid crisis in partnership with University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health

- Created PacMAT – PA Coordinated Medication Assisted Treatment – program to expand the availability of substance use disorders through of quality MAT prescribing providers. This program has trained over 10,000 providers in MAT and treated more then 5,000 people

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- Developed a clinical pathway for opioid overdose treatment use in the emergency department.
- Contributed to the national response to the opioid crisis by
 - Meeting with Surgeon General Dr. Murthy
 - Meeting with Drug Czar Michael Botticelli
 - Participating in roundtables hosted by National Governors Association

Advancing the LGBTQ Community under the Wolf Administration

Supporting LGBTQ Health and Well-Being

- Updated Pennsylvania Medicaid coverage to include coverage of gender confirmation treatment
- The Wolf administration in conjunction with the Department of Human Services (DHS) announced that gender reassignment was included as a covered service under the Medical Assistance (MA) Program and CHIP. As a result of the federal Office of Civil Rights final rule, “Nondiscrimination in Health Program and Activities,” DHS ended the categorical coverage exclusion of services related to gender reassignment for the treatment of gender dysphoria.
- Through efforts spearheaded by the Department of Military and Veterans affairs, SAGE also provided cultural competency training for the staff of the state’s Veterans Homes. The intent is to have all six of the Veterans Homes in the commonwealth achieve Platinum level certification through SAGE by the end of June 2018.
- Supported the development of guidance issued by Pennsylvania Insurance Department (PID) regarding non-discrimination guidance to health insurers, prohibiting discrimination on basis of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity. Anyone who experiences discrimination with respect to health care coverage (including pharmacy benefits) should contact PID and file a complaint so that we can investigate and address any discriminatory practices that remain in place.
- Supported issuance of a PID created Consumer Alert for Modern Households which highlighted insurance coverages for same-sex couples and domestic partners to consider when moving in together or getting married to avoid potentially costly misunderstandings of what is covered.
- Updated policy at the Department of Health to allow transgender Pennsylvanians to change the gender on their birth certificate. Policy does not require gender confirmation surgery.
- Updated policy at the Department of Health to change the parental designation on the birth certificate from mother/parent and father/parent to simply parent /parent.
- Participate in workgroup at Pennsylvania Medical Society to address access issues for medical care for LGBTQ people.

Supporting LGBTQ Inmates

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- The PA Department of Corrections (DOC) implemented procedures for gender affirming commissary items to be available universally at both male and female facilities. For instance, transgender females housed in male facilities may purchase cosmetics previously available at female institutions and transgender males may purchase male attire. The department also issues gender affirming undergarments to both transgender males and transgender females.
- The DOC conducts a monthly video conference support group for transgender inmates, creating a bridge for peer support between inmates who often have limited access to transgender peers at their respective locations. The group is facilitated by representatives from Transcultural and Alder Health Services and moderated by the DOC.
- Served on the DOC gender review committee to guide final decisions on placements of inmates consistent with their gender identity.

Preventing Hate Crimes and Bullying

- Served on the Equity and Inclusion Task Force convened by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to develop and publish the Pennsylvania Equity and Inclusion Toolkit, to help schools prevent and respond to racially charged and bias-related incidents in their communities. As part of the toolkit, PDE also published resources related to gender and gender identity, disability, LGBTQ+, racial and ethnic identity, religious identity, and supporting undocumented and immigrant students.

Inclusion in Public Institutions

- Advocated to the Department of General Services to establish guidelines for the design and implementation of universal restrooms and restroom facilities and to ensure that, to the extent feasible, commonwealth buildings include universal single occupancy restroom facilities that are safe, accessible and convenient to all citizens. Per the policy, at least one universal single occupancy restroom will be created per floor/story for each floor/story that contains restrooms in all capital projects for new construction. To the extent feasible, at least one universal single occupancy restroom should be created in all renovations of existing commonwealth buildings. To the extent feasible, all gender-specific single occupancy restrooms within existing commonwealth buildings will be converted to universal single occupancy restrooms.
- The transgender transition guidelines are part of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policy. This policy is available and provided to all employees. Any employee who is transitioning works with the executive staff at their institution to develop a transition plan. This plan includes a presentation date, names of those they would like to inform of their transition and how they want this announced, their preferred name and administrative changes (applies to DOC and DHS).

Inclusive Public Lands:

- Advised the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on the development of policies to be more accommodating of LGBTQ visitors to state parks and forests, including

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facilities, ways of addressing visitors and other policies. DCNR is also surveying park and forest managers to identify barriers for diverse visitors to state parks and forests.

Bureau of Epidemiology:

- Developed system to improve monitoring of health and hospital acquired infections
- Enhanced states monitoring of potential Health effects of fracking
 - Work on design and implementation of an expanded health complaint registry to monitor any potential health effect of fracking
 - Increased coordination with Department of Environmental Protection
 - Working in coordination with state of Colorado
- Managed disease investigations
 - Including NTM or Nontuberculin mycobacteria – infections of cardiac surgery patients -national story
 - UPMC Mold infections in transplant patients- national story

Bureau of Laboratories:

- Obtained CLIA certification of the state public health laboratory
- Arranged interim – Lab Director from Penn
- Arranged for review by Global Biohazard Technologies for review of biocontainment at the laboratory prior to the Pope’s visits
- Completed laboratory review by Association of Public Health Laboratories for January 2016
- Actively recruiting full time Laboratory Director/Bureau Chief

Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries

- Improved processing times of birth certificate requests from 31 weeks to five days
- Improved processing times of death certificate requests from 40 weeks to five days
- Secured Registry of Distinction designation for the PA Cancer Registry

Office of Medical Marijuana

- \$1.5 billion dollars in sales
- 399,523 Patients registered
- 1,458 providers enrolled

Other:

- Immunizations
 - Proposed regulation change to remove 8-month provisional period for school age youth to improve Pennsylvania’s immunization rates
 - Executed communications strategy – Don’t Wait, Vaccinate – that improved immunization rates in one year
- Consulted on the development of a \$2 million dollar grant to support research on CBD, a medical cannabis compound

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- Established Department's Office of Performance through Excellence dedicated to continuous process improvement and performance management
- Issued PA DOH 2019-2022 Strategic Plan
- Secured initial Public Health Accreditation for PA DOH

Work Experience

Pennsylvania Department of Health, Harrisburg, PA

July 2017 - Present

Executive Deputy Secretary

- Key member of the Department of Health's executive management team
- Serve as principal advisor to the Secretary of Health
- Manages the integration of all Departmental programs and priorities into the overall mission of the Department of Health
- Supervise the Deputies of Quality Assurance, Health Innovation, Health Promotion and Disease prevention and Health Planning and Assessment and the Office of Medical Marijuana and Office of the Budget

Pennsylvania Department of Health, Harrisburg, PA

June 2015 – July 2017

Special Assistant to the Physician General

- Executive appointee responsible reviewing health policies in various agencies to ensure they are consistent with Commonwealth health initiatives, identify medical and public health policy issues; formulating health policies and developing strategic plans on behalf of the Physician General
- Acts as an advisor and consultant to the Physician General, the Secretary of Health, the Governor's Office and cabinet level officials on health policy matters.
- Lead staff on Governor's LGBTQ Workgroup comprised of policy directors from ten state agencies, participate as a key policy advisor on state's response to the opioid crisis, and assist in management of the Bureau of Epidemiology and the Public Health Laboratory with a budget of \$15 million and a staff of 115 full time employees.

Planned Parenthood Keystone, Harrisburg, PA

July 2013 – June 2015

Director of Public Affairs

- Execute legislative and executive advocacy goals that align with Planned Parenthood Keystone's mission and business by serving as principal lobbyist for affiliate and primary contact for the 104 lawmakers who represent the constituents of the 37 PA counties Planned Parenthood Keystone serves; organizing direct and grassroots lobbying events; manage a budget of over \$250,000; and supervising staff of organizers, advocates, and associate directors
- Create and execute Planned Parenthood Keystone's Public Affairs strategic plan that supports strategic goals of affiliate
- Position affiliate as a regional leader in health insurance enrollment advocacy by launching affiliate-wide outreach strategy, securing over \$60,000 in grant funding, and organizing over 1,000 hours of direct outreach and assistance

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- Manage Planned Parenthood Keystone’s media strategy by providing on-camera, radio, and print media interviews; supervising Planned Parenthood Keystone's media strategy; and editing and approving all press releases and public statements

Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates and PAC, Harrisburg, PA July 2013 – June 2015
Central Pennsylvania Project Director (Concurrent with role as Director of Public Affairs)

- Ran PPP PAC program in Northeast PA in support of the Tom Wolf for Governor campaign by supervising 3 full-time field staff and 15 canvassers; managing over 17,000 door-knocks and 30,000 phone calls to voters; training and placing 2 interns on regional legislative campaigns; and executing media strategy
- Support statewide strategic plan to reach yearly goals of Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates

United States Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr., Harrisburg, PA April 2009 – July 2013
Statewide LGBT Affairs Advisor/Constituent Advocate

- Represented the Senator’s legislative interest by providing in-state outreach and advocacy, delivering presentations and meeting with constituents
- Served as state-based expert on issues related to public and private insurance; public health programs, Affordable Care Act implementation; Social Security Administration; and international adoptions
- Identified and researched state-specific legislative issues and areas for the Senator to intervene

Education

Master’s in Health Care Administration, Colorado State University – Global Campus

Professional Certificate, Secondary Education, Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh, PA

Bachelor of Arts, History, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Publications

1. Michalowski, Allison E., **Sarah N. Boateng**, and Rachel L. Levine, M.D. "A Primer on Issues in Transgender Medicine." *The Journal of Lancaster General Hospital* 12.3 (2017): 68-72. Print.
2. Butler J, Fraser M: A Public Health Guide to Ending the Opioid Epidemic. Part 3, Chapter 24, Developing a Culture of Opioid Stewardship, Michalowski A, **Boateng S**, Fraser M, Levine R. Oxford University Press. 2019