



Connecticut Health Advancement and Research Trust (CHART) Welcomes Three New Board Members

MERIDEN, CT – Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to the CHART Board of Directors.

Kenn Harris

Kenn Harris of Groton is currently the Director of New Haven Healthy Start at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven where he also serves as Vice President for Community Engagement. His experience in maternal and child health, public health and fatherhood/male involvement spans more than 25 years. Healthy Start is a long-standing federal program and the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven administers the grant awarded to New Haven. The project works through a coalition of nonprofit and public agencies and health care providers to reduce infant mortality and improve physical and mental health outcomes for predominantly low-income children of color and their families.

Kenn is the President of the National Healthy Start Association, based in Washington, DC and co-creator of the Core Adaptive Model (CAM®), an evidence-based model for fatherhood/male involvement programs. Kenn is a national expert and facilitator on topics ranging from community engagement, fatherhood, racism and equity. He is a community researcher and national advisor on men's health. In 2015, Kenn co-authored and published an article, "The Health of Young African American Men," in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Although Kenn's "day job" is in New Haven, he is a resident of Groton, an ordained minister and active faith leader in that community.

Monte Wagner

Monte Wagner is a family nurse practitioner (FNP) with extensive experience in primary care in the community health setting, primary care education, health policy, and involvement in organizations supporting underserved communities. Previously the on-site medical director at the Community Health Center, Inc. in Danbury, he has accepted a faculty position with the Center for Primary Care Education at the West Haven campus of the Veteran's Affairs Connecticut Health Care System. He graduated in 2003 from the FNP program at Columbia University School of Nursing and has a doctorate in nursing practice (DNP) from Yale School of Nursing.

He started in health care as a US Army Special Forces medic and has worked in student health, the emergency department, community health, care for the undocumented, homeless and substance users, and taught nurses and nurse practitioner students at various levels. As a medic and later as a volunteer for the New York-based foundation Hope for a Healthier Humanity, he has participated in multiple medical missions to Latin America, teaching first aid, primary care and natural child birth in remote locations. Monte is passionate about the nurse practitioner student clinical experience, inter-professional care in the primary care setting, care for



underserved populations, as well as addressing chronic health issues in the group setting. He currently serves on the executive board of the Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society as the co-chair for health policy and is a part-time lecturer at the Yale School of Nursing.

He lives in rural Litchfield county with his wife and three children and is a passionate long-distance runner.

Beverley Brakeman

Beverley Brakeman was elected Director of UAW Region 9A in June 2018, serving as the only female Regional Director on their International Executive Board. Region 9A represents 50,000 members in New England, NYC and Puerto Rico. Beverley was elected by her leadership to carry on the region's growing success organizing new workers

Prior to coming to the labor movement, she was an activist in the violence against women and marriage equality movements. She ran a rape crisis center, lobbied for better laws to protect women against sexual harassment and assault, and helped to pass marriage equality legislation in Connecticut. Her unique background, skill set and experience have proven helpful in navigating the challenges facing all labor leaders in today's anti-worker, anti-labor environment.

Brakeman, a member of UAW Local 376 in Connecticut, began her work with UAW under the direction of then-UAW Region 9A Director Phil Wheeler. She was hired to run Citizens for Economic Opportunity (CEO), a coalition started by the UAW comprised of community, labor, faith-based and other allied groups with an interest in challenging corporate power and accountability.

Under Brakeman's leadership, CEO took on important fights like the lack of transparency and accountability in the use of state-funded, taxpayer-driven economic development grants and loans to corporations in return for job creation. In the early 2000s, when states were fighting for better laws and policies to increase health care coverage for all, Brakeman started and led Labor for Universal Healthcare. This group fought in the legislature, in corporate boardrooms, on the streets and even in police vans against excessive insurance company CEO pay and profits.

Bolstered by the UAW's commitment to organizing new workers, her predecessors' successes, and a uniquely talented and strategic local union leadership and staff, Beverley is charged with and committed to continuing UAW Region 9A's tradition of winning elections and good contracts for more workers and serving UAW's members with dedication, pride and hard work.

Brakeman lives in West Hartford, Connecticut with her partner Chris and his son, Aaron, and her dog Riley. Brakeman has two daughters, Gillian and Izzy.

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut serves as a catalyst that engages residents and communities in shaping a democratic health system that provides universal access to quality, affordable health care and promotes health in Connecticut. UHCF believes that health care is a fundamental right and that our work is part of a broader movement for social and economic justice.