



Forum Matters

Highlights & Updates

Third Quarter 2022

What is the Forum?

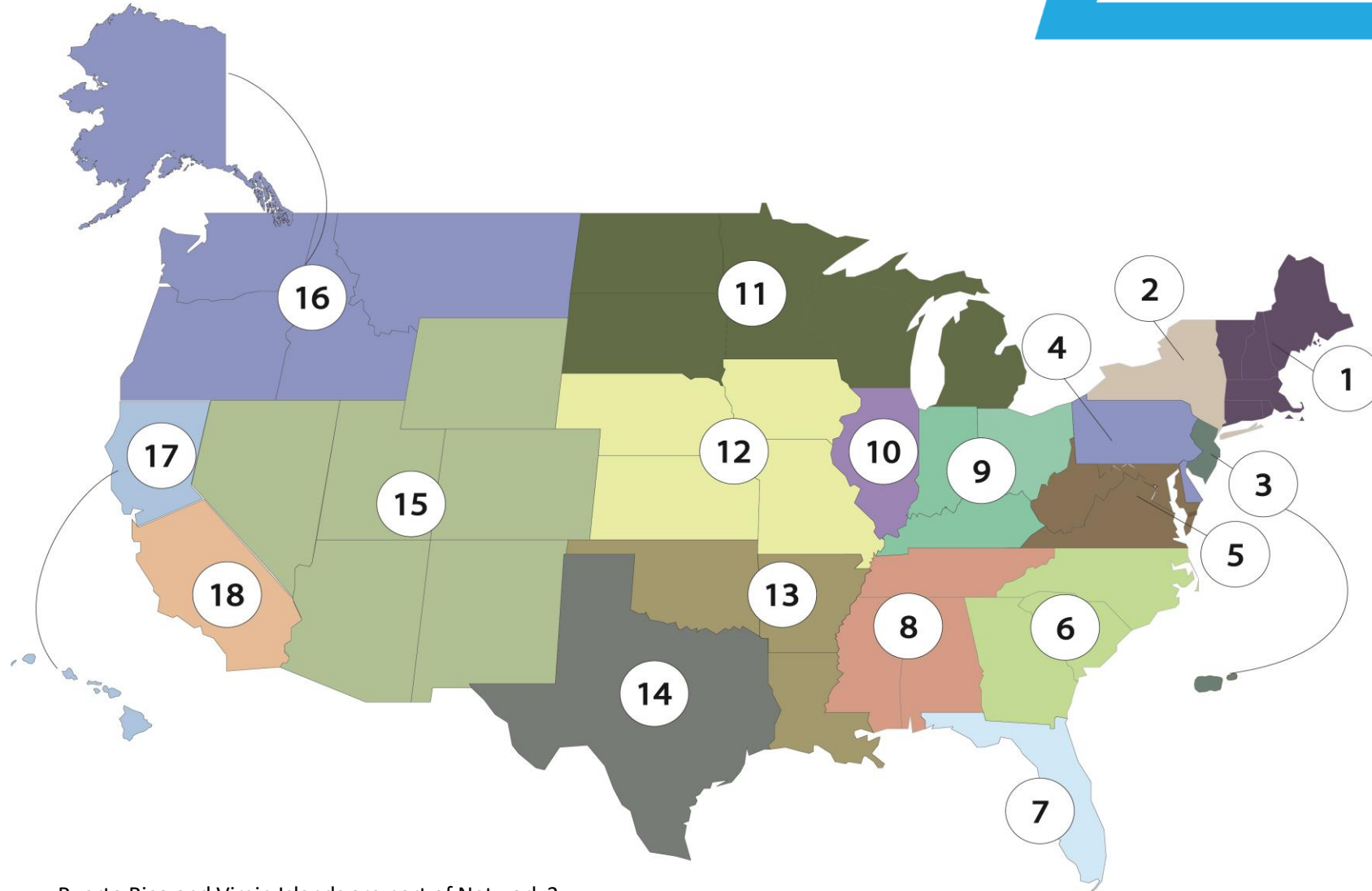


All ESRD Networks are members of the Forum of ESRD Networks, which is a not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of its membership and coordinates projects and activities of mutual interest to ESRD Networks. The Forum facilitates the flow of information and advances a national quality agenda with CMS and other renal organizations.

The **MISSION** of the Forum is to support and advocate on behalf of the ESRD Networks in promoting methods to improve the quality of care to patients with renal disease.

CORE VALUES:

- Volunteerism
- Collaboration
- Innovation and Flexibility
- Spread of Knowledge
- Integrity
- Autonomy of Individual ESRD Networks
- Person (Patient & Family) Centeredness

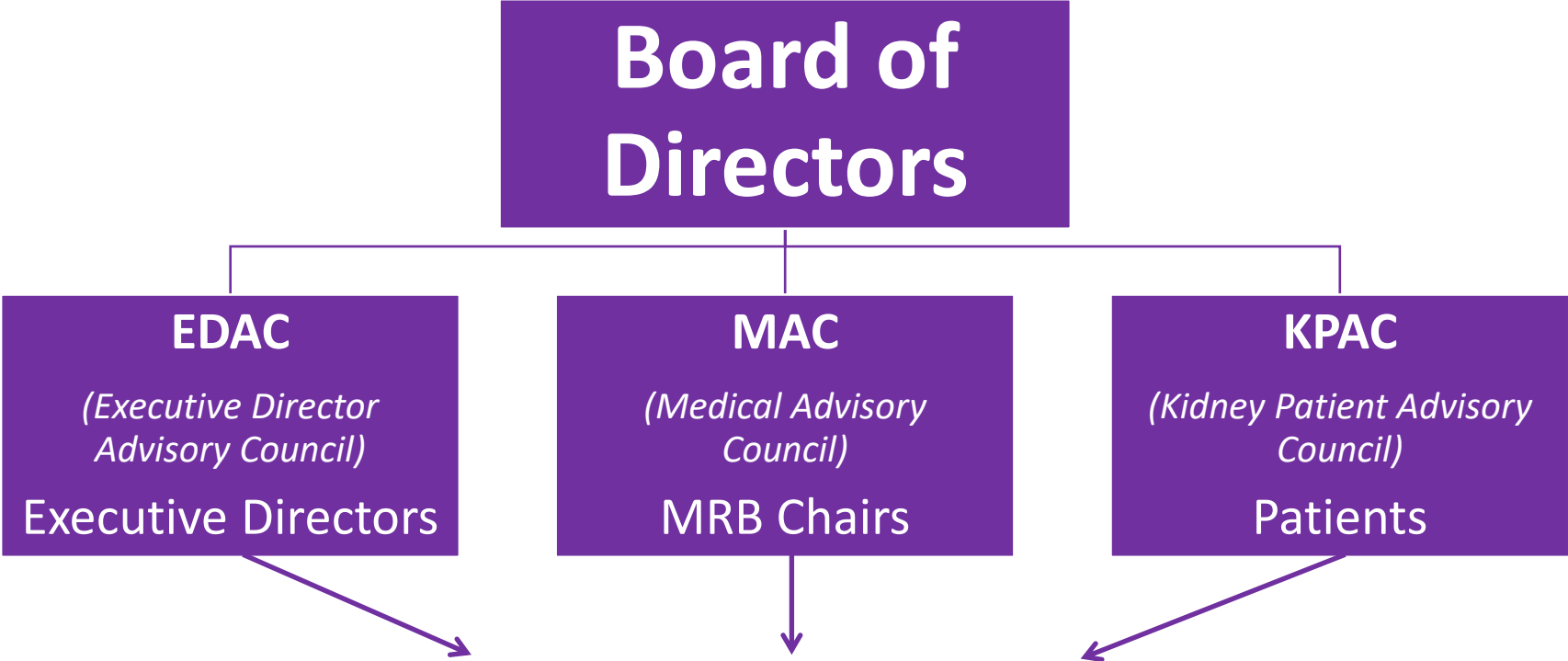


Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands are part of Network 3
Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa are part of Network 17

Strategic Planning Priorities 2022: Framework for Forum Work



1. Strategic Partnerships (combined Alliance Building and QIO/QIN Partnerships in Q3)
2. Board Development
3. Customer Outreach, Sharing, & Engagement (combined Customer Needs, Marketing, and SHEP in Q3)
4. Resource Identification



- Assisting the Networks
- Council Activities: MAC, EDAC KPAC
- Regular Communication with CMS
- Quality Conference Webinars
- Facilitate flow of information between the Forum and Network Staff/BOD/MRB/PAC
- Relationships with other Stakeholders (i.e., RHA, RPA, LDOs, NKF, AAKP, AHQA, CDC, ASN)

Forum Presidents



Elbert P. Tuttle, Jr.

(1976-1978)

Robert J. Soberman

(1978-1980)

Frederick Westervelt

(1980-1982)

Dominick E. Gentile, MD

(1982-1984)

William W. Pfaff, MD

(1984-1986)

Sidney Baskin

(1986-1989)

John L. Bengfort, MD

(1989-1992)

John D. Bower, MD

(1992-1994)

Louis H. Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP

(1994-1998)

Jay B. Wish, MD

(1998-2001)

Alan S. Kliger, MD

(2001-2004)

Derrick L. Latos, MD, MACP

(2004-2006)

Richard S. Goldman, MD

(2006-2009)

Cynthia Kristensen, MD

(2009-2011)

Klemens Meyer, MD

(2011-2012)

Andrew D. Howard, MD, FACP

(2012-2015)

John Wagner, MD, MBA

(2015-2017)

Donald Molony, MD

(2017- 2019)

Ralph Atkinson III, MD

(2019- 2021)

David Henner, DO

(2021 - Present)

Executive Committee:

President: David Henner, DO

President-Elect: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

Past President: Ralph Atkinson III, MD

Treasurer: Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA

Secretary: Chris Brown

MAC Chair: Dan Landry, DO, FASN

EDAC Chair: Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN

EDAC Vice-Chair: Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ

KPAC Co-Chair: Derek Forfang

KPAC Co-Chair: Dawn Edwards

Members-at-Large:

Christine Logar, MD, FASN

Kelly M. Mayo, MS

Keith Norris, MD PhD

Stephen Pastan, MD

Maria Regnier, MSN, RN, CNN

Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

Ad Hoc:

Andrew Howard, MD, FACP

Donald Molony, MD

John Wagner, MD, MBA

Emeritus:

Louis Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP, FCP (SA)

Executive Director Advisory Council

(As of 7/1/2022)



Chair:	Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
Vice-Chair:	Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ
Networks 1/2	Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ
Networks 3/4	Chris Brown
Network 5	Brandy Vinson
Network 6	Danielle Daley, MBA
Networks 7/13/15/17/18	Helen Rose, MSW, BSW, LCSW
Networks 8/14	Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ
Network 9	Victoria L. Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
Network 10	Audrey Broaddus
Network 11	Dee LeDuc
Network 12	Stephanie L. Smith
Network 16	Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA

Medical Advisory Council

(as of 7/1/2022)



Chair: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN

Immediate Past Chair: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

Network 1: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN

Network 2: George Coritsidis, MD

Network 3: Keith Norris, MD, PhD

Network 4: Paul Palevsky, MD

Network 5: Marc Brazie, MD

Network 6: John J. Doran, MD, FASN

Network 7: Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC

Network 8: Martha Tankersley, MSN, RN

Network 9: Anne Huml, MD, MS

Network 10: Andres Serrano, MD

Network 11: Louis Raymond, MD

Network 12: Preethi Yerram, MD

Network 13: Laura Rankin, MD

Network 14: Donald Molony, MD

Network 15: Harmeet Singh, MD

Network 16: John Stivelman, MD

Network 16 Alt: Christine Logar, MD

Network 17: Ramin Sam, MD

Network 18: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD

Ad Hoc Member: Stephen Pastan, MD

EDAC Rep: Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ (8/14)

QID Rep: Barbara Dommert-Breckler, RN, BSN, CNN (16)

KPAC Rep: Derek Forfang (17)

Welcome to the MAC, Martha Tankersley, MSN, RN!

Kidney Patient Advisory Council

(as of 10/1/2022)



Network 1: Jerry Calabritto
Network 2: Stephanie Dixon
Dawn Edwards (**Co-Chair**)
Network 3: Bill Senior
Network 4: Timmy Nelson
Network 5: Virna Elly
Patrick Gee
Network 6: Dolores McGrath
Network 7: Janice Starling
Network 8: Jacqueline Bland
Terry Peeler
Network 9: Evan Coaker
Network 10: Quin Taylor
Network 11: Jeff Nelson
Patricia Bologna
Mary Baliker

Network 12: Shane Blanchard
Network 13:
Network 14: Precious McCowan
Dawn Goertz
Network 15: Lynne Hall
Network 16: Bob Crabtree
Lisa Custer
Network 17: Derek Forfang (**Co-Chair**)
Doris Lew
Network 18: Terry McCallum
EDAC Rep: Dee LeDuc (NW 11)
PSD Reps: Yessi Cubillo (NW 3)
Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW (NW 16)

Welcome to the KPAC, Bob Crabtree, and thank you for your service, Della Major and Maria Casas!

Forum Executive Committee:

- Monthly conference calls

Forum Board of Directors:

- Quarterly conference calls
- 2022 Meetings: March 9 & 11 (virtual), September 9-10 (Chicago)

CMS/Forum Leadership Calls

- Conference calls
- In-Person Meeting at CMS Quality Conference *(2020, no in-person meeting in 2021 or 2022)*

CMS/Network/Forum COVID-19 Calls

- Weekly calls began April 2020, transitioned to monthly in November 2020, ended May 2021, monthly calls resumed August 2021, bi-monthly calls began February 2022

MAC

- Quarterly conference calls
- Annual MAC Meeting: November 2, 2022 (Orlando)

EDAC

- Monthly conference calls
- Meeting with CMS & Division of Kidney Health/iQIIG Leaders
- Periodic calls with FMC, DaVita, DCI, RHA

KPAC

- Monthly conference calls

- Board voted to amend the Bylaws to include a Medical Advisory Council Vice Chair position. This will be a voting position on the Board of Directors. The MAC Vice Chair will be elected in November.
- Strategic Priority workgroups developed metrics by which to measure performance on strategic goals.
- Forum investments and donations continue to be a funding source for the organization. Strong financials through 2022.
- The MAC issued a challenge to each Network to submit a highly effective practice to the Forum's Sharing Highly Effective Practices (SHEP) Initiative.
- Kelly Mayo of the NCC presented an overview of the ESRD Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative
- Andy Howard, MD, presented on the ESRD PPS QIP Proposed Rule and updates to the ETC
- Dan Landry, DO, presented on voluntary payment models and the AAKH

Updates from EDAC Leadership:

- Vicky Cash, EDAC Chair, shared current Network performance for Option Year 1

Updates from KPAC Leadership:

- The KPAC is working to better engage current members in the Council's work, as well as recruiting new members to the KPAC
- Work continues on the Health Equity Toolkit
- Members contributed a patient-perspective chapter to the MAC Home Dialysis Toolkit, along with plans for a supplemental video
- KPAC reps spoke at 2022 conferences including (but not limited to) the BONENT 2022 Seminar and the Visonex Annual Meeting
- KPAC reps serve on the TAQIL ETCLC committee, sharing the KPAC perspective
- KPAC reps serve on 3 CMS TEPs:
 - Quality Measure Development Plan & Quality Measure Index
 - Dialysis Facility Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings
 - Impact Assessment Report 2024 of CMS Quality and Efficiency Measures
- KPAC reps to serve on advisory committee/focus groups for proposed PCORI grant project looking at shared decision-making and medical management without dialysis
- KPAC reps to serve on advisory board for NIH grant (geriatric care model for dialysis patients)
- KPAC members are working on a webinar, podcast, and patient perspective piece as part of the PCORI grant on depression in dialysis patients.

Updates from MAC Leadership:

- Welcomed Martha Tankersley, MSN, RN, to the MAC as Network 8 representative
- Home Dialysis Toolkit is almost ready for peer review
- Three proposed new toolkits:
 - Person-Centered CKD Care Planning and Measures
 - Conservative Management & Supportive Care for Kidney Patients
 - Practicing Health Equity & Patient-Provider Collaboration in Kidney Care (in conjunction with Forum KPAC)
- Sharing Highly Effective Practices
 - Three submissions approved to-date
 - Developed merit review by which to evaluate proposals
 - **Challenged all Networks to submit a highly effective practice by October 24, 2022**
- MAC Annual Meeting: November 2, 2022, in Orlando, FL

Professional Toolkits

- Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Kidney Transplant Toolkit
- Transitions of Care Toolkit
- Vaccination Toolkit
- Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Home Dialysis Toolkit (update in progress)
- Catheter Reduction Toolkit
- QAPI Toolkit

Patient Toolkits:

- Health Equity Toolkit (in progress)
- Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit
- Dialysis Patient Grievance Toolkit
- Financial Help Resources
- Kidney Patient Transplant Toolkit
 - *Patient video providing an overview of the toolkit available at https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/Is_A_Kidney_Transplant_Right_For_Me.mp4; consider sharing with your patients!*

MAC Toolkit	Updates
Home Dialysis Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New sections to address AAKH and Conditions for Coverage updates • Emergency management of home dialysis patients • Impact of ESCOs, ETC Model, Voluntary Models on home therapies • Enhanced modality education: transitional care and hands-on experience care options • Emerging technology and the impact and benefits to home therapies • Addressing disparities and access to care • Home therapy options in the LTC/nursing home setting • KPAC Section: Empowering patients and care partners to be successful at home
Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Preparedness (Henner) • COVID (Kalantar) • Leadership (Molony)
Transitions of Care Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing Home Communication Tool • COVID • Medication Reconciliation • Add Flu and COVID vaccine information to the Transfer Summary Forms in the Toolkit
Vaccination Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID Vaccination • Vaccination Tracking Tool now includes COVID vaccine and pneumococcal booster + age so facilities can track patients >64 YO for PPSV-23 booter

Regularly scheduled calls to discuss programmatic/strategic issues:

- **Anita Monteiro**, Director, iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group (iQIIG)
- **Shane Illies**, Deputy Director, iQIIG
- **Vacant**, MD, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality Improvement
- **Shalon Quinn**, Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- **Melissa Dorsey**, Deputy Director, DKH, iQIIG
- **Mitzi Christ**, Regional Program Manager, Div of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- CORs, ARAs, Central Office staff

Calls in 2022: 1/10, 2/14, 4/25, 6/13, 8/15

CMS Org Chart:

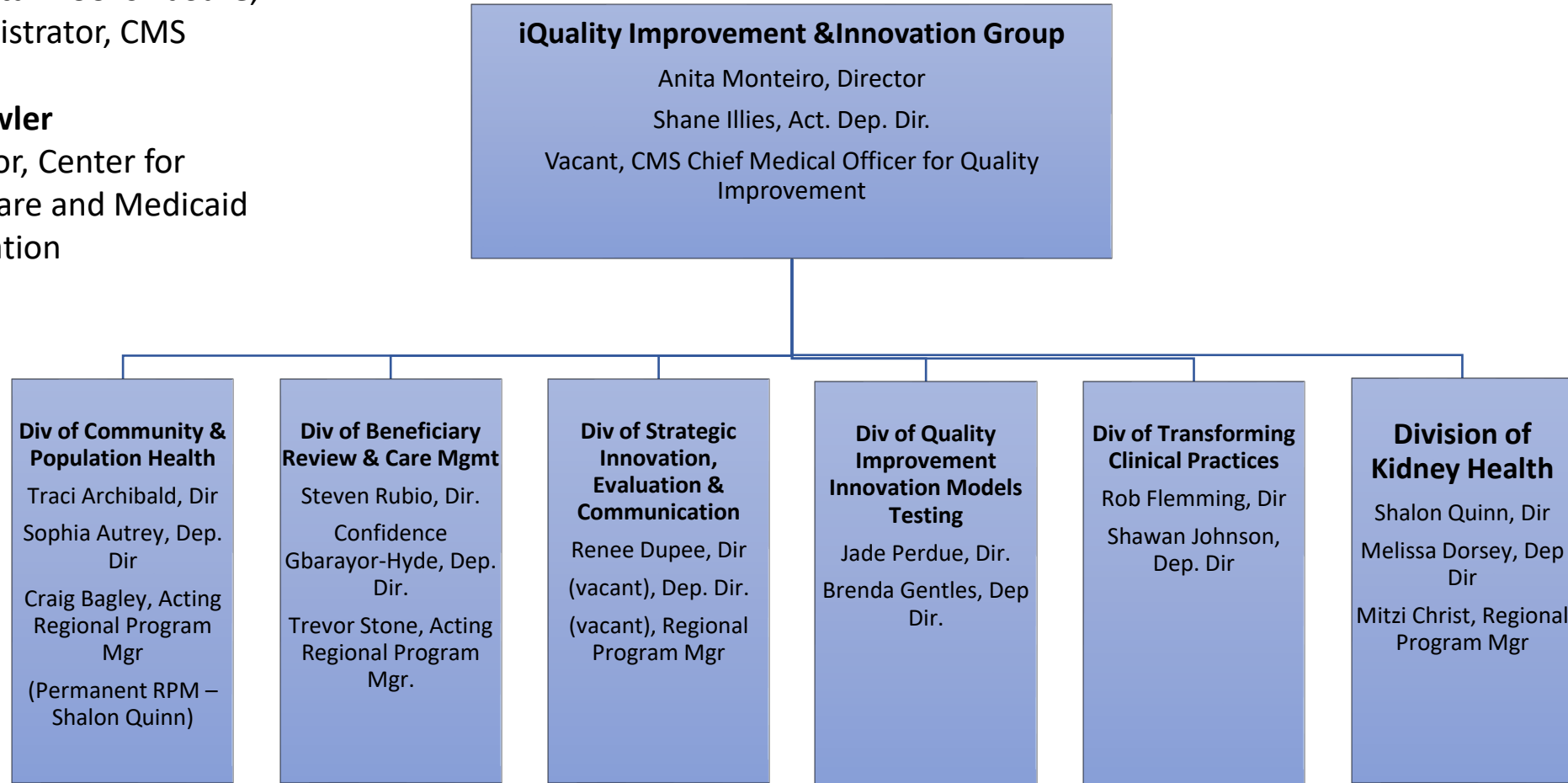
https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/CMSLeadership/Office_CCSQ.html

CMS Organizational Chart



Chiquita Brooks-LaSure,
Administrator, CMS

Liz Fowler
Director, Center for
Medicare and Medicaid
Innovation



- The Forum Executive Committee submitted a letter to CMS re: Network hospitalization goals and diagnostic codes. CMS met with members of the Executive Committee in August to seek further clarification on the comments, which are being taken under advisement.
- Stephen Preston, PhD, MPH, led a discussion on the increase in involuntary discharges and requested the Forum's assistance in addressing this issue.
- Stephanie Hutchinson shared Network 16's success with the Home Dialysis ECHO project.

- Forum leadership continued to bring COVID priorities and concerns to CMS during monthly CMS/Forum leadership calls. Forum leaders provided updates on:
 - Rates of COVID testing for kidney patients
 - COVID positivity rates among kidney patients
 - Vaccination rates among kidney patients and dialysis staff
 - Kidney transplant and waitlist rates
 - Network observations on COVID-related technical assistance
 - Kidney patient observations
 - **Dialysis supply & staffing shortages**

Minutes, recordings, resources: <https://esrdnetworks.org/resources-news/covid-19-information-resources/>

- The Forum submitted comments to CMS re: CMS-1768-P: Medicare ESRD PPS Proposed Rule (August 2022)
- The Forum submitted comments to CMS re: CMS-1770-P: Proposals and Request for Information on Medicare Parts A and B Payment for Dental Services, specifically re: coverage for CKD/ESRD patients (September 2022)
- The Forum submitted comments to NQF re: several measures evaluated by the Renal Standing Committee (September 2022)

Comments are available for review at <https://esrdnetworks.org/resources-news/forum-position-papers-public-comments/>

- Brandy Vinson appointed as Forum representative to the National Living Donor Assistance Center Advisory Group (July 2022)
- M. Baliker. Worked with Chronic Disease Coalition and Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers on Proclamation for July 10, 2022, as Chronic Disease Day. (July 2022)
- D. Edwards, D. Lew. IDEAS Conference, Seattle, WA (August 2022)
- D. Forfang, L. Custer, J. Starling, D. Henner. Best Practices: Home Programs, Transitional Dialysis. 2022 Visonex User Group Meeting, Green Bay, WI (August 2022)
- D. Edwards. Exploring Opportunities to Join Home Dialysis Programs. BONENT 2022 Northeast Seminar. (September 2022)
- D. Edwards, D. Forfang. KDOQI Guidelines Scientific Workshop. National Kidney Foundation. Washington, DC. (September 2022)
- D. Edwards. Itching (Pruritus) and Chronic Kidney Disease: A Doctor Patient Discussion. National Kidney Foundation Live Event. (September 2022)

- Advancing American Kidney Health
- Updates to MAC Toolkits
- New KPAC Toolkits
- Actively pursuing additional financial resources to support Forum/Network activities
- Sharing Highly Effective Practices in the Kidney Community; consider submitting a best practice to the Forum's new community education resource

<https://esrdnetworks.org/education/sharing-best-practices-in-the-kidney-community>

Forum Website Updates



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL https://esrdnetworks.org. The page features the organization's logo and a navigation menu. A map of the United States is displayed with 18 numbered regions. Two callouts are present: a green box for 'Donate' and a blue box for 'What's new on the Forum website?'. The 'Donate' box contains text about the organization's 501(c)(3) status and a 'Donate now' button. The 'What's new' box contains a link to a 'Transplant Toolkit for Patients' video.

Home About Us Membership Toolkits Resources & News Education Contact

Donate

The National Forum of ESRD Networks, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization #13-3246354. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. NO goods or services will be provided by the Forum in return or consideration for this contribution. Donations can also be mailed to the Forum Office at PO Box 203, Birchwood, WI 54817.

Donate now

What's new on the Forum website?

Learn about the new [Transplant Toolkit for Patients](#)

This 12-minute video provides an overview of the Toolkit

[Is A Kidney Transplant Right for Me?](#)

Welcome to the Forum of ESRD Networks website

Donate Button



https://esrdnetworks.org/donate/

THE NATIONAL FORUM OF ESRD NETWORKS

Advocating for the organizations that monitor the quality of chronic kidney disease, dialysis and kidney transplant care in the USA.

Home About Us Membership Toolkits Resources & News Education Contact

Donate to National Forum of ESRD Networks

Select an amount to donate

\$25 \$50 \$100 OTHER

Dedicate my donation in **Honor** or in **Memory** of someone

In honor of

In memory of

Person you're honoring/memorializing

Message

Notify someone of your donation.

Continue

Donate

The National Forum of ESRD Networks, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization #13-3246354. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. No goods or services will be provided by the Forum in return or consideration for this contribution. Donations can also be mailed to the Forum Office at PO Box 203, Birchwood, WI 54817.

Donate now

What's new on the Forum website?



- Thank You to all of our Generous Donors in 2021
- Thank You to all of our Generous Donors in 2022
- Donor Recognition Levels

Donor Wall

A gracious "Thank you" to all of our donors, big and small, are making a difference in the life of a kidney patient!

With more than 75 engaged volunteers actively involved in identifying gaps in care and filling those gaps, the Forum has developed both patient and provider centered resources. Through the generous donations from the community, we will continue this work. What is the community saying about these resources?

- "Good info graphics and something for every staff member in the dialysis clinic." ~Corporate VP in Dialysis, about the Kidney Transplant Toolkit
- "The information is geared to improving the health and safety of patients with ESRD." ~Dialysis Social Worker, about the Kidney Transplant Toolkit
- "It gives a new way to look at things. We need to make sure we continue to meet patient needs." ~Dialysis Nurse, about the Transitions of Care Toolkit

Thank You to all of our Generous Donors in 2021

[Read more...](#)

Thank You to all of our Generous Donors in 2022

[Read more...](#)

Donor Recognition Levels

[Read more...](#)

Donate

The National Forum of ESRD Networks, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization #13-3246354. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. No goods or services will be provided by the Forum in return or consideration for this contribution. Donations can also be mailed to the Forum Office at PO Box 203, Birchwood, WI 54817.

[Donate now](#)

What's new on the Forum website?

[Learn about the new Transplant Toolkit for Patients](#)

This 12-minute video provides an overview of the Toolkit

[Is A Kidney Transplant Right for Me?](#)

[COVID-19 vaccination flyer for Dialysis patients](#)

Please share this flyer with your dialysis patients

[Resources & Links for Kidney Patients](#)

The Forum is committed to supporting the activities of the ESRD Networks and improving care for all kidney patients.

We have a variety of free educational materials on our website and more under development.

We are a non-profit organization and do all this through volunteer members and limited financial resources.

Consider a donation today to support this work.

All donations are tax deductible.

Donate Here

<https://esrdnetworks.org/donate>

Forum of ESRD Networks
PO Box 70623
Henrico, VA 23255



Followers:

Feb 2020 = 134

Sep 2021 = 288

October 2022 = 303



Followers:

Feb 2020 = 95

Sep 2021 = 242

October 2022 = 337



Followers:

May 2021 = 6

Sep 2021 = 9

October 2022 = 11

- Transplant Video views = 122
- “Thank You” Videos views = 170

Forum Media



<http://esrdnetworks.org>



<https://facebook.com/esrdnetworks>



<https://twitter.com/ESRDNetworks> (tag us @esrdnetworks)



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Vp4Hfu7VmSTbSwG7-6e2g>

Sharing something about the KPAC? Use #KPACPatientVoice

Questions / Comments:

Kelly Brooks, Forum Coordinator

kbrooks@esrdnetworks.org

804-390-9822