

# THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY<sub>AT</sub> UMBC



***ALEX BARDAKH, M.P.P. 2012***

*Director, Public Policy & Advocacy, Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, American Medical Directors Association (AMDA)*

Undergraduate degree: Political science, UMBC; Accelerated Pathway program

Alex has drawn on his M.P.P. in his work at the AMDA, the national medical specialty society that represents clinicians practicing in post-acute and long-term care settings, where he is responsible for implementing the organization's extensive legislative and regulatory policy agenda. He previously was the Government Relations and Advocacy Coordinator for the American Urological Association, where he managed the political action committee, spearheaded an advocacy conference, and helped advance the association's policy goals in the areas of physician payment policy as well as prostate cancer treatment.



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***KRISTERFER BURNETT, M.P.P. 2011***

*Member, Baltimore City Council*

*Director of Community Organizing, CHAI*

*(Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc.)*

Undergraduate degree: African-American studies, University of Maryland, College Park

While in graduate school, Kristerfer focused on issues of affordable housing policy, urban development, and improving K-12 academic outcomes in low-income communities and worked as a graduate research assistant at the Maryland Department of Health. Upon earning his M.P.P, he was hired as the lead community organizer for the Service Employee International Union (SEIU1199) “Good Jobs, Better Baltimore” campaign, an advocacy coalition of unions, churches, and community groups. In 2012 he joined CHAI (Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc.), as the Director of Community Organizing, and was elected to represent District 8 in Baltimore City Council in 2016.



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***Meaghan E. George, M.P.P. 2012***

*Senior Practice Consultant, CareFirst*

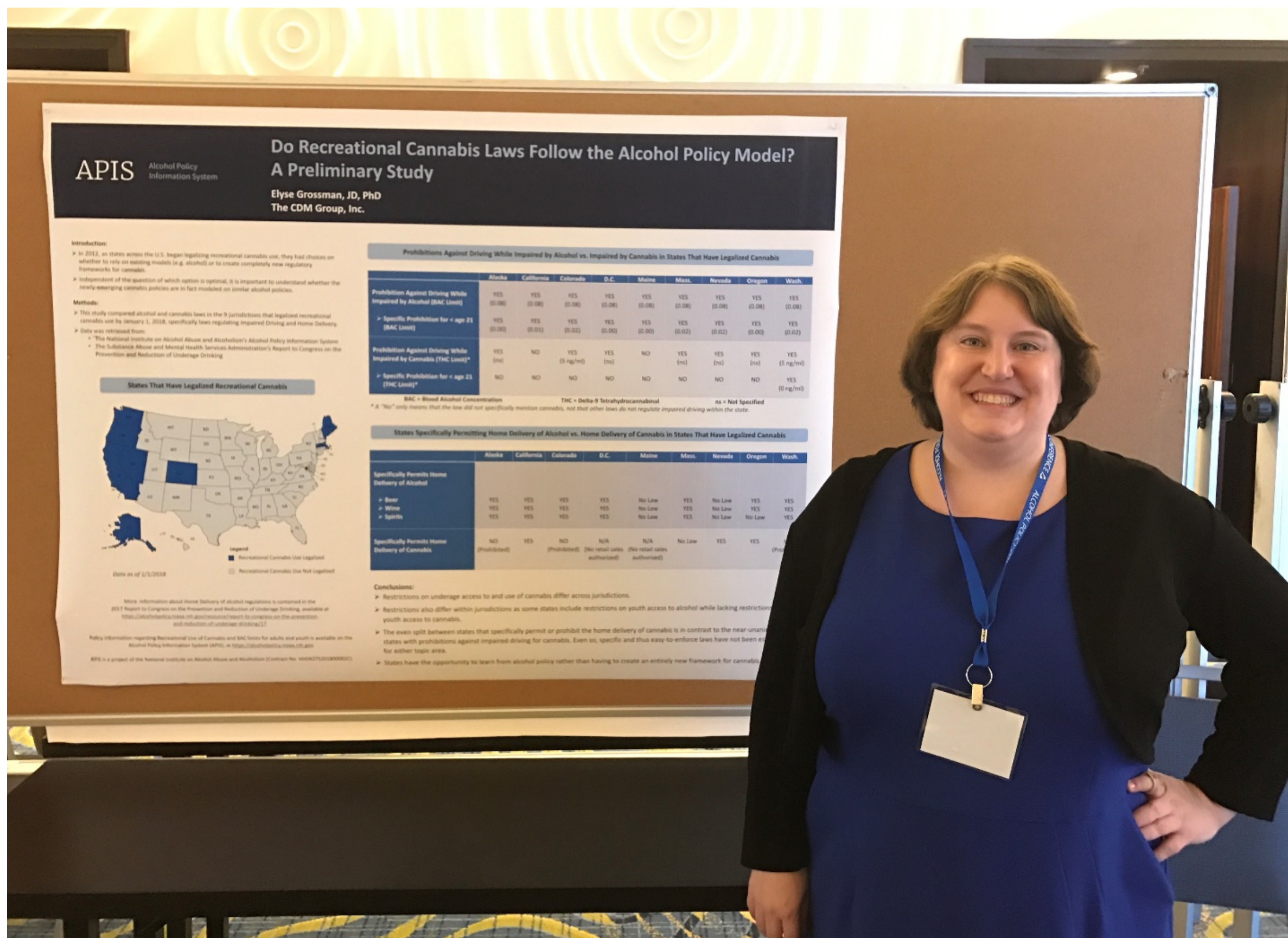
Undergraduate degree: Business administration, University of Delaware

With a focus on health policy during her master's studies, Meaghan found “many opportunities in a variety of roles and sectors, in large part due to the skills and experiences that the M.P.P. program helped develop.” Currently, she is a senior practice consultant at CareFirst with the opportunity to work hand in hand with primary care providers to apply policy research and practice transformation consulting to bend the cost curve while improving quality. Previously, she was a policy researcher for the Brookings Institution. Prior to that, Meaghan was a research analyst at two different small public policy consulting companies.

**“All of these roles boil down to one key theme—using policy and research to improve quality of life”**



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**ELYSE GROSSMAN, M.P.P. '08, Ph.D. '14, Public Policy**  
Staff research attorney, The CDM Group

Undergraduate degree: Psychology, Cornell University

Elyse is pictured here at the APIS conference in 2018. She was awarded the Montgomery County, Maryland, *"Keeping it Safe (KIS) Community Service Award"* on April 18, 2018 by the Montgomery County Police Department. In addition to earning the Public Policy M.P.P. and Ph.D. degrees from UMBC, Elyse was also awarded a J.D. from the University of Maryland, School of Law in 2011. Upon completion of her doctoral degree, she had a post doctorate fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. Elyse spends the majority of her time working on legal and policy issues related to alcohol and drug laws in the U.S. at The CDM Group, a consulting firm in Bethesda, MD.



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***MARY HESTER, M.P.P. 2015***

*Director, Program Administrator, Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance*

Undergraduate degree: Dance, UMBC; Accelerated Pathways Program

A dance major at UMBC, Mary focused on education policy in her M.P.P. studies. She now plays a role that combines her passions—as program administrator director for the Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance, which impacts local and state policies by facilitating improved quality and access to arts education in public schools.



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***QUBILAH HUDDLESTON, M.P.P. 2017***

*Manager, Student Recruitment and Retention, Code in the Schools–Baltimore Corps*

Undergraduate degree: Political science and government, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Qubilah learned about UMBC and the M.P.P. program while attending a summer program on campus. Her multifaceted experience during her graduate studies included a Shriver RISE fellowship and internships at Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Maryland Department of Health, and Exelon Corporation. She now manages recruitment and retention for Code in the Schools, which brings computer science education to Baltimore City Schools.



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***SERGIO I. PRADA, Ph.D. '10, Public Policy***

*Professor of Economics, Universidad Icesi, Cali, Colombia, South America*

Undergraduate degree: Economics, Universidad Javeriana

Master's Degrees: Environmental and Natural Resources Economics, Universidad de los Andes and University of Maryland, College Park (dual degree); Public Administration, Syracuse University

Prior to his teaching position, Sergio was a research associate for IMPAQ International. He did internships at The World Bank and School of Medicine, University of Maryland Baltimore. Since receiving his Ph.D. degree, he has published more than thirty papers in peer reviewed journals, including *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, *Cancer*, *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *Applied Health Economics and Health Policy*, *International Psychogeriatrics*, *American Health & Drug Benefits*, and *Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation*. Sergio was a recipient of the Fulbright scholarship in 2002.



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***STEVEN SHARKEY, M.P.P. 2006***

*Director, Department of General Services, Baltimore City Government*

Undergraduate degree: Political science, Western Maryland College

Steven has worked for Baltimore City since 2005, including positions at Citistat, Special Services and Property Management, and the Police Department, and has led the Department of General Services since 2012. He says the M.P.P. program had “a very positive impact” on him.

**“The well-rounded coursework and urban track were great backdrops into my career in city government.”**



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***GRETCHEN SHAUB, M.P.P. 2015***

*Medical underwriter, Tethys Health Ventures*

Undergraduate degree: Psychology, New York University

Before joining Tethys Health Ventures, Gretchen was a policy coordinator for the Baltimore City Health Department in the Office of Chronic Disease Prevention. While pursuing her M.P.P. degree, she was a research assistant in the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research and a teaching assistant for the Department of Sociology. Gretchen served in the Peace Corps in Panama.



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**MICHAEL T. WALSH**, Ph.D. '12, Public Policy  
*Grants & Contracts Manager/Training  
Coordinator, UMBC Office of Sponsored Programs*

Undergraduate degree: History, Loyola University Maryland

Michael's first book was published in December 2017 by Arcadia Publishing/The History Press. The book, *Baltimore Prohibition: Wet and Dry in the Free State*, is a more condensed version of his doctoral dissertation. He has provided numerous presentations on the book, as well as signings, throughout the state of Maryland.

Michael, a native of Baltimore, is a historian who specializes in both twentieth-century U.S. history as well as local history. He received a master's in historical studies at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and subsequently earned his Ph.D. at UMBC in public policy with a concentration in policy history. Michael also teaches U.S. history as an adjunct professor for the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC).