



December 14, 2020

President-elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Vice President-elect Kamala Harris
c/o Biden-Harris Transition Team
Hon. Ted Kaufman, Co-chair
Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONCDP) Agency Review Team
Department of Justice (DOJ), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agency Review Team
Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Agency Review Team
Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Agency Review Team

Via email

Re: Nominations and Appointments

Dear President-elect Biden, Vice President-elect Harris, Senator Kaufman, and Agency Review Team Members:

The Center for U.S. Policy (CUSP) is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit research and education organization. We are dedicated to advancing innovative solutions to some of our nation's most pressing challenges.

CUSP's 2021 issue priorities include substance misuse, mental health, justice reforms, coronavirus public health emergency response, and economic recovery.

As you assemble your cabinet and other top executive leaders, we would like to offer our input.

First and foremost, we appreciate and support your commitment to nominating and appointing executive officials who reflect America's diversity.

Below we identify up to three individuals per position whom our organization's board, advisors, and staff have deemed qualified and ready on day one to lead federal offices and agencies with responsibility over our substantive issue areas. Names are listed in alphabetical order under each position.

Our statements of qualifications correspond with the Transition Team's core values of diversity of ideology and background; integrity and ethics; and transparency and trustworthiness. Our organization's leaders have longstanding, direct professional relationships with each of the individuals named below. Therefore, we can credibly vouch for their integrity, ethics, transparency, and trustworthiness.

We wish to note that no woman has ever served as Director of ONDCP. It is time for a woman to hold that position. Furthermore, given that substance misuse is a health care issue and has been exacerbated by the coronavirus public health emergency, the office in charge of substance

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misuse policy should be directed by a health care professional, ideally with a specialty in addiction medicine.

Director of ONDCP



Andrea Barthwell, MD, DFASAM is the medical director of a national provider of residential and outpatient drug and alcohol treatment and a past president of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). She is the founding Board President of the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE), a \$100 million foundation dedicated to addressing opioid misuse. FORE has provided grants to organizations across the U.S. to help people with opioid use disorder during the coronavirus public health emergency. Dr. Barthwell's current efforts include educating health care providers on computer assisted treatment and digital therapeutics to support COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines; modernizing institutional and consumer drug safety practices; and helping to bring a low-cost, over-the-counter medication to market to reduce opioid poisoning deaths. She served as Deputy Director for Demand Reduction in ONDCP under President George W. Bush. She has served on the National Advisory Councils of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Dr. Barthwell is also a former member of the Drug Abuse Advisory Committee of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In 2003, Dr. Barthwell received the Betty Ford Award from the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse.



Kelly J. Clark, MD, MBA, DFAPA, DFASAM is an addiction physician, past president of ASAM, and expert consultant to the DOJ on controlled substance issues. Dr. Clark has focused her career on addictive disease, evidence-informed behavioral health care, and payment reform. She has provided expertise on opioid misuse to the FDA, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and Pew Trusts, as well as numerous provider and payer organizations. Adding to her credentials in drug demand reduction, Dr. Clark's supply-reduction work has included deploying analytics to identify potential controlled-substance diversion and providing expert testimony in federal criminal health care fraud and drug diversion cases. Dr. Clark's medical, policy, and business experience underpins her multi-sector approach to health, drug, and justice reform policies.

Administrator of DEA, DOJ



Dave Aronberg, JD is State Attorney for Florida’s 15th Judicial Circuit, where he manages a team of 120 prosecutors and 220 professional staff in five offices throughout Palm Beach County. In July 2016, Mr. Aronberg created Palm Beach County’s Sober Homes Task Force to reduce corruption in the local drug treatment and recovery residence industries. Before being elected State Attorney, Mr. Aronberg served as Special Prosecutor for Prescription Drug Trafficking (“Drug Czar”) in the Florida Attorney General’s Office. In 2002, Mr. Aronberg was elected to the Florida Senate. As a State Senator, he passed major legislation on identity theft and child sex predators. In 2000, President Bill Clinton appointed Mr. Aronberg as a White House Fellow, where he served as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury Department for international money laundering.



Keith Cain, MA, Sheriff of Daviess County, Kentucky, is a board member of the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) and Chair of NSA’s Drug Enforcement Committee. He is a two-time past president of the Kentucky Sheriffs’ Association. Sheriff Cain is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, having served in Vietnam. He is a recipient of the Kentucky NAACP President’s Award and the American Police Hall of Fame’s Silver Star for Valor. Sheriff Cain led the 2019 coalition-building effort within NSA that resulted in a resolution in favor of the federal down-scheduling of cannabis to facilitate medical research.



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Deputy Administrator of DEA, DOJ



J. Kevin Massey is CEO of the Arlington Consulting Group, where he provides technology, quality improvement, strategy, and program development services to health care and criminal justice clients. Mr. Massey is a subject matter expert on prescription drug misuse, diversion, safety, and utilization and is a member of the advisory board for the Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit. In 2016 and 2017, he served as Chairman of the Center for Lawful Access and Abuse Deterrence. Previously, he served as the Health Services & Court Compliance Administrator for a national provider of correctional healthcare services. Prior to that, he was the Director of Strategic Business Development at the Community Health Center, Inc., Past leadership roles include Director of Violence and Injury Prevention in the State of Delaware,

Department of Health; Chief Operating Officer at the Kent Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center; and Interim Director of Marketing and Community Engagement for United Healthcare’s Delaware Community Medicaid Plan.



Stephen Ziegler, PhD, JD is a drug policy researcher and educator whose knowledge and experience are drawn from his work in law, medicine, ethics, public policy, and academia. Prior to his work as a research professor, he was an assistant prosecutor, defense attorney, appellate attorney, and investigator for the DEA. He has held positions of public service in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. He is a former Mayday Pain and Society Fellow and Pain Scholar. Dr. Ziegler supports CUSP’s [recommendations for a more public health-](#)

[oriented approach](#) to reducing the diversion of controlled medications.

United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, DOJ



Dave Aronberg, JD is State Attorney for Florida’s 15th Judicial Circuit, where he manages a team of 120 prosecutors and 220 professional staff in five offices throughout Palm Beach County. In July 2016, Mr. Aronberg created Palm Beach County’s Sober Homes Task Force to reduce corruption in the local drug treatment and recovery residence industries. Before being elected State Attorney, Mr. Aronberg served as Special Prosecutor for Prescription Drug Trafficking (“Drug Czar”) in the Florida Attorney General’s Office. In 2002, Mr. Aronberg was elected to the Florida Senate. As a State Senator, he passed major legislation on identity theft and child sex predators. In 2000, President

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Director of the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, HHS



Lynn R. Webster, MD has dedicated more than three decades to patient care and medical research, placing special emphasis on pain management. He is the vice president of Scientific Affairs of PRA Health Sciences and a past president of the American Academy of Pain Medicine. Dr. Webster educates health care providers on risk mitigation in the treatment of pain while actively working with the drug and device industries to develop safer and more effective therapies for pain and addiction. He is board-certified in anesthesiology, pain, and addiction medicine. Dr. Webster has authored more than 300 medical-scientific abstracts, manuscripts, journal articles, and books.

Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, SAMHSA, HHS



Marsha Stanton, PhD, RN is an advisor to CUSP and National Family Partnership's Red Ribbon and Lock Your Meds campaigns. Dr. Stanton's career has spanned clinical practice, program development, health professional education, publication planning, alliance development, and legislative engagement. She is nationally known for her work in the areas of pain management, Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies, and substance misuse prevention and has published and presented in these fields on numerous occasions. Dr. Stanton has served in leadership roles with the International Health Facility Diversion Association, American Society for Pain Management Nursing, Academy of Integrative Pain Management, and American Academy of Pain Medicine. She received the Educator of the Year award from the National Association for Drug Diversion Investigators in 2010.

Director of the Office of Global Affairs, HHS



Alex Cahana, MD, MAS is an advisor to CUSP and a founding partner in BTblock Health Group, an emerging technology & cybersecurity consultancy firm. Dr. Cahana advises national and international corporations, start-ups, and healthcare payers on how to integrate digital technologies. He is a board member of Ada Labs Africa, an African technology hub; a health care expert for the United Nations Center for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business; and an advisor on the technology-based COVID-19 public health response in Kenya, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. His work focuses largely on solutions to strengthen global healthcare markets and use universal health income as a tool to transform people from passive health service consumers into active, sovereign health and wealth producers. Dr. Cahana has served as a subject matter expert for the Department of Defense, the Veterans Health Administration, and the NFL Players Association. He is a former Professor in Science, Technology and Health Studies at the University of Washington, and has authored over one hundred published articles. Dr. Cahana, a decorated officer in the Israeli Defense Forces, has received multiple awards, including the

University of Washington President's medal for remarkable leadership, social impact, and public service.

Chief Medical Officer of SAMHSA, HHS



Yngvild K. Olsen, MD, MPH, DFASAM is Medical Director of the Institutes for Behavior Resources Inc/REACH Health Services, an outpatient substance use disorder treatment program in Baltimore, Maryland. She has previously served as the Vice President of Clinical Affairs for the Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems, where she played a central role in the expansion of buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorder. She also has served as the Medical Director for the Johns Hopkins Hospital's outpatient substance use treatment program. Dr. Olsen is Secretary to the ASAM Board of Directors, a past president of the Maryland Society of Addiction Medicine, and a past president of the Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence.

Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), DHS



Alexander Yesnik, JD, MA, is Director of Contingency Operations for the Executive Office of the President, where he leads continuity of operations and emergency management for the White House. He previously served at FEMA, where he led the National Exercise Program to examine the nation's readiness for threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to national security. He led collaborative interagency teams across the federal government to design exercises on topics ranging from counterterrorism to cybersecurity to continuity of government, and facilitated exercises for senior officials, including cabinet secretaries. Mr. Yesnik has deployed to numerous disasters, including hurricanes and wildfires, leading field operations for responders providing disaster assistance. Prior to joining FEMA, he led the emergency management program for all U.S. Attorneys' offices nationwide.

We look forward to working with the Biden-Harris Administration to improve Americans' health, safety, and economic opportunity. Thank you for your service to our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael C. Barnes".

Michael C. Barnes
Chairman