

Speaker Spotlight



DR. GARTH WALKER, MD, MPH **Senior Medical Director of** **Value-Based Care** **RUSH Health**

Dr. Walker is a Healthcare executive and academic board certified Emergency Physician with state, federal, and private sector experience. A recognized healthcare and public health thought leader, interviewed and quoted by major local and national news networks such as MSNBC, Chicago Sun-Times, and ABC. Dr. Walker contributes insights and expertise centered at the intersection of public health and healthcare delivery.

Dr. Walker is the senior medical director for Rush Health, responsible for identifying and developing innovative reimbursement models in value-based care that advance the growth and financial sustainability of RUSH Health and value-based care across the Rush Health System. Dr. Walker also plays a strategic role in RUSH's population health strategy and growth focusing on improving utilization, standardization, and evidence-based quality within physician practices, particularly as they relate to chronic disease management.

Prior, Dr. Walker served as the Deputy Director for the Illinois Department of Public Health at the height of COVID-19. While with IDPH, Dr. Walker operated internal and external public health strategies during COVID-19 to enhance vaccination rates, advise vaccine operations across state departments, and improve men's health and opioid strategies across Illinois. Dr. Walker was then appointed by President Biden to serve as a White House fellow and Senior Advisor with the Department of Health and Human Services at the Office of the Surgeon General under Dr. Vivek Murthy.

Dr. Walker's academic accomplishments include first-author peer-reviewed scientific articles focused on social determinants of health, firearm injury, and communication, receiving runner-up honors for top paper with the Journal of Healthcare Management. In addition, Dr. Walker reviews for several major scientific journals such as JAMA, Annals of Emergency Medicine, and Public Health reports. Dr. Walker has also advised healthcare companies on value-based care strategies.

Committed to civic leadership, Dr. Walker has been appointed by Mayor Lori Lightfoot to Chicago's equity advisory board, advises the American Foundation for Firearm Injury Reduction (AFFIRM) with Aspen, and is a board member for mHUB, Thresholds, and the Chicago Urban League. Lastly, Dr. Walker is an alumnus of the Urban League IMPACT program, Leadership Greater Chicago, and a member of the Economic Club of Chicago.