



NIAF ANNUAL VIRTUAL EVENT
MAY 18-19, 2021
10AM-4PM EDT

*Accountability in the Wake of COVID-19:
Preparing, Responding and Rebuilding Across all Sectors*

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 [6.1 CPEs]

10:00-10:20 AM **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States

10:25-11:00 AM **OPENING KEYNOTE: CASE STUDY—EQUITY IN VACCINATION DISTRIBUTION**

Jerry P. Abraham, MD, MPH, Director, Kedren Health

Over a year into the global coronavirus pandemic, public health leaders continue to tackle the balancing act of serving patients, protecting themselves, and managing ways to ensure the solutions reach those in need. The distribution of vaccines is a role and responsibility that most doctors never anticipated leading but some tackled that duty with tenacity. Dr. Abraham has been called a role model for a real commitment to getting vaccines to the most vulnerable. He took the equity challenge with resolve to bring more vaccines to Black and brown communities and journeyed to fight vaccine misinformation and hesitancy. We will hear about his efforts to remove barriers, address hesitancy, and create a system of equitable distribution.

Introduction by: **Ophelia Robinson**, Executive Director, Intergovernmental Audit Forums

11:00-11:05 AM **BREAK**

11:05-11:45 AM **LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL ISSUES BRIEFING**

Any given year all levels of government in the accountability community face challenges and emerging issues. This past year presented additional variables that exacerbated an already challenging time. Leaders within the audit and accountability community will provide a briefing on their view of the issues within their communities' purview.

Mark Greenblatt, CIGIE Vice Chair, Inspector General, Department of the Interior, Office of the Inspector General

Kathleen McGuinness, State Auditor, Delaware Auditor's Office

Larry Stafford, Audit Services Manager for Clark County, Washington & President, Association of Local Government Auditors

Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States

11:45 AM-12:45 PM **GAO HIGH RISK UPDATE**

GAO has issued the 2021 High-Risk List, a list of programs and operations that are 'high risk' due to their vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, or that need transformation. The list is issued every 2 years at the start of each new session of Congress and has led to more than \$575 billion in financial benefits to the federal government over the past 15 years. The January 2021 High-Risk List contains 36 high-risk areas. GAO added two areas to the list since 2019. Seven areas have improved since 2019 and one was removed due to the progress made on this issue. However, 5 areas got worse. In addition, GAO identified two emerging issues in this report. These two issues are not yet on the High-Risk List, but planned work in these areas may lead to designate these issues as high risk in the future.

Bill Reinsberg, Assistant Director, Strategic Issues, U.S. GAO

Elizabeth Field, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, U.S. GAO

Triana McNeil, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, U.S. GAO

Paige Smith, Assistant Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, U.S. GAO

Moderator: **Michelle Sager**, Managing Director, Strategic Issues, U.S. GAO



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12:45-1:25 PM

LUNCH

1:25-2:40 PM

BIODEFENSE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Over the years GAO has created a body of work examining the Nation's biodefense enterprise—i.e., the federal and nonfederal systems and capabilities that allow for whole of nation preparedness for, response to, and recovery from biological incidents whether intentional, accidental, or naturally emerging. The COVID-19 pandemic highlights the critical importance of being prepared for, and seamlessly responding to, a naturally occurring biological incident. The GAO has a body of work looking at Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) preparedness for, and response to, numerous public health emergencies and disasters, including H1N1, Zika, Ebola, and Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Most recently, GAO has created a body of work on the response to COVID-19 and HHS's leadership of that response.

Kelly L. DeMots, Assistant Director, Health Care, U.S. GAO

Deirdre G. Brown, Assistant Director, Health Care, U.S. GAO

Kathryn E. Godfrey, Assistant Director, Homeland Security and Justice, U.S. GAO

Sarah Turpin, Senior Analyst, Homeland Security and Justice, U.S. GAO

Moderator: **Mary Denigan-Macauley**, Director, Health Care, U.S. GAO

2:00-2:45 PM

BREAK

2:45-4:00 PM

LESSONS LEARNED FROM VACCINE ROLLOUT: COLLABORATION AMONG GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE, AND PHILANTHROPIC SECTORS

In the midst of the vaccine distribution, it is time for discussions around lessons learned from the challenges encountered across the United States in understanding the hesitancy for receiving the vaccine as it relates to the larger conversation around equity. Accountability organizations are asked to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of this large-scale effort at all levels of government. Within the domestic space, the nonprofit and philanthropic sector have a role and perspective on the systems created to ensure the vaccines are distributed equitably.

Lauren Smith, MD, MPH, Chief Health Equity And Strategy Officer, Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Jen Kates, Ph.D, Senior Vice President; Director, Global Health & HIV Policy, KFF

Sema Sgaier, Ph.D, Co-Founder, Surgo Ventures

Moderator: **Kevval Hanna**, Program Director, Inclusive Economies, North America, Centre for Public Impact, A BCG Foundation

4:00 PM

WRAP UP AND TRANSITION TO NETWORKING EVENT



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10:00-10:05 AM

WELCOME BACK REMARKS

Darreisha M. Bates, Director, Domestic Relations, U.S. GAO

10:05-11:00 AM

KEYNOTE CONVERSATIONS—COVID DATA PREDICTIONS AND THE USE IN AUDIT, PREPARING GOVERNMENT FOR FUTURE RECOVERY EFFORTS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, public health experts used data models to project the course of the pandemic and inform policy decisions in real-time. The models were pivotal to the decision making for many, including government policy makers, emergency responders, hospitals, employers and employees, and the public. In this session, we look back on the pandemic one year through the view of these data models with two highly knowledgeable public health experts. We will discuss the data models, how their use aided response to the COVID-19 pandemic and brought clarity to and informed public conversations. When look ahead, this session will discuss the ways data models will continue to inform government response to the COVID-19 pandemic and future governmental response/recovery efforts.

Christopher J.L. Murray, MD, DPhil, Institute Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), Professor and Chair of Health Metrics Sciences, University of Washington

Ashish K. Jha, MD, MPH, Dean, The School of Public Health, Professor of Health Services, Policy, and Practice, Brown University

Moderator: **Nathaniel O'Brien**, Executive Director, Intergovernmental Audit Forums

11:00-11:05 AM

BREAK

11:05-11:30 AM

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PANEL—THE ATTRIBUTES OF A LEADER: DIFFERENT STORIES, DIFFERENT JOURNEYS TO LEADERSHIP [STATE]

Throughout the NIAF meeting, we will spotlight leaders in all three levels of government to get to know the mind of an audit executive. These days, excelling as the leader of an audit division, function, or office involves a diverse range of attributes both soft and technical skills.

Dianne E. Ray, State Auditor, State of Colorado

Scott Frank, Director of Performance and IT Audit, Office of the Washington State Auditor

Kip Memmott, Director, Audits Division, Oregon Secretary of State

11:30 AM-12:30 PM

COLLABORATION DURING COVID-19: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMUNITY

The pandemic highlights the significance of preparing for the unexpected. These events highlighted the necessity of coordination. As the United States and the world progresses toward recovery, it is essential to identify critical points of collaboration within and across governmental to mitigate future vulnerabilities and begin addressing the needs of citizens. This panel will explore the lessons learned and interim results from different working groups and taskforces established to create essential conversations across all levels.

Session opening remarks: **Sandra Bruce**, Chair of Pandemic Response Accountability Committee's GAO, State, and Local Subcommittee & Acting Inspector General, Department of Education Office of Inspector General



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Kinney Poynter, Executive Director, National Association for State Auditors, Controllers, and Treasurers
Darreisha M. Bates, Director, Domestic Relations, U.S. GAO
Richard Rasa, Special Advisor for CARES Act Oversight, Department of Education Office of Inspector General

12:30-12:35 PM

BREAK

12:35-1:05 PM

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PANEL—THE ATTRIBUTES OF A LEADER: DIFFERENT STORIES, DIFFERENT JOURNEYS TO LEADERSHIP [LOCAL]

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Jenny Wong, City Auditor, City of Berkeley
Joe Ferguson, Inspector General, City of Chicago
Rebecca Rhynhart, City Controller, City of Philadelphia

1:05-1:40 PM

LUNCH

1:40-2:55 PM

ADDRESSING INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES: ENSURING WATER QUALITY AND WATER SUPPLY

Healthy, secure communities require water supplies that are sufficient and safe. In our session today we'll be discussing the challenges that government entities at various levels face whether addressing infrastructure failures causing drinking water contamination, water scarcity, or particular difficulties on military bases.

GAO has conducted significant bodies of work in recent years related to water infrastructure that illustrate how to audit such topics in a way that can help inform progress. In particular, we are going to discuss what our work showed about:

- How data can be used to help target communities for lead reduction efforts,
- The extent of DOD's success in identifying military installations at risk of water scarcity, and
- The efforts DOD has made to report on and address the PFAS chemicals used in firefighting foam.

J. Alfredo Gómez, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. GAO
Elizabeth Field, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, U.S. GAO
Maria Storts, Assistant Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, U.S. GAO

Moderator: **Diane Raynes**, Assistant Director, Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. GAO

2:55-3:20 PM

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PANEL—THE ATTRIBUTES OF A LEADER: DIFFERENT STORIES, DIFFERENT JOURNEYS TO LEADERSHIP [FEDERAL]

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Latesha Love, Director, Forensic Audits and Investigative Service, U.S. GAO
Kim Randall, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Western Field Operations, Housing and Urban Development Office of the Inspector General
Mark Greenblatt, CIGIE Vice Chair, Inspector General, Department of the Interior, Office of the Inspector General



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3:20-4:00 PM

CLOSING KEYNOTE: FUTURE OF OFFICE CULTURE—TAKING THE “TELE” OUT OF TELEWORK. IT IS JUST WORK.

Telework is a microcosm of a larger discussion. What is the future of office culture? This is both a philosophical question for government as well as a practical discussion. The speaker will touch on how all levels of government can think about this in post-COVID environment.

Prithwiraj (Raj) Choudhury, Lumry Family Associate Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School