SPEAKER BIOS

Nelson Jarrin, JD
Vice President of Government Affairs

Nelson Jarrin is an attorney with an extensive background at the Texas Capitol. In his role with MMHPI, Nelson oversees legislative policy development and works with stakeholders, state legislative leaders, and key government officials to effect change that will have a positive impact on the delivery of mental health services in Texas.

Nelson previously served as the Legislative Director and General Counsel for Texas State Senator Charles Schwertner, where he managed the Senator's legislative agenda and supervised all legislative activities of the office. There, he specialized in health-related legislation, Senate Finance Article II, and issues pending before the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services and the Senate Committee on Finance. During the 2014-2015 cycle, Nelson oversaw the Sunset Advisory Commission process for Senator Schwertner, which included a review of all state health agencies.

Prior to joining Senator Schwertner's team, Nelson served as an attorney at the Texas Legislative Council, where he drafted legislation and provided legal advice for the members of the Texas Legislature. During his time at the Legislative Council, he drafted over 800 bills and amendments in the areas of health law, hospital law, occupational regulation, and criminal law.

Nelson received his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Notre Dame Law School. During his time at Notre Dame, he served as the President of the Hispanic Law Students Association. He received a B.S. in Economics, *summa cum laude*, from Texas A&M University.

Nora Belcher
Executive Director

Nora Belcher is the Executive Director of the Texas e-Health Alliance, a non-profit advocacy group that she started in 2009 to give health information technology stakeholders a voice in public policy. The Texas e-Health Alliance serves as the state's leading advocate, from local communities to the national level, for the use of information technology to improve the health care system for patients. She is widely considered to be one of the state's leading experts in digital health care, having worked on the issue for over 20 years in a variety of roles. During the most recent Texas legislative session, Ms. Belcher led the passage of a number of bills related to telemedicine, telehealth and remote patient monitoring. Ms. Belcher holds a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Texas at Austin and owns a hardcover first edition of Game of Thrones.

Kate Hendrix
Senior Director of Policy

Kate Hendrix has served as Senior Director of Policy at the Texas Hospital Association since September 2018. Prior to joining THA, Kate was a Budget and Policy Advisor in Governor Abbott's office. In this capacity she was responsible for overseeing budget and policy activities for Texas Health and Human Services programs, including the renewal of the Medicaid 1115 waiver. Prior to working in the Governor's Office, she worked as a Senior Policy Advisor for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and as a Budget and Policy Analyst for the Texas Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia and her master's degree in Public Health from the UT Health Science Center in Houston.