



HUMAN SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE (HSPC) & FOOD & AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER POLICY COMMITTEE (FARM) JOINT MEETING

Friday, September 18, 2026
12:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.

SPEAKER BIOS

Toni Blue



Toni Blue serves as the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia, where she was appointed by Governor Abigail Spanberger to support one of the largest and most complex secretariats in state government, overseeing critical programs that impact the health, safety, and economic stability of millions of Virginians. A nationally recognized leader in health and human services, Toni brings more than two decades of experience shaping policy, leading large-scale initiatives, and driving systems change across the public and private sectors. She is dedicated to advancing innovative solutions that remove barriers, expand opportunities, and help individuals, families, and communities thrive.

Prior to joining the Secretariat, Toni spent four years in the private sector as a national thought leader in human services modernization, advising states on policy, operations, and technology transformation. She previously served as Senior Director of the Division of Benefit Programs at the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), where she led the administration of major public assistance programs such as SNAP and TANF and played a key role in Virginia's Medicaid expansion and the Commonwealth's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A recipient of the 2021 VDSS Leader of the Year Award, Toni is a fierce advocate for health equity, food security, access to quality childcare, and effective public service delivery. She holds a Certificate in Lean Six Sigma from Vanderbilt University, is a graduate of the Virginia Executive Institute, and earned her bachelor's degree from Virginia State University.

Above all, her proudest role is being the mother of her two children, Cameron O'Neal and Kennedy Blue.

George Jones



George A. Jones has been Chief Executive Officer of Bread for the City (BFC) since January 2, 1996. BFC is a nonprofit that provides food, clothing, medical, legal and social services to DC residents living on low-incomes.

Mr. Jones is responsible for managing all administrative, financial, and programmatic aspects of the agency and its 131 full-time staff. He has led BFC's growth from a \$1.2 million operation in 1996 to a \$22 million operation in FY2025. He has overseen the agency's development of a 9,000 sq. ft. community center in Southeast DC in 2002, an 11,000 sq. ft. expansion of BFC's Northwest Center and the construction of BFC's new 27,000 sq. ft. Center on Good Hope Road, in Southeast DC.

Under Mr. Jones' leadership, BFC has taken on the challenge of attacking poverty through a racial equity lens. The agency is committed to embedding racial equity in all of its direct services and its efforts to organize around and advocate for affordable housing. BFC strives to be an anti-racist agency and one that helps to lead the movement of creating a racially equitable DC.

Mr. Jones is the chairman of the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond and the DC Fiscal Policy Institute. He also serves on the Boards of the Directors of the DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA), the DC Affordable Law Firm, and the Meyer Foundation. He is also a founding member of the DC Initiative on Racial Equity and Local Government and the Anti-Racist DC Campaign. He has a B.A. in Psychology from Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia.

Joe Liu



Joe Liu is Director of Advocacy and Public Policy at the Capital Area Food Bank. The Capital Area Food Bank is the anchor of the hunger relief infrastructure in the National Capital Region, providing 70 million meals to people in communities across the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. The CAFB advocacy team supports neighbor-leaders through its Client Leadership Council, encourages public investment in charitable food assistance, and advances policies that address the root causes of food insecurity.

Joe's professional experience includes AARP, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the National Association of Community Health Centers, and The Lewin Group. He is a graduate of Columbia and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

A.D. Rachel Pierre



A.D. Rachel Pierre serves as the Director of the District's Department of Human Services (DHS), leading a workforce of 1,500 employees and a budget exceeding \$900 million. Confirmed by the DC Council in October 2025 following two terms as Interim Director, she brings more than 20 years of experience across nonprofit and government leadership to the role, with a career-long focus on housing access, youth services, and community-based support.

Rachel joined DHS in December 2020 as Administrator for the Family Services Administration, where she led efforts to expand housing access, strengthen youth-services infrastructure, and launch the Peer Case Management Institute. As Director, she is

leading the District's TANF reforms to put the program on a more sustainable footing, including the development of DC's first TANF Hardship Policy Working Group to protect vulnerable households through the transition. She has also guided the District's response to new federal SNAP work requirements under H.R. 1 and continues to expand workforce pipelines connecting DHS customers to job training and employment, including a new shared-housing pilot for young adults exiting transitional housing.

Rachel's career began as a child welfare social worker, followed by senior leadership roles including Chief Operating Officer at Pathways to Housing DC and a senior management position at Lutheran Social Services. That frontline foundation continues to shape how she leads: with an emphasis on practical outcomes for residents over process for its own sake.

Rachel holds a bachelor's degree in finance from James Madison University, a Master of Social Work from Howard University, and an MBA from the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business.

A District of Columbia Ward 4 resident, Rachel is the mother of a college graduate, Kya, and a devoted pet parent to her dog, Milo. Outside of work, she enjoys boxing, kickboxing, and spending time outdoors with loved ones.

Sabrina Tadele



Sabrina Tadele is the Deputy Chief of Strategic Initiatives at the Capital Area Food Bank, where she leads the organization's enterprise strategic planning, innovation, and cross-functional transformation efforts. She works across the organization to translate strategy into action, oversees initiatives that advance long-term economic mobility for the food bank's clients, develops partnerships that expand organizational impact, and leads the organization's flagship research and thought leadership initiatives, including its annual Hunger Report. Sabrina convenes partners across sectors to develop innovative solutions to food insecurity and its root causes.

Prior to joining the food bank, Sabrina's career and volunteer experiences took her across the globe, working on international and

domestic development issues including food security, urban and suburban poverty, sustainable agriculture, and clean water access. Having lived and worked on multiple continents and now in Washington, DC, she is passionate about building partnerships across sectors and helping diverse teams tackle complex social challenges.

Sabrina holds a bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management from George Mason University.