**Sarah True**

Kensington, MD | 503.709.9162 | truesarah.true@gmail.com | <http://truesarah.writersresidence.com/>

**summary**

Skilled reporter and investigative researcher with health policy analysis and medical social work background. Able to effectively translate complex information into compelling, concise prose. Committed to objective, intellectually curious approach. Extensive knowledge of healthcare practice and policy informs reporting, writing, and research endeavors. Skilled in establishing trust and forging productive working relationships with individuals of diverse professional and personal backgrounds. Spanish proficiency (speak/read/write)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Self-employed.** Kensington, Maryland. **2020-Present**

***Independent Journalist*** ▪ Produce compelling, thoughtfully researched and reported feature stories, op-eds, blog posts, and research reports focused on the impact of health policy decisions on underserved populations, for news publications, private foundations, and professional associations. See [professional website](http://truesarah.writersresidence.com/) for samples of work.

**Kaiser Family Foundation**. Washington, DC. **2019-2020**

***Research Analyst* ▪** Conducted investigative research and policy analyses concerning timely health policy issues focusing on Medicare, prescription drugs, and long-term care for highly regarded non-partisan health policy think tank. Produced policy briefs highlighting impact of research findings on program spending and real people.

Select Accomplishments:

* Analyzed formulary coverage of brand-name versus generic drugs and published [findings](https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.01694) challenging dominant narrative of preferred formulary placement of brands over generics by Medicare Part D plans;
* Examined origins, scope, and utilization of federal competitive licensing power and its potential application to production of generic prescription drugs; [analysis](https://www.kff.org/report-section/whats-the-latest-on-medicare-drug-price-negotiations-appendix/) was cited by former presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren in her Medicare-for-All transition [plan](https://medium.com/%40teamwarren/my-first-term-plan-for-reducing-health-care-costs-in-america-and-transitioning-to-medicare-for-all-8d45dd993872);
* Produced [policy brief](https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/covid-19-and-workers-at-risk-examining-the-long-term-care-workforce/) examining demographic characteristics of long-term care workers, implications for risk of COVID-19 infection, and potential policy solutions to mitigate risk;
* Gathered and analyzed state data on impact of COVID-19 in assisted living facilities, comparing regulatory guidance for all 50 states and case and death counts where available; wrote [policy brief](https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/under-the-radar-states-vary-in-regulating-and-reporting-covid-19-in-assisted-living-facilities/) highlighting uneven state regulation of ALFs and paucity of available data;
* Conducted [follow-up analysis](https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/overlooked-and-undercounted-the-growing-impact-of-covid-19-on-assisted-living-facilities/) of state COVID-19 data for assisted living facilities; found large increase in cases and deaths over two month time period, wrote policy brief synthesizing findings while calling attention to fragmented, incomplete nature of state reporting;
* Worked under tight deadlines to analyze data and produce briefs on timely health policy-related issues, examining implications for impacted populations and program spending;
* Collaborated successfully with various in-house and external teams on all aspects of research project activities, including conception, preliminary research, data sourcing and analysis, and synthesis and publication of findings.

**Legacy Health System.** Portland, Oregon & Vancouver, Washington. **2012-2015**

***Care Manager* ▪** Helped patients identify and manage areas of psychosocial risk through direct provision of social work services and development of related programs. Collaborated with care team to address basic, medical, pharmacological, and psychosocial needs for underserved, medically fragile patients in primary care and pulmonary critical care setting.

Select Accomplishments:

* Utilized various therapeutic strategies with patients (ex: Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) to explore challenging situations and identify and implement solutions;
* Designed screening to assess socioeconomic risk in patients with moderate-to-severe COPD, with goal of optimizing health outcomes and preventing hospitalizations and ED visits;
* Developed and implemented assessment and tracking system for pilot program to improve accessibility of lung cancer screening for patients meeting high-risk criteria;
* Presented staff in-service training on Health Literacy and Teach Back model of provider/patient communication to diverse groups of physicians and staff as part of system-wide rollout;
* Created and implemented system for tracking and follow-up of patient depression screening (PHQ-9) scores to further integrate and standardize behavioral healthcare in primary care setting.

**Outside In Medical Clinic.** Portland, Oregon. **2008-2012**

***Health Access Coordinator* ▪** Managed all medical social work and enabling services for urban Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) targeting hard-to-reach population. Provided case management, care coordination, healthcare navigation, and benefits entitlement services to individuals and families with complex medical and socioeconomic needs. Developed, implemented, administered, and evaluated effectiveness of integrated medico-social work programs.

Select Accomplishments:

* Enhanced patient access to care through advocacy and relationship-building with outside social service agencies and healthcare providers;
* Administered all Medicaid outreach and enrollment for 8000-patient panel;
* Managed large-scale, ongoing project to increase patient enrollment in Medicaid programs, achieving 18% increase in insured visits over last year of employment;
* Developed, implemented, and managed Social Security Income/Social Security Disability Income (SSI/SSDI) benefits entitlement case management program, achieving 85% approval rate on initial claim with 100% upon appeal;
* Oversaw agency-wide allocation and reporting of HUD housing funds. Developed and implemented tracking system for distribution of funds.

**EDUCATION**

**MPH, MSW** (dual Master’s in Public Health and Social Work) completed 2018.

Specialization in Policy, Concentration in International Social and Economic Development.

The Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. St. Louis, Missouri.

**BA** Women’s Studies; **BA** Spanish Literature (dual degree) completed 2008.

Portland State University. Portland, Oregon.

**PRACTICA EXPERIENCE**

**Clark Fox Policy Institute at Washington University in St Louis**. St. Louis, Missouri. **2017-2018** Researched and analyzed policy-related data; translated findings into [policy briefs](https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/sites.wustl.edu/dist/f/1141/files/2018/06/Clark-Fox-Policy-Institute_PolicyBrief1_EITC-1t9g3vj-1btwh6p.pdf), [newsletter entries](https://clarkfoxpolicyinstitute.wustl.edu/chip-ing-away-at-health-care-coverage-for-children/), and [other written materials](https://www.dropbox.com/s/4p309q2atefn8dd/HHS%20civil%20rights%20letter.pdf?dl=0) focused on socioeconomic and healthcare issues affecting low-income families.

**Lulun II Child Nutrition Study**.Pastocalle, Ecuador & St. Louis, Missouri. **2017-2018**

Assisted in [groundbreaking research project](https://uncnri.org/2018/06/22/eggs-may-enhance-infant-brain-development/) to determine long-term effect of specific, sustainable nutrition intervention on infants and young children in impoverished, rural Andean community. Conducted independent qualitative study to assess how gendered norms and power dynamics impact prospects for intervention expansion.

**Missouri Institute of Mental Health**.St. Louis, Missouri. **2016**

Evaluated process and impact of large, diverse community and healthcare programs in collaboration with multidisciplinary team.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Invited panelist for “Medicaid Estate Recovery and Hardship Waivers” panel at annual [Partners for Justice Conference](https://probonomd.org/conference/) in Baltimore, MD in May 2022, based on [feature story](https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2021-10-14/debt-after-death-the-painful-blow-of-medicaid-estate-recovery) on estate recovery published in U.S. News & World Report in October 2021.