

**Melissa Fox, MHA, FACMPE, FACHE**

*Chief Operating Officer, Acenda Integrated Health*

In her current role as COO, Fox oversees the operations and systems for over 100 programs throughout 12 counties in New Jersey. Acenda is a family services agency which provides evidence-based programming in child welfare, prevention, juvenile justice, outpatient mental health, crisis services, substance use disorder treatment, and supportive housing. Under Melissa's leadership, the Acenda team has received funding to launch innovative programming including a residential program for pregnant women in recovery, an initiative which provides housing and support services for families at risk of homelessness, and a regional partnership grant to provide supports to children who may be at risk due to a caregiver or parent's substance use disorder.

Melissa has had a distinguished career of over 20 years leading innovations in healthcare operations including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Healthcare for the Homeless, Behavioral Health, Home Care and Hospice. Melissa has been featured in numerous publications and as an expert speaker for her work within diverse healthcare environments and addressing the importance of data in driving innovations within the healthcare setting. Fox is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the National Association of Health Services Executives, and the Medical Group Management Association. Melissa has served as an expert speaker for organizations including the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, National Nursing Centers Consortium, *Philadelphia Social Innovations Journal*, *Open Minds*, and the Health Center and Public Housing Symposium. She is also a Board Member of the Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance (MANNA), The Root Cause Coalition, Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers, the Urban Affairs Coalition, the National Wellness Institute, and the Gloucester County NAACP. She's a member of the Rowan University Edelman College of Communications and Creative Arts Advisory Board, the Peirce College Human Services Advisory Board, and is an adjunct faculty member for Health Administration at Wilmington University. Melissa was also presented with the 2018 Game Changer Award by the Gloucester County NAACP, and has been featured in the *South Jersey Journal* as a top African American Leader in Healthcare, as well as a 2019 Most Influential African American. She has also been recognized as one of the 2021 and 2022 African American Women Leaders in New Jersey by the *South Jersey Journal*.