



PHEARLESS

Public Health Regenerative Leadership Synergy

PHEARLESS Fall 2023

NOVEMBER 7-9, 2023

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Greetings PHEARLESS leaders!

We are thrilled to welcome you to New Mexico for the first in-person convening of the PHEARLESS initiative!

We are excited to share this time with you because we believe that the most effective solutions are designed and implemented by those who know their communities best.

This moment presents a truly unique opportunity for health department and community leaders to reimagine your unique role in creating thriving communities. By working together, we can co-create sustainable solutions that advance health equity and well-being for all.

We know that you all have a wealth of strengths and experiences that have helped you rise to meet challenge after challenge. Your perspectives will be invaluable as we continue to learn and grow together.

At this event, you will have the opportunity to tap into the knowledge, innovations and insights of faculty, presenters, and fellow grantee partners across the country. We hope that the experience will deepen your collaboration and connections with others and inspire you as we all continue to navigate and persevere in these unprecedented times.

For any questions or support needed during the convening please check in with us at the registration table or email Sherri Sitkauskas at Special D Events at sherri.sitkauskas@specialdevents.com.

We look forward to this time together and welcome you once again to New Mexico!



Monica Valdes Lupi
Managing Director
Health Program
The Kresge Foundation

MODULE 2 • DAY 1

Leading with Others

TIME (ALL TIMES ARE IN MOUNTAIN TIME)	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023	FACULTY	LOCATION
10:30 - 11:45 A.M.	Registration		Outside Tamaya D
11:45 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Welcome and Introductions	NPO Staff, Evaluators and Partners	Rio Grande Bar
12 - 1 P.M.	Welcome Lunch Speaker: Former Governor Myron Armijo		
1 - 2:30 P.M.	Influencing PHEARLESSly	Nicole Piggott	Tamaya D
2:30 - 2:45 P.M.	BREAK		
2:45 - 4 P.M.	Influencing PHEARLESSly		Tamaya D
4 - 4:15 P.M.	BREAK		
4:15 - 5:15 P.M.	Collaborating with your Whole Self: Learning from the Theater Arts	Dan Granke	Sunrise Amphitheater
5:15 - 6:30 P.M.	FREE TIME		
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.	Welcome Dinner Welcome from Governor Nathan Garcia Speaker: Professor Jennifer Nez Denetdale		Cottonwoods

MODULE 2 • DAY 2

Leading with Others

TIME (ALL TIMES ARE IN MOUNTAIN TIME)	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023	FACULTY	LOCATION
7 - 8 A.M.	TIME IN NATURE		
8 - 9 A.M.	Networking Breakfast		Tamaya Veranda
9 - 9:20 A.M.	Introduction & Overview	Triparna de Vreede, GJ de Vreede	Tamaya D
9:20 - 10 A.M.	Foundations of Collaboration		
10 - 10:30 A.M.	ThinkLets Foundations		
10:30 - 10:45 A.M.	BREAK		
10:45 - 11:45 A.M.	ThinkLets Examples	Triparna de Vreede, GJ de Vreede	Tamaya D
11:45 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.	Networking Lunch		Rio Grande Bar
12:45 - 2:15 P.M.	ThinkLets Examples Continued	Triparna de Vreede, GJ de Vreede	Tamaya D
2:15 - 2:30 P.M.	BREAK		
2:30 - 4 P.M.	Practice	Triparna de Vreede, GJ de Vreede	Tamaya D
4 - 4:15 P.M.	BREAK		
4:15 - 5:15 P.M.	Collaborating with your Whole Self: Learning from the Theater Arts	Dan Granke	Sunrise Amphitheater
5:15 - 6:30 P.M.	FREE TIME		
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.	Networking Dinner		Tamaya Veranda

MODULE 2 · DAY 3

Leading with Others

TIME <small>(ALL TIMES ARE IN MOUNTAIN TIME)</small>	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023	FACULTY	LOCATION
7 - 8 A.M.	Networking Breakfast		Tamaya Veranda
8 - 10:30 A.M.	Practice (continued)	Triparna de Vreede, GJ de Vreede	Tamaya D
10:30 - 10:45 A.M.	BREAK		
10:45 - 11:45 A.M.	Reflection and Open Discussion	Triparna de Vreede, GJ de Vreede	Tamaya D
11:45 A.M. - 1 P.M.	Networking Lunch and Module 2 Discussions	Faculty	Tamaya D
1 - 1:30 P.M.	FREE TIME		
1:30 - 1:45 P.M.	Meet in Lobby		
2 P.M.	Individual Departures Begin and Group Bus Departure to Albuquerque Airport		

PHEARLESS PARTICIPANTS

ALBUQUERQUE, NM



DIANA LOPEZ is a health promotion specialist for the New Mexico Department of Health and has been working in Public Health/Prevention since 2009.

After graduating with a degree in community health from New Mexico State University, Diana moved with her family to Rio Rancho, NM where she started work with Sandoval County as their substance use prevention specialist. During this time Diana gained her Certified Prevention Specialist certification from the New Mexico Credentialing Board, later earning her Sr. Certified Prevention Specialist certification. In 2014 Diana was promoted by Sandoval County to the Juvenile Justice Coordinator position, a position she worked in for 4 years. In 2019, Diana started a new journey with the New Mexico

Department of Health as a health promotion specialist, joining the Northwest Region team. During her time as a health promotion specialist Diana has served on many boards and taken on various leadership roles, including frontline work during COVID-19 response.

Diana Lopez is a native of Taos, New Mexico where she was born and raised.



ELLEN BRADEN is a dedicated professional with more than two decades of experience in social services planning and implementation. Her core competencies include public administration, financial and data analysis, coalition building, strategic communication, contracting, and provider monitoring.

Ellen graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from Brescia College in 1995. She pursued a master's degree in counseling from Prescott College in 2008 and graduated with honors in general studies from Central New Mexico Community College in 2012.

Ellen has held key roles throughout her career, including behavioral health and wellness division manager, community outreach coordinator, and program specialist II. In these positions, she managed contracts and programs related to substance use treatment and early intervention. Prior to her work in Albuquerque, Ellen managed the Adult Day Care Program for seniors and individuals with Alzheimer's at Share Your Care, Inc., and led a team of youth counselors as the team leader of the Girls Emergency Shelter in Owensboro, KY.



MARIA GALLEGOS, a native of the red-earth mountains of northern New Mexico, embodies a myriad of roles and passions that define her rich life.

Having spent a significant portion of her career as a water quality environmental scientist, María's path took a transformative turn driven by her profound life experiences and insatiable curiosity. For the past 12 years, she has championed social, economic, and environmental justice as a community organizer, using her remarkable gifts of compassionate listening and powerful storytelling to amplify the voices of those often rendered invisible by societal norms and boundaries.

María's commitment to breaking the mold led her to a dynamic role in an organization dedicated to conscious rule-breaking, fostering change and empowerment. Today, she continues her mission within the City of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department, and Public Health Division, actively collaborating with the Health Equity Council (HEC) on public health initiatives and community air quality monitoring projects.



RASHID AHMAD currently leads the Public Health Initiative in partnership with the city government. Born in Pakistan, his personal experiences have shaped his understanding of systemic discrimination and health inequities, igniting his commitment to community service, health equity, empowerment, and systemic change.

With a bachelor's degree in environmental impact assessment, Rashid pursued graduate courses in policy analysis, resource economics, and environmental sciences. He is currently working towards a Master of Public Health degree, continuously expanding his knowledge to better serve his community.

Throughout his career, Rashid has worked at institutions such as the University of Mexico, New Mexico Asian Family Center, Native American Budget & Policy Institute, and Health Equity Council, creating impactful programs for various age groups, mobilizing communities, and advocating for positive change. His work focuses on empowering communities, advancing health equity, nurturing emerging leaders, and shifting power dynamics for communities of color.

Rashid has also been involved in organizing political campaigns, mobilizing individuals to advocate for social justice, and serving on the boards of organizations representing marginalized communities, including Queer, South Asian and immigrant groups.

BUFFALO, NY



CHANTAZIA BRONSON currently serves as the Institute Administrator at the State University of New York at Buffalo Community Health Equity Research Institute. In this role, she oversees daily operations and collaborates with community organizations, with a specific focus on addressing health equity issues in the African American community.

Her professional journey includes role as the New York MATTERS Program Coordinator II at UBMD Emergency

Medicine, where she managed a statewide electronic referral network for an opioid use disorder initiative. Through her work as a community health education intern at Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network Inc., she worked with the CEO to develop grants and solve issues. As a clinical education intern at the Catholic Health System, she focused on data entry and analysis.

She holds a bachelor's degree in health promotion with a concentration in community health administration and a minor in business administration from Daemen University, where she graduated in 2017. She earned a Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in community health from the same institution in 2019.



MEL LEMAY is a grant specialist at the Erie County Department of Health who focuses on health equity for minority and marginalized populations, handling grant opportunities, applications, program management, strategic planning, reporting, quality improvement, and evaluation.

Mel's dedication to community well-being extends to GLYS of WNY, Inc., where they provided support for LGBTQ+ communities. They also serve as a mental health counselor at Evergreen Health, specializing in transgender and gender-diverse individuals' assessment and treatment.

Mel has also created tools and workshops to boost civic knowledge and engagement, especially regarding voting reforms. As a social work Intern at the International Institute of Buffalo, Mel assisted refugees and new arrivals in their transition to U.S. society.

Mel holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University at Buffalo and is a member of the Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society. They also hold a bachelor's degree in English and gender studies from the University of Notre Dame. In January 2021, they became a Licensed Master of Social Work (LMSW).



SAMANTHA HILDAGO serves as the public health program manager at the Buffalo Center for Health Equity. She collaborates with the Center and University at Buffalo Community Health Equity Research Institute leadership to develop innovative Social Determinants of Health interventions.

Prior to this, she served as a creating healthy schools and communities educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County, contributing subject matter knowledge to educational strategies.

Samantha completed her Master of Public Health (MPH) with a concentration in community health and health behavior from the University at Buffalo School of Public Health, and Health Professions in 2021. She also earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in counseling and cultural anthropology from the University at Buffalo in 2019.



YESSICA AMEZQUITA, a community outreach specialist at the Erie County Department of Health Office of Health Equity, conducts mental health first aid training in both English and Spanish. Yessica provides training to adults who work with adults to become mental health first aid providers. She possesses a diverse educational background, including an associate degree in business administration and early childhood education from Erie Community College.

Previously, as a community wellness outreach aide, she delivered evidence-based sexual health education to various institutions, including schools and community centers. She also educated on cannabis pros and cons, anti-vaping and smoking cessation resources.

Yessica is actively involved in community leadership, having served as the Erie County Buffalo Representative for the New York State HIV Advisory Board, a member of the Buffalo Board of Education Sexual Health Committee, and in leadership programs such as the West Side Promise Leadership Program and the Emerging Leaders Program through Open Buffalo.

She holds various certifications, including Citizen Preparedness Corps Training from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Popular Opinion Leader Training from the CDC through Erie County Department of Health Sexual Health Clinic and Community Health Worker Network Training.

COLORADO CITY, AZ



CHAD KINGSLEY is a dedicated public servant who excels as a leader and relationship builder, always upholding the principles of integrity to drive positive outcomes. Over the course of more than 15 years, he has collaborated closely with citizens, community stakeholders, and government officials, contributing significantly to the field of public health. His ability to communicate fluently in both English and Spanish is a key asset in his work.

He has served as the public health director in Mohave County, AZ, the regional trauma director at SNHD in Las Vegas, NV, and the ICS-COVID director of disease containment, liaison and safety officer at SNHD in Las Vegas, NV. Additionally, Chad served as a clinical physician, local health officer and medical resident at Sec. de Salud Sonora/UAG.

Chad's educational background encompasses a Master of Business Administration in healthcare management

from Western Governors University, a Doctor of Medicine degree from Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, and a bachelor's degree in Spanish with a minor in management from the University of Nevada Las Vegas.



HUNTER ADAMS is a dedicated health care advocate, driven by a mission to enhance lives and communities by improving health care access. With a multifaceted background encompassing both direct patient care and executive leadership, Hunter offers a holistic perspective on the transformative power of healthcare, particularly in rural and vulnerable populations.

Since 2018, he has served as the co-founder and chief executive officer of Creek Valley Health Clinic, a Federally Qualified Health Center. In this capacity, he has been at the forefront of efforts to expand access to culturally sensitive healthcare in severely underserved rural areas.

Hunter's educational journey includes earning a Master of Business Administration from Western Governors University and a bachelor's degree in finance from Utah Valley University.

In addition to his executive role, Hunter has served as an operational data analyst in population health and decision support at Intermountain Health from 2015 to 2018. He also actively contributes to AACHC and AUCH, as well as the Mohave County Health Department.



SHIRLEE DRAPER's life journey is a testament to resilience and transformation. Born and raised in the Short Creek community of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Arizona, within the fundamentalist polygamous Mormon sect known as the FLDS, her early life included an arranged marriage and the responsibilities of raising four children, two of whom had special needs. However, when the controversial leader Warren Jeffs rose to power, she made the courageous decision to leave behind everything she had ever known and relocated to St. George, Utah as a single mother.

In her new life, Shirlee pursued higher education, earning a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Public Administration. She returned to her hometown

and played pivotal roles in its revival, including facilitating the election of the first female mayor in 2017 and establishing a community health clinic in 2019.

Currently employed as the director of operations for Cherish Families, a social service nonprofit that provides crime victim and wraparound services for individuals from polygamous backgrounds seeking stability, Shirlee bridges the gap between this population and mainstream society. She dedicates herself to educating outside service providers and government agencies on how to interact with fundamentalist community members, fostering cultural competence.

Shirlee frequently presents at conferences and workshops, sharing best practices for serving individuals from polygamous backgrounds. She is also an active member of various state and civic committees.



TARA STANEC is an emerging public health professional with a desire to drive transformative change within the Environmental Health division of the Mohave County Department of Public Health. Her vision extends beyond the traditional focus on mandated and nuisance programs, aiming to foster collaborative initiatives that tackle intricate, interconnected environmental challenges to enhance the health and overall quality of life for residents.

In her role as an environmental health manager at the Mohave County Department of Public Health, Tara recognizes the imperative need to cultivate effective leadership skills, both for herself and others. She understands that this ability is crucial in spearheading the shift toward a more holistic and collective approach to health and well-being in Mohave County.

Tara's academic background is anchored by a Master of Public Health in community health sciences from Baylor University and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Grand Canyon University.

COLUMBIA, SC

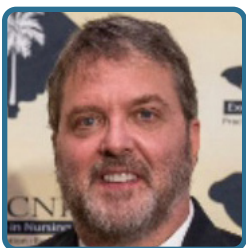


ANGEL BOURDON is the director of community health and innovation at the SC Hospital Association. Angel takes the helm of community health and equity initiatives, spearheading transformative programs within Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas, and AccessHealth. Her responsibilities encompass providing support to member hospitals, crafting program strategies, and delivering vital technical assistance to communities.

Prior to her role at SCHA, Angel led Prisma Health, where she specialized in community health in formulating the health system's strategies for the Community Health Needs Assessment in both 2016 and 2019. Additionally, she played a pivotal role in launching and expanding a school-based telehealth program, while also delving into the research and development of enterprise Business Intelligence and Population Health technology strategies.

Angel's academic achievements include a bachelor's degree in business administration and communication from Columbia College, complemented by a Master of Health Administration earned at the Medical University of South Carolina. Committed to lifelong learning, she has participated in a spectrum of personal development programs, including the United Way of the Midland's Blueprint for Leadership program and SCHA's Management Academy.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Angel is an avid volunteer and a devoted advocate for her community, serving on multiple community boards and committees. Her diverse contributions epitomize her commitment to fostering positive change and innovation in the field of healthcare and community well-being.



BUCK WILSON currently serves as the region health director at South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control, where he manages a \$24 million budget and leads a team of 550 staff across 12 counties, overseeing various public health areas and legislative affairs.

Previously, Buck was the public health director at the Cumberland County Department of Public Health in North Carolina, where he managed a \$22 million public health department with 300 staff. He has also held roles as a district public health director and a public health director in North Carolina, overseeing diverse public health departments.

Buck earned a Doctor of Philosophy in higher education leadership from Liberty University and has completed the Southeast Public Health Leadership Institute and the Management Academy for Public Health at the University of North Carolina.

Beyond his professional roles, Buck is an active volunteer on various boards and committees for organizations like the State Association of County and City Health Officials, South Carolina Public Health Association, Kiwanis Club and Methodist University Healthcare Administration Advisory Board.



FELICIA VEASEY is the director of partnerships and workforce development at the E3 Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding high-quality educational opportunities for Black and Brown students in Charleston, SC. Her career in the nonprofit sector reflects her commitment to equity and empowerment.

Before her role at the E3 Foundation, Felicia held the position of community systems director with the Department of Health and Environmental Control, where she spearheaded initiatives to enhance community systems development, collaborating

with various health departments to address disparities and improve systems promoting well-being and reducing chronic diseases. She also coordinated grant-funded activities, facilitated community assessments, and acted as a liaison between internal and external stakeholders.

Felicia's impact extended to her role as the COVID response operations director, where she exhibited exemplary leadership. Under her guidance, the Lowcountry Region established more than 1,250 testing sites, conducting 91,000 COVID tests and administering more than 53,500 vaccines.

Her educational background includes a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Health Administration degree from Tulane University—School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.



KANDI FRERE is the regional health director at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for the Upstate Region. Her responsibilities encompass an 11-county region, and she serves as the regional incident commander for outbreak responses, including those related to COVID-19 and Hepatitis A.

Her career spans over two decades, characterized by her ability to devise community-based systems solutions. She excels in forging complex partnerships across large geographic areas and formulating strategic priorities for teams. Kandi's expertise extends to leading multidisciplinary teams, implementing lean quality improvement principles, and excelling in performance management. Additionally, she contributes to the evolution of public health as an adjunct instructor at Anderson University in South Carolina, educating baccalaureate students in human services and health care administration.

She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in health administration from Capella University in Minneapolis. Kandi also earned a master's degree in health administration from Clemson University & the Medical University of South Carolina, as well as a bachelor's degree in health science from Clemson University.

HILLSBOROUGH, FL



STACY RANSOM is a natural leader who excels at rallying people to accomplish their objectives. With 15 years in corporate America under her belt, she ventured into entrepreneurship, opening a home daycare that has nurtured countless children and guided them to scholastic success over the past eight years.

Motivated by the persistent injustices faced by people of color, Stacy joined the Justice Ministry at Bible-Based Fellowship Church, initially as a network member and eventually becoming a team leader. With her team of 10, they've spearheaded justice initiatives that have positively impacted the lives of all citizens in Hillsborough County while working to reduce the criminalization of poverty.

Stacy has also been instrumental in raising awareness about Resolution R20-085, which declared racism as a public health crisis in Hillsborough County. As a leading contributor to the Equity and Justice Working Group, she has played a pivotal role in educating the community and forging partnerships that promise lasting change and the necessary resources for holistic community well-being.

She graduated from Florida A & M University with a master's degree in marketing and finance.



ANTIONETTE DAVIS is a recognized collaborative leader and community activist known for her ability to unite individuals in pursuit of shared goals and meaningful change. Her extensive community-based initiatives include securing increased elder care funding, expanding Civil Citations usage, establishing an Affordable Housing Fund to combat the housing crisis and advocating for the adoption of Resolution R20-085, acknowledging racism as a public health crisis.

Motivated by her deep commitment to equity, Antionette initiated a county equity profile, a vital step toward incorporating an equity lens into policymaking, resource allocation, and service delivery. This effort led to the creation of the assistant county administrator of equity and community impact, responsible for overseeing a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Department within the county's leadership.

Antionette contributes her expertise as a member of the Department of Health's Health Equity Task Force and leads an Equity and Justice Working Group tasked with overseeing Resolution R20-085's implementation. Her grassroots organizing efforts earned her the prestigious Ella J. Baker Award from the Hillsborough NAACP, recognizing her tireless dedication to driving positive change.

She is an alumna of the University of South Florida, where she earned a bachelor's degree in accounting,



ALLISON NGUYEN currently serves as a program manager in the Office of Health Equity at the Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County, Tampa, where she fosters community partnerships, serves as the minority health liaison, and plays a key role in strategic planning, public health accreditation and program management.

Previously, Allison worked as a health educator consultant in the same department, leading the implementation of the Health in All Policies framework and conducting cross-sector Health Impact Assessments.

Allison holds various certifications, including Certified Patient Family Partner, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate, and Mental Health First Aid. She is also a Master Certified Health Education Specialist and a Florida Certified Contract Manager.

In addition to her professional achievements, Allison is an active volunteer and leader, participating in organizations like Postpartum Support International, 2020 Mom and the Public Health Accreditation Board.

She earned a Master of Public Health from the University at Albany and a bachelor's degree in diplomacy and international relations from Seton Hall University.



NOLIYANDA JAMES serves as a health educator consultant at the Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County, coordinating local partners for the Severe Maternal Morbidity Task Force.

Her role involves the analysis, development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of activities in the Hillsborough County Health Equity Plan.

Previously, as a tobacco policy coordinator at the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, she actively promoted comprehensive tobacco control policies to decision-makers in local businesses, multiunit housing properties and community organizations.

Noliyanda's experience also includes serving as a regional public health specialist at the University of Florida, IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program, where she expanded partnerships with more than 25 community organizations across a six-county region. She planned and implemented policy, system, and environmental change projects, positively impacting more than 1,200 individuals and families with low incomes. Noliyanda is also recognized with certifications as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and Certified in Public Health (CPH).

She earned a Master of Public Health from the University of South Florida and a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

JACKSON, MO



CANDACE LADD currently serves as outreach and development coordinator at the Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom in Kansas City.

Candace's commitment to social causes is evident in her position as a volunteer specialist at the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault in Kansas City, where she recruited, interviewed, and trained 143 direct service volunteers. She also coordinated comprehensive training on advocacy for survivors of sexual violence.

As a domestic violence client advocate at Synergy Services in Kansas City from 2017 to 2019, Candace provided crucial support to survivors of domestic violence, both in the shelter and on the hotline. Her responsibilities included hospital advocacy, safety planning and resource connection.

Candace holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, specializing in transformative justice. She obtained her Bachelor of Music Therapy from Drury University in 2015.



KELSEY SARAGNESE is a community initiatives coordinator at Jackson County Public Health, where she co-designs Eastern Jackson County's Community Health Improvement process, recruits and supports stakeholders, manages a team of program and policy specialists and provides technical support for community health initiatives. She oversees programs addressing maternal health, opioid overdose prevention/response and adolescent sexual health.

Previously, at the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault, Kelsey trained and supervised a diverse team in implementing bullying and sexual violence prevention programs and designed interactive education programs for both youth and adults.

Her experience also includes work as a prevention specialist, facilitating sexual assault and abuse prevention programs, and expanding prevention initiatives. Kelsey is deeply committed to community service, as evidenced by her volunteer involvement with various organizations.

Kelsey earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a bachelor's degree in women's and gender studies with additional minors from the University of Missouri.



KRISTIN SCHLENK has a background in community health promotion, program management and a passion for reducing health disparities.

In her current role as community engagement and policy manager at Jackson County Public Health, Kristin provides leadership and strategic direction for the community engagement and policy division, emphasizing data-driven decision-making.

From 2014 to 2020, she served as the maternal and child health program coordinator at Jackson County Public Health, where she managed operations, ensured contract objectives were met and built strong

community partnerships. Her earlier experience as a program coordinator at the City of Independence, MO Health Department equipped her with valuable skills in program implementation and management.

Kristin's core skills encompass adaptability, community relationship building, facilitation, leadership, problem-solving, and a strong focus on quality improvement.

Her academic journey includes a master's degree in health education and promotion from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from the same institution.



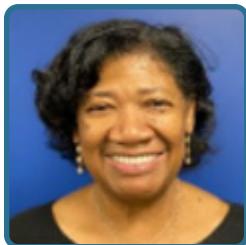
ROBB WHITTEN is a seasoned child advocate with a rich background in non-profit organizations dedicated to childhood behavioral health and child welfare.

Currently serving as the chief executive officer of the Children's Services Fund of Jackson County, Robb provides vital executive oversight to a funding organization for enhancing the mental

health and emotional well-being of children and youth in Jackson County. Managing a \$32 million annual operating budget, he ensures the effective disbursement of funds to community partners. He also served as a chief culture officer at Cornerstones of Care with a pivotal role in guiding the organization, focusing on strategic initiatives, partnerships, budget and financial performance.

Robb holds a master's degree in psychology with a triple emphasis in clinical, counseling, and family psychology from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. He graduated from Southwest Baptist University, earning dual bachelor's degrees in psychology and music. He is licensed as a Professional Counselor in Missouri and certified as a National Certified Counselor.

LEE COUNTY, MS



CAROLYN JONES is the chief executive officer of the Mississippi Minority Farmers Alliance, a non-profit founded in 2013 by Black farmers in Short Creek (Hildale, Utah/ Colorado City, Arizona), where she was part of the FLDS community. After leaving the FLDS due to Warren Jeffs' rise to power, she moved to St. George, Utah, as a single mother and pursued a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Public Administration.

Now, she is dedicated to helping new and beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged individuals, limited-resource farmers and veteran farmers. Her work focuses on sustainability, environmentally friendly farming, land retention, financial management and community development.

Carolyn is also a 200-acre beef cattle farmer in Northeast Mississippi with her husband Chris. She actively advocates for equity and inclusion for Black farmers and their communities and serves on various committees to advance these causes. Under her leadership, MMFA established the North Mississippi Agri-Business Center, known as "The Market," serving as a hub for local farmers, an agricultural training center, and a summer farmers' market.

Additionally, Carolyn addresses health disparities by serving on the Board of Directors of a Community Health Care organization that coordinates healthcare and COVID-19 vaccination for underserved communities.



ELOIS SMITH serves as the community health director in the Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Preventive Health and Health Equity. Additionally, she is an adjunct instructor at Mississippi University for Women in the Health and Kinesiology Department.

Her academic background includes an undergraduate degree in family studies and consumer sciences, as well as a Master of Public Health from Mississippi University for Women. She holds various credentials, such as Certified Health Education Specialist, Mississippi Rural Health Fellow, and certifications as a Diabetes Self-Management and Chronic Disease Self-Management Instructor, along with being a Matter of Balance/Fall Prevention Instructor.

Elois's career has spanned primary education, higher education and nonprofit organizations. She is a dedicated change agent who implements policy, systems, and environmental initiatives to create lasting improvements in diverse communities. Building strong relationships with community stakeholders, government officials, and organizations is a key part of her work, aimed at enhancing the quality of life for all Mississippians.



KERTENIA HURD is a community resource coordinator and analyst, bringing a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her role at North Mississippi Health Services. Since joining NMHS in 2020, Kertenia has demonstrated her commitment to improving the availability of health and social/economic resources across a 24-county service area.

Kertenia holds a Master of Business Administration in healthcare management from the University of North Alabama and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Mississippi. She also possesses an Accident, Health, and Life Insurance Certification License.

In her current position, Kertenia coordinates efforts between internal and external stakeholders, fosters positive relationships with diverse community members, and identifies potential partners to enhance community health. She also designs assessments and data collection tools as needed to ensure the development, deployment, communication and tracking of effective strategies across the region.

Kertenia actively contributes to the Health Alliance Advisory Council for the United Way of Northeast Mississippi and the North Mississippi Medical Center APC Fellowship Advisory Council. Her previous professional roles as a performance improvement analyst and decision support analyst provided her with a strong foundation for her current responsibilities and her dedication to evidence-based planning strategies has made a significant impact on the health and well-being of the communities she serves.



NATALIE CHILCUTT currently serves as the community health director for District II Northeast Mississippi at the Mississippi State Department of Health, where she has excelled in establishing partnerships with community-based organizations and state agency partners. She coordinates preventative health education programs for the community and provides valuable technical assistance to educators in public school districts and early childhood education centers.

Natalie's career has also included roles in public health at Jefferson County Public Health, where she served as an immunization coordinator, epidemiologist, case investigator trainer, case investigator, and played a pivotal role in the COVID-19 surveillance and response efforts.

Her academic journey began at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. She continued her studies at the University of Oslo, where she achieved a master's degree in molecular biology.

LONG BEACH, CA



HAROLD DE LA CRUZ serves as the Filipino, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander health equity coordinator for the Department of Health and Human Services in Long Beach, California. Harold builds connections with community organizations and leaders, ensuring effective communication for the department's equity initiatives, and actively engages in community outreach to increase community involvement.

Harold also serves as the vice chair on the Board of Directors for Public Health Advocates in Stockton, providing fiscal oversight and contributing to long-term financial planning. His previous role as a lead community organizer with Innovate Public Schools underscores his dedication to education advocacy.

He earned a bachelor's degree in urban studies and planning from the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). Harold is proficient in Spanish and conversant in Tagalog, allowing him to connect with diverse communities.

Harold's received the Thurgood Marshall College Academic Advising Leadership Award from UCSD and was recognized as a Michael Estrada Research Grant Recipient and Charles Phan Health Award Recipient, showcasing his academic and research excellence in urban studies and planning.



ROMEO O. GARCIA is a multifaceted educator, community organizer, and social entrepreneur with more than 18 years of experience in higher education and community-based organizations. His expertise encompasses grant and budget management, team building, equity and social justice advocacy and fostering community engagement.

Presently, Romeo is the director of equity and student services at Cypress College and the interim director of KUBO Organizing Project in Long Beach. In his spare time, he is a certified Master Chocolatier trained in Belgium, renowned for creating award-winning chocolates.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Asian American Studies with a minor in Black Studies from UC Santa Barbara, focusing on liberation movements in the Pacific, Caribbean, and the African diaspora. Additionally, he has a master's degree in education with a concentration in equity and social justice from San Francisco State University. Romeo is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership at CSU Fullerton.



ROMEO HEBRON holds more than a decade of experience in workforce development, with a professional journey that has predominantly revolved around assisting low-income foster and probation youth, their families, and veterans. In June 2019, he assumed the role of executive director at the Filipino Migrant Center.

Before his directorship, Romeo actively contributed to FMC as a member and volunteer for eight years. During this time, he led numerous fundraising initiatives and facilitated or co-led programs for youth and immigrant workers. Since 2011, he has been an integral part of various grassroots Filipino organizations, holding positions such as chair, secretary general, finance officer and regional coordinator.

Romeo's passion lies in community organizing and leadership development, particularly in the realms of workers' rights and immigration issues, as well as working with both youth and older adults. He serves on two Community Advisory Boards: one with the City of Long Beach, addressing the needs of the Filipino community, and the other in collaboration with researchers from the University of Southern California, University of California, Irvine and AAPI nonprofit leaders that focuses on addressing health issues within the AAPI community in Los Angeles County.

He earned a bachelor's degree in organizational communication from California State University, Long Beach.



SHIRAYA THOMPSON is a skilled epidemiologist with a strong educational background and extensive experience in data analysis and research.

In her role as a data analyst on the Racial and Health Equity Team at the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Shiraya plays a crucial role in developing and implementing study protocols. Her work aligns with community-based participatory research principles, allowing her to collect, manage, and analyze disaggregated community health needs data. She excels in generating accessible data reports for management and stakeholders, using a variety of formats including infographics, GIS maps, narratives and interactive media.

Previously, as a research analyst II on the Data Science Team at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Shiraya contributed to quality assurance and management of COVID-19 databases for the Outbreak Management Branch.

Her research experience extends to her time as a graduate research assistant at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and as an epidemiology and biostatistics summer research fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

She completed her master's degree in epidemiology from the University of California, Los Angeles and her bachelor's degree in comparative human development with a minor in statistics from the University of Chicago.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN



ABDULKADIR MOHAMED is a versatile professional with more than a decade of experience in roles that support executives and public sectors, all aimed at improving the lives of underserved communities.

As a public health specialist and community liaison at the City of Minneapolis Health Department, Abdulkadir contributes to public health initiatives that serve the community. His previous roles, including East African community outreach specialist at the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging Senior Linkage Line and program coordinator - East African at African Immigrant Community Services, reflect his dedication to assisting underserved populations.

With proficiency in Somali, English and Swahili, Abdulkadir is well-equipped to connect with and support diverse communities. His extensive experience and strong educational background in public affairs helped him to be a great asset in the field of community engagement and public health, particularly in his mission to improve the lives of underserved populations.

Abdulkadir holds a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs, as well as a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Nairobi. He also earned a diploma in business management at Mount Kenya University.



JENNIE MEINZ is a dynamic and collaborative leader with a strong commitment to improving health equity and community impact. Her career is marked by extensive experience in grant and project management, supervision, relationship management, and strategic planning within value-driven organizations.

In her current role as the manager of the Healthy Living Initiative at the City of Minneapolis Health Department, Jennie plays a pivotal role in supervising, managing, and monitoring the unit's operations and its seven full-time staff. She oversees 30 community-based partnerships, projects, and outcomes, managing a substantial annual budget across three grants.

Jennie's core competencies cover a broad spectrum of skills, including leadership in supervision and unit operations, capacity building, technical assistance, and community-based health promotion. Her fluency in Spanish enhances her ability to engage with diverse populations effectively. She is also skilled in strategic planning, program evaluation, community engagement, building partnerships and grant and project management.

Her academic background includes a Master of Public Health in community health promotion and maternal and child health from the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health. She also holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish and environmental studies from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.



RACHEL ALMBURG, a member of MPHA's Policy and Strategic Initiatives team, focuses on developing initiatives that address the needs of the city's most vulnerable populations. Rachel excels in project management, leading diverse teams towards well-defined objectives while building consensus and managing multiple initiatives.

Her experience with international and domestic populations equips her to prioritize listening, facilitate discussions, and present complex topics to diverse audiences. Using data analytics to convey information through various formats, she shapes cross-sector partnerships built on mutual respect, enabling her to navigate conflicts and create new programs.

Rachel's proficiency in policy research is an invaluable asset. She investigates complex topics, conducts primary research, and synthesizes information effectively. This, coupled with comprehensive literature reviews, contributes to decision models that foster collaborative conversations and shared understanding.



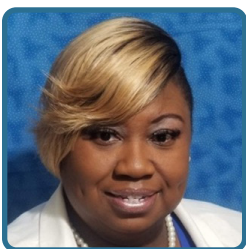
SHIRLEY BROWN possesses nearly two decades of experience within the Minneapolis Public School system, primarily in the Special Education Department, where she has honed her supervisory, organizational and behavioral management skills.

Shirley holds certifications at multiple levels, including education assistance, computer lab management, personal care assistance, CPR, First-Aid and crisis prevention intervention. She has made substantial progress toward earning an Associate of Arts degree, further enriching her educational foundation.

Shirley's volunteer work extends to the City of Minneapolis, where she actively engages in voter registration and election assistance, including her role as a poll worker. She has served in numerous elected officer positions on the Resident Council, including as treasurer and president.

Shirley's advocacy efforts resonate beyond local boundaries, as she was invited to a national meeting of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Cross Sector Innovation Initiative. Her dedication to reinstating crucial funding for public housing is evident through her participation in city council meetings and meetings with council members. She empowers not only herself but also others, encouraging them to find their voices and stand in their own power.

MOBILE, AL



CHERRITE PETERSON has served as a public Health administrator in the Division of STD Prevention and Control since February 2020. In this capacity, she oversees and manages the STD program activities, involving planning, organization and coordination.

She is a dedicated public health administrator with extensive expertise in HIV and STI policy and program development. Her skill set includes program planning and development, data analysis and evaluation, intervention assessment and proficiency in grant and funding processes.

Her educational background includes a bachelor's degree with a concentration in public administration from Talladega College in Talladega, AL. She furthered her education at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, AL, where she earned a master's degree in counseling and mental health and an educational specialist degree in counseling and mental health.

Danielle Simpson is a seasoned community health advocate with a comprehensive understanding of community relations and education.

With expertise in case management, contact tracing, phlebotomy, disease counseling and referrals related to substance abuse and immigration, Danielle currently serves as the overdose prevention program administrator at the Mobile County Health Department.

This work, along with her previous role as a disease intervention specialist at the Mobile County Health Department TB Clinic, reflects her longstanding dedication to addressing communicable diseases and fostering healthier communities.

She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of South Alabama and a bachelor's degree in health education from the same institution. Additionally, she was trained as a patient care technician and nursing assistant at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI. She has been CPR certified since 2004 and holds a patient care technician certificate from Dorsey Business Schools, Roseville, MI.



JOSHUA JONES is the youth violence prevention coordinator for the City of Mobile, leading in community and leadership development. He serves as the president of Project THRIVE, the City of Mobile's trauma-informed initiative, and consults with organizations like the University of South Alabama, Collegiate 100, 100 Black Men, and more.

His community development initiatives include programs aimed at helping young people avoid crime and drug involvement. In the communications sphere, he has been a liaison between community centers and the Mobile Police Department, fostering crime prevention and social services. Joshua's extensive experience and education make him a vital figure in community development, leadership, and violence prevention, driven by his passion for positive change.

Joshua is a servant leader with extensive experience in directing cross-functional teams, even in high-pressure situations. He is known for his strong communication skills and his ability to collaborate effectively with various stakeholders, from civil servants to community leaders.

He holds a master's degree in human services counseling with a focus on executive leadership from Liberty University, in addition to a bachelor's degree in psychology, physical education and military science from the University of South Alabama.



LAURY ROWLAND has seamlessly transitioned from her career in education, where she held responsibility for campus-wide prevention education programming, to her current role as the program coordinator of the Rape Crisis Center at Lifelines Counseling Services in Mobile, Alabama. In this role, she serves as a dedicated advocate for sexual assault survivors, offering critical crisis intervention and conducting trauma-informed training for law enforcement and health care agencies across the state of Alabama.

Throughout her career, Laury has worked tirelessly to develop trauma-informed, victim-centered training programs and presentations on sexual assault and suicide awareness and prevention for her community. She specializes in guiding survivors through the complexities of the criminal justice system, advocating for their rights and connecting them with crucial community resources.

Laury holds a bachelor's degree in education from Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis, Missouri, and possesses special certifications in special education, particularly in working with individuals with moderate to severe behavior disorders. Her commitment to advocacy led her to graduate from the Praxis International Advocacy Learning Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Project Blueprint Leadership in Mobile, Alabama.

NEW ORLEANS, LA



JAHANA DEADMON is the Chronic Disease Coordinator at the New Orleans Health Department. In her role, she manages a diverse portfolio of evidence-based strategies aimed at reducing the prevalence of chronic diseases among New Orleans residents. She accomplishes this through a combination of programs, policy initiatives, partnerships, and community engagement. Jahana leads the Food Security and Nutrition Access workgroup for the city's 2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan, fostering collaborative community efforts and sustainable changes in addressing the social determinants of chronic diseases.

Previously, Jahana served as a staff epidemiologist with the Houston Health Department, where she was a key member of the COVID-19 Response team. Her responsibilities included overseeing, investigating, and advising on issues related to nursing homes and long-term care facilities, demonstrating her crucial role in public health response during the pandemic.

Jahana's extensive collaboration and community engagement efforts reflect her commitment to making a positive impact on public health. Her involvement in various working groups, advisory committees, and initiatives demonstrates her dedication to addressing public health challenges and advancing the well-being of communities.

She holds a master's degree in public health education and promotion from Texas State University and bachelor's degree in athletic training from Baylor University.



JASMOND TUCKER serves as the health equity specialist and program manager at the City of New Orleans Health Department. Jasmond is deeply involved in community health program management, community health assessment data analysis, and emergency preparedness planning. He is responsible for developing external partnerships and contributing to health education and health communication initiatives.

Prior to his time at the Health Department, Jasmond served as a lead community health worker at Absolute Care in New Orleans. Jasmond's dedication and academic excellence are reflected in the awards and honors she has received, including being a

Horatio Alger Scholar and a member of honor societies like Beta Kappa Chi Research Honor Society, Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society and the National Institute of Science Honor Society.

He holds several certifications and licenses, including Louisiana HIV/STI Counseling and Testing Certification, 3MV (Many Men Many Voices) Facilitation Training Certification, Community Health Worker Core Competency Training Certification, a Chauffeurs License (Class D), and Louisiana Boaters Education Certification.

Jasmond earned his Master of Public Health from Xavier University of LA, with a concentration in public health equity. His academic journey also includes a bachelor's degree in biology from Southern University & Agricultural and Mechanical College.



JAZMIN ROBERSON is currently the director of programs and services, doula, and CBS (Certified Breastfeeding Specialist) at Labor and Love, where she coordinates maternal-child health and wellness services, community programs, product distribution, events and data. As a doula, she serves as a vital support person, offering guidance, education and assistance to pregnant women and families throughout the prenatal, labor and postpartum periods. Her role extends to providing lactation support and education both before and throughout the breastfeeding journey.

Jazmin's commitment to supporting families during the critical phases of pregnancy, birth and early childhood is further demonstrated through her position as a doula and breastfeeding

coordinator at Nola Baby Cafe since August 2019. This non-profit organization provides families with valuable, free virtual and in-person breastfeeding and birthing support. In this capacity, Jazmin assists breastfeeding parents with latch techniques, milk supply and pumping.

She completed her education at Southern University in New Orleans, specializing in early childhood education.



ROBIN GRUENFELD has served as the director of collective impact at the March of Dimes since May 2021. She specializes in results-based facilitation and accountability within a large multi-sector collaborative. Her work involves applying an anti-racist lens to her projects, promoting equity and inclusivity.

Robin previously served as a senior policy analyst at Evermore. Her major skills included research, data analysis, and translation, particularly concerning social change, as well as facilitating solution-oriented discussions in this position.

Robin also served as the director of the AHEC Scholars Program at the Southeast Louisiana Area Health Education Center, where she provided strategic leadership, curriculum development, clinical community health support, and audience segmentation and marketing.

She earned a Master of Public Health in environmental and occupational health sciences from the Louisiana State University Health Science Center. Her educational journey also includes a Post Baccalaureate Research in Biophysics from the University of California, Berkeley. She also holds a bachelor's degree in geology and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of New Orleans.

PHILADELPHIA, PA



GALISSA JONES is a mother of two, an advocate for and passionate about wellness, reproductive health and birth justice.

She is a certified lactation counselor, certified wellness coach, a trained birth and post-partum doula. Supporting families with a culturally competent and trauma informed lens is important for the overall well-being and success of families.

Believing that community has the solutions only if their voices were heard; she has spent the last 12 years advocating, serving and parting with clients, providers and community.



LYDIA SEYMOUR is a seasoned health care professional with a background in medical office management and a passion for servant leadership.

Currently serving as the community action network coordinator at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Lydia excels in group facilitation, community outreach and maternal health advocacy. Her commitment to stellar customer service and effective office management is evident in her work, as is her dedication to medical staff credentialing and public speaking.

Lydia's skill set also includes proficiency in digital conferencing, spreadsheet management and problem-solving. She possesses a keen sense of emotional intelligence, which enhances her ability to connect with both colleagues and the community.

She earned her bachelor's degree in health services management from Thomas Jefferson University.



NIA SAMUELS is a dedicated advocate for increasing access to culturally competent care for all pregnant individuals. A Black and Pacific Islander queer parent, Nia brings a unique perspective to their work. They are a skilled doula, postpartum doula, and peer lactation counselor, and hold a certification in Mental Health First Aid USA.

Currently, Nia serves as the co-chair of the Philly Joy Bank Steering Committee, a groundbreaking guaranteed income program in Philadelphia aimed at empowering pregnant individuals and addressing racial disparities in infant mortality.

They are actively involved in the community as a peer support worker for Newborns and Neighbors, offering practical and emotional support during pregnancy and postpartum. Additionally, Nia serves as the co-chair of the Holistic Mental Health Work Group with CAN Philly, demonstrating their commitment to holistic care. Nia's work is driven by a passion for social justice and inclusivity, making a profound impact on maternal and infant health in their community.

Nia's educational background includes completion of the Maternity Care Coalition Perinatal Community Health Worker Program in Philadelphia. They also hold a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Florida.



AYOMIDE SORKALE is the surveillance epidemiologist for the Philadelphia Department of Health's Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health.

She is passionate about using data and epidemiology to inform public health practice and research with the goal of reducing existing health disparities and preventing future disparities in maternal and child health.

Currently, her responsibilities at PDPH are related to surveillance activities in both maternal health, specifically during the prenatal and postpartum periods, as well as child and infant health, evaluation of programs within the division, and communicating

analyzed data with staff and stakeholders with the goal of promoting equity and improving maternal, child and family health outcomes within the city of Philadelphia.

She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Cornell University and her Master of Public Health in global health, with a focus in infectious disease epidemiology and a certificate in maternal and child health from The Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

SAINT JOHNSBURY, VT



JENNIFER LEITHEAD is the community health coordinator at North County Hospital and serves as the regional coordinator for the Vermont Department of Health Self-Management programs for chronic disease.

Previously, Jennifer worked with Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA), where she served as an integrative health and prevention specialist and children's integrated services specialized childcare coordinator.

Jennifer is actively engaged in her community, serving as the board president and member of the Vermont Community Garden Network, chairs the Design Committee for the New Port City Renaissance Corporation, and is a member of the Newport City Planning Commission.

She earned a Master of Public Health degree from George Washington University and her bachelor's degree in Biology (pre-med) from Houghton College with minors in chemistry and creative writing.



KAITLYN CARREAU is a public health nutritionist at the Vermont Department of Health in St. Johnsbury, VT who focuses on the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program and works on chronic disease prevention.

Previously Kaitlyn served as a public health nutritionist at the Vermont Department of Health in White River Junction, VT, gaining valuable experience in the field.

Kaitlyn's dedication to public health and her expertise in nutrition and food science helped her to be an important asset in her role, contributing to the well-being of the community.

She holds a bachelor's degree in nutrition and food science from the University of Vermont, where she received the Nutrition and Food Sciences Faculty Award.



REBECCA PETELLE is a dedicated professional with a strong background in emergency preparedness and public safety.

Her extensive professional experience includes working as a public health emergency preparedness specialist in the State of Vermont's Department of Health, Office of Local Health.

Prior to this, she served as a program assistant at Pima Community College, working with the Public Safety and Emergency Services Institute.

She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in sociology from St. Michael's College. In 2003, she obtained certificates in metropolitan emergency response system, both in the community and fire service tracks, from Pima Community College.



SUNG-HEE CHUNG has made a lasting impact through her work as a founder and manager of charitable organizations. Her dedication to creating positive change is exemplified by the long-standing and far-reaching influence of these organizations.

Sung-Hee's lifelong commitment to learning and exploration is evident in her passion for rowing and cross-country skiing. She also prioritizes sustainability and reducing her carbon footprint, often opting for a pedal-assist e-bike to navigate her town's hills.

Sung-Hee's profound love for human-powered outdoor activities led her to establish Powered Magazine (POWERED). This initiative is dedicated to promoting equitable access to the outdoors, with a particular focus on improving the mental, physical, and social well-being of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color by providing opportunities to engage in outdoor activities.

In addition to her work with POWERED, Sung-Hee actively contributes to her community. She serves on the board of Local Motion, Vermont's statewide advocate for active transportation, vibrant communities, and safe streets. She is also a member of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA



FRANCISCO ICALÁ TIRIQUIZ is a devoted promoter and Mayan leader hailing from Guatemala. In the late 90s, he made the life-changing decision to relocate to the United States, driven by a strong commitment to continue working for his community. Francisco's journey led him to receive training from the Institutes of Monterey and Santa Bárbara, equipping him with the skills to serve as an interpreter in California Courts, bridging the language gap for the Mayan K'iche-speaking community.

In 2000, he further expanded his expertise by becoming a health promoter in Los Angeles, showcasing his dedication to community well-being. Francisco has contributed his skills and knowledge to various organizations in the Bay Area, including the Good Samaritan Family Resource Center.

Currently, Francisco serves as a lead health educator and case manager for the Indigenous Program of the Instituto Familiar De La Raza in San Francisco. Here, he plays a pivotal role in one of the most successful programs designed to support the male-identifying Indigenous population, particularly focusing on laborers—a community that is both growing and often overlooked in the city.



ISELA FORD's expertise encompasses equity-driven strategy, budget development and oversight, and quality assurance. As a bicultural and bilingual Latina, she has deep community ties and is committed to supporting and elevating community-led strategies and initiatives.

Her professional experience includes roles such as equity and community engagement branch deputy director for the DPH COVID-19 Task Force at the City and County of San Francisco since, and racial equity coordinator for the Office of Anti-Racism and Equity at the City and County of San Francisco, Department of Public Population Health Division.

She has also served as a health program coordinator and centralized human resources and equity project lead at the City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health, Public Health Division.

Isela received the 41st Annual SPUR Good Government Award for Equity and Community Response in July 2022, and she completed the Undoing Racism training with The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond in August 2022. She was part of the Fall 2021 Cohort of the SFCC DHR Emerging Leadership Program, showcasing her commitment to leadership development and equity in her community.

Isela's educational background includes a Master of Public Administration with a health services emphasis from the University of San Francisco and a bachelor's degree in History and Latin American Studies from Notre Dame de Namur University.



JENNY CHACON possesses two decades of experience in operationalizing racial equity across a wide range of settings, including non-profit, hospital, government, and ambulatory care contexts. Currently, Jenny serves as deputy director of the Office of Health Equity at the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Her work centers on collaborative efforts with individuals and organizations at all levels, with a particular focus on addressing institutional racism, especially in partnership with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

Jenny has transformed hiring and onboarding practices at Exploratorium, infusing them with anti-racism and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) best practices. Her commitment extends to inclusive survey outreach in Marin County, boosting responses from non-English speaking and underserved communities. She has notably increased HHS employees' participation in GARE cultural humility training and secured executive sponsorship for developing health equity governance and initiatives at ZSFG. Additionally, her project team was recognized by Harvard's National Executive Leadership program for addressing racial and ethnic disparities with excellence.

Jenny holds a Master of Public Health from San Jose State University and bachelor's degree in political science and Spanish from the University of California at Davis.



ABRAHAM GONZALEZ is co-owner and worker of the Cooperativa Promotoras Unidas SF, where he works as a community housing promoter at the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA), focused on helping the community in San Francisco. He also works as a food security advocate at Mission Neighborhood Health Center helping to implement the Food Pharmacy program.

Abraham studied Information Systems at the University of Guadalajara, and emigrated to San Francisco in 2011 where he began to develop as a community housing promoter. Abraham is currently studying at Berkeley City College for certification as a Community Health Worker.

SEATTLE, WA



ELLANY KAYCE is an enrolled Tribal member of the Tlingit Nation, Raven Clan. Throughout her career, she's worked as a racial and social justice educator and program developer, cultural consultant, event planner, coordinator, facilitator, trainer, curriculum developer and fundraiser.

Ellany has life-long experience working with Alaska Native, Native American, First Nations communities, and is a trainer, traditional drummer, singer, and dancer, and activist. She is an original founding member of the Equity Response Team joining in mid-March 2020.

Ellany previously served on the Transportation Equity Workgroup (TEW) for the Duwamish Tribe, and is actively engaged on multiple equity boards including Pandemic and Racism Community Advisory Group, the King County Equity Cabinet, the King County Metro Mobility Equity Cabinet, and the Re+ King County's Solid Waste Dept. She was founding Board Chair of the Nakani Native Program and briefly served as executive director during their transition.



MARIEL TORRES MEHDIPOUR specializes in fostering community-driven partnerships to create healthy, resilient, and equitable environments where all residents can thrive.

In her current role as deputy equity officer in the Office of Equity and Community Partnership at Public Health - Seattle and King County, Mariel contributes to equity-focused public health efforts.

She has been an engaged member of the American Public Health Association, including the Latino Caucus, since 2012. She has served as the co-chair and committee member on the Community Advisory Board for the Harborview Injury Prevention Research Center since 2019; is a board member of the WA Latinx Health Board; and serves as a board member on the Community Advisory Board for the University of Washington Health Promotion Research Center. Additionally, Mariel is a member of the Public Health Equity and Partnerships Workgroup.

Mariel's educational background includes a Master of Public Health in health promotion and education from the University of South Carolina and a bachelor's degree in Italian from the University of California, Los Angeles.



ROI-MARTIN BROWN is a dedicated advocate for equity and social justice, and his journey with the Equity Response Team (ERT) began in mid-March 2020. He was initially invited to join the team due to his role as a member of the Governing Board of Healthier Here, which is the local Accountable Community of Health organization in King County. Roi-Martin is an original founding member of the ERT, highlighting his commitment to its mission.

Roi-Martin also serves as a board member for Country Doctor Community Health Centers, an organization with deep historical roots in the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s and early 1970s. The organization's primary focus lies in community empowerment through healthcare, aligning with Roi-Martin's passion for making a positive impact on underserved communities.

Throughout his tenure with the ERT, Roi-Martin has concentrated on how the information and activities presented to the team can best support the safety and well-being of underrepresented populations in the local communities. His work reflects a profound commitment to addressing inequities and ensuring that underrepresented communities have access to the resources and support they need. Roi-Martin's contributions as a member of the ERT and his broader involvement in community health and social justice organizations make him an essential advocate for equity in King County.



WILLIE RHODES, JR plays an active role in the Assistant Equity Office, where he serves as the LGBTQIA+ and Faith-Based Liaison and is responsible for grant monitoring.

In this role, he collaborates with the equity officer on equity-centered projects and gives priority to engaging with LGBTQIA and faith-based communities. He also plays a significant role in monitoring, planning, and organizing public health grants, starting in 2022 and continuing to the present.

He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a Master of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. Additionally, he is a Certified Volunteer Management Certificate (CVM) holder.