

2024 OMH Awardee Meeting

Speaker & Moderator Bios

Tazeen Ahmed

Tazeen Ahmed is a Senior Program Coordinator of Health Policy & Equity at the Montgomery County ADAMHS Board. Tazeen has experience in working with healthcare and behavioral healthcare systems in identifying gaps in services and addressing social determinants of health at a systems level. She received her Master of Public Health at Boonshoft School of Medicine and holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree from Wright State University. Tazeen is committed to strengthening relationships with members from all sectors of the community to expand prevention efforts and address the social determinants of health to make an influential impact on her community. Her long-term goal is to utilize research methodology to expand evidence-based interventions across the behavioral health continuum for the development of effective, efficient, and culturally inclusive intervention to decrease the burden of disease and improve the health of all populations served.

Marcy Stein Albert, MD

Dr. Stein Albert is a general pediatrician with a 30+ year career in leadership, providing innovative clinical services to an under-served population in the NYC municipal hospital system. Dr. Stein Albert has been Director of Pediatrics for 30 years and has held many leadership roles at Queens Hospital - including President of the Medical Board, Credentials Chair, Patient Education Chair and Bylaws Chair, as well as system-wide leadership and collaborative roles. She has led multiple projects in maternal-child services that focus on maternal medical and behavioral health, early childhood nutrition, positive parenting and intellectual enrichment, breastfeeding, oral health prevention and promoting healthy lifestyles in children and youth. Dr. Stein Albert has a long history of overseeing care for children with chronic illnesses, including sickle cell disease, and had been a Co-PI on this grant for the past 3.5 years.

Renaisa Anthony, MD

Renaisa Anthony, MD, MPH, is a licensed physician, public health practitioner and the Founder of Momentum Park, “where moms come first and every moment matters.”

Born premature to a single mother, in one of the poorest zip codes in Detroit, taught Dr. Anthony firsthand the impact of social determinants on health and life outcomes. She is both personally and professionally dedicated to optimizing the health, lives and wellbeing of mommas and babies through the integration of medicine, public health, and technology.

Dr. Anthony has led across multiple sectors, including healthcare, government, non-profit, corporate and academics both nationally and globally. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the US Congressional Top 40 Under 40 Leader in Health Care Award, National Medical Association’s Top Doctor Under 40 Award, American Public Health Association’s Health Policy Leader Award, US Surgeon General Preterm Birth Leadership & Advocacy Award, TEDx Talk Speaker and testified before the US Congress for health care reform.

Dr. Anthony earned a Medical Degree from the University of Chicago, Masters of Public Health from Harvard University, PGY1 training at Vanderbilt University and fellowship at the National Institutes of Health.

Tristyn Ball, LSW

For over a decade, Tristyn Ball, LSW, OCPC, has been a noteworthy leader in the population-level behavioral health space. She is an experienced macro-level social worker, public administrator, and prevention consultant. Her leadership roles include serving as the Director of Prevention and Early Intervention at the Montgomery County ADAMHS Board and making significant contributions to the Montgomery County Prevention Coalition, the county's Zero Suicide Advisory Board, and the Promoting Resiliency Over Time to Eradicate Childhood Trauma (PROTECT) initiative. Her contributions to behavioral health in the region have been recognized with the Dayton Business Journal's Forty Under 40 award. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Ohio University and is a Doctor of Public Health Candidate at Indiana University. She currently resides in Troy, Ohio with her husband, Ty, and two dogs.

Harolyn Belcher, MD

Harolyn M.E. Belcher, MD, MHS, is a Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, Director of the Office for Health, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity, and Senior Director of the Center for Diversity in Public Health Leadership Training at Kennedy Krieger Institute. Dr. Belcher is a graduate of the Howard University BS-MD Honors program. She is a double-boarded Neurodevelopmental Pediatrician who is a Professor of Pediatrics at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She is jointly appointed in the Department of Mental Health and the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Formerly, Dr. Belcher was the Director of Research for the Family Center - a community-based mental health center that provides evidence-based mental health treatment focusing on children with a history of abuse and neglect and exposure to parental risk factors, poverty, racism, and community and domestic violence. Dr. Belcher currently directs/co-directs two CDC public health leadership programs (Maternal and Child Health Careers/Research Initiatives for Student Enhancement-Undergraduate Program [MCHC/RISE-UP] and the Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases RISE Fellowship), an HRSA-funded MCH undergraduate pathway training program, and an Office of Minority Health graduate health equity fellowship. To date, over 800 students participated in these public health leadership and research development programs. Dr. Belcher is the co-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the NIH-funded IDDRCs and the Health and Human Services Committee of the Baltimore City Social Determinants of Health Taskforce. She served on the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) Board on Children, Youth, and Families and the NAS Forum on Child –Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health. Dr. Belcher was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society at Howard University College of Medicine, her alma mater, for her “unparalleled work as a teacher and mentor to students.” She received the Johns Hopkins Institutions Diversity Recognition Award, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Multicultural Council Leadership in Diversity Award, and Morgan State University ASCEND Program Exemplary Mentor Award. Dr. Belcher is married and the mother of two adult offspring and grandmother of three.

Richard Calvin Chang

Richard Calvin Chang is a Native Hawaiian attorney who co-founded and currently serves as Director of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) Data Policy Lab at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Calvin has over fifteen years of experience working with NHPI communities and managing policy campaigns that address NHPI health disparities and

promote data equity. He co-authored demographic profiles of NHPs in the U.S. and California, the first Policy Platform Blueprint for NHPs in the United States, and recently co-authored the first NHP Data Policy Platform. He is currently working on projects that include a data curriculum for community organizations, developing accessible data tools, and supporting inclusive and equitable data policies. Calvin serves as the Board Chair of Pacific Islander Health Partnership. He earned his J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law and his M.S. in Computational Analysis and Public Policy from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. He was appointed to the U.S. Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations in 2021.

Daniel Chen, MD

Dr. Daniel Chen has been providing culturally sensitive mental health care to a diverse population in NYC since 2001. He is the Chairman of Psychiatry at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Chairman of Psychiatry and Addiction Services at Flushing Hospital Medical Center, President of the Advanced Center for Psychotherapy, Director of the Asian Behavioral Health Program at Flushing Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Chen is a Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is the past board member of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry, and Past President of the Queens County Psychiatric Society. He is the PI of the New York State Office of Mental Health's grants on implementing integrated physical and mental health care including the current grant on aging-in-place by providing integrated care to members affected by COVID in Jamaica, Queens. Dr. Chen participated in the DSM5 Field Trial. Dr. Chen served as the Co-President of the 5th World Congress. He co-organized the congress with Dr. Lewis-Fernandez, the President of the Congress. The congress was held in New York City in 2018. Over 400 investigators and practitioners of cultural psychiatry from 41 countries attended the congress. For over 23 years, Dr. Chen has been promoting sustainable longevity & successful aging, and health equity through providing integrated physical and behavioral health care, wellness self-management, healthy lifestyle, reducing stigma, and breaking structural barriers.

Tiffany Delgado-Bickley

Tiffany Delgado-Bickley, MS, is the Program Manager of Clinical Health Equity at Jefferson Health. With more than 15 years of experience in healthcare advocacy, she has dedicated her career to working with underserved patient populations, particularly focusing on mental health and women and children's health. Her strong passion for community health and her commitment to addressing health inequities are evident in her work. Presently, Tiffany is overseeing important initiatives aimed at improving healthcare access for diverse patients. She is managing programs dedicated to breaking down language barriers, making it easier for patients to navigate the healthcare system. Additionally, she is actively involved in establishing an equity governance structure to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements while fostering meaningful engagement with stakeholders. Through her efforts, Tiffany is striving to make a positive impact on healthcare equity and the overall well-being of the community she serves. Tiffany holds a BS in Psychology from Temple University and a MS in Nonprofit Leadership from LaSalle University.

Michelle Dennison, PhD

Michelle Dennison is the Vice-President of Policy and Prevention at the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic. She is responsible for developing effective relationships that lead to health policies benefiting the American Indian population. Michelle also oversees diabetes and prevention operations for the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic. Dr. Dennison is a previous Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow and served in the office of the U.S. Surgeon General. She is a previous awardee of the National Congress of American Indians Graduate Health Fellowship, the National Indian Health Board's Area/Regional Impact Award, and the Indian Health Service's award for Exceptional Performance for Health Promotion and Wellness. Dr. Dennison serves on the Board of Directors for the Lynn Health Institute and Board of Advisors for the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship and the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center. Michelle served as a co-author for the American Diabetes Association's Nutrition Therapy for Adults with Diabetes or Pre-Diabetes: A Consensus Report. Michelle is also an author of the 2022 National Diabetes Self-Management Education Standards Revision and in the American Indian Food and Culture Chapter of the Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics Food and Culture Book (2024).

Gerold Dermid

Gerold Dermid, MBA serves as the Assistant Director of Strategy, Marketing, and Research for the Larson Institute for Health Impact and Equity housed within the School of Public Health at the University of Nevada Reno. His work focuses on transformative consumer research and practice. His research and engagement are centered in the unique roles of identity, agency and motivation on consumer behavior. His work intersects the fields of marketing, management, public health and public policy. His work seeks to develop deeper understandings of diverse communities to effect co-created, community responsive, place-based solutions to social problems. Mr. Dermid has worked in the field of public health over 20 years, focusing on health promotion, policy development, social marketing and community engagement. Mr. Dermid has provided leadership and strategic direction to communities throughout the world in health communication, disease prevention, social justice and international development. He currently manages a diverse portfolio of equity-centered programs locally, nationally and internationally, with a special focus on elevating the often under-realized but transformative assets of traditionally underserved communities.

Connie Farakhan

Ms. Connie Farakhan has worked over 45 years in health, human services, and community health. She holds an MA and BA in Psychology with a minor in Biology. Connie has served over 30 years as a City of Kansas City employee, starting in the early 80's in the Department of Urban Affairs, as part of the Management Information and Analysis Unit. Connie began working for the Kansas City, Missouri Health Department in 1995. During her tenure with the department, she has been a key staff in numerous and varied Health Department roles. Examples include serving as the Health Department's local Office of Minority Health, the Department's Safety Trainer, "Duty Officer" for emergency response, Chronic Disease Self- Management trainer, liaison for a bi-state regional collaborative to reduce obesity, liaison for the regional/bi-state Federal Community Transformation grant; as the department's staff working with the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services to implement numerous policy changes for Kansas City (smoke free housing & parks, healthier vending, healthier eating in stores, increased physical

activities in child care centers and schools, breast-feeding friendly worksites, etc.). Ms. Farakhan's past also included being the lead staff for the Mayor's Minority Health Improvement Task Force and committees, which lead to the establishment of the Kansas City Health Commission; a key staff during the Health Department's Declaration of a State of Emergency for HIV; and she has worked as a Communications Team member to respond to media inquiries, etc. Ms. Farakhan currently serves in the capacity of a Lead Health Educator as part of a Federal Office of Minority Health Grant to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and improve community and healthcare practitioner communications through Health Literacy education and training. She also continues to work to share general health education with communities and reduce health disparities in the effort to increase health equity.

Iris Feinberg, PhD

Dr. Iris Feinberg is an assistant research professor in Learning Sciences and associate director of the Adult Literacy Research Center at Georgia State University. She is a health literacy subject matter expert with significant expertise completing research, translation, and dissemination of culturally and linguistically responsive health promotion and education for both individuals and organizations. She is currently the PI of an Office of Minority Health Promoting Equitable Access to Language Services (PEALS) grant (CPIMP221348) that improves access to federal language rights and interpreter services in the emergency department of Grady Memorial Hospital.

Earl Felisme

Earl M. Felisme, currently a Health Navigator and Case Manager for newly arrived refugees and asylees at Family Health Centers of San Diego. Earl is also Tri Chair for Childhood Obesity Initiative. Throughout his life's journey, Earl has lived and served in various places such as Washington D.C, Maryland, Virginia and now California. Earl started his career as a HIV Pre & Post Test Counselor and has worked his way up into serving various roles throughout these states. Earl helped coordinated needle exchange outreach programs in Baltimore MD, trained students from John Hopkins University on how to perform successful and safe street outreach. As a member of the Urban League in Virginia, Earl ran successful voting and food drives. He also helped translate for the Virginia Department of Health to link Haitian migrants to medical care services. Earl has also coordinated several Campaigns for CDC, Greater Than Aids and Stomach Cancer Awareness. Earl was also awarded a Walter M Shell Humanitarian award in February of 2018.

Scott Folks

Scott Folks is the Program Manager for the Public Health Youth Ambassadors Program (PHYAP). In this role, he is responsible for overseeing the growth and development of a forward-reaching initiative that targets underserved youth populations in Fairfax County, Virginia. Funded by the Office of Minority Health and the Fairfax County Health Department, it has been recognized for its impact on high-school age individuals across the region. Formerly, Mr. Folks was the Senior Program Manager for the Institute of Public Health Innovation (IPHI). In that role, he is jointly responsible for helping to enhance the organization's operational readiness and program capabilities across several high-profile partnerships, including its Covid-19 Containment efforts with the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD). Mr. Folks background features more than two decades of experience managing high-profile strategic

projects across health care, pharmaceuticals, education, non-profits, and entertainment. This includes leadership roles as a Senior Executive for several Fortune 500 companies including Sony, Time/Warner, and Bertelsmann, along with, enterprise-level consulting responsibilities for both PhRMA and AARP. Mr. Folks pursued his Marketing studies at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Humanities from Thomas Edison State University in Trenton, New Jersey. He earned his Master's degree in Communications, Culture, and Technology (with a Minor in Health Communications) from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Anne Gaglioti, MD

Dr. Anne Gaglioti is a family physician and an Associate Professor at The Population Health Research Institute at The MetroHealth System and Case Western Reserve University and the Center for Community Health Integration at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a Senior Strategic Advisor and Associate Professor at the National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. She is originally from Cleveland, Ohio. She completed her medical school and residency training in Family Medicine at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. She completed fellowship training in Primary Care Health Policy and Research at Georgetown University and the Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies in Washington, DC. She received her Master of Science in Clinical Research at Morehouse School of Medicine. Her academic career as a teacher and researcher has been focused on advancing equity, patient and stakeholder-engaged research infrastructure, and measurement of the impact the primary care system has on health and health equity. As co-director of the Southeast Regional Clinicians Network (SERCN), a practice-based research network made up of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) across eight southeastern states; she conducts practice-based research in the primary care safety net grounded in a robust patient and stakeholder engagement infrastructure. She has clinical experience practicing across multiple safety net primary care settings including FQHCs, county health clinics, free clinics, and academic health centers. She is also a health services researcher. Her work with health care claims and other large datasets focuses on the intersection of primary care, place, and health equity among populations disproportionately impacted by health inequities. Dr. Gaglioti has served as the research core director of the National COVID-19 Resiliency Network (NCRN) from 2020-2024. NCRN is a national coalition of community-based organizations, academic, and private partners serving diverse priority populations funded by a 40-million-dollar award from the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health.

Socorro Garcia

Socorro Garcia, originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico, is deeply dedicated to serving communities and supporting vulnerable children and families. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, where she actively engaged in local community projects. Driven by a strong belief in maternal and family services, Socorro has dedicated her career to assisting vulnerable communities. She began by working with troubled youths in a local group home before joining The Children's Home Society of NJ (CHS) in 2009. There, she advocated for kinship caregivers and their families as an ombudsman for the Kinship Cares program. Transitioning to the Family Success Center at CHS in 2012 allowed her to further her passion for supporting children and families. In her 15-year tenure at CHS, Socorro has continued to grow both personally and professionally. In 2020, she earned her Master's

degree in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in Nonprofit Management from Northcentral University. She believes in the power of education and knowledge to effect change in communities. Currently, Socorro is thrilled for the opportunity to oversee the Perinatal Community Integration Model, viewing it as a privilege to replicate and showcase the work that CHS does. However, what truly matters to her is the impact model has on the lives of women, children, and families in need. Socorro believes that being able to help so many individuals through their model is what truly counts in the end.

Mahadere Getachew

Mahadere Getachew is an accomplished project manager with over a decade of experience leading complex initiatives across various countries in East and Southern Africa, as well as the United States. Throughout her career, Mahadere has demonstrated expertise in managing a diverse array of public health projects, spanning health systems strengthening, humanitarian response, and governance. In August 2020, amidst the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mahadere joined the Fairfax County Health Department as a Community Health Specialist. Since January 2022, she has served as the Project Manager for Stronger2, overseeing its implementation and strategic direction.

Julie Grabarkewitz

Julie Grabarkewitz has more than 30 years of experience in integrated marketing, including strategic planning, implementation, optimization and evaluation of national initiatives making an impact on the health for all. During her 25-year career at the American Heart Association, Julie worked in news media relations before moving into integrated marketing. Before joining the American Heart Association, Julie led key accounts at major marketing agencies, including Publicis Mid-America. Julie earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and a Certificate in Digital Media and Marketing from Duke University Continuing Education.

Rochelle Heard

Rochelle Heard, MPH, currently serves as the Program Manager of Community Engagement for the National COVID-19 Resiliency Network at Morehouse School of Medicine, where she engages national, state, and local partners to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on disproportionately impacted communities. Prior to joining Morehouse School of Medicine, she served as a Research Associate for a private program evaluation firm. During that time, she evaluated a multitude of prevention programs and community health coalitions and discovered her passion for addressing health inequities by engaging socially vulnerable populations through community-based participatory research. Her goal is to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities and sustain the outcomes achieved through her community engagement and public health prevention efforts.

Rhonda Holliday

Rhonda Conerly Holliday, PhD is a Professor in the Departments of Community Health and Preventive Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine with a secondary appointment in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She conducts research on HIV and substance use prevention, minority health issues and community-based participatory research. She has focused on populations impacted by the criminal legal justice systems, both adolescents and adults. Dr.

Holliday has served as the Principal Investigator for the Morehouse School of Medicine's Prevention Research Center's core research projects examining HIV prevention adolescents and emerging adults for over a decade. Dr. Holliday is the Community Engagement Core Director for Center for Translational Research in Health Disparities at Morehouse School of Medicine and the Co-Director of the Community Liaison Core for the Deep South Research Center on Minority Aging Research, housed at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She also serves as the Co-Director of the Health Equity Scientific Working Group with the Emory Center for AIDS Research. Dr. Holliday is the Strategic Lead for the Communications and Dissemination Core with the National COVID-19 Resiliency Network, where she works with a team of partners and community members to develop culturally and linguistically appropriate health communications.

Cindy Hou, MD

Dr. Hou is the Infection Control Officer and Medical Director of Research for Jefferson Health - New Jersey and an Infectious Diseases specialist. She is dually board-certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases. Dr. Hou has expertise in sepsis, antibiotic stewardship, infection prevention, quality improvement, patient safety, equity and language access. In addition, Dr. Hou is the Chief Medical Officer of the Sepsis Alliance and a member of its Board of Directors. She earned an M.B.A. and M.A. from Boston University, a D.O. from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, and B.S. from Yale University. She has a Certification in Infection Prevention and Control, is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality, and a Certified Professional in Patient Safety. Dr. Hou is a Fellow for the American College of Osteopathic Internists, American College of Physicians, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. She is the principal investigator for an Office of Minority Health grant on Project ROLE – Reducing Risk of Readmission, Optimizing Language Access and Improving Equity. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her husband Brian.

Eddie Hu

Residing in Los Angeles, Eddie Hu (He/Him) currently serves as an Associate Policy Director at Asian Resources, Inc. With over seven years of experience in public health, Eddie is a dedicated health advocate, leading efforts to address health disparities among Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. He advocates for equitable access to health care and oral health services, culturally and linguistically appropriate care, quality health care, and social determinants of health at local, state, and national levels. As a first-generation immigrant, Eddie is passionate about equitable social change. He actively participates in coalitions and committees focusing on health care access, data equity, oral health access, and cultural and linguistic access. Eddie holds a Master of Public Health and a Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California and is fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin.

Priscilla Huang

Priscilla Huang (she/her) is the founding executive director of the Center for Asian Americans in Action, a nonprofit organization that conducts policy analysis, engages in policy advocacy, and strengthens the policy capacity of community-based organizations to build a more equitable society for Asian Americans in Orange County and beyond. Priscilla has a background in health care policy, health equity, immigrant health coverage, and reproductive and sexual health. She was a senior attorney at the National Health Law Program and served as a consultant and senior

advisor to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders under the Obama Administration. Priscilla also spent over 10 years as a non-profit advocate in Washington, D.C. working on a variety of federal policy issues impacting Asian American communities. Priscilla received her JD from American University, Washington College of Law, where she was one of ten Public Interest/Public Service Scholars. She received a BA in English and Philosophy from Boston College. Priscilla was a Georgetown Women's Law and Public Policy Fellow, has served on several boards and advisory committees and has been recognized for her leadership by the National Immigration Law Center, Families USA, and the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. She spends her free time trying to keep up with her two energetic young boys, who inspire her to fight for a more just and equitable world.

Dawn Hunter

Dawn is a public health lawyer and experienced state health department policymaker who specializes in the use of law and policy to improve health outcomes and advance racial health equity. Specifically, she is interested in civic health and anti-racism in public health practice, and was the lead author of the Health & Democracy Index and is a co-founder of the Collaborative for Anti-Racism & Equity. Dawn is a skilled facilitator who finds joy in leading people through transformative learning opportunities. She has served as an advisor and partner on several key leadership initiatives including Emerging Leaders in Public Health and Diverse Executives Leading in Public Health. She is an advocate for strategies to operationalize equity through a healthy and engaged workforce. Dawn recently founded The Dawn Lab, boutique consulting firm that provides research and analysis, training, and leadership development in support of more equitable, inclusive communities. Dawn is a certified public health professional and licensed member of the Florida Bar and holds certificates in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace as well as Inclusive and Ethical Leadership from the University of South Florida Muma College of Business. She is also trained in Facilitation for Racial Justice by the Interaction Institute for Social Change. Dawn received her A.B. in English Literature from Princeton University, her B.S. in Microbiology and her M.P.H. in Global Communicable Disease from the University of South Florida, and her J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. Dawn was awarded the APHA Law Section Jennifer Robbins Award for the Practice of Public Health Law in 2021 and received a 2023 Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of South Florida, College of Public Health.

Matthew Jansen

Matthew Jansen is the Technology Strategist for Morehouse School of Medicine's National COVID-19 Residency Network. His experience as President & Chief Executive Officer for Acorn Healthcare Credentialing Solutions with over 15-years experience in medical staffing services, patient access, virtual care, and digital health enterprise solutions development for Provider Networks, Insurance Providers, Payviders, Academic Medical Centers, Non/For-Profit Health Systems, Regional and Rural Critical Access Hospitals has paved the way for his work in the Healthcare space. Matthew's experience has led to several healthcare industry leadership positions at KPMG where he was a Director in Government and Healthcare Lifesciences and Director of Development at Iron Bow Healthcare Solutions.

Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan, DrPH

Dr. Jernigan is the Director of the Center for Indigenous Health Research and Policy and a Professor of Medicine and Rural Health at the Center for Health Sciences at Oklahoma State University. She has been the principal investigator for more than a dozen research studies focused on improving Indigenous food systems through policy and environmental interventions. Dr. Jernigan is a member of the CDC Fries Prize Award Jury, a member of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Advisory Committee, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences Unequal Treatment in Healthcare Advisory Committee. She is a member of the Advisory Council for the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Dr. Jernigan received her Dr.PH. from the University of California, Berkeley, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cardiovascular disease risk reduction at the Stanford Prevention Research Center. She is an enrolled citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Pamela Garmon Johnson

Pamela serves as National Vice-President, Health Equity and Partnerships and National Executive Director for the National Hypertension Control Initiative for the American Heart Association where she is responsible for leading the strategic planning for improving the health of communities across the United States by identifying opportunities with powerful partnerships to impact transformative lifestyle and community change. Pamela has 20+ years of strategic planning, change management, marketing and accounting experience and is passionate about empowering individuals, communities and corporations to be agents for change. Pamela received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas and her Master of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Pamela is a Board Member for the CHIArts Foundation, Corewell Health Lakeland, AIDS United Advisory Board Member and Babson Women of Excellence Coach.

Luke Keating

Luke is a Biostatistician for the Department of Research, Education, & Innovation at Medisys Health Network, which supports research and research training across both Jamaica Hospital Medical Center and Flushing Hospital Medical Center. He is currently enrolled in the Clinical Psychology PhD program at St. John's University and is a doctoral fellow of the Collaborative Health Integration Research Program (CHIRP), an interdisciplinary behavioral medicine research and research training program with a focus on health disparities. He has published in the areas of neuropsychology, health psychology, and pedagogical science. In the HEAR-US Program, he provides data management and analysis support and has been working to establish ongoing monitoring of outcomes linked to the program's goals via multiple data sources.

Jorge de la Hoz Leal

Jorge used to collaborate with Alce Su Voz as interpreter and volunteer. After graduating from Wichita State University, he has joined the organization as a Graduate Research Assistant. He is a translator and interpreter and speaks fluently Spanish, English, and French. He will continue his education with a PhD program in Hispanic Linguistics in the University of Arizona.

Rebecca Ledsky

Rebecca Ledsky is a Senior Technical Advisor for Evaluation and Research in Social Marketing and Communication (SMC) at FHI 360. She brings over 30 years of experience in research and

evaluation design, implementation, analysis, technical assistance, and management to this project. She is the Principal Investigator for the HHS/OMH-funded project entitled "The Black Family Focused Diabetes Control, Self-Management, and Prevention Program." Ms. Ledsky has conducted research and evaluation activities concerning chronic disease and diabetes control, self-management, and prevention in support of self-management programs as well as the National Diabetes Prevention Program and Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support programs. Her work in these areas dates to 2010. She has considerable experience in designing and conducting research and evaluation; speaking with people with chronic diseases, including diabetes or those at risk of diabetes; health care professionals, community health workers, health care management and support program facilitators; and has worked with a range of types of organizations delivering medical support and lifestyle change programs, including the Y, local health departments, hospital systems, employers, and community and faith based organizations. She frequently works with medically underserved populations, including those facing health disparities and racial equity issues. These include work with rural and tribal populations. Ms. Ledsky has conducted her participatory activities with youth and adults.

Cevadne Lee

With roots in China, planted in Venezuela, Cevadne immigrated to the United States at the age of 5. Cevadne continued to grow in community and academic spaces working on community-partnered participatory health research, chronic disease interventions, immigrant rights, health policy and advocacy. Her current ongoing projects at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) include: health policies and data inequities, and research examining if interventions are optimally located to achieve health equity among Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans. Cevadne earned her Master of Public Health from Claremont Graduate University and Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with a minor in Epidemiology and Public Health from UCI. Cevadne is the Principal Investigator for the Southern California Pacific Islander and Asian American Data Equity and Health Policy Collaborative, a demonstration site for the OMH Initiative, Framework to Address Health Disparities through Collaborative Policy Efforts.

Jonathan (Tana) Lepule

Jonathan "Tana" Lepule's expertise and collaboration with local, state and national AA and NHPI communities spans over twenty years. He has developed and implemented culturally appropriate and linguistically accessible educational, social, and health services for mainstream and culturally diverse communities. Additionally, Tana has facilitated, trained, provided technical assistance and led curriculum development to build capacity among individuals, organizations, educational and government institutions. This has led to success with community health prevention campaigns and policy development that focused on cancer, chronic disease and addictions. Tana was also an Executive Director for Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC) and is currently a Tri-Chair for the San Diego Childhood Obesity Initiative's Community Council. He has served on many boards and commissions including: CA Commission on Asian American & Pacific Islander American Affairs, API Vote, San Diego Police Chief's API Advisory Board, San Diego Mayor's API Advisory Board and the Pacific Islander Festival Association (PIFA) to name a few.

Rocina Lizarraga

Rocina works at Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center as Garden Support Specialist & Project Coordinator, collecting direct input from residents through strategic focus groups on topics like food behavior, social justice, housing and transportation equity. She is a seasoned volunteer at public school systems, parent advocate for English Learners, bilingualism, special education & socio-emotional support for all students. She serves as a Board Trustee in the Public School District. Rocina was awarded as Volunteer of the Year in 2014 by the County of San Diego for her contributions on the Communities of Excellence project, targeting food deserts, analyzing data on chronic conditions, corner stores and more. She has been involved with the San Diego Childhood Obesity Initiative since 2020 and was elected as Community Council Chair in 2022.

Dominic Mack, MD

Dominic Hugo Mack is a Professor of Family Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) and serves as Director of the National Center for Primary Care (NCPC). Dominic leads NCPC's promotion of health equity and population health through the development of strategies to further research, innovations and trainings that advance primary care systems. NCPC concentrates program development in four areas: Big Data Health Equity Research, Health Policy, Substance Use Prevention and Treatment, and Digital Health. He is the Principal Investigator and Director of the National COVID-19 Resiliency Network (NCRN), an Office of Minority Health cooperative agreement with MSM. Dominic is founder and past president of Mack Medical Consultants, a health advisory company dedicated to the improvement of business practices in medical organizations. Dr. Mack has practiced in Georgia for many years and served in various local, state, and national leadership roles within non-profit and for-profit organizations including service in the US Federally Qualified Health Center system. Dominic strives to develop national partnerships in rural and urban communities to implement equitable and sustainable community-based interventions for better health outcomes for all people.

Christen Marquez

Christen Marquez is the program manager for the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Data Policy Lab. She is the conduit between The Lab, the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community. She ensures timely delivery of project milestones and grant reporting, while also understanding and addressing specific needs of the NHPI community. Over the last fifteen years, Marquez has maintained intertwining career paths in communications, television production, and nonprofit program management, often on projects related to health, health equity, and human rights. She worked in-depth with the NHPI community in California during her time with the Demographics Research Division of the Asian Americans Advancing Justice on successfully lowering the Census undercount of NHPI and Asian American groups throughout the state. As a producer on the 2020 film *Belly of the Beast*, which won an Emmy for Outstanding Current Affairs Documentary. Marquez harnessed the power of storytelling and community collaboration that was part of a larger advocacy campaign to secure \$4.5 million in compensation for victims of coerced illegal sterilization in the state of California. She is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and holds a BFA in Film and Television Production.

Maria Portela Martinez, MD

Dr. Portela is the Chief of the Family Medicine Section within the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Medical Faculty Associates at George Washington University (GW). She is also the Medical Director of the George Washington Immediate Primary Care Clinics. Through this role she works towards expanding the footprint of Primary Care and Family Medicine at GW and the Medical Faculty Associates to improve access and quality of care in the community as well as to increase family medicine exposure and mentorship opportunities for students. Dr. Portela is an Assistant Professor at the School of Medicine, where she serves as a Professional Development Mentor and a Public Health Mentor at the medical school. Dr. Portela prior worked in HHS at the Health Resources Services Administration leading efforts to re-envision primary care training focused on transforming health care delivery systems aimed at improving access, quality of care and cost-effectiveness. Dr. Portela previously provided volunteer clinical services at Unity Health Care, a Federally Qualified Health Center in DC and in 2017 was an Atlantic Fellow for Health Equity at George Washington University. Previously, while pursuing medical school training in her native Puerto Rico, she shared in the development of an assessment on the health and education sectors for President Obama's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Economic Development. Subsequently, she pursued residency training at Duke, and completed the Commonwealth Fund Mongan Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard, where she obtained her master's degree with concentrations in Public Health Leadership and Health Policy and Management. Dr. Portela has taken diverse leadership roles and has served in Health Equity local, state and national boards and committees. She is passionate about increasing access and quality of health care services to vulnerable populations, and about teaching, mentorship, diversity, and inclusion.

Shianny Martinez

Shianny Martinez is the Project Manager for the “Bronx PEACH” (Bronx Promote Earned Income Tax Credit to Support At-risk Children) Program. She has been part of the Montefiore Einstein community for the last 7 years and has extensive experience working in a variety of health-related settings, including inpatient and outpatient clinics, and community health centers. Her current project, “Bronx PEACH”, is focused on determining if enhanced Earned Income Tax Credit outreach and education activities in an eight-zip code area at risk for ACEs will increase EITC receipt and changes in risk protective factors for ACEs. As part of the project, Shianny provides support to individuals and families in accessing health services and resources. Shianny is currently a student at New York Medical College pursuing her master's degree in public health with a concentration in Epidemiology. Through her studies and health-care experience, she has gained knowledge in health promotion, disease prevention, community development, and health education.

Barbara McCormick

Barbara McCormick DNP, RN, CEN is a resource nurse and research fellow for Jefferson Health. She has held various roles in her 30 years with a focus on emergency and critical care. She earned her doctorate in nursing from Drexel University which focused on inter-professional education and practice. Barbara is adjunct faculty for Thomas Jefferson University and Rutgers University, Camden and also serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Delaware Air National Guard.

Laura McKieran, DrPH

Laura McKieran, DrPH is Executive Director of Community Information Now (CINow) and an Associate Professor of Management, Policy and Community Health at the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in San Antonio. She earned her Doctor of Public Health degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health in 1998, focusing on community involvement and power in health care planning and systems. Prior to joining CINow she worked in community- and program-level outcome measurement at the United Way of America, in public health governance at the New York Academy of Medicine, and in various data- and grant-related positions at CentroMed, a large Federally Qualified Health Center in San Antonio. She came to CINow in 2010 after launching an independent consulting practice to assist nonprofits and health care organizations with community assessment, evaluation, health IT, and integration of behavioral and primary health care. She served on the Executive Committee of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) from 2016 to 2019 and won the Network Steward Award in 2021.

Melissa Medina

Melissa is a dedicated research assistant for Wichita State University, responsible for collecting data on how interpretive services are provided and paid. She holds an undergraduate degree in Health Service Management and Community Development, which she earned in 2018. She is pursuing a Master's in Health Administration at Wichita State University, with a graduation date set for December 2024. With over ten years of experience in the healthcare industry, Melissa is passionate about promoting health equity for non-English speaking individuals, and her work is a testament to her commitment to this vital cause.

Katie Miller

Katie is based in Baltimore and has worked on (im)migration issues for most of the last decade. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guyana (2012-2014) and was a Peacemaker Fellow at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) where she received her M.S. in Geography and Environmental Systems. Prior to her time with Centro de los Derechos del Migrante (CDM), she was the Deputy Director of the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs where she oversaw the city's strategy for COVID-19 response in immigrant and limited English proficient communities. She'd love to chat with you about language access and (im)migrant-focused public service!

Kelly Morning

Kelly Morning, MPH received her graduate degree with an emphasis in social and behavioral health. She has worked in the areas of program development, management, communication, and evaluation. Ms. Morning has served as a technical assistance partner for several training and evaluation projects throughout the state of Nevada and has been involved in international health education/communication projects throughout the world. Ms. Morning has served as a co-investigator on multiple projects funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Ms. Morning has collaborated with state and local health authorities, non-profit partners, and academic institutions on a variety of topics including communication campaigns, evaluation projects, strategic plans and associated compliance, and workforce development initiatives.

Lan Nguyễn, PhD

Lan Nguyễn is the Public Health Advocacy Project Manager supporting the San Diego Childhood Obesity Initiative. Her role includes centering community voices in collective action through research and advocacy with diverse communities to enhance community well-being. Lan has over 20 years of experience working in grassroots organizations, the public and private sectors, and the academy across the globe. She specializes in research, policy advocacy, and program development focused on social and spatial justice at the intersection of climate change, disaster management, and public health. Early in her career she honed her community engagement skills to collaborate with neighborhood residents and non-profits to develop community gardens, neighborhood parks, improve pedestrian safety in transportation corridors, enhance affordable housing conditions, and promote anti-poverty campaigns. Her work gained local and state recognition for outstanding community development planning leadership. She blended her community development expertise with emergency management to elevate community knowledge and assets for disaster management and climate justice in local, state, and federal planning, training, and exercise programs. She helped lead a coalition of 16 BIPOC-led health boards to advocate for health equity, build organizational capacity, and respond to COVID-19 in Washington State. Lan earned her doctorate at the University of Washington in Interdisciplinary Urban Design and Planning, master's degree in the same area of study at the University of California, Irvine, and bachelor's degree at the University of California, Riverside in Liberal Studies. During her academic career at the University of Washington she has earned two teaching excellence awards and several distinguished student awards including the Husky 100 for innovative and novel solutions thinking when applying knowledge to practice. Lan joined the Center for Community Health in 2023.

Ricardo Ortiz

Ricardo Ortiz is a Mixteco-Oaxacan activist and journalist focusing on human and labor rights in the US and Mexico. His experience as the son of an indigenous teacher and union activist has shaped his commitment to social justice. At CDM, he strives to break down linguistic barriers and organize the community to know their rights. In this presentation, he will share their struggle and the positive impact on the health of multilingual communities.

Liliana Osorio

Liliana works for the UCSD Center for Community Health as a Project Manager facilitating the community work within the San Diego Childhood Obesity Initiative. She has over 20 years of experience working on Migrant, Latino and Equity Health. During this time, she has led several projects at a local, state and national levels, aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of Latino immigrants and historically underserved populations. Liliana has collaborated in the development of manuals and trainings for Community Health Workers and Community Leaders, and engaged in projects that promotes community empowerment and structural changes. Liliana received her Bachelor's degree in Social Communication and Journalism at Colombia, and her Master's in Public Health at San Diego State University.

Savannah Paschal

Savannah serves as a program manager at Alce su Voz, focusing on empowering communities through community education. With a Bachelor's degree in K-12 Spanish Education and minor in

Political Science from Wichita State University, Savannah combines their passion for language access with their dedication to civic engagement.

Simone Perez-Garcia

Simone Perez-Garcia (she/her) is the Program Coordinator for the Office of Minority Health (OMH) Health Equity Leadership Development Initiative (HELDI) at Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity and is an Institute Associate at the Social Mission Alliance (SMA). Before joining SMA and the Mullan Institute, she served as the Administrative Assistant and then Program Coordinator for the Milken Institute School of Public Health Department of Epidemiology. Spurred by her interest in social justice and youth advocacy, she has worked in social service and pediatric healthcare settings, including Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. Simone received an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Maryland and supported a variety of research efforts regarding the intersection of gender, culture, and health as an undergraduate student. She continues to participate in youth support services across the Washington, DC area on a volunteer basis and plans to pursue a master's degree in public health.

Jean-Bernard Poulard, MD

Dr. Poulard is a Colon and Rectal Surgeon and Health Care administrator. He has served as Associate director for the Department of Surgery at Queens Hospital Center, Director of Residency Surgical Education at Queens Hospital Center and Regional Director for Quality and Performance Improvement at Queens and Elmhurst Hospitals. He has been actively involved in promoting Quality, Safety and Equity for vulnerable population. He is one of the Principal Investigators and the Project Manager for the HHS/OMH Sickle Cell Grant.

Maritza I. Raimundi-Petroski

Maritza I. Raimundi-Petroski has worked for The Children's Home Society of NJ (CHSofNJ) for the past 17 years, where she is currently the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Prevention Programs and Community Engagement. She holds a Masters degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management from Rutgers University. She is also a trained Community Health Worker and a certified professional in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Maritza brings 25 years of program management and organizational leadership to the CHSofNJ Executive Management Team. She is responsible for the Maternal Child Health and Family Support portfolio at the organization. In her current role, she oversees the development and implementation of prenatal and postnatal health education, community doula programs, Family Success Centers, WIC program, employee health and wellness initiatives, and other services. Her work helps thousands of pregnant and newly post-partum individuals achieve outcomes that exceed county and state averages and increases opportunities for those who are underrepresented in our communities. Maritza was appointed by NJ Governor Murphy to serve as a Board of Trustee for the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority and the Trenton Health Team. She is also an Advisory Board member for Womanspace and the NJ Doula Learning Collaborative. She serves as a mentor and role model for Hispanics Inspiring Students' Performance and Achievement (HISPA). Recently, she was awarded the 2023 Community Champion Award by the BURKE Foundation and received the NJ 2021 Changemaker Award by the Institute for Nonprofit Practice.

Montrece Ransom

Montrece McNeill Ransom, JD, MPH currently serves as the Director of the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training. Ms. Ransom was appointed as a Presidential Management Fellow and worked at CDC for almost 20 years. For the last 10 years of her service, Ms. Ransom led CDC's public health law related training and workforce development efforts. She received her law degree from the University of Alabama, her MPH from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, and her Executive Leadership Coaching Certification from Georgetown University. In addition, she has received a certificate in training and facilitation from the Association of Talent Development. Ms. Ransom is the ABA Health Law Section's 2019 Champion of Diversity and Inclusion Awardee, and the 2017 recipient of the American Public Health Association Jennifer Robbins Award for the Practice of Public Health Law. She is the President of the American Society for Law, Medicine, and Ethics and serves on the Advisory Committee for the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power and Potential. Devoted to helping people reach their human potential, Ms. Ransom also spends a lot of time working on career pathing and professional development with new public health practitioners and public health lawyers. She is also a well-known public speaker, peer-reviewed published author, the Co-Editor of the textbook, Public Health Law: Concepts and Case Studies.

Shanda Delos Reyes

Shanda Delos Reyes is a first-generation Filipino immigrant, driven by a passion for mental health and community healing. Previously, she served as UHM's Legislative Fellow, advocating for mental health resources on behalf of undergraduate students during the 2017 Hawai'i legislative session. Following this, she worked for three consecutive sessions in the Hawai'i House of Representatives, serving as a Legislative Aide for the Committee on Labor and Employment, as well as holding roles as a Committee Clerk for Higher Education and Consumer Protection and Commerce. Today, she brings her dedication to her role as the Project Administrator for the University of Hawai'i Center of Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity (CIIHE), ensuring that project objectives and expenditures align with community values.

Kenneth Rivlin, MD

Dr. Kenneth Rivlin is the Associate Vice Chairman for Academics in the Department of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi. He is also an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Rivlin's goal is to eliminate healthcare disparities faced by people living with sickle cell disease. He is committed to achieving this aim through quality improvement, policy advocacy, and research. Throughout his career, Dr. Rivlin has led several federally and state-funded grants to improve care for people with sickle cell disease. Currently, he serves as the New York State lead on an HRSA grant that focuses on driving quality improvement for sickle cell disease and is a Co-Principal Investigator on an HHS - Office of Minority Health grant to increase the use of hydroxyurea in children. He is also the Principal Investigator for the NYC Health + Hospitals Consortium for the American Society of Hematology Sickle Cell Disease Clinical Trial Network and on multiple clinical trials for sickle cell disease.

Rachelle Robley

Rachelle Robley has 8 years of experience developing innovative social impact startup organizations and community health initiatives. She is passionate about working with emerging

founders to build organizations that operationalize their visions for systemic change. Previous work includes developing a community-based coalition focused on increasing STEM education access in Silicon Valley, a global social entrepreneurship program for girls to develop apps that solve problems in their communities, and a national leadership development program for Indigenous and BIPOC social justice leaders. Her understanding of Indigenous community health knowledge, concepts, and research comes from her time at Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services, a Federally Qualified Health Center based in Honolulu, HI. Most recently, she has helped operationalize the Office of Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation, the first research unit of its kind to exist at an R1 university (University of Hawai‘i). She was born and raised in Hawa‘i and identifies as Kānaka Maoli.

Maegan Samuel, MPH

Maegan Samuel, MPH is a Programs Coordinator and has been with the National Hispanic Medical Association since May 2022. She has prior experience in HIV/AIDS prevention and technical assistance, as well as COVID-19 emergency response, contact tracing, and surveillance. Maegan received her MPH in 2020 from The George Washington University's Milken Institute of Public Health and her Bachelor's degree in Human Development from Howard University.

Eduardo Sanchez, MD

Dr. Eduardo Sanchez serves as Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Prevention for the American Heart Association (AHA) He is the Principal Investigator (PI) of the National Hypertension Control Initiative (NHCI), a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). He is the AHA clinical lead on Target: BP (a joint blood pressure control initiative with the American Medical Association) and KnowDiabetesbyHeart™ (a joint cardiovascular risk factor control initiative with the American Diabetes Association). He is one of the authors of the AHA Presidential Advisory on Structural Racism and its health effects. Before joining AHA, he served as Vice President and CMO for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, and before that, he served as director of the Institute for Health Policy at the University of Texas School of Public Health. Dr. Sanchez served as Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services from 2004 to 2006 and Commissioner of the Texas Department of Health from 2001 to 2004. He serves and has served on numerous local, state, and national health-related boards and advisory committees. Dr. Sanchez obtained his MD from the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, an MPH from the UT Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health, and an MS in biomedical engineering from Duke University. He holds a BS in biomedical engineering and a BA in chemistry from Boston University. Dr. Sanchez is board certified in family medicine.

Dong-Chul Seo, PhD

Dr. Seo is a tenured Full Professor at Indiana University and a Fellow and Past President (2014-2015) of the American Academy of Health Behavior (AAHB). He held several administrative positions in the Korean government and the academia. His research centers around addictive behavior and comorbid mental health problems. Recent research focuses on structural and behavioral interventions to reduce opioid overdose, marijuana vaping and related disparities. He

has published more than 150 articles, and his research has been supported by more than two-dozen extramural grants. He regularly teaches multivariate and multilevel statistics for graduate students at Indiana University and has received the Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award five times.

Kyna Shine

Kyna Shine has spent 20+ years in various roles such as public health, health equity, organizational development, marketing and communications, and diversity, equity & inclusion across non-profit, corporate, and educational sectors. As a mission-driven leader, Kyna strives to provide access and opportunity to all for a better quality of life. Most recently, Kyna served as National Director, Program Implementation on the Public Health team for the National Hypertension Control Initiative. Kyna earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Sam Houston State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Connecticut – School of Business.

Rachel Showstack, PhD

Rachel Showstack (PhD) is an Associate Professor of Spanish at Wichita State University and Co-Director of Wichita State's new Academic Center for Biomedical and Health Humanities. She is also the Founding Director of Wichita State's community-based health equity initiative Alce su Voz (ASV), whose mission is to support health equity for speakers of Spanish and Indigenous languages in the U.S., with a focus on Kansas and the Midwest. Dr. Showstack received her PhD in Hispanic Linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin in 2013 and her MA in Spanish from Sacramento State University in 2006. Her work has appeared in numerous scholarly journals and edited collections, and she is co-author of the books *Health Disparities* and *The Applied Linguist and Language Ideologies and Linguistic Identity in Heritage Language Learning*. Dr. Showstack has attained multiple federal and foundation grants to support various Alce su Voz programs. Currently, she is PI on the 3-year project *Improving Healthcare Language Access for Spanish-Speakers in Kansas*, funded by the Office of Minority Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the oral history project *Stories of Language, Communication, and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Kansas Latinx Communities*, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Alia Southworth

Ms. Southworth is the Senior Program Director of Health Promotions at Penn State College of Medicine Center for Advancing Health Equity- Rural and Underserved Communities, and the Asian Health Coalition, a community-based organization and affiliate of Penn State University. She has over 12 years of experience in community-based prevention and health education within Asian and African Refugee, Immigrant and Migrant communities. Currently, as Sr. Program Director of Health Promotions, Ms. Southworth oversees the Chronic and Infectious Disease programs at Asian Health Coalition including Hepatitis B, cardiovascular health, diabetes, vaccine hesitancy, language access, and access to care. Additionally, she provides leadership in the development of new and existing health programs, grant writing, and management of staff. Her passion lies in creating and implementing community-based health promotion programs among under-served communities.

Sandy Stibitz

Sandy Stibitz is a Senior Program Associate for the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training (NCCPHT) at the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI). She provides administrative, project management, and data management support for numerous programs at NNPHI. Sandy's career in non-profit administration is driven by a passion for creative problem solving and collaborative teamwork. Sandy values NNPHI's equity-centered approach to leveraging a national network of expertise and resources in support of both national and locally grounded work. Prior to joining the NNPHI team, Sandy served as a Project Associate for the Louisiana Children's Museum's recent relocation to a new facility in New Orleans's City Park. She holds a bachelors in American Studies from Kenyon College.

Chenier H. Taylor

Chenier H. Taylor has spent 15+ years holding various Marketing & Communications and Portfolio Management roles within local government, non-profit, for profit and agencies for national and global clients. During this time, she has had the ability to work on consumer-packaged goods, equity and healthcare initiatives and more. Currently, Chenier serves as the National Sr. Portfolio Lead for the American Heart Association's National Hypertension Control Initiative. Outside of the office, Chenier stays active in her local community by serving on the board of the New Orleans City Park Conservancy Board, the Make Your Move Board and the WYES-TV Board.

Maria Elena Villasante

Maria Elena Villasante is a driven behavioral health professional, currently serving as the Health Equity Initiatives Coordinator at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department in Lincoln, Nebraska. With a wealth of experience, she has held pivotal roles including Mental Health and Substance abuse Counselor, as part of the crisis response team for Region V; Family-School Consultant at the Nebraska Research Center for Children, Youth, Families and Schools; Healthcare Partnership Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau and Health Education and Advocacy Program Director at the Asian Community & Cultural Center. A passionate advocate for underserved communities, Maria Elena is bilingual and cross-culturally trained, strategically choosing positions where she can empower others. Her extensive work involves promoting CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) standards in health services and championing the rights of vulnerable and minority communities. As a trainer of various evidence-based curricula, she equips bilingual/bicultural advocates, Community Health Workers, and community members with invaluable tools, aiming to forge a robust network of support for those facing language and cultural barriers to healthcare access. Maria Elena's dedication has been recognized through prestigious accolades such as the Nebraska DHHS Division of Behavioral Health Director's Recovery Recognition Award. Currently, she actively participates in various advocacy groups, amplifying her impact and influence. Holding master's degrees in clinical and educational psychology, she continues to pursue her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, further solidifying her commitment to advancing equitable access to healthcare and education for all.

Tracy Wharton, PhD

Dr. Wharton (PhD, MSc, MEd, MSW, QCS) is Principal Research Scientist in the Washington DC office of NNPHI. In this position, she focuses on health equity, racial disparities in

healthcare access, and evaluation support for public health partners nationwide. In addition to her research and evaluation credentials, Dr. Wharton is a licensed clinical social worker with more than 20 years of experience in medical social work, geriatrics, end of life, compassion fatigue, and trauma. Previously, she was a tenured Associate Professor in the School of Social Work with a joint appointment to the College of Medicine at the University of Central Florida. She coordinated the social work track of the Public Affairs PhD program, and co-led the nationally recognized Apopka clinic, which provided outpatient healthcare to a deeply underserved community in the west-central region of Florida. Dr. Wharton was the Principal Investigator for the Tele-REACH program to advance telehealth-based training to families living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias, and also for the Social Work Health Education and Leadership (SW-HEALS) national program, funded by the NY Trust, CSWE and NASW. Prior to UCF, she completed an NIMH/NIH fellowship in geriatric psychiatry at the University of Michigan, where she also served as a program evaluator for the VA Center for Clinical Management Research.

Lora Wills

Lora's career has been dedicated to addressing inequities in all forms. At Emory University School of Medicine, she was instrumental in the establishment of the first Office of Minority Affairs. While working at United Way she addressed the social determinates of health, and her work with Habitat for Humanity focused on increasing the availability of affordable housing for all. Lora continues this work at MSM where she serves as the Assist. Director for the National Center for Primary Care. In this role she is responsible for the Center's overall operations and the development and implementation of the Center's Strategic Plan. Since 2020, Lora has also served as the Administrative Director of the NCRN project. In this capacity she is responsible for managing all administrative and financial components of the grant. In addition, she is the staff lead for the NCRN technology core and serves as a strategic advisor to the PI.

Doreena Wong

Doreena Wong, Esq., is the Policy Director at Asian Resources, Inc, (ARI) focusing on advocacy to increase access to health care programs, to advance policy changes, including improving data disaggregation practices and cultural and linguistic competency in health care, and to transform the current health care system to be more responsive to the health needs of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, communities of color, immigrants and limited-English proficient populations. Before coming to ARI, Doreena was the Director of the Health Access Project at Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Advancing Justice) – Southern California, where she worked on promoting access to affordable, culturally and linguistically competent health care for vulnerable populations through outreach, education, and advocacy. She has over 30 years of experience as a civil rights attorney, with expertise in health care programs, language access and voting rights while working at: 1) the National Health Law Program, 2) a Los Angeles civil rights firm specializing in race discrimination cases, 3) Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus, 4) the ACLU of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, and 5) the National Women's Law Center in Washington, D.C. She graduated from New York University School of Law in 1987 as a second career after having worked as a health care professional for nine years.