



State Partnerships Improving Nutrition & Equity Program

Peer Exchange: Integrating Community Based Participatory Approaches and Lived Experience in your SPINE Project: Diverse Perspectives

June 9, 2022 | 2:00-3:00 pm ET

Speakers' Bios

Jordan Smith



Jordan Smith is the Child and Youth Program Specialist for the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division (CDPHPD), at the Hawai'i Department of Health. In this role, Jordan develops population-based prevention strategies in the areas of nutrition and physical activity aimed to provide and promote opportunities for healthy eating and active play for young children. Jordan also provides up-to-date information, technical expertise, and consultation on the prevention and risk reduction of obesity and associated chronic disease in early care and education (ECE) settings. Jordan works to implement

CDPHPD's mission through innovative programming, partnership development, and strategic planning with a strong intersectional perspective.

Diane Sullivan



Diane Sullivan is co-founder of Equitable Spaces, whose mission is to create opportunities for community members with lived experience in poverty, hunger, and other health-related issues to engage in policy and program co-design, implementation, and evaluation.

Sullivan combines her experiences as a community member with lived expertise, a direct service provider, and former policy

director of a statewide non-profit organization to guide and support local, state, and national groups and government agencies in directly and equitably engaging community members as uniquely informed and qualified stakeholders.

Sullivan lives in Medford, MA and enjoys spending time with her family, which includes her six, now adult and young adult, children and four grandchildren.



Kathrine E. Wright, Ph.D. MPH

Born and raised in rural Michigan, Dr. Wright experienced poverty and food insecurity first-hand, which created her desire to build a healthier, more equitable, and more resilient food system. Today she uses her personal, professional, and research experience with food insecurity to improve the health and well-being of Nevadans.

Prior to moving to Nevada, Dr. Wright earned her Master of Public Health and Bachelor of Science degrees from Michigan State University. She received her doctoral (Ph.D.) degree in public health from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), specializing in social and behavioral health. During her time at UNR, Dr. Wright was trained in community-based participatory research (CBPR) and utilized CBPR to examine the cultural components of food insecurity, such as highlighting the importance of cultural foods in one's cultural identity and well-being. Additionally, she co-authored a chapter in the 3rd edition of *Community-Based Participatory Research for Health: Advancing Social and Health Equity*.

After graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno, she became the project director of the Circles of Care grant for the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe in Fallon, NV. Dr. Wright joined the CDC Foundation in October 2021 and is currently the Food Security Coordinator for the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Food Security. She grounds her work and research in food justice, narrative inquiry, community-based participatory research and action, and asset-based community development.