



Summit to Advance Healthy Communities
Reflecting, Sharing, and Planning for the Future

August 29 – 30, 2023

PARTICIPANT BIOS

BRIC AND SPINE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ORGANIZED BY STATE	2
Alaska.....	2
Arkansas	2
Hawaii.....	3
Illinois.....	3
Kansas.....	4
Louisiana.....	5
Maryland	6
Michigan	6
Minnesota.....	7
Missouri	8
Mississippi	9
North Carolina	10
New Hampshire.....	11
New Jersey.....	12
Nevada.....	12
Ohio	13
Oklahoma	14
Oregon.....	14
Pennsylvania.....	15
South Carolina	16
Texas.....	17
Utah	18
Washington	18
West Virginia	19
CDC PARTICIPANTS ORGANIZED BY LAST NAME	20
NACDD PARTICIPANTS ORGANIZED BY LAST NAME	20

BRIC AND SPINE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ORGANIZED BY STATE

Alaska

Lauren Kelsey (*she/her*)

Physical Activity & Nutrition Specialist, State of Alaska Physical Activity & Nutrition Program

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Lauren Kelsey, MPH is a Public Health Specialist with the State of Alaska Physical Activity & Nutrition Unit, working to ensure every Alaska child has the opportunity to grow up at a healthy weight, free from preventable weight-related diseases. She provides training and technical assistance to schools, tribal organizations, and other partners to implement strong wellness policies, food and beverage policies and other systems changes to support making the healthy choice the easy choice for Alaskans.

Katie Reilly (*she/her*)

Physical Activity & Nutrition Unit Manager, Alaska Division of Public Health - Physical Activity & Nutrition Unit

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Katie Reilly is the Physical Activity and Nutrition Unit Manager with Alaska's Department of Health. She received her MPH from UNC at Chapel Hill in 2011. Katie began her public health career in 2004 as a Community Health Educator with the U.S. Peace Corps in Tanzania, East Africa. In 2011, she moved to Alaska to serve as a Research Associate at the University of Alaska at Anchorage. During her time in Alaska, she has also served as the Health Education Manager at the American Lung Association; a Senior Associate with Agnew Beck Consulting; and as a Program Manager with the Division of Public Health's Section of Women's Children's, and Family Health; Section of Chronic Disease Prevention; and the Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention. She lives in Anchorage with her husband, two sons, and dog and enjoys singing in her band, traveling, and all things outdoors: running, biking, skiing.

Arkansas

Becky Adams

Partnership and Policy Director/Nutrition and Physical Activity Section Chief, Arkansas Department of Health

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Dr. Becky Adams is the Partnership and Policy Director for the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Branch and Nutrition and Physical Activity Section Chief at the Arkansas Department of Health. She has a DrPH in Public Health Leadership from the UAMS Faye Boozman College of Public Health and an MPH from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Dr. Adams is a registered dietitian nutritionist and certified diabetes care and education specialist. She has held various leadership positions in state and national associations. She received the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors' 2013 Excellence in Advocacy Award, 2017 Excellence in Association Work Award and 2019 Outstanding Leadership for the Obesity Prevention Nutrition Council. In 2018, she received the Arkansas Public Health Association's Tom T. Ross Award. Interests include primary prevention of chronic disease and lifestyle change through policy and environmental change to improve quality of life.

Toney Bailey (*he/him*)

Chronic Disease Branch Manager, Arkansas Department of Health

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Toney Bailey is the Branch Chief of the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Branch (CDPCB) at the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH). Mr. Bailey began his career in public health in 2010 after a career change as an entrepreneur and financial advisor. As the Branch Chief of CDPCB, he oversees programs for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention, Diabetes, Arthritis, BreastCare and Cervical Cancer, WISEWOMAN and Alzheimer's Disease. In addition, he represents ADH on the Arkansas Legislative Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Advisory Council. Mr. Bailey has managed numerous strategic projects, programs and initiatives for ADH that include: The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care which promotes the development of community-based health care services and systems throughout Arkansas; ADH ConnectCare Program which assisted Medicaid and ARKid's First families in finding a medical home by linking them to a primary care physician (PCP) and dental care; coordinated the enrollment of beneficiaries in the Affordable Care Marketplace; and provided tobacco prevention and cessation in disparate populations such as African American, L.G.B.T and pregnant women.

Hawaii

Heidi Hansen Smith (*she/her*)

Primary Prevention Branch Manager, Hawaii State Department of Health

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Program Manager for the Primary Prevention Branch of the Department of Health's Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division, which conducts statewide prevention efforts through policy, systems, and environmental change around increasing access to healthy foods and physical activity, promoting safe, accessible active transportation options, and reducing tobacco use. The physical activity and Nutrition Section includes programs for school health, early care and education, and the Supplemental Nutrition Education Program (SNAP-Ed). The Tobacco Prevention and Control section includes programs for tobacco prevention and cessation for adults and youth.

Colin Wills (*he/him*)

Public Health Nutrition Coordinator, Hawaii State Department of Health

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I am new to this job position and working with the BRIC community. Started working with the department in August 2022. My first assigned projects to manage were the BRIC funded projects. I have spent the last several months working to manage the projects so that they are able to deliver on their project outcomes. Looking forward to the continued support from the BRIC community.

Illinois

Mariela Medina (*she/her*)

Program Assistant, Illinois Public Health Institute

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Mariela Medina is a Program Assistant at the Illinois Public Health Institute. In her current role, Mariela supports collaborative work with local and state health departments; coalitions; multi-sector partnerships; and action/working groups through administrative assistance, data collation and partner engagement. She has supported strategic planning with state and local partners through the Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity, a

coalition which focuses on addressing equitable and just opportunities for Illinoisans to eat healthier and be physically active to optimize their health and well-being, with a lens of focus in social determinants of health and community engagement.

Janna Simon (*she/her*)

Director, Center for Policy & Partnership Initiatives, Illinois Public Health Institute

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Janna Simon, MPH, is the Director of the Center for Policy & Partnership Initiatives at the Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI). Her work focuses primarily on policy, systems, and environmental changes for chronic disease prevention. Simon leads coordination of the Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity, implementation of multiple cooperative agreements with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United States Department of Agriculture, as well as state and local initiatives. Prior to joining IPHI, Janna was a Senior Policy Analyst and Schweitzer Program Associate at Health & Medicine Policy Research Group where she focused on improving the healthcare system for the city and state's most vulnerable populations. Janna was an adjunct lecturer at the UIC School of Public Health from 2013-2018 and holds a Master of Public Health degree.

Kansas

Courtney Koenig (*she/her*)

Physical Activity and Nutrition Program Manager, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

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Courtney Koenig received a Master of Public Health from Concordia University, Nebraska with a Community Health Education concentration. Growing up on a cattle ranch in Wyoming and living and working in Southeastern Kansas farming communities has led her to have a passion for the health and vitality of rural communities. Courtney works for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as Physical Activity and Nutrition Program Manager. She provides technical assistance to local communities as well as work on statewide efforts to reduce the burden of chronic disease on Kansans. Additionally, Courtney administers the Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. In her spare time, she raises a husband, three boys, sheep, chickens, a garden, and several dogs and cats.

Miranda Miller-Klugesherz (*she/her*)

Executive Director, Kansas Food Action Network

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A SNAP alumnus and passionate advocate for the just and equitable inclusion of persons with lived experience in the work of food system's change, Miranda's career spans 11 years and three countries. As Executive Director of the Kansas Food Action Network, Miranda provides strategic oversight and advocacy on behalf of Kansas' 30+ local food policy councils. She holds an MA in Communication and Public Engagement from Kansas State University and an MS in Social Policy from University College Cork-Ireland where - as Kansas' first Mitchell Scholar - her research focused on the role of lived experience testimony in the 2016 SNAP reauthorization hearings.

Louisiana

Ashlyn Dyess (*she/her*)

BRIC Program Manager, Well-Ahead Louisiana

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Ashlyn Dyess, M.S. - While obtaining her Master's degree in Health Studies from Southeastern Louisiana University, Ashlyn worked at a local Baton Rouge non-profit, The Safety Place, where she managed a bike and pedestrian safety program for elementary aged students. While in this position, Ashlyn worked closely with the Capital Region Planning Commission and served as a stakeholder on the Capital Region Transportation Safety Coalition - Bike and Pedestrian Team. After receiving her master's degree, she pursued an opportunity within the Louisiana Department of Health's Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Healthcare Access (Well-Ahead Louisiana) as the Building Resilient Inclusive Communities Program Manager. Since being in this position, Ashlyn has worked with multiple partners and communities statewide to increase access to physical activity, nutrition security, social connectedness, and creating healthy communities for all! Ashlyn now serves as the Early Childhood Manager at Well-Ahead Louisiana where she manages all Early Care and Education programs.

Phaedra Johnson (*she/her*)

Healthy Communities Coordinator, Well-Ahead Louisiana

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Phaedra Johnson is a two-time graduate of the Louisiana State University (LSU) system with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences and a Master of Public Health. Phaedra currently serves as the Healthy Communities Coordinator at Well-Ahead Louisiana. In her work, she provides technical assistance to St. Landry Parish's community alliance for the implementation of PSE strategies related to tobacco cessation and prevention as required by the CDC'S National Tobacco Control Program. She also assists in other healthy communities development work and had the immense opportunity to participate in the Walkability Action Institute. Phaedra has a passion for public health and is proud to be a part of interventions that improve the health outcomes of our communities.

Darla Scardina (*she/her*)

Statewide Recognition Manager, Well-Ahead Louisiana

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I serve as Well-Ahead Louisiana's Statewide Recognition Manager and oversee our recognition program, WellSpot Designation, which assists local organizations to implement healthy initiatives to make the healthy choice the easy choice for Louisiana residents. I have 5 years of experience in public health with the Louisiana Department of Health, beginning as an intern in 2018 and moving up to a supervisory position in 2022. I continue to work closely with evolving our healthy communities programs within Well-Ahead and specifically our BRIC grant. I have a passion for helping rural communities and organizations make sustainable changes that will greatly impact their health.

Maryland

Raia Contractor

Evaluation Lead, Maryland Department of Health

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Raia Contractor is the Evaluation Lead at the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the Maryland Department of Health. Prior to working at the Center, Raia led evaluation efforts for the CDC Foundation's opioid overdose emergency response program and worked as a Grants and Data Manager at the Baltimore City Health Department. Raia holds a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, where she concentrated in food systems and spatial analysis. Outside of work, Raia enjoys hiking and gardening.

Miranda Ouellette *(she/her)*

Implementation Team Chief, Maryland Department of Health

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Miranda Ouellette is the Implementation Team Chief with the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the Maryland Department of Health. In this role, Miranda oversees the program in the implementation of several chronic disease projects. This includes diabetes and heart disease prevention and control, the Maryland State Partnerships Improving Nutrition and Equity (SPINE) program and leads other health equity focused initiatives. Prior to coming to Maryland, Miranda worked for the Georgia Department of Health, where she served as the Health Systems Team Lead. She graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Science in Human Physiology and a Master of Public Health in International Health. She is currently working toward her DrPH in Health Equity and Social Justice from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Sarah Wagner *(she/her)*

Program Evaluator, Maryland Department of Health

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Sarah is a Program Evaluator at the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the Maryland Department of Health. She provides evaluation support to multiple CDC grants and to NACDD's SPINE grant. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from Bradley University and Master of Science in Public Health with a concentration in Nutrition from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Sarah is also a Registered Dietitian with prior experience at Johns Hopkins Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, MD.

Michigan

Lorena Disha *(she/her)*

Public Health Consultant, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

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Lorena Disha serves as the obesity prevention program coordinator for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. In her role, Ms. Disha provides technical assistance and capacity building to local communities and organizations on implementing healthy eating and physical activity interventions, as well as breastfeeding promotion. Ms. Disha holds a Master of Public Health from Michigan State University.

Caroline Messerschmidt *(she/her)*

Nutrition Food Management Consultant, Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services

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Caroline Messerschmidt is a registered dietitian and public health professional. As a dietitian, she has worked in a variety of settings including outpatient clinics, state WIC, SNAP-Ed, and in employee wellness. She enjoys sharing recipes and encouraging her family and friends to stay active.

Janèe Moore *(she/her)*

Public Health and Food Access Consultant, Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services

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Janèe Moore is the Food Access Public Health Consultant at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. At MDHHS she specializes in designing strategies that increase food security and food access equitably at the population level. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Health from Emory University. At Emory she trained in the Behavioral Sciences and Health Education with a certificate program in the Social Contextual Determinants of Health. Prior to working for MDHSS Janèe worked for the CDC as a Public Health Advisor. She is passionate about providing opportunities for marginalized populations to reach their full health potential.

Minnesota

Adema Bilsuma *(she/her)*

AmeriCorps Service Member - Community Wellbeing, Minnesota Department of Health

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I am one of the AmeriCorps Service Member working in Community Wellbeing at MDH. I am also a public health student and am planning to pursue my graduates in the following year in Epidemiology.

Hilary Gebauer *(she/her)*

Nutrition Policy Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Health

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Hilary Gebauer MPH, RDN, LD is the Nutrition Policy Coordinator for the Office of Statewide Health Improvement Initiatives at the Minnesota Department of Health. Prior to this role Hilary worked in a variety of public health and clinical nutrition settings and in for-profit, non-profit, philanthropic and government agencies. Her public health work has focused on building and sustaining statewide coalitions, including the Minnesota Cancer Alliance; and food access and systems change, including co-managing the statewide EBT and Market Bucks Initiative at the MN Department of Human Services. Her professional work has also included strategic planning, communications, program development and evaluation. She earned her BS in Biology from Valparaiso University and her MPH Nutrition from the University of Minnesota.

Cherylee Sherry *(she/her)*

Thriving Communities Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Health

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Cherylee Sherry, MPH, MCHES® brings 40 years of leadership and program development experience in community health and health care to the Minnesota Department of Health. She supervises the Thriving Communities unit for the Office of Statewide Health Improvement Initiatives and manages Minnesota's CDC

State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant. Prior to joining MDH, Cherylee led community health initiatives addressing maternal & child health and chronic disease at an urban safety net hospital and was the executive director of a community health clinic in Minnesota that provided clinical, health education and home health care services. She was also the project director for an adolescent pregnancy & prevention services consortium and a comprehensive child development program in Brooklyn, NY. Cherylee is a Masters-level Certified Health Education Specialist. She completed her MPH at New York University, and she received her BS/BA degrees in community health from the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse.

Jacob Walker-Swaney (*he/him*)

American Indian Community Initiatives Unit Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Health

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Jacob Walker-Swaney is the supervisor of the American Indian Community Initiatives Unit within the Office of Statewide Health Improvement Initiatives at the Minnesota Department of Health. He works in partnership with Tribal Nations in Minnesota in promoting the cessation of commercial tobacco use and increasing access to healthy eating and active living options in tribal communities. His BRIC work focuses on the partnership with the White Earth Nation in promoting community connection and generational connections while integrating culture throughout grant activities.

Missouri

Diana Parra

Research Assistant Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

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Research assistant professor at the Brown School, and I am also a yoga and mindfulness teacher and a mindfulness facilitator for the Academy for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. My research focuses on the promotion of health and well-being through community-based programs for physical activity, nutrition, yoga, and mindfulness, geared towards excluded populations, particularly the Latinx immigrant population in the United States.

Karen Wallace

Bureau Chief, Community Health and Wellness, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Karen Wallace, Bureau Chief, Community Health and Wellness, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. The Bureau of Community Health and Wellness includes the following programs: Nutrition and Physical Activity, Injury Prevention, School Health, Adolescent Health, Tobacco Prevention and Control, and the Maternal and Child Health Program. Karen has a BA in Psychology from Columbia College in Jefferson City, Missouri, and received her M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Sarah Young (*she/her*)

Missouri Physical Activity and Nutrition Program Manager, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Sarah Young, MS, RD, LD is the Missouri Physical Activity and Nutrition Program Manager. Young has managed the State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program for Missouri since May 2022. Previous state-level experience includes serving as a Nutritionist for Missouri nutrition and physical activity childcare recognition programs, Eat Smart and Move Smart, and serving as a Wellness Program Dietitian for Missouri's state employees.

Mississippi

Jackie Hawkins

Chief Executive Officer, Delta Community Solutions, LLC

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Jackie Hawkins is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Delta Community Solutions, LLC. Ms. Hawkins retired from the Mississippi State Department of Health with 32 years of state service and over two decades of public health in which she was the Community Bureau Director of Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative. Her work included developing and implementing policy systems and environmental changes in settings such as faith-based organizations, communities, barbershops, and local municipalities. Ms. Hawkins holds a Master's degree in Rural Public Policy and Planning, emphasizing Rural Health. She has gained much notoriety and co-authored presentations and publications for her work in policy, systems, and environmental change strategies. She has a vast list of community experiences including coordinating, being a community health worker training, and facilitating community programs, projects, curriculum development, workshops, and focus groups. Ms. Hawkins's other experience includes social determinants of health, health equity, community engagement, and utilizing evidence-based public health strategies, faith-based interventions, public health infrastructure, improvement coalition development, mobilization, and much more. Mrs. Hawkins is a member of the following boards: Delta Alliance for Congregational Health, Mobile Plan A for Mississippi, Northern Mississippi Chapter of American Red Cross, MS CEAL (Mississippi Community Engagement Alliance) Advisory Board, Mississippi Asylum Community Advisory Board, and the Mississippi Health Equity Task Force. Ms. Hawkins is a two-time recipient of a Rural Health Champion Award.

Brittney Mosley (*she/her*)

Community Health Director, Mississippi State Department of Health

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Brittney Mosley is a lady who believes deeply in health equity for all people; she is an advocate for social change and progression for all communities and being a public health servant. She graduated from Tougaloo College with her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and from the University of the District of Columbia with her Master of Science in Cancer Biology, Prevention, and Control. She has worked in public health for over ten years, focusing on collaboration and community engagement among various sectors. She strongly encourages others to use their voice and serve as their own health advocate. She is the wife of Minister David L. Mosley, Jr., and the mother of Benjamin David Mosley.

Kina White (*she/her*)

Office Director and MS BRIC PI, Mississippi State Department of Health

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Kina L. White, DrPH, MHSA, FACHE is the Director for the Office of Community Health Improvement at the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH). Her office includes three Bureaus: Healthy Aging, Injury and Violence Prevention, and Community and School Health. Dr. White is the Principal Investigator for multiple federal grant programs, also serving as the State Lead for the Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Initiative (AFPHS) with Trust for America's Health. Dr. White serves on the board of advisors for the Us Against Alzheimer's Center for Brain Health Equity, and was recently invited to serve on the NYU BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Early Detection of Dementia. Dr. White also serves on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Equity Advisory Group (EAG). She is a board-certified Fellow in the American College of

Healthcare Executives and currently serves as Regent and Past-President for the state chapter of Mississippi Healthcare Executives. Dr. White previously served with Mississippi Baptist Medical Center for 7 years, including as Patient Safety Officer and Director for Organizational Safety. With more than 20 years of leadership experience, Dr. White has an extensive background in health care management, policy, and public health.

North Carolina

Kelly Kavanaugh *(she/her)*

Built Environment & Physical Activity Coordinator, North Carolina Division of Public Health

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Kelly Kavanaugh serves as the Built Environment & Physical Activity Coordinator for the North Carolina Division of Public Health. Kelly is responsible for convening partnerships and providing technical assistance on active routes to destination strategies, promoting physical activity in early care and education standards, and creating alignment among state and local partners to promote healthy and equitable communities. Kelly has collaborated on several initiatives including the National Physical Activity Plan's Transportation, Land Use, and Community Design sector, CDC's Physical Activity Technical Expert Panel for data modernization, Active Living Research's Executive Program Committee, 2020 North Carolina State Health Improvement Plan, and NC Great Trails State Plan. Kelly has a Master's in Public Health from the University of South Carolina and has over ten years of public health experience in state government and university settings, coordinating initiatives around chronic disease prevention, healthy built environments, community engagement, and workforce development.

Courtney Ramsey-Coleman *(she/her)*

Healthy Eating and Nutrition Security Coordinator, North Carolina Division of Public Health

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Courtney Ramsey-Coleman MS, RDN, LDN is the Health Eating and Nutrition Security Coordinator for the Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health Branch. Since becoming a Registered Dietitian, Courtney has devoted her career to public health and community nutrition. She served at the local level for over 4 years with the Wake County WIC program, focusing on maternal and pediatric nutrition, helping women, infants, and children to have greater access to healthy foods and nutrition education. She has also worked with the grant funded Center for Translational Health Equality Research at North Carolina Central University studying health disparities among underrepresented populations, where she was able to delve into the community to serve and educate others about nutrition. Courtney truly has a servant's heart, a passion for public health, and enjoys helping people understand and use nutrition to better their lives.

Tish Singletary *(she/her)*

Branch Head, North Carolina Division of Public Health, Chronic Disease and Injury Section

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Tish Singletary, MA is the Branch Head for Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health Branch in the NC Division of Public Health. She has over 20 years of experience leading, managing, and coordinating health initiative projects and programs for the private and public sectors including the NC Academy of Family Physicians, Duke University, the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund, the NC Department of Health and Human Services, and the NC Office of Rural Health. She led the first NC Community Health Worker Stakeholder initiative recommending sustainable infrastructure for NC CHWs that address workforce development, professional identity, training, and certification. She is a member of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine and

serves on the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Community Advisory Board -UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Tish received her BA from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and her MA from Liberty University School of Behavioral Sciences.

New Hampshire

Lisa Fontaine-Storez *(she/her)*

Child & Adolescent Clinical Nurse Manager, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Dept Public Health/MCH

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I have been a Nurse for over 30 years and have enjoyed a career that has focused on Maternal Child Health and Mental Health in both the Hospital and Community settings. I have also worked as a Nurse Care Manager as well. Nutrition equity is important to me as good nutrition is the foundation for good health. Having " food as medicine " programs widely available is something I would love to see.

Chelsea Legare *(she/her)*

Regional Community Engagement Coordinator, NH Hunger Solutions

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My name is Chelsea Legare. I am the regional community engagement coordinator for New Hampshire hunger solutions, connecting organizations and partners together so that our community members can utilize the resources provided in our state.

Sarah Lanpher

Community Consultant, NH Hunger Solutions

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Sarah Lanpher is a resident of Chesterfield, NH and through the State Partnerships for Improving Nutrition Equity, she participates as a Community Consultant with NH Hunger Solutions to use her lived experience to advise the State Action Plan for Improving Nutrition Equity. Sarah is a mom of a bubbly toddler and is passionate about nutrition! She is thrilled about her new job at MamaSezz a vegan wholesale distributor!!!

Derly Ramirez *(she/her)*

Community Consultant, NH Hunger Solutions

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I'm a community consultant for Nashua Area for NHHS; helping to bring Nashua community voices to be heard. Focus on learning what my community needs and how I can support them to achieve their needs. Through my multicultural background, I have developed a comprehensive understanding of the root causes of food insecurity within diverse communities and have implemented impactful strategies to address them. Some of the most important aspects of my role includes cultural competence by understanding and respecting the cultural values, and beliefs of the communities. Being culturally competent allows me to effectively engage with diverse populations, build trust, and tailor hunger relief programs that are sensitive to their unique needs and preferences. Also being able to communicate directly with individuals in their native language enhances my understanding, meaningful connections, and ensures that critical information about available resources creating meaningful and sustainable hunger solutions that respect and empower multicultural communities.

New Jersey

Sandra (Sandy) Sherman *(she/her)*

Nutrition Advisor, The Food Trust

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Sandra Sherman MS, EdM, EdD, serves as Nutrition Advisor at The Food Trust in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She has over 50 years of experience in conducting national and local demonstration projects to increase access to healthy food and provide nutrition education in low-income communities. Since coming to The Food Trust 30 years ago, she has developed the Farmers' Market Program, the Healthy Corner Store Initiative, and the School Nutrition Policy Initiative, which was found to reduce the incidence of childhood overweight by 50 percent. For the past few years, Sandra has focused much of her attention on health equity in food and nutrition programs, developing reentry and recovery initiatives to support healthy eating and working with Native American communities in New Jersey as part of the SPINE Program to support health equity and food security.

Carolyn Thompson *(she/her)*

Executive Director, New Jersey Department of Health

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Ms. Thompson is a graduate of New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico where she received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. She has over 20 years of public health experience and has worked in state and local health departments in Mississippi, Maryland, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia where she has concentrated on chronic disease prevention and intervention through her role as program manager, chronic disease director, bureau chief, and executive director. She currently serves as the State Chronic Disease Director for the State of New Jersey. In these roles Ms. Thompson has had first-hand experience with building effective partnerships, identifying key stakeholders and effective collaboration needed to build and ensure better health at all levels. Ms. Thompson stands firm on her focus to serve the communities she represents with a particular focus on the most vulnerable of these.

Nevada

Roberto Carrillo

Director of Food Pantry and Wellness Center, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada

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Carlos Carrillo is the Food Pantry and Wellness Program Director of Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada where he has spent the last ten years overseeing the food pantry and developing food service programs. Under his leadership we have expanded our reach to 31 local and rural pantries in Northern Nevada. Carlos has spent the last five years creating new relationships with local vendors within the community to provide quality food and services to our clients. Carlos began his career at CCNN ten years ago as an outreach specialist for 'Kids to Seniors Corner' working in the most needed part of the community; moving on he became Program Manager for the Resource Hub (Emergency Assistance Program) and for the last 5 years he has been working as the Director of the St Vincent's Food Pantry where Carlos has institutional knowledge on logistics as well as brings creative and innovative ideas to our programs. Recently, Carlos coordinated the opening of our 4 new satellite Client Choice Pantries where we provide food and services for about 500 families. His formal training and degrees are in computer application and office systems from Career College of Northern Nevada (CCNN).

Lori Taylor

Food Security and Wellness Manager, State of Nevada - Department of Behavioral Health

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I am the Food Security and Wellness Manager for the Office of Food Security. I currently work with Catholic Charities who assist in providing direct services for SPINE. I have a Master's Degree in Social Work with a micro level focus in Administration. I also have a Sociology Degree with a criminal justice concentration. I look forward to traveling and learning more about SPINE.

Kim Vanden Hazel

Dining Room Director, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada

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I have been in the culinary field for the past 40+ years, 28 of those years in a leadership role. The majority of those years in non-profit businesses including health care, long term care, senior nutrition/meals on wheels, and currently feeding hot meals to the homeless and underserved populations within our community. I have found my passion is serving those who are most in need. By utilizing my experience, I have the ability to create tasty and nutritious meals for those who would be lacking nutrition without our services

Ohio**Sarah Ginnetti** *(she/her)*

Creating Healthy Communities Program Manager, Ohio Department of Health

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Sarah is a registered dietitian and has over 10 years of public health experience. In her role as the Creating Healthy Communities Program manager at the Ohio Department of Health, Sarah oversees 22 local communities in Ohio who are implementing policy, systems, and environmental change strategies around increasing access to healthy foods and physical activity opportunities.

Julia Hansel *(she/her)*

Health Promotion Manager, Ohio Department of Health

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Julia is a registered, licensed dietitian and the Health Promotion Manager in the Bureau of Health Improvement and Wellness at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). She is the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) Coordinator, the Principal Investigator for the State Physical Activity and Nutrition Grant and the Program Manager for the Building Resilient Inclusive Communities Grant. She has worked for ODH for over 17 years in various capacities. Previously, she was a program consultant with the Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Program which is funded under the PHHSBG. Julia lives in Columbus, is married, and has a son studying Photography at Parsons School of Design (The New School) in New York City. Julia works to travel and loves dogs.

Oklahoma

Adriana Gonzalez (*she/her*)

Wellness Consultant, Oklahoma State Department of Health

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I have worked for the State Department of Health of Oklahoma for a couple of months in the Physical Activity and Nutrition area. I have worked for various not for profit organizations who assist the food insecure community and social services. I am passionate about nutritional and equitable food access for all.

Fahad Khan (*he/him*)

Director, Oklahoma State Department of Health

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I currently work at the Oklahoma State Department of Health as the Director of the Community Analysis and Linkages division. In my current position, I oversee a team of 15+ content experts who provide content-specific technical assistance and consultation in strategic planning, program evaluation, and report development and writing, as well as consultation on community-based health improvement program planning, staging implementation, capacity building, and appropriate assessment to enhance community programs and strengthen ties between statewide infrastructure and local operations. I am also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Hudson College of Public Health at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and teach a graduate course on Program Evaluation. I completed a Master's in Public Health (dual major: Health Administration Policy & Epidemiology) from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in 2005. I also received Bachelor in Dental Surgery (2001) degree from Pakistan.

Lauran Larson (*she/her*)

Lead Wellness Coordinator, Oklahoma State Department of Health

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Lauran Larson is the Lead Wellness Coordinator at the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Lauran has ten years of experience in public service including social services, community level public health, and state level public health. Her expertise lies in promoting access to nutrition and physical activity and reducing disparities through policy and implementation changes. Lauran is earning her Doctor of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. She is a Bloomberg American Health Initiative Fellow in the Food Systems for Health focus area. Lauran holds a Master of Prevention Science and a Bachelor of Science in psychology and sociology from the University of Oklahoma. In her spare time, she loves to spend time with her husband and two kids. Her hobbies include running, volunteering with Girl Scouts, and swimming.

Oregon

Jen Chandler (*she/her*)

Policy Specialist, Oregon Health Authority

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Jen is currently the Nutrition Policy Specialist with the Oregon Health Authority's Health Promotion and Chronic disease Prevention Section. Additionally, Jen recently became an adjunct professor for Portland State University's School of Public Health. Jen has over 15 years of experience working on nutrition-focused policy, systems, and environmental change initiatives at the local, regional, and state level.

Shin Lee (*she/her*)

Director of Network Development, Oregon Community Food System Network

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The Oregon Community Food System Network is a (OCFSN) is a 501(c)(3) made up of a collaboration of nonprofit organizations and allies dedicated to strengthening local and regional food systems to deliver better economic, social, health, and environmental outcomes across the state. Shin is the Director of Network Development at OCFSN and a third culture kid* who started her career in corporate supply chain management consulting. The last few years have been spent understanding more about where food comes from, who is involved in the process, how it impacts our world, and ways we can hold the door open for more folks who have been historically excluded. We all grow when we share our collective wisdom and create more space and permission for each other to engage.

Laura Perdue (*she/her*)

Community Programs Liaison, Oregon Health Authority

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Laura is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist who is passionate about improving health equity through food access. She has worked in a variety of positions including with SNAP-Ed at the University of Minnesota Extension, the Statewide Health Improvement Partnerships at the Minnesota Department of Health, and now in Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention at the Oregon Health Authority. As a recent transplant to Oregon, she enjoys exploring her new home in the Pacific Northwest by hiking and camping.

Pennsylvania

Tiffany Bransteitter (*she/her*)

Obesity Prevention & Wellness Section Chief, Pennsylvania Department of Health

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Tiffany Bransteitter is a passionate public health professional that supports and implements evidence-based systems, environment, and policy change strategies to affect complex public health issues and increase health equity. Tiffany serves as the Obesity Prevention and Wellness Section Chief in the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Her public health career has focused on chronic disease prevention and control since 2008, specifically obesity and diabetes. Tiffany serves as the State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) and Building Resilient Inclusive Communities Program Manager. Tiffany also serves on the Pennsylvania State Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee, as well as the Pennsylvania Interagency Health Equity Team; PA Department of Health's Antiracism and Health Equity Taskforce; Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction's Health and Racial Equity Workgroup; and Keystone Kids Go! Workgroup. Tiffany has a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Social Work degree from Temple University.

Justin Lehman (*he/him*)

Public Health Program Administrator, Pennsylvania Department of Health

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Justin Lehman is a Public Health Program Administrator in the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Justin serves as the Physical Activity Coordinator on the CDC awarded State Physical Activity and Nutrition grant. He oversees WalkWorks, a program that aims to establish activity-friendly

routes that connect to everyday destinations through the development and adoption of active transportation plans.

Kim Mehaffey *(she/her)*

Public Health Program Administrator, Pennsylvania Department of Health

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Kim Mehaffey is a Public Health Program Administrator in the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Kim oversees nutrition security and community nutrition initiatives including the Pennsylvania Healthy Pantry Initiative, which implements a variety of strategies to increase healthy options in food banks and pantries. Kim leveraged the BRIC grant to begin and expand work with the food banks on increasing culturally familiar foods.

South Carolina

Erica Ayers *(she/her)*

School Wellness Consultant, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

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Erica Ayers is the School Wellness Consultant with the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Prevention at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Erica earned her Master's degree in public health with an emphasis in physical activity from the University of South Carolina. Erica is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist and Results Based Accountability Certified. Erica has over ten years of experience working to improve access to healthier foods and opportunities for daily physical activity through policy, systems, and environmental approaches. Erica has co-lead the implementation of BRIC in SC since January of 2021. Erica is currently the President of the SC Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. In her free time, Erica stays active by chasing after her two boys.

Darlene Lynch

Senior Director, Community Health Transformation, South Carolina Office of Rural Affairs

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Darlene Lynch joined the South Carolina Office of Rural Health in 2017 as the Director of the Community Health Transformation team and was promoted to Senior Director in 2022. In this role, Darlene provides technical assistance and supports local partner coordination for the Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas program funded by The Duke Endowment. She also provides leadership in the office for other rural population health-based efforts, including a focus on health equity and health disparities. Darlene brings more than 30 years of technical assistance, coalition development, leadership development and collective impact experience to communities across South Carolina. She uses this extensive experience to help communities achieve even greater community-level results. Prior to joining SCORH, Darlene worked for the American Heart Association as their senior manager of volunteer management. In this position, Darlene managed 59 volunteer executive committees and subcommittees and an estimated 1,500 volunteers across the Eastern United States to influence the quality and growth of the Emergency Cardiovascular Care Training Network. She also worked with government officials to develop chain-of-survival programs and initiatives that increased training and improved survivor outcomes.

Lori Phillips *(she/her)*

Director, DNPAO, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

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Lori Phillips is the Director of the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Prevention at the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. In this role, she and her team focus on convening key stakeholders, communicating data and best practices, and consulting with partners to improve systems that create environments to promote healthy eating and active living. She is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist with over 20 years of experience in community-based chronic disease prevention and education at local and state levels.

Courtney Watson

Program Manager, Community Health Transformation, South Carolina Office of Rural Health

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Courtney Watson joined the SC Office of Rural Health in 2023 as a program manager for the Community Health Transformation team. In this role, she supports community leaders and health care providers in their efforts related to community-based population health programs and the social determinants of health.

Courtney has a decade of experience in direct service non-profit work, spanning from a culinary job training program to a bike repair organization, and most recently with FoodShare South Carolina. Her work in the state's food system spurred an interest to support the leaders across the state who are cultivating health in their community through coalitions and grassroots efforts. Courtney has a bachelor's degree in marketing and political science from Illinois Wesleyan University. She is a mother to two and enjoys living in the Northeast part of Columbia.

Texas

Beatriz Bravo *(she/her)*

Community Nutrition Program Manager, Feeding Texas

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Beatriz Bravo serves as the Community Nutrition Program Manager at Feeding Texas, where she plays a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of the SNAP-Ed Program and overseeing community nutrition initiatives within the Texas network of food banks. As a dedicated community health dietitian, Beatriz is driven by her commitment to combat hunger and illness at their root causes. Prior to Feeding Texas, Beatriz actively participated in nutrition education community programs and eventually assumed the role of managing the Nutrition Education Team at the Central Texas Food Bank. Growing up in an underserved community in San Antonio, Beatriz personally experienced the challenges of access to nutritious foods during her childhood. It was this lived experience that ignited her passion for nutrition and eating behavior during her college years. Beatriz holds an undergraduate degree in Nutrition and successfully completed her dietetic internship at the University of Texas in Austin.

Lauren Maxwell

Obesity and Worksite Wellness Branch Manager, Texas Department of State Health Services

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Lauren Maxwell, MPH, RD has almost a decade of experience in the field of chronic disease prevention. In addition to her Master of Public Health degree, she is a Registered Dietitian and currently employed by the

Texas Department of State Health Services where she serves as Manager of the Obesity and Worksite Wellness Branch. In this position, she works with a talented and knowledgeable team to improve supports for nutrition and physical activity access in the great state of Texas.

Utah

Mercedes Maestas (*she/her*)

Health Educator, Salt Lake County Health Department

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Mercedes Maestas received her bachelor's degree in health Promotion and Education with an emphasis on Community Health from the University of Utah, and is currently working on her Master's Degree in Health Communication and Promotion from Washington State University. As part of the Salt Lake County Health Department's Healthy Living Team, she focuses on active transportation, food access, park prescriptions and connecting community members to these public health resources. Mercedes has a passion for public health and providing equitable opportunities for all.

Laura Holtrop Kohl (*she/her*)

Public Health Dietitian, Utah BRIC Coordinator, Utah Department of Health and Human Services

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Laura Holtrop Kohl is a Public Health Dietitian on the Healthy Environment, Active Living (HEAL) program at the Utah Department of Health and Human Services. She works to improve food environments and increase healthy food access with initiatives across the state. Laura completed her Master's degree in Human Nutrition at the University of Utah and has experience as a retail dietitian at Harmons grocery store and as a nutrition coordinator at Utahns Against Hunger.

Washington

Margaret Chaykin (*she/her*)

BRIC Grant/Project Manager, Washington State Department of Health

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Margaret is the BRIC grant lead and physical activity counseling project manager for Washington State Department of Health. Margaret brings over 20 years of experience in clinical chronic disease care, management, and prevention for low-income communities of color and opportunity that is informed by both academic accomplishment and lived experience. Margaret holds a Master of Public Health, is a certified health education specialist (CHES), and practicing clinical registered dietitian. Margaret completed her degrees at Bastyr University and currently serves as the chair-elect for NACDD's health equity council.

Nils Johnson (*he/him*)

Food Systems Program Manager, Rural Resources Community Action

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Nils' life goal, both at work and at home, is to help his community to become a place that feeds itself. As Food Systems Program manager with Rural resources Community Action, Nils' job is to find and implement best practices that will enable local farms, ranches, orchards, dairies, and other food businesses in NE Washington to feed people living in this same area. Nils' programs have a focus on traditionally marginalized and at-risk populations. He grew up on a small farm in northern British Columbia where his family grew most of their own food and currently produces vegetables on his small-scale off-grid farm near Chewelah WA. Before buying his

farm, Nils had an application engineering career doing modeling and simulation work primarily with automotive and aerospace systems. In addition to being a proud farm and primitive skills nerd, Nils is also an unapologetic data and spreadsheet nerd.

John Friedl (*he/him*)

Healthy Eating Active Living Program Manager, Washington State Department of Health

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John Friedl has a Master's Degree in Health Promotion from the University of Oklahoma. He has worked at the state level in the promotion of healthy eating and active living for nearly a decade, as well as working at the community level working in healthy eating, active living with a focus on equity and food security. John Currently Serves as the Healthy Eating Active Living Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Health.

West Virginia

Terri Jarvis (*she/her*)

Healthy Lifestyles Program Manager, West Virginia Bureau for Public Health / WV Division of Health Promotion Chronic Disease Prevention

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My job position with the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health/ West Virginia Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention is project manager for the West Virginia Healthy Lifestyles Grant. The West Virginia Healthy Lifestyles Grant is a state grant issued to the West Virginia Division of Health Promotion Chronic Disease Prevention. This position provides BPH with the capacity to address obesity prevention and sustain initiative integrated projects that will allow West Virginia to be eligible for other sources of funding. This position will seek and write funding proposals and interact with national partners and other states to share intervention tools, outcomes and lessons learned. Because obesity prevention behaviors (healthy eating, physical activity, water consumption) are key behaviors linked to prevention and management of chronic disease - it is the current missing component of BPH's role in addressing this issue. Currently an employee of West Virginia State Government for 25 years and a prior Federal Government employee for 7 years. Main focal points of this position are on nutrition and physical activity interventions at the community level with the purpose of prevention and management of chronic conditions. Education includes a master's degree from West Virginia University in Legal Studies, a bachelor's degree in business organizational leadership development from Wheeling Jesuit University and an associate degree from West Virginia State University in Computer Science.

Ash Litton (*she/her*)

Prevention Management Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health

Megan Ross (*she/her*)

Epidemiologist 2, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health

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Megan Ross is an epidemiologist 2 with the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention. She works across BRIC, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, health promotion, health equity, and other areas.

James Vance

Associate Director, West Virginia Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease

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James Vance BA TTS MT has worked for the State Health Department since 2001. James started as the coordinator for the state's Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs educational clearinghouse. He soon found his passion in public health. James began the successful Against Tobacco college initiative in 2005 that lasted till funding was cut in 2016. This program was the catalyst for several smoke free campus policies across the state ensuring smoke free air to students and employees. James' love for public health evolved in 2011 when he was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. After his weight loss of over 250 pounds and the steps that took him there changed his life and career forever. In 2018 James began his certification for the CDC Work@Health® Wellness Trainer (T3) and became a Master Trainer in 2021. James is currently the Associate Director with the WV Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease.

CDC PARTICIPANTS ORGANIZED BY LAST NAME

Laura Kettel Khan (*she/her*)

Senior Health Scientist, CDC/DNPAO

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Dr. Laura Kettel Khan is currently the Senior Scientist in the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Kettel Khan is internationally known in the field of obesity prevention evaluation methodology and research design of multi-sectoral interventions and serves on numerous national advisory committees related to evaluation which build the evidence for policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) strategies for healthy communities. She represents the CDC on numerous national partnerships with public and private funders which focus on healthy eating and active living. When Laura isn't working, she enjoys laughing at her Airedale terrier, Elsa, adapting a recipe so it tastes great, community service, and building adult relationships with her two sons, Andrew and Louis.

Terry O'Toole (*he/him*)

Chief, Program Development and Evaluation, CDC/DNPAO

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Dr. Terry O'Toole serves as Chief of the Program Development and Evaluation Branch, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. O'Toole provides leadership and subject matter expertise to state and community-based programs, national partners, and health organizations focused on program efforts to promote good nutrition, physical activity, and obesity prevention. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Health Behavior from Indiana University, Master of Education in Health and Physical Education from the University of Louisville, and Master of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Terry really enjoys being outside, especially on a bike.

NACDD PARTICIPANTS ORGANIZED BY LAST NAME

Jeanne Alongi (*she/her*)

Vice President - Public Health Leadership, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Jeanne Alongi, DrPH, MPH is the Vice President for Public Health Leadership at the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and directs NACDD's Center for Public Health Leadership. Dr. Alongi's experience spans academic, national, state, and local practice settings; her professional interests center on organizational effectiveness, evidence-based practice, and strategic leadership in public sector public health agencies to achieve population health goals. She is the recipient of the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Alongi earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of California, Davis, a Master of Public Health from George Washington University, and a doctorate in Public Health Leadership from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She lives in Sacramento, California.

Jeremy Arie (*he/him*)

Senior Director of Communications & Member Services, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
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Jeremy Arie is NACDD's Senior Director of Communications and Member Services. In his role, Jeremy guides and oversees NACDD's overall communications strategy, and leads all communications and member services initiatives. Jeremy is a seasoned communications, marketing, and public relations professional with a strong background in strategic communications, traditional and digital marketing, storytelling, writing and editing, media relations and more. His professional experience spans more than 15 years in the private, government, and mission-driven non-profit sectors. Prior to NACDD, Jeremy led communications and marketing initiatives for the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). He has also worked in communications roles with the Georgia Department of Community Health, Georgia Nurses Association, and the Georgia General Assembly. Jeremy lives in Atlanta with his spouse and two children. In his free time, he enjoys reading, playing soccer, and walking with his two black lab rescues.

Mari T. Brick (*she/her*)

Public Health Consultant, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
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Mari T. Brick, MA is a public health consultant for the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) where she oversees project evaluation for NACDD's 1705 National Diabetes Prevention Program activities and is the co-project manager for "Testing the Effectiveness of a Text-Based Strategy to Streamline Enrollment into the National Diabetes Prevention Program", a Broad Agency Announcement for leveraging technology and systems to increase enrollment of underserved persons living with prediabetes. Ms. Brick previously served as the lead consultant for NACDD arthritis projects from 2008-2016. Prior to NACDD, Ms. Brick served as the Arthritis Program Manager at the NYS Department of Health. Ms. Brick earned her BA in Social Work from Siena College in Loudonville, NY and her MA in Social Policy from Empire State College in Saratoga Springs, NY. Her experience is in program implementation, training, and quality assurance measures for evidence-based, community programs. She is a master trainer for the National DPP lifestyle coach training offered through ProVention Health Foundation, a CDC-authorized national training entity and a certifying T-Trainer for several of the Stanford University Self-Management Programs.

Katie Cacal (*she/her*)

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Katie is a Senior Communications Specialist at NACDD. She leads the marketing and communication efforts for the multi-year CDC Cooperative Agreement 1705 'Scaling the National Diabetes Prevention Program in Underserved Areas' and HALT Diabetes Prevention Platform implementation efforts. She lives in Virginia with her husband and two dogs Darby and Doris.

Joann Donnelly (*she/her*)

Public Health Consultant/BRIC, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Joann Donnelly works for the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at NACDD on the BRIC program, supporting the training and technical assistance of the BRIC states.

Grants Program Manager supporting BRIC and SPINE.

Crystal E. Doxie (*she/her*)

Senior Program Grants Manager, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Crystal E. Doxie, MBA, is a Sr. Program Grant Manager at the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors supporting program and fiscal services at the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities. Crystal brings to NACDD subject matter expertise working in Grants and Contracts with cradle-to-grave pre-and-post award administration and management, center-wide grant financial management, strategic project management, Chronic Disease program implementation, program evaluation, contract compliance, and onboarding/training of stakeholders in the program contract process; invoicing, and program deliverables. Crystal's role also includes providing grant management support and coordination on the compliance of operational grant policies and procedures as well as planning and preparation for the submission of grant applications or proposals, identifying new grants that align with the Association's mission and strategic plan, assisting with the preparation of the indirect rate audit proposal with the cognizant agency, and with the Single Audit and final closeout activities of grants and financial reporting. She has an MBA in Healthcare Administration with a focus on Gerontology. Prior to her career at NACDD, Crystal was the Grants Manager at Georgia Institute of Technology for the School of Computer Science for three years. A native of Oklahoma, Crystal worked for 20 years at the University of Oklahoma as Grants Manager and Financial Specialist. With 30+ years of experience, Crystal is highly valued at NACDD and the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities.

Kelly Durden

Associate Director, Program Implementation, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Kelly Durden has been in the non-profit public health sector for over 15 years, holding roles at the regional/state and national levels. Most recently, Kelly spent 11.5 years at the American Cancer Society, where her work spanned the cancer continuum, from early detection and screening to improving access to clinical trials and biomarker testing. She most recently served as the Director of Lung Cancer Initiatives, in which she led several lung cancer projects that aimed to facilitate an increase in lung cancer screening rates, alleviate lung cancer stigma, and improve access to biomarker testing through clinical education. In prior roles, Kelly led the creation

of both the Georgia Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (GCCRT) and the Georgia Lung Cancer Roundtable (GLCRT) and focused on working through state health systems to increase access to care, implement screening and prevention programs, and quality of care. Prior to joining the American Cancer Society (ACS), Kelly served as the Program Manager at Family House, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and as the Program Director for the Arthritis Foundation Western Pennsylvania Chapter. Kelly received her Master's Degree in Social and Public Policy with a concentration in Policy Analysis and Administration from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Pascale D. Edouard (*she/her*)

Program Manager, Public Health AmeriCorps, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Pascale D. Edouard, DrPH, MPH is NACDD's Public Health AmeriCorps Program Manager. Dr. Edouard has more than 10 years of experience in the public health industry across non-profit community-based organizations, local public health departments, county government agencies, and academic settings. She has served in various roles including the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota and Manatee counties serving as the Community Health Coordinator and Health Equity Coordinator, respectively. Dr. Edouard also previously served as Manatee County Government's Healthcare Services Program Manager overseeing and managing more than \$2 million of county funding for adult healthcare program services for indigent populations. Prior to joining NACDD, she was a visiting professor at a small liberal arts college in Illinois where she taught introductory public health and racism and health courses. Dr. Edouard is a Florida girl at heart, she is Haitian American and a native of Miami, FL where she currently resides.

Karma Edwards (*she/her*)

Public Health Consultant, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Karma Edwards is a public health consultant with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), and currently serves as the Walkability Lead within NACDD's Center for Advancing Healthy Communities. With this role, she leads the Walkability Action Institute project and Island Walkability efforts for NACDD, and works with a collective total of 95 local, regional, and state project participant locations from 35 states and two island locations throughout the US mainland and island territories. She especially enjoys the overlap between physical activity, active transportation, built design, and disability inclusion and holds the general belief that when communities are built for everyone, no one gets left out.

Lisa Erck (*she/her*)

Public Health and Worksite Wellness Consultant, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Lisa Erck has worked in public health, wellness, and program development for 20 plus years. Currently, she serves as a Public Health Consultant for the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) where she supports the CDC Work@Health program and provides training and technical assistance to State Health Departments, community-based organizations, health promotion professionals, and employers around evidence-based interventions that enhance health, wellness, and quality of life for adults with arthritis and additional chronic diseases. She has a professional background spanning health promotion, public health, sales, project management, marketing strategy and business development. Lisa holds a Master of Science degree with a concentration in health, exercise, and sport science.

Mara Galic (*she/her*)

Senior Program Manager, BRIC, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Mara Galic is a Senior Program Manager with the Building Resilient Inclusive Communities program in the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at NACDD. In her role, Mara coordinates and plans training and technical assistance to support BRIC states with the BRIC Team. She has 27 years of experience working in public health at the CDC, Georgia Division of Public Health, City of Toronto Public Health and BlazeSports non-profit adaptive sport organization for youth and veterans with disabilities. Her work has focused on nutrition and physical activity policy, systems and environmental change, prenatal nutrition, program evaluation, grant writing and grants management among other areas. Mara earned her Master of Health Science/Public Health from University of Toronto, Canada and is a registered dietitian. She lives in Mableton, Georgia with her husband and teenage son. In her free time, Mara enjoys long walks, knitting, digging in the garden, and cooking or baking.

Jennie Hefelfinger (*she/her*)

Vice President, Center for Advancing Healthy Communities, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Jennie Hefelfinger is the Vice President for the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities for the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors and oversees Center programs that focus on the social determinants of health and root causes, including social justice. These programs include Building Resilient Inclusive Communities, State Partnerships for Nutrition and Equity, Arthritis Prevention, Work@Health, Healthy Military Families, AmeriCorps, School Health, and Walkability, all focusing on health equity, social justice and physical activity, nutrition, and healthy lifestyles. Prior to this role, she provided support and oversight to the chief executive officer for the board of directors and was on the Innovation, Leadership, and Practice Initiative. Jennie also provided leadership and direction for Action Communities for Health Innovation and Environmental Change (ACHIEVE) Program and other capacity-building initiatives. Ms. Hefelfinger led the state of Florida's chronic disease prevention and health promotion efforts at the Department of Health prior to coming to NACDD.

Alice "Ali" Jaglowski (*she/her*)

Public Health Consultant, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Alice "Ali" Jaglowski, MSH has 20 years of public health experience, she started her career in public health in Florida at the local and state level at Duval County Health Department and Florida Department of Health, respectively. Locally, she focused on community engagement, and health behavior change program development, implementation, and evaluation. As a state administrator of Florida Department of Health's Obesity Prevention Program, she worked to develop state and local level partnerships around obesity prevention and implemented a statewide plan for addressing obesity prevention. Ms. Jaglowski joined NACDD in 2008 as a public health consultant and has been consulting for almost 15 years. She started on a policy focused healthy community initiative, ACHIEVE from 2008-2012, where she provided technical assistance, expertise, and leadership to communities in establishing policy, systems and environmental changes for physical activity, healthy nutrition, and tobacco. She has provided leadership and training around use of social media for communication, marketing, and sustainability. Also, she has supported the advancement of chronic disease prevention through policy advocacy working to educate policy makers at the state and federal level. Currently she supports the National Diabetes Prevention Program under the CDC grant 1705 at NACDD. She supported

grant writing collaboratively and successfully secured the 1705 grant, a 5-year cooperative agreement which focuses on scaling and sustaining the National DPP through increasing availability, marketing, referrals, and reimbursement of the National DPP lifestyle change program. Additionally, Ms. Jaglowski collaborates with ProVention Foundation on programmatic and policy efforts and collectively with like-minded partners to advance population health to support chronic disease prevention.

Charita James (*she/her*)

Public Health Consultant/SPINE, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Charita James is a Public Health Consultant with NACDD for the State Partnerships Improving Nutrition and Equity (SPINE) Program. She is a Registered Dietitian with more than 10 years of diverse experiences in the public health nutrition realm. She has a deep interest in community nutrition, food justice, and nutrition security. She has a successful track record for developing and implementing community programs that promote health equity, develop young food justice leaders, and build the capacity of organizations to carry out healthy food projects. Charita holds a MS in Nutritional Sciences from Rutgers University and a BS in Community Health Education from Hunter College. She enjoys traveling, trying new cuisines and restaurants, fitness, and doing anything that involves self-care. She lives in New Jersey with her husband, daughter, and dog.

Marti Macchi (*she/her*)

Chief Program Strategy Officer, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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As the Chief Program Strategy Officer with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), Marti is responsible for the project implementation success of NACDD's program delivery. She ensures seamless team management and project quality control and is responsible for initiating and setting program goals with project managers according to NACDD's strategic plan. Marti holds an externally facing role managing partnerships with funders and national stakeholder organizations; establishes standards of performance across all programs and projects; builds sustainable, high-functioning teams; and fosters enduring collaborations within the organization and with external stakeholders. Marti's career experience has focused on disease prevention, health promotion, and community wellness initiatives in both the clinical and community settings. She has supervised a large staff of clinicians focusing on obesity treatment, cardiac and stroke rehabilitation, diabetes management, physical and occupational therapy, and various other health promotion programs. Marti holds a Master of Education in exercise science from Wichita State University, a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and is currently working on a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree from the University of Illinois Chicago.

Catherine McCann (*she/her*)

Consultant, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Catherine McCann has more than 15 years of experience in the field of chronic disease prevention and policy at the state and national levels. She specializes in strategic planning, program development, evaluation, leadership and policy planning, partnership building and maintenance, and assisting organizations with grant-writing. Catherine provides consulting services for the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, where she has served in numerous roles: supporting State Health Department Chronic Disease Units' efforts to scale and sustain the National Diabetes Prevention Program, developing NACDD'S partnerships with Department of

Defense stakeholders to enhance military service members' readiness and resiliency, and working with states and health intelligence partnerships to increase colorectal cancer screening. Catherine received her doctorate in Public Health with a specialization in Epidemiology. Her research focused on the social and economic predictors of pediatric metabolic syndrome. She has served as an adjunct faculty member for the Master's Public Health Program & Department of Geography at Florida State University, where she taught graduate and undergraduate Medical Geography.

Heidi Milby (*she/her*)

Associate Director, Center for Advancing Healthy Communities, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Heidi Milby received a bachelor's degree in dietetics from the University of Georgia and a Master of Public Health degree from Indiana University. She started her career in education as a bilingual elementary school teacher in Houston Independent School District and prior to coming to NACDD, Heidi served as the Director of Program and Field at Action for Healthy Kids. In this role, Heidi was responsible for the organization's programmatic efforts to support school districts, schools, and families in their efforts to improve policies, systems and environments that fostered student physical and mental wellbeing. At NACDD, Heidi leads efforts related to school health and supports NACDD's Arthritis and Work@Health portfolios. Heidi currently lives in Chicago, Illinois with her husband and two daughters. In her free time, Heidi enjoys exercising, reading, traveling, being outdoors, and spending time with family and friends.

Heather Murphy (*she/her*)

Public Health Consultant, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Heather Murphy is a Public Health Consultant for the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), Center for Advancing Healthy Communities, Arthritis Portfolio where she has been working since 2017. Prior to 2017, Ms. Murphy consulted for the Florida Alliance of YMCA's, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership. Early in her career Ms. Murphy worked for the Florida Department of Health for approximately 14 years, eight of which were in chronic disease prevention.

John Patton (*he/him*)

Vice President, Center for Partnerships & Innovation, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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John Patton is the Vice President for NACDD's Center for Innovation and its former Director of Communications. He is also the Executive Director of the ProVention Health Foundation which supports the work of NACDD. He has over 25 years of experience in media, marketing, public relations, and entrepreneurship. He has worked with PBS, NBC, ABC, CBS, the Ad Council, iHeart Media and Screenvision, in addition to being a published newspaper journalist and author of the book, *Brainless Health*. His work has spanned nonprofits, government agencies and private industry. He received his degree in Mass Communications from the University of Delaware, including media studies at the City of London Polytechnic. He later completed a post-graduate fellowship at the National Journalism Center in Washington, D.C. He lives in Atlanta, GA with his wife and five children.

Leah Rimkus (*she/her*)

Senior Evaluator, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Leah Rimkus is a Senior Evaluator for the BRIC Program within NACDD's Center for Advancing Healthy Communities. She has more than 15 years of experience in research, evaluation, and program/project management and has worked in non-profit, academic, and local government settings. Prior to joining NACDD, Leah worked with a large human service agency in Chicago, leading and supporting the evaluation of early childhood, parenting support, out-of-school time, and numerous other programs. She previously served as Deputy Director for Bridging the Gap, a national research program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that focused on improving understanding of how policies and environmental factors influence diet, physical activity, and obesity among youth, as well as youth tobacco use. Leah is a Registered Dietitian and earned her Master of Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley.

John Robitscher (*he/him*)

Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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As Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, John Robitscher, MPH, provides direction and leadership to achieve NACDD's mission, strategic plan, and annual operating and fundraising plans; and serves as steward of the Association's funds. Since joining NACDD in 2005, he has led the organization's acquisition of more than \$250 million in funding for hundreds of chronic disease prevention and health promotion programs across all 50 states and U.S. territories. John has more than 30 years of experience managing nonprofit organizations. Prior to joining NACDD, John served as the executive director of the Henry W. Grady Foundation and as a fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. John also served as the chief development officer for the International Life Sciences Institute's Center for Health Promotion. A former chronic disease director, himself, John was the director of Rural Health for the Georgia Department of Public Health from 1998-2000. John holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Emory University. He is the former chair of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials' Affiliate Council, and a board member of the Population Health Alliance.

Liz Ruth (*she/her*)

Vice President, Center for Health Policy, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Liz Ruth is NACDD's Vice President, Center for Health Policy. She is responsible for working with NACDD Members to develop policy approaches to advance chronic disease prevention and health promotion. Prior to joining NACDD, Liz served in a variety of health policy roles, including as a legislative assistant in Senator Deb Fischer's office and as government relations lead for several associations where she monitored federal and state policy. Liz earned her master's degree in public policy from George Mason University and bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Pennsylvania.

Tamika Smith (*she/her*)

Chief Operations Officer, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Tamika Smith, the Chief Operations Officer at NACDD, brings a wealth of experience and expertise in driving operational excellence, strategic planning, and cross-functional leadership. She is a results-driven transformational leader who drives innovation and growth strategies to shape high-performing portfolios. Throughout Tamika's career at NACDD, she has held various leadership roles, honing skills that solidify her position as an exceptional leader in operations management, such as project management, strategic planning, business analysis, and process improvement. Furthermore, alongside extensive operational experience, Tamika excels at building high-performing teams by establishing trust with key decision-makers and solving complex problems while delivering on organizational goals through fostering diversity and inclusion within the team culture. Her ability to effectively align cross-functional teams has contributed to organizational growth and success. Outside of work, Tamika is passionate about mentoring emerging leaders and giving back to the community. She also enjoys playing tennis, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Robyn Taylor (*she/her*)

Vice President of the Center for Justice in Public Health, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Robyn is the Vice President of the Center for Justice in Public Health. Robyn has served as the Health Equity consultant and a former board member for the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. As the Health Equity Consultant, Robyn provided technical assistance and support to state Chronic Disease programs through the NACDD Health Equity Council. She has also led the Reaching Minority Men Where They Are research project, the Reducing Breast Cancer Disparities in States: Creating the Bridge from Data to Action project and various other NACDD health equity projects. She also co-wrote the NACDD Foundations of Health Equity: Creating a Culture of Health for All 2-day training, the Moving to Institutional Equity: A Tool to Address Racial Equity in Public Health, and An Assessment of Funding and Other Capacity Needs for Health Equity Programming Within State-Level Chronic Disease Programs public health journal article. Robyn is also a founding member of the NACDD Racial, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Alliance.

Tierney Thomison (*she/her*)

Senior Program Coordinator, Public Health AmeriCorps, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Tierney graduated with a BA in psychology from Trinity University, where she played collegiate soccer for the Trinity Tigers. She earned her Master of Public Health with a concentration in health promotion and behavioral science from the University of Texas Health Science Center in 2022. Tierney primarily supports NACDD's Public Health AmeriCorps program, which focuses on the recruitment and training of the next generation of public health leaders. In her role she assists Dr. Pascale Edouard with recruitment and mentorship of service members, training activities, host site engagement, contract/partner agreement development, and budget management. Tierney also supports Crystal E Doxie with contractual and fiscal activities for the BRIC and SPINE programs. Tierney presently resides in Austin, Texas, and in her free time she enjoys gardening, rollerblading, playing pickleball, cooking, and trying new restaurants.

Vishwarupa [Vish] Vasani (*she/her*)

Associate Director, Center for Advancing Healthy Communities, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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Vishwarupa [Vish] Vasani, MPH has 15 years of training and experience in planning, implementing, and evaluating public health programs in the private sector, federal and local government, and the national non-profit sector. She is an Associate Director within NACDD's Center for Advancing Healthy Communities where she provides strategic oversight and leadership to programs aimed at fostering healthy communities for all by advancing health equity and eliminating social barriers. Ms. Vasani came to NACDD from the YMCA of the USA where she served as a Technical Advisor providing training and technical assistance to local YMCAs in the delivery of evidence-based chronic disease prevention/management programs. Prior to this role, she was a Public Health Specialist with the Minneapolis Health Department where she coordinated the development and implementation of strategies designed to improve access to healthy eating, active living, and chronic disease prevention/management opportunities. She also completed a three-year Public Health Prevention Service fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.