

48TH ANNUAL ARIZONA RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Critical Conversations to Invigorate Rural Health

June 14 & 15, 2022

High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff
And Virtually

Agenda & Presenters

*The Conference is being presented online with the assistance
of the Arizona Telemedicine Program.*



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for Rural Health

Sponsors of the 48th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference

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AzCRH Staff:

Dr. Dan Derksen, Agnes Attakai, Jill Bullock, Joyce Hospodar,

Bryna Koch, Jennifer Peters, Melissa Quezada

WELCOME

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the 48th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference: “Critical Conversations to Invigorate Rural Health” in Flagstaff, Arizona!

As always it is critical to sustain our hard-won gains, address new opportunities and threats, and assure that the health needs of rural, tribal, border and underserved communities are addressed.

We have a terrific program this year, with speakers eager to share successful strategies, best practices, and ideas on a variety of topics. This year’s conference provides opportunities for networking, partnering, and disseminating information, research and data.

Our speakers and participants are committed to invigorating rural health, improving coverage, affordability and access to high quality health care, and implementing innovations that improve rural health outcomes and reduce health disparities.



Daniel Derksen, M.D.

Associate Vice President for Health Equity, Outreach & Interprofessional Activities

Office of the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, The University of Arizona

Senior Advisor and PI, Arizona Area Health Education Center Program

Walter H. Pearce Endowed Chair & Director, Arizona Center for Rural Health

Professor of Public Health, Medicine & Nursing

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DAY 1: TUESDAY, JUNE 14

8:00 - 2:00	CHECK-IN and ON-SITE REGISTRATION
7:00 – 9:00	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
7:45 – 8:15	WELCOME, BLESSING & OPENING REMARKS
Humphreys	Daniel Derksen, MD, Director, Arizona Center for Rural Health & Associate Vice President for Health Equity, Outreach & Interprofessional Activities, University of Arizona Health Sciences Carlos Gonzales, MD, Director, Rural Health Professions Program & Commitment to Underserved People Program, University of Arizona College of Medicine
8:15 – 9:00	GENERAL SESSION: AHCCCS Priorities Jami Snyder, Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
9:00 – 10:00	GENERAL SESSION: Innovative Strategies to Attract and Retain Nurses for Rural and Tribal Communities Timian M. Godfrey, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CPH, University of Arizona College of Nursing Vicki Buchda, Vice President of Care Improvement, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association Lapriel Dia, Chief Nursing Officer, San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation Representative from the Fort Defiance Indian Health Board, TBD
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Break / Networking Opportunity</i>
10:30– 11:15	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Abineau	Track 1: Shared Session: Health Workforce Leadership 1) Transformational Leadership and the Educational Determinants of Health Gabriel Orthous, Director of Programs, Cummings Graduate Institute Cara English, CEO, Cummings Graduate Institute 2) Linking C.O.R.E. Leaders: A Distance-Based Curriculum to Address the intersection of the Opioid Epidemic and COVID-19 Sara Hanafi, MPH, Senior Public Health Diversity Advisor Trudy Larson MD Institute for Health Impact and Equity
Fremont	Track 2: Shared Session: Understanding and Responding to Youth Mental Health 1) Rural Arizona: Mental Health and Youth Carol Lewis, Assistant Director, Yavapai County Community Health Services Heather Klomparens, Health Educator, Yavapai County 2) Expanding First Episode Psychosis Interventions in Arizona for Adolescents in Rural and Border Communities Gustavo Perez, PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Arizona, College of Medicine
Doyle	Track 3: COVID Vaccine Perceptions, Challenges and Solutions Academic community partnership to identify and address vaccine hesitancy and vaccine uptake in rural, underserved communities - Elizabeth Hall-Lipsy, Assistant Professor of Practice, University of Arizona College of Pharmacy
11:20 - 12:00	
Humphreys	GENERAL SESSION: All of Us Research Program Francisco A. Moreno, MD, Associate Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion & Director of the Hispanic Center of Excellence, University of Arizona Health Sciences
12:00– 1:00	Luncheon - Arizona Rural Health Association Awards & Membership Meeting Elizabeth Hall-Lipsy, President, AzRHA
1:00 – 1:15	<i>Mini break</i>
1:15 –2:00	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Abineau	Track 1: Shared Session: Rural Health Workforce Pathways 1) Residency Training: Opportunities and Barriers in Rural Arizona Joena Ezroi, Director of the Western Arizona Area Health Education Center (WAHEC), Regional Center for Border Health Kevin Driesen, PhD, MPH, Regional Center for Border Health, Jonathan Cartsonis, MD, Director, University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix Rural Health Professions Program 2) Arizona Health Professional Shortage Areas & Primary Care Office Recruitment & Retention Activities - Edith DiSanto, Primary Care Office Chief, Arizona Department of Health Services

Fremont

Track 2: New Research in Telemedicine

Non-inferiority study of Telemedicine versus in-person Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia - -

Sairam Parthasarathy, MD, Professor of Medicine, University of Arizona

Doyle

Track 3: Shared Session: The Future of Public Health Infrastructure

1) Rural Resilience: Approaches to Building Community Public Health Champions

Loren Halili, MPH, Youth Champions Program Coordinator, Arizona Center for Rural Health

Laura Schweers, MSW, Program Manager Assistant, AZ Center for Rural Health

2) Benefits Enrollment Consolidation: Pathway to Improving Health Disparities

Michelle Moore, Program Management Assistant III, AZ Center for Rural Health

Brianna Rooney, Doctoral Student, Arizona Center for Rural Health

2:00 - 2:05

Micro break

2:05 - 2:45

GENERAL SESSION: Pandemic Resilience: Building a Roadmap for Rural Arizona

Humphreys

Mona Arora, PhD, MsPH, Program Director, AzAHEAD ADHS-CDC COVID Disparities Initiative, Arizona Center for Rural Health

Jennifer Peters, Program Manager, Arizona State Office of Rural Health Program, Arizona Center for Rural Health

2:45 - 2:50

Micro break

2:50 – 3:30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Abineau

Track 1: Shared Session: Supporting Providers

1) Swing Bed Optimization: A Strategic and Financial Imperative

Andy Shanks, Network Director, TMC Healthcare

Jonathan Pantenburg, Principal, Stroudwater Associates

2) A Community Health and Resilience Needs Assessment in Rural Arizona for a two-way texting service

Maiya Block Ngaybe, Community Outreach Professional I, AZCOVIDTXT-RH - Center for Rural Health

Samantha Heckman, Community Outreach Assistant, AZCOVIDTXT-RH - Center for Rural Health

Fremont

Track 2: Shared Session: Community Engagement Strategies

1) Photovoice to support conversations on wellness interventions among border community cancer survivors

Samantha Werts, Graduate Research Associate, University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

2) Winchester Heights Food Insecurity Survey Study

Daniel Tellez, AHEC Scholar, Arizona AHEC Program

Cynthia Flores, AHEC Scholar, Arizona AHEC Program

Doyle

Track 3: Preempting Public Health Interventions: How Much Ground Did We Lose This Year?

Will Humble, Executive Director, Arizona Public Health Association

3:30 - 5:00

RECEPTION | NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY | EXHIBITS

3:30 - 4:30

Research and Community Engagement Poster Session

Academic-Practice Partnerships: Opportunity for Recruitment, Retention, & Quality Improvement

Christy Pacheco, FNP; University of Arizona College of Nursing Rural Health Professions Program Director; Assistant Clinical Professor

Advance Care Planning: Accessible for All

Megan Trosko, Director of Care Improvement, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association

FRONTERA/AWAKE: Addressing Insomnia in US/Mexico Border Communities

Denise Rodriguez Esquivel, PhD, DBSM, Clinical Psychologist & Assistant Professor, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry

A Novel Approach to the Behavioral Health Workforce Education Grant

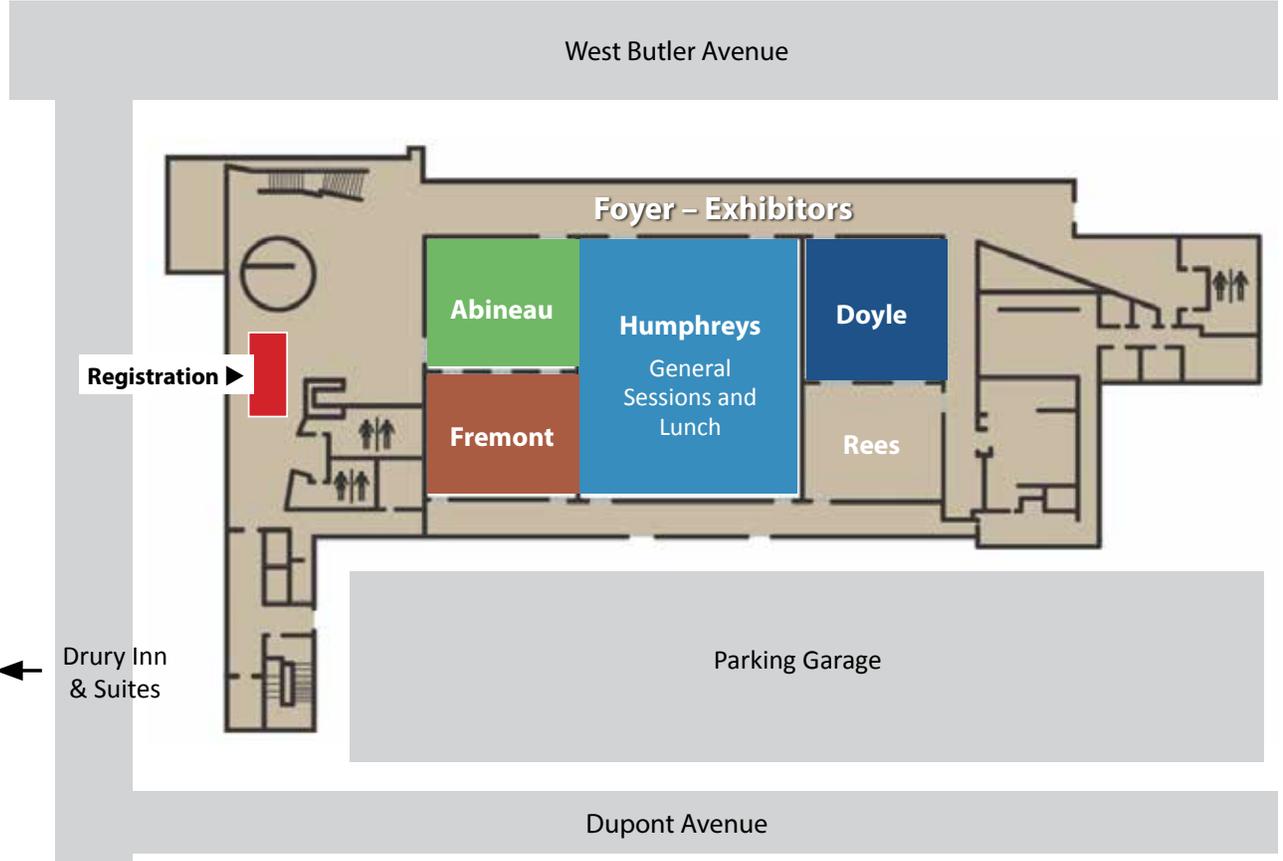
Sara Edmund, DNP, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC, Assistant Clinical Professor, University of Arizona College of Nursing

Identifying Barriers to Cervical Cancer Screening in Rural Women

Lacey Parkman, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Student, Arizona State University

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

7:00 – 9:00	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
8:00 – 9:00	GENERAL SESSION: Graduate Medical Education and Rural Residencies Sharry Veres, MD, Chair, Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine, University of Arizona College of Medicine Jonathan Cartsonis, MD, Director, University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix Rural Health Professions Program Judith Hunt, MD, Ponderosa Family Care Moderator: Dan Derksen, MD
9:00 – 9:50	GENERAL SESSION: Arizona Area Health Education Centers: Integration Innovation, and Sustainability
Humphreys	Moderator: Leila Barraza, JD, Director, Arizona AHEC Program Office, University of Arizona Regional AHEC Directors: NAHEC: Colorado Plateau Center for Health Professionals – Marica Martinic WAHEC: Regional Center for Border Health – Joena Ezroj CAAHEC: Ana Roscetti EAHEC: Jeri Byrne, represented by Judith Hunt, MD SAAHEC: El Rio Community Health Center – Felipe Perez, MD
9:50 – 10:00	<i>Break / Networking Opportunity</i>
10:00– 10:30	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Abineau	Track 1: Developing Leadership in the Health Workforce Sacred Wisdom: A Path to Healing from the Devastating Legacy of American Indian Historical Trauma Tommy Begay, PhD, MPH, Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Arizona
Fremont	Track 2: Opioid Stewardship Assessment Program for Arizona Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) -- Claudia Kinsella, Quality Improvement Specialist RN, Health Services Advisory Group Bridget Murphy, Research Program Administration Officer II, Arizona Center for Rural Health, University of Arizona
Doyle	Track 3: Elements of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill Helping Rural Communities Will Humble, Executive Director, Arizona Public Health Association
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Break/Networking Opportunity</i>
11:00 –11:30	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Abineau	Track 1: Rural EMS Advanced Telemedicine Demonstration Initiative (AzREADI) Aileen Hardcastle, EMS Research Coordinator, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine
Fremont	Track 2: Not just your HIE: Contexture’s Social Determinants of Health Referral System and Healthcare Directives Registry Carla Sutter, Director, Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry for Health Current Andrew Terech, Director of Social Determinants of Health for Health Current
Doyle	Track 3: MOVE-UP: Unforeseen Benefits of Unexpected Partnerships Sheila Soto, Program Manager, University of Arizona College of Public Health Mobile Health Unit Martín Zavala, Clinical Research Coordinator, University of Arizona College of Public Health Mobile Health Unit
11:45 -12:30	GENERAL SESSION:
Humphreys	COVID Through A Health Equity Lens: Current Response and Charting a Path Forward Siman Qaasim, MBA, Health Equity Administrator, Office of Health Equity Lisa Lewis, President, Arizona Library Association Beth Robinson, Deputy Health Director, Cochise County Health Department Moderator: Mona Arora, PhD, MsPH, Program Director, AzAHEAD ADHS-CDC COVID Disparities Initiative, Arizona Center for Rural Health
12:30-1:30	Luncheon and Closing Remarks Dan Derksen, MD



General Session - Humphreys

Concurrent Sessions:

Track 1: Workforce Abineau Room	Track 2: Access to Care/Disparities Fremont Room	Track 3: Public Health Infrastructure/Policy Doyle Room
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EXHIBITORS

- All of Us Research Program, University of Arizona & Banner Health
- American College of Education | Indianapolis, IN
- Arizona Department of Health Services | Phoenix, AZ
- Arizona Telemedicine Program and the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center | Tucson, AZ
- Arizona Rural Health Association
- Athelas | Mountain View, CA
- AZ COVID TXT | Tucson, AZ
- Azalea Health | Sandy Springs, GA
- Canyonlands Healthcare – Black Lung Clinic Program | Kayenta, AZ
- Cummings Graduate Institute for Behavioral Health Studies | Tempe, AZ
- Emergent BioSolutions | Gaithersburg, MD
- Empowerment Systems, Inc. | Apache Junction, AZ
- Goldbook Financials | Scottsdale, AZ
- Grand Canyon University | Phoenix, AZ
- Health Current/Contexture | Phoenix, AZ
- Henry Schein | Melville, NY
- Intellimed | Phoenix, AZ
- PatientPoint | Cincinnati, OH
- Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. | Somerton, AZ
- Rehabilitation Hospital of Northern Arizona | Flagstaff, AZ
- Schetky Northwest | Tolleson, AZ
- UAHS Center for Sleep and Circadian Sciences | Phoenix, AZ
- University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix | Phoenix, AZ
- Uprise Consulting Group, Inc | Carlsbad, CA

CONCURRENT SESSION PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

Transformational Leadership and the Educational Determinants of Health | Gabriel Orthous and Cara English

Addressing healthcare's most difficult challenges through personal and professional development of leaders and employees, by exploring how to activate emotional intelligence and lifelong learning as tools that prevent burnout and turnover. Presenters include the CEO and academic program leaders of a university founded in 2015 to focus on the movement towards integrated, trauma-informed health-care delivery. With attendees, we will explore three keys to empowerment: 1. Your unique journey 2. Your legacy (the infinite plan), and 3. The tools you need to get there. Emphasis will be placed on how to create a community and a "vibe tribe" that fuels your passion, keeps you focused on your mission, and innovation.

Linking C.O.R.E. Leaders: A Distance-Based Curriculum to Address the Intersection of the Opioid Epidemic and COVID-19 | Sara Hanafi

Rural communities experiencing disproportionate challenges are faced with needing to incorporate innovative solutions to community health needs. The goal of the Linking C.O.R.E. (COVID-Opioid Response Education) Leaders training program is to lessen the long-term harms associated with the overlapping epidemics of opioid misuse and COVID-19 in targeted rural communities of NV, AZ and NM. This was to be done by training and working closely with "Natural Community Leaders", those members of a community who do not necessarily work in public health but, by virtue of their status in the community, have significant influence over their peers. Our team designed a 12-week distance-learning program aligning with the resources, values, and social factors of rural communities. This innovative curriculum was designed using a health equity lens to support leaders' skill development of action planning in response to community need, community organizing and mobilization, planning for sustainability and evaluation, and navigating sensitive topics. This presentation will review the steps taken to design, develop, and deliver the program, as well as best practices for training non-traditional public health leaders. Advantages and disadvantages of this model will be covered, along with lessons learned from piloting a new type of public health intervention in the midst of a public health emergency.

Rural Arizona: Mental Health and Youth | Carol Lewis and Heather Klomprens

Critical Conversation on the need of mental health resources for children and youth in rural Arizona. The conversation will include discussion of the impact COVID-19 has had to our rural communities. Presenter will share "Mikey's Story" the journey of one family with a youth facing mental health challenges in rural Arizona. Learning Objectives: Participant will: *Gain a better understanding of mental health challenges youth face today *Learn ways to work with schools and other organizations to build awareness.

Expanding First Episode Psychosis Interventions in Arizona for Adolescents in Rural and Border - Gustavo Perez

Across the world, very few adolescents with an emergent psychotic disorder obtain access to evidence-based care in a timely way. First Episode Psychosis (FEP) services in Arizona continue to be limited, particularly in rural and US-Mexico border populations. Untreated psychosis in teenagers increases the risk for suicidality and all-cause mortality, school dropout, unemployment, incarceration, hospitalization, and substance abuse. This presentation aligns with the access to care and health disparities track, given the potential to expand FEP services to rural and border communities in Arizona. Dr. Gustavo Perez directs the Banner University Early Psychosis Intervention Program (EPICenter) in Tucson. Dr. Perez will describe the coordinated specialty care (CSC) model for FEP and will introduce EPICenter's "Hub and Spoke" Adolescent Consultation project which aims to support expansion of FEP care for underserved groups. In addition to learning about 1) an overview of risks for, diagnosis of, and treatments for FEP in adolescents across cultures and 2) the "Hub and Spoke" EPICenter project, participants will demonstrate understanding of both the unmet needs and clinical and educational opportunities to improve FEP services for adolescents in rural and US-Mexico border communities in Arizona and throughout the Southwest.

Academic community partnership to identify and address vaccine hesitancy and vaccine uptake in rural, underserved communities | Elizabeth Hall-Lipsy

Vaccines are effective tools to prevent or limit various infectious diseases and have been used as a public health strategy since the last century. The following proposed presentation/poster describes an academic- community collaboration to identify issues related to vaccine roll out in underserved communities, to investigate the vaccine hesitancy concerns of rural health care providers and community health workers and to describe a student run intervention to train promotores about vaccines and prepare telenovelas to be used in patient vaccine education. A team of four Doctor of Pharmacy students created a survey to of healthcare providers in rural communities to identify the most common vaccine myths and misconceptions. Additionally, the students created evidence based educational modules addressing general vaccination information, disease specific information regarding influenza and COVID 19, and vaccine information specific to flu and COVID-19. The modules were delivered to bilingual promotores in English over video conferencing. Following each module, promotores completed an evaluation measuring the knowledge gained and awareness of vaccine specific information. The student team additionally assisted in creating Spanish language telenovelas to be used in patient education and assisted in analyzing their patient impact.

Residency Training: Opportunities and Barriers in Rural Arizona | Joena Ezroi, Kevin Driesen and Jonathan Cartsonis

Health workforce shortages have troubled rural Arizona communities for decades. A great deal of federal, state and local community resources have been invested to establish rural Arizona's health professional pipeline, with some success. However, significant health workforce shortages remain across the spectrum of professional services. Workforce shortages seem to be entrenched in many rural communities as a chronic condition. It may turn out that existing educational models to train students and recruit health care professionals may be insufficient to resolving the structural barriers that dissuade some practitioners from settling into rural communities, especially the more isolated, frontier areas. Medical resident training is often a precursor to recruiting and keeping clinicians in rural communities. This session will identify some of the challenges to establishing physician residency training in rural communities. Speakers will identify efforts to develop residency training in western Arizona and discuss opportunities associated with the HRSA-funded Teaching Health Centers Program. Speakers will include professional staff associated with the Western Arizona Area Health Education Center, Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. and local hospital staff.

Arizona Health Professional Shortage Areas & Primary Care Office Recruitment & Retention Activities | Edith Di Santo

Participants will gain a better understanding of the:

- Health Professional Shortage Areas of Arizona and impact to workforce, and
- The workforce recruitment and retention programs in Arizona administered via the Primary Care Office, including the J1 Visa Program, Arizona State Loan Repayment Program, and National Health Service Corps.

Non-inferiority study of Telemedicine versus in-person Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia | Sairam Parthasarathy

Insomnia is a common medical condition affecting 10-15% of U.S. adults. Recently hospitalized patients who are recuperating in their homes would find it difficult to return for weekly visits with a clinical psychologist and therefore could benefit from the convenience of telemedicine-based CBT-I treatment. We performed a non-inferiority study of CBT-I administered by telemedicine versus conventional office-based CBT-I on insomnia severity in recently hospitalized patients. We hypothesized that after six weeks of CBT-I treatment, the mean improvement in ISI score among patients treated by telemedicine CBT-I would be no more than 3-points less than that in patients treated by conventional office-based CBT-I. A secondary outcome was to measure patient satisfaction ratings (CAHPS). In 40 patients, after 6 weeks of CBTi, the ISI score was 14.5 + 7.1 SD in the in-person arm and 8.3 + 8 SD in the telemedicine arm (greater ISI scores indicate worse insomnia). After adjusting for confounders, telemedicine CBTi was superior to in-person CBTi with mean adjusted difference of 3.9 with 95% Confidence Intervals 2.1

and 5.8 ($P < 0.0001$). In conclusion, our study indicates that telemedicine CBTi is non-inferior compared to in-person CBTi with regards to the treatment of insomnia and superior for patient satisfaction.

Rural Resilience: Approaches to Building Community Public Health Champions | Laura Schweers and Loren Halili

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities in many pockets of the world adopted community champion approaches to support community engagement, tapping into existing social networks, to support the uptake of services including vaccination. As we look toward recovery, it is important to continue engaging community members to build trust and resilience for future public health challenges beyond the pandemic. The AZ Public Health Champions Training Program consists of two distinct models to achieve this end: 1) a community model that engages librarians serving rural communities to support their efforts at building resilience in their communities and 2) a youth model to prepare youth who are emerging leaders in the space of public health. This session will highlight the findings from needs assessments and the development of strategies to engage community representatives using these varied approaches.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the community needs that are being met by the development and implementation of both Champions models.
- Understand the rationale with respect to the identification of target audiences and content delivery.
- Be able to identify public health content priorities among youth as well as librarians serving rural communities.

Benefits Enrollment Consolidation: A Pathway to Improving Health Disparities | Michelle Moore and Brianna Rooney

One public health area of interest has been understanding the interaction between the sturdiness of the social safety and its impact upon the health of those recipients it is intended to protect. A McKinsey & Company study in 2010 revealed that nearly \$65 billion dollars in allocated public benefits goes unused annually. What are the barriers that prevent populations from accessing these resources? Several states across the U.S. have sought to streamline the applications process by consolidating the various benefits enrollment platforms across state agencies into a single "one stop shop." The A.H.E.A.D (Advancing Health Equity, Addressing Disparities) team has partnered with Arizona Department of Health Services to conduct a landscape analysis of the state of the public benefits system across the country and within the state of Arizona. After conducting a literature review of the best practices across several regions, 27 key informant interviews were conducted with stakeholders across the state to better understand the challenges and facilitating factors effecting Arizonans ability to apply and enroll in benefits programs. Following the presentation attendees will have a better understanding of the facilitators and barriers to benefits enrollment from the perspective of navigators, assistants, community based organizations and statewide partners.

A Community Health and Resilience Needs Assessment in Rural Arizona for a two-way texting service | Maiya Block Ngaybe and Samantha Heckman

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the United States in ways we are only beginning to understand. The CDC emphasizes that health equity issues have been emphasized during this time. In Arizona, many of these issues have been especially apparent in rural communities. It is important to build resilience in communities in order to address these shocks, but in order to do so, it is vital to first conduct an assessment of specific local issues around rural Arizona. In this presentation, we discuss the findings of the first phase of a community health needs assessment (CHNA) which the University of Arizona project AZCOVIDTXT-RH is conducting of rural Arizona. The CHNA is projected to be conducted in five phases. In the first phase, whose results will be shown in this presentation, we conducted a review of the literature found online, CHNAs which have been conducted in or with hospitals in rural communities, and any other relevant resources which were available to us through our contacts at the Arizona Center for Rural Health.

We extracted information on the top three needs identified within the CHNAs, as well as any other relevant information which was reported related to specific domains related to health equity and resilience. We plan to use our findings to tailor our project's objectives, content and recruitment strategy in order to enhance our intervention's effectiveness.

Winchester Heights Food Insecurity Survey Study | Daniel Tellez and Cynthia Flores

This project, conducted by Southern Arizona Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) scholars, aimed to examine food insecurity in the Winchester Heights (WH) community and inform the direction of future community projects. Study participants responded to a 14-item anonymous survey that asked various questions concerning food insecurity. Community promoters recruited WH residents to participate using a standardized script and going door-to-door. A total of 44 responses were collected during this project, of which 22 reported that they resided in WH. Results showed that 63.6% sometimes or often worry about having enough food, while 40.9% report sometimes eating less due to cost or access to food. The COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment, and cost of food were top causes of food insecurity. Refrigerated food items, such as meat and seafood, were most often not purchased due to cost or unavailability. Of note, over 86% of respondents reported accessing food at the local Safeway and the community food pantry. Implementing a survey was a practical and cost-effective way to examine food insecurity in WH. Survey results helped identify gaps and resources in the community and should be utilized to inform future projects addressing access to healthy foods in WH.

Photovoice to support conversations on wellness interventions among border community cancer survivors | Samantha Werts

Photovoice is a participatory qualitative research approach and innovative strategy to capture unique health promotion experiences of Hispanic, border-dwelling cancer survivors. It equips and empowers participants with the skills needed to document their lived experience through photographs and then generate discussion to garner perspective on health and wellness. Participants become the arbiters of their data, highlighting common themes and reflecting on their own wellness and how it can be improved. A 9-week photovoice project was completed with six Mexican-origin survivors of breast cancer living along the United States/Mexico border. Photograph collection focused on food and dietary habits, wellness activities, and social support. Participants identified that their dietary habits and wellness activities are largely influenced by culture and interactions with others. This generated discussion on the importance of family and peer involvement as a facilitator for wellness after cancer. Our findings highlight the feasibility and acceptability of collaborative research methods such as photovoice to inform on the development of cancer survivor wellness programming.

Preempting Public Health Interventions: How Much Ground Did We Lose This Year?" | Will Humble

This presentation and discussion will cover the various new laws passed by the Arizona State Legislature and signed by the Governor that preempting and restricting public health interventions in Arizona. Discussions will include the potential harmful effects of each new law.

Learning Objectives:

- Be able to identify at least 3 new laws that will restrict public health authority in Arizona
- Explain the potential harmful effects of at least one new law preempting local public health authority
- Be able to explain the difference between the public health emergency authority Governor Ducey enjoyed compared with his successor

Sacred Wisdom: A Path to Healing from the Devastating Legacy of American Indian Historical Trauma | Tommy Begay

As a result of the impact of historical trauma and other cultural-historical forces, indigenous people of North America are more susceptible to a constellation of psychosocial, behavioral, and physiological risk factors that have contributed, in contemporary times, to a higher rate of morbidity across psychological, cardiometabolic, and functional domains. Prior to these traumatic episodes, indigenous people were guided by a worldview grounded in a sacred epistemology of ritual and spiritual practices that defined inner identity with a Sacred Wisdom that provided a sense of wholeness, balance, harmony, hope, positive health, and healing. This presentation will focus on the utilization of Sacred Wisdom as a psychology to promote general wellness and resilience.

It is founded upon an understanding of the Dine (Navajo) epistemology of Sa'ah Naaghai Bik'eh Hozhoon, the pathway to a life of H6zh6, the Dine sense of internal beauty, harmony, and balance with the natural and social environments. The Beauty Way and Protection Way form the core for this balanced life of universal harmony. From this perspective, all parts of the Earth are powerfully charged and alive, as the Holy Wind provides the life force for all elements. Disease and dysfunction grow from an imbalance of universal harmony. Sacred Wisdom provides a guide for a future full of hope, balance, and resilience.

Opioid Stewardship Assessment Program for Arizona Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) | Claudia Kinsella and Bridget Murphy

Addressing overdose continues to be a public health priority. In 2021 alone, 1,998 verified opioid overdose deaths occurred in the state of Arizona (ADHS, 2022, <https://www.azdhs.gov/opioid/index.php>). Barriers to substance and opioid use disorder treatment are complex and especially challenging in rural areas requiring structural, organizational and provider strategies to overcome them. Offering systemic strategies for prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery are necessary throughout the health care continuum. One promising approach is Opioid Stewardship Programs (OSP). OSPs have been described as “coordinated programs that promote appropriate use of opioid medications, improve patient outcomes and reduce misuse of opioids” (AHA, 2020, p. 7). The Health Services Advisory Group and the Center for Rural Health have been collaborating to assess the workforce and OSP implementation needs of 17 critical access hospitals (CAHs) in Arizona. The purpose of this work is to categorize gaps, develop data-driven approaches, and identify strategies, tactics, and resources to eliminate overdose. This presentation will (a) provide results of the most and least frequently implemented OSP elements in acute care and emergency department settings and (b) describe technical assistance underway to implement, enhance, and evaluate OSPs.

Swing Bed Optimization: A Strategic and Financial Imperative | Jonathan Pantenburg and Andy Shanks

With uncertainty around several significant provisions, such as payment, insurance, and delivery-system reforms, the healthcare industry must address future market changes. Swing bed services provide an important care resource for rural patients and a volume growth opportunity for the hospital. However, concerns continue to be raised about the cost of swing bed care. Leveraging certain steps taken by SAHA, this presentation will define an effective swing bed strategy and process to improve patient access, financial performance, and overall patient outcomes.

Arizona's Social Determinants of Health Referral System and Healthcare Directives Registry

Carla Sutter and Andrew Terech

Learn more about Contexture's two new, statewide programs aimed at uplifting Arizona's communities. The Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry (AzHDR) is the new home for the statewide advance directives registry. It provides a secure location for Arizonans' advance directives while providing seamless access for participating healthcare providers to advance directives when and where they are needed. Community Cares is Contexture's free, closed-loop referral platform designed to connect healthcare and community service providers to streamline the referral process, foster easier access to vital services and provide confirmation when social services are delivered.

The Objectives for this presentation:

- Learn how these free services can help rural providers and communities' access critical resources for end-of-life care and social determinants of health.
- Learn how these platforms offer a simplified approach and a no wrong door philosophy to what has often been a complicated and burdensome process for those who struggle with health literacy concerns and access to community resources.
- Understand how utilizing these programs provide a means for engagement with patients and clients and offer them choices as they navigate healthcare systems.

Unforeseen Benefits of Unexpected Partnerships | Sheila Soto and Martin Zavala

Since 2016, the University of Arizona Mel & Enid College of Public Health – Mobile Health Units (MHUs) have provided health screenings, health education, referrals, and other resources to underserved and rural communities in Central and Southern Arizona. In 2021, the MHUs began administering COVID-19 vaccines in rural communities in response to the community's needs. The MHU administered almost 60,000 vaccines, mainly in border towns (40,000); more than 20,000 preventative health screenings in underserved and rural communities in Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Cochise, and Graham counties, and distributed thousands of PPE (masks, gloves, and COVID-19 tests) and hundreds of Naloxone kits in Arizona and Sonora. The MHUs collaborated with many established partners to reach rural communities; however, some were more unexpected, like the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Providing services to disadvantaged communities was crucial for reopening the ports of entry and restoring the border community's economy. Learning objectives: The unique challenges associated with public health work along the U.S.-Mexico Border. The complex problems presented by the border require creative solutions. Collaboration and integration with multi-sectoral partners are vital to improving community health. The MHU model is multi-faceted, contributing to its successful outreach in Arizona.

PRESENTERS



Dr. Mona Arora is a researcher at the University of Arizona College of Public Health. She obtained her Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) degree in Tropical Medicine from the Tulane University School of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene and has a doctorate degree in Geography from the University of Arizona. Dr. Arora

is also a member of the teaching faculty and teaches several undergraduate and graduate courses in the College of Public Health including a course on Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Her research focuses on building the public health capacity to address “wicked” public health challenges through the development of decision-support tools; enhancing science communication and translation; and integrating a health and equity lens to long-term, operational planning. Dr. Arora currently serves on the UArizona’s Incident Command System and is the Co-Chair of the COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce Chair. She is a member of the National Association of City & County Health Officials’ Global Climate Change Workgroup, a planning member of the National Adaptation Forum, and a member of the Pima County Health Department’s Ethics Committee.



Leila Barraza, is Associate Professor at Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, University of Arizona. She is the Director of the Arizona Area Health Education Centers program (AzaHEC). She also serves as a Senior Consultant with the Network for Public Health Law – Western Region Office. Her research interests

include studying the impact of laws and regulations on population health. Barraza received a Master in Public Health from the Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona in 2004. Barraza provided assistance to rural and tribal hospitals and clinics regarding new medical designation opportunities, health practitioner recruitment, emergency medical services, and funding opportunities. She received her J.D. with a Certificate in Law, Science, and Technology from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, in 2008. Following her graduation from law school, Barraza served as a law clerk for the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One from 2009-2012. Prior to joining the Zuckerman College of Public Health as an Assistant Professor in 2014, Barraza served as Deputy Director of the Network for Public Health Law – Western Region Office, and a Fellow and Adjunct Professor in the Public Health Law and Policy Program at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law. She instructs a public health law course for public health and law students and has given special lectures in health law and public health law courses.



Dr. Tommy K Begay is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Arizona. He is a Cultural Psychologist by academic training, focusing on the interrelationship of culture, biology, and environment, to understand human behavior as applicable to health and wellness. Dr. Begay possesses

a Master of Public Health degree, with a specialty in International Health. His research interests include Indigenous Health and assessing the neurophysiological impact of adverse childhood stress, especially in relation to Historical Trauma and the impact to contemporary health of Indigenous populations.



Maiya Block-Ngaybe graduated with a Master’s in Public Health in Health Behavior Health Promotion at the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH) at the University of Arizona in May 2022. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Health Behavior Health Promotion also at MEZCOPH. Her extracurricular positions

include being Vice President and project grants coordinator of the international Friends of Cameroon organization, project coordinator of the Alliance for Vaccine Literacy at the University of Arizona, Membership Chair of the APHA International Health Committee Board, Qualitative Analysis Consultant at TANGO International, and Community Outreach Professional for AZCOVIDTXT at the Arizona Center for Rural Health.



Vicki Buchda MS, RN, NEA-BC serves as the Vice President, Care Improvement for the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association. She is responsible for contributing to the organization’s mission: “Making Arizona the healthiest state in the Nation” by leading collaboratives to improve patient safety, patient experience,

healthcare outcomes, and health equity. She is a highly skilled professional with demonstrated expertise in clinical and system leadership. Vicki is passionate about harm prevention, including harm from opioids, maternal health, advance care planning and health equity. Vicki has served in nursing and leadership roles within health systems including Mayo Clinic, Hawaii Pacific Health and Banner Health.



Dr. Jonathan Cartsonis attended the University of Arizona, Tucson, where he earned his medical degree and developed his interest in family and community medicine. During this time, he also met his wife — a fellow UA alumna and Family Physician in the Valley. Dr. Cartsonis has worked in many different settings, includ-

ing the federally funded clinics Avondale Family Health

Center and Health Care for the Homeless. He currently cares for patients at the Estrella Women's Jail in Phoenix. He is the medical director for the PA program for Northern Arizona University. In addition, he is highly involved in the Pathway Scholars Program for the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix, as well as many other programs involving rural health. Dr. Cartsonis is passionate about rural health and seeks to cultivate an environment at the UA where medical students can incorporate individualized learning styles and experiences to engage in the vibrant communities of rural towns/cities. His hope is that, ultimately, these same towns and cities will employ our medical students as they continue in their professions.



Daniel Derksen, MD, is the University of Arizona Health Sciences Associate Vice President for Health Equity, Outreach & Interprofessional Activities. He is a tenured Professor of Public Health in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health with joint appointments in the College of Medicine and the College of Nursing. His

current service, education and research activities include informing legislative, regulatory and program policy to improve access to health care and health insurance coverage; narrowing health disparities; developing, implementing and evaluating interprofessional service-learning sites; and working to assure a well-trained and distributed health workforce to meet the health needs of all Arizonans.



Kevin Driesen, PhD, MPH is currently employed with the Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. (RCBH) and provides consultation services to the Arizona Rural Health Association (AZRHA).

He received a Doctorate from the University of Arizona's Department of Psychology with a specialty in epidemiology, and a Master's

Degree in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley with a specialty in Health Education. Previous employment includes responsibilities as Assistant Professor, Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (University of Arizona); Regional Administrator, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS); Research Scientist, University of Arizona's Rural Health Office; and founding Director, Border Health Foundation. Dr. Driesen is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Colombia, 1978-81); past President of Partners of the Americas, Arizona-Oaxaca, and past-President of the Arizona Rural Health Association.



Lapriel Dia, Chief Nursing Officer, San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation. Lapriel obtained her associate degree from the College of Eastern Utah in Blanding, Utah. She then received her bachelor's of science degree in nursing from Arizona State University. She received a master's degree in Healthcare Innovation also from Arizona State University.

Lapriel has worked at the Veteran's Affairs Hospital in Phoenix, Whiteriver Indian Health Services, Acoma-Laguna-Canonicito service unit in New Mexico and Tsehootsooi Medical Center in Fort Defiance, Arizona. During her 13 years of nursing experience, she has worked in many different areas including telemetry, outpatient clinic, women's health, care coordination and the emergency department.



Edith DiSanto, has a Master's Degree in Public Health focused in health policy from George Washington University. Edith completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Edith has over 13 years of public health experience, working at the federal, state, local and non-profit sectors. In her previous

roles, she managed large federal grants for Arizona to include the WIC and SNAP-Ed grants and contracts. She has worked in the hospital and primary care settings working with physicians to improve access and care for diverse populations. Edith is passionate about public health, reducing health disparities, and improving access to care.



Sara J. Edmund, DNP, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC Dr.

Edmund has a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with specialties in both Family Practice and Psychiatric Mental Health. She is a Clinical Asst. Professor at UArizona CON in the PMHNP programs and the project director of the 2 million dollar HRSA grant promoting behavioral health workforce

expansion in rural areas. Her clinical practice entails various in-patient facilities in the Phoenix area, one of which engages in court ordered evaluations.



Dr. Cara English, CEO, Cummings Graduate

Institute Dr. English has over 16 years experience as a counselor specializing in specialties in women's health, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, infant Bioand child development, and family wellness. She earned a master's degree in counseling

in 2002 from Northern Arizona University,

and worked as a community and school counselor and behavioral health consultant in a wide variety of settings. She earned a DBH degree from Arizona State University in 2013.

She completed a doctoral practicum internship at the Chandler CARE Center, a school-based health center which primarily serves the uninsured population of Chandler, Arizona.

During the internship and subsequent paid position, Dr.

English worked with pediatricians, nurse practitioners, lactation consultants, WIC educators, food banks, public health

officials, hospitals, grant writers, and community centers to integrate or coordinate care for patients across settings. Dr.

English's doctoral Culminating Project focused on documenting the rate of depression and diabetes-related distress in

adolescents from this population who were diagnosed with

Type I diabetes mellitus.



Joena Ezroj, is the Director of the Western Arizona Area Health Education Center (WAHEC) for Regional Center for Border Health, where she oversees educational programming and the recruitment and retention of health care professionals in Yuma, La Paz and Mohave counties. She received a masters degree in education

from Grand Canyon University in 2012 and a Bachelors Degree from Northern Arizona University in 2001. Her work experience includes Coordinator and Assistant Clinical Professor for Arizona State University, Instructional Coach for Gadsden Elementary School District, and teacher for Yuma Elementary School District. She is the 2012 Teacher of the Year for Yuma County. Joena is highly active in the regional area and is the co-chair of the City of Somerton Parks and Recreation Committee, member of the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council, and she is also a member of the Somerton Rotary. Joena believes that success is achieved for communities through servant leadership and building partnerships.



Cynthia Flores, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P is a third-year Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student at Arizona State University, Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation. During her second year of the DNP program, she was selected and has since enjoyed the privilege of focusing on rural communities as an Arizona Health

Education Center (AHEC) scholar. Also, in her second year, she was selected to be a nurse trainee by the Pediatric Pulmonary Center. This opportunity sparked her interest in pediatric pulmonary health and chronic disease management, leading to her DNP project on telehealth asthma management education.



Dr. Timian Godfrey, a member of the Navajo Nation, is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Arizona College of Nursing (UA CON) and works in rural emergency healthcare in underserved communities as a nurse practitioner. She is the current program director for the HRSA Arizona Nursing Inclusive Excellence

scholars project and an Indian Health Services award, Indians in Nursing Career Advancement Transition Scholars. She is a co-director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) at UA CON and serves on the interprofessional UA Health Sciences EDI committee. She also serves on the inaugural Western Institute of Nursing Diversity and Inclusion task force and the AACN Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group to promote EDI and belonging in nursing research and education in the United States. Lastly, she is working with AzaHEC to establish a center dedicated to health science education opportunities with the 22 Arizona tribes.



Carlos R. Gonzales, M.D., Assistant Dean Curricular Affairs and Associate Professor of FCM- UofA College of Medicine-Tucson. Carlos advises on Traditional Indian-Western Medicine Collaboration at the College. He received his B.A. from Carleton College-Northfield, MN- 1977; M.D. from University of Arizona, College of Medicine- Tucson, AZ- 1981; a FM Residency at

UNMH- Albuquerque, NM- 1984. Carlos is a sixth generation Tucsonan of Yaqui and Mexican descent. He participates in the Traditional Easter Ceremonies at the New Pascua Yaqui Pueblo. Also leads Yaqui-Inipi Way Sweat Lodge Ceremonies.



Loren Halili, is a recent graduate from the University of Arizona with a Master of Public Health in Environmental and Occupational Health. She worked as a graduate research assistant for the AzCRH since August 2021 leading the Youth Model of the Champions program. She has a well-rounded background in health

disparities and risk communication, as she has worked in these fields for much of her undergraduate career and the entirety of her graduate career.



Elizabeth Hall-Lipsy, received my MPH in 2002 and JD in 2005, both from the University of Arizona. I am the director of the PharmD Forward Program which seeks to create unique learning opportunities across professional curricula including the health sciences, law, and business. I also coordinate The University of Arizona of

Arizona College of Pharmacy's Professional Certificate in Health Disparities and focus my scholarship on health disparities as well as laws and policies that influence health.



Sara Hanafi, oversees the Larson Institute's learning management system and training/curriculum development. She is well-versed in and has experience in prevention and intervention in COVID-19, opioid use, domestic and sexual violence and has worked extensively with marginalized populations, including rural communi-

ties. She has facilitated in-person and online training programs for statewide professionals, with a special emphasis on healthcare professionals and community advocates. Further, Ms. Hanafi has supported the design of a statewide Health in All Policies training and evaluation pilot program where she worked closely with multidisciplinary entities to integrate health equity-enhancing policies within organizational structure.



Aileen Hardcastle, EMS, is a research coordinator and program manager for the University of Arizona's Emergency Medicine Research Center and Department of Emergency Medicine. Currently, she serves as program manager for the Arizona Rural Advanced Telemedicine Demonstration Initiative (AzREADI) which aims to improve outcomes for patients treated by rural prehospital providers in Southern Arizona with telemedicine. She will also be serving as a research coordinator on a national, multicenter prehospital trial for pediatric seizures known as PediDOSE, which seeks to improve patient outcomes through early intervention. Hardcastle has an academic and professional background in science, emergency medicine, and biological field research. She also has experience as a firefighter, technical rescuer, and emergency medical technician, with prior service in pediatric triage and research at the Al Sabbah Children's Hospital in rural South Sudan.



Samantha Heckman is a student at the University of Arizona pursuing and is pursuing a bachelors degree in public health with an emphasis in health systems theory and practice. She is also an undergraduate research assistant for AZCOVIDTXT. Ms. Heckman is extremely passionate about all aspects of public health, especially related to health promotion, advocacy, environmental health, and learning ways to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities.



Will Humble is a long-time public health enthusiast, and is currently the Executive Director for the Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA). His 30 years in public health include more than 2 decades at the Arizona Department of Health Services, where he served in various roles including as the Director from 2009 to 2015. Prior to being appointed Director, he worked in various capacities in the public health preparedness service line. Most recently, he was a health policy director at the University of Arizona from 2015-2017. He continues to be involved in health policy in his role with AzPHA and as Adjunct Faculty with the UA Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. He has a BS in Marketing from NAU, a BS in Microbiology from ASU, and a Masters in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Arizona in 2015 for engaging partnerships between academic and executive public health.



Judith A. Hunt, MD: Clinical Assistant Professor IM/PED UACOM-P/T. Regional Rural Site Director/Longitudinal Integrated Curriculum-Payson. Board Certified in IM/PED/Adolescent Medicine. Graduate of Good Samaritan/Phoenix Childrens Combined Residency. Graduate of UACOM-T. AHEC Student 1988 in Nogales, AZ.

is a practicing IM/PED/Adolescent physician in Payson, AZ. The AHEC experience well prepared her for the position in Payson as the first pediatrician in town. After 25 years as a preceptor of students and residents, Dr. Hunt has joined the efforts of EAHEC and UACOM-P to establish the first Longitudinal Integrated Curriculum (LIC) in Payson.



Claudia Kinsella, is a quality improvement specialist RN with Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG). She has been working in the nursing profession for 35 years providing direct care and holding leadership positions in the emergency department, crisis intake, behavioral health, clinical education, school nursing, and quality consulting for group homes. Serving those with behavioral health and substance use disorders and combatting stigma has always been Ms. Kinsella's primary passion. She has been certified through the American Nurses Credentialing Center as a psychiatric/mental health RN for over 30 years.



Heather Klomparens, graduated with a B.S. in Kinesiology from Michigan State University and an M.A. in Sports Administration from Central Michigan University. She has worked for Yavapai County Community Health Services for 10+ years working primarily in healthy community design and active transportation. Heather now oversees the Community Health Education Section of YCCHS. Heather enjoys spending time with her family and exploring Northern Arizona and beyond.



Carol Lewis, MA is the assistant director of public health for Yavapai County Community Health Services. She has worked at YCCHS for over thirty years. Carol sits on the board of the Arizona Rural Health Association and NA-MI-Yavapai.



Lisa Lewis, President Arizona Library Association, has been working in libraries for 21 years and is currently the Library Services Manager for Show Low Public Library. She has had many adventures since starting her career including being invited by the U.S. Embassy in Croatia to present a series of workshops to the librarians there. This was an experience of a lifetime and one she will never forget. Lisa has served on the ARSL (Association for Rural and Small Libraries) board and is currently the AzLA President. (Arizona Library Association). She has always been a strong advocate for rural and small libraries and continues to be a strong voice for all public libraries.



Marica Martinic, MPH, Education Director, Northern Arizona AHEC Regional Center - has worked since 2014 with the education department at North Country Health-Care embedded Northern Arizona AHEC (NAHEC) Regional Center. She oversees all NAHEC programming and the Flagstaff community campus for AT Still University

School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (ATSU-SOMA). She has 15 years of experience in non-profit and community health administration. She assisted with the development and implementation of the Colorado Plateau Center for Health Professions with Drs. Paul and Newland, which began its second cohort of Family Medicine residents this summer.



Michelle Moore, After receiving a B.A. in English and an M.S. in Project Management, Michelle Moore pivoted to work on a large scale mental health study of active duty soldiers, which sought to understand the rising suicide rates among military members. This sparked her passion for public health and in 2020 she received her MPH from

George Washington University. After living all over the U.S. and Europe she, her husband, and dog have happily settled in Tucson. She is currently working at the Center for Rural Health on the A.H.E.A.D. (Advancing Health Equity, Addressing Disparities) initiative and aspires to continue making positive impacts in communities today.



Francisco Moreno, MD, is a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and Associate Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Director of the Hispanic Center of Excellence at the UArizona Health Sciences. He also has served as executive vice chair, interim department head and as director for inpatient, outpatient,

residency and research programs in the Department of Psychiatry. He has a special interest in working with the underserved and has established clinical, educational and research collaborations to decrease the gap of mental health services for immigrants in Arizona. He has been conducting research in biology and treatment of mood and anxiety disorders, geared to improve our understanding of the brain basis for mental illness and the underlying mechanism of action of antidepressants / anti-anxiety drugs, and treatment resistance. Dr. Moreno has served since 2009 as institutional representative to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Group on Diversity and Inclusion (GDI). In 2010, he was elected Western Region Representative of the AAMC GDI. A UA faculty member since 1997, Dr. Moreno has served in a variety of roles at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson related to academic administration; undergraduate, graduate and continuing medical education; faculty development; promotion; research compliance; resource utilization; and community advocacy. He is a former chairman of the Faculty Diversity Advisory Committee at the UA College of Medicine.



Dr. Bridget Murphy has almost three decades of education and experience in behavioral health and educational research, services, and supports. She has held positions in academic institutions, community-based and private sector organizations. Dr. Murphy's principal experience is in behavioral health: substance use, mental health,

and sexual health for culturally diverse children, youth, and families in various settings. As a teen, Dr. Murphy struggled with substance use and mental health issues and participated in treatment. This experience provided the foundation for her academic and professional direction.



Gabriel Ortous, Director of Programs, Cummings Graduate Institute. Orthous is a healthcare information technology and healthcare financial analytics executive offering over 20 years of progressive experience as a value-based care strategic thinker and executor with a history of scaling and driving return on investment of

complex healthcare IT solutions. Particularly accomplished in helping large healthcare systems and insurer organizations develop strategies that are highly effective in raising quality levels, improving patient outcomes and reducing healthcare costs. Solid industry knowledge with a wealth of expertise in business analytics used in concert with various tools to drive actionable insights. Mr. Ortous is an adjunct professor at Sacred Heart University Informatics Department and Georgia State University.



Christy Pacheco, DNP, FNP-BC is a Family Nurse Practitioner, University of Arizona College of Nursing RHPP Director, and Assistant Clinical Professor in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. Dr. Pacheco is involved in a range of academic, clinical, quality improvement, and program activities, including interprofessional

education, immersion, and mentoring. Her focus is improving the quality and access to care for rural and medically underserved populations. She has held numerous leadership positions in her program work. In clinical practice in Northern Arizona for over 20 years, including 6 years at a rural IHS site on the Navajo Nation, local FQHC, health department, she currently practices at a free community health clinic.



Jonathan Pantenburg, joined Stroudwater in 2016, and brings to the firm a strong record of leadership in rural healthcare. A highly accomplished, results-driven senior executive, Jonathan has over 15 years of progressively responsible experience advising profit, non-profit, and governmental entities through complex issues

including cost reduction, acquisitions, contracts, financial analysis, and operations.



Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy is Murray and Clara Walker Chair and Chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson, Arizona. He has a broad background in translational and clinical research with emphasis on intervention-based approaches in sleep, COVID, and health disparities. His current research work is focused on as contact-PI or co-investigator: (a) community engaged research alliance against COVID-19 related health disparities (NIH-CEAL Alliance , OT2HL156812); (b) sleep disturbances and the relationship to inflammation and patient-outcomes in critically ill patients and survivors of critical illness; and (c) health-services research in sleep medicine.



Dr. Gustavo Perez is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Arizona, College of Medicine, Psychiatry and a licensed psychologist specialized in the treatment of young people with serious mental illness. He directs the Early Psychosis Intervention Center (EPICenter) in Tucson. Dr. Perez obtained his undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of Texas at El Paso. He completed his doctorate degree in educational psychology at the University of Texas at Austin and his psychology internship at the University of New Mexico. Prior to his current position, he was the chief clinical psychologist for Pima County Juvenile Court.



Felipe Perez, MD Dr. Perez grew up in rural Arizona. He was inspired to become a physician because of the healthcare deficiencies in his community. His goal is to make healthcare affordable and assessable to everyone. In 2013, he spearheaded the creation of the family medicine residency program at El Rio Health to help address

physician shortage. Dr. Perez believes it is important for physicians to get involved to shape the future of healthcare and he served on several leadership positions in medical school and in residency. He currently serves as an Outside Medical Consultant for the Arizona Medical Board, faculty for a national GME conference, committee member with the National Association of Community Health Centers, active member of Arizona Medical Association and the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians Legislative Task Force. He now wants to share his passion for medicine and advocacy with the next generation of doctors.



Jennifer Peters, SORH Program Manager Jennifer Peters is the coordinator for community health promotion and project coordinator for the Arizona State Office of Rural Health (SORH) program grant in the Rural Health Office at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Since 2000, Peters has

worked at the Rural Health Office as a program coordinator and community-focused collaborative researcher in a wide range of areas, including state health systems, youth wellness, women’s health, health and media literacy, building community capacity to address health needs, resource development, education and training, policy analysis and advocacy and rural health issues. She has expertise in involving community members as participants in research projects and working with institutional review boards. Additionally, she has served as a federal grant reviewer for the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration for several years.



Siman Qaasim, (she/her) is an experienced public health professional, with a background in community health and health policy. She currently heads up health equity efforts at the Arizona Department of Health Services as the health equity administrator. She started her career in refugee health running a small community center to assist fellow Somalis adjust to life in America. After this, she served ten years at the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, where she was the administrator for the Office of School Health and Wellness Initiatives and the Office of Health Promotion and Education. Siman then joined Children’s Action Alliance, a policy and advocacy organization focused on the wellbeing of Arizona’s children, where she served as the director of health policy and later as CEO. Siman earned her bachelor’s degree at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and holds a master’s degree in business administration (MBA) from Nova Southeastern University in Florida.



Elizabeth “Beth” Robinson is the Deputy Health Department for Cochise County Health and Social Services, in Bisbee, AZ. She started her professional healthcare career as a Radiology Technologist where she served in the rural Cochise area for over 20 years. Almost four years ago she found her love of public health and started

to transition out of the clinical field to the public health sector. She obtained and Bachelors of Science and a Masters of Healthcare Administration from Grand Canyon University, and is currently finishing her Doctorate in Global Health at A.T. Still University. She is married and has four children and three grandchildren.



Brianna Rooney, MPH - is currently the Southern Region Manager with the Arizona Coalition for Healthcare Emergency Response (AzCHER) and works with the University of Arizona, Center for Rural Health on Critical Access Hospital preparedness. In 2019, she moved to Arizona from Lincoln, Nebraska where she worked

for three years as the Hospital Preparedness Program Manager at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. She earned a B.S. (2014) in Spanish and Biology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and an MPH (2016) in Epidemiology from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She now attends the UArizona pursuing her DrPH in the Public Health Policy and Management Program, with interests in the health disparities of rural communities that impact healthcare preparedness and policies.



Ana Roscetti, is the Workforce Section Manager for the Arizona Primary Care Office, Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Bureau of Women’s and Children’s Health. In her current role, Ana provides oversight to 7 workforce programs that aim to increase the number of health care professionals working in

medically underserved areas of Arizona. Those programs include the National Health Service Corps, State Loan Repayment, Nurse Corps, J1 Visa and the National Interest Waiver Programs. Ana received her Master of Public Health in Community Medicine from the University of Washington in 2004 and a Certificate in Epidemiology from the Arizona State University in 2008.



Laura Schweers, is a member of the AzCRH team working on the ADHS/CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities initiative, known as AHEAD AZ (Advancing Health Equity, Addressing Disparities in Arizona). In her role, she leads the development of the Community Model Champions program to engage and empower community leaders

on health promotion and prevention to support local capacity to build resilience and address the impacts of the current

pandemic and future challenges at the community level. She also co-leads an effort to support critical access hospitals, rural health clinics, and federally qualified health centers through training and education activities for their healthcare workforce.

Andy Shanks, is the director of the Southern Arizona Hospital Alliance a collaborative effort of five independent and nonprofit community hospitals to enhance healthcare access and provision in Southeastern Arizona. With nearly 20 years of experience in the medical field, Mr. Shanks has worked in many facets of healthcare from patient care to business and program development. He has successfully blended his passion for community advocacy with his professional experience, creatively identifying and implementing new methods of sustaining and delivering high-quality healthcare.



Jami Snyder, serves as the director of AHCCCS, overseeing Arizona’s Medicaid and CHIP program, offering care to more than 2.2 million Arizona residents. She was appointed by Governor Doug Ducey on January 5, 2019, after having served as the agency’s deputy director since December 2017. With more than 20 years of public

and private sector experience in the health and human services industries, Ms. Snyder’s areas of expertise include regulatory oversight, policy making and leadership development. Prior to joining AHCCCS, Ms. Snyder served as Medicaid Director for the state of Texas. She currently serves as the board president for the National Association of Medicaid Directors and is a 2013 Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy Fellow. Ms. Snyder holds a master’s degree in political science from Arizona State University as well as a bachelor’s degree in political science from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota.





Sheila Soto, MPH, is the Program Manager of the Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH), Primary Prevention Mobile Health Unit in Tucson, Arizona. She is a DrPH candidate in the Department of Community, Environment & Policy. Ms. Soto was born and raised in rural Idaho and is a Bill and Melinda Gates Millennial

Scholar. She attended the University of Nebraska for her B.A. in Sociology and Ethnic Studies (2015) and later completed her MPH at MEZCOPH (2017). Her professional experience includes improving health and access to services for farm-workers, immigrants, border, and hard-to-reach populations.



Carla Sutter, Director, Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry for Health Current, a Contexture organization. Ms. Sutter holds her master's degree in social work and has spent her 30-year career working with organizations who are dedicated to helping clients and families care for themselves and others whose needs are changing due

to age or illness. Ms. Sutter has focused on end-of-life tools and conversations and served as a trainer and facilitator for the Fairview Health System. Ms. Sutter was a volunteer coalition member with Arizona POLST as they worked to develop the End-of-life Decision Making Tool for healthcare settings across Arizona.



Daniel Tellez, is a fourth-year pharmacy student at the University of Arizona R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy in Tucson. He also works as a pharmacy intern at Mariposa Community Health Center in Nogales. While in school, he has focused his extracurriculars and research to better understand and improve the health and

social determinants of health of those in rural areas of southern Arizona. Recent projects include a community health needs assessment of Nogales and senior projects focused on understanding and improving vaccine hesitancy in southern Arizona by using different methods, including promotores education and video presentations.



Andrew Terech is the Director of Social Determinants of Health for Health Current, Arizona's Health Information Exchange. He is a licensed associate counselor and has over 13 years of experience working in various leadership roles in behavioral healthcare and integrated healthcare settings. His passion for helping people,

and leadership experience, led him to Health Current where he is leading a team to implement a statewide SDOH referral program aimed at improving access to vital social services.



Megan Trosko, MSN, EMBA, FNP-C serves as the Director of Care Improvement for the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association. She is responsible for contributing to the organization's mission: "Making Arizona the healthiest state in the Nation" by leading collaboratives to improve patient safety and reduce harm in hospitals,

improve the patient and family experience, improve health-care outcomes, and decrease costs to all Arizonians. She graduated from both ASU and GCU and has experience as a nurse practitioner and nurse leader. She is passionate about improving access to healthcare, patient education, patient safety and quality care for all Arizonans.

Dr. Sharry Veres, is a distinguished physician, leader and mentor whose expertise has contributed to the development of health care environments to serve inpatient and outpatient populations and to the training of resident physicians, fellows and faculty.

Dr. Veres is currently the residency program director and medical director at St. Anthony North Hospital in Westminster, Colorado. She comes to Phoenix after nine years in that role. She also serves as associate clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Veres earned her MD at the University of Washington School of Medicine and completed her family medicine residency at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix. She earned a master's degree in Health Sector Management from Arizona State University.



Samantha Werts is a PhD student in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. She completed a Master of Public Health degree in May 2020 at the University of Arizona concentrating on health behavior and health promotion. Samantha is involved in a wide range of research within the area of

cancer prevention and control, including work in ovarian cancer survivorship, nutrition and physical activity intervention, colorectal cancer screening, and tobacco cessation. She is interested in developing and implementing lifestyle interventions to improve health outcomes for cancer survivors, especially under-resourced older and rural populations.

Martin Zavala MS is a Clinical Research Coordinator with the UA MHU in Phoenix, AZ. Mr. Zavala is originally from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua and was raised most of his life in Phoenix. Mr. Zavala received his Bachelor's in Biological Sciences: Science and Society, followed by a Masters in Health Care Delivery from Arizona State University. Martin has worked, volunteered and interned in many public health organizations with various roles. Always with the goal of eliminating health disparities by providing quality health care, health education, and resources to underserved communities in Arizona.

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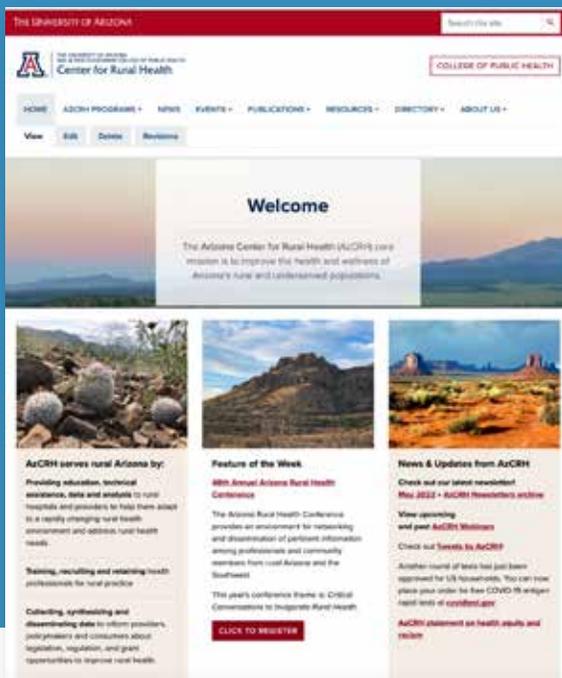
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On behalf of the Center for Rural Health at The University of Arizona, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, we wish to thank you for attending the 48th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference

Participant Survey

Please take 5-10 minutes to provide your feedback on the Rural Health Conference. Your feedback is important to us and will be used to inform the planning for future events. To use the QR code, open the camera app on your phone and point it at the QR Code. When your camera focuses on the code you should see a pop-up link directing you to the survey.



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