

Arizona Rural & Public Health Policy Forum

January 31, 2023

Virginia Piper Auditorium

The Forum is presented by the Arizona Center for Rural Health with sponsorship from the Arizona Rural Health Association, the Arizona Telemedicine Program and Arizona Area Health Education Centers.



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

Center for Rural Health

AGENDA

- 7:30-8:15 am** Check-in and Light Breakfast
- 8:15 - 8:30** **Welcome and Introduction**
Daniel Derksen, MD, Walter H. Pearce Endowed Chair & Director, Arizona Center for Rural Health, Professor of Public Health, Medicine & Nursing
Introducing **Dr. Jeffrey Reynoso**, Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region IX
- 8:30 - 9:00** **Public Health Impacts via the U.S. Supreme Court**
James Hodge, JD, LL.M., Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and Director of the Center for Public Health Law and Policy
- 9:00 - 9:30** **Social Determinants of Health & Key Health IT Policy Issues**
Melissa Kotrys, MPH - Chief Executive Officer, Contexture
- 9:30 -10:10** **Health Equity and the Arizona Department of Health Services**
Siman Qaasim, Arizona Department of Health Services
Chavon Woods, Arizona Department of Health Services
Carin Watts, Arizona Department of Health Services
Faciliator: Nancy Johnson
- 10:10 - 10:25** Break
- 10:25 - 11:15** **Tribal Heath Panel: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples**
Dr. Tara M. Chico-Jarillo, DrPH, MPH, Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, Tohono O'odham Nation
Adalberto Lopez Renteria MD, Medical Director, Pascua Yaqui Tribe Health Department
Kim Russell, Director, Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care
Facilitator:
Timian Godfrey Assistant Clinical Professor (Dine'), Director, INCATS program, Director, ANCATS program, University of Arizona College of Nursing

AGENDA

- 11:15-11:30** **Arizona Organizations Policy Snapshots – Video**
 Arizona Nurses Association, Kathy Busby, Governmental Relations Consultant/Lobbyist
 Arizona State Physician Assistants Association, Kathy Busby, Governmental Relations Consultant/Lobbyist
 Arizona Academy of Family Physicians Laura Dearing, EVP
- 11:30 - 12:00 pm** **Arizona Rural Health Association Updates**
 Holly Figueroa - President, Arizona Rural Health Association
- 12:00 - 12:50 pm** Lunch
- 12:50 - 1:20** **Tons of Public Health Authority Was Lost to Preemption in 2022: Is a Claw-back Possible?**
 Will Humble, Executive Director, Arizona Public Health Association
 Faciliator: Dan Derksen
- 1:20 - 1:35** **Arizona Organizations Policy Snapshots – Video**
 Arizona Association of Health Plans, Beth Kohler, Chief Executive Officer
 Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, Meghan McCabe, Director of Government Relations
- 1:35 - 2:15** **Making it Happen Locally - New Developments in State and Local Policies**
 Meghan McCabe, Director of Government Relations, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA)
 Dr. Bob England, Interim Executive Director, The Arizona Partnership for Immunization
 Amanda Aguirre, President & CEO, Regional Center for Border Health, Inc.
 Facilitator: Nancy Johnson, Senior Director Strategy, Global MD, University of Arizona
- 2:15- 2:45** **Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Agency Update**
 Dana Flannery, AHCCCS Senior Policy Adviser & Assistant Director for the Division of Community Advocacy and Intergovernmental Relations
- 2:45 - 3:00 pm** **Ending Remarks**
 Dan Derksen, MD and Nancy Johnson

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Amanda Aguirre, Former Arizona State Senator, she presently serves in the capacity of President & CEO of the Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. since 1991 and its subsidiary San Luis Walk-In Clinic, Inc., a primary care rural health medical center. Ms. Aguirre has been involved for more than 35 years in health care and business administration. She possesses a life-long commitment to education and in 2007 she established a licensed post-secondary vocational training center in the area of allied health training, which has generated job opportunities for over 3,000 individuals. Ms. Aguirre also worked for Arizona Western College from 1995-1999 as the South Yuma County Campus Director.



Tara M. Chico-Jarillo, DrPH, MPH a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation, is the Executive Director of the Tohono O’odham Nation Department of Health and Human Services. Tara holds a Bachelor of Science in Family Studies and Human Development and a Master

and Doctor of Public Health in Maternal and Child Health from the University of Arizona. Tara has over 15 years of experience working with American Indian families and communities throughout Arizona. Prior to her graduate studies, Tara worked for a tribal child protective service agency to reunite families. Her previous public health experience includes program evaluation and community-based participatory research in tribal communities with a focus on early childhood experiences. Her dissertation project focused on the prevention of alcohol exposed pregnancies and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders with an emphasis on understanding the process of adapting a prevention program for the urban Indian community. Throughout her professional and personal experiences, she has learned the value of community collaboration and the positive changes these collaborations can make in the communities she serves.



Daniel Derksen, MD is the University of Arizona Health Sciences Associate Vice President for Health Equity, Outreach and Interprofessional Activities. He also serves as the Walter H. Pearce Endowed Chair and Director of the Arizona Center

for Rural Health (AzCRH), and Professor in the Zuckerman College of Public Health. He oversees AzCRH programs including the State Office of Rural Health, the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, the AzCRH Navigator Consortium, and the SAMHSA-ADHS-AzCRH First Responders interagency services agreement. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians and the Arizona Rural Health Association. In 2007-08 he was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow with U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman in D.C., where he researched and drafted provisions to improve the supply and distribution of the nation’s health workforce signed into law in 2010. He established New Mexico’s health insurance Marketplace that now covers over 50,000 individuals. As principal investigator of state, federal, and private foundation grants in excess of \$85 million over his 34-year academic career, Dr. Derksen works to improve insurance coverage and access to high quality health care, emphasizing interprofessional, community-based service-learning models in rural areas. He focuses on translating data to inform the legislative, regulatory, and program evaluation processes at the state and national levels.



Dr Bob England is the Interim Executive Director for The Arizona Partnership for Immunization. He has been a public health doc for his entire career, holding several state and local positions, mostly in Arizona. Among other things, he’s been the State Epidemiologist, for 12 years the Director of the Maricopa County Dept of Public Health, and the Interim Director of the Pima County Health Dept through the early months of the COVID pandemic.



Holly Figueroa, Tribal Liaison/President, BCBSAZ Health Choice/Arizona Rural Health Association, Holly Figueroa is Hopi and Ohkay Owingeh. Holly serves as the Tribal Liaison for BCBSAZ Health Choice. Holly works to strengthen tribal relations with 17 tribes in HC service area, focusing on Access to Care, Prevention, Coordination of Care, Nation Building, Training & Education, Reducing Health Disparities, supporting Crisis Service and Stigma Reduction. Holly works to ensure that culturally appropriate services are delivered to all including Health Choice members and that providers meet the language and unique cultural needs of those they serve. Holly

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also develops education and awareness programs for staff and residents of the Health Choice service area to help reduce the stigma aimed at diverse cultures and to raise awareness and decrease health disparities they often suffer. Holly is also a dedicated Ally who works to advocate and ensure Safe Spaces for 2SLGBTQ individuals and community. Additionally, Holly pursues other ways to give back to her community and to be an effective advocate for Native American people everywhere. She serves on the Arizona Town Hall Board of Directors; Northern Arizona Healthcare Foundation Certificate Holder, she serves as the President for Arizona Rural Health Association; the MPOWRD Board of Directors.



Dana Flannery is a public health policy expert and leader who drives innovation within Arizona's Medicaid program. She currently serves the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) in two senior-level capacities: senior policy advisor to the director, and the assistant

director of the Division of Community Advocacy and Intergovernmental Relations (DCAIR). As senior policy advisor to the director, Dana serves as a conduit between the agency's divisions and the executive team, and a source of guidance for the agency's director, two deputy directors, and chief medical officer. As assistant director of DCAIR, Dana oversees a staff of 40 employees in the AHCCCS Office of Individual and Family Affairs, the Office of Human Rights, the Federal Relations and Communications, and facilitates bi-directional communication with several committees and councils. During the pandemic, Dana led the Medicaid agency's COVID-19 Strikeforce, overseeing efforts to obtain federal approval of programmatic changes that ensured that members could obtain health care and that providers maintained viability. She's been instrumental in designing the agency's plan to use American Rescue Plan Act funding to enhance Home and Community Based Services for members in the long term care program. Dana leads the agency's 1115 waiver and state plan efforts for Arizona. Relying on her expertise from experience as a behavioral health provider, she leads the agency's Behavioral Health Continuum workgroup and spearheads the state's crisis response and 988 planning efforts. Dana also led the development of the Arizona Peer Advancement Career Academy and several advocacy training courses. She recently graduated from the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) Medicaid Pathways program, and is a graduate of Arizona State University.



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 AzaAHEC to establish a center dedicated to health science education opportunities with the 22 Arizona tribes.



James G. Hodge, Jr., JD, LL.M., is the Peter Kiewit Foundation Professor of Law and Director of the nationally-ranked Center for Public Health Law and Policy at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University. Through scholarship, teaching, and projects, Professor

Hodge delves into multiple areas of health law, public health law, global health law, ethics, and human rights. Since September 2010, he also serves as Director, Western Region Office, Network for Public Health Law (funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation). The Western Region Office has assisted public health lawyers, public health officials, practitioners, and others nationally on over 5,300 claims. Professor Hodge has published more than 290 articles in journals of law, medicine, public health and bioethics; 2 books in public health law; and 25 book chapters, among other works.



Will Humble is a long-time public health enthusiast and is currently the Executive Director for the Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA). His 40 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. He continues to be involved in health policy in his role as

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the Executive Director for the AZPHA. Will is a believer in using evidence-based health policy to improve health outcomes and in leading and managing with emotional intelligence. Follow him on Twitter @willhumble_az



Nancy Johnson, RN, MSN, MS, PhD, is the former Chief Executive Officer for El Rio Community Health Center, one of the largest federally qualified health centers in the country. She is a registered nurse graduating with a BSN from Illinois Wesleyan University. Dr Johnson also holds masters degrees in both

nursing from the University of Illinois and a masters in marketing and business from the University of Arizona Eller College. Her doctoral research was on provider perspectives in caring for the uninsured population, leading to her completion of her PhD in Health Care Administration. Nancy has held positions as a clinician, a faculty member in nursing, business, and medicine, as well as an administrator. She spent over 15 years with Tucson Medical Center, building community health and wellness programs, acquiring and managing medical practices for the TMC system, and expanding community networks. Today, after 14 years of service to El Rio Health, she continues to serve as an adjunct clinical professor for the University of Arizona College of Medicine as well as the College of Nursing. She has authored a textbook with her husband, entitled “The Care of the Uninsured in America” and most recently, an article in Nursing Administration Quarterly on Healthcare for the Homeless. Dr Johnson is a recent recipient of the University of Arizona’s Cecil B. Hart Humanitarian Award as well as the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award from Illinois Wesleyan University. Dr Johnson was named Greater Tucson Leadership’s Woman of the Year in 2021.



Melissa A. Kotrys, MPH, is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Contexture (contexture.org), the umbrella organization of CORHIO, a leading health information exchange (HIE) in Colorado, and Health Current, the Arizona HIE.

Through her vision and leadership, Contexture is celebrated as a model for aligning the healthcare community with the possibilities of connected electronic health information to advance individual and

community health and wellbeing. Melissa is recognized as a collaborative partner of hospitals and health systems, health plans, healthcare providers, healthcare associations and other healthcare sectors in Arizona. She serves as the Board Chair of Civitas Networks for Health, a national collaborative comprised of HIEs and regional healthcare improvement collaboratives. She also serves as a member of the Employers Council Board of Directors, Arizona’s State Medicaid Advisory Committee, and the Advisory Council of Solari Crisis & Human Services. Prior to joining Health Current, Melissa worked as a consultant and health policy analyst at Deloitte Consulting. She holds a Master of Public Health in health policy from The George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Meghan McCabe currently serves as the Director of Government Relations for the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association. A native Arizonan, McCabe graduated from Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University. She earned her law degree at the University of Washington.

After law school, McCabe spent several years in Washington, DC, lobbying at a boutique government relations firm on behalf of universities and scientific societies. Following her time in the nation’s capital, McCabe returned to her home state and joined Arizona’s largest government affairs firm, where she spent several years representing a wide array of clients before the state legislature and municipalities. Prior to her current role at AzHHA, she served as the Deputy Director of Government Relations for the Arizona Medical Association.



Siman Qasim (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.

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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's career has taken her all over the world, from working in international policy in Washington, D.C. to Nassau, Bahamas as a asst director of health and safety for a large private company. She has received honors and recognition for her contributions to the public health field including the Phoenix Business Journal's 40 Under 40, the Arizona Public Health Association Harold B Woodward Award, an honoree at the Valle del Sol Mother of the Year Luncheon, and is an alumnus of Valley Leadership. 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.

Adalberto Lopez Renteria MD, Dr. Renteria immigrated to Napa Valley, California when he was 6 years old from Jalisco, Mexico. Educated in the United States, he attended College at Stanford University and Medical School at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). He is a Family Medicine physician, Medical Administrator, and Clinical teacher at multiple levels for approximately 30 years. He has experience in the Community health center, Commercial Health, and Native American health spaces as a Medical Director throughout his career. He has been the Medical Director for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe since 2005.



Kim Russell is of the Bitter Water People, born for the Tangle People. Her maternal grandfathers are of the Coyote Pass Clan and her paternal grandfathers are of the Bitter Water People. Ms. Russell is from Chinle, Arizona and a citizen of the Navajo Nation. Ms. Russell is the Director of the Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health

Care, an independent state agency whose mission is to advocate for increasing access to high quality health care programs for all American Indians in Arizona. Kim has worked with Tribes, Tribal Organizations, the Indian Health Service, and Urban Indian Health Programs to advance their health agendas and priorities her entire career. Ms. Russell received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a Master's of Health Administration. Kim enjoys spending time with family and her puppy nephews and puppy niece and traveling.



Carin Watts is the Health Disparities Program Manager for the Bureau of Chronic Disease and Health Promotion at the Arizona Department of Health Services. In her role she serves as a subject matter expert and program manager for Arizona's Community Health Worker (CHW) initiatives,

working to develop a statewide infrastructure to promote the advancement and sustainability of the Arizona CHW workforce through expansion of CHW curricula and training, CHW Voluntary Certification, and payment mechanisms for CHW services. Carin began her public health career as a CHW, connecting rural and underserved populations to programs that offer free cancer screenings and diagnostic services. She has spent her undergraduate and graduate career studying public health with a focus on public health policy and community capacity building.



Chavon Woods is the Senior Program Administrator for the Office of Health Equity with the Arizona Department of Health Services. Chavon is an Arizona native and has worked in local and state government for nearly 20 years. She holds a Bachelor and Master of Art in Public Administration, with an

emphasis in Governmental Policy. Most of her background is in contract management and administration, specifically in HIV. In her current role, Chavon manages the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Health Disparities Grant, partnering with local health departments, community based and Tribal organizations. Chavon also supports projects for Justice Reinvestment, Marijuana Expungement, Education and Outreach, as well as department and community wide Health Equity initiatives. Chavon considers herself a public servant and having the opportunity to advance health equity and implement efforts to address health disparities is a humble honor. Outside of work, Chavon enjoys spending time with her husband, Herbie, and their two children, Joy and Christian.

DIRECTORY

* Comprehensive list of participants as of January 20, 2023

Amanda Aguirre , President & CEO Regional Center for Border Health, Inc.	amanda@rcfbh.org
Julie Ambur , Senior Project Manager Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)	julie.ambur@azahcccs.gov
Amy Arias , Student, University of Arizona	amyarias@arizona.edu
Mona Arora , Assistant Research Professor, University of Arizona	manand@arizona.edu
Agnes Attakai , Director, Health Disparities Outreach & Prevention Education, University of Arizona	agnes@arizona.edu
Jeffrey Axtell , Grants Manager, Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care (AACIHC)	jeffrey.axtell@aacihc.az.gov
Stephanie Babbitt , Chief Clinical Officer, The Guidance Center	drichards@tgcaz.org
Jerrod Bailey , CEO, Medplace	jerrod.bailey@medplace.com
Aaron Ball , Director of College and Career Pathways, Center for the Future of Arizona	aaron.ball@arizonafuture.org
Jessie Barbosa , Vaccine Equity Manager, Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)	jessica.barbosa@azdhs.gov
Leila Barraza , Associate Professor, University of Arizona	lbarraza@arizona.edu
Victoria Began , CEO, San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation	victoria.began@scahealth.org
Angela Beltran , Registered Nurse, Banner Health	angelabeltran19@gmail.com
Lauren Berring , Director of Programs, Pro-Choice Arizona	l.berring@prochoicearizona.org
Jack Beveridge , President & Board Director, Empowerment Systems	jbeveridge@empowermentsystems.org
Angela Bryant , Program Manager, Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers	angelab@aachc.org
Vicki Buchda , Vice President of Care Improvement, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association	vbuchda@azhha.org
Jill Bullock , Associate Director, Arizona Center for Rural Health	bullock1@arizona.edu
Lupe Campos , Board of Directors, Community Outreach Manager, Arizona Rural Health Association	guadalupe.campos@azblue.com
Lilliana Cardenas , Community Resiliency Manager, Maricopa County Department of Public Health	lilliana.cardenas@maricopa.gov

DIRECTORY

Nestor Carrillo , Director of Marketing, Medplace	nestor.carrillo@medplace.com
Erin Carr-Jordan , Managing Director, Digital Equity Institute	ecj@digitalequityinstitute.org
Heather Carter , Executive Vice President, Greater Phoenix Leadership	Heather@gplinc.org
Tara Chico-Jarillo , Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, Tohono O’odham Nation	tara.chico-jarillo@tonation-nsn.gov
Maria Chavoya , Regional Community Regionals, Arizona Complete Health	mchavoya@azcompletehealth.com
Benny Cheney , Board Member, San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation	benny.cheney@scahealth.org
Sarah Coles , Residency Program Director North Country Healthcare	scoles@nchcaz.org
Rafael Cota , Manager of Patient Safety and Quality, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association	rcota@azhha.org
Caleigh Curley , Research Program Administrator, University of Arizona	ccurley@arizona.edu
Isabella Denton , Grants Manger, AACIHC	isabella.denton@aacihc.az.gov
Dan Derksen , Associate Vice President & Director , Arizona Center for Rural Health	dderksen@arizona.edu
Marisa Domino , Executive Director & Professor, Center for Health Information & Research, Arizona State University	Marisa.Domino@asu.edu
Brian Eller , School Liaison, Community Engagement, Arizona Department of Health Services	brian.eller@azdhs.gov
Bob England , Interim Executive Direction, The Arizona Partnership for Immunization	drbob@tapi.org
Cara English , CEO, Cummings Graduate Institute	caracoxenglish@gmail.com
Anthony Enoch , Program Specialist, AACIHC	Anthony.EnochJr@aacihc.az.gov
Mariah Erhart , Community Outreach Professional, Arizona Center For Rural Health	merhart@arizona.edu

DIRECTORY

Martha Esparza , Medical Student, University of Arizona	marthanu@arizona.edu
Hedda Fay , Community Outreach Program Manager, Northland Cares	fay.h@northlandcares.org
Holly Figueroa , Tribal Liaison/President, BCBSAZ Health Choice/Arizona Rural Health Association	Holly.Figueroa@azblue.com
Dana Flannery , Senior Policy Advisor and Assistant Director, AHCCCS	dana.flannery@azahcccs.gov
Devon Forrest , CEO, The Guidance Center	drichards@tgcaz.org
Keye Garman , Epidemiologist, AACIHC	keye.garman@aacihc.az.gov
Ann Garn , Marketing Specialist III, Arizona Center for Rural Health	agarn@arizona.edu
Timian Godfrey , Assistant Clinical Professor, University of Arizona	timiangudfrey@arizona.edu
Laura Goldberg , Director Community Health Solutions, Emergent	goldbergl@ebsi.com
Shannon Groppenbacher , Healthcare Policy & Advocacy DIR, Johnson & Johnson	sgroppen@its.jnj.com
Aaron Guest , Asst Professor, Arizona State University	Aaron.Guest@asu.edu
Loren Halili , Program Management Assistant, University of Arizona	lorenhalili@arizona.edu
Chris Hansen , Market VP, Humana Healthy Horizons	chansen11@humana.com
Anna Hartman , ASU-ADHS Public Health Fellow, Arizona State University	ahartma6@asu.edu
Summer Hassan , Program Specialist, AACIHC	summer.hassan@aacihc.az.gov
Holly Henley , State Librarian and Director, Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records	hhenley@azlibrary.gov
Alicia Higginbotham , Client Care Director, Fitz Ilias	alicia@fitzilias.com

DIRECTORY

James Hodge , Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and Director of the Center for Public Health Law and Policy, Arizona State University	james.hodge.1@asu.edu
Michael Holcomb , Associate Director, Information Technology, Arizona Telemedicine Program	mholcomb@telemedicine.arizona.edu
Sally Holcomb , Community Government Affairs, Arizona Complete Health	sholcomb@azcompletehealth.com
Mignonne Hollis , Executive Director, Rural Care	hollism@aredf.org
Joyce Hospodar , Senior Advisor, Rural Programs, Arizona Center for Rural Health	hospodar@arizona.edu
Will Humble , Executive Director, Arizona Public Health Association	willhumble@azpha.org
Osi Ikharebha , Data Science Specialist, Center for Health Information & Research, Arizona State University	oikhare@mainex1.asu.edu
Marcus Johnson , Director, State Health Policy & Advocacy, Vitalyst Health Foundation	mjohnson@vitalysthealth.org
Nancy Johnson , Senior Director Strategy, Global MD, University of Arizona	njj@arizona.edu
Mckayla Keams , Executive Projects Coordinator, AACIHC	mckayla.keams@aacihc.az.gov
Alicia Kenney , Justice Reinvestment Manager, Arizona Department of Health Services	alicia.kenney@azdhs.gov
Rose Kent , SDOH and Centers of Excellence Programs Coordinator, BCBSAZ Health Choice	rose.kent@azblue.com
Bryna Koch , Assistant Research Professor, Arizona Center for Rural Health	brynak@arizona.edu
Beth Kohler , Chief Executive Officer, Arizona Association of Health Plans	beth.kohler@azahp.org
Sruthi Kommareddy , Senior Database Analyst, Center for Health Information & Research, Arizona State University	Sruthi.Kommareddy@asu.edu
Ashley Lazaro , Training Officer I, AACIHC	ashley.lazaro@aacihc.az.gov
Lisa Lewis , President, Arizona Library Association	president@azla.org
Sirene Lipschutz , Clinical Manager, Terros Health	sirene.lipschutz@terros.org

DIRECTORY

Eloisa Lopez , Executive Director, Pro-Choice Arizona	e.lopez@prochoicearizona.org
Maria Losoya , Health Educator and Community Outreach Specialist, Arizona Center for Rural Health	mlosoya@arizona.edu
Alison Lovell , Grants Manager, AACIHC	alison.lovell@aacihc.az.gov
Jana Lynn , Member, AzPHA	jlgranillo@cox.net
Vanessa Madrid Resendiz , Masters of Public Health Student, University of Arizona	madridresendiz@arizona.edu
Janet Major , Associate Director, Innovation & Digital Health, Arizona Telemedicine Program	jmajor@telemedicine.arizona.edu
Anthony Mancini , Community Affairs, Arizona Complete Health	anthony.mancini@azcompletehealth.com
Christopher Martin , Assistant Director, THealth, Arizona Telemedicine Program	cmartin@telemedicine.arizona.edu
Meghan McCabe , Director of Government Relations, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA)	mmccabe@azhha.org
Amanda, McKeith , Medical Student, Banner University	amanda.mckeith@bannerhealth.com
Kai McKinstry , CAAHEC CME Program Coordinator, Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers	kaim@aachc.org
Harry McDermott , Physician & Public Health Officer, University of Arizona	mcdermot@arizona.edu
Samantha Minichetti , Masters of Public Health Student, University of Arizona	sminichetti@arizona.edu
Victoria Molina , Assistant Instructor, University of Arizona	vmolina@arizona.edu
Michelle Moore , Project Management Assistant, Arizona Center for Rural Health	mmoore4@arizona.edu
Alicia Moura , Western Region - Director, Equum Medical	alicia.moura@equummedical.com
Sheryl Nelson , Program Manager Assistant II, Arizona Center for Rural Health	snelson4@arizona.edu
Anne Newland , CEO, North Country HealthCare	anewland@nchcaz.org

DIRECTORY

Cheryl O'Malley , Associate Dean, Graduate Medical Education, University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix	comalley@arizona.edu
Hannah Parry , Student, Banner University	hannah.parry@bannerhealth.com
Katie Penkoff , Development Director, Foundation Relations, Banner Health Foundation	katie.penkoff@bannerhealth.com
Jon Perez , Chief Program Officer, The NARBHA Institute	jon.perez@narbha.org
Aimee Perez , Director Network Contracting, BCBSAZ Health Choice	aimee.perez@azblue.com
Felipe Perez , DIO & Director of Medical and Health Profession Ed, El Rio Health	Felipep@elrio.org
Jennifer Peters , Program Manager, AzSORH, UArizona Center for Rural Health	petersjs@arizona.edu
Nishanth Prathap , Data Science Specialist, Center for Health Information & Research, Arizona State University	npratha1@mainex1.asu.edu
Siman Qaasim , Health Equity Administrator, Arizona Department of Health Services	siman.qaasim@azdhs.gov
Melissa Quezada , Executive Associate , Arizona Center for Rural Health	melissaquezada@arizona.edu
Lorraine Ramirez , Special Projects Manager, Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers	lorrainer@aachc.org
Neil Robbins , Senior Data Science Specialist, Center for Health Information & Research, Arizona State University	Neil.Robbins@asu.edu
Karen Rogge-Miller , Manager, Application Development, Arizona Telemedicine Program	karenmiller@arizona.edu
Brianna Rooney , Graduate Assitant, Arizona Center for Rural Health	bcrooney@arizona.edu
Ana Roscetti , Director of Workforce, Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers	anar@aachc.org
Kim Russell , Director, AACIHC	kim.russell@aacihc.az.gov
Tameka Sama , Manager, Center for Health Information & Research, Arizona State University	Tameka.Sama@asu.edu
Gabriela Sanchez , Health Navigator, Arizona Center for Rural Health	gabrielasanchez@arizona.edu

DIRECTORY

Laura Schweers , Program Management Assistant, UArizona Center for Rural Health	schweers@arizona.edu
Carolyn Scott , Strategy Advisor, Humana Healthy Horizons	cscott62@humana.com
Colette Scott , Director, Interprofessional Clinical and Professional Skills Center, The University of Arizona	colettescott@arizona.edu
Holly Starr , Data Equity Coordinator, Arizona Department of Health Services	holly.starr@azdhs.gov
Kristine Stewart , Interim Director, Arizona Telemedicine Program	kerps@telemedicine.arizona.edu
Emmett Suckow , Board Member, Arizona Rural Health Association	ejsuckow@arizona.edu
Carla Sutter , Director, Health Current/Contexture - Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry	carla.sutter@contexture.org
Sharliene Tatman , Client Care Director, Fitz Ilias	shar@fitzilias.com
Patricia Timmons , Student, Arizona State University	pattytimmons@gmail.com
Rocio Torres , Program Management Assistant, Arizona Center for Rural Health	torresm1@arizona.edu
Megan Trosko , Director of Care Improvement, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association	mtrosko@azhha.org
Jan Vidimos , Community Health Division Manager, Pinal County Public Health Services District	jan.vidimos@pinal.gov
Carin Watts , Health Disparities Program Manager, Bureau of Chronic Disease and Health Promotion, (ADHS)	carin.watts@azdhs.gov
Laura Wauters , HIV Educator/Tester Outreach, Northland Cares	laura@northlandcares.org
Breann Westmore , Director of Government Affairs, Humana	bwestmore@humana.com
Patrick Wightman , Center for Population Health Sciences, University of Arizona	wightman@arizona.edu
Alan Wilkins , Administrative Associate, Center for Health Information & Research, Arizona State University	Alan.Wilkins@asu.edu
Raegan Winder , Student, University of Arizona	raeganwinder@arizona.edu
Elizabeth Wood , Board Chairperson, Postpartum Support International - AZ Chapter	howwasyourday@hotmail.com
Chavon Woods , Senior Program Administrator, Office of Health Equity, Arizona Department of Health Services	chavon.woods.@azdhs.gov
Kijuana Wright , Director Network Operations, BCBSAZ Health Choice	kijuana.wright@azblue.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**The Arizona Center for Rural Health gratefully acknowledges the efforts of the
2023 Rural and Public Health Policy Forum Planning Committee:**

AACIHC

Kim Russell, Director
kim.russell@aacihc.az.gov

Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers

Ana Roscetti, Director of Workforce
anar@aachc.org

Arizona Center for Rural Health

Dan Derksen, Associate Vice President & Director
dderksen@arizona.edu

Jill Bullock, Associate Director
bullock1@arizona.edu

Agnes Attakai, Director,
Health Disparities Outreach & Prevention Education
agnes@arizona.edu

Ann Garn, Marketing Specialist
agarn@arizona.edu

Bryna Koch, Assistant Research Professor
brynak@arizona.edu

Jennifer Peters, Manager,
State Office of Rural Health
petersjs@arizona.edu

Leila Barraza, Director,
Arizona Health Education Centers
lbarraza@arizona.edu

Mariah Erhart, Community Outreach Professional
merhart@arizona.edu

Melissa Quezada, Executive Associate
melissaquezada@arizona.edu

Mona Arora, Program Manager,
AHEAD AZ
manand@arizona.edu

Arizona Rural Health Association

Holly Figueroa, President
holly.figueroa@azblue.com

Arizona Public Health Association

Will Humble, Executive Director
willhumble@azpha.org

**Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest
Telehealth Resource Center**

Kris Erps Stewart, Interim Director
kerps@telemedicine.arizona.edu

Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association

Vicki Buchda, Vice President, Care Improvement
vbuchda@AzHHA.org

Center for Health Information and Research (CHiR)

Marisa Domino, Director
Marisa.Domino@asu.edu

Formerly of Children's Action Alliance

Zaida Dedolph Piccoro, Policy Director

University of Arizona

Nancy Johnson, Senior Director Strategy
njj@arizona.edu

Greater Phoenix Leadership

Heather Carter, Executive Vice President
Heather@gplinc.org

North Country Healthcare

Sarah Coles, Residency Program Director
scoles@nchcaz.org

Office of Health Equity

Alicia Kenney, Social Work Equity Coordinator
alicia.kenney@azdhs.gov

Jessie Barbosa, Vaccine Equity Manager
jessica.barbosa@azdhs.gov

Regional Center for Border Health

Amanda Aguirre, President & CEO
ssaavedra@rcfbh.org

The University of Arizona College of Pharmacy

Elizabeth Hall-Lipsy, Assistant Professor of Practice
ehall@pharmacy.arizona.edu

University of Arizona College of Nursing

Timian Godfrey, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC CPH
timianguodfrey@arizona.edu

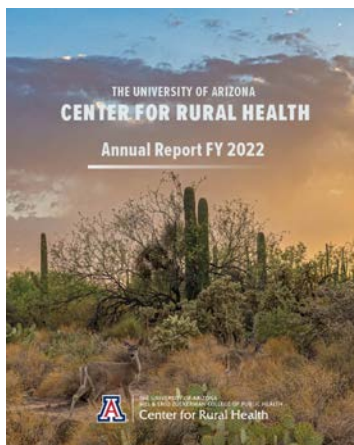
Vitalyst Foundation

Marcus Johnson,
Director of State Health Policy and Advocacy
mjohnson@vitalysthealth.org

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 Arizona Rural & Public Health Policy Forum.

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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