

# **24th Annual Advocacy Summit**

## **Youth Health Equity: Forging the Path for an Inclusive Future**

***October 22-24, 2022***

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Hilton Capitol Hill  
525 New Jersey Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Society for Public Health Education  
[www.sophe.org](http://www.sophe.org)



# Welcome From Chair

Hello and welcome to SOPHE's 2022 Advocacy Summit. We are thrilled to be in person and to host you this year in Washington, D.C. This year's Summit could not come at a more opportune time – as we approach the mid-term elections. We hope that this weekend you will learn more about key issues concerning youth health and expand the skills you need to advocate for these issues in Washington, D.C. and at home.

Join us for the opening keynote session with Daphne Frias, youth activist, organizer and storyteller, who will examine how young people are pioneering a new definition of public health.

We'll close this year's summit with a keynote panel featuring Terrinieka W. Powell, PhD, MA, Hadeis Safi, Renata Sanders, M.D., MPH, Sc.M, and Kelly Wilson, PhD. The closing keynote will discuss the speakers' expertise in youth reproductive and sexual health.

If you are joining us for scheduled Capitol Hill visits, be sure to attend our prep sessions – “Effective Hill Visits” and “Hill Visit Planning.” These sessions are led by Kathryn DiBitetto, who will prepare you to become an effective youth health advocate.

We would love to hear about your experience – use the hashtags #AS2022 and #HEontheHill on social media and share photos from SOPHE's 2022 Advocacy Summit. We'll re-post our favorite shots from the Summit on SOPHE's social media channels, so be sure to follow us.

**Sabrina Tindal Cherry, DrPH, MSPH, MTS**

SOPHE 2022 Advocacy Summit Planning Committee Chair

# 2022 Advocacy Summit

## Planning Committee

Sabrina Tindal Cherry, DrPH, MSPH, MTS

Megan L. Smith, PhD

Patrick Stieg, MA, CHES®

If you want to become a part of SOPHE's advocacy efforts, please complete this [volunteer selection form](#).

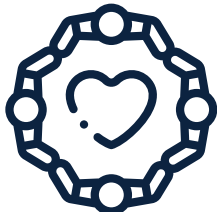
## Thank you to our Sponsors and Exhibitors



## Program Key



Anti-Racism &  
Youth Health



Youth LGBTQ+,  
Sexual and  
Reproductive  
Health



Youth Mental  
Health



Misinformation in  
Youth Health



Student Poster  
Track: Health  
Advocacy for  
Youth

# Schedule at a Glance

## **Saturday, October 22**

- 1:00 PM** – Welcome & Opening Remarks
- 1:15 PM** – Opening Keynote
- 2:30 PM** – Meet the Researchers
- 3:30 PM** – Concurrent Sessions A
- 4:30 PM** – Concurrent Sessions B
- 5:30 PM** – Closing Comments | Preparation for Day 2

## **Sunday, October 23**

- 8:15 AM** – Welcome
- 8:30 AM** – Plenary: A Pillar of SOPHE Advocacy
- 9:30 AM** – Meet the Researchers
- 10:30 AM** – Concurrent Sessions C
- 11:30 AM** – Closing Keynote
- 12:30 PM** – Lunch & Networking
- 1:30 PM** – Capitol Hill Visit Preparation Sessions

## **Monday, October 24**

- 7:30 AM** – Meet in Hilton Capitol Hill Lobby
- 8:00 AM** – Pictures at the U.S. Capitol
- 9:00 AM** – Advocacy Kick Off
- 10:00 AM** – Capitol Hill Visits

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# Day 1 Schedule

## 1:00 PM | Welcome & Opening Remarks | Ballroom 1

*Tammy Dillard-Steels, MPH, MBA, CAE®,  
SOPHE CEO*

*Sabrina Tindal Cherry, DrPH, MSPH, MTS,  
SOPHE Board of Trustees*

*Amy Thompson, PhD, CHES®  
SOPHE President*

## 1:15 PM | Opening Keynote | Ballroom 1 | 1 Advance CE

*Daphne Frias, Youth Activist, Organizer &  
Storyteller*

Gen Z has been responsible for shifting the global conversation around advocacy as a way of life. Touching on the intersections of disability justice, the climate crisis and gun violence this presentation will examine how young people are pioneering a new definition of Public Health. Additional highlights include the importance of intergenerational collaboration, the role of social media in restoring trust.

## 2:30 PM | Meet the Researchers | Ballroom 2 | 1 Entry CE

### Curious about the researchers presentations?

"Meet the researchers" is a poster-style session, where attendees can interact and ask questions. Read a full description of each presentation starting on **page 12**.

## 3:30PM | Concurrent Sessions A | 1 Entry CE

COVID-19 and its Effect on Youth Mental  
Health | Ballroom 1

### The Best Messengers: Data Collection and Youth Engagement during COVID- 19

*Molly Schmidtke, BS, CHES® and Anna Grace  
Hottinger*

This presentation will highlight key findings found in surveys to include Youth were using at much higher rates, struggling with mental health and had less interest in quitting. This data was used to address policy changes at the local and state level. From the findings, a toolkit was created.

### COVID-19 and School Attendance: Tracking Parent and Child Mindsets

*Kathleen Jacobson, MPH, CHES; Adam Burns,  
MPP and Kate Clabaugh, MSW*

Connectedness is strongly associated with adolescent mental health and well-being. This presentation will highlight a mixed-methods study collected trend data from parents during the 2021-2022 school year to explore the impact of school disruptions due to COVID-19 on both their own and their child's well-being.



# Day 1 Schedule (cont.)

**3:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions A | 1  
Entry CE**

Antiracism and Youth Mental Health |  
Springwood

**The Intersection of Childhood Obesity,  
Rurality, and Structural Racism**

*Jen Nickelson, PhD, RD, MCHES®; Lilanta Joy  
Bradley, PhD, MFT and Felecia Lucky, BS,  
MBA*

The presentation will describe a project designed to explore the intersection of childhood obesity, rurality, and structural racism in a rural Alabama community. Our project will engage community in reflective dialogue about these issues and in developing appropriate solutions.

**COVID-19 Youth Ambassadors Program  
x Youth Voices for Wellness  
Ambassadors: Engineering Public  
Health as a Community**

*Felipe Ramirez, BS; Rosa Vazquez, BA;  
Destinee Rodriguez, BA and Jasmin  
Navarrete, BA*

This session highlights the Youth Ambassador program is a youth-centered community leadership program that engaged 14 Latinx youth in the co-creation of pláticas, workshops, and spaces for youth to engage in advocacy and decision-making on youth-led health campaigns.

**E-Course for Public Health  
Professionals to Tackle Colorism in  
India**

*Monique Santoso, BA*

Strategic storytelling and media advocacy can be used to challenge colorism. Learn about an e-course for public health professionals in India increased learners' knowledge of colorism and their understanding of storytelling-based communications in public health for social change.

**Impact of Protective Adults on Mental  
Health Outcomes in Racial Minority  
Youth**

*Kenzie Campbell, BS; and Irma Mujak, BS*

Hear about findings suggest that minority students who experienced SI and D perceived adults at school as less protective than their white peers.

**Support SOPHE Advocacy Efforts**

SOPHE works to educate decision-makers on national and state legislative issues related to a healthy society.

Donate to the SOPHE advocacy fund to help us make this possible.



# Day 1 Schedule (cont.)

3:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions A | 1

## Entry CE

Combating Misinformation in School | Montpelier

### **Culturally Relevant & Student Centered: Reimagining Health Education**

*Katie McPollom, MA, M.Sc and Reva McPollom, MA*

Lessonbee - an online, culturally relevant health and SEL platform - empowers youth with accurate content and affirming experiences. This session explores a reimagining of health education, at the intersection of culturally responsive pedagogy and social emotional learning.

### **Teaching Undergraduate Peer Health Educators How to Advocate on Campus**

*Rhonda Rahn, PhD, MS, CHES®*

This presentation will describe project instructions, student reflections, and final advocacy submissions so those in attendance can implement them on their campus.

### **Countering Misconceptions and Misinformation by Engaging Youth and Their Mentors in Advocacy**

*Kathleen Toomey, BS, MPH-DHS; Samantha Elly Mundt, MPH, CHES® and Heidi Hancher-Rauch, PhD, MCHES®*

Youth face many preventable health concerns. However, empowering youth to engage in advocacy can help combat misinformation about their health. This session will offer strategies to engage youth, while also ensuring their safety is at the forefront.

### **High School Students Advocating and Addressing Policy for Better Health Outcome**

*Keely Rees, PhD, MCHES®; Harper Rees; Porter Culp and Angela Gelatt, MPH, CHES®*

Providers and Teens Communicating for Health (PATCH) addresses inequities, misinformation, and teen's rights and needs regarding their health. Learn how PATCH is an innovative program improving adolescents' health and well-being across the nation.

## **Become a SOPHE Member!**

Did you know that SOPHE members get access to discounted registration fees for SOPHE's Advocacy Summit and Annual Conferences? Join a growing community of public health, health education, and health promotion professionals and students.

Visit the registration desk and ask how you can join SOPHE today!



# Day 1 Schedule (cont.)

**4:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions B | 1  
Entry CE**

Youth Sexual Health | Ballroom 1

## **Bridging the Gap: Sexuality Education for First Year College Students**

*Grace Rollin, BS; Anders Cedergren, PhD, CHES®; Keely Rees, PhD, MCHES® and Katie Wagoner, MPH, MCHES®*

Comprehensive sexuality education is crucial for adolescents. Factors such as funding, religion & politics make it difficult to establish consistent education across public K-12 districts. This session provides a solution for campuses.

## **Building Cohort-Based Youth Advocacy Programs for Social Change**

*Madison Norwich, MAPP; Lauren LaMagna, LMSW and Chelsea Berson*

Learn best practices from Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic staff and youth activists on developing cohort-based youth advocacy programs to build leadership and advocacy skills, and why youth leadership is necessary for long-term community investment and impacting social change.

## **Hear Us Out! Youth Advocacy for Quality Sex Education**

*Keri Hill, PhD, CHES®*

The Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power & Potential launched a statewide Youth Advocacy Strategy forming Youth Action Teams and training youth-serving professionals to serve as Adult Allies. Participants will explore strategies for supporting youth advocacy efforts.

Tips from the Field: Programs Addressing Youth Mental Health | Springwood

## **Mitigating the Impact of the Flint Water Crisis on Youth Mental Health**

*Gurbaksh Esch, MD, FAAP*

The Flint Registry supports youth mental health and mitigates the impact of the Flint water crisis through proactive identification and surveillance, referrals to protective, diagnostic, therapeutic, and emergency services, and engagement and empowerment of youth.



## **Learn about the 2022 Advocacy Summit presenters**

SOPHE is proud to welcome more than 70 presenters to this year's Summit. Read about each presenter in the "Speaker Index" on **page 15**.





# Day 1 Schedule (cont.)

## **T-CARE: Mental Health Self-care/Self-advocacy for Adjudicated Youth**

*Carol Cox, PhD, MCHES®; Hannah Branch; Elizabeth Kleitz and Greenlee Rigby*

A trauma-informed program in the juvenile justice system provides youth survivors with tools to self-regulate extreme emotional states and promote self-efficacy in recovery. The program will be described, and sample educational and therapeutic activities demonstrated.

## **Youth Voices for Wellness: Community-Driven Mental Health Projects by Latinx Youth**

*Felipe Ramirez, BS; Jasmin Navarrete, BA; Jocelyn Contreras, BS and Iley I. Nagast*

The Youth Voices for Wellness Program is a collaborative between youth, artists, advocates and community organizers to support our community's mental health through mental health literacy, vaccine outreach and awareness campaigns, and events for healing and restorative justice.


The COVID-19 Recovery Project are outreach and education interventions that incorporated learnings of a vaccine outreach education campaign to a community-led misinformation project and co-learned effective strategies for addressing misinformation and community engagement

## **Politics Spread COVID: Developing a Long-Term Public Health Response**

*Alexis Blavos, PhD, MCHES; Jodi Brookins-Fisher, PhD, MCHES®; Heidi Hancher-Rauch, PhD, MCHES® and Amy Thompson, PhD, CHES®*

The circumstances leading to 1 million American deaths from COVID are familiar to HE specialists. This training includes various levels of advocacy/political engagement to help HE specialists engage in advocacy and policy development to improve the health of the nation's youth.

**5:30 PM | Closing Comments & Preparation for Day 2 | Ballroom 1**  
*SOPHE Leadership*

 [Addressing the Spread of COVID-19 Misinformation](#) | [Montpelier](#)

## **Addressing COVID-19 Misinformation at a Community Level: Community-led Outreach and Education Campaigns for Change and Recovery**

*An Nguyen, BA; Rosa Vazquez, BA; Destinee Rodriguez, BA and Jacqueline Macias-Sandoval, BS*

## **Share your 2022 Advocacy Summit Experience**

Use the hashtags #AS2022 and #HEontheHill to share your thoughts and photos from the Summit. We'll be reposting all weekend long!



# Day 2 Schedule

**8:15 AM | Day 2 Welcome | Ballroom 1**  
*SOPHE Leadership*

**8:30 AM Plenary: A Pillar of SOPHE Advocacy | Ballroom 1 | 1 Advanced CE**  
*Sabrina Tindal Cherry, DrPH, MSPH, MTS; Megan L. Smith, PhD; and Patrick Stieg, MA, CHES®*

Hear SOPHE advocacy leaders discuss why advocacy work is important in public health. Learn about the resolutions purpose and process and why it's important. Discussion surrounding resolutions of the last two years and resolutions of the future will also be discussed.

**9:30 AM Meet the Researchers | Ballroom 2 | 1 Entry CE**

**10:30 AM | Concurrent Sessions C | 1 Entry CE**

Youth Trauma and Crisis | Ballroom 1  
**Safe Social Spaces: Providing Crisis Intervention for Youth on Social Media**  
*Angie Nielson, MA*

This presentation highlights recent research reports that 45% of youth aged 13-17 say they are online "nearly constantly." YouthLine's Safe Social Spaces program directly engages with teens in crisis on social media platforms to provide support and resource referrals.

**Addressing the Epidemic of Body Dissatisfaction and Eating Disorders in Adolescents**

*Denise Hamburger, JD*

Educators will be trained in how to create a body confident school and given a cutting-edge high school body image curriculum that has been tested with diverse students.

**Protecting Youth through Trauma-Informed Advocacy**

*Kylie Beaudreau and Lauren Czarnowczan*

Trauma that children and adolescents experience can affect mental, emotional, and behavioral health into adulthood. Learn how trauma cannot be reversed but approaching the care of young people in a trauma-informed manner can help mitigate the impact of traumatic experiences.

Professional Tools & Resources for Youth Mental Health | Springwood

**Expanding Capacity to Effectively and Equitably Address the Student Mental Health Crisis through Evidence-based and Data-driven Programs**

*Anders Cedergren, PhD, CHES®*

Through evidence-based and data-driven coaching solutions, schools can focus on social-emotional learning and behavioral health in an equitable way. Health education specialists will learn to support this process through education and assessment, as well as grant writing and advocacy.



# Day 2 Schedule (cont.)

## **Application of a Commercial Determinants of Health Framework, Strategic Science, and Policy Translation to Promote Youth Mental Health: The Out of Kids' Hands Campaign**

*Bryn Austin, ScD and Amanda Raffoul, PhD*

This session will describe a youth mental-health-focused, research-to-policy translation program, detailing our innovative and impactful multistage process to catalyze legislation in seven states to prohibit sale of dangerous and poorly regulated over-the-counter diet pills to children.

**11:30 AM | Closing Keynote | Ballroom 1 | 1 Advanced CE**

### **Ask the Experts: Youth Sex Ed and Reproductive Health**

*Terrinieka W. Powell, PhD, MA; Hadeis Safi; Renata Sanders, M.D., MPH, Sc.M.; Kelly Wilson, PhD*

Spend 60 minutes with experts in youth reproductive and sexual health. Experts will discuss their experience in the field with focus on LGBTQ+ youth and gender affirming care.

## Hill Visit Preparation Sessions

**12:30 PM | Lunch & Learn Networking | Ballroom 1**

**1:30 PM | Effective Capitol Hill Visits | Ballroom 1 | 1 Entry CE**

This session will provide an overview of the key things that one needs in order to have an effective Hill visit with staff and legislators.

**2:30 PM | Capitol Hill Visit Planning | Ballroom 1 | 2 Advanced CE**

During this time, participants will sit with their state delegations and plan their Hill visits for the next day. This will be a time to put together everything that they have learned from using their stakeholder research to developing key messages and issue framing to incorporating characteristics of effective key messages to role play their Hill visits for Monday.

**4:20 PM | Review Capitol Hill Visits Schedule | Ballroom 1**

# Meet the Researchers

## **A Safety Net: Novel Drug Discovery Model to Impact Exploitative Nutrition Sector**

*Jessie Dong*

The dangerously unsupervised supplement and nutraceutical industry is a growing threat to youth who trust the industry the most. This poster assessed youth behavior, empirically revealed dangers via pro-cancer effects, and developed a solution with a novel drug discovery design.

## **A Peer-Mentorship Approach to Modeling Healthy Teen Social Media Engagement**

*Edward Thomas; Tiffany Chen; Emily Chan*

This poster covers how #GoodforMedia is a youth peer-mentoring campaign that aims to improve youth mental health by supporting healthy social media engagement. Co-developed by youth, it allows teens to share stories and strategies with youth on how to navigate social media and make healthy choices.

## **Exploring Tobacco in Rural Communities: A Photovoice Project**

*Courtney Martin, BLS*

This poster will explore photovoice as an engagement tool while better understanding youth e-cigarette use in Appalachian vs. non-Appalachian communities.

## **Gaps in Midwifery Care in Florida: Summary and Policy Recommendations**

*Fatima Khan, BA*

Midwives are essential maternal health providers that can positively impact maternal health outcomes. The above is an assessment of midwifery-associated outcomes, scope of independent practice and policy recommendations to improve access to midwives.

## **HEAR: Technology-Based Advocacy to Address Healthcare Disparities in Youth Refugees**

*Shahriar Huda, BS; Harshdeep Singh, BA; Omar Ghanie, LS, AS; Tylar Pina, BA*

Upon completing need assessments with grant funding, students learned that youth refugees alongside the families they are dependent on face numerous barriers in accessing healthcare. Learn how students are leading technology-based advocacy efforts to address these unique challenges.

## **Implementation of Health Literacy Curriculum for Refugees in Cincinnati**

*Mentalla Ismail, MPH*

This poster reviews a health literacy program piloted among high school refugee students. Health literacy was measured using validated health literacy scales. Pre-surveys showed that the majority of participants had inadequate levels of health literacy.

# Meet the Researchers (cont.)



## **Infection Prevention Control Program Prevalence at the HBCU level**

*Mikeisha Oldson, MPH*

After surveying Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), researchers analyzed the IPC curriculum offered to better understand IPC's prevalence at HBCUs. This poster identifies the need for a comprehensive IPC track for future public health practitioners at HBCUs.

## **Integrating Doula Services into State Medicaid Programs**

*Fatima Khan, BA*

Doula care and coverage is a vital component of maternal care that has the role to positively impact maternal health outcomes, which are in a state of crisis in the United States. This poster is an assessment of doula care and policy recommendations to improve access to doula care.

## **Lessons Learned from the TX Research-to Policy Collaboration Project**

*Shelby Flores-Thorpe, MEd, CHES®*

This poster highlights the TX RPC Project partnerships and data-driven resources. Legislators and researchers reported collaborations were beneficial, but researchers wanted more incentives. Researcher engagement would benefit data uptake in policy and youth health.

## **Lessons Learned from Leading Community Conversations in Idaho Schools about Youth Mental Health**

*Taylor Neher, DrPH; Irma Mujak, BS*

This poster will provide an overview of the lessons learned while launching Communities for Youth, which helps empower communities by connecting parents, schools, and kids with the capacity to recognize and address youth mental health so that all may thrive.

## **"Let's Talk About It:" A Conversation with Teen Girls**

*Carol Jacob, MPH, CHES®; Sidnee Wilson, MD*

This poster is focused on planning, implementing, and evaluating weekly sessions that discussed healthy relationships and sexual health education in adolescent teen girls at New Hope Housing.

## **Manipulative Marketing Awareness to Initiate Youth Advocacy**

*Olivia Wilds, BS; Melinda Ickes, PhD*

The tobacco industry spends nearly \$1 million per hour marketing its products, targeting youth and other underserved populations. This poster is focused on raising awareness of these manipulative advertising techniques in order to inspire youth advocacy and bring change.



# Meet the Researchers (cont.)



## **Moving in the Right Direction: Promoting Physical Activity in Kentucky**

*Gillian Torr, BS*

Kentucky ranks #1 in childhood obesity. The purpose of this poster is to support the development of community and school-based physical activity programs that continue to support best practices while tailoring to Kentucky beliefs, culture, and environment.

## **Perception of the COVID-19 Vaccine among Missourians aged 15-21 Years Old**

*Maya Baughn*

Focus groups conducted with Missouri teens and young adults reveal social media as a leading source of COVID-19 vaccine information. This poster shares how a majority of participants were unsure of what information to trust regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

## **Student Engagement in Tobacco Policy in California Community Colleges**

*Lien Dao, AS, AA; Setareh Harsamizadeh Tehrani, AS, AA; Carissa Samuel, AA; Sang Leng Trieu, MPH, Dr.PH*

In California, while 4-year public universities are 100% smoke-free, 40% of California Community Colleges (CCC) are not. This poster examines how students are involved in tobacco-free policy efforts at CCC. Campuses that prioritize student engagement promote equity and policy adoption.

## **Study Protocol: Assessing public health advocacy training in Texas**

*Joshua Yudkin, MPH, MA, PhD Candidate*

This poster aims to evaluate public health advocacy training programs targeting public health students and professionals in Texas, using the RE-AIM Framework.

## **Youth Power for Prevention: An Update on Student Advocacy to Challenge the Exploitative Weight-Loss and Muscle-Building Supplements Industry**

*Ryan Ahmed, BS, DO; Joanne Chung, BA; Jessie Dong; Authoy Das, BS, MS*

The sale of over-the-counter diet pills and muscle-building supplements is dangerously targeting misinformed youth and is improperly regulated by the FDA. This poster shares how youth advocates achieved attention in states such as Massachusetts, New York, and California.

## **Youth's Stake in the Virgin Islands Digital Footprint**

*Sharon Amey, MA, CFE, CPM; Ajayi Pickering-Haynes, BS*

This poster highlights how Youth's Stake in the Virgin Islands Digital Footprint demonstrates the importance and practical application of centering and empowering youth from minority and ethnic backgrounds and identities in the expansion of the digital footprint of communities.

# Speaker Index

## **Ryan Ahmed, BS, DO**

Ryan is a first-year Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Candidate (B.S./D.O.) at New York Institute of Technology who recently graduated from one of the city's specialized high schools. He has seen eating disorders and body dysmorphia play a detrimental role in our classrooms, in gyms, and in household settings, and because of this Ryan has been part of leading the way to fight for health equity amongst youth in the battle against the multi-billion-dollar under-regulated diet pills and muscle-building supplements industry and their corporate lobbyists.

## **Bryn Austin, ScD**

Dr. Austin is an award-winning researcher, teacher, and mentor. She is a professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School and the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital. She is the founding director of the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders: A Public Health Incubator, which is the first and only research and training program based at a school of public health and dedicated to advancing public health approaches to eating disorders prevention through research-to-policy translation. She is the past president of the Academy for Eating Disorders and Eating Disorders Coalition. In addition, her research interests include LGBTQ adolescent health and the reduction of sexual orientation and gender-identity related health inequities.

## **Maya Baughn**

Maya has been working as an undergraduate researcher in health science and education for 2 years. For the present project examining COVID-19 vaccine hesitations in teen and young adults, she worked closely with faculty mentors to develop the procedure. Additionally, Ms. Baughn had a key role in recruiting participants, data collection, and dissemination for the study.

## **Kylie Beaudreau**

Kylie is an MPH and MS-HCA student at the University of Indianapolis. She completed her undergraduate degree in 2013. Kylie is trained to administer overdose medication, is certified in mental health first aid, and completed the CITI training for responsible conduct of research. Kylie volunteers through Illinois State Representative Kelly Cassidy's office, participating in events like Northside Resource Day and Midsommarfest. At these events, Kylie had an opportunity to be of service to her community and learn what accessibility issues exist in Chicago and how elected officials are working to provide resources for citizens. Through these events, Kylie has begun exploring addiction and recovery facilities she plans to intern with next summer. She plans to pursue a career in assessment and policy development in addiction and recovery services.

# Speaker Index

## **Chelsea Berson**

Chelsea (she/her) will graduate from Scarsdale High School in June 2023, and is a passionate advocate for comprehensive sex education in her own school district and in statewide efforts. As a graduate of the High School Advocacy Program and through serving on PPHP's Community Advisory Council, she has grown and expanded her passion for youth activism and queer visibility.

## **Alexis Blavos, PhD, MCHES®**

Dr. Blavos is currently an associate professor in the Health Department at SUNY Cortland, and also served as the past National Director of Advocacy for Eta Sigma Gamma and co-chair of the Society for Public Health's advocacy committee. Dr. Blavos' academic and work experiences include more than years of service in the public health field as a practitioner and researcher. Among her many research interests are advocacy and health policy.

## **Lilanta Joy Bradley, PhD, MFT**

Dr. Bradley is an assistant professor in the Department of Community Medicine and Population Health at the University of Alabama (UA) where she also serves as the practicum director for the master's program. This Atlanta, GA native completed her doctorate in Health Promotion and Behavior from the University of Georgia. Dr. Bradley's most recent achievement is joining the sixth cohort of RWJF's Interdisciplinary Research Leaders where her team is addressing structural racism, living in rural communities, and early childhood obesity.

## **Hannah Branch**

Hannah is a health science student at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO, and instructs weekly T-Care sessions for adjudicated youth.

## **Jodi Brookins-Fisher, PhD, MCHES®**

Dr. Brookins-Fisher is the division director and professor in the Division of Public Health, School of Health Sciences at Central Michigan University. She is currently the SOPHE Advocacy Committee co-chair and has served as the president of Eta Sigma Gamma. She is currently the chapter sponsor of Eta Chapter at CMU. She is a passionate human rights activist and believes strongly in equity for all groups when it comes to access and affordable health care.

## **Adam Burns, MPP**

Adam has over 20 years of experience designing and managing qualitative and quantitative research efforts for various clients, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National PTA. His work with CMS garnered a Diamond SABRE Award for Superior Achievement in Measurement and Evaluation, and he served as an adjunct instructor at the John Hopkins University Graduate School of Communication. Adam earned a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown Public Policy Institute and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

# Speaker Index

## **Kenzie Campbell, BS**

Kenzie is a Master of Public Health graduate student at Boise State University. Her interests are primarily in studying health disparities, especially potential protective factors for racial, gender, and sexual minority youth. Kenzie currently works as a student research lead for a state-funded initiative surveying and analyzing the status of youth mental health in Idaho. She believes in the protective power of community and engaging young people in researching their own resilience and strength. Kenzie is mentored by Dr. Megan L. Smith, Associate Professor of Public Health at Boise State University.

## **Anders Cedergren, PhD, CHES®**

Dr. Cedergren is an assistant professor in the Department of Public Health & Community Health Education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Dr. Cedergren has studied the role of health education in healthcare and value-based benefits. He is interested in upstream approaches to public health relying on advocacy and ethics to change systems, most recently related to social and emotional learning. Dr. Cedergren tries to provide opportunities for and assess experiential learning and collaboration across professional responsibilities, as well as partner with community organizations for wise utilization of resources in translational projects.

## **Emily Chan**

Emily is a freshman at Harvard University and is currently undeclared. She is involved with #GoodforMEdia because she wants to decrease the stigma around discussing mental health. Growing up in the Bay Area, she has become acutely aware of how many people — specifically teens and young people — need a safe space to discuss, share, and learn more about this subject. She tries to use social media in a positive way to enhance her mental health and wellness and wants to help other kids navigate the balance between social media and overall well-being.

# Speaker Index

## **Sabrina T. Cherry, DrPH, MSPH, MTS**

Dr. Cherry has worked for nearly 20 years within the field of public health. Dr. Cherry's professional experience started as a Peace Corps Volunteer in The Gambia, West Africa. As a public health practitioner, Dr. Cherry collaborated on Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) for the Greater Atlanta Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and two rural Georgia hospitals; provided technical assistance to faith-based, mini-grant recipients in Southwest Georgia; and worked on a food insecurity and medication-adherence pilot study for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

Dr. Cherry served as part of a research team that won the 2018 National Economic Development Award awarded by University Economic Development Association Awards of Excellence and is the recipient of the Distinguished Scholarly Engagement and Public Service Award (Jr category) awarded by UNCW. Her primary research interests are the intersection of health disparities and social justice, as well as qualitative research.

She earned a Master of Science Public Health (MSPH) degree from the University of South Carolina, a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) from Emory University, and a Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH), as well as a Certificate in Interdisciplinary Qualitative Research from the University of Georgia.

## **Tiffany Chen**

Tiffany is a senior at UCLA studying Human Biology and Society with a minor in Biomedical Research. In high school, Tiffany became passionate to support her community's mental health and joined the Stanford Center for Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing on developing Allcove centers across California. Tiffany previously interned as the Center's Youth Media Consultant, creating the CineWell program which includes a youth critic council to review and publish reports of movies, allowing other youth to preview the accuracy of films and shows in terms of mental wellness. She is currently part of the #GoodforMedia campaign, which uses peer mentoring and storytelling to encourage healthier media-consumption habits.

## **Joanne Chung, BA**

Joanne is an incoming first-year student at Carleton College with an intended major in economics and mathematics. Her interest in public health derives from her former experiences with eating disorders and mental health in her community. As a member of the STRIPED Youth Corps, Joanne advocates for legislation and shares personal experiences through op-eds, interviews, and social media content to raise awareness of eating disorders.



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## **Kate Clabaugh, MSW**

Kate joined National PTA in January 2022 as the new director of Government Affairs. She previously served in similar roles for two national out-of-school time associations, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the National Recreation and Park Association, in addition to spending several years with the national anti-hunger organization the Food Research and Action Center. Kate works to significantly expand health and wellness policy portfolios, carving out new roles and advocacy opportunities on behalf of local community-based organizations who work to empower and strengthen the federal supports serving children, families, school systems, and communities at-large across the nation. Kate earned her bachelor's degree from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, PA and her Master of Social Work from Catholic University in Washington, DC.

## **Carol Cox, PhD, MCHES®**

Dr. Cox is a professor of Health Science at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. As an executive advisory board member for a regional juvenile justice/detention facility that is Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative accredited, she has implemented several trauma-informed care interventions for the adjudicated youth.

## **Porter Culp**

Porter is a 17-year-old junior at Central High School in La Crosse, Wisconsin. This is his first year with the PATCH organization, but he looks forward to learning more about public health and educating other teens about their healthcare rights and responsibilities. A particular interest of Porter's is healthcare policy and how it relates to a community's overall health, well-being, and ability to thrive.

## **Lauren Czarnowczan**

Lauren is a master of public health student at the University of Indianapolis. She received her BAA in community health education with a double minor in Substance Use Prevention and Nutrition from Central Michigan University in 2016. Lauren has been working as a Public Health Educator for the Kent County Health Department in Grand Rapids, Michigan for almost five years. During her time there, she's worked on a variety of initiatives such as youth substance use prevention, tobacco compliance, infant safe sleep, mental health, and sexual violence prevention. Her work has involved community engagement and collaboration, along with some policy and program development.

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## **Lien Dao, AS, AA**

Lien is a research assistant in this TRDRP-funded study to investigate why some California community colleges have a 100% smoke-free policy and others do not. She is a community college graduate from Ohlone College, and also an active member of Campuses Organized & United for Good Health (COUGH) in the California Youth Advocacy Network (CYAN) since September 2021. Lien serves as a member of the COUGH Policy subcommittee and recently presented at the Student Senate for California Community College to support smoke-free policies.

## **Authoy Das, BS,MS**

Authoy is an incoming freshman at the University at Buffalo in the 5-year combined BS/MS degree program studying finance and business administration. While studying at the Bronx High School of Science, he was a student-athlete on the school's track and field team. During talks and practice, he observed and overheard students' suggestions and even endorsed them by a supplement corporation while being as young as the age of 17. One of the teammates worked as an affiliate for one of these supplement companies and actively advertised the product on his social media filled with peers that are around the same age or even younger. After hearing about the damaging health issues supplements can bring about, he is determined to hold large corporations accountable.

## **Kathryn DiBitetto**

Kathryn is a government relations consultant providing guidance and a range of services to non-profits and advocacy organizations. She recently served as the senior vice president of Government Relations for 340B Health, a national non-profit of more than 1,400 hospitals and health systems participating in a federal drug pricing program. As a member of 340B Health's leadership team, Ms. DiBitetto worked with the CEO to ensure the overall direction of the organization aligned with its mission and vision. She often represented the organization at national conferences and presented on advocacy training webinars routinely. With nearly two decades of experience in advocacy and legislative affairs, she played a critical role in ensuring 340B Health continued to build strong, bipartisan relationships in Congress. While leading the government relations department, she acted as a liaison to national healthcare organizations and worked closely with member hospitals to implement legislative priorities on Capitol Hill. She is skilled in effectively mobilizing and educating grassroots advocates while focusing on storytelling supported by data. Her experience working for various political campaigns contributed to her successful management of Political Action Committees. Prior to joining 340B Health, she served as a healthcare advisor to a member of Congress, for whom she focused on major legislation such as the Affordable Care Act and the 9-11 Health and Compensation Act. She previously represented and advocated for a variety of healthcare non-profit organizations.

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## **Jessie Dong**

Jessie is a high school student in New York. She hopes to major in bioethics and pursue a career that is an intersection between public health policy and translational medicine. She has done extensive research on public health crises including topics such as vaccine hesitancy, water bioremediation, unregulated nutrition products, and the dangerous lack of communication between academia and industry. She has been invited to many research fairs such as Columbia University's Research Symposium, New York State's Science and Engineering Fair, the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair, and the International Genius Olympiad. She also pushes for public health policy by working with programs at Harvard University's T.H.Chan School of Public Health.

## **Gurbaksh Esch, MD, FAAP**

Dr. Esch, the inaugural Pediatric Public Health Initiative Alice Hamilton Scholar, is a pediatrician with Michigan State University and Hurley Children's Hospital in Flint, Michigan. Driven by health equity, Dr. Esch's academic interests include early childhood promotion, trauma-informed care, child advocacy, and anti-racism and health equity education. Her work has been funded by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and other local grantors. In partnership with the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MIAAP), her child advocacy work includes legislative affairs and published media articles regarding gun violence prevention and vaccine promotion.

## **Shelby Flores-Thorpe, M.Ed., CHES®**

Shelby is a current doctoral candidate at UTHealth School of Public Health. She has assisted with the Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration Project since its inception by leading interviews with legislators and leading researcher recruitment. Her current research interests center around translational policy, specifically around the researcher-policymaker relationship to increase the use of data-driven information in policy. Shelby also teaches core masters student classes at the school when she is not working on the project.

## **Daphne Frias**

Daphne Frias is a 24-year-old youth activist. She is unapologetically Latina. Daphne has Cerebral Palsy and uses a wheelchair to ambulate. She is fiercely proud to be a loud champion for the disabled community. Active in the fight against gun violence and for voting rights, Daphne has been fighting the climate crisis as well, in her home community of West Harlem and internationally. Her work aims to deconstruct the silos between disability and the climate crisis with a public health approach. She was appointed as spokesperson for the global climate strikes that took place on September 20th, 2019. Most recently she was featured as a key panelist at the New York Times Climate hub in a conversation moderated by Emma Watson. She has no intention of backing down until the health of our earth is secure. Her work has been featured in Ms. Magazine (25 Women under 25: Women of Color to Watch), the Sierra Club, Teen Vogue, PopSugar, NPR, Vice, Elle, among many others

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## **Angela Gelatt, MPH, CHES®**

Angela is the past coordinator for the Coulee PATCH and is currently a lecturer in the Department of Public Health - Community Health Education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Her work with local and regional teens highlights the need for strong policy and advocacy work in communities, school, and healthcare systems to better address the gaps in services, care, and quality information that teens are provided from the variety of healthcare leaders and organizations.

## **Omar Ghanie, LS, AS**

Omar is an incoming freshman at the City University of New York Queensborough Community College in the LS-AS degree program studying computer science. His interest in computer science stemmed from his exposure to the subject while attending Brooklyn Technical High School, as well as a secondary interest in medicine. Omar currently serves an executive position in the New York Association of Biomedical Innovations, which is an organization that works to tackle medical issues on a technological level. Working on this project provides him an opportunity to bridge the gap between his interests both in the fields of medicine and technology.

## **Anna Grace Hottinger**

Anna (she/ her) is the youth advocacy and community outreach intern at the Association for Nonsmokers Minnesota and works for the Democratic Party of New Mexico. A majority of her work has been around youth education, peer-to-peer research, and political engagement. She is a sophomore at New Mexico State University studying Community Health Education. Aside from tobacco prevention organizing, Anna Grace is also engaged in policy research and organizing around climate justice and education policy.

## **Denise Hamburger, J.D.**

Denise is the founder and executive director of BE REAL USA, a nonprofit that envisions a world where every student can grow up with a healthy relationship with food and their body. In 2019, Denise created a professional development workshop for teachers called Body Confident Schools and has delivered this training to over 2000 U.S. teachers. She has spoken at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health to the National Association of School Psychologists, to the USDA to the Food and Nutrition Service professionals, and to State Superintendents at the Center for Disease Control. Denise has a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School and was an environmental attorney in her first career. She co-wrote the legal treatise "Pollution in the United Kingdom." She has spent the last 25 years involved in education nonprofits, including Chicago's After School Matters.

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## **Heidi Hancher-Rauch, PhD, MCHES®**

Dr. Hancher-Rauch is a professor and director of the Public Health Program at the University of Indianapolis. She has practiced in the field for more than 20 years, including work in the areas of community disease prevention and worksite health. Her areas of expertise include health policy and advocacy, program evaluation, and evidence-based health promotion. Heidi has provided professional service as the board trustee for advocacy & resolutions for SOPHE, serves on the SOPHE Advocacy Committee, is the SOPHE delegate to the Coalition of National Health Education Organizations, is a member of the Top 10 Steering Committee, and previously served as the director of Indiana SOPHE Advocacy. She engages with community organizations such as the Indiana Minority Health Coalition as an outside evaluator and uses her advocacy skills to promote health equity and social justice.

## **Keri Hill, PhD, CHES®**

Dr. Hill serves as senior director of School-Based Initiatives for the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power and Potential (GCAPP). Dr. Hill has a deep commitment to improving adolescent health and reducing health disparities as demonstrated by more than 20 years of experience researching, developing, implementing and evaluating adolescent health initiatives. Prior to GCAPP, Dr. Hill served as assistant professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education at Kennesaw State University. She also served as vice president/director of Programs at the Center for Black Women's Wellness and Health and Healthcare Science Technology teacher for Atlanta Public Schools.

## **Shahriar Huda, BS**

Shahriar is studying biomolecular sciences as a freshman at New York University Tandon School of Engineering. He is interested in global populations and global health, as he wants to shake up the biomedical technology industry through the development of affordable devices and software to be able to implement in rural communities. He currently works at Readisten Corporation to make technical audio summaries of data more accessible to frontline physicians and nurses through software and app development.

## **Melinda Ickes, PhD**

Dr. Ickes is a professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion at the University of Kentucky, where she is program chair of graduate studies in health promotion. Dr. Ickes is also a Faculty Associate of the BREATHE (Bridging Research Efforts and Advocacy Toward Healthy Environments) research team, serving as Co-Director of the Tobacco Policy Research Program and Director of Go Tobacco-free. Dr. Ickes has extensive experience in tobacco prevention and has worked with university and community partners to reduce the prevalence of emerging tobacco products among at-risk young adults.



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## **Mentalla Ismail, MPH**

Mentalla is a public health professional with a background in refugee education accessibility and health equity within marginalized communities. She is the founder and executive director of Refuge Collaborative, a non-profit organization that focuses on creating education accessibility for refugee students through mentorship. She is passionate about creating and implementing public health programming that centers accessibility for refugees and displaced persons.

## **Carol Jacob, MPH, CHES®**

Carol earned her Master of Public Health degree in Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences at UTHealth School of Public Health at Houston with certificates in health disparities as well as maternal and child health. During her MPH, Carol worked on adolescent sexual health research projects in high teen birth rate areas in the greater Houston Area and was the internal chair for the student outREACH student organization. In addition, Carol is also and Albert Schweitzer Fellow-for-Life; her project focused on healthy relationships and sexual health education in adolescent teen girls at New Hope Housing. Carol looks forward to applying what she has learned with her education and experience to assist current fellows in program development, management, and using an intersectional lens when working with communities.

## **Kathleen Jacobson, MPH, CHES®**

Kathleen serves as a senior program officer in the infectious disease department of the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In this role, she is responsible for implementing and managing public health initiatives and recently launched projects designed to increase equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in the United States and Haiti. Kathleen currently partners with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National PTA on a project providing mental and behavioral support to students and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kathleen earned a master's in public health from Georgia State University and graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of North Georgia Gainesville.

## **Fatima Khan, BA**

Fatima is a fourth-year medical and public health student at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. She has worked with various advocacy organizations including the American Medical Association-Medical Students Section and the Florida Health Justice Project to promote healthy maternal outcomes.

## **Elizabeth Kleitz**

Elizabeth is a student in Health Science at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. Trained and certified in Trauma Effect Regulation Therapy/T-Care, she works with traumatized youth to teach them to self-regulate extreme emotional states and promote self-efficacy in their recovery from trauma.

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## **Lauren LaMagna, LMSW**

Lauren (they/them) has been working in sexual and reproductive health and rights advocacy since 2013, and currently works as the Public Affairs Manager at PPHP. Lauren is also a macro social work adjunct instructor in the masters program at the Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare.

## **Felecia Lucky, BS, MBA**

Felecia is the President of the Black Belt Community Foundation (BBCF) in Selma, Alabama. BBCF was established to support community efforts that contribute to the strength, innovation and success in Alabama's 12 poorest counties—the Black Belt. Born in the Black Belt community of Livingston, Alabama, Felecia exercised her loyalty to excellence and the principles of hard work which have propelled her throughout her entire life. A product of Sumter County, Alabama, schools, Felecia excelled in academics, including earning a BS in Accounting from Tuskegee University and MBA from the University of Alabama. Under Felecia's leadership, in 2017 BBCF was awarded a \$1.4 million grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to oversee and administer the Head Start programs in four Alabama Black Belt counties. Head Start serves over 300 children in these four counties.

## **Jasmin Navarrete, BA**

Jasmin (she/her/ella) is the tracking and evaluation coordinator for the local C-19 Recovery Campaign. Jasmin leads the co-design and processes for data evaluation and management. Born and raised in Santa Ana, CA, Jasmin pursued a degree in Psychological Science at the University of California, Irvine. Jasmin's lived experiences as a non-traditional, first-generation college student shaped her values around health equity organizing and advocacy through mixed-method, data-driven initiatives. Currently, Jasmin aspires to pursue a PhD in Psychology to continue her work with equity-centered educational initiatives in the Latinx community.

## **Madison Norwich, MAPP**

Madison (she/her) started her career in advocacy after graduating with a Master of Public Policy in 2018. Since then, she traveled nationwide to college campuses as a consultant for Delta Zeta Sorority providing training and crisis management, fostering her passion for youth leadership. Currently, she works as the Public Affairs Specialist for PPHP where she specializes in youth organizing and activism.

## **Courtney Martin, BLS**

Courtney is a current student at the University of Kentucky pursuing a Master's in Health Promotion. While at UK Courtney spent much of her undergraduate career researching health disparities facing Appalachia, specifically cancer disparities. Courtney's current work is focused on tobacco prevention efforts and youth engagement.

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## **Katie McPollom, MA, M.Sc**

Katie has 17 years of experience in education as a teacher and school leader in US schools as well as international NGO experience in India. She has worked as a teacher coach with Teach for America, the Director of Education with Kranti, an NGO in Mumbai, India, and spent the last 9 years as a school leader within the Achievement First charter school network in Brooklyn, NY and New Haven, CT. Katie has a master's degree in education administration from the University of Missouri - St. Louis, and a masters degree in race, ethnicity, and postcolonial studies from the London School of Economics.

## **Reva McPollom, MA**

Reva is a mother, digital learning expert, and founder with over a decade of experience in the edtech space. Reva founded Lessonbee, which sits at the intersection of edtech and telehealth reinventing adolescent health and SEL education through culturally responsive digital learning experiences that increase student confidence and connection. An advocate for student-centered learning, she was named one of the "100 most influential African Americans" by The Root for developing an "innovative" platform that makes "coming of age less confusing." Reva's vision is to eliminate the health literacy gap in the U.S. and ensure that every child has access to relevant and affirming education that develops the knowledge, skills, and values to promote individual, family, and community health.

## **Irma Mujak, BS**

Irma is a master of public health student and graduate research assistant working with Dr. Megan L. Smith at Boise State University. Her areas of interest include identifying contextual factors that impact adolescent mental health, particularly among minority and marginalized populations. Irma currently serves as the graduate research assistant lead supporting the data analysis and facilitating school community events in a statewide youth mental health project for Idaho.

## **Samantha Mundt, MPH, CHES®**

Samantha is a master of public health student at the University of Indianapolis. She became a Certified Health Education Specialist in 2021, soon after completing her Public Health Education and Promotion undergraduate degree. During her studies, Sam interned with organizations such as the Indiana Minority Health Coalition, the Hoosier Environmental Council, and Connections IN Health. During these internships, she honed her skills and discovered her passion for maternal and child health, with a strong interest in reproductive and sexual health among young adults. Currently, Sam is the Advocacy Chair for InSOPHE. She is looking forward to sharing lessons from the Summit with her chapter.

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## **Iley I. Nagast**

Iley was born and raised in East Los Angeles, California. As Key Club President, Nagast has advocated for her community through engaging 60 high school peers in service opportunities, such as coordinating community partnerships and consulting on COVID-19 recovery events for community-based organizations. Nagast dedicates her time to tutoring and mentoring elementary students. Nagast is an incoming first-year student at UCLA pursuing a B.S. in Biology to work with her community as a pediatric physician and anesthesiologist. In her free time, Nagast is a multi-medium artist and enjoys painting about cultural topics, societal issues, and her lived experiences.

## **Taylor Neher, DrPH**

Taylor is the project manager and a 2015 Boise State University graduate. She has completed her Master of Public Health from Texas A&M University and is finishing her doctorate of public health in Leadership and Communications from the University of Arkansas for Medical Science. Her research focus is on mental health, community impact, and young adults.

## **Jen Nickelson, PhD, RD, MCHES®**

Dr. Nickelson is an Associate Professor of Health Science at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. She earned her BS and MS degrees in nutrition from the Florida State University and her PhD in public health from the University of South Florida. Her research focuses on understanding social and environmental influences on children's eating behaviors, breastfeeding, childhood obesity prevention, and maternal and child health issues. She has experience using community-based participatory research methods and values the inclusion of community members in the research and development of programs affecting them. Dr. Nickelson is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Academy of Health Behavior, American Public Health Association, and Society for Public Health Education.

## **Angie Nielsen, MA**

Angie is part of the Crisis Lines Team for Lines for Life, an organization providing education and crisis intervention services. She is an Assistant Director at YouthLine. Located in Portland, Oregon, YouthLine provides a peer-supported crisis line for youth. Angie has eight years of experience in crisis intervention, youth development, and supervision. Angie is certified in ASIST, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and safeTalk. She is also an AAS Certified Crisis Intervention Specialist.

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## **Mikeisha Oldson, MPH**

Mikeisha is a program manager at the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI). In this role, she spearheads the Project First Line portfolio alongside her Evidence to Action and the Emergency Preparedness portfolio at NNPHI. Mikeisha became interested in public health through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as a Gates Millennium scholar recipient. Her areas of interest are Maternal Health, Environmental Health Justice, Mental health awareness, and combatting health inequities such as racism. Mikeisha's Future aspirations include healthy equity program management and consultancy to combat health disparities.

## **Ajayi Pickering-Haynes, BS**

Ajayi is a public health strategist, youth development professional, nonprofit leader, and public speaker from St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands. He is the assistant director of youth programming, partnerships, & advocacy with positive youth development virgin islands. He also currently serves as the Closing the Gap program coordinator and Health Equity Taskforce Co-Lead in the Office of Health Promotion and Education at the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County. He is also a masters in public health Candidate at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he serves as a Research Assistant in the Department of Health, Behavior, and Policy.

## **Tylar Pina, BA**

Tylar is an incoming film student at CUNY Brooklyn College and serves as a freelance videographer and photographer. Tylar's interest in film stemmed from a gained social media presence through being a content creator. Tylar is interested in being in this conference because it is a good opportunity to expand his expertise outwards, as well as practicing in a more professional setting than he is used to.

## **Terrinieka W. Powell, PhD, MA**

Dr. Powell is a Bloomberg Associate Professor and vice chair for inclusion, diversity, anti-racism and equity in the department of population, family and reproductive health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has expertise in adolescent health, implementation science and qualitative methods. Partnerships with churches, schools, libraries, families, and community-based organizations are a cornerstone of her research. Dr. Powell leads the B Lab, a Baltimore-based research team helping to create a world where all youth are safe, healthy, hopeful and connected. Her research activities, over 50 publications and funding history, demonstrate her commitment to improving the lives of vulnerable young people. Dr. Powell earned her BA in Psychology from Williams College and her MA and PhD from DePaul University in Community Psychology. She also spent two years as a Kellogg Health Scholars Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan School of Public Health before joining the faculty BSPH.



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## **Rhonda Rahn, PhD, MS, CHES®**

Dr. Rahn is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Health & Kinesiology, Division of Health Education at Texas A&M University, where she earned her PhD and MS in Health Education and a BS in Health. Prior to teaching, Dr. Rahn spent 14 years as a professional health educator in Student Health Services at TAMU where she advised students on educating peers on campus health concerns. Her research interests investigate college students' health behaviors and peer health education. Dr. Rahn has taught a peer health education course since 2009 and implements service learning and CHES areas of responsibilities (including advocacy) in her teaching. She has publications in peer-reviewed journals and has presented at international, national, and state conferences. She is a professional member of SOPHE, ACHA, TAHPERD, and a Certified Health Education Specialist.

## **Amanda Raffoul, PhD**

Dr. Raffoul is an instructor of pediatrics and a postdoctoral fellow with the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED) at Boston Children's Hospital, supported by a fellowship from the Canadian Institute for Health Research. Her mixed methods research explores policy avenues for the prevention of eating disorders, ranging from improving clinician education for early intervention to strengthening and advocating for public health state and federal policy change.

## **Felipe Ramirez, BS**

Felipe (he/him) is a Santa Ana native. Felipe graduated in bioengineering at the University of California, Merced in 2021. There, he organized community engagement events for Latinx students from low-income and first-generation backgrounds. Felipe is a Community Engagement and Activation Consultant for the C-19 Recovery Project. Felipe co-plans and implements community engagement and activation initiatives for COVID-19 recovery. Felipe oversees 2 community-centered ambassador programs and a multi-generational art-based mental health program that brings together elders, youth, and street vendors. Felipe spends his weekends on a ranch riding his horse, Flaca.

## **Harper Rees**

Harper is a 16-year-old sophomore at Central High School in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Her pronouns are she/her/hers. She loves to play tennis and be outside! As a teen educator with PATCH for the last two years, she has a keen focus on making accurate health information healthcare more accessible to teens. She has presented to numerous groups, providers, and organizations to advocate for better policy and information.

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## **Keely Rees, PhD, MCHES®**

Dr. Rees's research and teaching focuses on health policy & advocacy, grant seeking, and women's health. Dr. Rees is the past president of National Eta Sigma Gamma, served as Annual Trustee for Society for Public Health Education, and planned statewide advocacy experiences for students in WI and at the SOPHE Advocacy Summit for over 18 years. Keely is on the advisory board for the local PATCH.

## **Greenlee Rigby**

Greenlee is a student in Health Science at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. Trained and certified in Trauma Effect Regulation Therapy/T-Care, she works with traumatized youth to teach them to self-regulate extreme emotional states and promote self-efficacy in their recovery from trauma.

## **Grace Rollin, BS**

Grace is a public health and community health education major and summer 2022 graduate at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. Grace participated in a college level sexuality education course (as a senior) and quickly identified the gap and variance in her peers education, skills, and comfort in learning about sexuality. Grace is currently completing her preceptorship at Vivent Health, and part of her role is advocating and educating on safer sex practices to those at risk for HIV.

## **Hadeis Safi**

Hadeis is the Manager of Community Programs for The Potocsnak Family Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine. Hadeis supports the work of the division by connecting and engaging with community partners and businesses to further our mission. They also plan and support events throughout Chicagoland to share the breadth of services provided by the division. Hadeis supervises and coordinates the HIV Screening program, which provides HIV/STI screening to at-risk young people in Chicagoland. They also coordinate the Training & Education program, where they are a trained facilitator for Gender & LGBTQ Professional Development Trainings and the Sex Ed Training Programs provided through the division.

## **Carissa Samuel, AA**

Carissa is a Molecular and Cellular Biology major at UC Berkeley and a community college graduate. She serves as a Stakeholder in the Alameda County Mental Health Services Act Group where she represents youth and advises county leaders on ways to effectively spend their multi-million-dollar budget. Carissa also currently serves in UC Berkeley's student government as an External Associate in their Mental Health Commission. She previously served in the National Mental Health Advisory Board, a collaboration between leading national mental health organizations to create a tool for youth mental health advocacy. Carissa currently works as a research assistant on a TRDRP-funded study where she creates visualizations of different community college's tobacco-policy adoption paths.

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## **Renata Arrington Sanders, MD, MPH, ScM**

Dr. Sanders is an associate professor of adolescent medicine, pediatrics, and internal medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Her expertise includes adolescent sexually transmitted infection and HIV, caring for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth, and transition to adult care. She has a joint appointment in Infectious Diseases, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Departments of Epidemiology and Health, Behavior and Society. She serves as the medical director of the Pediatric and Adolescent HIV/AIDS Program, Director of the PrEP Program ([prepisforyouth.org](http://prepisforyouth.org)) located in the Harriet Lane Clinic at Johns Hopkins Children's Center, co-director of the Emerge Gender and Sexuality Clinic, and the co-Director of the Adolescent and Young Adult Scientific Working Group, Johns Hopkins Center for AIDS Research. She currently serves on the International AIDS Society Governing Council, Scholarship Program, and Stigma Advisory Board; Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research; the AIDS 2022 Abstract Review and AIDS 2022 Track D Committees; the Research Review Committee of the American Board of Pediatrics, American Sexual Health Association, and the Board of Directors of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS).

## **Monique Santoso, BA**

Monique is a clinical research assistant and program coordinator at Boston Children's Hospital and the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED). She is interested in working in the eating disorders advocacy and prevention space and received her BA in Environmental Psychology and Global Health from Middlebury College.

## **Molly Schmidtke, BS, CHES**

Molly is a community outreach coordinator with the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota. Molly's career is focused on youth prevention, education, advocacy, and engagement. She has a BS from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in Community Health Education and is a Certified Health Education Specialist. Molly is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Health degree at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities.

## **Harshdeep Singh, BA**

Harshdeep is an incoming first-year student at the City University of New York Queens College pursuing a major in psychology. His interest in psychology came about because of his experience with friends and family with mental hardships on a personal and clinical level. He believes that psychiatric help should be available to all. Learning about the struggles of refugees and hearing of their difficulties made him want to find a way to allow the refugees to gain access to such opportunities. Working on this project gives him an opportunity to make come to fruition.

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## **Megan L. Smith**

Dr. Smith is an Associate Professor of Public Health at Boise State University. Her work is primarily focused on studying risk and protective factors for adolescent mental health in order to build community and school capacity to meet the needs of young people. She endeavors to co-create environments that support the best possible outcomes for all. She is committed to public health advocacy and deeply believes in championing equity.

Dr. Smith is the PI or CO-I on several federal, state, and regionally funded initiatives to study risk and protective factors for adolescent health. She has also co-authored many peer-reviewed manuscripts in this field and currently works with communities and schools to build the best possible outcomes for young people.

## **Patrick Stieg**

Patrick is a Certified Health Education Specialist with 35 years of professional experience in public health education, health promotion, and policy development. This includes 17 years at state and county public health departments, 12 years at a voluntary health organization at both the national and state levels, and 6 years at a health plan. Education includes a BS degree from Moorhead State University and a MA degree from the University of Northern Iowa. Extensive experience at the local, state and national levels in public and professional education, as well as public policy advocacy around the primary prevention of chronic diseases. This includes population-level health expertise in physical activity, nutrition and tobacco issues, as well as the underlying social determinants of health and well being. Volunteers on several statewide health related boards and commissions, as well as government parks, trails and recreation commissions at the municipal, county and state levels. Greatly values the opportunity to make connections between public health and public land use, for the mental and physical health benefits of all people.

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## **Setareh Harsamizadeh Tehrani, AS, AA**

Setareh immigrated to the United States from Iran in December of 2014. While it was difficult for Setareh to learn English and adapt to the American education system, she is now glad to be living in America. Setareh is a transfer student from Ohlone College and is studying public health at Santa Clara University (SCU). At Ohlone College, Setareh served as a senior student wellness ambassador and a Statewide Student Wellness Ambassador with the Foundation for California Community Colleges. Setareh currently serves as a research assistant with the TRDRP-funded study, and she has been enjoying learning why some community colleges in California are not yet smoke-free while others are.

## **Edward Thomas**

Edward is a junior at Hinsdale South High School and is a #GoodforMEdia youth member. He is interested in the intersection of body image, development, and unique cultural and social pressures, especially in the context of a globalizing world where technology and social media play an active role in shaping. As part of the #GoodforMEdia campaign, Edward contributes to #GoodforMEdia's peer-mentoring, storytelling, and community involvement efforts. He is also involved in advocacy work at the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED) at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Yale Program for Obesity Weight and Eating Research (POWER).

## **Amy Thompson, PhD, CHES**

Dr. Thompson is the provost at Wright State University and the current President of SOPHE. Dr. Thompson is the former national president of Eta Sigma Gamma and completed two terms as the National Advocacy Trustee for the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE), where she was responsible for policy and resolution development and planning the annual SOPHE Advocacy Summit. She has published over 75 peer-reviewed journal articles and secured nearly \$1.4 million in grant funding.

## **Kathleen Toomey, BS, MPH-DHS**

Kathleen Toomey is a student in the dual MPH-DHS program at the University of Indianapolis. She received her Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science from Hofstra University in 2014 and has worked for the State of Indiana Department of Toxicology since graduation. Although very new to the public health field, Kathleen has gotten an opinion/editorial on safe drinking water published in a local newspaper and partners with many local organizations working on community outreach. These organizations include the Highland Vicinity Neighborhood Association, as vice president, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Central Indiana, as a Big, and Back On My Feet - Indianapolis Chapter, as a core volunteer and morning circle-up lead.

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## **Gillian Torr, BS**

Gillian graduated from North Carolina State University in 2021, where she earned her bachelor of science degree in Nutrition and developed her passion for advocacy for a healthier nation for all. She was actively involved in campus recreation, where she worked as a certified personal trainer and the head of the restructuring of the Exercise is Medicine Program. Currently, she attends the University of Kentucky, working on her Masters in Kinesiology and Health Promotion. In addition, she is also working as an intern for the Kentucky Department of Public Health State Physical Activity and Nutrition program. Gillian's work primarily surrounds physical activity promotion, finding programs to best fit the needs of Kentuckians, while also encouraging physical activity.

## **Sang Leng Trieu, MPH, DrPH**

Sang is the project director for STEP Up Ohlone Mental Health Program where she oversees the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the program. She started her tenure at the Ohlone Student Health Center in 1999, and in the last 22 years has held several roles leading health education and research activities. Her work in institutions of higher education spans five campuses in Northern and Southern California, serving as faculty and in student services roles. She holds two graduate degrees (MPH, DrPH) in public health. Sang is a marathon runner and enjoys traveling, reading, and getting her daily dose of Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf

## **Katie Wagoner, MPH, MCHES**

Katie Wagoner is an associate teaching professor and has worked in community-based hospital and university settings with diverse needs around nutrition and weight management, worksite wellness, health and wellness coaching, program planning, maternal and child health. Katie has participated in six state advocacy trainings and hill days with university students and served as the department's case study mentor for one to two teams per year.

## **Olivia Wilds, BS**

Olivia is an undergraduate at the University of Kentucky who is a peer facilitator for #iCANendthetrend, an evidence-informed program providing tobacco prevention education to youth across Kentucky. #iCANendthetrend aims to raise awareness of the dangers and costs of tobacco use and educate on ways at-risk youth have been targeted by big tobacco. Olivia is also an ACTION (Appalachian Career Training in Oncology Program) Fellow involved in research, clinical, and community outreach experiences with a particular emphasis on addressing the tobacco-related cancer burden in Appalachian Kentucky.



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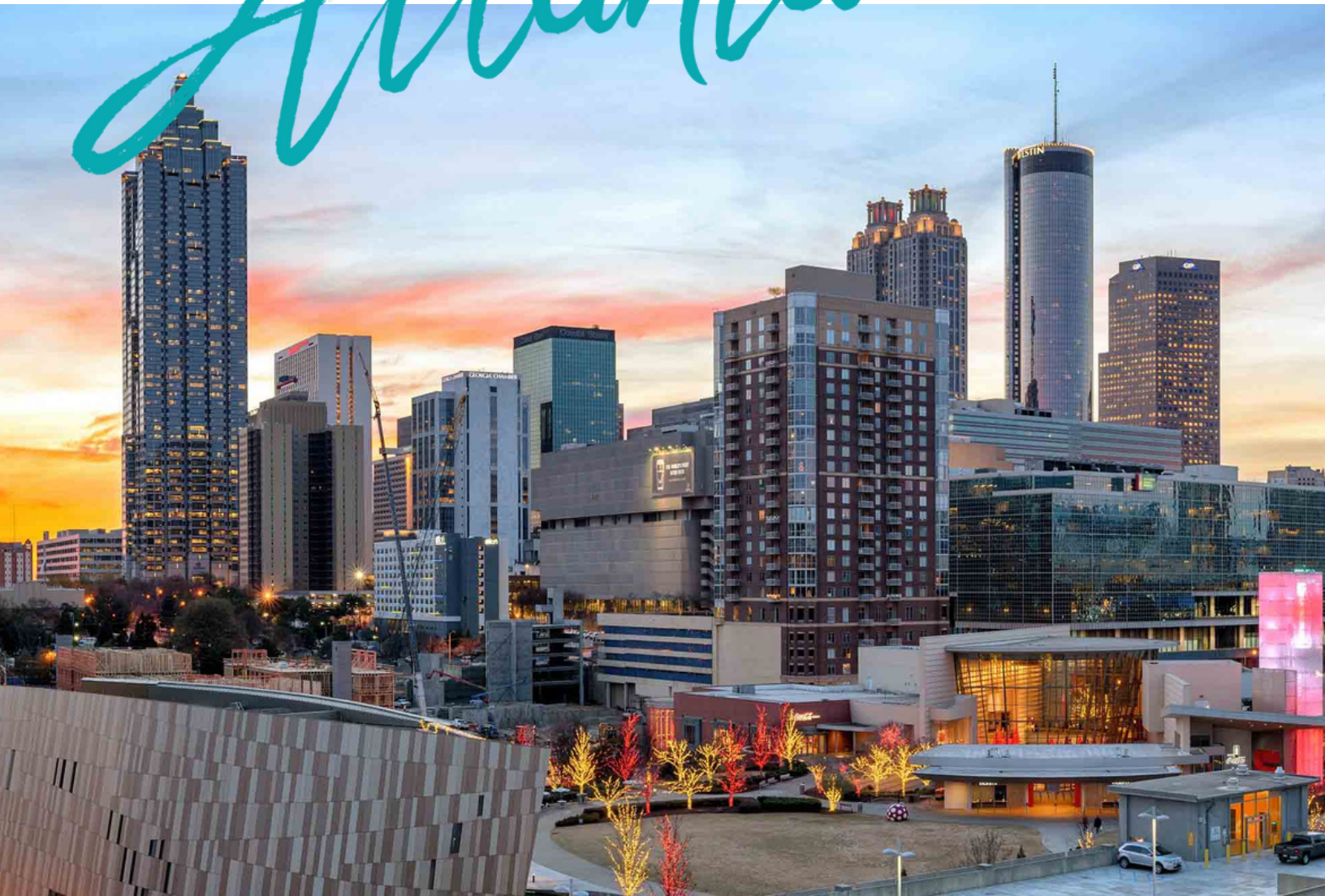
## **Sidnee Wilson**

Sidnee is an M.D. Candidate at the University of Houston's Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine Class of 2026. She obtained a B.S. in Kinesiology Exercise Science from the University of Houston with a Science and Pre-health track. Ms. Wilson then obtained her master of public health in Community Health Practice with a certificate in Health Disparities from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Sidnee is now a first-year medical student and she remains focused on grassroots efforts to combat inequities. She is committed to her community and has worked with various organizations including The Montrose Center, The Women's Home, Homeless Depot, Houston Justice, and New Hope Housing, among others. She has helped organize donations, wellness events, and co-developed and delivered a comprehensive teen mentorship program. She has also joined an education and career initiative for teens at a local high school in her hometown. She is passionate about creating opportunities for equity and combating social injustices to allow for the improvement of the health and overall wellness of individuals and communities. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, painting, and doing outdoor activities.

## **Joshua Yudkin, MPH, MA**

Joshua Yudkin is an epidemiologist who was recently awarded a Fulbright research grant and works at the intersection of community building, advocacy, and public health. Joshua has published regularly in both academic peer-reviewed journals and in the popular press, worked in various levels of government, and helped spearhead advocacy campaigns. Joshua serves on the Texas Society for Public Health Education (TSOPHE) executive board and was recently awarded the Helen S. Hill Distinguished Service Award for his leadership in public health across Texas and beyond.

# Atlanta



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